

A P R

1921

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1921

BEER CLAUSE IS FINALLY THROWN OUT

Uphill Amendment on Third Reading Defeated by 34 to 11

FERNIE MEMBER SAYS ACT IS UNWORKABLE

Heated Speeches in House in Closing Stages of Liquor Bill

Special despatch to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, March 31.—By a vote of 34 to 11 the Legislature rejected Mr. Tom Uphill's proposal to insert a beer clause in the Moderation Act when the measure came up for its third and final reading this afternoon. The defeat did not come as a surprise, for the word was passed round the corridors before the house assembled that the opposition was going to sit tight and let the amendment fall to the ground between the divided ranks of the government members. For this reason, it is said, several members who were prepared to regard a beer clause with favor, did not bother to speak or vote for it, regarding it as a lost cause.

Attorney-General Farris was one of the seven members on the Government side who supported by his vote the beer clause, the others being Hon. Wm. Sloan, Hon. T. D. Fattullo, Capt. I. A. Mackenzie, Messrs. Kergin, Perry and Anderson. Col. Lister and Mr. Pooley, Conservatives, supported the beer clause, as did also Major Burde and Mr. Uphill, Independents. To the surprise of many in the house, Canon Hinchcliffe, who was more or less elected on his "beer for the working man" platform, voted with his party against the beer clause.

LEGALIZING LAW BREAKING

"You are voting to legalize law-breaking. You have gone double-headed into politics, for both parties are playing politics with this Moderation Act," declared Mr. Burde. "Did you ever hear of a man who beat his wife or committed murder on beer? They do that sort of thing on spirits which you are driving the people to. There are members here who are putting through this act to teach the people a lesson and win a paper victory for prohibition," he protested, in denouncing those who would turn loose whisky by the case rather than let a thirsty man buy beer by the glass.

Mr. Uphill in his plea for the amendment to pass, spoke as a miner. "Miners drink lots of beer, but they rarely drink spirits. They are a healthy class of men, not dopesters or liquor fiends. They come out of the mines where they have been eating dust and they rush for a wash and a drink of beer, and they want to buy it in moderation."

"In the name of moderation you have cut out the beer in order to make bigger profits for you. Oh consistency, thou art a jewel! Forty-seven men have been here for two months and evolved an act that nobody expects to see work. It's no use of deceiving ourselves. Some of us owe our election to our ability to deceive others, but it's folly to try and deceive ourselves. Prohibition has made this into a nation of deceivers and this act is going to be even worse than prohibition."

"You who represent constituencies which prefer whisky to beer have no right to force whisky on us. You should at least let us have local option," was one of his final digs at his colleagues.

Messrs. Pooley, Ian Mackenzie and Burde followed in similar strain. None opposed the amendment in a speech, but when the vote was called they overwhelmed it.

RUMORS OF PLEBISCITE

There is talk around the corridors of bringing forward a plebiscite on a beer clause, several of those who voted against a beer clause having assented to the idea of referring the matter back to their electors for a direct mandate. In the meantime there are some very wrathful representatives of the brewing interests around the lobbies in the house.

"We supported moderation because we believed that it would make an end of the subterfuges which had grown up under the Prohibition Act, and put the liquor business on a more stable and honest basis. Now we find that our lot under moderation is a thousand times worse than under prohibition. This is a measure to encourage whisky drinking by making it difficult for citizens to obtain a glass of beer," stated one representative.

The new act is said to spell ruin to the breweries of the province with the exception of the Vancouver breweries, which will continue to operate with a reduced staff in supplying the Oriental trade.

PREMIER ANNOUNCES ELECTRIFICATION PLAN FOR THE NORTH SHORE

VICTORIA, March 31.—Announcement that the government is planning to electrify the Pacific Great Eastern line on the north shore of Burrard Inlet and run a frequent service connecting with the North Vancouver ferries, was made by Premier Oliver in the House tonight in discussing the subsidies for ferries.

In answer to Mr. G. S. Hanes, Premier Oliver said: It was not the intention of the government to pay compensation for the capital outlay of the West Vancouver ferries which will go out of business if the government plans are carried out, nor did the government propose to grant any subsidy to help meet the deficit on the North Vancouver ferries operation.

BOWSER'S CRITICISM OFFENDS FOLLOWERS

VICTORIA, March 31.—The interview given by Mr. W. J. Bowser, leader of the opposition, in which he proposed increase of legislative allowances to the ministers and the members has brought a condition of bad feeling in Conservative ranks. Followers of Mr. Bowser feel very bitter at the situation in which they have been placed by his interview.

It is said that at the time the round robin was signed asking for an increase in the sessional allowances, Mr. Bowser consented to have his followers sign the document, but asked to be excused from signing himself. It is said that the Conservative leader pleaded that it would be embarrassing to himself to sign, but gave his word that he would not attack the proposal. Accordingly his attack has roused considerable feeling, especially among his followers.

INCREASED INDEMNITY TO MEMBERS OF HOUSE

Premier Oliver has introduced an amendment to the Constitution Act which provides increased indemnities to members of the house, the "salaries" of the private representatives being raised from \$8,600 to \$2,000. The premier himself will get \$9,000 instead of \$7,600 as at present, while the leader of the opposition will be given a little boost from \$1,500 to \$2,000, which along with his indemnity of \$2,000 will give him an annuity of \$4,000. The ministers' remuneration will be increased from \$6,000 to \$7,500.

It is noticeable that there is no provision made for an increase in the salary of the speaker, Hon. A. M. Manson. This official now receives \$1,800 per year in addition to the regular indemnity. Premier Oliver stated this morning that the speaker had been overlooked in considering the increases. This will probably be rectified.

AMEND MEDICAL ACT

VICTORIA, March 31.—Following the adoption of the report of the special legislative committee which investigated the claims of the chiropractors and druggist healers for recognition, the legislature last night rushed through to second reading an amendment to the medical act, providing for examinations for these practitioners. Messrs. M. B. Jackson, K.C. and Kenneth Duncan strongly opposed the adoption of the report, fearing that the examination to be set by the medical council would be discriminatory.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 1921

BEER CLAUSE MAY BECOME AN ISSUE AT FALL SESSION

Special despatch to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, April 2.—Then Legislature, which will prorogue tonight, is likely to meet again in October or November of this year. This announcement was made by Premier Oliver in the course of discussion on their Vancouver Incorporation Amendment Bill.

The idea of a fall session appeals to a number of members as it would bring the public accounts six months nearer to date than the present system. In the event of the public demanding the enactment of a beer clause in the Moderation Act, it would cause less dislocation of business than by adjourning for a year.

In opposing the idea of a session in the fall, Mr. Bowser twitted the Government that if they did so they would meet without being in possession of the profits of the "Christmas Trade."

"If we meet later in the year, it will be the regular session of the Legislature and not an extra session," stated the Premier, who pointed out that by meeting in October or November, and having no municipal taxation bill ready to consider and enact, it would be possible for such an act to be done the statute books in readiness for the new year.

VANCOUVER BILL HELD OVER

It was decided by the Legislature to adjourn consideration of the Vancouver bill until the next session. By special resolution of the House the rules are to be suspended so as to enable the bill to come before the next Legislature without having to be re-advertised or re-considered by the private bills committee.

"The arrangement is satisfactory in many ways to the city," stated Alderman Owen after the Government's decision was made known. "Even if the Vancouver bill was put through at this session, the city of Vancouver could not reap many benefits from it in the way of added revenues until next year. If the bill is dealt with before the end of the year, it will give Vancouver the benefits it seeks in time for next year."

BIG TUG OF WAR

Not even the Liquor Bill drew a bigger lobby to Victoria than the Vancouver City Bill. For five weeks the private bills committee wrestled with the matter and then reported it to the Legislature without any warm endorsement. Since then it has been made the subject of a continuous tug-of-war and has made little advancement.

A condensed version of the bill which was put forward in the closing hours met with a hostile reception. "It's just a scheme for strutting men for the city along the lines of least resistance," stated Mr. David Whiteside, in an appeal to the legislature to throw the Vancouver bill overboard, clean up the legislative slats, and then spend a day or two of next week in working out a solution for all the municipalities in the province.

SUGGESTS SERVICE TAX

Mr. Whiteside suggested the collection of service taxes from all money earners in the province. "It will be a picture of legislative and governmental ineptitude of this house, to propose to relieve the embarrassments of the municipalities," said he.

Premier Oliver stated that if he session for another two weeks could work out a solution for the municipalities he would hold the house for that period. "I have no better that we could reach a solution in two weeks. My idea is rather to call the house together again in October or November and get to work at once on a measure for municipal taxation and enact it so that it will be ready and operative for the beginning of the year."

LONGEST SUPPLY BILL IN HISTORY OF B. C. PASSED IN HOUSE

Special despatch to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, April 2.—The supply bill, covering all the sums of money voted in the Legislature during the past week for the carrying on of the government for the ensuing year was passed this afternoon. The total in the supply bill amounted to \$20,428,000, the largest supply bill in the history of the province.

April 2nd after April 3rd

HEATED WORDS MARK RAISING OF IN MINITY

Bowser Is Liked. Biblical Character Who it Out and Hanged Himself?

FOLLOWERS CHARGE HE DOUBLE-CROSSED THEM

Oliver Defends Position and Refers to "Infernal Obligation" Left Him Legacy

Special despatch to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, April 1—The bitterest and most personal debate which has marked the Legislature for many years, in the course of which Mr. W. J. Bowser was likened to a famous Biblical character who went out and hanged himself, marked the passage of the bill whereby the ministers and members of the Legislature increased their salaries today.

The trouble arose over Mr. Bowser's effort to play the role of critic, after having consented to allow his followers to sign the round robin which was laid before Premier Oliver. It had been represented to Premier Oliver that Mr. Bowser was aware of the general request and while not signing the round robin himself had agreed not to oppose it either in the House or in the country.

This representation, it appears, turned out to be an exaggeration, but Mr. Jas. Schofield, the Conservative whip, admitted in the House that when he undertook to tell Mr. Bowser about the round robin some ten days ago, he had assured the Liberals that his colleagues would be able to make arrangements with Mr. Bowser.

BELL DOWN

"I am sorry to say we fell down on this, but I gave the assurance in good faith," he said.

The question as to whether Mr. Bowser had or had not committed a gross breach of parliamentary etiquette quite overshadowed the main question as to whether the increase of sessional salaries is justified under present conditions. Mr. Geo. S. Hanes, Independent member for North Vancouver, who, with Mr. David Whiteside of New Westminster, had refused to sign, said he did not wish to oppose the increase, but he wanted to know whether it is true that the government is engaged in reducing the salaries of workmen on government work by 75 cents a day. The premier, to whom the question was addressed, did not reply.

BOWSER BREAKS LOOSE

In starting the oratorical fireworks, Mr. Bowser slammed the government for bringing in the amendment on the last day of the legislature and without a mandate from the people. "There is no justification for cabinet ministers increasing their salaries by \$1,500 a year and their indemnities by \$400, while hospitals and schools are short of money and the minister of finance is exhorting everybody to work and save."

OLIVER MEETS BACK

"Where was your mandate when you increased the salaries in 1909 and 1917?" demanded Premier Oliver in hot reply. "Who represents the people so fully as the members of the House? I ask the colleagues of the leader of the opposition where they stand? I expect some manliness to be shown. They had better come out of the bush and tell us what they

think. If they don't do it voluntarily they will do it some other way," he added, shaking the now famous "round robin" with the Conservative signatures on it.

Mr. Pooley—No threats are necessary, Mr. Premier.

Premier Oliver said that from 1911 till 1916 Mr. Bowser had drawn \$2,000 a year and his indemnity \$9,000 a year and his portfolio.

Mr. Bowser—But I carried another portfolio.

INFERNAL OBLIGATION

Premier Oliver—Yes, and I have been carrying two departments. In addition to that I have been carrying that infernal obligation of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway which you left for us at a salary of \$1,500 a year less than you received and have an ability not inferior to yours in my opinion.

Mr. Bowser—Yes, you have a great opinion of your ability.

Premier Oliver—Well, a majority of the people of the province took the same view.

The Premier reminded his adversary that he had lived in independence before he entered the House and could do so again tomorrow.

Mr. Pooley, who is Mr. Bowser's chief lieutenant in the house, rose and said: "On behalf of the members of the Opposition I wish to say that we signed the round robin and we stand by our signatures."

Applause from the government benches greeted the statement.

Mr. Anderson, of Kamloops, defended the increases, saying that members were entitled to a living wage, while the Premier and his ministers were worth far more than their salaries if they were competent men.

"Your talk about the Premier's salary and your proposal to give the money on the liquor board as much, though the Premier is working himself to death. Members from Fort George and Atlin will be broke before the end of their terms owing to the great expenses they are under."

Sam Guthrie and Tom Uphill, labor members, defended the increases as necessary to cope with the heavy expenses. "I was not one of the last to sign. I was one of the first, and I will defend it either here or in Fernie," said Mr. Uphill. "I was in 1913 was worth more than \$3,000 today. I consider I am scrubbing. If men don't get paid properly they look for it in other ways, and I want to get mine honorably."

Mr. M. E. Jackson, K.C., precipitated a scene by his protest against the abandonment by Mr. Bowser of "all decency and honor in public life" and to his "unblinking effrontery."

"I commend the example," added Mr. Jackson acidly, "of a biblical character, who after he had betrayed a colleague went out and hanged himself."

Mr. Bowser insisted that the offensive insinuation against himself be withdrawn, saying that he had never known till 8 o'clock on the previous night that the government was bringing in the amendment for the increases.

SUTHERLAND IN FAVOR

Dr. Sutherland, Liberal whip, told the house that he had circulated the petition on the request of both sides and had been told by the Conservative whip ten days ago that Mr. Bowser has declined to sign, but he understood would not oppose the increase if granted, either in the house or in the country.

"As a matter of fact," added Dr. Sutherland, "my biggest difficulty was with the Premier. We had asked for an increase of 50 per cent from \$1,600 to \$2,400, and he made us reduce it by half before he would consent."

Mr. Schofield, Conservative whip, corroborated Dr. Sutherland in every point except that in respect to Mr. Bowser. "I did ask the leader of the Opposition twice to sign and twice he refused. I told Dr. Sutherland that I was quite confident of being able to make arrangements with Mr. Bowser, but I am sorry to say we fell down on this. But I gave the assurance in good faith."

Mr. Jackson withdrew the offensive statement and the debate ended with Mr. Bowser casting a solitary vote against the amendment, which adds \$31,000 a year to the cost of running the legislature.

LEGISLATURE WILL PROROGUE TODAY

VICTORIA, April 1—The Legislature will probably close on Saturday afternoon, stated Premier Oliver today. The Legislature is working overtime to get through its work.

The optometry bill was given its third reading today and at the night session the amended Vancouver City Charter bill was advanced to second reading.

Under the amended bill which is a condensation of the bill originally asked for, the taxation powers of the city council are to be limited to \$5000 a year for railway companies, \$3000 a year for steamship companies, \$4000 for tramway and telephone companies, insurance companies \$1500 a year, wholesalers \$1000 a year, and retailers \$50 a year. Brewers are to pay \$2000 a year.

In introducing the bill in a lukewarm speech, Premier Oliver said that the Government was not standing behind the bill in any way and if the powers asked for were granted Vancouver, it was certain that other cities would be demanding similar taxation powers next year.

BILL EFFECTIVE IN ONE MONTH'S TIME

VICTORIA, April 1—The Liquor Control Bill, which has been passed by the British Columbia Legislature, is expected to go into effect on May 1, although the date has not yet been set. Under the measure the Government will establish and maintain stores wherever in the Province it is considered advisable, and at these sales will be made under a permit system and only sealed packages of liquor will be sold. A package is defined to mean any receptacle used for holding liquor.

The administration of the act including the general control, management and supervision of all Government stores, will be vested in a Liquor Control Board consisting of three persons, one of whom shall be chairman. Most of the powers of this board will be subject to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, but in the purely administrative end it will have certain rights.

COST OF PERMITS

Under the permit system residents of the Province of adult age, and who have resided here for one month, can take out yearly permits the cost of which will be \$5 each. Another permit costing 25 cents allows for a single purchase limited to two quarts. There are special permits covering the cases of druggists, physicians, dentists and veterinarians and also affecting wines for sacramental purposes.

The act provides for a tax on all liquor imported for private use under federal law. This tax will be equal to the profit which the Government would have made had it sold such liquor plus ten per cent. It will be incumbent on all those importing for private purposes to notify the Liquor Control Board of any shipments so that provision may be made for taxation.

LICENSE TO IMPORTATION

Another taxation provision is contained in the act. Every person engaged in importing liquor into the province or exporting it from the province shall pay a yearly license fee of \$3000.

There are safeguards to prevent the abuse of the permit system. Persons convicted of drunkenness can be interdicted and have their permits cancelled. There are heavy penalties attaching to those who violate the law by selling liquor, an individual being subject to imprisonment for six months with hard labor for the first offense and a corporation being subject to a minimum fine of \$1000.

PREVENTION OF BOOTLEGGING

Under the act all private stocks of liquor must carry the Government seal. The object being to prevent bootlegging in this way.

The Liquor Control Board among its powers will have the right of prescribing the kinds and quantities of liquor which may be kept on hand by the holder of any special permit, and the kinds and quantities of liquor for which a prescription may be given, and also the kinds and quantities which may be purchased under permits of any class.

The act when it comes into operation automatically repeals the British Columbia Prohibition Act and all its amending statutes.

JAMES RAMSAY IS THE VICTIM OF APRIL FOOL JOKE

VICTORIA, April 1—The best April first story going the rounds of the legislative lobbies is being told at the expense of Mr. James Ramsay, fourth member for Vancouver, who this morning quite unwittingly exposed a neat little scheme whereby the government was proposing to convey a sum of \$4,500 to Thos. Mathews, a well-known brother Liberal and brother Scot of Mr. Ramsay. Thereby hangs the tale, or rather two tales.

The first tale is concerned with the recent purchase by the government of the Labor Temple in Vancouver for a technical school. According to Hon. Dr. Maclean, Mr. Mathews arranged for the purchase of the property at a bargain price and was to turn it over to the government at a profit of \$10,000. Two warring factions of labor unions made the government afraid that they were buying a lawsuit and the sale was deferred. In the meantime the building went into liquidation and the liquidator made the sale direct to the government at a price \$10,000 less than Mr. Mathews offered it at.

The government felt that it was under a moral obligation to compensate Mr. Mathews for his labor and a commission of \$4,500 was accordingly inserted in this year's estimates, neatly camouflaged as Vancouver Technical School. \$4,500. The vote had slipped past the noses of the Opposition and apparently safely carried when Mr. Ramsay threw out a query as to what it was for. Then came the second tale.

Explanations brought the Opposition to their feet, augmented by Mr. Whiteside who took the legal position that there was no legal claim for the purchaser to pay a commission. "Let the broker look to the vendor," he advised and the minister of education withdrew the vote. The episode caused great annoyance in some quarters and some amusement in others as Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Mathews are brother Scots and life-long friends.

CONTROLLING THE APPETITE

THE voters of British Columbia in the recent referendum demanded the opportunity to buy spirituous liquor in sealed packages from Government agents. The act as given its third reading in Victoria complies with this demand. So far as the letter of the referendum is concerned the Government has acted according to the terms of its mandate.

Whether in rejecting a beer clause the Legislature has obeyed the spirit of the referendum or not is quite another matter.

The people of this Province apparently did not believe that the Prohibition Act was fulfilling its purpose. They wished an opportunity to secure spirituous liquors but they wished that opportunity to be adequately controlled.

It has been shown in British Columbia and in other Provinces that to control the supply of liquor is a difficult and expensive operation. To control the appetite for liquor is a more subtle but more fundamental way of inducing moderation.

If men have to buy permits and go to a Government store for their beverages, they will not stop with a few bottles of beer. They will get more effect from a bottle of whiskey and they will buy the effect.

If, on the other hand, their desire for an alcoholic beverage could be satisfied with a glass or so of beer they would not be so tempted to invest in their day's quota of whisky and invite the debauch which lingers around the imposing presence of the dark brown bottle.

This would be control of the appetite. Alcoholism would be reduced in the reduction of the alcoholic content.

As it happens the Government has failed to take advantage of this means of control. They prefer to place their trust in the moderating influence of a five-dollar permit and a maximum allowance of two quarts a day.

NEAR BEER CAN BE SOLD UNDER A NEW NAME

May Call It "Foamo" or "Jackson's Fluid," Say Lawyers

CLAUSE 46 WORKS WRONG WAY ROUND

At Any Rate It Must Be Real One Per Cent Near Beer

Special despatch to The Vancouver Sun. VICTORIA, April 3.—While the legislators were throwing waste-paper baskets at each other in the exuberance of their release with their \$2000 indemnities in their pockets after their strenuous eight weeks of legislating, a little party of legal gentlemen were busy in a side room off the legislative corridor poring over the new Moderation Act, which his honor the Lieutenant-Governor had ten minutes before declared the law of the land.

The legal luminaries were starting to work to pick holes in the new act.

Just to be first with the news while it is good and fresh, it may be said that the bespectacled ones think they have got hold of a "loker" in clause 46 of the new act. If what they said is good law, it will still be possible to continue the sale of near-beer, only they must not call it near-beer. They may call it beer-near, maybe, but not near-beer.

HOW CLAUSE READS

Clause 46 is the famous clause moved by Mr. M. B. Jackson, K.C., with the intention of absolutely eliminating the sale of near-beer or any of its substitutes from sale in the province. In point of fact, it is said, it will not do any such thing. Now that the "beer-clause" has been eliminated from the Moderation Act, the only chance there will be to try and stem the tide of spirit drinking under the Act will be by the application of Clause 46.

Clause 46 reads as follows: "No person, other than a government vendor shall sell or deal in any liquid known or described as beer or near-beer or by any other name whatever commonly used to describe malt or brewed liquor."

According to the opinion of the lawyers who scrutinized the new bill just after it had become law, this clause, intended to prevent the sale of near-beer, only prevents its sale when it is called near-beer or "any name whatever commonly used to describe malt or brewed liquor."

MAY CALL IT FOAMO

"That means," asserted one well-known Vancouver counsel, "that you can't call it near-beer or beer, or ale or any existing name. All the brewers have to do is to find another name for it, like Foamo, or Soapsuds, or Jackson's Fluid, or The Only Way. There is no lack of possibility in finding new names in order to comply with the new law."

So far as the general prohibitions of the Act are concerned, these it is said, cannot override the sale as statute which permits the sale as non-intoxicating beverage liquors which contain not more than one per cent of alcohol by weight. Otherwise, it is said, ginger ale, lemonade and the whole range of proprietary beverages would be excluded from sale as these all contain alcohol.

NEAR-BEER ANOMALIES

The discovery that the new Act permits the sale of near-beer so long as it is not called near-beer, will probably enable some of the local breweries to keep from closing down until such times as the public declares whether it wants real beer sold or not.

However, even the astute legal gentlemen, who discovered the loker in clause 46, admit that near-beer in the future will have to be within the one per cent by weight law or in other words the stuff that cannot be sold as near-beer in the future, will have to be real near-beer.

WISHES OF ELECTORATE FAIRLY MET

Such Is Comment of Lieut-Governor on Moderation Measure

GIVES ASSENT TO SEVENTY BILLS

First Session of Fifteenth Parliament Is Closed

Special despatch to The Vancouver Sun. VICTORIA, April 3.—Although the special committee which investigated Major John B. Retalack's claim for compensation following the close down of the Public Utilities Commission recommended that he be allowed three months salary, the Legislature closed on Saturday night without the report of the committee being adopted. Consequently Major Retalack who claimed \$75,000 compensation will not get even the three months allowance.

(By Canadian Press)

VICTORIA, April 3.—The first session of the fifteenth parliament of British Columbia terminated Saturday at 9:30 o'clock when His Honor, Lieutenant-Governor Walter Nichol, attended and gave the royal assent to some seventy bills of the total of eighty-five measures introduced in the house at the present session. In prolonging the house His Honor referred to the various measures passed, notably the Moderation bill, one which he considered, "meets fairly the wishes of the electorate as expressed in the referendum held last year" and special mention was made of the provision whereunder the province will take over the Tranquille Sanitarium as a provincial institution as well as the amendments relating to night employment of women, the limitation in the hours of industrial undertakings and the fixing of the minimum age for the admission of children in industrial employment.

The customary thanks for supply were extended by His Honor. The Supply bill given its third reading at the morning session, carries with it total appropriations of \$20,656,000. Among the chief pieces of legislation passed were the Moderation Act, a law placing the optometrists of the province in a profession which can only be entered by passing the examinations of a special board to maintain a high standard of skill; an act providing for the taking over by the Government of Tranquille Sanatorium for Consumptives; three acts for the better protection of the health of women workers; a superannuation bill; a loan bill for \$3,500,000, part of which is to cover the cost of changing the rule of the road in the Lower Mainland, and an amendment to the Constitution Act whereby the ministers raised their salaries from \$6000 to \$7500 a year, and all of the legislators, including the ministers, raised their special sessional indemnities from \$1600 to \$2000.

807

A P R

1921

INOPPORTUNE, HE SAYS

Mr. Bowser entered a lengthy plea against the retiring allowance scheme which he considered was being introduced at a very inopportune time. He warned the department of education against increasing the present friction between municipal councils and school boards and he went on to renew his criticism of the government for failing to give the municipalities any assistance whatever.

All the government had given the municipalities to date was a promise of another investigation into their troubles, said Mr. Bowser, and he recalled that a similar investigation in 1919 had come to nothing. Indeed, the investigating commission composed of the Premier and finance minister had not even reported their findings. In the light of past events he placed little hope in another investigation, and he declared that the Premier had given the municipalities four barren promises which had produced no results.

"We hear rumors that a superannuation act is coming down even at this late date in the session," Mr. Bowser proceeded. "Why should we give school boards the power to anticipate what should be part of a general policy?"

Dr. MacLean pointed out that already members of the civil service were receiving pensions and that the Vancouver School Board had pensioned some teachers.

"To hear the discussion you would think that the school boards do not own property and weren't elected by the people," he protested. "They have to have the same qualifications as aldermen. This is a plan adopted by corporations; why shouldn't employees in the people's service have the same consideration? The expense will be infinitesimal and the plan will be beneficial to the educational system."

MORE FRICTION IN SIGHT

While he agreed that a system of pensions should be provided for teachers, David Whiteside, Liberal member for New Westminster, considered the amendment would create friction.

Canon Hinchliffe, Conservative member for Victoria, did not want to see the overburdened taxpayers saddled with the expense of pensions for teachers who were a good deal better off than they themselves. The taxpayers, he pointed out, had to work all their lives. He was not opposed to the principle of pensions and believed that provision should be made to care for all people in their old age.

"There will always be friction between school boards and municipal councils because the councils have not the educational viewpoint," Dr. MacLean declared. "They have the financial viewpoint and all they think of is saving a dollar. When the people of this province have come to the stage when they think first and foremost of the dollar, and secondly of a much more important matter, the education of the young, we're coming to a pretty pass. I'm sorry to hear members' speeches indicative of this feeling."

When the teachers' pension plan came to a vote it was turned down with the following division:

Against—Jesse, Bowser, Jones, Lister, Hinchliffe, Schofield, Essling, A. McDorland, Mason, Catherwood, MacRae, W. McKenzie (Conservative), Guthrie (Socialist), Neelands (Labor), Whiteside, Perry and Henniger (Liberal)—17.

For—Oliver, Sloan, King, M. A. Macdonald, King, Clearburn, Buckham, Sutherland, E. C. Macdonald, Forston, Ian Mackenzie, Barrow, Hart, MacLean—16.

LEGISLATION BEING URGED

May Be Last-Minute Attempt at Victoria to Relieve Municipalities.

David Whiteside Is to Make Recommendations on Finance Problem.

VICTORIA, April 1.—Though the session is rapidly approaching its closing hours, an attempt will yet be made to provide temporary financial relief for the municipalities of British Columbia this year, it was learned today. While preferring not to go into details until he considered the matter further, David Whiteside, Liberal member for New Westminster, who has managed the municipal committee recently in the absence of Hon. Mrs. Smith, stated this morning that he would make recommendations on the municipal finance problem to the House almost immediately. The municipal committee as a whole, he said, probably would not make any suggestions on the matter unless it was decided to call another meeting of the members tonight.

When the committee's proposals for amendments to the Municipal Act were brought before the House, tonight or tomorrow, he would urge that financial assistance be extended to the municipalities, he stated.

IS PRESSING MATTER

"I am collecting data on the matter now and will draw up some proposals," said Mr. Whiteside. "Until I have an opportunity to consider the matter fully today, however, it would be premature to discuss the question in detail."

It was suggested to Mr. Whiteside that his proposals might come too late in the session to be of any avail.

"I consider that no question before the province today is more important than that of the municipal situation," he replied.

"I believe that, if necessary, the House should stay here a couple of extra days to deal with the problem."

There is absolutely no doubt that the representatives of the municipalities when they met the members and the government, did not exaggerate the seriousness of the situation. The condition of many municipalities is indeed acute. The land can not bear the present load of taxation.

A SPECIAL LEVY

The municipalities of the province are awaiting eagerly any move calculated to relieve their present distress. Municipal representatives did not know today that Mr. Whiteside was about to make a last-minute attempt to secure assistance for them. They were looking rather toward the government to see if it would bring down legislation to allow municipalities to levy a 10 per cent. tax on the value of property, irrespective of other taxes imposed by Premier Oliver.

This tax the municipalities consider inequitable and almost impossible to collect. Amendments to the Municipal Act as drafted by the municipal committee probably will be ready for presentation to the Legislature tonight. They were framed in those cases in which various island and mainland municipalities.

One covers assessments on agricultural lands in municipalities and other gives municipalities in conducting special surveys of street lines the right to charge the cost of the corporation as a whole.

Revised Vancouver Bill Coming Before Legislature Tonight

VICTORIA, April 1.—The main Vancouver bill, which has been urged for some weeks by Mayor Gale and other members of the Vancouver Council, has been ditched, but in its place there is being printed this afternoon a new bill which may possibly secure passage in the Legislature this evening.

There will be included in it some of the non-contentious clauses of the former bill, such as the arrangement for parking areas for automobiles, which are fairly satisfactory to everyone concerned; and it will also contain some limited tax clauses, by which the city hopes to obtain an additional revenue of something like \$300,000 per year. Mayor Gale and Ald. Owen assert that the retail merchants have no objection to these, but other interests in Vancouver were strongly represented here this morning in objection to the proposals. There were delegates from the B. C. Manufacturers' Association, Mr. E. E. Houlgate of the Board of Trade, and others.

Exactly what fate the revised measure will meet will probably not be known until tomorrow.

LET THEM WORK OUT OWN SALVATION

Mandate for South Vancouver, Though Bowser and Neelands Still Critical.

VICTORIA, April 1.—Ratepayers of South Vancouver have learned their lesson from the mistakes they made in the past and for which they have paid the price. Thomas Pearson, Conservative member for Richmond, told the Legislature yesterday when the bill to restore autonomy to South Vancouver was put through the committee stage.

"The government should provide that the bonded indebtedness should be the first charge on the revenue of the municipality under the government official and that the reeve should be under the control of the reeve and council. The only way we can create the interest the people have in their homes is to trust them and give them the opportunity to make good and work out their own salvation," added Mr. Pearson.

Mr. Bowser declared that the government was justified in bringing down the South Vancouver Administration Act, but now that conditions have improved the local franchise should be returned, but it can be done in a better way than that provided for in the bill, he said.

"My idea is that they should be allowed to come back under the full terms of the Municipal Act to elect their reeve and councillors, but that the government should be in a position to have certain financial control so as to prohibit the local people passing by-laws that would affect the bonded indebtedness of the municipality," said Mr. Bowser. "But under this bill we find that the reeve is still to keep up his cumbersome and costly control. I believe it can be done under the inspector of municipalities instead of keeping up all these overhead charges."

R. H. Neelands, Labor member for South Vancouver, also asserted that he was thoroughly disappointed with the bill for the same reasons.

"There is nothing in this bill to prevent the government from giving the municipality of South Vancouver full control of its affairs subject to the reservations necessary to protect its interests," said M. A. Macdonald. "If that is so, we have no grounds for criticism."

"The only solution for South Vancouver is amalgamation with the City of Vancouver," said James Ramsey.

Anderson Thinks A.G. Should Get Very Substantial Salary

VICTORIA, April 1.—Following close upon the decision to raise members' and ministers' indemnities, regrading of ministers was proposed by Fred Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, when the estimates were under consideration.

"The government should consider the regrading of ministers' salaries in respect of the relative importance of their work," Mr. Anderson urged. "Take the attorney-general, for instance. He does about 90 per cent of the work in connection with legislation and is the shock absorber of the government. The liquor bill was just another wild cat shoved upon his shoulders. It is not right to ask him to administer this department for a measly \$6000, when members of the liquor control board probably will be getting twice as much. If a man is able to hold the position of attorney-general he could easily make three times the salary of that office in private practice. When he leaves office his legal practice is gone and everything is a complete loss for him."

Hon. William Sloan, minister of mines, the appropriation for whose salary had caused Mr. Anderson's suggestions, agreed that the attorney-general should be paid more in view of the importance of his office.

Mr. Bowser laughingly warned Mr. Anderson that he was looking for trouble when he proposed to regrade ministers' salaries. Such a regrading, he feared, would cause a "rough house."

"We will take this matter into very serious consideration," the Premier assured the House, with a smile.

Amendments to the Constitution Act, which provide for the increasing of members' indemnities and ministers' salaries were given their second reading last night and are now in committee stage. They will be considered today.

COMPENSATION TO B.C. ELECTRIC RLY

Four Hundred Thousand to Be Paid on Changing Rule of Road.

VICTORIA, April 1.—Provision is being made by the government for an advance to the B. C. Electric Railway for the purpose of assisting that company in changing its equipment so as to conform to the regulations when the "rule of the road" comes into effect in the southwestern portion of the province. The amount to be paid by the government is \$400,000 and it is provided out of a new loan bill to borrow \$3,500,000, introduced Thursday by Hon. John Hart, minister of finance.

No statement was made by Hon. Dr. King, minister of public works, as to the exact date for the change, but it is expected that next December will see "turn to the right" the rule in all of British Columbia. The change was not made on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland because of the heavy expense necessary to enable the street railway company to make the necessary changes. This figure is stated to be in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000 and it is possible that some of the expense will be absorbed by the city of Vancouver through an agreement with the company.

The remainder of the loan will be used as follows: One million to refund to the provincial treasury sums already paid under the provisions of the Soldier Land Act; \$100,000 for further expenditures under the provisions of the Soldier Land Act; \$300,000 for carrying out the provisions of the amendments to the Forest Act, passed this session; \$750,000 for new undertakings under the Soldier Land Act and \$2,000,000 for the conservation fund created under the Water Act.

Would Show What Doctors Are Competent In Records of Death

VICTORIA, April 1.—Amendments to the Medical Act, aimed at checking up loose and incompetent doctors, and protecting the public generally in the quality of medical attention it receives, were introduced in the Legislature this afternoon by M. B. Jackson, K. C., Liberal member for the Islands. Mr. Jackson's amendment says:

"Every medical practitioner shall keep a permanent record of all diagnoses made by him and of the material facts upon which the same were made and of all treatment administered, and in all cases of fatal termination of illness while under treatment by a medical practitioner a full, true and correct copy of such records shall be forthwith filed with the secretary of the provincial board of health."

"Under this provision records of the diagnosis and treatments of each patient can be investigated at any time," Mr. Jackson explained. "Examination of these records will show to what degree the doctor is competent and it will also show up all mistakes of which the public is now kept in ignorance."

Proposes a New Highway Across Vancouver Island

VICTORIA, April 1.—Surveys conducted last year discovered the route of a very satisfactory road to the west coast of Vancouver Island by way of Cowichan Lake, Hon. J. H. King, minister of public works, stated in the Legislature when the estimates of his department were under review. The road by way of Cowichan Lake, he said, could be built for about \$33,000, and would traverse a good section of the island. The government would not be in a position for a long time, he said, to build a west coast road by way of Jordan River at a cost of \$400,000.

Dr. King, asked in answer to Fred Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, that a survey of the projected Hope-Princeton road would be undertaken this year. Beyond that, however, he said, he had no information.

In the course of the discussion on the public works department estimates, Mr. Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, asked the government whether it would consider the possibility of building a road from Hope to Princeton and returning to Hope by way of the mountains.

Advertising Is Not Needed With Liquor Act Passed, They Say

VICTORIA, April 1.—When the new Liquor Act comes into effect it will not be necessary to advertise the glories, scenery and other advantages of British Columbia in the United States, H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, told the Legislature last night.

"If there is any item of waste in this present budget it is the item for \$12,500 for the Pacific Northwest Tourist Association," Mr. Perry declared when an appropriation for this amount was proposed. "All they do is issue pretty pamphlets and pay an American orator to go round and talk about the glories of British Columbia, Oregon and Washington. When the Liquor Act comes into force we will get all the advertising we want without paying for it."

"We are sufficiently advertised now—over advertised in some respects," agreed Capt. Ian Mackenzie, Liberal member for Vancouver.

J. B. Clarius, Liberal member for Victoria, warmly defended the vote for the Tourist Association whose work, he said, was of the utmost advantage to British Columbia. W. A. McKenzie, Conservative member for Similkameen, said there was an enormous duplication of work in advertising the province. There would be no need of this work on account of the Liquor Act, he thought. The vote was stood over for further consideration.

New Legislation Is Probable on Coal And Oil Questions

VICTORIA, April 1.—Assertions by W. J. Bowser that the government's policy of keeping reserves on coal areas is helping to keep up the price of coal to the consumer, were answered in the Legislature yesterday by the announcement of Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of mines, that the government had the whole coal-reserve question under consideration and might change the present system as a result of investigations now under way.

While he realized that the operating coal companies of the province, in view of their large investment, must be protected, Mr. Bowser argued that every inducement should be held out to other companies to develop coal areas. Such development, he asserted, was impossible under the present policy of the government in keeping coal lands under reserve. These reserves stifled competition and as long as they remained the country would be faced with the question of whether or not the coal dealers' profits were excessive.

Hon. William Sloan, minister of mines, while pointing out that the question of coal areas did not come under his department, doubted that the lifting of coal reserves would result in any immediate development.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo explained that coal leases had become very complicated and reserves had been placed on coal lands so that the whole matter could be cleared up. In view of the alienation of large coal areas it had been deemed advisable to take stock of the areas still left.

"Consideration is being given by the government to coal areas and also to oil areas," Mr. Pattullo added. As a result of this investigation new legislation on the subject might be recommended at the next session of the House, he intimated.

NEW LIQUOR LAW MAY 1

Beer as Well as Spirits to
Be Sold Only by Official
Stores.

"Try It a Year Anyway" Is
Chorus of Those Who
Prophecy

VICTORIA, April 1.—Government stores, and these only, will sell hard liquor and beer to citizens of all counties in British Columbia under the new liquor law, which will come into effect May 1.

It is the hope of the government that the new liquor law will result in a more efficient and economical system of liquor control.

And in trying it out, the situation stands about like this. The permanent resident of British Columbia may secure an annual permit for five dollars. He may buy from the government store two imperial quarts of liquor every day, or three ordinary bottles of his favorite whisky, rum, gin, or any of the other members of the famous family. He may consume this only in his own home or in a hotel room, of which he is the registered occupant. But he may not invite his friends up to his room to drink with him. Said to his room, however, may register alongside him in another room, and if the party consists of two or more—the limit being the number of persons corresponding with the sleeping accommodations of the bed or beds in the room—they may have three bottles of hard liquor each.

POSSIBLE ANOMOLY.

The clause authorizing this doubtful protection to hotels was included as the result of a petition from the hotelmen. How it will work remains a problem. Four men might be sitting in a registered guest's room in a popular hotel, chatting about business, or pleasure, and sharing one and one glass. A visit from a police official, a house detective or other person delegated by the law to investigate the activities of those in the hotel, might disclose a peaceful party, all of whom had absorbed some of the essence of the highlands, but with no proof visible, to the naked eye even if to a sensitive olfactory nerve, that anyone but the registered guest had more than sniffed the bottle.

"When is a man intoxicated?" is likely to become the greatest puzzle of the day. A householder may not serve liquor in his own home to an intoxicated person. Just who will decide upon the state of intoxication is not known. Budding orators have been known to be as muzz as oysters until prompted by the "kick" of a highball or two, but when nicely "mellowed" or complacently "in the velvet" have grown inebriated and descended upon the fourth dimension or the nebular hypothesis with the fluidity of water tumbling down hill. No mention is made of the course to be followed in enforcing this provision, but the clause is evidently for the purpose of curbing drunkenness in homes, as much as is feebly possible where an almost unlimited amount of liquor is present.

VISITOR'S REGULATIONS.

The American cousin will be able to secure an imperial quart, or a bottle and a half, of liquor every day for two weeks—if he wants it—by paying for a non-resident permit. He will not have to have a certificate of recommendation from a Canadian citizen, but will have to sign an affidavit that he intends to use the liquor according to the provisions of the act. He may drink it in his hotel room, but nowhere else. However, he may have it on his hip, since there is no provision that he must not have the bottle in that favored position. He is en route to his hotel. The liquor must remain in the government bottle, but there is nothing to say that the cork may not be drawn and the contents sampled.

Fishing parties are expected to become immediately popular and the historical denizens of the nearby streams will be treated to many a visit by the new converts to the Walton's art of passing the time away.

New stocks of the bard Omar's poems will make their way to bookstore shelves and the revised version of one remembered passage may read:

"A book of verses underneath the bough,
A can of worms, a jug of hooch, and thou,

Beside me near the unfinished brook,
Oh, beautiful nature's paradise, now."
The brewer sees his business out to a fraction of its former dimensions. Clubs may not dispense the beverage, while the waltz-song of the jitney bar has already been sung.

Turning to the question of administration, the government—probably owing to stress of pressing business during the dying days of the session—has nothing to say regarding the personnel of the new liquor control board. Archie Johnson, deputy attorney-general, and J. H. Falconer of Vancouver, are considered well "in the running" for the chairmanship. But next week will see an announcement be made. There will be a returned man appointed, but who the likely choice is remains a mystery. A dozen well-known veterans are mentioned.

HOW MANY STORES?

The number of liquor stores in Vancouver will be decided by the board subject to the suggestions of the government, the Premier and attorney-general retaining wide powers of supervision. Certain it is that with the sale of beer permitted only through government stores, there will be more stores needed in the cities than it was formerly expected would be established. Practically every town will have a store, and where places are remote from established centres, the government will pay the expense of freight on hard liquor so that a uniform price will prevail. The government, though, will not pay carrying charges on beer owing to its bulk.

The work of the new board is expected to divide itself into three phases, that of general administration, under the chairman, who will have to deal with the strict interpretation of the act; supervision of stores; and stocks and enforcement. For the latter task the returned soldier appointed military commissary will be of value to him. The second commissioner will probably be a man with general business experience.

Attorney-General Farris, while refusing to make an official statement regarding the steps to be taken immediately the session closes, has indicated that May 1 will probably see the new act in force. Until that time persons holding private stocks of liquor may have their wet goods marked with the government stamp, and after that date it will be unlawful to possess any liquor not bearing the government stamp.

SANG THE SWAN SONG OF BEER

Uphill Amendment Decisively Lost as Moderation Bill Gets Third Reading.

Last Is Heard of Question So Far as 1921 Session Is Concerned.

VICTORIA, April 1.—Beer is dead! In spite of repeated attempts on the part of the friends of the famous malt beverage the death-blow was struck in the Legislature on Thursday afternoon when the Uphill amendment calling for a full-strength beer was defeated by the overwhelming majority of 34 to 11. Right to the last a strenuous fight for life was made, although for upwards of two weeks even the firmest advocates of beer had little hope.

Thomas Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, who held out for the sale of beer, made a spirited address in defense of his amendment, and when the final vote was taken he had the support of the following members: Messrs. Lister and Pooley of the Conservative opposition; Messrs. Ferry, Anderson, Farris, Sloan, Ian Mackenzie, Kerrin and Parrillo of the government forces; and Major Burde, Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith was the only absent member. The thirty-four opponents of the amendment who stood up when Mr. Speaker Manson called for a show of names were: Messrs. Schofield, Estlin, A. Macdonald, Pearson, Catherwood, McRae, Guthrie, Neelands, Hanes, Duncan, Menzies, Cleburne, Jackson, Hunter, Kinchiff, W. A. McKenzie, Jones, Bowser, Rose, Paterson, Yorston, Dr. K. C. Macdonald, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. A. Macdonald, Dr. King, Premier Oliver, MacLean, Hart, Barrow, Whiteside, Buckham, Pauline, Henniger and Ramsay.

Of the members who voted in favor of "light beer," as asked by Capt. Mackenzie, Hon. John Hart and Hon. Dr. King voted against beer of higher strength.

A QUICK FINISH.

Probably no government measure which has been before a British Columbia Legislature has had such a strenuous passage before reaching the statute books, but when Attorney-General Farris, who has stood out for the sale of beer as a "safety-check" palliative, moved the third reading of the famous bill, there was not a ripple on the surface of the legislative pond and before the House could collect its thoughts Mr. Speaker Manson had passed on to other and less exciting business. Shortly after the vote was taken not half the members seats were occupied, but small groups formed here and there in the lobbies and the obscurity of King Beer were the sole topic of discussion.

The beer clause did not get its final chance before the bar of the House without considerable difficulty. Premier Oliver objected to the reopening of the bill in committee stage, while Mr. Uphill, who had visions of his last hope disappearing into thin air, rose and denounced what he termed was an alleged attempt to gild him and the cause for which he stood.

However, Mr. Uphill was upheld in his stand by the Speaker, who ruled that the bill might be reopened for the purpose of considering the remaining amendments on the order paper.

HOPE AND BEER.

"I am not pleased with the action of the Premier," began Mr. Uphill, easily to be greeted with cries of "Order" from the government benches. The chair chased the member for Fernie, and the latter settled down to sing the swan-song of the beverage that "made the world famous." "We want to have a workable act," continued the member from the far western constituency. "And I do not believe there is a man in the House who believes that the act as it now stands is workable. You have made it easy to acquire liquor and hard to secure good beer. That will have a strong tendency to go against the welfare of the act."

"Whenever heard of the terms 'workable' or 'good beer' emanating from a member of the House, I have always been quick to suggest that he had been raised in the West where the brew of skill and industry is water was the favorite beverage of their fathers."

...and not interpreting the wishes of the people right. The voters knew little or nothing of what "sealed packages" meant, he argued, and it was time to provide a workable act.

"Everybody broke the prohibition law," said Mr. Pooley, and he went on to tell of having had lunch with a former advocate of prohibition. This man said in all his thirty years of experience as a lumberman he had never seen so much drunkenness as during the years of the prohibition law. "But he has changed," he continued, "and to me he declared that the whole thing was a snare and a delusion."

"I hope the amendment will pass," added Mr. Pooley, who opined that if it did not the act would be a failure. Capt. Ian Mackenzie, one of the firmest supporters of a beer clause, again reiterated his views upon the subject, asking for the holding of another plebiscite, "so that we may have a comprehensive verdict upon which we may act."

SUGGESTS AIRPLANE.

"I have just received a petition from the people of the coast and they are asking the minister of lands for the loan of the airplanes which he has been using in forestry work. That would be the quickest way of getting there. I do believe, though, that the minister of public works, when he went in to Corbin, had a special train."

The Fernie member regretted that the legislative building were not located in District 18 (Fernie), because in that case the people of the coast might realize what it meant to be so far from the seat of government. He referred to the big majority of "beer of moderation and castigated the government and certain members of the House for not obeying the mandate of the people, as he interpreted the vote on October 26. He said that the people asked for temperance and were being given license; that while a pretense was being made of handing liquor under government control, still, it was a fact that a "wide-open" condition would prevail.

"You are cutting down on beer and making them drink hard," he charged the speaker, who exclaimed, "Oh, consistency, thou art a jewel!" Laughter and applause followed, but the Fernie member, unflinched, then charged that politics were being played on both sides. He could name members, he said, who were in favor of the sale of beer but who were playing politics in their votes.

"If you pass this act you can't go back to your constituencies and be re-elected," he declared, adding that he was sure of his own riding. Again laughter and applause greeted the speaker's jibes, and he added that he knew he was right, else he would surely be in New Westminster.

PREMIER'S DENIAL.

Speaking slowly and in a dramatic manner, Mr. Uphill exclaimed: "Forty-seven men! Been here for two months and this matter has taken more time than all other business; and still as the result we have an act that is not workable."

"There are always the few who are trying to take the pleasure and joy out of life," he reflected, "and people still listen to the 'pussy roots' who are great fun out of interfering with other people's business and negotiating their own."

Mr. Uphill said that the Premier had declared himself a prohibitionist, and yet here he was voting contrary to the principles of prohibition.

Cries of "order" again greeted the speaker and Premier Oliver denied the accusation.

The member from Fernie retracted the charge, saying that since the Premier resented the statement he must withdraw it, but "nevertheless, I still think he said it," he added, and even the government leader joined in the laughter which followed.

Mr. Uphill deprecated the condition of affairs in the province during the past two years under prohibition, saying that the people had been deceiving themselves in a foolish manner.

"We have been encouraged to tell lies and to deceive the children," he charged, "and during the past three years I have seen more drunkenness than in all my former experience. Now there will be whiskey galore, but no beer for the boys."

The speaker said that while there might be less revenue for the government if the sale of beer were permitted, still he held that revenue was of no consequence if it was obtained through the demoralization of the people.

"We are not after revenue, it is the means to the end," he added, and continued by asking who had ever heard of a man beating up his wife as the result of drinking beer. All such men needed was a good smack and he would be all right, he said, but if the man "loaded up" on whiskey, he was "down and out."

Mr. Uphill announced that he was going to watch with interest the vote of some of "the boys" who had voiced sentiments in the interest of labor and the returning soldier.

Mr. Uphill then dramatically affirmed that if the bill was not passed so as to include a beer clause there would be trouble. And I would welcome it," he added.

Again came cries of "order," with Major Burde denouncing those who interrupted. He appealed for fair-play for the speaker, who continued that in Great Britain at the commencement of the war the workers had forwarded their ultimatum, "No beer, no work." He upheld the workers in that, he proceeded, and while he did not advocate such a procedure at present, still he was all in sympathy with the man who worked under adverse conditions and who demanded and needed their beer. He said he had been accused by the minister of mines of keeping out of the mines.

"That is right," he returned, "and I intend to keep out of them as long as I can. I know what they are."

E. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, said he wished to congratulate the member from Fernie. The speaker declared himself in favor of real beer, with no camouflage. He felt that the members were sticking close to the letter of the referendum

...and not interpreting the wishes of the people right. The voters knew little or nothing of what "sealed packages" meant, he argued, and it was time to provide a workable act.

"Everybody broke the prohibition law," said Mr. Pooley, and he went on to tell of having had lunch with a former advocate of prohibition. This man said in all his thirty years of experience as a lumberman he had never seen so much drunkenness as during the years of the prohibition law. "But he has changed," he continued, "and to me he declared that the whole thing was a snare and a delusion."

"I hope the amendment will pass," added Mr. Pooley, who opined that if it did not the act would be a failure. Capt. Ian Mackenzie, one of the firmest supporters of a beer clause, again reiterated his views upon the subject, asking for the holding of another plebiscite, "so that we may have a comprehensive verdict upon which we may act."

Major Burde pleaded for beer also, saying that men were being poisoned through drinking wood alcohol and other substitutes for whiskey. He criticized the stand of the member for New Westminster, and said he would like to know how the opposition leader would square himself for voting against the beer clause. Perhaps it was because Mr. Bowser had a cellar full of booze like other people, he might mention.

"The whole thing has gone double-headed into politics," he charged, predicting that the act would be a failure, and that he himself would be one of the first to break the law, and that deliberately.

Attorney-General Farris then asked for a ruling from the Speaker as to the nature of the motion before the House. Mr. Speaker Manson pointed out that the motion was as to whether or not the bill should be reopened for the purpose solely of considering the adoption of the Uphill amendment. The vote was put and the motion lost. While the showing of hands was in progress, Mr. Uphill gained one last laugh by humorously calling out: "There is still time to repent." But it was too late, and the last of the "mythical" pamphlet, patting and abused beer clause" was heard in the British Columbia Legislature until at least the commencement of the session of 1922.

the situation
The permanent
umbrella may be
for five dollars
government stores
liquor every
bottles of his
gin or any of
of the famous
this only in
hotel room, in
tered occupant
his friends up
with him. Staff
register along-
room, and if the
no or more—the
of persons com-
spine accommo-
eds in the room
bottles of hard
this doubtful
as included as
from the hotel-
work remains a
might be sitting
his room in a
about busi-
sharing one,
between them—
t from a police
or other per-
law to investi-
those in the
peaceful party,
and some of the
ds, but with no
ked eye even if
ry nerve, that
ed guest had
bottle.
"intoxicated?"
is greatest puzzle
holder may not
own home to an
st who will not
intoxication is
ators have been
as oysters until
ok" of a high-
up nicely. "Mel-
in the variety
scently and des-
tention or
with the fluid-
down hill. No
course to be
this provision,
stantly for the
drunkenness in
feely possible
dient amount of
ONE.
will be able to
or a bottle
ary day for \$5
by paying 25
He will not
te of recommen-
an citizen, but
fridday stating
the liquor ac-
of the sale of
hotel room, but
r, he may have
re in no one to
the bottles in
a is an route to
must remain in
but there is
cork may not
be expected to
nearby streams
Or that by the
Walton's art of
d Omar's poems
to bookstore
version of one
ay read:
underneath the
of hootch, and
affished brook,
paradise snow."
business out to
ner dimensions,
e the beverage,
the jittney bar
ion of adminis-
probably
essing business
of the session—
arding the per-
or control board,
any attorney-gen-
r of Vancouver,
in the running,"
but not until
announcement be
a returned man
is likely choice
A dozen well-
mentioned.
stores in Van-
by the board
of the gov-
and attorney-
powers of su-
that with the
only through
ere will be more
ities than it was
uld be estab-
very town will
placed, are
centres, the
the express or
so that a uni-
The govern-
pay carrying
to its bulk.
board is ex-
into three
is administration,
ho will have to
interpretation of
of stores and
For the lat-
e soldier, especi-
men, because his
ll be of value to
mmissioner will
in general busi-

APPROVE AID FOR COMPANY

Act, Including \$400,000 B. C. Electric Grant, Given Second Reading.

Bowser Opposes Proposal and Asks for Delay of One Year.

VICTORIA, April 2.—No small amount of opposition was offered by Mr. W. J. Bowser and other members in the House late Friday night when the Loan Act to borrow an amount of money in which \$400,000 to reimburse the B. C. Electric Railway Company is included, came up for second reading. Hon. Dr. King, minister of public works, explained the legislation which came up last year in connection with the change in the rate of the road, and he said it was felt that now was the opportune time to effect the change on the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

It had been originally estimated that the cost of changing tracks and equipment to the B. C. Electric Company would be not less than \$1,000,000, but later investigations led the department to believe that the change could be made for \$800,000. The government, therefore, considered it was acting fairly by the company and the people of the province in bearing half the cost. The minister explained that the other provinces of Canada, with the exception of those in the far east, had adopted the "turn to the right" principle on their highways and since this system was in vogue also in the United States, from whence came many visitors, it was thought wise to effect the change in this province without further delay.

Hon. Dr. King explained that the company had delayed purchasing any equipment for some time, expecting the change would be made according to the act passed a year ago. To delay longer would be interfering with the plans of the company in the building up and repairing of their equipment and tracks.

CALLS IT NONSENSE.

Mr. Bowser argued strongly against granting such a large sum this year. He claimed it was all sentimental nonsense to talk about changing the rule of the road so as to conform with practices in the United States. He did not know of any accidents that happened when Americans came over to this province visiting, and he urged the government to delay for another year.

"Adopt the policy and advice of your Premier and minister of finance," he said. "Their slogan has been to produce and save. That is what you need to do, but here you are spending money like millionaires on nothing but sentiment."

Mr. Bowser said that the rights of capitalists should be protected, and that while he did not favor the grant to the B. C. Electric Company, he did not wish the government to go ahead with its plan and force them to heavy expense.

"The stand of the leader of the opposition is very narrow," said Attorney-general Farris. "He is talking in circles, and with his usual inconsistency. He is really arguing against the very measure which he voted for a year ago."

TO PROTECT LIVES.

The attorney-general argued that there was a great deal more than sentiment in the matter. It was necessary to protect the lives of the people and it was also well to make the change at the present time in order to prevent further deterioration in the rolling stock and other equipment of the company.

Mr. Bowser—How did we get along when we went down to Washington?

Hon. Dr. King—Not very well.

Hon. Mr. Farris—We get nowhere by waiting a year.

Mr. Guthrie—Is the government obligated to compensate the B. C. Electric?

Mr. Farris—No, but it would only be temporary economy to delay.

The attorney-general explained that the amount of \$400,000 mentioned in the bill did not necessarily represent the sum that would be paid. He would be disappointed if there was not a material saving in this expenditure.

Mr. Guthrie complained that while he could not secure money from the government for the workers, there seemed to be plenty for the B. C. Electric. Unemployment should be taken care of.

Mr. Macdonald said if a serious unemployment situation was found to exist in the year that the work should be done, he would recommend that the work be done in that year.

HOME FOR THE BARS.

Mr. Perry could not see why there should be compensation for the B. C. Electric when none had been provided for the Jitney bars which had been put out of business, nor for the hotels when prohibition was into force. Not that he thought those concerned should get compensation, but he felt the same treatment should be accorded the railway company.

"We represent not only our own constituencies but also the province as a whole," Fred Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, reminded the House, "and we must look at this matter fairly and squarely."

"But the B. C. Electric isn't the province," Samuel Guthrie protested. "I want the honorable member for Newcastle to realize that I wish to treat the B. C. Electric as fairly as the honorable member for Newcastle himself," Mr. Anderson replied. "I don't care whether it is the B. C. Electric or any other corporation. We changed the rule of the road by provincial legislation and it is only fair that we should pay the bill."

Mr. Guthrie protested when Mr. Anderson accused him of speaking on the question with a view to his "political advantage."

When the vote was taken a few fragmentary "no's," that of Mr. Guthrie loudest among them, were heard, but the motion carried.

POLITICAL CHARGES FEATURE OF DEBATE

Appropriations for Mining at Victoria Create Long Discussion.

VICTORIA, April 2.—A long debate, featured by political charges, was provoked on Thursday by the appropriations for mining development. Fred Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, thought that the government, when it assisted the development of mining properties by road building and drilling, should get more for its investment than the return of twice its investment. If the mining development proved successful the government should be given an interest in it, he thought.

This brought R. E. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, to his feet with the assertion that the government had paid out \$47,000 on the development of the "Snowstorm" group of claims, the property of Stuart Henderson.

Mr. Sloan claimed that the "Snowstorm" group contained twenty-three properties which were being developed into an asset of great value to the province.

"There is no money for the unemployed, but lots for Stuart Henderson and other good Liberals," Samuel Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, complained. He strongly objected to the practice of handing out money to such corporations as good Liberals may be interested in.

After Mr. Sloan had read reports to show the value of the "Snowstorm" group, Mr. Pooley urged that the government, for its efforts to develop the property, should get a substantial share in the mine. The risk taken by the government should entitle the people of the province to at least half the mine, he thought.

"It's open to question whether this province can afford this sort of thing," said David Whiteside, Liberal member for New Westminster. "We're all familiar with the enthusiastic optimism of mining men. I would suggest that we confine ourselves to building roads and trails and keep away from drilling on private properties."

W. K. Esling, Conservative member for Rossland, criticised the government for assisting producing mines and failing to assist prospectors who needed help far more than did wealthy corporations. If prospectors were assisted, development of mining properties would be more rapid, he held.

"There has never been a request by a prospector for proper assistance, approved by the resident engineer, which has been turned down," Mr. Sloan replied.

J. M. Yorston, Liberal member for Cariboo, thought that the present system tended to assist the prospector to the greatest possible extent.

Stuart Henderson had taken a very active part in the last election campaign in Fort George, Mr. Bowser charged. Well might he do so, because he had a friend at court and because they would keep developing his mining property for him," he added.

Mr. Sloan claimed that his department was carrying out the policy intended by the act and he emphasized that development of mining resources was essential if British Columbia was to become a great province. If the present government had spent less money on expensive buildings and a railway that led nowhere and more on mining development the province might be better off today, he remarked.

The last ten years, he pointed out, had seen the development of such valuable properties as the Premier, Highland, and other mines, and only recently the Canadian Pacific had been able to purchase the Vancouver Island Railway with a government grant.

REGISTERS LONE VOTE AGAINST INCREASE

Leader of Opposition Objects to Indemnity Changes of Government.

But Move Proves Popular With Every Other Member of House.

M. B. Jackson Makes Accusation Against Bowser But Later Apologizes.

Whips on Both Sides Agree More Money Is a Necessity.

VICTORIA, April 2.—It's a poor session of the Legislature that can't afford one "scrap," and on Friday afternoon the rule was lived up to. The issue was the Oliver amendment to the Constitution Act, providing for an increase in ministers and members' indemnities. Except for the official statement in the newspapers on Thursday issued by the leader of the opposition, Mr. W. J. Bowser, it is doubtful if any contention would have arisen but like a bolt from the blue came his criticism of the granting of \$31,800 for the increase named. Liberals, Conservatives, Labor, Independent and Socialist members alike appeared highly indignant regarding Mr. Bowser's stand, and the matter resolved itself into a free discussion as to whether "the laborer is worthy of his hire."

When the amendment came up Mr. Bowser said:

NO MANDATE HE SAYS.

"My honorable friends, at this late stage are bringing down an amendment to the Constitution Act to increase their salaries by \$1500. That is to say, the members of the cabinet, who receive today \$6000—the salary which has been in effect for eight or nine years—are increasing their salaries to \$7500. The Premier's salary is to be increased from \$7500 to \$9000."

"The first stand I take on this matter is that we have no mandate from the people to increase the salaries of the executive council. We are as fresh from an election in which the Premier led the government forces. If the Premier had intended to increase the salaries of the executive council it would have been the proper thing, in my opinion, to have had a public discussion on the matter so that the people would not have been taken by surprise. If he had told them that if he were returned to office, he would increase these salaries then the people would have known his intention."

"If the Premier had made that public statement and had been returned to office then the Legislature would not have had a word to say."

MRS. SMITH'S STATUS.

While on the subject of expenses Mr. Bowser referred to the recent addition of Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith to the cabinet. "My colleague who thought she was sworn in as president of the council," he said, "seems to have found out that the Premier has not resigned that position and there seems to be a dispute between her and the Premier as to what actually took place on that day when she was supposed to have been sworn in. I took the position then and do now that my colleague, the senior member for Vancouver, is not a member of the cabinet of this province."

Mr. Bowser urged the government to set at rest once and for all the question of Mrs. Smith's position. "If it turns out that she has been improperly appointed," he said, "surely the women of the province, whom she is supposed to represent here, will object to that sort of thing being put over for the purpose, perhaps of catering to that large vote in this province."

Mr. Bowser declared that under the new scale, the Premier of British Columbia would receive the same as the Premier of Ontario. He pointed out that as the seasonal indemnity in Ontario is \$1000 against \$5000 proposed in British Columbia, the total salary of the Premier of British Columbia will exceed that of the Premier of Ontario by \$1000.

"I want no increase in my indemnity as a leader," Mr. Bowser went on. "I have been of any service in receiving \$1500 a year in the past I wish to carry on."

WARRANTS REFUSED.

Replying to Mr. Bowser, Premier Oliver declared that in 1917, immediately after an election, the Conservative Government had submitted

"Where was the mandate of the people at that time?" the Premier asked. In 1912 members of the government increased their own salaries as ministers of the crown and then in 1913, fresh from an election, they again increased the indemnities. I ask him what was behind these various increases. Did the government or that on their own volition, or was there a demand on the government from the elected representatives of the people? I ask the members of the opposition to come out now and declare themselves."

The Premier explained that from 1911 to 1912, when the Brewster government came in, the Premier of the province drew \$8000 a year in addition to the legislative indemnity.

"I am now carrying two departments as well as being Premier, and also that infernal burden of the F. G. B.," Hon. Mr. Oliver went on.

"I am thankful to say that I lived, and lived decently, before I was a minister of the Crown and I have never yet had to ask for anything in the way of assistance," added the Premier.

HEIS CHALLENGE.

Regarding the status of Hon. Mary Ellen Smith, the Premier read the statute setting out that the executive council is not to exceed eleven members.

"I challenge the leader of the opposition to say that no member shall be a member of the executive council unless he holds a portfolio," the Premier said.

In spite of what Mr. Bowser had said, there were only eight persons in the cabinet, although they might hold twelve portfolios.

Mr. G. S. Hanes, independent member for North Vancouver, said he did not sign the statement asking for the increase.

"I think \$400 as an increase in the seasonal indemnity is sufficient to care for the needs of the time, and I think that should be enough for ministers also," he declared.

PREMIER'S DUTIES.

Defending the increases, Fred Anderson of Kamloops said it was better to pay members a decent salary than to adopt the method of the late government of rewarding members who "went broke" in politics by appointing them to one of the many well-paid commissions that were set up for that purpose.

"The Premier of British Columbia has far more work to do than the Premier of Ontario," Mr. Anderson went on. "Ontario is a highly organized province. It is a democracy and we have our coast problems to deal with. You will now appoint a liquor board and pay them salaries equal to that of the Premier who has to carry all the responsibilities of this province and is working himself to death."

Mr. Anderson declared it was absolutely unfair not to pay well cabinet ministers like the attorney-general, who must be an experienced and successful lawyer in order to fill the office.

INCREASES WANTED.

"I was one of the last to sign that round robin," said Tom Uphill, Labor member for Fernie. "I wish I had been one of the first and I will defend my position in front of any one. The \$2000 is needed. It is not paying a good man for the services he gives, and I don't consider that I'm 'scabbing' at all. In 1918, \$1600 was worth far more than \$2000 is worth in 1921. Consequently, I am really working under a reduction."

Mr. B. Jackson, Liberal member for the Islands, arose to protest against "the abandoning of all sense of decency and honor on the part of the leader of the opposition," he contends that this matter has been discussed on him.

The opposition leader demanded an apology from Mr. Jackson, who, with a few exceptions, had been fully cognizant of the situation from the very beginning. This did not satisfy the Conservative chairman, who again appealed to the chair to have Mr. Jackson apologize. Mr. Jackson held his ground and the debate was taken up by Dr. Sutherland, chief government whip. He said that as whip, he disapproved taking any part in the altercation, but he felt that he must explain. He said he had gone to the Conservatives early in the session and had found them unanimous upon the question of an increased indemnity. The Labor and Independent members also, the doctor continued, were in favor, with the exception of one Independent. It was the intention at first to have the private members sign the request, and then put the matter up to the leaders of the parties.

QUESTION OF TIME.

Mr. Jackson—Was that before the day before yesterday? Dr. Sutherland—Yes, ten days ago. He added that it was the intention to ask for \$2400 per annum and support a proportionate increase for the ministers. This would have meant a 50 per cent advance.

"I was informed that the leader of the opposition did not care to sign, but that he would not oppose the move," said Dr. Sutherland. "The Independent member who did not want to sign said he would not oppose the advance. I feel that faith was broken. When I read the newspaper reports yesterday this seemed the case to me."

"And," continued the government whip, "heating and fanning towards the Premier, I don't know what the case is."

Premier Oliver—Go to it. Dr. Sutherland—Well, we had more trouble to get the Premier to sign than any other person. He insisted upon a reduction to a 25 per cent increase.

Schofield, chief Conservative whip, said he wished to endorse Dr. Sutherland's remarks. There was one reservation, perhaps, which should be made in connection with the opposition leader, and that was regarding his not actually knowing of the arrangement in detail until Wednesday.

"When we first came to Victoria this year," continued Mr. Schofield, "we were approached regarding an increase in the indemnity. In fact the government whip and I were looking for each other at the same time in connection with this matter, and I have no hesitation in taking full responsibility. I can justify my action both in my own constituency and in this House. I told Dr. Sutherland I felt sure we could get the leader of the opposition to agree to the increase, but I fell down on that. However, I accept the responsibility. I am sorry to have to say this—but that is all,"

APOLOGUES TO BOWSER.

After hearing the explanation of the whip, Mr. Jackson rose and said he wished to apologize for hurting the feelings of Mr. Bowser. Perhaps he had not fully understood the situation. "I should not have asked for any increase for myself," said Canon Hinchliffe, "but did so for all, and I also partake of the responsibility."

The motion was then put, a chorus of "ayes" greeting the chairman's call for those in favor, while Mr. Bowser played his hand through to the end and voiced the single "nay" registered against the increased indemnity amendment.

WILL HOLD SPECIAL AUTUMN SESSION

Proposal to Discuss Municipal Taxation Then—Vancouver Bill Given Up.

VICTORIA, April 2.—The Vancouver bill appears to be absolutely dead. There appeared no hope of reviving it this afternoon, so far as this session is concerned.

Premier Oliver remarked during the discussion that he would like an expression of opinion from the members as to the advisability of holding a special session of the Legislature in October or November for the purpose of considering municipal and taxation problems.

When the House reconvened after luncheon at 2:30 this afternoon, Premier Oliver announced that the government had decided on an extra session this autumn.

The present session will be protracted this evening. David Whiteside of New Westminster caused some surprise when at noon today he proposed an adjournment until Monday, when municipal taxation could be taken up.

"We have been here two months and have done little but talk about booze," he remarked.

Appropriation for New Government Buildings At Prince Rupert Passed

VICTORIA, April 2.—Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, had to put up a fight in the Legislature yesterday to get the appropriation for new buildings at Prince Rupert, including the courthouse, approved.

Hon. J. D. King, minister of public works, explained that the buildings at Prince Rupert are not adequate to house the employees, and that government services are increasing rapidly in the North Country. The \$300,000 vote is to carry on construction work for the present year. The total cost of the buildings will be about \$450,000.

"It's rather a tall order to spend \$200,000 at Prince Rupert for public buildings," said E. H. Feeley. "The buildings will ultimately cost \$750,000," said J. W. Jones. "There are other ridings in this province where the government officials are poorly housed."

Mr. Bowser was opposed to the idea of building at the present time, believing that it would pay to wait.

Mr. Pattullo said that the late Premier McBride, in order to induce people to bid high for the lots sold at Prince Rupert, sent a telegram just before the sale started, promising large new government buildings. As a result of this lots to the value of \$1,500,000 were sold, from which the government has realized \$1,200,000, but the buildings have not yet been constructed.

Mr. Jones moved that the Prince Rupert building vote be struck out altogether. The Conservatives voted with Mr. Jones with the exception of William Hunter of Sicoma who with Thomas Menzies and Kenneth Duncan, Independents, voted with the government.

Physicians Need Not Keep Record of All Their Diagnoses

VICTORIA, April 2.—A plan which would force physicians to keep records of the diagnoses they had made of all cases under their care, was advanced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by M. B. Jackson, Liberal member for the Islands. The House gave Mr. Jackson little support, however, and the proposal, embodied in an amendment to the Medical Act, was withdrawn.

Dr. Sutherland, Liberal member for Revelstoke, protested that the plan proposed by Mr. Jackson would increase the work of doctors enormously and the records kept would not be "worth the paper they were written on." He did not think that the provisions suggested would be carried out.

Dr. Rose of Nelson concurred with the ideas expressed by Dr. Sutherland. Hon. Dr. MacLean, provincial secretary, expressed similar views and Mr. Jackson finally withdrew his amendment.

Insane Persons in Province Increasing Rapidly, Says Minister

VICTORIA, April 2.—There is a net increase of 110 a year in the number of insane persons in the Province of British Columbia has to care for, the Hon. J. D. MacLean, provincial secretary, informed the Legislature yesterday.

"We have at present 1800 insane at Essondale," said the Hon. Dr. MacLean. "Sixty per cent of these were born outside the boundaries of Canada."

Hon. Dr. MacLean explained that the vote of \$237,000 in the estimates is to begin the construction of a new building at Essondale, because at the present time it is overcrowded with no accommodation for the increase. Besides the 1800 patients at Essondale there are nearly 400 attendants and keepers.

The minister said he was considering bringing in a resolution asking the Dominion Government to restrict the immigration of mental defectives.

Medical Man on Optometry Board

VICTORIA, April 2.—The Optometry Bill went through its committee stage in the Legislature on Friday afternoon with little alteration. The only important amendments approved provide that one of the board, who will examine applicants for permission to practice optometry, shall be a medical practitioner; and that the act shall come into force on proclamation by the lieutenant-governor-in-council, instead of at July 1, as originally planned.

Ian Mackenzie, Liberal member for Vancouver, who has charge of the bill, presented a number of minor amendments to the measure, one of which provided that the examining board should be composed of five persons appointed by the lieutenant-governor-in-council and to consist of four reputable practising optometrists who were residents of this province for not less than five years, and a fifth member who shall be specially qualified to conduct examinations in the use of the ophthalmoscope.

At the suggestion of Dr. Rose, Conservative member for Nelson, M. A. Macdonald, Liberal member for Vancouver, added a clause making the appointment of one medical practitioner as the examining board compulsory. No objection was taken to this provision.

Approval also was given to other amendments which are proposed by Mr. Mackenzie and which provide that all persons securing optometry certificates, entitling them to practice optometry must be British subjects. Another amendment proposed by Mr. Mackenzie and approved by the House provides that optometrists, when practising optometry away from their regular places of business shall deliver to all people fitted with glasses a bill of purchase containing their signatures and specifications of the lenses and frames of the glasses supplied.

Three Months' Salary For J. L. Retallack

VICTORIA, April 2.—A further bonus of three months' salary to Mr. J. L. Retallack, former public utilities commissioner, was recommended to the Legislature last night by the special committee recently appointed to enquire into his affairs. The committee consisting of Messrs. Perry, Lister, Burd, Buchanan, Kerwin and Jackson. The payment involves about \$1275.

LONE INST... tion Ot-Chang s nt. Popular Mem-e. kes Ac-Bowser gizes. es Agree s a... t this late an amend- ed up to. amendment viding for d members the official s on Thurs- of the op- ser, it is would have the blue granting of amed. Lib- . Independ- alike ap- arding Mr. matter re- ssession as worthy of the up Mr. t this late an amend- ct to in- 0. That is he cabinet, the salary or eight or ing their of a salary 0 to \$2000. this mat- idate from salaries of are just which the forces. If o increase ve council- per thing, f a public that the taken by hem that he would the people tion. ade that been re- gistration to say. expenses recent ad- th to the 0 though at of the are found restricted s to be a Premier e on that to have tion then sue, the is not a his prov- nment to the ques- "If it improp- rly the m she is will ob- eing put haps, of in this nder the High Co- as the need out the y in On- proposed salary Columbia of On- indemnity on. "If I receiv- I wish Premier immedi- manded..."

LAND CLEARING BY WHOLESALE

Committee Suggests Stump- ing and Plowing in Se- lected Areas.

Better System of Taxing Farmers Is Strongly Recommended.

VICTORIA, April 2.—The select committee on agriculture in the Legislature has made the following recommendations:

"In view of the fact that the district representative system of agricultural instruction has been demonstrated to be the most effective means of increasing production through improved methods—that a sufficient number of men with the necessary theoretical and practical training be secured to serve the farming communities of the province.

WORKS INFORMATION.

"The tabulation and distribution, through the Land Settlement, Board and through government agents, of more accurate information as to agricultural lands available for pre-emption or purchase with a view to immediate development, within reasonable distance of transportation.

"The continuance and extension of the system of aiding medical practitioners, nurses and hospitals in rural communities.

"The purchase of land-clearing equipment for the purpose of stumping and plowing lands in selected areas where the agriculturists have prepared their land for stumping. This scheme to be launched as an experimental one and if found successful, as your committee believes it will, to be extended as rapidly as the circumstances will warrant.

FOR HEAVY TRUCKING.

The committee, of which Mr. R. C. MacDonald of Okanagan is chairman, emphasized the necessity of building roads through agricultural districts capable of carrying motor trucks of reasonable weight and load. The committee also recommends a revision of the present system of taxing farmers with a view to offering more inducement for land settlement and would point out that the personal property tax imposed on farmers tends to discourage the purchase of improved machinery and the keeping of more livestock.

The committee suggests, in view of an apparent division of opinion among farmers as to the advisability of making the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act applicable to farm help, that the commissioners of the Workmen's Compensation Board be requested to consider the matter and make data available for submission to agricultural bodies for their consideration.

ORIENTAL QUESTION.

Another paragraph of the report stated that the committee approves "the steps taken in the gathering of accurate information with regard to the Oriental problem from an agricultural standpoint, as recommended by your committee a year ago, and of the provision in the estimates of the requisite money for this purpose. Strong representations were made to your committee as to the increasing seriousness of this problem and your committee is of the opinion that some one with a thorough understanding of the problem as it affects this province should attend at the forthcoming imperial conference in June of this year, especially in view of the expiry of the existing treaty with Japan.

The committee also believes that concentrated and co-operative effort by various departments of the government would rapidly increase agricultural production.

Rights of People Not Injured, Says Minister

VICTORIA, April 2.—In discussing the amendment to the Lands Act regarding the grazing of sheep and cattle from points outside the province on British Columbia crown lands, Mr. W. J. deB. Farris, attorney-general, strongly opposed the practice of allowing stock to be grazed on crown lands. He said that the amendment was a mere technical amendment with no real purpose. He said that the lands of British Columbia should be sold to the people and that the people should be allowed to graze their stock on these lands.

Added Facilities Given Lawyers for Collecting Their Fees

VICTORIA, April 2.—Lawyers will be given added facilities for collecting their charges from clients by a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Hon. W. J. deB. Farris, attorney-general.

The bill provides that when a solicitor has been employed to prosecute or defend any case he shall be deemed to have a charge upon the property which he has recovered or preserved by his efforts for costs, charges and expenses, including counsel fees, whether the solicitor has acted as counsel or not.

It is provided that the court before which the case is being argued, or any judge of that court, can make orders for the raising of such expenses and costs as may seem just and proper. All acts done and conveyances made to defeat this charge shall be deemed absolutely void and of no effect against this charge. No proceeding for the purpose of realizing or enforcing any charge shall be started, the act provides, until after application has been made to a court of judicature.

To Appeal Oriental Employment Question To Supreme Court

VICTORIA, April 2.—Appeal in the famous case involving the employment of Chinese and Japanese on government contracts, leases and other concessions will be made by the Government of British Columbia to the Supreme Court of Canada and not direct to the Privy Council, Hon. W. deB. Farris, attorney-general, announced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

"The government will not accept the decision of the Appeal Court of British Columbia in this case unless it has to," Mr. Farris declared. "We could go direct to the Privy Council, but we consider it far better to go first to the Supreme Court of Canada, because we would like first to get a favorable decision on this side of the water."

Mr. Farris explained that the regulation which prevents the employment of Chinese and Japanese on government contracts was embodied not in acts of the Legislature, but in orders-in-council passed nearly twenty years ago. If the government undertook a legal action to uphold the practice of prohibiting the employment of Chinese and Japanese on government contracts and leases the private parties against whom action was taken might claim that the government was acting merely on orders-in-council instead of upon a definite act of the Legislature. In order to forestall this step on the part of the private interests he introduced an act which would validate as a confirm these orders-in-council.

THE LIQUOR ACT.

Members of the government and members of the Legislature are not agreed whether the people desired the Liquor Control Act to permit the private sale of beer. In the light of what has come to pass it now appears that one more question should have been submitted to the electors in the plebiscite. Since the beer question was not submitted, and no authoritative statement was available, the majority both of ministers and members decided to give effect to the expressed wish of voters and to go no farther. They have a logical answer to critics, even though they may suppose that the people would have authorized the sale of beer by the glass had opportunity been allowed them. Until the people themselves pronounce on the beer issue no one can make any positive assumption on their behalf.

Meanwhile it will be possible for those who prefer beer to spirits to buy at the government stores all they require for their own consumption. In the operation of the measure as it stands much will depend on the character, ability and good judgment of the commissioners, and on the nature of the regulations. Some members have predicted that the law will be unworkable. The best test of that is the test of experience. If anything is to be assumed about a new measure of this kind it is better to assume that it can and will be effectively operated. This attitude on the part of the public will assist the enforcement of the law which the people have authorized and their representatives have enacted.

A P R

1921

ESQUIMALT'S MEMBER FAVORS BEER CLAUSE

But Doubts Possibility of Such Being Approved This Session—Asks Members to Be Ready Next Year

That under the new Moderation bill the net result will be to drive everyone to the consumption of hard liquor through the failure of the Legislature to approve of a beer clause whereunder wholesome beer may be sold under reasonable restrictions, was the argument of Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, when the bill was under consideration early Wednesday in the Legislature.

"I regret exceedingly that the Government does not see fit to incorporate a real beer clause in the bill. When I say 'real beer' I mean beer of the good old British standard, and no camouflaged near beer of either one or two per cent.

The Minister of Finance.—How about your quarter of one per cent?

"My reply is that that is simply spoiling good water by putting a little color in it. I want to say to the Minister that it is not the kind of coloring that he approves of. His own particular fancy is the coloring imparted to good water by a little of the 'Highland Dew' and more power to his elbow; and why should the Minister and myself who prefer a little of the 'Highland Dew' prevent the man in the street from getting his beer in moderation when he wants it?"

Members in the House, to Mr. Pooley's mind, lay much too great stress on the plebiscite. The man on the street had nothing whatever to do with framing the question. All he voted for was to abolish the Prohibition Bill, and the question of sealed packages never entered his mind. The government should take this matter in hand; establish their beer parlors, prohibiting treating therein, and make rules and regulations for the proper government of these institutions.

"The second member for Vancouver has taken upon himself to cast discredit on some of the members on this side of the House, in not having the courage to bring in a beer amendment, and he refers to the fact that a member of this side of the House has amendments in his pocket, but he has not the courage to put them on the order paper. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I take that statement as a personal affront. The members for Vancouver knows that I have those amendments in my pocket—drawn by myself, and he also has a copy of the same amendments in his own pocket, and he knows from his own canvass of his members that this amendment has no chance of passing, and I am sorry to say that I know from the canvass of the members of this side of the House that the amendment has no chance of passing either. So what is the good of encumbering the order paper with the amendment?" asked Mr. Pooley.

"I do not think that the second member for Vancouver can, by any stretch of imagination, say that I have not stood my ground at all times on the liquor question. I have my own ideas on the subject, and intend to keep them, and I have always expressed myself on all possible occasions. I am not one of those who keep their views for private conversations, but discuss them on all possible occasions, and I repeat this statement all the more."

Mr. Pooley hoped that the Legislature would be decisive, and that there would be a general temperate provision, but he was obviously displeased

"It is plain to see that you want we want everybody to come out of the woods; to recognize the evil, and the conditions governing it, and to try in an open, square way, without any camouflage, to meet those conditions." Several Members.—Bring down your amendment and we will vote for it.

Mr. Pooley.—Yes, I know you will vote for it but you cannot get enough to support you, but do what you can in the meantime to bring them to our way of thinking, and perhaps after all we will get a decent Act next session."

LIMITED AUTONOMY FOR SOUTH VANCOUVER

Government to Restore Franchise to Municipality Under Terms Protecting Government Interests

Legislation restoring, to some extent at least, the franchise to the ratepayers of the Municipality of South Vancouver will be brought down at the present session of the Legislature, Premier Oliver stated Wednesday afternoon when a motion proposed by Mr. Thomas Pearson setting forth that the time has arrived for the municipal franchise and powers to be restored subject to such financial control and supervision as the Government thinks proper, was under discussion.

The Premier stated the proposed legislation would be along lines suggested in the motion.

Mr. Pearson, in support of his motion, referred to the financial difficulties the Municipality encountered, due largely, he said, to mal-administration and the difficulties encountered consequent upon the war. The result had been that the Government had very properly come to the rescue by a guarantee of Municipal bonds to the amount of \$750,000 and named a Commissioner with full powers, and at one stroke the taxpayers lost the franchise.

While the taxpayers were not objecting to higher taxes they do object, Mr. Pearson stated, to having no say in the administration of the affairs of the Municipality. Last year taxes aggregating \$830,000 more than the previous year had been collected; a careful review of the affairs of the Municipality would not disclose any very active reforms other than increased revenue due to increased taxation.

Mr. Pearson said that from sixty-five to seventy per cent of the 30,000 residents of the Municipality are industrial workers whose whole possessions are their homes. These people, he argued, should be given every encouragement and he knew of no better way than to restore to them their franchise under adequate Government supervision, to the end that the Provincial guarantee might be adequately protected and taken care of before any funds were available for current municipal outlays.

Mr. R. H. Neelands, Labor member for South Vancouver, emphasized the right of the taxpayers to the franchise. On the point of increased taxation he cited his own case, his taxes today being 300 per cent higher than formerly and his home assessed with in \$25 of the amount he paid for it in the boom times.

The Municipality, he claimed, is now well able to take care of its own affairs.

Premier Oliver, in moving the adjournment of the debate, stated the Government has under consideration the possibility of bringing down legislation along the lines suggested in the motion.

Mr. Pearson declared he was delighted to hear it.

"BEER CLAUSE" IS VOTED DOWN

Final Attempt to Secure Moderation in New Liquor Act Defeated in House Yesterday by Vote of 34 to 11

The bill for the Government control and sale of alcoholic liquors received its third reading in the Legislature yesterday afternoon. The proposal to insert a "beer clause" was rejected by a vote of 34 to 11.

The discussion of the amendment offered by Mr. Thomas Uphill, of Fernie, in favor of a beer clause was preceded by a little verbal sparring. The Premier raised the point of order as to the form in which the motion was presented. Upon being overruled in this respect he asked whether this was not properly to be considered a money clause and therefore only to be introduced by the Government. Mr. Speaker Manson replied that he had not considered this point, but in the meantime he would allow the discussion to proceed.

Mr. Uphill began by saying that he was not very well pleased with the Premier, who seemed to wish to thwart the discussion of the subject.

Mr. Speaker Manson—The member may not say that.

Mr. Uphill, proceeding, said he did not believe any member had the least hope that the bill would prove workable. The bill made it easy to obtain hard liquor and difficult to get good beer. That in itself would create a tendency against the proper working of the act. In his own district where they were beer drinkers there was little sickness and no use of drugs.

Mr. Uphill instanced the case of the town of Corbin in his district, which was difficult of access and where, as a consequence, the result would be that whisky would be brought in instead of beer. He also mentioned Coal Creek, a town of 2,000 population, where there has been a club for 16 years with a membership of 225, and where they have always dispensed beer, but to his knowledge never a bottle of hard liquor had been brought into the club's premises. He was satisfied that if the beer question were submitted to a plebiscite it would carry by a large majority. He had been sorry to hear the statement made by the Minister of Mines charging that the men in the Fernie district were in favor of revolution.

Hon. Wm. Sloan—What I said was that the delegate to the convention of miners made that statement.

Mr. Uphill—Well, he must have been drunk.

Mr. Henniger—He had been drinking beer.

"Oh! Consistency"

Mr. Uphill—He was in Calgary in a prohibition district, so I guess he got something stronger. Continuing, he declared that the object of the bill really seemed to be to persuade men to drink whisky so as to get a profit. And this was what was called moderation. "Oh, consistency, thou art a jewel." He ventured to declare that if the members of this House, after passing this bill, went back to the country they would most of them be beaten. They had not voted according to their convictions. There had been 47 men here two months and this question had taken up most of their time. "And now we have got an act that is not going to be workable;" in fact the Premier himself had so admitted.

Premier Oliver—I deny the statement.

Mr. Uphill—Well, I will withdraw it if he didn't say it, but I still believe he did. In his opinion they ought not to look at the fact that the revenue might be decreased if the use of beer were encouraged instead of hard stuff. In spite of anything to the contrary he still contended that the workers desired to have a beer clause in the bill. He was sure that the act was going to make trouble.

If nothing could be done in the way of a beer clause, then he suggested that there might be something along the lines of local option, so as to give each district the right to run its own affairs in respect. In his opinion

DOWN

ure Mod-
liquor Act
e Yester-
to 11

ment con-
liquors re-
in the Leg-
on. The pro-
clause" was
to 11.
amendment
Uphill, of
r clause was
bal sparring,
oint of order
the motion
ng overruled
whether this
considered a
fote only to
Government
plied that he
point, but in
allow the dis-
aying that he
sed with the
to wish to
f the subject.
—The mem-

s, said he did
ber had the
would prove
de it easy to
difficult to get
f would create
proper work-
own district
drinkers there
id no use of

l the case of
n his district.
f access and
ces, the result
y would be
beer. He also
k, a town of
there has been
ith a member-
they have al-
but to his
bottle of hard
ught into the
is satisfied that
were submitted
ld carry by a
d been sorry to
ide by the Min-
g that the men
were in favor

What I said was
the convention
statement.
He must have

had been drink-
tenoy"

s in Calgary in
so I guess he
er. Continuing
e object of the
be to persuade
so as to get a
what was called
consistency, thou
fured to declare
of this House,
ll, went back to
ld most of them
d not voted ac-
visions. There
ere two months
d taken up most
d now we have
not going to be
he Premier him-

deny the state-

I will withdraw
it, but I still be-
his opinion they
the fact that the
decreased if the
ncouraged instead
ite of anything to
ll contended that
l to have a beer
He was sure that
to make trouble
s done in the way
then he suggested
e something along
tion, so as to give
ht to run its own
et. In his opinion

A large part of the trouble was that Fernie was too far away from Victoria and the people down here did not understand the needs of his district.

Mr. R. H. Pooley announced that he was going to vote for the motion. "Real beer," said he, "is what we want." The trouble, in his opinion, was that the members had got it into their heads that they must stick closely to the terms of the referendum. He was sure that in his district at any rate 95 per cent of the people cared nothing about the question of sale in sealed packages. What they wanted was to see prohibition wiped out. If no beer clause were inserted, he believed that the act was bound to be an absolute failure.

Asks for Referendum

Capt. Ian Mackenzie expressed pleasure that the House was at least being given an opportunity of placing itself on record on the question. If the beer clause was not adopted, he strongly appealed to the Government to take the necessary steps to submit the matter to the people.

Major Burde declared there were members in the Legislature who were voting for this act because they hoped that the Government would thereby be wrecked. Somebody had told him that the brewers and hotelkeepers had spent \$30,000 to elect the Liberal party. They could not have spent it very well, or they should have got better results. The truth was that the brewers and hotelkeepers of Victoria had supported the Conservatives while those of Vancouver had supported the Liberals. It was not fair that the poor man should be unable to buy a glass of beer while others like the Attorney-General and the Minister of Mines kept their cellars full of booze. Major Burde declared that he was a member of four soldiers' clubs and his experience led him to fear that there would be just as much beer drunk in these clubs after the act was passed as there is now. The only result would be to make the returned men law breakers.

The vote was then taken. The eleven who voted for the beer clause were Messrs. Pooley, Uphill, Burde, Lister, Sloan, Farris, Anderson, Perry, Kergin, Ian Mackenzie and Pattullo. The only absentee was Hon. Mrs. Ralph Smith. The other 34 members voted against beer. The bill was then read a third time and declared carried.

**PENSION PLAN
BEFORE HOUSE**

Second Reading Given Bill Providing for Superannuation of Government, City and Private Corporation Employees

Hon. J. D. MacLean piloted the Government's superannuation bill through its second reading last night in the House. The proposed legislation applies to all civil servants, municipal employees, policemen, firemen, school teachers and employees of any private corporation in the Province.

The cost of administering the plan is borne by the Government, and contributions to the fund created are to be made in equal amounts by employees and employers. It is provided that the employer shall deduct four per cent of the employee's salary and add an amount equal to it, and send the combined sum to the administration offices of the fund.

Interest will be credited to this fund semi-annually at 5 per cent.

Minimum ages for retiring are set as follows: Firemen, 60; police, 55; clerical staff, 60; teachers, male, 60; teachers, female, 55. Allowances are to be granted when either employer or employee applies after the employee reaches the minimum age.

When a person is forced to retire on account of age or disability, the Provincial Government will grant him superannuation allowance of the amount to which the amount of his contributions, with interest, doubled, will entitle him, according to tables based on the Dominion Government annuity tables.

Contributions Graded

If a person, on account of resignation, dismissal or death, withdraws, the amount of his contribution, with interest, shall be paid to him or his estate. In order that the fund to the credit of persons over thirty-five years of age may accumulate more rapidly so that they will be on a footing at retirement age equal with those who started early to contribute, the rate of yearly contribution from employer and employee can be increased up to 7 per cent of the salary if the employee is under fifty years. If he is under forty-five years, the rate can be increased to 6 per cent, and under forty years to 5 per cent.

If a contributor dies before he has been granted a superannuation allowance, the amount at his credit in the fund is to be paid to his legal representatives.

Special provision is made to cover persons who have already been in Government or municipal service for some time. When a civil servant who has had a term of years' service to his credit retires, there will be added to his allowance a special allowance of as many fiftieths of his average salary for the ten years immediately prior to the passing of the act, as he has had years of service prior to the passing of the act.

To Municipal Employees

For municipal employees, the same principle applies, but one-seventy-fifth of the average of the last ten years' salary is the fraction taken to be multiplied by the number of years of service.

For school teachers, the fraction taken to be multiplied by the number of years is 1-100.

Participation in the benefits of the act is not compulsory on the employees of any municipality or organization. Employees and employers have to decide on participation and then apply to the administrator of the fund. Employees of any private firm, factory or concern of any kind may participate under the terms of this fund. The Government will bear the cost of administering the fund for all who come under it, but, of course, it only matches the contributions of its own employees. All other employers have to contribute an amount equal to that contributed by the employees.

Special voluntary contributions may be accepted in addition to the contributions arising from the prescribed deductions from salary. This provision is made to care for some funds as those accumulated by the Police Benevolent Association. These funds are credited to the group of men to participate in them and accumulate at compound interest. The employer, however, does not have to match these contributions.

**POLITICIANS AND
MOTHERS' PENSIONS**

Allegation Made in House That Benefits of Act Were Used as Bribe to Secure Votes at Recent Election

That the Mothers' Pension scheme had been utilized for political purposes was the allegation of Mr. W. A. McKenzie, when the vote for \$400,000 for pension purposes was under consideration Wednesday night. He stated that prior to the recent election promises had been made to some women that if they voted the Liberal ticket they would be provided for. True, he said, he could not say whether that promise had been carried out. He claimed there were cases where the Advisory Board had acted unfairly, and he considered it strange that some widows had been advised in advance that the system would come into effect on July 15, 1920, and had put in their applications, while others not so advised did not apply until later, and did not receive pensions. He urged care in the selection of the advisory boards.

Hon. Mr. Farris stated to Mr. McKenzie's suggestion that some women were not receiving the \$42.50 provided for in the Act, that that was the maximum amount, and pensions were scaled down according to the circumstances of the special case. The board had been somewhat delayed in getting started, and applications received in some cases had been dated back to July 15. He challenged Mr. McKenzie to show a single instance where payments had been made for political considerations. He regretted that he had not been able to give that personal attention to the matter that he should, but after the House rose he intended to go fully into every phase of it.

Gives Instances

Mr. McKenzie declared that widows in his own riding had been promised pensions if they would vote the Liberal ticket.

Hon. Mr. Farris complained that the member for Similkameen had not brought those cases to his (Hon. Mr. Farris') attention. Probably similar promises were made by the Conservatives.

Mr. Bowser stated that the Conservatives were not in power, and therefore were not in a position to make any such promises to deliver the goods. This was a new phase of political effort he had not heard of, he stated, though he thought he knew most of the Liberal methods. Apparently the Government did not hesitate to capitalize the situation of the widow to win their victory.

Hon. Mr. Farris roundly berated the Opposition Leader for always interjecting the political phase into every question. He was willing to admit that, perhaps, the advisory boards were sometimes too sympathetic, and that was the reason more money was being expended, than had been authorized.

Unjust Anomaly

Major Burde referred to the "enormous outlays" on salaries of the boards, and he quoted a letter from the Veterans of France to show the dissatisfaction felt at the fact that women with husbands in comfortable circumstances are placed on the Advisory Boards when widows of returned men should be engaged. He declared "some of these old women" had been going around the country making political speeches and drawing down \$10 a day, and a like amount in expenses.

Canon Hinchliffe stated that from his experience of the work of Mr. Pike, the superintendent in charge of the system, the latter had done exceedingly well under difficult circumstances, but he felt that sometimes the character of the women engaged for the Advisory Boards was unsuitable, sometimes being hard and often of too prying a disposition.

Mr. R. H. Pooley stated that in his own constituency prior to the election, Liberal speakers had asked support for the Liberal candidate on the ground that he (Mr. Pooley) had voted against the Mothers' Pensions Act, though the records of the House showed that such a statement was an absolute falsehood.

Mr. Thomas Uphill declared there were cases where the Boards were too hard, and he instanced the case of one woman who had told him she would rather scrub for a crust of bread than have the Board pry into incidents in her life many years prior to her application for a pension.

The item was passed.

SALARY GRABS NOW HELD UP

Failure to Print Amendments Allowing Increased Salaries and Indemnities to Members of House Causes Delay

An attempt to rush through the amendments to the Constitution Act increasing the sessional indemnity of the members of the Legislature and the salaries of the cabinet ministers was frustrated by Mr. Speaker Manson.

The Premier, who had the task in hand, was getting along swimmingly. He presented the necessary message from the Lieutenant-Governor, introduced the bill, and had it given its first and second readings as fast as he could offer the motions, and without a hint of objection from anybody. He overdid the thing a bit by asking that the amendments be taken as read, but this was agreed to without difficulty.

The amendments had thus reached the stage of being considered in committee of the whole, without a word having been said to disclose their nature. In another minute they would have been taken as read in the committee, but Mr. Speaker Manson went over to the Premier and pointed out that they had not yet been printed.

The Premier recognized defeat. He looked sorrowfully at Mr. Speaker, and then, with a sigh, he moved that the committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again. This means that the proposed amendments will have to be printed and everybody will have a chance to get a look at them, before they are finally made law.

Premier Oliver's salary is to be raised from \$7,500 to \$9,000 and all cabinet ministers from \$6,000 to \$7,500. The salary of W. J. Bowser, K.C., leader of the Opposition, is to be increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Indemnities of all private members of the House are to be raised from \$1,600 to \$2,000.

As Mr. Bowser draws the regular \$2,000 indemnity as well as the \$2,000 salary, he will now get \$4,000 a year, an increase of \$900 a year.

DRUGLESS HEALERS UNDER MEDICAL ACT

Bill Given Second Reading Yesterday Bringing Chiropractors and Others Under Provisions of Present Statute

Hon. J. D. MacLean yesterday introduced a bill dealing with chiropractors and drugless healers. The idea, he explained, was to place chiropractors and drugless healers under the provisions of the Medical Act.

What the bill does to chiropractors is to require that they must be graduates of a recognized school of chiropractic which has a residence course of three years of six months each or more. Furthermore, before being entitled to practice in the Province a chiropractor will have to pass an examination satisfactory to the medical council in a large number of subjects enumerated in the bill. The council will appoint a chiropractor who shall prescribe the examination for such applicants in relation to the principles and practice of chiropractic.

Similar provisions are inserted with respect to drugless healers. The act

The report of the special committee of the Legislature, under the chairmanship of Mr. M. A. Macdonald, was before the House. Mr. Jackson felt that no advantage would result from the adoption of the report, a lengthy and exhaustive one, which he held should not be approved without careful consideration.

Mr. Macdonald could see no reason for refusing to adopt the report as framed. The chiropractors, Mr. Duncan asserted, had been subjected to a certain degree of persecution at the hands of the medical society, and though they were undoubtedly securing results in the practice of their healing methods he feared that the chiropractors, in taking the medical examination, would be subject to discrimination "in the very nature of things."

HOPE-PRINCETON ROAD SURVEY THIS SUMMER

Minister States Preliminaries Will Be Undertaken This Season—Road Maintenance Allowance Is Too Small

Speaking in the Legislature last night, Mr. J. W. Jones, Conservative member for Okanagan, criticized the Government for setting aside in the estimates only \$1,371,000 for road maintenance this year. He said he believed that the House would support a vote of two millions for this purpose and he could not see the reason for allowing this year even less than had been specified for the roads in 1926.

Hon. J. H. King, Minister of Public Works, explained that the grant in question was only for the smaller roads, and that a reasonable sum would be forthcoming from the Loan Act and the Dominion Government for other road work. Last year half a million dollars was obtained from that source, and this year he anticipated something in the neighborhood of one and a quarter millions.

"Although we will not have enough to satisfy the wishes of the people and the desires of the members and officials of the Public Works Department," said the minister, "we will have a very considerable amount to expend on the roads."

Mr. Fred Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, asked the minister to make a definite announcement respecting the Government's policy on the Princeton-Hope Road project. He said it was time something was done in this matter, which has been hanging fire for years.

Hon. Mr. King said that a survey would be made this summer, but beyond that could promise nothing at the present time.

INCREASED INDEMNITIES.

The decision to increase sessional indemnities to members of the Legislature will not be regarded with favor by the people of the Province. Had this step been taken at the last session of a Legislature, and at the same time if a decision had been reached to cut down the membership by one-third, there might have been some logic in the course. As it is, a most inauspicious time has been chosen, for we have been warned that the Provincial motto should be "economy and retrenchment." The Government cannot expect that its move will be popular in the Province which is just emerging from a Winter of unemployment, when wages are falling, and when the cost of living shows a tendency towards reduction.

Provincial members of the Legislature are in session for some seven or eight weeks each year. For the rest of the time their duties as members are very slight. In fact, some of them do not know whatever to

do. The payment of \$2,000 for the session that is held in Provincial politics is too much. Even the \$1,600 now paid is never earned, and this present session it has been earned perhaps less than ever. The announcement of these increased indemnities, and of a twenty-five per cent increase in salaries to Cabinet Ministers, comes at a time when the Government's announced policy is that there will be no statutory increases given to Civil Servants during the present fiscal year. The situation thus created is an anomalous one, and will promote a very unpleasant feeling.

The Government should have announced this policy at the beginning of the session. At this eleventh hour it is impossible for public opinion to make itself felt. This increased cost put upon administration and legislation represents a sum which, if given in statutory increases to the lower paid employees of the Government, would have placed at least 250 of these in a better position to buy the ordinary necessities of life.

A GAMBLER'S CHANCE.

The Minister of Lands is very stubborn in his policy for conserving the oil resources of British Columbia. If he insists on his course, it is quite possible that whatever resources there may be will remain undeveloped, on any large scale, indefinitely. We think he is mistaken in his viewpoint, and even if he is not, the fact remains that nothing of any consequence is being done to prevent the bulk of the so-called oil claims in the Province falling into the hands of foreigners. Since the resource is so valuable to the Empire, it is poor business which does not conserve any possible discoveries for Empire use, and we may say, too, that the expenditure last year by the Government in exploratory work has been wasted if the findings of the experts who examined the Peace River district are not estimated at their proper value.

The \$60,000 voted for exploratory work may accomplish enough to necessitate another large vote for carrying on during the next fiscal year. In other words, the Province, by its growing expenditures, is gradually being committed to an oil policy which may eventually result in no return whatever. The Province is taking a gambler's chance at a time when it can ill afford it. That chance should, under proper safeguards, be left to companies which are operating in a large way, which have the machinery and the capital, and there should be restrictions confining such activities to those who intend to use the oil, if it is found in paying quantities, for Empire purposes. Next year the Legislature will, no doubt, be asked to vote \$100,000 to carry on exploratory drilling for oil, for \$60,000 will only make a very partial beginning in the work. A Province situated financially like British Columbia, should not engage in such ventures. It would have been far more in accordance with popular wishes if the \$60,000 voted for speculative development of oil resources had been applied towards giving the lower paid Civil Servants their statutory increase for the current fiscal year.

SALARY GRAB IS SUCCESSFUL

Mr. Bowser Alone in House Raised His Voice Against Increase in Ministerial Salaries and in Indemnities

The action of the Government in raising the salaries of the ministers and members in the closing hours of the 1921 session gave rise to the bitterest and most personal debate which has enlivened the House for some years.

Following a rousing speech by Mr. W. J. Bowser, in which he attacked the Government, accusing them of insincerity and extravagance in voting themselves salary increases at a time when thousands of men are out of work, and hospitals and municipalities are embarrassed for lack of funds, there ensued a bitter debate in which the Leader of the Opposition was accused of betraying an undertaking not to oppose the salary increases.

After the whips of both parties had made their explanations, it was brought out that no undertaking had been given by Mr. Bowser not to attack the increases, though he was aware that his followers had signed the famous "round robin." On this explanation, Mr. M. B. Jackson, K.C., who had likened the Opposition leader to a famous Biblical character who "went out and hanged himself," made a graceful amende and the vote passed with Mr. Bowser the solitary voter against the amendment.

Mr. Bowser commenced his argument by stating there were two phases in the matter he wished to touch upon, that of the proposed increase of salaries of the Executive Council and also that of allowing travelling expenses to a minister without portfolio, which, he inferred, had reference to Hon. Mrs. Smith. The Leader of the Opposition referred to his argument a few days ago wherein he stated that Mrs. Smith had not been legally appointed to cabinet position, and he still maintained this contention.

There is apparently a dispute between the Premier and Hon. Mrs. Smith as to her position on the council, the Premier contending that he still holds the presidency of the council and intends holding it.

Constitution Act

Quoting from the Constitution Act, Mr. Bowser stated that it allows an Executive Council of twelve, eight of whom are allowed to draw salaries. There is no constitutional authority for this new appointment, he contended, and his colleague, the first member for Vancouver, was still a private member. To overcome the difficulty, the Premier should have resigned the position as President of the Council, or one of the other ministers vacate a portfolio, which would then create a vacancy to which Mrs. Smith could be appointed. Or the Constitutional Act could be amended to permit thirteen members to comprise the Council. The matter could not be brushed aside. A dangerous precedent had been created which allowed a Premier to call a man in from the street and appoint him to cabinet rank.

Referring to the amendment which called for an increase in salary to cabinet ministers of \$1,500 a year, Mr. Bowser referred to the late day of the session when this matter was first broached. The Government had no mandate from the people, nor had they been consulted. "We are just fresh from an election," he exclaimed, "and if the Premier had thought then of increasing salaries, discussion should have been made." If he had been elected Premier instead of Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Bowser claimed that it would have been the last thing in his mind to commence raising the salary list, and there was no justification of the cabinet ministers increasing both their salaries and their indemnity. Mr. Bowser re-

ferred the Premier to his statements made to municipal delegations that the Province was in a serious financial position, and that there was no hope for taxation reduction, in fact, he claimed, the Minister of Finance had intimated that taxation might be increased next year.

"Produce and Save"

"In 1917 you told the municipalities to go home, put on your overalls and get to work," stated Mr. Bowser, who went on to say that the Budget this year had picked up the plea to "produce and save." The saving was to be done to increase by \$31000 the cost of running the Legislature. The Leader of the Opposition then referred to the serious plight of the hospitals and schools in the Province, stating that a director of the Royal Jubilee Hospital had informed him that unless Government aid was furnished, the institution would close its doors. The Premier was preparing to reduce the civil service list, when married men would possibly be thrown out on the street in order to save sufficient to meet this proposed increase.

Referring to the salaries paid Premiers in other provinces in the Dominion, Mr. Bowser stated that Ontario paid \$9,000 a year, a province of some millions of people. Quebec pays \$7,000 a year and \$2,000 indemnity; Manitoba \$6,000 and \$1,500 indemnity; Alberta \$8,500 and \$2,000 indemnity and Saskatchewan \$7,500 and \$1,800 indemnity.

In respect to the salary of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Bowser thought that perhaps this Province pays less than in other provinces, and said, "I want no increase in my salary. This is a very inopportune time to increase salaries."

The increase in the indemnity paid to private members, he considered, was on a different basis than the members of the cabinet. It had been eight years since any change had taken place and he thought that perhaps the members may be entitled to such an increase in view of the present high cost of living and the hardships gone through during the war. The members were forced to live up to a certain standard and must assume increased costs in transportation when visiting their constituencies. In Ontario private members receive \$1,800; Quebec \$2,000; Manitoba \$1,500; Alberta \$2,000 and Saskatchewan \$1,800. Mr. Bowser ended his speech by stating that the amendment might be called by some as a clear breach of faith, and for that reason he intended to vote against it.

Pre-War Precedent

Premier Oliver, in reply to the Leader of the Opposition, first referred to the fact that in 1907, immediately after an election, the Conservative Government increased the indemnities from \$800 to \$1,200. In 1912 the Government increased their salaries as ministers of the crown, and in 1913, fresh from an election, the indemnities were further increased to \$1,600.

The Premier went on to explain that from 1911 to 1916, at which latter date the Brewster Government came into power, the Premier drew \$9,000 a year in addition to the indemnity. "I am now carrying two departments, as well as being Premier and also that infernal burden of the P.G.E.," he stated, and went on to ask members of the Opposition to "come out of the bush" and explain their position. "Let them come out and declare themselves," he stated. "If they don't do it voluntarily, they will be forced to do so," a remark which led Mr. R. H. Pooley to exclaim that he did not think any threats were necessary.

The Premier stated that he was willing to accept the verdict of the House, and "I have yet to learn that I am inferior to the Leader of the Opposition."

Mr. Bowser: "You have got a good conceit of yourself."

The Premier: "This mandate is demanded by almost all members of the Legislature. I lived, and lived decently before I was a member of the Crown, and if I stepped out I could still live decently."

Premier Oliver defended his action in the appointment of Mrs. Smith to cabinet rank, declaring that the constitution allowed another member of the council. The Premier quoted from the Apostle Paul in winding up his speech: "Verily much learning has made me mad." (Laughter).

Mr. George S. Hanes thought the \$400 increase in the indemnity should be sufficient for the cabinet ministers and saw no reason for the boost of \$1,500 proposed. The Premier would receive \$9,000 as salary, \$2,000 as indemnity and \$2,000 for travelling expenses, something private members do not get. He thought it was a proper time to ask the question as to whether the Government intended reducing wages of Government workmen throughout the Province by 75 cents per day.

The question remained unanswered. Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, stated that, speaking on behalf of the Opposition to their leader, they had signed the "round robin" and they intended to stick by their signatures. (Applause).

Mr. Fred Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, defended the amendment and also had a certain amount of criticism to level against what he alleged was "deadwood" in the civil service. It was just like the army, he contended, a lot of men filling office positions writing letters to each other. The private members were put to a tremendous amount of expense and the people knew it. It would be better to pay a decent indemnity. He referred to the Premier of British Columbia being faced with far more work than the Premier of Ontario, which was an older province and better organized, and claimed that increase was justifiable.

Mr. Sam Guthrie, Labor member for Newcastle, stated that he and Mr. R. H. Neelands were perhaps the last to sign the "round robin." He was surprised at the statements made by Mr. Bowser and recalled the \$150,000 spent in 1912 to crush the coal miners' strike without first consulting the people. He had no apology for accepting the extra \$400.

Labor Member's Views

Mr. Tom Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, created a laugh by stating that he was not one of the last to sign the paper, in fact, he had been one of the first, and even now considered himself "scabbing." Two \$1,600 of 1913 was far greater than the \$2,000 of 1921 when one considers the present high cost of living. He did not intend to work for nothing.

Mr. M. B. Jackson, Liberal member for the Islands, claimed Mr. Bowser, in common with all other members of the Legislature, was aware of the proposed increase. He charged Mr. Bowser with gross breach of faith in now opposing the amendment.

The Opposition Leader demanded from Mr. Jackson a retraction of this charge. He said he had not known that the increase would be made until Wednesday night. Mr. Jackson retracted his statement in part. He said he would have to accept the word of the Leader of the Opposition, but he was still of the opinion that Mr. Bowser had been fully cognizant of the proposal at the time it was first proposed.

Mr. Bowser was not satisfied with this, but Mr. Jackson would give way no further.

Dr. W. H. Sutherland, speaking as whip of the Liberal party, said that a "round robin" had been circulated by him asking the Government to bring in this measure. "I handed it," said he, "first to the whip of the Conservative party and they signed it unanimously except their leader. On this side also it was practically unanimously signed. I went to the Labor members and asked them what they would do. They were perfectly in accord in wishing for the increase, because, as the member for Newcastle said to me, they realized that their expenses were very much greater than they had expected and they would like to have this increase, although, under the circumstances, they preferred not to sign it first."

Needed the Money

"The intention was to have it signed by the private members and then put it up to the leaders of the party. After having it signed, the whip of the Conservative party took it to the Leader of the Opposition."

Mr. Fred Anderson: "When?"

Dr. Sutherland: "That was about ten days ago, and the impression conveyed to me was that he would not sign it. As a matter of fact, we asked twice as much as we have got. We asked \$2,400 for the members and a proportionate increase for the ministers. I was informed that the Leader of the Opposition would not agree to sign, but that he would not

oppose it, either in the House or in the country. I went and stated that fact to the Labor people and they signed it, all except one, the independent, Mr. Hanes, and he said he would not offer any criticism about it. So I was very much surprised yesterday when I had the first intimation that faith had been broken. I took it to the Premier and we had more trouble really getting the Premier to consent to it than we had with any private member. He finally consented to go half way and make it 25 per cent increase instead of 50 per cent that we asked for."

Mr. James H. Schofield, Conservative whip, said, "I wish to corroborate what my honorable friend, the Liberal whip, has said in every particular, except as to the Leader of the Opposition. When we first came down, I was approached by members on our own side of the House before I saw the whip of the Government, and was asked to endeavor to get an increase of indemnity. On the day I was searching for him he was searching for me with the same object in view. I have no hesitation in accepting full responsibility. I can justify it in my own town, and in my own riding and in the House. I did ask the Leader of the Opposition to sign. I asked him twice and he refused each time. I told the Government whip that I thought we could make arrangements with Mr. Bowser. I fell down on that, but I said it in good faith and without the intentions of deceiving the Government or anybody else."

Mr. Jackson Apologizes

Mr. M. B. Jackson rose and said that his understanding of the matter had been that the Leader of the Opposition was a party to the arrangement, but according to the explanation of the whip this was apparently not correct. "I am very sorry," he continued, "as to what I have said. It was based on a misunderstanding, and I tender my best apologies to the Leader of the Opposition, and I trust he will understand it was a misapprehension of the facts."

Canon Hinchliffe exclaimed that he was not particularly enthusiastic for this proposition when it first came up, and he had said then that he saw no particular reason for it. For some time he refused to attach his name. "It was pointed out to me, however," he continued, "that I was not the only private member of this House, and that my position was a peculiar one, that it was my good fortune to represent a small constituency which I could travel over without expense to myself; that other members were not in the same position; that other members were put to great expense to travel over their constituencies in order to see that the work of the Government was being carried on properly, and that their expenses in some cases was so great that they practically had no reward for their labors. It was not in consideration for myself, but for others that I signed. There was another reason. Knowing that so many members were in favor of it because it was needed and knowing that I would benefit if the matter were brought to a successful issue, I thought I should be ashamed to take the money if I did not also take my share of the responsibility."

The question was then put and carried, the only negative vote being that of Mr. Bowser.

NEW RULE OF ROAD COSTS OBJECTED TO

Leader of Opposition Advises Postponement of Proposed Big Outlay on Account of "Sentimental Nonsense"

Describing the proposal to change the rule of the road in British Columbia as "sentimental nonsense" and needless extravagance at a time when the slogan of the Province should be to work and save, Mr. W. J. Bowser, leader of the Opposition, criticized last night the proposed payment by the Government of \$400,000 to the B.C. Electric Railway as compensation for losses sustained in carrying out the "turn to the right" plan.

The \$400,000 loan was given its second reading last night and passed, with only a few voices dissenting, although there was considerable debate.

Hon. J. H. King, Minister of Public Works, said that it was the general feeling that now was the opportune time to carry out the change so far as the Island and lower Mainland were concerned. He said that the original estimate of the cost of making the changes in the B.C. Electric tracks and equipment amounted to \$1,000,000, but subsequent investigation had brought the total down to \$800,000. He felt that it would be fair for the Province to assume half of this, and therefore \$400,000 had been stipulated.

The Minister said that other provinces had adopted the "turn to the right" principle, and that considerable inconvenience and danger was caused by the conflict of road rules, especially in consideration of the growing motor traffic between British Columbia and the adjacent states, where the rule of the road was just the reverse of British Columbia's. He said that to delay longer would increase the cost to the company, as it was holding up purchases and repairs.

A Matter of Sentiment

Mr. Bowser said that he did not believe there was actual danger in the present conflict of highway rules, and he pleaded for postponement until the Province was in better financial condition. He was in favor of protecting the rights of corporations, but he did not feel that this was the proper time to go ahead with a project entailing such heavy expenditure.

"The slogan of your Premier and Finance Minister has been to produce and save," declared Mr. Bowser. "That is what you need to do, but you are spending money like millionaires on nothing but sentiment."

Attorney-General J. W. de B. Farris held that the Leader of the Opposition was talking against something he had voted for a year ago.

Mr. Bowser said he was not against the change, but he was opposed to having it carried out at this time.

Mr. Samuel Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, asked the Attorney-General for a statement whether the Government was under a legal obligation to pay compensation to the B.C. Electric.

Mr. Farris said the whole of the sum would not necessarily be paid.

"If the B.C. Electric is entitled to compensation, I contend that the stockholders of the company are better able at the present time to pay it than we are," declared Mr. M. B. Jackson, member for the Islands. He suggested that the Government should ask the interests behind the company to meet the cost on condition that the Province should meet its share by paying to the company bonds to mature later, when the Province would be able to enter the world's money markets at a more opportune time.

Mr. H. G. Perry, member for Fort George, said he was not yet convinced that the company was entitled to compensation, and he invited arguments from the Government and the Opposition to prove the contention.

Jitney Bars and Hotels

"We did not pay compensation to the jitney bar people, and made no provision for the hotel men, either, and I don't see any reason why we should," said Mr. Perry. "The B.C. Electric people invested their capital in the road, and like anybody else, they are entitled to a return on their investment."

Mr. Fred Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, argued that since the Province had ordered a change in the rule of the road it should pay compensation.

"The member for Fort George is unfair and unreasonable," declared Mr. Anderson. "We must not look at this matter from the standpoint of the individual constituencies, but from the standpoint of the whole Province."

"The B.C. Electric is not the Province," broke in Mr. Guthrie.

"The B.C. Electric has been placed in a position that will necessitate heavy outlays, and the whole proposition has been entirely outside their control," resumed Mr. Anderson. "It is our duty to pay part of the price that our own decision entails."

Mr. Kenneth Duncan, member for Duncan, said that when the rule of the road issue had first been introduced the understanding was that the Province would assume no liability. He held that this had influenced the people generally, and also members of the House, and that had they realized the change would necessitate such heavy expense the vote in favor of it would have been considerably smaller. He said the whole matter should be postponed.

PREPARING DEFENCE OF ANTI-ORIENTAL LAWS

Attorney-General Introduces Measure to Validate Orders-in-Council Relating to Employees on Crown Property

As a preliminary to fighting out the question of whether the Provincial Government has power to forbid the employment of Orientals in connection with Provincial public works, the Attorney-General yesterday introduced a bill which is entitled "An Act to validate and confirm certain Orders in Council and provisions relating to the employment of persons on Crown property."

In 1902 the Provincial Government in pursuance of the statute passed an Order in Council which sets forth "that in all contracts, leases and concessions of whatsoever kind entered into, issued, or made by the Government, provision be made that no Chinese or Japanese shall be employed in connection therewith."

The Appeal Court of British Columbia has since decided that this provision is not within the power of the Province. The matter will be taken to the Supreme Court of Canada, and no doubt eventually to the Privy Council. The Attorney-General explained to the Legislature yesterday that this must be done by a direct action at law and not by a stated case. In an action at law the defendant will avail himself naturally of every possible defence and he might perhaps plead that the Provincial Order in Council was not in accordance with the Provincial statutes. The object of the bill, therefore, is to validate the Order in Council so that the clear issue may be raised as to whether the Legislature has power to enact laws forbidding the employment of Chinese and Japanese on contracts, leases or concessions from the Government.

The Attorney-General remarked, incidentally, that he is desirous of getting, if possible, a favorable decision from the Supreme Court of Canada before taking it across the water.

QUESTION NEED OF BUILDINGS AT RUPERT

Two Hundred Thousand Dollars for Public Erections at Northern Metropolis Causes Some Debate in House

Hon. T. D. Pattullo spent a few minutes of acute discomfort in the Legislature yesterday afternoon while the members were badgering him over the vote of \$200,000 for new public buildings at Prince Rupert.

The trouble was started by Mr. James Ramsay, of Vancouver, who wanted to know how much these buildings would cost ultimately, and what justification there was for the expenditure. He was informed by Hon. Dr. King that the final cost would be about \$450,000, but this was sharply questioned by Mr. J. W. Jones, who is of opinion that \$750,000 would no more than suffice.

Mr. Bowser suggested renting premises for Provincial purposes in Prince Rupert and thus avoiding capital expenditure. The Government, he pointed out, intends spending \$867,000 for new buildings this year under circumstances where ordinary prudent business men would not build at all.

Mr. Pattullo, in an irritated tone,

reported that the Province had realized \$1,200,000 from the sale of lots in Prince Rupert, and that these sales had been made under a promise that adequate public buildings would be erected. He added that this money had been spent in other parts of the Province, and intimated that the men who live in the southern part of British Columbia ought to take a trip north and see what kind of a Province this is.

Mr. Jones moved that the vote for the Prince Rupert building be struck out, but failed to get the House to agree with him.

ASKS BETTER CONTROL OF IMMIGRATION

Declaring that while he was not reflecting on any government, the immigration policy now in force was more or less of a farce in protecting the country in the way of public health, Hon. Dr. MacLean, Provincial Secretary, gave out figures in the House yesterday afternoon showing that there is a net increase of 110 insane persons in British Columbia each year, sixty per cent of whom were born outside the boundaries of Canada.

The subject under discussion was a vote of \$237,000 in the estimates to provide for the construction of a new building at Essondale, near New Westminster, where 1,600 patients are now housed and where accommodation was at a premium. This year, explained Dr. MacLean, it will cost \$700,000 to care for the insane, \$400,000 of which is to be spent by the Province to care for these outsiders.

Hon. Dr. MacLean further stated that it was up to the Dominion authorities to exercise a more careful control of immigration into this country, and he was considering bringing in a resolution asking Ottawa to take some action with regard to tightening up on immigration of mental defectives.

OPTOMETRY BILL PASSES COMMITTEE

One Medical Practitioner Will Be Appointed to Examining Board — Act in Force by Proclamation

The Optometry Bill went through its committee stage in the Legislature Thursday afternoon with little alteration. The only important amendments approved provide that one of the board of examiners who will examine applicants for permission to practice optometry shall be a medical practitioner; and that the act shall come into force on proclamation by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council instead of on July 1, as originally planned.

Ian Mackenzie, Liberal member for Vancouver, who has charge of the bill, presented a number of minor amendments to the measure, one of which provided that the examining board should be composed of five persons appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and to consist of four reputable practicing optometrists who were residents of this Province for not less than five years, and a fifth member who shall be specially qualified to conduct examinations in the use of the ophthalmoscope.

At the suggestion of Dr. Rose, Conservative member for Nelson, M. A. Macdonald, Liberal member for Vancouver, added a clause making the appointment of one medical practitioner on the examining board compulsory. No objection was taken to this provision.

Approval also was given to other amendments which were proposed by Mr. Mackenzie, and which provide that all persons securing optometry certificates entitling them to practice optometry must be British subjects. Another amendment proposed by Mr. Mackenzie and approved by the House provides that optometrists when practicing optometry away from regular places of business shall deliver to all people fitted with glasses a bill of purchase containing their signatures and specifications of the lenses and frames of the glasses supplied.

FURTHER BONUS TO MAJOR RETALLACK

A further bonus of three months' salary to Major Retallack, former Public Utilities Commissioner, was recommended to the Legislature last night by the special committee recently appointed to inquire into the claims of the Major, the committee consisting of Messrs. Perry, Lister, Burde, Buckham, Kergin and Jackson. The payment involves the sum of about \$1,875.

The report, which was submitted by Mr. H. G. Perry last night, was a lengthy affair and dealt with the financial transactions of the former Public Utilities Commissioner prior to his appointment to Provincial office, which went on to state that while prior to 1919 his financial affairs appear to have been prosperous, in April of that year these appear to have been at low ebb, so low, in fact, that he pledged his entire mining interests in security for the payment of a debt to his principal associate.

That the commissioner had a reasonable expectation that the office would continue for a longer period than he actually did, was admitted by the committee, the report going on to state, however, that the one year's tenure of office redounded to the direct financial advantage of Major Retallack and his future position is enhanced by virtue of having occupied that responsible position. Inevitably prevailing adverse financial and industrial conditions, it was stated, would have overtaken the Major irrespective of his being appointed commissioner.

CHIROPRACTORS' BILL GETS THIRD READING 54

The bill to fix the terms upon which chiropractors and drugless physicians may practice their profession in British Columbia received its third reading in the House yesterday, after being amended so as to strike out toxicology, bacteriology, obstetrics and minor surgery from the subjects in which they are required to pass an examination, and inserting medical jurisprudence.

An amendment was offered by Mr. M. B. Jackson to the effect that all physicians in the Province should be required to keep a permanent record of every diagnosis made by them, and of the material facts in each case, and to send a copy of the same to the Provincial Health Office. In the support of this he remarked that many physicians did not keep up with modern knowledge in connection with their profession, and he thought a clause of this sort would help to maintain the standard.

Dr. Sutherland, Dr. MacLean and Dr. Rose all agreed that there was something in this view as to occasional laxity among members of the profession, but they could not see how this proposal would cure the matter. All it would mean would be a great deal of work for the doctors. They thought it would prove impracticable. There were many cases, such as colds and other small matters in which it would be not worth while and it would put a great amount of work on the doctors which they wouldn't do. Dr. Sutherland pointed out that there is now an association engaged in the work of standardizing the hospitals of this continent, and records of the kind suggested would be kept in each hospital. This would go a long way toward carrying out the purpose intended by the motion.

After some further discussion the amendment was withdrawn by Mr. Jackson.

CHANGES MADE IN SUPERANNUATION BILL

An amendment to the Superannuation Bill to the effect that School Boards may adopt the plan only subject to approval of the municipal council was introduced in the House last night by Mr. James Ramsay, Liberal member for Vancouver, and was adopted while the bill was in committee.

This was practically the only important change made to the bill yesterday, all other main clauses being approved without much discussion.

Canon Hinchliffe was the first to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the school trustees were given power under the original draft of the bill to adopt the plan without consulting with the councils. He said that this was a mistaken policy, and he favored giving the control to municipal councils which had to find the funds.

Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education, who is sponsor for the bill, said he was willing to accept an amendment along the line proposed. The Minister pointed out that the trustees at present fixed the salaries of teachers, and superannuation was sometimes considered in the nature of deferred payment of salaries. From that standpoint it might be considered that the trustees should exercise control over the superannuation.

Mr. Ramsay then moved the amendment, which was carried.

A question as to the application of the bill to the police was raised, and it was pointed out that police officers were municipal employees and would therefore come within the legislation.

TAXATION ACTS ARE GIVEN THIRD READING

The Poll Tax Act is amended by a bill which received its third reading yesterday. The Minister of Finance explained that when an act was passed a year ago giving municipalities the power to levy a poll tax of \$5, the clause permitting a Provincial poll tax of equal amount to be levied was left untouched. The object of the present bill is to provide that there shall be only one poll tax, and that if it is levied by the municipality it cannot be levied also by the Province.

Among the amendments to the Taxation Act contained in the bill put through yesterday is one to the effect that the homesteader shall have freedom from taxation for five years. There is also a provision to levy annually 75 cents per head on cattle and 25 cents per head on sheep brought into the Province for pasturing.

The bill to regulate the practice of optometry received its third reading yesterday.

SALARIES AND INDEMNITIES

No action of the Provincial Legislature during the session aroused such a wave of resentment as the decision to increase the salaries of Cabinet Ministers and to raise the sessional indemnities of the members. It would have been difficult to believe that the people could have felt so keenly on any subject of the kind. The \$2,000 sessional indemnity is more than members of Parliament at Westminster receive, where the House of Commons is in session for the greater part of the year, the duties demand constant watchfulness and work on the part of the members, and, in addition, the cost of living in London is higher than it is in the capital of this Province. Comparisons may not be of any avail in a case of this kind, but the question of ethics enters into the course adopted by our Provincial Legislature, and it is that aspect of it that has aroused the people's ire.

Premier Oliver has been shrewd in the past to sense the will of the people. It is extraordinary how, in the present instance, he should have gone so much astray. Judging from the representations that have been made to this newspaper, there is a bitter feeling passing through every section of the community. Liberals and Conservatives, business interests and the laboring element, civil servants and those in all walks of life. From no quarter outside the Legislature have we heard the slightest justification advanced for an increase in either Cabinet Ministers' salaries or in the raising of sessional indemnities. How the Legislature, under the financial circumstances that prevail, can reconcile itself to flaunting public opinion in this wise passes our understanding. The most flagrant injustice of the whole proceeding lies in the decision having been reached in the face of an announced Government policy that no statutory increases should be given to civil servants for the present fiscal year. The only conclusion that can be reached in this regard is that civil service economy was practised so that the members of the Government and the Legislature should benefit themselves.

If it is not too late we would urge Premier Oliver and his colleagues to reverse their decision and would suggest to the members of the Legislature that they should refuse the increase in indemnities until such time as financial conditions are much improved.

own policy of "economy and retrenchment," and is getting a bad example to the community. There is a certain unrest abroad because of unemployment, and for this condition the Government is held to be responsible to a degree. It can be imagined, and indeed is only too evident, that very serious concern is being felt because of the new potlatch of public funds. This newspaper is anxious to assist any Provincial Government in any legitimate effort made for the development of British Columbia, but, in the interests of the taxpayers, it must protest emphatically against a policy which savors of rapacity.

THE EDUCATIONAL VIEWPOINT

In discussing a one-mill rate levy within municipalities for extraordinary school expenditures Dr. J. D. MacLean, the Minister of Education, said that municipal councils have not the educational viewpoint but merely look upon the question in a sense of dollars and cents. No doubt he is right to a degree, but what he has said might also be applied, if in a qualified way, to school boards. Outside of the teachers themselves and some few others who have made a study of educational systems, who has what Dr. MacLean calls the educational viewpoint? Even teachers vary in their estimates of what constitutes education. The question at issue in this Province, and one that is at issue elsewhere as well, is the limits which should be placed on State-aided education, and there is a very well defined opinion gaining headway that those limits should be set by the ability of the taxpayers to meet the constantly increasing demands. State education can be made too obligatory and can defeat its own purpose by arousing popular indignation. The fate of school by-laws should be a warning to authority that there are limits which it should not exceed.

The amendment to the Public Schools Act will have an effect which Dr. MacLean does not anticipate. It will mean that those seeking election to municipal councils will be called upon to pledge themselves against extraordinary school expenditures which are unnecessary. Thus the question of education will be injected in municipal elections to a greater extent than in the past. The whole issue resolves itself into a very simple definition. The people are so heavily taxed that they have come to the conclusion there must be something wrong in administrative methods, and especially in those connected with the schools. They look for reform in the educational system and until they know it is all that can be desired they are unwilling to engage in any expenditures that can be avoided. That they should be deprived of the right to vote on money by-laws for extraordinary school expenditures will be resented, but they have the remedy in their own hands and will use it, namely, to elect municipal councils that will not wantonly allow school boards to increase taxation.

A WORKABLE MEASURE

Mr. Thomas Uphill, the member for Fernie, has expressed his belief that no one in the Legislature has "the least hope" that the liquor control legislation will prove workable. Surely this is the language of pessimism, of exaggeration, or both. There is no known reason why Government control of the sale of liquor, such as is to be carried out in this Province, should not prove a success. It has the sanction of two-thirds of the population, and the remainder, who believe in total prohibition of the liquor traffic, are, therefore, not going to violate the new law. Mr. Uphill, and anyone else who thinks as he does, would be far better advised to co-operate with the Government in making the liquor law operate in the best interests of the community. It can be made effective in such a way as to bring it into popular favor, in which case enforcement will be easy as compared with the difficulties which confront the Government under the Prohibition law.

It can be said in commendation of the attitude of the Legislature towards the liquor control law that the members appear to have voted according to their convictions, and to have endeavored, with the judgment with which they are endowed, to interpret the will of the people. We believe that they erred in certain respects, but only time can prove this. The new law contains principles which will tend to promote temperance, as opposed to a prohibitory enactment which always must arouse hostility and enlarge a class of so-called criminals who do not believe they are guilty of wrong doing and hence violate its provisions. So far as it lies within the power of the Government it has imposed safeguards in the new legislation, which, when enforced, should mean a sane law. The Government has only to avoid anything favoring of profiteering, to reduce operating expenses to a point compatible with efficient service, and to see that there is no political tinge given to the personnel of those who will be appointed under the act, and the experiment will be launched under favorable auspices. The co-operation of the public is an essential to the maintenance of the law. If this is borne in mind the legislation, despite Mr. Uphill's gloomy forebodings, can be made a workable success.

hill, the member expressed his belief the Legislature has at the liquor control prove workable. Language of pessimism, or both. Reason why Government the sale of liquor, carried out in this not prove a success. of two-thirds of and the remainder, prohibition of the therefore, not going law. Mr. Uphill, who thinks as he better advised to the Government in law operate in the community. It give in such a way popular favor, in ment will be easy in the difficulties Government un- law, commendation of the Legislature to- control law that the to have voted ac- convictions, and to with the judgment re endowed, to in- the people. We erred in certain time can prove this contains principles to promote temper- to a prohibitory always must arouse a class of so- who do not believe wrong doing and provisions. So far the power of the has imposed safe- legislation, which, would mean a sane ment has only to covering of profiteer- operating expenses to with efficient ser- that, there is no on to the personnel be appointed under experiment will be favorable auspices. of the public is an maintenance of the ne in mind the leg- Mr. Uphill's gloomy e made a workable

URGENT ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURISTS

House Committee Had Number of Important Recommendations for Consideration of Legislative Members

Important recommendations, having in view the improvement of conditions in the agricultural industry, are contained in the report submitted by the Agricultural Committee of the House to the Legislature. The report sets forth:

"Your Committee met on several different occasions, representatives of the Advisory Board of the Farmers' Institute, representatives of the B. C. Fruit Growers' Association, and representatives of the United Farmers of British Columbia, and received from them a very great number of resolutions with regard to the problems of the agriculturist," said Dr. MacDonald.

"The resolutions were all varying in importance, some were local, some provincial in character. They were able and fairly presented to your Committee, but it is to be regretted that the representatives of those bodies were not able to present their resolutions to your Committee at an earlier stage in the session in order to give members of the Committee a fuller opportunity to consider their merits.

"Your Committee took cognizance of the fact that there appeared to be some increase in agricultural productions within the Province, but drew attention to the fact that the Province imported \$26,316,463 of agricultural products during the last statistical year. Your Committee is firmly of the opinion that concentrated and co-operative effort on the part of the Departments of Agriculture, Lands and Works, would very rapidly increase the agricultural population of the Province and the agricultural production, and within a decade turn the balance of trade in the matter of agricultural products from an adverse one to a favorable one, in so far as the Province is concerned.

"Your Committee heartily approves of the provision made at this session of the Legislature for the providing of stumping powder to the bona fide farmer at a reduced cost, as recommended by the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture last year.

"Your Committee further approves of the steps taken in the gathering of accurate information with regard to the Oriental problem from an agricultural standpoint, as recommended by your Committee a year ago, and of the provision in the estimates of the requisite money for this purpose. Strong representations were made to your Committee as to the increasing seriousness of this problem and your Committee is of the opinion that some one with a thorough understanding of the problem as it affects this Province, should attend at the forthcoming Imperial Conference in June of this year, especially in view of the expiry of the existing treaty with Japan.

"Your Committee respectfully suggests to members of the House and of the Government as a legitimate line along which increased expenditure may be made, the following:

"(a) In view of the fact that the Oriental problem from an agricultural instruction has been demonstrated to be the most effective means of increasing production through improved methods—that a sufficient number of men with the necessary theoretical and practical training be secured to serve the farming communities of the Province.

"(b) The tabulation and distribution through the Land Settlement Board and through Government Agents, of more accurate information as to agricultural lands available for pre-emption or purchase with a view to immediate development, within reasonable distance of transportation.

"(c) The continuance and extension of the system of aiding medical practitioners, nurses and hospitals in rural communities.

"(d) The purchase of road clearing equipment for the purpose of stumping and ploughing lands in selected areas where the agriculturists have prepared their land for stumping. This scheme to be launched as an experimental one and if found successful, as your Committee believes it will, to be extended as rapidly as the circumstances will warrant.

"Your Committee would emphasize the necessity of roads through agricultural districts, capable of carrying motor trucks of reasonable weight and load, and the closest scrutiny and supervision in the matter of road repair and road building with a view to economy, and, to this end would recommend the employment of permanent roadmen where feasible, and that a limit be placed on the weight of load that motor and other trucks may carry.

"Your Committee recommends revision of the present system of taxing farmers, with a view to offering more inducement to land settlement, and would point out that the personal property imposed on farmers tends to discourage the purchase of improved machinery and the keeping of more livestock.

"Your Committee believes that Provincial Assessors should be thoroughly experienced men and that their assessments should be made in the field.

"Your Committee believes that the problem of unoccupied or sparsely inhabited Indian Reservations surrounded by white settlement, should be speedily dealt with, with a view to making such Reservations available for settlement, bearing in mind the necessity for fair and equitable dealing with the Indian natives.

"Your Committee thoroughly approves of the action of the Government in endeavoring to procure a reduction of freight rates by the Railway Commission, the recent increase, having in very many cases resulted in the closing of mills and other industries, and in serious interference with the marketing of agricultural products, and would suggest that similar action be taken with regard to recent increases in express rates.

"Your Committee suggests, in view of an apparent division of opinion among farmers as to the advisability of making the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act applicable to farm help, that the Commissioners of the Workmen's Compensation Board be requested to consider the matter and make data available for submission to agricultural bodies for their consideration."

EARLY SESSION FOR MUNICIPAL ISSUES

Premier Oliver's Plan for Fall Sitting of House at Which Municipal Problems Will Be Dealt With

The calling of the next session of the Legislature some time toward the end of October, to permit of giving full consideration to the financial problems of the municipalities, was the outstanding feature of the final day's proceedings in the Legislature yesterday.

The discussion arose out of the Vancouver private bill, which held the centre of the stage practically throughout the whole of yesterday's session.

Objections to the taxation powers therein contained were made by several members and the net result of the debate was a motion presented by the Premier late in the afternoon to the effect that the bill, as reported by the Private Bills Committee, should be the first order of business at the session to be held next Fall.

Mr. David Whiteside, Liberal member for New Westminster, sprang a surprise shortly after 1 o'clock, when the Vancouver bill was up for consideration in committee. He appealed to the members of the House not to go home with their business uncompleted, like a bunch of red babies, but to rest over Sunday and come back with clear minds on Monday to grapple with the all-important questions of municipal taxation.

Mr. Whiteside said the clauses included in the new Vancouver bill were for the purpose of getting money along the line of least resistance. He had every sympathy with the City of Vancouver over her municipal worries, he said, but were not all the other municipalities in the same way?

"This is an ill-considered and ill-digested arrangement at best," he argued, "and if we don't clear up the whole question this year we go home to our constituents having given an exhibition of legislative ineptitude embarrassing in the last degree. We have been assembled here for two months, and have done little but talk about booze."

Drop Politics

"I suggest that we drop all politics and take one more day," he continued. "Wipe the order paper clean of everything but taxation and devote ourselves to the task, so that relief may be provided. Earnest consultation will accomplish it and there need be no disjoining of the taxation system."

Mr. Perry asked what this oration had to do with the Vancouver bill.

Mr. Whiteside quoted from a memorandum which he had forwarded to the Premier, containing suggestions relative to meeting the financial needs of the municipalities. His memorandum was as follows:

April 1, 1921.

Mr. Premier—To relieve the municipal financial situation, I would respectfully submit for the consideration of the Executive, the following proposals as a temporary remedy until such time as a new system of both levying and collecting taxes can be devised:

1—Accept the proposal of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and guarantee to pay them fifty per cent of their educational and hospital expenses for the current year as the same are now estimated, this guarantee, of course, to cover only salaries and maintenance expenses and not to include the erection of new buildings.

2—Have all the revenues from the sale of liquor form part of the consolidated revenue fund.

3—To obtain funds additional to what you have estimated as the municipalities' share of the liquor revenue, I suggest that the Taxation Act be amended so as to provide for the collection of additional revenue over and above what anyone is now liable to pay, as follows:

Suggestions

- 1—From every married male person, a service tax of \$5 per annum.
- 2—From every single male person over the age of 21 years and under 60, the sum of \$10 per annum.
- 3—From every person receiving an income of \$2,000, if married, \$5; if single, \$10.
- 4—From every person receiving an income of over \$2,000 up to \$3,000, if married \$7.50; if single, \$12.50.
- 5—From every person receiving an income over \$3,000 and up to \$4,000, if married, \$10; if single, \$15.
- 6—From every person receiving an income over \$4,000 and up to \$5,000, if married, \$12.50; if single, \$17.50.
- 7—From every person receiving an income over \$5,000 and up to \$7,000, if married, \$15; if single, \$20, and so on up the scale in the proportion provided for income taxpayers.
- 8—From the head office of every bank, \$150, and from every branch bank, \$75.
- 9—From all public commercial companies, other than banks, \$150.

Looks for a Million

I have talked these proposals over with Mr. Johnston, of the Treasury Department, and he very kindly worked out the scale of taxation, and he has authorized me to say that he thinks the plan quite feasible. The additional revenue could all be collected by the present Provincial tax collectors without much extra expense to the Province. This scheme will secure about \$300,000 extra revenue from Orientals, and in order to make sure of this, I would classify every Oriental male person, over the age of

21, who is not residing with his family, as a single man.

Mr. Johnston figures that the revenue obtainable in this way would be approximately \$1,000,000. I think, considering the Orientals from whom we could collect \$10 per head, it would amount to more. If this scheme is considered favorably by you, I wish you would have a caucus called for tomorrow morning, as I feel that the municipal situation is so acute that

we should not go home without dealing with it in some adequate way. It will be dangerous to leave the situation in abeyance until next year. If this expedient were adopted, it would obviate the necessity of passing any legislation for Vancouver at this session.

**D. WHITESIDE.
Premier Opposed**

Premier Oliver opposed holding the House in session any longer.

"If I have any reasonable hope that a solution of the municipal difficulty could be arrived at I would have no hesitation in asking that this House remain here two weeks," said the Premier. "But I have no hopes that if we did remain here we would arrive at any solution. It takes time to study this out. The municipalities and the Province both have a serious problem before them."

The Premier pointed out that the Municipal Committee of the Legislature has been meeting off and on during the last seven weeks, but had not been able to bring forward one practical suggestion.

"The only concrete suggestion we have had was for \$15 service tax, and when we met the representatives of the municipalities last week they refused to take the responsibility for that service tax," the Premier said. "The whole trouble is that land has been taxed to a degree that is resulting in it reverting to the Government and the municipalities. And now property owners are endeavoring to shift a portion of the burden on to people whom they think are not paying their fair share."

"It must be recognized, both inside and outside this House, if there is to be relief for the municipalities that relief can only be by shifting the burden to some other part of the population. But it is impossible to shift the burden from the municipalities as a whole. All this Government can do is to make it possible to make a more equitable distribution of the burden. I believe it would be possible to more equitably adjust taxation than it is at the present time."

The Premier added that the Government, before the next session, intended to study the whole problem of taxation, and try to arrive at something more equitable and more economical in collection.

Asks Immediate Action

Mr. Whiteside pleaded for more immediate consideration of the municipalities, and suggested that fifty per cent of the cost of schools and hospitals be granted. He considered that all the revenues from the sale of liquor should be placed in the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and, if need be, he would amend the Taxation Act to the end that there should be a sufficient fund available for the needs of the municipalities.

Canon Hinchliffe: "We have not yet done much this session. We have settled the beer question, but have not done anything in respect of unemployment or for the municipalities."

Mr. Bert Kerling, Liberal member for Atlin, declared the Vancouver bill actually gave that city the right to indirectly tax other portions of the Province, in that by taxing railway and steamship companies, banks, etc., such concerns, operating elsewhere in the Province, would pass along the taxation. To him it looked like a piece of presumption on the part of Vancouver to demand such powers.

Mr. H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, declared the municipal situation is not one half as bad as painted. In fact, he charged, the municipalities have been putting up a bluff. With the portion of the liquor profits they will receive they would be able to pull through, he held.

Premier Oliver thought there was no question that the municipalities needed assistance, and it was the earnest desire of the Government to seek a solution to the difficulty. With some eighty per cent of the people of the Province living in the municipalities, it might be the burden could not be shifted, but, he believed, it could be better distributed. It was the purpose of the Government to make the most careful study of the whole question of taxation and the most equitable method of collection. It

but the Premier sitting could take the place of the customary Spring meeting. The idea would be to give preference to municipal legislation, to the end that such legislation would be enacted before the beginning of the next year. He asked for an expression of opinion on his suggestion.

Temporary Measure

Mr. M. A. Macdonald, who was sponsoring the Vancouver bill, pointed out it was but a temporary bill and there was no reason to apprehend that because Vancouver was being given certain powers of taxation, that other municipalities would demand similar powers.

The proposal of the Premier, having been made at lunch hour, Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, suggested that the House adjourn over luncheon hour to consider it. This step was adopted and at the afternoon sitting the Vancouver bill was again under consideration in the committee stage. After the taxation clauses of the measure had been eliminated, on the understanding that they could be brought up again at the proposed Fall session, Mr. W. J. Bowser took exception to a provision whereunder it was proposed that the City Council should have power, on a three-fifths vote, to approve agreements with corporations, instead of, as heretofore, submitting such agreements to the ratepayers.

Mr. Bowser refused to permit the bill to be advanced more than one stage at a time, with the net result that after a brief conference with the Opposition Leader, Premier Oliver presented a motion to the effect that the Consolidated Vancouver Bill, as reported by the Private Bills Committee, should stand over until the next session, to be taken up first thing. In the meantime, the abbreviated measure, brought down in the final hours of the House, and containing some immediate powers needed by the city, was approved.

**LEGISLATURE
ENDS LABORS**

**Customary Incidents Mark
Closing of First Session of
Fifteenth Parliament of B.C.
—Last Day Rush**

With the customary ceremonies the first session of the Fifteenth Parliament of British Columbia came to a close last evening at 9:40 o'clock. Three sittings were held during the day, in the course of which a mass of business was transacted and the order paper cleared.

Last night's sitting was more or less of a formality. The House completed its business by 9 o'clock and awaited the arrival of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor until nearly 10 o'clock, the waiting period being devoted to more or less horseplay.

Major Burde attempted to jump over the Bar of the House with indifferent success. Mr. Thomas Uphill, adorned with a clay pipe of pronounced proportions, admitted his ignorance of House rules while he kept the members in continuous state of hilarity by his witty remarks, and all members, pending the arrival of His Honor, joined in choruses and otherwise enjoyed themselves.

Premier Oliver received an ovation when, on entering the House just prior to His Honor's arrival, he was greeted with a salute "Atta Boy" from the inexpressible member for Kamloops, a salute which was the signal of applause.

In proroguing the House His Honor said:

"Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

"In relieving you of the onerous duties of this first session of the Fifteenth Legislature, it pleases me to express my appreciation of the careful attention you have given to the various matters submitted for your deliberation.

"Among important measures dealt with by you, an Act to provide for Governmental Control and Sale of Alcoholic Liquors meets fairly the wishes of the Legislature as expressed in the

"The Act to ratify the agreement between the British Columbia Anti-Tuberculosis Society and His Majesty the King, for taking over and maintaining the Tranquille Sanatorium as a Provincial institution, marks an important advance in the care of tubercular patients and provides for a greater measure of success in the prevention of this dread disease.

"Enactments relating to night employment of women, and limiting the hours of work in industrial undertakings, and fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment will meet with general approval.

"The Act respecting superannuation inaugurates a new departure in providing for the care of public servants who reach the age of retirement.

"Amendments to and consolidation of the Companies Act will render this measure more effective for the control of corporations.

"I thank you for the ample provision you have made for the maintenance of public works and institutions throughout the Province, and trust that the legislation you have enacted during the session now closing will result in material advancement of industrial, economic, and social conditions in British Columbia."

His Honor gave the royal assent to the following bills: To amend the Execution Act; the Department of Industries Act; the Constitution Act; the Law relating to the Devolution

Continued on page 11

of Estates in Land, and to consolidate and amend the Acts relating to the Transfer of Land, and providing for the Registration of Titles to Land; Trust Companies; the Court of Appeal Act; Bills of Sale Act; Assignment of Book Accounts Act; to provide for Government Control and Sale of Alcoholic Liquors; the Marriage Act; the Coal Mines Regulation Act; consolidate the Companies Act, and certain other Enactments relating to Companies; an Act to regulate the Practice of Optometry; an Act relating to certain Obligations of The Corporation of the Township of Richmond in respect of the Maintenance of the Burne-Bridges crossing the North Arm of the Fraser River; to amend the Summary Convictions Act; an Act respecting certain Loans to Municipalities in connection with Relief of Unemployment; an Act to ratify an Agreement bearing date the Twenty-third Day of February, 1921, between the British Columbia Anti-Tuberculosis Society and His Majesty the King; to amend the Vital Statistics Act; the Adoption Act; the Better Housing Act; the Public Schools Act; the Minimum Wage Act; the Provincial Elections Act; an Act concerning the Employment of Women During the Night; an Act limiting the Hours of Work in Industrial Undertakings; an Act fixing the Minimum Age for Admission of Children to Industrial Employment; an Act concerning the Night-Work of Young Persons employed in Industry; an Act concerning the Employment of Women before and after Childbirth; an Act respecting the Mission Municipal School District; to amend the Infants Act; an Act respecting The Corporation of the City of Port Coquitlam; to amend the Employment Agencies Act Repeal Act; the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital Act, 1910; the Brand Act; an Act to authorize the Leasing of Warehouses on the Government Wharf at Prince Rupert; to amend the Dying Assessments Adjustment Act, 1905; the Mothers' Pension Act; an Act to permit Municipally Owned Cemeteries, Crematoriums and Mausoleums; to amend the Anglican Theological College of British Columbia Act, 1915; an Act relating to the Corporation of the City of Victoria; an Act to incorporate the Fernie and Elk River Railway Company; an Act respecting the Corporation of the District of Burnaby; to amend the Testator's Family Maintenance Act; the Special Surveys Act; the Land Act; an Act for the Protection of Breeders of Goats; to amend the Pharmacy Act; the Animals Act; the Agricultural Act, 1915; an Act to repeal the Mosquito Control Act; to amend the Amusements Tax Act; the Police Act; the Legal Professions Act; the Attachment of Debts Act; the Small Debt Court Act; an Act to borrow the Sum of Three Million Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars for the Purpose therein specified; an Act to incorporate The Corporation of the City of Phoenix; an Act

to ratify the agreement between British Columbia Anti-Tubercu-
ly and His Majesty the King over and maintaining the Sanatorium as a Provin-
marks an important ad-
of tubercular patients for a greater measure of
of prevention of this dread
relating to night em-
women, and limiting the
in industrial undertak-
the minimum age for
children to industrial em-
meet with general ap-
respecting superannuation,
new departure in provid-
of public servants who
of retirement.
to amend and consolidation of
Act will render this
effective for the control
for the ample provision
for the maintenance of
and institutions through-
and trust that the
have enacted during the
losing will result in man-
ment of industrial, eco-
social conditions in British
gave the royal assent
ing bills: To amend the
the Department of
the Constitution Act;
ing to the Devolution
ed on page 3)
in Land, and to con-
end the Acts relating to
of Land, and providing
istration of Titles to
Companies; the Court of
Bills of Sale Act; As-
Book Accounts Act; to
Government Control and
holic Liquors; the Mar-
the Coal Mines Reg-
consolidate the Com-
and certain other
relating to Com-
to regulate the Prac-
tice; an Act relating to
ations of The Corpora-
ownership of Richmond in
Maintenance of the
crossing the North
Fraser River; to amend
Convictions Act; an Act
tain Loans to Muni-
cipalities with Relief of
; an Act to ratify an
aring date the Twenty-
February, 1921, between
olumbia Anti-Tubercu-
and His Majesty the
and the Vital Statistics
ation Act; the Better
the Public Schools
num Wage Act; the
tions Act; an Act con-
employment of Women
ht; an Act limiting the
in Industrial Under-
fixing the Minimum
of Children to Im-
ment; an Act con-
at-Work of Young
ed in Industry; an
the Employment of
and after Childbirth;
acting the Mission
District; to amend
; an Act respecting
of the City of Port
amend the Employ-
Act Repeal Act; the
al Jubilee Hospital
Brand Act; an Act to
asing of Warehouses
ent Wharf at Prince
and the Dyking As-
tment Act, 1905; the
Act; an Act to per-
Owned Cemeteries,
and Mausoleums; to
can Theological Col-
olumbia Act, 1915;
to the Corporation of
oria; an Act to In-
rnis and Elk River
y; an Act respect-
on of the District of
and the Testator's
nce Act; the Special
Land Act; an Act
of Breeders of
the Pharmacy Act;
the Agricultural
to repeal the Mos-
to amend the
Act; the Poll-Tax
rofessions Act; the
91a Act; the Smash
an Act to borrow
Million Five Hun-
dred Dollars for
else specified; an
the Corpora-
Phoenix; an Act

validate and confirm certain Orders-in-Council and Provisions Relating to the Employment of Persons on Crown Property; to amend The Corporation of the District of South Vancouver Administration Act; the War Relief Act; Further Powers Act; the Taxation Act; the Medical Act; the Industrial Operations Damage Compensation Act; the Supreme Court Act; the Succession Duty Act; the Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1900; the Municipal Act.

All told, the present session dis-
posed of eighty-five measures, some-
thing of a record in point of scarcity
of legislation. The Liquor Control
Bill was undoubtedly the most out-
standing of all bills brought down,
and of the remainder there is none
that can be considered of outstand-
ing importance.

A LEGISLATIVE FALLACY

Mr. David Whiteside of New
Westminster, in his endeavors to pro-
vide a solution for the municipal
financial difficulties, has fallen into
the legislative fallacy that more tax-
ation is the chief solvent. That is
exactly what is to be avoided. It is
a redistribution of taxation as be-
tween the Province and the muni-
cipalities that is necessary if there is
to be anything like a permanent so-
lution. The member for New West-
minster reverts to the historically
unpopular poll tax as a solution
whereby funds can be created to give
the municipalities financial relief. We
wonder does he realize that a tax
such as he proposes will mean a new
burden on property owners, and will,
therefore, make the financial situa-
tion affecting the payment of taxes
on land worse than it has ever been.
It is a poor policy which suggests any
further application of the tax screw
which is already showing a tendency
to stulticate development in British
Columbia.

We do not altogether blame Mr.
Whiteside for the viewpoint he has
taken, as he has simply fallen heir
to the ideas propounded by the dele-
gates of the Union of Municipalities,
and has revised the suggestions
which they advanced. Mr. Whiteside
has protested, and rightly, against a
number of the votes in the Estimates.
He has visualized the fact that there
is unnecessary expenditure going on,
but he has not applied this realiza-
tion to his temporary solution for
municipal financial needs, or he would
never have advocated increased tax-
ation of a character in which the al-
ready over-burdened taxpayers must
bear their share. When the Province
is going to enjoy an additional reve-
nue through liquor receipts which
is variously estimated anywhere from
\$2,000,000 to \$6,000,000, it does not
seem as if there were any legislative
wisdom in proposals for new taxa-
tion. There is ample revenue being
collected by means of British Colum-
bia and municipal agencies to provide
for all dual needs. What is wrong is
that there is a wholly inequitable
division of the sources. It is in a
redistribution of these, coupled with
that Provincial economy which is such
a crying need, that the remedy for
the financial difficulties of muni-
cipalities is to be found.

CONTROL OF IMMIGRATION

Dr. J. Dr. MacLean, the Provincial
Secretary, has sounded a warning,
which should be heeded in Ottawa, in
pointing out that the immigration
policy now in force does not protect
the country sufficiently in the way of
public health. There are now 1,500
mental patients at Essondale, and
the Legislature has just voted \$237,-
000 for the construction of a new
building there to take care of the
growth in the number of those men-
tally afflicted in the Province. This
fiscal year it is costing British Colum-
bia \$700,000 to care for the insane,
and of this amount \$400,000 is being
spent on those who were born outside
the boundaries of the Dominion.
There is a net increase of 110 insane
persons in British Columbia each
year and 60 per cent of these are not
Canadians.

What is happening in British Co-
lumbia must be accentuated in other
Provinces where there are even larger
percentages of the foreign element.
Dr. MacLean has done well to bring
the matter before the Legislature,
and any plea the Provincial Govern-
ment may make to Ottawa in this
particular should enlist immediate ac-
tion. It is not only in the case of
mental defectives that the control
over immigration should be more
drastic. The unemployment condi-
tions and the difficulty that has been
found in rehabilitating returned sol-
diers also constitute a warning to the
Dominion to go slow at this time in
attempting to build up population
through immigration. We do not
think it would be at all too restrictive
to provide that any new arrival
should have in his or her possession
sufficient funds to last for six
months. It is only necessary to state
openly the unemployment conditions
that exist to account for such ac-
tion. There should, also, be some ef-
fort made towards promoting only
selective immigration, and whatever
bars can be devised to prevent others
than those from British lands and
from the United States from coming
here as immigrants should be erected.

There is altogether too large a
foreign element in this country, and
in many respects it is a non-assimila-
tive element. In the Prairie Pro-
vinces it is in some districts a poten-
tial disruptive force, and whatever
it has contributed to the upbuilding
of the West could very well have been
spared it, on the other hand, it had
meant there would now have been a
population that, throughout, would
have been loyal to Canadian and
British ideals. In British Columbia
we have a large percentage of aliens
engaged in industries and, while the
great bulk of them are able to find
steady employment, our own people
suffer. The immigration policy of
the past, more than anything else,
must be blamed for unemployment
conditions and even the latest restric-
tions imposed are insufficient. At the
present time we do not know of any
class of immigrant that is wanted in
British Columbia except those with
some capital who will engage in the
agricultural industry, and these
should be drawn from the United
Kingdom as far as possible.

ECONOMY AND RETRENCHMENT

It is an ironical commentary on the
action of the Provincial Legislature
in increasing Ministers' salaries that
there has been contemporaneous ac-
tion in the State of Washington, only
there substantial reductions have been
made in the emoluments enjoyed by
Cabinet members; In Washington the
Directors of Conservation, and De-
velopment and of Labor and Indus-
tries each are to receive \$6,000 per
annum. Other salaries now fixed are:
Director of Agriculture, \$5,000; Di-
rectors of Taxation and Examina-
tion and of Fisheries and Game, each
\$4,200; for the Directors of Health,
Public Works, Efficiency and Business
Control there is set \$5,000 each, while
the Director of Licences is to receive
\$4,200. The savings that have been
effected aggregate \$13,360 annually
under the maximum allowed for salar-
ies. Another little economy under-
taken in Washington is the use of
plain instead of embossed stationery,
which effects a saving of \$30,000 a
year.

Retrenchment would appear to be
the order of the day in Washington
for we learn that the Seattle School
Board has effected a reduction of
\$1,000,000 in local taxes for school
purposes. Among the items which
comprise this reduction is one of
\$70,000 affecting manual training, do-
mestic science, gardening and night
school departments. School taxation
in Seattle has been exceptionally bur-
densome, and there will be no surprise
that a substantial reduction in the
amount being spent is considered
necessary, but what is being done is
in line with the policy of both the
State Government and the muni-
cipalities in an attempt to put an end
to the excessive expenditures which
have been indulged in and that have
erroneously been regarded as neces-
sary to efficient administration. The
Directors of the Olympia Cabinet are
no doubt just as efficient as our Brit-
ish Columbia Ministers. Probably in
some respects their duties are more
onerous, for they have a much larger
population with which to deal. Not-
withstanding this, it has been real-
ized that where state economy is
concerned the example should be set
by the highest responsible officials.
In British Columbia our Ministers
preach retrenchment, but practice a
spendthrift policy.

THE RULE OF THE ROAD

The price the people of British
Columbia have to pay directly for the
legislation covering the change in the
rule of the road is \$400,000, a sum
which is to be given to the B. C.
Electric Railway Company to enable
it to make its alterations to trackage,
rolling stock and equipment. The
expense to which this company will
be put will probably reach \$800,000,
so that the Province gets off cheaply.
It is only just that there should be
compensation, and that to be given is
inadequate, but the wantonness of
the policy of change lies in the bur-
den inflicted on the taxpayers at such
a time as this. When the change in
the rule of the road was before the
Legislature this newspaper pointed
out what it would mean. In effect it
involves an expenditure of \$400,000
of the people's money, so that a
policy which the majority does not
want may be put into effect.

We are paying a very heavy price
to please the tourists who make holi-
day in British Columbia, and we are
paying it at a time when it can be ill-
afforded. To indulge the whim of
motoring associations the people are
mulcted \$400,000, and, incidentally,
they are ordered to contribute

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 1921

Age-old custom of travelling on the highways. Such legislation, with the price that it entails, should never have been tolerated in a time of financial stress, for it is wanton in its design and execution. The Government, if it is sincere in its desire for retrenchment and economy, could, even at this late date, save the people of British Columbia \$400,000 by postponing indefinitely, or in any case until more funds are available, the change in the rule of the road in that district served by the B. C. Electric Railway Company.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1921

SEES PLAN TO DEFEAT DECISION OF COURT

New Westminster's Member Takes Exception to Oak Bay's Effort to Legalize As- sessment Roll

The action of the Municipality of Oak Bay, following the decision of the County Court on appeal, curtailing the assessment placed by the Municipal Court of Revision on the property of the Hudson's Bay Company, was the subject of more or less adverse comment by Mr. David Whiteside, Liberal member for New Westminster, when the bill to amend the Municipal Act was before the Legislature Saturday.

Mr. Whiteside moved that the section of the bill ratifying the assessment be stricken out. He saw in the amendment an effort to nullify the judgment of the court.

Mr. F. A. Pauline, referring to the company's disinclination to develop its properties, many of which it has held for over fifty years, stated that Oak Bay had reduced its assessments to meet the court ruling with the idea of equalizing the assessments to all property owners, and what the bill was seeking to do was to authenticate the new assessment based upon the court decision.

Mr. M. B. Jackson declared the section being brought forward by the municipality was with the intent of getting around the court decision.

On a vote Mr. Whiteside's amendment was lost and the section in the bill stands.

Strong protest was made by Mr. Samuel Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, at Saturday night's session of the House, when he criticized the Government for its failure to have printed certain amendments he had presented to the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Premier Oliver declared that so far as he was aware there was no foundation for the member's charge.

Mr. Speaker Manson pointed to the rush which had been experienced in the dying hours of the session in respect to the printing of bills as sufficient excuse for the member's amendments not being brought forward.

"I had expected that these great friends of labor would have brought down legislation in line with the promises contained in the King's Speech," stated Mr. Guthrie, and the incident closed.

POLITICAL INSINCERITY

One of the pleas put forward by members of the Legislature in explaining their decision to raise sessional indemnities was the patriotism which had characterized them during the war in refusing to take any increases. We are afraid this argument is a trifle insincere. If there is any basis of justice in the plea, then the raised indemnities should be made retroactive, and members of the last Legislature, not now in the House, should share in the increase. No one had the nerve to claim this should be done, because it would have been laughed out of court immediately. The truth is that there is no justification for the increases which the Legislature has voted to its members. A more unhappy time for the action could not well have been chosen—and when the members return to their constituencies they will be told so in no uncertain terms.

If the members of the Legislature are underpaid for the services they render to the State, then it is a strange commentary on this contention that, at the last election, before anything was known of increased indemnities, there should have been more candidates in the political field than ever before. What has been done is simply the outcome of unblushing effrontery, and will not have the effect of inducing the best men to run for Provincial political office in the future. The late session did not last above seven weeks, if we omit the holidays which intervened. For that time, and for the services which were rendered, the members received their sessional indemnities. Another session is to be held in October and the \$2,000 indemnity will then be paid, so that for, perhaps, fourteen weeks of attendance during the year the private members will each receive nearly \$4,000. For the remainder of the year they are free to make as much money as they can.

The argument that members do much political work between sessions can be disposed of in a few words. The majority of them do little, or none, and what they do does not, except in rare instances, involve out of pocket expense. Some of the members, whom we could name, will likely enough never be heard of between now and the time they return to their sessional duties, and, in the interim, they may not even write a letter to any department of Government in the interest of the constituency. The public cannot be persuaded that there is any logical ground for the course adopted in increasing indemnities, and a good deal more will be heard on the subject.

bers of the Legislature
 for the services they
 state, then it is a strange
 in this contention that,
 action, before anything
 increased indemnities,
 have been more candi-
 political field than ever
 t has been done is
 outcome of unblushing
 I will not have the ef-
 ng the best men to run
 political office in the
 ate session did not last
 weeks, if we omit the
 n intervened. For that
 the services which were
 o members received
 indemnities. Another
 be held in October and
 indemnity will then be
 for, perhaps, fourteen
 ndance during the year
 members will each re-
 \$4,000. For the re-
 e year they are free to
 a money as they can.
 ent that members do
 work between sessions
 ed of in a few words.
 of them do little, or
 at they do does not, ex-
 nstances, involve out of
 e. Some of the mem-
 e could name, will like-
 er be heard of between
 ime they return to their
 es, and, in the interim,
 even write a letter to
 ent of Government in
 f the constituency. The
 t be persuaded that
 logical ground for the
 d in increasing indem-
 good deal more will be
 subject.

APR

1921

Says Present Reserves on Coal Land Keep Up Price of Coal to the Consumer

Government Has Question Under Investigation; Urge Province Should Get More Results From Mining Development Work.

Assertions by W. J. Bowser, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, that the Government's policy of maintaining reserves on coal areas is helping to keep up the price of coal to the consumer were answered in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by the announcement of Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, that the Government had the whole coal reserve question under consideration and might change the present system as a result of investigations now under way.

While he realized that the operating coal companies of the Province, in view of their large investment, must be protected, Mr. Bowser held that every inducement should be held out to other companies to develop coal areas. Such development, he asserted, was impossible under the present policy of the Government in keeping coal lands under reserve. These reserves stifled competition, and as long as they remained the country would be faced with the question of whether or not the coal dealers' profits were excessive.

Perpetuates Monopoly.

"The policy is a mistaken one," he went on, "and I would like to know from the Minister whether he considers it has been a good policy and to what extent it has developed better conditions and whether the Government still feels that the reserves should be maintained. Unless you allow any person to locate coal areas you will never reduce the price of coal to the consumer because you perpetuate the monopoly of those companies at present operating and shipping coal. I have not yet seen a reason that would justify me in changing my opinion that this placing of reserves on coal lands was a backward step which would close up valuable areas of coal for centuries in the future as during centuries in the past."

Should Allow Development.

As the Government was not in a position to develop coal areas, private individuals, he urged, should be given an opportunity to do so. In view of the present agitation of coal consumers against high prices and the resulting formation of a commission to investigate coal profits, Mr. Bowser considered it high time that people should be allowed once more to go out and stake coal lands. In this way it might be possible to reduce the price of coal to the consumer.

Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, while pointing out that the question of coal areas did not come under his department, doubted that the lifting of coal reserves would result in any immediate development.

Investigating Question.

Mr. Pattullo explained that coal leases had become very complicated and reserves had been placed on coal lands so that the whole matter could be cleared up. In view of the alienation of large coal areas it had been deemed advisable to take stock of the areas still left.

"Consideration is being given by the Government to coal areas and also to oil areas," Mr. Pattullo added. As a result of this investigation new legislation on the subject might be recommended at the next session of the House, he intimated.

Should Get More For Mining Work.

A long debate, featured by political charges, was provoked by appropriations for mining development while estimates were under review.

Prof. Anderson, Liberal Member for Kamloops, thought that the Government, when it assisted the development of mining properties by road building and settling, should get more for its efforts than the return of twice the investment. If the mining development proved successful the Government should receive an interest in the mines, he thought.

The Premier, H. H. Pooley, Conservative, made his debut in his usual way with the assurance that the Government had no intention of selling any of the coal reserves.

Mr. Sloan claimed that the "Snowstorm" group contained twenty-three properties which were being developed into an asset of great value to the Province.

Lots of Money For Good Liberals.

"There's no money for the unemployed, but lots for Stuart Henderson and other good Liberals," Samuel Guthrie, Socialist Member for Newcastle, complained. He strongly objected to the practice of handing out money to such corporations as good Liberals may be interested in.

Government Should Get Increase.

After Mr. Sloan had read reports to show the value of the "Snowstorm" group, Mr. Pooley urged that the Government, for its efforts to develop the property, should get a substantial share in the mine. The risk taken by the Government should entitle the people of the Province to at least half the mine, he thought.

"It's open to question whether this Province can afford this sort of thing," said David Whiteside, Liberal Member for New Westminster. "We're all familiar with the enthusiastic optimism of mining men. I would suggest that we confine ourselves to building roads and trails and keep away from drilling on private properties."

Should Help Prospectors.

W. K. Esling, Conservative Member for Rossland, criticised the Government for assisting producing mines and failing to assist prospectors who needed help far more than did wealthy corporations. If prospectors were assisted development of mining properties would be more rapid, he held.

"There has never been a request by a prospector for proper assistance approved by the resident engineer which has been turned down," Mr. Sloan replied.

J. M. Yorston, Liberal Member for Cariboo, thought that the present system tended to assist the prospector to the greatest possible extent.

Political Charges.

Stuart Henderson had taken a very active part in the last election campaign in Fort George, Mr. Bowser charged. "Well might he do so because he had a friend at court, and because they would keep developing his mining property for him," he added. "There are other politicians who will give the Government support if they know that public moneys are going to be spent in this way."

The Minister of Mines, he declared, was "throwing good money after bad" in developing mines "under ground" contrary to the intention of the Act. The Minister, he said, had no assurance that the "Snowstorm" mine was a good security.

Need Aggressive Mining Policy.

Mr. Sloan claimed that his Department was carrying out the policy intended by the Act, and he emphasized that development of mining resources was essential if British Columbia was to become a great Province. If the previous Government had spent less money on expensive building and a railway that led nowhere, and more on mining development, the Province might be better off to-day, he remarked. The last ten years, he pointed out, had seen the development of such valuable properties as the Premier's "English" Surf Inlet, "Dolly Varden" mine, and only recently the Grand Trunk Railway.

MR. BOWSER ATTACKS SALARY INCREASES

Speaks Against the Increased Sessional Indemnities; Mrs. Smith's Position

Declaring that the Government, while preaching economy, was adding to the overhead expenses of the Legislature by over \$30,000 per annum, W. J. Bowser, K. C., in the House this afternoon, attacked the proposal to increase salaries of ministers, and the indemnities of the members.

He also declared that Hon. Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith was not legally a member of the Executive Council, unless Premier Oliver, contrary to press stories, had resigned his position as President of the Council, or that one of the ministers had resigned one of his unpaid portfolios in favor of Mrs. Smith, in order to make her head of a department.

ACT IN OPERATION

ABOUT MAY 1

Such Is Expectation Regarding New Liquor Measure

The Provincial Government, probably owing to stress of pressing business during the dying days of the session, has nothing to say yet regarding the personnel of the new Liquor Control Board, set up under the new Liquor Act. A. M. Johnson, Deputy Attorney-General, and J. H. Falconer, of Vancouver, are considered well "in the running" for the chairmanship, but not until next week will an announcement be made. There will be a returned man appointed, but who the likely choice is remains a mystery. A dozen well known veterans are mentioned.

The number of liquor stores will be decided by the Board, subject to the suggestions of the Government, the Premier and Attorney-General retaining wide powers of supervision. That with the sale of beer permitted only through Government stores, there will be more of these places needed in the big cities than it was formerly expected would be established. Practically every town will have a store, and where places are remote from established centres the Government will pay the express or freight on hard liquor, so that a uniform price will prevail. The Government, though, will not pay carrying charges on beer, owing to its bulk.

To Choose Returned Soldiers.

The work of the new Board is expected to divide itself into three phases, that of general administration, under the chairman, who will have to deal with the strict interpretation of the Act; supervision of stores and stocks; and enforcement. For the latter task the returned soldier appointee will likely be chosen, since his military experience will be of value to him. The second commissioner will probably be a man with general business experience.

Attorney-General Farris, while declining to make an official statement regarding the steps to be taken immediately the session closes, has intimated that May 1 will probably see the new Act in force. Until that time persons holding private stocks of liquor may have their wet goods marked with the Government stamp, and after that date it will be unlawful to possess any liquor not bearing the Government stamp.

Last

Though preaching temporary Columbia

While the matter Westminst in the abs would make municipal f House alm Municipal C said, probal suggestions was decided of the mem

When th for amendr Act were b to-night of urge that f be extende he stated. the matter some propo "Until I ha consider it however, it discuss the It was su that his p late in the Should S

"I consid the Provin portant the situation" that if ne stay here, deal with t solutely no natives of they met t ernment, seriousness condition indeed acu the presen

MU The mu are await culated to tress. Me not know was about tempt to They wer Governme down leg levy a \$1 taxes, as This tax inequity collect.

Amend as drafte tee, prob sentation They we cover co in variou cipalties on agric ties and in cond street li cost to t

Last Minute Attempt To Assist Municipalities

Though the present session of the Legislature is rapidly approaching its dying hours, an attempt will yet be made to provide temporary financial relief for the municipalities of British Columbia this year, it was learned to-day.

While preferring not to go into details until he had considered the matter further, David Whiteside, Liberal member for New Westminster, who has managed the Municipal Committee recently in the absence of Hon. Mrs. Smith, stated this morning that he would make recommendations on the municipal finance problem to the House almost immediately. The Municipal Committee as a whole, he said, probably would not make any suggestions on the matter unless it was decided to call another meeting of the members to-night.

When the committee's proposals for amendments to the Municipal Act were brought before the House, to-night or to-morrow, he would urge that further financial assistance be extended to the municipalities, he stated. "I am collecting data on the matter now and will draw up some proposals," said Mr. Whiteside. "Until I have had an opportunity to consider the matter fully to-day, however, it would be premature to discuss the question in detail."

It was suggested to Mr. Whiteside that his proposals might come too late in the session to be of any avail.

Should Sit Longer If Necessary.

"I consider that no question before the Province to-day is more important than that of the municipal situation," he replied. "I believe that, if necessary, the House should stay here a couple of extra days to deal with the problem. There is absolutely no doubt that the representatives of the municipalities, when they met the members and the Government, did not exaggerate the seriousness of the situation. The condition of many municipalities is indeed acute. The land cannot bear the present load of taxation."

Municipalities Anxious.

The municipalities of the Province are awaiting eagerly any move calculated to relieve their present distress. Municipal representatives did not know to-day that Mr. Whiteside was about to make a last-minute attempt to secure assistance for them. They were looking rather toward the Government to see if it would bring down legislation allowing them to levy a \$10 tax irrespective of other taxes, as proposed by Premier Oliver. This tax the municipalities consider inequitable and almost impossible to collect.

Amendments to the Municipal Act, as drafted by the Municipal Committee, probably will be ready for presentation to the Legislature to-night. They were framed in most cases to cover conditions which have arisen in various Island and mainland municipalities. One covers assessments on agricultural lands in municipalities and another gives municipalities, in conducting special surveys of street lines the right to charge the cost to the corporation as a whole.

HEALERS TAKEN IN BY MEDICAL ACT

Amendments to Cover Chiropractors and Others Introduced in House

Amendments to the Medical Act to cover chiropractors and drugless physicians who want the right to practice in this Province, and be given a professional standing have been introduced in the Legislature by the Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary.

The sections to be inserted in the Medical Act are:

"Nothing in this Act shall prevent or prohibit any duly qualified chiropractor from practising his profession for reward or gain within the Province from and after the enactment of this section:

"Provided that all practitioners of chiropractic within the meaning of this Act shall be duly qualified chiropractors of a recognized school or college of chiropractic, and for the purpose of this Act a recognized school or college of chiropractic shall be deemed to be an institution which teaches a residence course of three years of six months each or more.

"Provided further, that before any such chiropractor shall be lawfully entitled to practice chiropractic within the Province, such chiropractor shall take and successfully pass an examination satisfactory to the Council on the following subjects: Anatomy, physiology, chemistry, toxicology, pathology, bacteriology, histology, neurology, physical diagnosis, obstetrics, gynecology, minor surgery, hygiene, principles and practice of chiropractic.

"The Council, for the purpose of such examination of applicants for registration as chiropractors under this Act, shall appoint a chiropractor, who shall prescribe the examination for such applicants in relation to the principles and practice of chiropractic.

"Any duly qualified chiropractor who shall successfully pass such examination to the satisfaction of the Council shall be entitled to be registered under this Act as a member of the College:

"Provided that such chiropractor shall be restricted wholly to the practice of chiropractic."

Similarly worded clauses deal with drugless healers.

SOUTH VANCOUVER NOW KNOWS BETTER

People Have Paid Price For Mistakes, Member Says

"Ratepayers of South Vancouver have learned their lesson from the mistakes they have paid the price for which they have paid the price," Thomas Pearson, Conservative member for Richmond, told the Legislature yesterday when the bill to restore autonomy to South Vancouver was put through the committee stage.

"The people there have paid the price for their mistakes and errors and now feel that they can elect bodies that can manage their own affairs to the satisfaction of all concerned," said Mr. Pearson.

"The Government should provide that the bonded indebtedness should be the first charge on the revenues of the municipality under the Government official and that the rest should be under the control of the Reeve and Council. The only way we can create the interest the people have in their homes is to trust them and give them the opportunity to make good and work out their own salvation."

Does Not Go Far Enough.

Mr. Bowser declared that the Government was justified in bringing down the South Vancouver administration act, but now that conditions have improved the local franchise should be given back, but it can be done in a better way than that provided for in the bill.

"My idea is that they should be allowed to come back under the full terms of the Municipal Act to elect their reeve and councillors, but that the Government should be in a position to have certain financial control so as to prohibit the local people passing by-laws that would affect the bonded indebtedness of the municipality," said Mr. Bowser. "But under this bill we find that the reeve is still to keep up his cumbersome and costly control. I believe it can be done under the inspection of municipalities instead of keeping up all these overhead charges."

Urges Amalgamation

"It is for the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to say to what extent the powers of the reeve are to be abridged. This is not necessary to protect the public. You have here now an empty franchise handed to the municipality. This bill will not suit the people of South Vancouver at all."

R. H. Neelands, Labor member for South Vancouver, also asserted that he was thoroughly disappointed with the bill for some reasons.

"There is nothing in this bill to prevent the Government from giving to the municipality of South Vancouver full control of its affairs subject to the reservations necessary to protect its interests," said Mr. A. Macdonald. "If that is so we have no grounds for criticism."

"The only solution for South Vancouver is amalgamation with the city of Vancouver," said James Ramsay.

TO CHECK UP POOR DOCTORS

M. B. Jackson Brings in Amendment to Medical Act to Protect Public

Amendments to the Medical Act, aimed at checking up loose and incompetent doctors and protecting the public generally in the quality of medical attention it receives, were introduced in the Legislature this afternoon by M. B. Jackson, K.C., Liberal member for the Islands.

Mr. Jackson's amendment says: "Every medical practitioner shall keep a permanent record of all diagnoses made by him and of the material facts upon which the same were made and of all treatment administered, and in all cases of fatal termination of illness while under treatment by a medical practitioner, a full, true and correct copy of such records shall be forthwith filed with the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health."

"Under this provision records of the diagnoses and treatments of each patient can be investigated at any time," Mr. Jackson explained. "Examination of these records will show to what degree the doctor is competent and it will also show up all mistakes of which the public and patient's family are now kept in ignorance."

Re-grading of Ministers' Salaries Is Proposed; Would Cause Trouble

Following close upon the decision to raise members' and Ministers' indemnities, regrading of Ministers' salaries was proposed to the Legislature yesterday afternoon by E. W. Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, when estimates were under consideration.

"The Government should consider the regrading of Ministers' salaries in respect of the relative importance of their work," Mr. Anderson urged. "Take the Attorney-General, for instance. He

does about ninety per cent. of the work in connection with legislation and is the shock absorber of the Government. The liquor bill was just another wild cat shoved upon his shoulders. It is not right to ask him to administer this department for a measly \$6,000 when members of the Liquor Control Board probably will be getting twice as much. If a man is able to hold the position of Attorney-General he could easily make three times the salary of that office in private practice. When he leaves office his legal practice is gone and everything is a complete loss for him."

Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, the appropriation for whose salary had caused Mr. Anderson's suggestions, agreed that the Attorney-

General should be paid more, in view of the importance of his office.

W. J. Bowser, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, laughingly warned Mr. Anderson that he was looking for trouble when he proposed to regrade Ministers' salaries. Such a regrading, he feared, would cause a "rough house."

"We will take this matter into very serious consideration," the Premier assured the house with a smile.

Amendments to the Constitution Act which provide for the increasing of members' indemnities and Ministers' salaries were given their second reading last night and are now in committee stage. They will be considered in committee at an early session.

Beer Finally Dead; Liquor Bill Passes Without Any Change

Uphill's Amendment Comes Up But Only 11 Members Vote to Consider It, with 34 Opposed; Pussyfooters Blamed For Failure of "Wet" Amendment.

Beer is dead.

In spite of repeated attempts on the part of the friends of the famous malt beverage the death-blow was struck in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, when the Uphill amendment calling for a full-strength beer was defeated by 34 to 11. Right to the last a strenuous fight for life was made, although for upwards of two weeks even the firmest advocates of beer had little hope.

Thomas Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, who held out for the sale of beer, made a spirited address in defence of his amendment, and when the final vote was taken he had the support of the following members: Lister and Pooley, of the Conservative Opposition; Perry, Anderson, Farris, Sloan, Ian Mackenzie, Kergin and Pattullo, of the Government forces, and Major Burde.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith was the only absent member. The 34 opponents of the amendment, who stood up when Speaker Manson called for a show of names, were: Schofield, Esling, A. Macdonald, Pearson, Catherwood, McEae, Guthrie, Neelands, Hanes, Dumeau, Menzies, Clearhue, Jackson, Hunter, Hinchliffe, W. A. McKenzie, Jones, Bowser, Rose, Paterson, Yorston, Dr. K. C. Macdonald, Dr. Sutherland, M. A. Macdonald, Dr. King, Premier Oliver, McLean, Hart, Barrow, Whiteside, Buckham, Pauline, Henniger and Ramsay.

Two Changed Over.

Of the members who voted in favor of "light beer," as asked for by Capt. Mackenzie, Hon. John Hart and Hon. Dr. King voted against beer of higher strength.

Probably no Government measure which has before a British Columbia Legislature has had such a narrow margin before reaching the upper chamber, but when Atton, Speaker of the House, stood out for the sale of beer, a "safety" amendment passed the third reading. The amendment was not a

Shortly after the vote was taken not half the seats were occupied, but small groups formed here and there in the lobbies and the obsequies of King Beer were the sole topic of discussion.

Sings Swan Song.

The beer clause did not get its final change before the bar of the House without considerable difficulty. Premier Oliver objected to the re-opening of the bill in committee stage, while Mr. Uphill, who had visions of his last hope disappearing into thin air, rose and denounced what he termed was an alleged attempt to stifle him and the "cause" for which he stood sponsor. Mr. Uphill, however, was upheld in his stand by the Speaker, who ruled that the bill might be re-opened for the purpose of considering the remaining amendments on the order paper.

"I am not pleased with the action of the Premier," began Mr. Uphill, only to be greeted with cries of "Order" from the Government benches.

The chair checked the member for Fernie, and he settled down to sing the swan-song of the beverage that made King Beer.

"We want to have a workable act," continued the member for Fernie. "And I do not believe there is a member here who believes that the act as it now stands is workable. You have made it easy to acquire liquor and hard to secure good beer. That will have a strong tendency to go against the working of the act."

Entitled to Rights.

"Whoever heard of the terms 'snow-bird' or 'dope field' emanating from a district where the men were drinkers of good beer?" asked Mr. Uphill, explaining that he had been raised in a land where the brew of malt and hops and good water was the favorite drink.

"Nearly every constituency but mine is a liquor-drinking one," he went on, "but up in Fernie where the men work underground they want and should have a wholesome beer."

"However," that is the way it goes. The Coast cities 'hedge' against the interior, but let me tell you we of Fernie are entitled to our rights."

"It is being said that everyone can get beer under the act, but I say no. Take Corbin for instance. There is a town three days away from Fernie. How can a man pack a dozen bottles of beer on his back from the Government store to Corbin? The men are not camels. There is no road to that place, only the railway. Still, the old Government promised and failed to build a road, and this Government has done the same. Only the present Minister of Public Works went so far as to go up there and renew the stakes."

Mean "Wide Open" Conditions.

"I have just received a petition from the people of that place and they are asking the Minister of Lands for the loan of the airplane which he has been using in forestry work. That would be the quickest way of getting there. I do believe, though, that the Minister of Public Works, when he went to Corbin, had a special train."

The Fernie member regretted that the Legislative Buildings were not located in District 18 (Fernie) since in that case the people of the Coast might realize what it meant to be so far from the seat of Government. He referred to the big majority cast for moderation and castigated the Government and other members of the House for not obeying the mandate of the people, as he interpreted the vote on October 20. He said that the people asked for temperance and were being given license, that while a pretence was being made of handling liquor under Government control still, it was a fact that a "wide-open" condition would prevail.

Playing Politics.

"You are cutting down on beer and making them drink hard liquor," Mr. Uphill went on.

He exclaimed: "Oh, consistency, thou art a jewel!"

Laughter and applause followed, but the Fernie member, unruffled, charged that politics were being played on both sides. He could name members, he said, who were in favor of the sale of beer, but who were playing politics in their votes.

"If you pass this act you can't go back to your constituencies and be re-elected," he said, adding that he was sure of his own riding. Again laughter and applause greeted his jibes, and he added that he knew he was right, else he would surely be in New Westminster.

Taking Joy Out of Life.

Speaking slowly and in a dramatic manner, Mr. Uphill exclaimed:

"Forty-seven men! Been here for two months, and this matter has taken more time than all other business, and still as the result we have an act that is not workable."

"There are always the few who are trying to take the pleasure and joy out of life. People still listen to the 'pussyfooters' who take great fun out of interfering with other people's business and neglecting their own."

Mr. Uphill said that the Premier had declared himself a prohibitionist, and yet here he was voting contrary to the principles of prohibition.

Cries of "order" again greeted the speaker, and Premier Oliver denied the accusation.

The member from Fernie retracted the charge, saying that since the Premier resented the statement he must withdraw it, but "nevertheless, I still think he said it," he added, and even the Government Leader joined in the laughter which followed.

Whisky and No Beer.

Mr. Uphill deprecated the condition of affairs in the Province during the past two years under prohibition, saying that the people had been deceiving themselves in a foolish manner.

"We have been encouraged to tell lies and to deceive the children," he went on. "And during the past three years I have seen more drunkenness than in all my former experience. Now there will be whisky galore, but no beer for the boys."

He said that while there might be less revenue for the Government if the sale of beer were permitted, still he held that revenue was of no consequence if it was obtained through the demoralization of the people.

Bear Drinkers Not Wife Beaters.

"We are not after revenue if it means the nation's downfall," he added, and asked who had ever heard of a man beating up his wife as the result of drinking beer.

All he needed was a good sweat and he would be all right, he said, but if the man "loaded up" on whisky he was "down and out."

Mr. Uphill announced that he was going to watch with interest the vote of some of "the boys" who had voiced sentiments in the interest of beer and the returned soldier.

"They have said that the veterans and the workers do not want beer, but I contend that they do," he went on. "And I am surprised that the returned men have not had the nerve to come here and protest for their rights. They have been most docile about the whole thing."

Predicts Trouble.

Mr. Uphill dramatically affirmed that if the bill was not passed so as to include a beer clause there would be trouble.

"And I would welcome it," he added.

Again came cries of "order," with Major Burde denouncing those who interrupted. He appealed for fair play for the speaker, who continued that in Great Britain at the commencement of the war the workers had forwarded their ultimatum—"No beer no work."

He upheld the workers in that, he proceeded, and while he did not advocate such a procedure at present, still he was all in sympathy with the men who worked under adverse conditions, and who demanded and needed their beer. He said he had been accused by the Minister of Mines of keeping out of the mines.

Real Beer and No Camouflage.

"That is right," he replied. "And I intend to keep out of them as long as I can. I know what they are."

Mr. Uphill claimed the Government's course was a "back-door" one and he said:

"In God's name, if you can't do anything else give us local option, so we may know where we are at," he went on. He ended his remarks with an appeal to all members to vote as their consciences dictated and not from the promptings of political motives.

R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, said he wished to congratulate the member for Fernie. He at least the upper half of his body well developed and his amendment deserved support.

He declared himself in favor of real beer, with no camouflage. He declared that the members were sticking too close to the letter of the referendum and not interpreting the wishes of the people aright. The voters knew little or nothing of what "sealed packages" meant, he argued, and it was time to provide a workable Act.

More Drunkenness From Prohibition.

"Everybody broke the prohibition law," said Mr. Pooley, and he went on to tell of having had lunch with a former advocate of prohibition. This man said in all his thirty years' experience as a lumberman he had never seen so much drunkenness as during the years of prohibition law.

"But he has changed," he continued, "and to me he declared that the whole thing was a snare and a delusion."

"I hope the amendment will pass," added Mr. Pooley, who said that if it did not the Act would be a failure.

Capt. Ian Mackenzie, one of the firmest supporters of a beer clause, again reiterated his views upon the subject, asking for the holding of another plebiscite, "and that we may have a comprehensive verdict upon which we may act."

Prospective "Jamboree."

Major Burde pleaded also for beer, saying that men were being poisoned through drinking wood alcohol and other substitutes for whiskey. He criticized the stand of the member for New Westminster, who, he said, had claimed that a cask of beer would be the sign of a prospective "jamboree."

"On the contrary," said the Major, "what would result from the sale to a man of a couple of cases of Scotch whiskey?"

He charged that there were members in the House who would see the country go to the bad through drink just for the satisfaction of coming back a year hence with a "paper victory."

Major Burde said he would like to know how the Opposition Leader would square himself for voting against the beer clause. Perhaps it was because Mr. Bowser had a cellar full of booze, like other people he might mention.

Last Gasp Heard.

"The whole thing has gone double-headed into politics," he charged, predicting that the Act would be a failure, and that he himself would be one of the first to break the law, and that deliberately.

Attorney-General Farris asked for a ruling from the Speaker as to the nature of the motion before the House.

Mr. Speaker Mackenzie pointed out that the motion was as to whether or not the bill should be re-opened for the purpose solely of considering the adoption of the Uphill amendment.

The vote was put and the motion lost.

While the showing of hands was in progress Mr. Uphill gained one last laugh by humorously calling out: "There is still time to repent."

But it was too late, and the last of the "mythical, pampered, petted and abused beer clause" was heard in the British Columbia Legislature until at least the commencement of the session of 1922.

**OPTOMETRY BILL
PASSES HOUSE**

One Medical Practitioner Is Put on Board of Five Examiners

The Optometry Bill went through its committee stage in the Legislature yesterday afternoon with little alteration.

The only important amendments approved provide that one of the board of examiners of applicants to practice Optometry shall be a medical practitioner; and that the act shall come into force on proclamation by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council instead of on July 1, as originally planned.

Ian Mackenzie, Liberal member for Vancouver, who has charge of the bill, presented a number of minor amendments to the measure one of which provided that the examining board should be composed of "five persons appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council and to consist of four reputable practising optometrists who were residents of this Province for not less than five years and a fifth member who shall be specially qualified to conduct examinations in the use of the ophthalmoscope."

At the suggestion of Dr. Rose, Conservative member for Nelson, M. A. Macdonald, Liberal member for Vancouver, added a clause making the appointment of one medical practitioner on the examining board compulsory. No objection was taken to this provision.

Approval also was given to other amendments which were proposed by Mr. Mackenzie and which provide that all persons securing optometry certificates entitling them to practice optometry must be British subjects.

Another amendment proposed by Mr. Mackenzie and approved by the House provides that optometrists, when practicing optometry away from his regular places of business, shall deliver to all people fitted with glasses a bill of purchase containing their signatures and specifications of the lenses and frames of the glasses supplied.

CHIROPRACTORS ARE PERSECUTED, HE SAYS

But House Adopts Committee's Report on Drugless Healer Question

Vigorous pleas by M. B. Jackson, K. C., Liberal Member for the Islands, and Kenneth Duncan, Independent Member for Cowichan, failed yesterday afternoon to prevent the Legislature from adopting the report on the drugless healer question framed by a select committee under M. A. Macdonald, Liberal Member for Vancouver.

Mr. Jackson felt that no good would be accomplished by the adoption of the special committee's report. This lengthy and exhaustive report, he claimed, should not be adopted without careful examination and debate.

Mr. Macdonald saw no good reason for refusal to adopt the report which had been framed, he said, after careful and lengthy investigation.

Are Persecuted.

The chiropractors, Mr. Duncan asserted, had been subjected to "a certain degree of persecution at the hands of the Medical Society."

though they undoubtedly were securing results in the practise of their healing methods. Mr. Duncan said that he had been informed of a dozen cases of Cowichan people, who, suffering with chronic diseases, had been cured by chiropractors. On this account, and from all evidence produced he had concluded that there must be something substantial in the claims of the chiropractors. He feared that chiropractors, in taking medical examinations, would be subject to discrimination "in the very nature of things." The chiropractors, indeed, would be subject to "continued persecution."

Not only would chiropractors suffer hardship if they were prevented from practising but the many people who were benefiting from their healing work would suffer, he asserted.

After the House had voted down the attempt Samuel Guthrie, Socialist Member for Newcastle, moved to adjourn the debate, the report of the special committee was adopted.

LIQUOR WILL BRING TOURISTS; NO NEED FOR PUBLICITY NOW

Americans Will Follow Birds When They Are Feeling "Dry"

When the new Liquor Act comes into effect it will not be necessary to advertise the glories, scenic and otherwise, of British Columbia in the United States, H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, told the Legislature last night.

"If there is any item of waste in this present budget it is the item for \$12,500 for the Pacific Northwest Tourist Association," Mr. Perry declared when an appropriation for this amount was proposed. "All they do is issue pretty pamphlets and pay an American orator to go round and talk about the glories of British Columbia, Oregon and Washington. When the Liquor Act comes into force we will get all the advertising we want without paying for it."

"We're sufficiently advertised now—over-advertised in some respects," agreed Capt. Ian Mackenzie, Liberal member for Vancouver.

J. B. Clearihue, Liberal member for Victoria, warmly defended the vote for the Tourist Association, whose work, he said, was of the utmost advantage to British Columbia.

W. A. Mackenzie, Conservative member for Similkameen, said there was an enormous duplication of work in advertising the Province. There would be no need of this work in future on account of the Liquor Act, he thought.

The vote was stood over for further consideration.

HOPE TO CONQUER FRASER MOSQUITOES

Scientists After B. C. Variety As Well As New Jersey Brother

Investigations now being carried on by Dominion Government entomologists may result in the pestiferous Fraser Valley mosquito being conquered as successfully as the more famous but now less active New Jersey "skeeter" and his cousin in Panama, the Hon. E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture, told the Legislature yesterday in dealing with the repeal of the Mosquito Control Act.

"The present act is considered unworkable and in view of the information supplied by the Dominion Entomologist we came to the conclusion that the money used under it is not well spent," said Hon. Mr. Barrow in reply to a question from Mr. Bowser as to what districts have taken advantage of the act.

Mosquito Time Seen

In reply to Mr. Bowser's question as to whether there are many mosquitoes plying their trade at the present time, Hon. M. Barrow said:

"There are not many mosquitoes at present but there will be the usual number of them on the job when the weather gets warmer."

Hon. Mr. Barrow declared that he hoped for the best results in coping with the pest by cleaning up swamps and by drying and draining.

Oil Not Sure Cure
 "Before you use oil you must have the water free from sogs that interfere with the spreading of the oil," the Minister went on.
 "There is no question that oil helps to eliminate the mosquitoes," said J. A. Catherwood. "But you can't get oil on where the woods suck it up. The dyking in the Sumas will do far more in helping us to get rid of the mosquitoes than anything else. As far as oil is concerned we will continue to use it, because unless we do we can't live there."

Until the hospitals of this Province may count upon sufficient financial assistance to enable them to perform their functions without the periodical appeal to the generosity of the people it will be necessary to jingle the collecting box at the street corner from time to time. One of these necessary appeals is to be made to-morrow in aid of the Royal Jubilee Hospital. Its needs are as well known as its inability to supply them out of its own revenue. On that account we bespeak a liberal response in its behalf.

Where is the slightest ground for the suggestion that the Provincial Government intends to inaugurate a policy of state care of the tuberculous population of this Province in a half-hearted fashion? Surely our contemporary realizes that provincial acquisition of the King Edward Sanatorium at Tranquille is synonymous with an expansion of the magnificent work carried on by the Anti-Tuberculosis Society for fifteen years. An inquiry at the offices of the Board of Health would enlighten the morning paper upon the valuable propaganda conducted by Dr. Young in behalf of the health of the Province and in special support of a more intelligent appreciation of what personal care may do towards the prevention of tuberculosis. It is because of the urgent necessity to promote a better understanding of the disease by education and such other means as may be possible that the Province has decided to assume control. But an insufficient supply of funds precludes the immediate embarkation upon a plan of such dimensions as our contemporary appears to expect. It has made a start towards the right end. The morning paper can do its share to arouse public interest to the point where the taxpayer will order the full programme which it rightly considers to be necessary.

ACROSS THE BAY

What the British Columbia Legislature and Its Politicians Are Doing.

SKETCHES FROM GALLERY
 DAVID WHITESIDE,
 NEW WESTMINSTER



"PUBLIC SCANDAL" EXPLAINED TO HOUSE

In reply to questions from G. S. Hanes about a report "that a member of the judiciary has referred to certain indebtedness of the Sheriff of Victoria to one Williams as a 'public scandal,'" Attorney-General Parris yesterday gave the Legislature this information:
 "On January 5, 1918, R. T. Williams, of Victoria, wrote to the late Hon. H. C. Brewster, stating that 'The Court remarked that it was a public scandal that I was not paid long ago.' On the examination of Richards before the Registrar at Victoria on December 5, 1917, a letter from Justin Gilbert, official stenographer to J. R. Green, of counsel for Williams on that examination, dated July 17, 1917, was produced and read into the record. The letter is as follows:
 "John R. Green, Esq., 208 Belmont Building, Victoria.
 "Dear Sir,—Replying to your favor of yesterday, it is a matter of great astonishment to me that any one should claim that Judge Clement made use of any such expression as you suggest. An expression of that kind would be very striking and would not escape me. I am confident nothing of that kind occurred at the trial from beginning to end. I gave you a true and accurate report of what did occur. There was no episode during the trial at which such language could have been used.—Yours truly, Justin Gilbert."
 "Richards has denied that the Hon. Mr. Justice Clement ever made any such statement."

SUPERANNUATION BILL CERTAIN TO PASS
 James Hinchliffe is speaking to-

day in the Legislature on the Superannuation Bill introduced yesterday by the Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary.

All fears of the bill not going through this session, but being left on the table, were dissipated last night. For a while Up-Country members were said to be holding it back from coming before the House.

BORROW MONEY FOR CHANGING CAR TRACKS FOR NEW ROAD RULE

It will cost \$800,000 to change the tracks and rolling stock of the B. C. Electric in the Province in order to conform with the right hand rule of the road, according to latest estimates made by the Department of Public Works and officials of the railway. The change will have to be made by the railway before the end of the year as the new rule of the road will come into force in the lower part of the Province at that time.

The Government is to pay half the cost of making this change. Provision for borrowing this money is made in the bill for \$3,500,000 introduced in the Legislature by the Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance.

Other appropriations provided for are: \$1,000,000 to be refunded to the Consolidated Revenue Fund in connection with the Soldiers' Land Act; \$300,000 for carrying out the new forest regulations passed at this session; and \$1,000,000 for the conservation fund under the Water Act.

Turn-Down Attempt to Kill "Political Clause"

The attempt of M. B. Jackson, Liberal member for The Islands, to quash the "political clause" in the new Elections Act amendments was turned down by the Legislature late Wednesday night. Mr. Jackson previously had described the clause in question as most undesirable and calculated to fasten party politics upon the administration of affairs of the Province. The clause provides the names of candidates in provincial elections shall be grouped on ballot papers according to the candidates' political affiliations.

Provincial Appointments

Dr. Earl E. Topliff of Sandon has been appointed health officer and medical inspector of schools for Sandon and district, according to an announcement to-day from the Provincial Secretary's office.

Other appointments are: Thomas Joseph Sullivan of New Westminster as Justice of the Peace; Brude Dixon as inspector of dykes; and Dr. Alfred Albert King of Ladner as coroner.

To Distribute Stumping Powder

The amendment to the Agricultural Act to give the department power to make use of organizations other than the Farmers' Institutes for the distribution of stumping powder, was put through committee in the Legislature yesterday.

The Hon. E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture, explained that it is intended to use \$20,000 in this work.

SUPERANNUATION.

Popular approval will be accorded the superannuation measure which the Government has caused to be introduced to the Legislature. Its main provisions contemplate the "rainy day" and provide the machinery whereby practically every class of worker may enter into a co-operative arrangement with his employer and mitigate to some extent the economic penalty which advancing years relentlessly impose. Legislation of this kind opens up useful opportunities for a closer understanding between employer and employee and promotes a little more of the human interest in the daily round. The measure itself is in keeping with the march of progress in this Province and swells the chapter of popular laws which give the people a tangible feeling of security when fortune's smile is dimmed. To what extent the private corporation will avail itself of the new machinery remains to be seen. It is to be hoped, however, that every inducement will be offered by the large employers of labor in order that the law may be a complete success. After all it is legislation of this sort which helps to kill discontent and replace extremism with a saner outlook on life.

SATURDAY
 MINI
 BUI

But Pa
 App

The B
 of Land
 Legislat
 \$200,000
 ings at
 Court H
 James
 Vancouv
 the vote
 The I
 Public V
 Govern
 are not
 ployees
 are incr
 country
 on const
 year. U
 will be a
 "It's i
 \$200,000
 building
 C

"The
 \$750,000,
 other ri
 the Gov
 housed."
 Mr. B
 difficulty
 Prince I
 ing wot
 at this
 He poin
 purpose
 building
 "It se
 ordinary
 build to
 Go

Hon.
 how th
 order to
 the lots
 a telegr
 promise
 building
 largely,
 from w
 allied
 have no
 "We
 reached
 Pattullo
 and bu
 Crovink

"It b
 men W
 trip to
 out.
 means
 B. C."
 H. G.
 consti
 buildin
 George
 ings at
 Govern
 showin
 Liberal
 the pul
 year is
 last ye
 sented
 Mr.
 Rupert
 altogether
 with M
 William
 Thoma
 can, I
 Govern

Mr.
 cord
 crease
 by ret
 the ac

Mr.
 diagn
 death
 standa
 sion v
 There
 proce
 hopes

Now
 about
 of the
 bition
 citizen
 will w
 men
 ern

MINISTER WINS BUILDING VOTE FOR PRINCE RUPERT

But Part of House Fights Big Appropriation for North

The Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, had to put up a fight in the Legislature yesterday to get the \$200,000 appropriation for new buildings at Prince Rupert, including the Court House, approved.

James Ramsay, Liberal member for Vancouver, started the questioning of the vote.

The Hon. J. D. King, Minister of Public Works, explained that present Government buildings at Prince Rupert are not adequate to house the employees and that Government services are increasing rapidly in the North country. The \$200,000 vote is to carry on construction work for the present year. Ultimate cost of the buildings will be about \$450,000.

"It's rather a tall order to spend \$200,000 at Prince Rupert for public buildings," said R. H. Pooley.

Opposes Building Now.

"The buildings will ultimately cost \$750,000," said J. W. Jones. "There are other ridings in this Province where the Government officials are poorly housed."

Mr. Bowser said there should be no difficulty in renting premises in Prince Rupert. He declared that renting would avoid capital expenditure at this time of high building costs. He pointed out that the Government proposes to spend \$182,000 for new buildings in the country this year.

"It seems to me that if we were ordinary business men we would not build to-day," he added.

Got Prince Rupert Money.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo told the House how the late Premier McBride, in order to induce people to bid high for the lots sold at Prince Rupert, sent a telegram just before the sale started promising large new Government buildings there. As a result of this, largely, \$1,300,000 of lots were sold, from which the Government has realized \$1,200,000, but the buildings have not yet been constructed.

"Where did this money go after it reached the Treasury?" Hon. Mr. Pattullo asked. "It went into roads and buildings in other parts of the Province while Prince Rupert waited."

B. C. to Rely on North.

"It behooves the honorable gentlemen who live in the South to take a trip to the North and get broadened out. Northern B. C. will be the means of resuscitating the whole of B. C."

H. G. Perry said there are other constituencies badly off for new buildings. In his own riding of Fort George they are not getting any buildings at all. He also declared that the Government could not be accused of showing favoritism to the ridings of Liberal members, as in his district the public works appropriation this year is considerably less than it was last year when a Conservative represented the riding.

Mr. Jones moved that the Prince Rupert building vote be struck out altogether. The Conservatives voted with Mr. Jones with the exception of William Hunter, of Slokan, who, with Thomas Menzies and Kenneth Duncan, Independents, voted with the Government.

Mr. Bowser no doubt will record his objection to the increase of sessional indemnities by returning his own cheque for the added amount.

Mr. Jackson wants a medical diagnosis filed in all cases of death because he considers the standard of the medical profession would be raised thereby. There is no suggestion that the process would raise even the hopes of the departed.

Now that the Province is about to witness the obsequies of the British Columbia Prohibition Act it is the part of every citizen to see that the new law will work. Unless public sentiment is behind it and refuses to permit abuses it cannot be a

Premier Proposes Early Session of House to Solve Municipal Finance Problem

WHITESIDE PLANS PUT BEFORE PREMIER TO SOLVE CIVIC PROBLEM

The complete letter written by David Whiteside, Liberal member for New Westminster, and embodying his suggestions for solving the municipal financial problem was made public to-day in the Legislature.

The letter follows:

April 1, 1921.

Mr. Premier—To relieve the municipal financial situation, I would respectfully submit for the consideration of the Executive, the following proposals as a temporary remedy until such time as a new system of both levying and collecting taxes can be devised:

1. Accept the proposal of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and guarantee to pay them fifty per cent. of their educational and hospital expenses for the current year as the same are now estimated, this guarantee, of course, to cover only salaries and maintenance expenses and not to include the erection of new buildings.

2. Have all the revenues from the sale of liquor form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

3. To obtain funds additional to what you have estimated as the municipalities share of the liquor revenue, I suggest that the Taxation Act be amended so as to provide for the collection of additional revenue over and above what anyone is now liable to pay, as follows:

The Proposals.

1. From every married male person, a service tax of \$5 per annum.

2. From every single male person over the age of twenty-one years and under sixty, the sum of \$10 per annum.

3. From every person receiving an income of \$2,000, if married, \$5; if single, \$10.

4. From every person receiving an income of over \$2,000 up to \$3,000, if married, \$7.50; if single, \$12.50.

5. From every person receiving an income over \$3,000 and up to \$4,000, if married, \$10; if single, \$15.

6. From every person receiving an income over \$4,000 and up to \$5,000, if married, \$12.50; if single, \$17.50.

7. From every person receiving an income over \$5,000 and up to \$7,000, if married, \$15; if single, \$20, and so on up the scale in the proportion provided for income tax payers.

8. From the Head Office of every Bank, \$150, and from every Branch Bank, \$75.

9. From all Public Commercial Companies, other than Banks, \$150.

"Plan Quite Feasible."

I have talked these proposals over with Mr. Johnston of the Treasury Department, and he very kindly worked out the scale of taxation, and he has authorized me to say that he thinks the plan quite feasible. The additional revenue could all be collected by the present Provincial Tax Collectors without much extra expense to the Province. This scheme will secure about \$300,000 extra revenue from Orientals, and in order to make sure of this, I would classify every Oriental male person, over the age of twenty-one, who is not residing with his family, as a single man.

Mr. Johnston figures that the revenue obtainable in this way would be approximately \$1,000,000. I think, considering the Orientals from whom we could collect \$10 per head, it would amount to more. If this scheme is considered favorably by you, I wish you would have a caucus called for to-morrow morning as I feel that the municipal situation is so acute that we should not go home without dealing with it in some adequate way. It will be dangerous to leave the situation in abeyance until next year. If this expedient were adopted, it would obviate the necessity of passing any legislation for Vancouver at this session.

D. WHITESIDE.

Would Investigate Relations Between Province and Cities In Meantime and Frame Legislation Late In October or Early In November.

That the next session of the Provincial Legislature be held about the end of October or the beginning of November to give special consideration to the financial problems of British Columbia municipalities was the unexpected proposal which Premier Oliver laid before the House just before the close of the morning sitting to-day.

"I have a suggestion upon which I would like an expression of opinion," Mr. Oliver said. "I have had it in mind for some little time but have hesitated to give expression to it. It is the possibility of calling the next session of the Legislature about the end of October or the beginning of November and in the meantime investigating fully the financial relations between the Province and the municipalities. The idea would be to give preference to municipal legislation at that session with a view to getting through legislation which would become operative at the beginning of the municipalities' financial year. It is not in my mind to have an extra session. The session I refer to would be the regular session and would conduct the regular annual business at that time. I would like an expression from the House as to how it views a proposal of that kind."

At the suggestion of R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Equimalt, the House adjourned for lunch to return in the afternoon to think over the Premier's proposal.

Members of the Legislature in the midst of their battle against time, after they had made up their minds to prorogue early this afternoon, were faced just before one o'clock by David Whiteside, who appealed for delay so that the whole problem of municipal financing, aid and taxation could be considered.

"Instead of going home to-day we should take a rest over Sunday and come back Monday morning with our heads clear and tempers cooled and spend one day devising a remedy to help out the municipalities. Instead of trying to rush off like a bunch of tired babies," said Mr. Whiteside.

"Calling us tired babies reflect on the members of this House," Fred Anderson objected.

"I will withdraw that then," said Mr. Whiteside.

Mr. Whiteside presented a letter he wrote to the Premier yesterday embodying suggestions for solving the municipal problem.

No Quick Solution Possible.

Premier Oliver opposed holding the House in session any longer.

"If I have any reasonable hope that a solution of the municipal difficulty could be arrived at I would have no hesitation in asking that this House remain here two weeks," said the Premier. "But I have no hope that if we did remain here we would arrive at any solution. It takes time to study this out. The municipalities and the Province both have a serious problem before them."

The Premier pointed out that the Municipal Committee of the Legislature has been meeting off and on during the last seven weeks, but had not been able to bring forward one practical suggestion.

Fail With Suggestions.

"The only concrete suggestion we have had was a \$15 service tax, and when we met the representatives of the municipalities last week they refused to take the responsibility for that service tax," the Premier said.

Problem of Shifting Burden.

"The whole trouble is that land has been taxed to a degree that is resulting in it reverting to the Government and the municipalities. And now property owners are endeavoring to shift a portion of the burden on to people whom they think are not paying their fair share."

"It must be recognized both inside and outside this House if there is to be relief for the municipalities that relief can only be by shifting the burden to some other part of the population. But it is impossible to shift the burden from the municipalities as a whole. All this Government can do is to make it possible to make an equitable distribution of the burden. I believe it would be possible to more equitably adjust taxation than it is at the present time."

The Premier added that the Gov-

ernment before the next session intended to study the whole problem of taxation and try to arrive at something more equitable and more economical in collection.

"But that cannot be done in one week or in two weeks," the Premier went on.

Mr. Whiteside suggested that the municipalities be granted fifty per cent. of the cost of their schools and hospital expenses. He wished to have all the revenue from the sale of liquor put into the consolidated revenue fund, and he would amend the Taxation Act so that more than enough money would be provided for all the needs of the municipalities.

Finish Job, He Urges.

Mr. Whiteside's proposals were advanced as an alternative to the Vancouver Private Bill which, he said, contained objectionable taxation powers. "We are here now full of the idea of quitting our legislative duties to-day," he remarked. "I submit if we do that without dealing with the financial situation of the municipalities throughout the Province we shall be furnishing an exhibition of governmental and legislative ineptitude that will be disconcerting and embarrassing to the last degree. I don't want to throw any more criticism on any member of the Government or the Legislature than I am willing to undergo myself. I would be heartily ashamed if I had to go home to my constituents and tell those people that we have done nothing more in the Legislature than talk about booze for two months."

Drop All Politics.

Mr. Whiteside urged the House, in considering his proposals, to drop all politics for a couple of days if necessary, clear the order paper of everything but the Taxation Bill and refuse to consider any other legislation than that connected with the relief of municipalities. "I don't see why we can't drop all political animosities, in this matter," he said, "and spend a day in earnest consideration of the question of providing temporary relief for the municipalities. The proposals I advance, I think, are workable and could be carried out without the creation of any other machinery than that in existence now."

Canon Would Finish.

Canon Hinchliffe urged the House to stay and finish the job. He declared that he did not think the House had done very much for all the time it had been in session.

Opposes Vancouver Taxing E.C.
Vancouver is asking the power to tax the rest of the Province indirectly in this bill, said H. F. Kergin, of Atlin, in getting back to the Vancouver private bill. "The tax of \$500 on banks is an indirect tax on the rest of the Province. The same with your telegraph and telephone companies. These companies are not confined to the city of Vancouver. The same is true of the steamship and express companies which they want to tax \$3,000. It is the greatest presumption in the world to give Vancouver the power to tax the rest of the Province."

Like Gallery Play.
"I think that Vancouver has the right to tax banks and railway companies all it wants," said H. G. Perry. "They are making profits on which they can afford to pay."

Mr. Perry declared that the remarks of Mr. Whiteside were very much like gallery play at the last minute of the Legislature.

Lot of "Municipal Bluff."
"The municipal situation is not one-half as bad as representatives of the municipalities claim," Mr. Perry went on. "They are putting up a big bluff. With the revenue they will get from the liquor bill, I believe they will be able to pull through. But what they come here for is to relieve the property owner, the man with lots."

G. H. Hanes urged consideration for the Vancouver bill. But he protested against giving Vancouver the right to prevent public meetings, assemblies and parades.

Other members also protested against this clause, which they said might infringe on liberty and would be giving Vancouver altogether too much power anyhow.

Superannuation Passes.
The Superannuation Act to provide for provincial civil servants, municipal employees, police, firemen, school teachers and employees of any private concern who wish to come under the fund, was put through its final reading, and passed by the Legislature this morning.

Must Get Aldermen's Consent.
Before the bill went into its final reading James Ramsay, Liberal member for Vancouver, introduced an amendment, which was adopted, providing that School Boards have to get the consent of their municipal council before they can take advantage of the provisions.

Canon Hinchliffe declared it would be a mistake to permit school boards to adopt the scheme without consulting their councils.

The Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary, said he was willing to accept the amendment. He explained that the matter had originally been placed in the hands of the School Board, as they controlled the fixing of salaries of the teachers, and superannuation is considered as deferred payment of salaries.

Teachers to Get Their Money.
An amendment to the Public Schools Act, introduced by David Whiteside, Liberal member for New Westminster, provided for paying to New Westminster teachers what is awarded them by the arbitration board, which will consider the teachers' recent strike.

INSANE INCREASE IN B. C. STARTLING

Caring for Weak-minded Immigrants Costs B. C. \$400,000 a Year

There is a net increase of 110 a year in the number of insane persons the Province of British Columbia has to care for, the Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary, informed the Legislature yesterday.

"We have at present 1,600 insane at Essondale," said the Hon. Dr. MacLean. "Sixty per cent. of these were born outside the boundaries of Canada."

"The maintenance of these costly hospitals for the insane is a very important matter for the people of this Province. This year it will cost \$700,000. Of this amount \$400,000 is to be spent by the Province to care for these outsiders.

"I have been giving a good deal of attention to this problem of immigration because of what it is costing this Province in this way. I am not reflecting on any Government, but our immigration policy as far as Canada has been concerned is more or less of a farce in protecting the country in the way of public health. Besides our insane institutions, it is also a great problem for our hospitals and jails. We must look to the Canadian immigration authorities to exercise a more careful control of immigration into this country."

Asylum Overcrowded.
J. W. Jones declared that the increase of more than 110 insane persons in British Columbia each year was startling.

Hon. Dr. MacLean explained that the vote of \$237,000 in the estimates is to begin the construction of a new building at Essondale, because at the present time the place is much overcrowded with no place to put the increase. Besides the 1,600 patients at Essondale there are nearly 400 attendants and keepers.

The Minister said that he was considering bringing in to the House a resolution asking the Dominion Government to take some action with regard to tightening up on immigration of mental defectives.

TURN DOWN PLAN TO CHECK UP DOCTORS

House Told Scheme to Keep Diagnosis Records Would Not Work

M. B. Jackson's amendment to the Medical Act to force all doctors to keep records of their diagnoses of all cases under their care advanced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon received little support and was withdrawn.

Under Mr. Jackson's plan the records kept by doctors of all cases would not be brought into question unless patients died. When a patient died the doctor in charge of his or her case would forward to the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health a copy of the diagnosis made.

This, Mr. Jackson, explained to the House, would have the effect of raising the standard of the medical profession. He pointed out that in the British Navy medical practitioners were forced to undergo examinations every five years to prove that they had kept abreast of recent advances in medical science. The plan also would assure the "ignorant public, which was at the mercy of the medical profession in times of illness," that they were being treated by thoroughly qualified and up-to-date practitioners.

Not Workable Plan.

Dr. Sutherland, Liberal Member for Revelstoke, protested that the plan proposed by Mr. Jackson would increase the work of doctors enormously and the records kept would not be "worth the paper they were written on." He did not think that the provisions suggested would be carried out by doctors even if it were found after death that a wrong diagnosis had been made of a case. It would be an easy matter to change the record to meet the conditions, he said. Under the plan proposed it would be necessary for doctors to keep records on every case of cold and influenza, which would be a

Dr. Rose, Conservative Member for Nelson, endorsed these ideas. If the plan were put into effect, he feared, the already over-worked medical men of the Province would have to spend writing out records the all too small time they had now for sleep.

Hon. Dr. MacLean, Provincial Secretary, expressed similar views and Mr. Jackson finally withdrew his amendment.

The Member for The Islands, was more successful, however, in his efforts in connection with chiropractors. The amendments to the Medical Act under discussion set forth what subjects chiropractors and drugless healers would have to qualify in order to practice in British Columbia.

Mr. Jackson succeeded in having eliminated from the list, toxicology, bacteriology, obstetrics and minor surgery. Instead, medical jurisprudence was inserted.

MAJOR WINS SMALL AWARD AS AFFAIRS WERE AT LOW EBB

Legislature Informed Commissioner Not Seriously Harmed

Major Retalack was awarded three months salary, or about \$1,875, last night by the special committee of the Legislature which has been investigating his claim to ten years' salary because he alleges the Government improperly turned him out of his job of Public Utilities Commissioner shortly after he got started, although he was taken on under a ten years' contract.

The report embodying this award, which was presented to the Legislature by H. G. Perry, chairman, goes into the financial affairs of the Major during the last several years. It points out that although the Major testified that he was prospering and making big bank deposits up to 1919, his state when he took the Government office was at a low ebb and inevitably adverse financial and industrial conditions would have overtaken him.

Your select committee, consisting of Messrs. Perry, Lister, Burde, Buckham, Kergin and Jackson, appointed to inquire into the claims of Major Retalack in respect of the determination of his office as Public Utilities Commissioner, duly proceeded to investigate the matter in question and received all evidence tendered.

Major Retalack was ably represented by counsel in the person of Douglas Armour, K. C. Evidence was given by Major Retalack himself and by W. H. Burgess, a former employee of his and who succeeded him in the office and business conducted by the Major prior to his accepting the office of Public Utilities Commissioner. The evidence taken was voluminous and exhaustive and covered approximately 350 folios and from this evidence the following salient facts are disclosed:

Major Claimed Big Income.

Major Retalack at the time of his appointment as Public Utilities Commissioner was a member of the recently organized body of Provincial Engineers, authorized to practice as a mining engineer, but his principal occupation was limited to conducting a certain group of mining claims in the Kaslo District of British Columbia, of which he was principal owner and from which he received a fixed salary, as Managing Director of \$3,000 per annum.

He also enjoyed a retainer from the firm of Beer, Sondheimer & Co., of \$1,000 per annum and was entitled to collect from that firm a fee of 50 cents per ton on all zinc ore purchased by them from time to time. This latter arrangement was advanced by Major Retalack as a permanent contract arrangement of a practically perpetual nature, but the evidence disclosed the fact that the contract, such as it was, rested upon an exchange of correspondence between him and the Beer, Sondheimer firm and the arrangement was terminable by them at any time on one month's notice.

Got Large Zinc Commission.

"An unquestionably large income was derived by Major Retalack from the Beer, Sondheimer arrangement out of a period of years, but it must be borne in mind that war conditions stimulated extraordinary activity in the matter of trading in zinc and the fact is that since the war that industry has languished until at present the trading has decreased and any claim of a commission by reason of sur-

Regarding the Beer, Bondlinger contract is altogether without foundation, save only in respect of the possibility of that firm finding it profitable to continue the retaining of a correspondent in this Province as they have continued to do up to the present time, although the only services rendered are in the nature of occasional reports on the general mining situation here.

Became Less Prosperous.

"It is also evident to your committee that notwithstanding the fact that Major Retallack had during the many years prior to 1919 been in receipt of extremely large revenues and profits, yet at the time of his appointment to the office of Public Utilities Commissioner his affairs were by no means in a prosperous condition. His earnings had been as follows:

1908	\$18,800
1909	\$23,775
1910	\$25,997
1911, 1912, 1913 and 1914	\$12,960

but in April, 1919, his financial affairs appear to have been at a low ebb and in point of fact he was indebted to his principal associate in business to the extent of \$26,000, and to secure this indebtedness, he shortly after his appointment, pledged his entire mining interests in security for the payment of such debt.

Claim Extravagant.

"Major Retallack's claim for compensation is extravagant and unwarranted. For instance, he submits a right to claim full payment of full salary for the full unexpired period of ten years from the date of his appointment, notwithstanding the fact that the Legislature in its wisdom saw fit to abolish the Department over which he presided. He advanced the claim for the payment of alleged loss arising out of the hurried disposal of his property at Kaslo at what he claims to be a sacrifice price, although the evidence is that his house property was disposed of precipitately, yet had returned to him its fair market value.

Wanted Payment for Gift.

"He made a freewill gift of a lot and boathouse to a public institution at his home town, yet would charge the Government with the value of that property. He claims indemnity for monies expended on improving a leasehold property in the city of Vancouver, to which he had removed on his appointment, and would charge in this connection a sum of money amounting to approximately \$80 per month, spread over the full term of his three years lease, although the rental which he paid for this property was only \$75 per month.

"Furthermore, although a single man, he elected to encumber himself with an elaborate household establishment and now would charge the Province with that extreme expenditure; again, he seriously claims compensation in the sum of \$1,000 because he deliberately burned an accumulation of old office records.

"He advances a claim for \$5,000 as representing his loss of having to devote a year to the Commissioner's duties instead of rehabilitating himself to his former business. This claim is even more incomprehensible than most of the others.

Business Disintegrating.

"It would clearly appear from all the evidence that all business in the Kaslo District from which Major Retallack could count upon for a revenue, or even employment, was rapidly disintegrating and from his own evidence the prospects of employment were distant and altogether on the horizon. The prospective openings which he advances as reasonably entitled to consider as a sacrifice were centered in such places as Northern Alberta, Stewart, in Northern British Columbia and Mexico and apparently anywhere but at Kaslo, so to your Committee it would appear that no application of industry on the Major's part could revive the prospects of any opening in his former district of Kaslo at all commensurate with the palmy conditions of earlier years.

Adopted Extreme Pose.

"Your Committee find that although the office of Commissioner was abolished by the Legislature, provision was made for carrying on indefinitely the work of the Commission. By the repealing statute supplemented by Order-in-Council, Major Retallack was retained in all the vocations of his former office and at his former salary for an indeterminate period, which might and in all probability would have lasted many months and possibly up to the present, but the Major adopted an extreme pose in this connection and refused to accept this continuation of office. Provision was made for payment to him of a bonus of three months salary. This was also denied, but eventually was accepted.

Guarantee Idea Unsound.

"In fairness to Major Retallack your Committee would note his contention that the original statute having provided for a ten-year office, he interpreted this as a definite guarantee of ten years' employment at the salary of \$7,500 per annum.

"This contention your Committee regard as altogether unsound and no such interpretation of the situation as good sense could suggest in view of the fact that all employment by the Crown is terminable without notice and without any legal claim to compensation and undoubtedly one accepting a position in the Civil Service or under a statutory office subject to the chance of the office being abolished in time by statute must have taken this into consideration on applying for such appointment to such office or if not, then should have done so.

Position Really Enhanced.

"Your Committee recognize a reasonable expectation on his part that the office of Commissioner would continue for a longer period than it actually did.

"On the other hand, your Committee are clearly of the opinion that even the one year's tenure of office reworded to the direct financial advantage of Major Retallack and his future position is enhanced by virtue of having occupied that responsible position. Inevitably prevailing adverse financial and industrial conditions would have overtaken the Major irrespective of his being appointed Commissioner.

"Major Retallack has already received a bonus of three months' salary. He might have earned many months' additional before the work of the office had been cleaned up. Your Committee would, however, recommend in the spirit of that generous attitude towards the whole situation that a further bonus payment of three months' salary be paid to Major Retallack."

ACROSS THE BAY

TO HELP LAWYERS TO COLLECT FEES FROM THEIR CLIENTS

Lawyers will be given added facilities for collecting their charges from clients by a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Hon. W. J. de B. Farris, Attorney-General.

The bill provides that when a solicitor has been employed to prosecute or defend any case he shall be deemed to have a charge upon the property which he has recovered or preserved by his efforts for costs, charges and expenses including counsel fees whether the solicitor has acted as counsel or not. It is provided that the court before whom the cause is being argued, or any judge of that court, can make orders for the raising of such expenses and costs as may seem just and proper. All acts done and conveyances made to defeat this charge shall be deemed to be absolutely void and of no effect against this charge. No proceeding for the purpose of realizing or enforcing any charge shall be started, the act provides, until after application has been made to a court of judge.

Would Keep Orientals Off Work on Government Leases and Contracts

Government to Validate Old Orders-In-Council and Try to Upset B. C. Appeal Court's Decision Before Supreme Court of Canada.

Appeal in the famous case involving the employment of Chinese and Japanese on Government contracts, leases and other concessions will be made by the Government of British Columbia to the Supreme Court of Canada and not direct to the Privy Council, Hon. J. W. de B. Farris, Attorney-General, announced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

"The Government does not accept the decision of the Appeal Court of British Columbia in this case unless it has to," Mr. Farris declared.

"We could go direct to the Privy Council but we consider it far better to go first to the Supreme Court of Canada because we would like to get a favorable decision on this side of the water before going to the Privy Council. The only way is by a straight action at law rather than by a straight reference to the higher court."

To Validate Orders-in-Council.

Mr. Farris explained that the regulation which prevents the employment of Chinese and Japanese on Government contracts was embodied not in act of the Legislature but in orders-in-council passed nearly twenty years ago. If the Government undertook a legal action to uphold the practice of prohibiting the employment of Chinese and Japanese on Government contracts and leases the private parties against whom action was taken might claim that the Government was acting merely on orders-in-council instead of upon a definite act of the Legislature. In order to forestall this step on the part of the private interests he introduced

an act which would validate and confirm these orders-in-council.

The act, which was given its first two readings, provides that the failure of any licensee or other concerned to live up to the orders-in-council, whether this failure has occurred or occurs in the future, shall be sufficient ground for the cancellation of a lease or contract.

"We propose simply by this bill to have the Legislature re-declare what has been established by the orders-in-council and make them valid in every way except on the question of constitutionality," Mr. Farris said.

It was the question of constitutionality, he explained, which had caused the Appeal Court of British Columbia to declare the orders-in-council ultra vires. Mr. Farris was not satisfied that the Appeal Court of British Columbia was right in throwing out these orders-in-council.

J. W. Jones, Conservative Member for South Okanagan, suggested that the Government take no action on the case until the renewal of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty had been disposed of.

Needs of B. C. Farmers Reported to House After Special Committee Probe

Revision of the personal property tax on farmers, which, it is declared, discourages improvements, is urged in the report of the Agricultural Committee presented to the Legislature yesterday by Dr. K. C. MacDonald, chairman.

Construction of roads in rural districts for carrying motor trucks, reduction of freight rates, aiding of doctors and nurses in country districts, and the purchase of equipment for the clearing of lands in selected areas are also advocated.

The seriousness of the increase in the number of Orientals holding land in British Columbia is emphasized.

"Your Committee met on several different occasions, representatives of the Advisory Board of the Farmers Institute, representatives of the B. C. Fruit Growers Association, and representatives of the United Farmers of British Columbia, and received from them a very great number of resolutions with regard to the problems of the agriculturist," said Dr. MacDonald.

"The resolutions were all varying in importance, some were local, some provincial in character. They were fairly and fairly presented to your Committee, but it is to be regretted that the representatives of those bodies were not able to present those resolutions to your Committee at an earlier stage in the session in order to give members of the Committee a fuller opportunity to consider their merits.

Far Increase Needed.

"Your Committee took cognizance of the fact that there appeared to be some increase in agricultural productions within the Province but drew attention to the fact that the Province imported \$2,816,469 of agricultural products during the last statistical year. Your Committee is firmly of the opinion that, concentrated and cooperative effort on the part of the Departments of Agriculture, Lands, and Works, would very rapidly increase the agricultural population of the Province and the agricultural production and within a decade turn the balance of trade in the matter of agricultural products from an adverse one to a favorable one, in so far as the Province is concerned.

"Your Committee heartily approves of the provision made at this session of the Legislature for the providing of stump powder to the bona fide farmer at a reduced cost, as recommended by the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture of last year.

Oriental Problem Serious.

"Your Committee further approves of the steps taken in the gathering of accurate information with regard to the Oriental problem from an agricultural standpoint, as recommended by your Committee a year ago, and of the provision in the estimates, of the requisite money for this purpose. Strong representations were made to your Committee as to the increasing seriousness of this problem and your Committee is of the opinion that some one with a thorough understanding of the problem as it affects this Province, should attend at the forthcoming Imperial Conference in June of this year, especially in view of the expiry of the existing treaty with Japan.

Urges Agricultural Instructors.

"Your Committee respectfully suggests to members of the House and of the Government as a legitimate line along which increased expenditure may be made, the following:

"(a) In view of the fact that the district representative system of agricultural instruction has been demonstrated to be the most effective means of increasing production through improved methods—that a sufficient

umber for
e. If the
ie feared,
medial
have to
re all too
r sleep.
cial Sec-
ews and
few his
nds, was
n his ef-
hiprac-
a Medical
rth what
drugless
ally in
olumbia,
having
ciology,
r minor
jurs-
ALL
IRS
EBB
Com-
usly
led three
875, last
ee of the
investi-
s salary
ernment
f his job
nisoner
although
n years'
award,
Legisla-
an, goes
e Major
ars. It
Major
ng and
to 1918,
Govern-
and in-
d Indus-
vertaken
onsisting
Burde-
son, ap-
claims
t of the
Public
pro-
attor in
evidence
F. repres-
erson of
vidence
ck him-
former
sceeded
ss con-
His ac-
Utilities
e taken
dlios and
ollowing
ms.
time of
Utilities
r of the
Provin-
practice
ss con-
as con-
mining
trict of
he was
hich he
Manag-
num.
er from
& Co.,
was on-
firm a
all zinc
m time
gement
etallack
arrange-
ual na-
ed the
a as it
of cord-
nd the
e. ar-
y them
h's no-
tion.
income
etallack
er ar-
base of
years,
nd that
extror-
of trad-
at since
gulated
has de-
y claim
of sur-

House Votes \$400,000 To B.C.E.R. for Cost of Changing Rule of Road

number of men with the necessary theoretical and practical training be secured to serve the farming communities of the Province.

(b) The tabulation and distribution, through the Land Settlement Board and through Government Agents, of more accurate information as to agricultural lands available for pre-emption or purchase with a view to immediate development, within reasonable distance of transportation.

Medical And Equipment Aid.

(c) The continuance and extension of the system of aiding medical practitioners, nurses and hospitals in rural communities.

(d) The purchase of land clearing equipment for the purpose of stumping and ploughing lands in selected areas where the agriculturists have prepared their land for stumping. This scheme to be launched as an experimental one and if found successful, as your Committee believes it will, to be extended as rapidly as the circumstances will warrant.

Solid Motor Roads Needed.

"Your Committee would emphasize the necessity of roads through agricultural districts, capable of carrying motor trucks of reasonable weight and load and the closest scrutiny and supervision in the matter of road repair and road building with a view to economy and to this end would recommend the employment of permanent roadmen where feasible, and that a limit be placed on the weight of load that motor and other trucks may carry.

Tax Revision Advisable.

"Your Committee recommends revision of the present system of taxing farmers with a view to offering more inducement for land settlement, and would point out that the personal property imposed on farmers tends to discourage the purchase of improved machinery and the keeping of more livestock.

"Your Committee believes that Provincial Assessors should be thoroughly experienced men and that their assessments should be made in the field.

Indian Reserves Impede Progress.

"Your Committee believes that the problem of uncultivated or sparsely inhabited Indian Reservations surrounded by white settlement, should be speedily dealt with, with a view to making such Reservations available for settlement, bearing in mind the necessity for fair and equitable dealing with the Indian natives.

"Your Committee thoroughly approves of the action of the Government in endeavoring to procure a reduction of freight rates by the Railway Commission, the recent increase, having in very many cases, resulted in the closing of mills and other industries and in serious interference with the marketing of agricultural products and would suggest that similar action be taken with regard to recent increases in express rates.

"Your Committee suggests, in view of an apparent division of opinion among farmers as to the advisability of making the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act applicable to farm help, that the Commissioners of the Workmen's Compensation Board be requested to consider the matter and make data available for submission to agricultural bodies for their consideration."

W. J. Bowser, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, and other members in the House late Friday night opposed the Loan Act to borrow an amount of money, in which \$400,000 to re-imburse the B. C. Electric Railway Company was included, when it came up for second reading. Hon. Dr. King, Minister of Public Works, explained the legislation which came up last year in connection with the change in the rule of the road, and he said it was felt that now was the opportune time to effect the change on the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

It had been originally estimated that the cost of changing tracks and equipment to the B. C. Electric Company would be not less than \$1,000,000 but later investigations led the department to believe that the change could be made for \$800,000. The Government, therefore, he added, considered it was acting fairly by the transportation company and the people of the Province in bearing half the cost. The Minister explained that the other provinces of Canada, with the exception of those in the Far East, had adopted the "turn to the right" principle on their highways, and since this system was in vogue also in the United States, from whence many visitors came, it was thought wise to effect the change in this Province without further delay.

Holding Back Company.

Hon. Dr. King explained that the company had delayed purchasing new equipment for some time, expecting the change would be made according to the act passed a year ago. It was interfering with the plans of the company in the building up and repairing of their equipment and tracks to delay longer.

Mr. Bowser argued strongly against granting such a large sum this year, claiming that with the municipalities and schools and hospitals calling for aid, it was no time to spend so much money in such a manner. He claimed it was all sentimental nonsense to talk about changing the rule of the road so as to conform to the practices of the United States. He did not know of any accidents that happened when Americans came over to this Province visiting, and he urged the Government to delay for another year.

"Adopt the policy and advice of your Premier and Minister of Finance," he said. "Their slogan has been to produce and save. That is what you need to do, but here you are spending money like millionaires on nothing but sentiment."

Mr. Bowser said that the rights of capitalists should be protected, and that while he did not favor the grant to the B. C. Electric Company, he did not wish the Government to go ahead with its plan and force the company to heavy expense.

Wants Another Year's Delay.

"The stand of the Leader of the Opposition is very narrow," said Attorney-General Farris. "He is talking in circles, and with his usual inconsistency, and is really arguing against the very measure which he voted for a year ago."

Mr. Bowser interrupted to ask that the change be laid over for another year.

The Attorney-General argued that there was a great deal more than sentiment in the matter. It was desirable to protect the lives of the people, and it was also desirable to make the change at the present time in order to prevent further deterioration in the rolling stock and other equipment of the company.

No Economy in Delay.

Mr. Bowser: How did we get along when we went down to Washington?

Hon. Dr. King: Not very well.

Hon. Mr. Farris: We get nowhere by waiting a year.

Mr. Guthrie: Is the Government obligated to compensate the B. C. Electric?

Hon. Mr. Farris: No, but it would only be temporary economy to delay.

Plenty For B. C. E. R. Anyhow.

The Attorney-General explained that the amount of \$400,000 mentioned in the bill did not necessarily represent the amount that would be paid. He would be very much disappointed if there was not a material saving in the amount.

Mr. Guthrie complained that while he could not secure money from the Government for the workers, still there seemed to be plenty for the B. C. Electric Company. Unemployment should be cared for, he said.

Would Help Unemployed.

M. A. Macdonald said if there was a serious unemployment situation found to exist this year then that was all the more reason why the work should proceed, since it would provide employment for many.

M. B. Jackson thought the Opposition Leader was rambling all over the woods, "as usual, and that there was nothing in his criticism."

Mr. Perry could not see why there should be compensation for the B. C. Electric Company when there had been nothing provided for the jitney-buses which had been put out of business, nor for the hotels when prohibition came into force. Not that he thought those concerns should get compensation, but he felt the same treatment should be accorded the railway company.

Only Fair to Pay.

"We represent not only our own constituencies, but also the Province as a whole," F. W. Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops said, "and we must look at this matter fairly and squarely."

"But the B. C. Electric isn't the Province," Samuel Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, protested.

"I want the honorable member for Newcastle to realize that I wish to treat the B. C. Electric as fairly as the honorable member for Newcastle himself," Mr. Anderson replied. "I don't care whether it is the B. C. Electric or any other corporation. We changed the rule of the road by Provincial legislation, and it is only fair that we should pay the bill."

"Just For Political Advantage."

Mr. Guthrie protested when Mr. Anderson accused him of speaking on the question with a view to his "political advantage."

Keeneth Duncan, Independent member for Cowichan, claimed that it had been clearly stated when the plan to change the rule of the road had been broached first that the Province was not under any liability whatever to the B. C. Electric Company. This fact, he believed, had influenced the people of the Province and the members of the House as well to endorse the change. He agreed with the proposal that the matter be postponed.

When a vote was taken a few fragmentary "no's," that of Mr. Guthrie loudest among them, were heard.

Members Vote For Salary Increase With Enthusiasm

Members of the Legislature were out for a 50 per cent. increase in indemnities and salaries, but they ran up against a stumbling block in Premier Oliver, it was learned yesterday when details of the indemnity increase were thrashed out in the House.

The Premier after being argued with finally consented to a compromise of 25 per cent. increase.

"We had more trouble with the Premier than with any other person," said Dr. Sutherland, Liberal whip, who with J. H. Schofield, Conservative whip, handled the increase proposal for the whole House.

Mr. Bowser for nearly half an hour on the floor of the House fought the increase in the Ministers' salaries, but he came out in support of the increase in the sessional indemnities. Mr. Bowser also attacked the appointment of the Hon. Mary Ellen Smith as a member of the Cabinet as unconstitutional.

House Almost Solid For Increase.

Despite Mr. Bowser's attack, however, the increases embodied in the amendments to the Constitution Act passed the House without a show of hands being called for.

The whole Conservative Opposition broke with their leader, and solidly supported the move for the increase. Labor members and independents, with the exception of G. H. Hanes, were solid for the increase.

The increases are retroactive to February 1.

Except for the official statement in The Times on Thursday, issued by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Bowser, it is doubtful if any contention would have arisen. But like a bolt from the blue came the criticism of that gentleman over the granting of \$21,000 for the increases named.

Challenges Hon. Mrs. Smith's Position.

"There are two phases of this matter I wish to discuss," Mr. Bowser began. "One is the increase in the salaries of the Executive Council and one in reference to the cost of the travelling expenses of any member of the Executive without portfolio. That, of course, applies to my colleague, the senior member for Vancouver (Hon. Mrs. Smith), who is supposed some time ago to have been sworn in as a member of the Executive Council.

"My colleague, who thought she was sworn in as President of the Council, seems to have found out that the Hon. Premier has not resigned the position of President of the Council, and there seems to be a dispute between her and the Premier as to what actually took place on that day when she was supposed to have been sworn in. I took the position then, and do now that my colleagues, the senior member for Vancouver, is not a member of the Cabinet of this Province.

Premier Not Recognized.

"You can only take into the Council such members as the constitution permits. There is no power on the part of the Premier covering this case. He holds no constitutional position, but is simply the head of the Government, and is responsible to the Lieutenant-Governor for the administration of that Government. The word 'Premier' is not known to the Constitution here on in England. He is simply the guiding hand of the administration, but in the case of my honorable friend he is known as President of the Council, Minister of Railways and Minister of Industries.

No Legal Powers.

"There is no section in the Constitution which authorizes any person being brought in and sworn in as a member without portfolio. If I am wrong in this I will be only too glad to be corrected because this matter must be cleared up to-day while we are discussing this amendment to the Constitution Act concerning indemnities.

"Mrs. Smith should know whether she is President of the Council or not. If the Premier's statements in the press is correct and he is still President of the Council then she is still just a member of the House because she was sworn in without the necessary power."

Quotes Constitution Act.

Mr. Bowser went on to quote the Constitution Act and amendments which had been made to it in 1919 and 1920. In 1919 the Act had provided that the Executive Council should be composed of such persons, up to the number of eleven, as the Lieutenant-Governor should be pleased to appoint. Of these not more than eight should receive salaries. In 1920 the number who might be appointed had been increased to twelve, he pointed out. The portfolios had been set out, he said as follows: Provincial Secretary, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Lands, Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, Minister of Mines, Minister of Public Works, Minister of Railways, Minister of Labor, Minister of Industries, President of the Council. Each of these portfolios was held by members of the Cabinet, exclusive of Mrs. Smith.

"There are only twelve members of the Executive Council of this Province and the whole twelve have been sworn in in charge of departments. When the Government goes through the form of making Mrs. Smith a member of the Executive Council without portfolio I state that there is no constitutional authority for that appointment," Mr. Bowser proceeded.

A Mere Form.

"If there is no authority then we went through a mere form when we submitted her name to the Lieutenant-Governor as one of his advisers. There is no constitutional authority for it and she is simply the Senior Member for Vancouver and not a member of the Executive Council, unless the Premier has resigned his position as President of the Council, or some other minister has resigned one of his extra portfolios and she has been made Minister of Education, Minister of Lands or Minister of Industries. If she has been appointed to any of these positions that would clear up the situation.

"In order to placate the political situation they must amend the constitution," he asserted. "Either there must be a resignation from one of the four extra portfolios held by present ministers or there must be an amendment to the Constitution to provide that the members of the Executive Council shall be thirteen in number instead of twelve, one of whom shall be a minister without portfolio. There must be a portfolio for my colleague under present conditions and not merely the form gone through the other day.

"I don't see anything on the order paper proposing a change in the number of the Executive Council, nor is there any intimation that any member of the Council will resign one of his portfolios to allow her to take it over. This matter cannot be brushed aside as the Premier attempted to do the other day. That doesn't make the constitution and though he is all powerful he is not above the constitution of the Province. In spite of his strength or what he thinks he may be, he is bound by the constitution and would be a dangerous proceeding if the Premier could walk out on the street and call in anyone or any Member of the House and say, 'Come in, you are a member of the Cabinet without portfolio.'"

Cannot Be Brushed Aside.

Mr. Bowser urged the Government to set at rest once and for all the question of what position Mrs. Smith actually holds. "It turns out that she has been improperly appointed, surely the women of the Province, whom she is supposed to represent here, will object to that sort of thing being put over for the purpose, perhaps, of catering to that large vote in this Province."

These Salary Increases.

"My honorable friends, at this late stage are bringing down an amendment to the Constitution Act to increase their salaries by \$1,500," Mr. Bowser remarked. "That is to say the members of the Cabinet, who receive to-day \$5,000—the salary which has been in effect for eight or nine years—are increasing their salaries to \$7,500. The Premier's salary is to be increased from \$7,500 to \$9,000.

"The first stand I take on this matter is that we have no mandate from the people to increase the salaries of the Executive Council. We are just fresh from an election in which the Premier led the Government forces. If the Premier had intended to increase the salaries of the Executive Council it would have been the proper thing, in my opinion, to have had a public discussion on the matter so that the people would have not have been taken by surprise. If he had told that, if he were returned to office, he would increase these salaries then the people would have known his intention.

Public Given No Chance.

"If the Premier had made that public statement and had been returned to office then the Legislature would not have had a word to say except to carry into effect the expressed wishes of the people as expressed by their returning him to office after he had made that statement. That was not done. There was no discussion of any increase in salaries and every man, like myself, who was a candidate, knew that when he came into office that he would receive the old salary.

Satisfied With Salary.

"If I had been fortunate enough to have been called upon to form a Government my salary, I knew would have been \$7,500 a year. I was perfectly satisfied with that and it would have been the last thing in my mind to have thought of changing it. There must have been, during the hurly-burly of the campaign, times when I doubted whether I was going to succeed as leader of the party of which I was head. When thinking of going back to the House in the same position as before, as Leader of the Opposition, I knew my salary would be \$1,500. With that I was satisfied and I have accepted the position of Leader of the Opposition in a new Parliament, as in Parliament of 1916, with the idea of receiving a salary of \$1,500. I have accepted the duties and responsibilities of the Leader of the Opposition, satisfied with the statutory allowances and with no thought of increasing them.

"What is the justification for my honorable friends increasing their salaries \$1,500 a year or mine \$500 a year? My position is exactly the same as that of my friends opposite. We both went to the country knowing what the salaries of these offices were. Now in the closing days of the session an amendment is rushed down to increase these salaries!

Premier Preached Economy.

"I want to know where, in view of the statement made by the Premier to the municipalities and to the people throughout the country that we were not in a financial position to help them, the statement that he could not give them any of our revenue, the promise of the Finance Minister in his budget speech that next year taxes would be increased instead of lowered. I want to know where, in view of these statements there is justification under these circumstances to add to the overhead cost of running this Legislature between \$30,000 and \$40,000 a year?"

"In 1918 the Premier told the municipalities to go home, put on their overalls and go to work—to reduce their overhead costs," Mr. Bowser went on. "Produce and Save" was the phrase he coined and the Minister of Finance repeated it in his budget speech. And now my honorable friends have brought in the closing days of the session a plan which will increase the cost of running this Legislature by \$30,000!

The Plight of the Municipalities.

"This in spite of the present conditions of the municipalities! The municipalities are so worked up about conditions that they have asked to come before the bar of this House and explain the seriousness of the situation. When they were refused by the Premier they met the combined members of the Legislature without regard to politics and placed the financial situation before them. What did the Premier promise as a result of this and another meeting? A commission or investigation this year, and to the hospitals he gave the same barren reply.

Hospitals in Desperate Conditions.

"The hospitals are threatening to close and are \$250,000 behind. In Vancouver the General Hospital is going behind \$30,000 a month and the Jubilee Hospital in Victoria is being carried by the good merchants of the city, who are not being paid. One of the directors told me that if there was no assistance forthcoming this session they proposed to close the doors of the institution. It will be a serious reflection on this Legislature if they are forced to close because we have no money in the treasury.

"This is true also of the education of our youth. They have only room in some of the schools to allow some of the children to go to school in the morning and the others have to go in the afternoon.

Cut Down Civil Servants and Raise Ministers.

"There conditions are true also of the civil service. The civil servants of the Province are entitled to a statutory increase this year. This the Government does not intend to grant on account of financial conditions though borrowing is going on all the time. We borrowed \$4,000,000 at the beginning of the session and yesterday we were asked to borrow \$5,500,000. True to my prophecy, at the beginning of the session a new loan is asked near the end of the session. There may be another to keep borrowing the civil servants are not given the increases to which they are entitled.

Fears Many Will Lose Jobs.

"It is worse than that. The Premier tells the House that there are more men in the civil service now than there will be. Many married men are to be thrown out on the cold world because the Premier wants to decrease his overhead costs!" In spite of this, it was proposed to increase Ministers' salaries, he exclaimed.

Mr. Bowser declared that under the new scale the Premier of British Columbia would receive the same as the Premier of Ontario, a Province with millions of people, which pays its Premier \$9,000 a year. He pointed out that as the sessional indemnity in Ontario is \$1,900 against the \$2,000 proposal in British Columbia, the total salary of the Premier of British Columbia will exceed that of the Premier of Ontario by \$100.

Mr. Bowser quoted the salaries of the Premiers and the sessional indemnities of the other Provinces as follows: Quebec, \$7,000 and \$2,000; Manitoba, \$6,000 and \$1,500; Alberta, \$8,500 and \$2,000; Saskatchewan, \$7,500 and \$1,800; New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia are all very small, he said.

Does Not Want His Increase.

"Under this amendment we are going to pay our Ministers in this Province, which is on the verge of bankruptcy, more money than is paid in any other Province of Canada," Mr. Bowser went on.

As for the salary of the Leader of the Opposition, he said that B. C. pays less than any other of the larger Provinces.

"I want no increase in my indemnity as Leader," Mr. Bowser went on. "I have been of any service in receiving \$1,500 a year in the past I wish to carry on."

Reason For Indemnity Increase.

He declared that the question of sessional indemnity for members was on a different basis than that of Cabinet Ministers. He pointed out that in 1913 the sessional indemnity was increased from \$1,200 to \$1,600, but since then the high cost of living has come in. Members in outlying constituencies if they want to cover their districts have to invest in a motor car and when they come to Victoria they must keep up a certain style and dignity.

He added that the Government had no mandate to increase salaries, and besides it had just been returned at an election.

Premier Oliver replied that in 1907, immediately after an election, the Conservative Government increased the indemnities from \$800 to \$1,200.

"Where was the mandate of the people at that time?" the Premier asked. "In 1912 members of the Government increased their own salaries as Ministers of the Crown. And then in 1913, fresh from an election, they increased the indemnities again. I ask him what was behind these various increases. Did the Government do that on their own volition or was there a demand on the Government from the elected representatives of the people."

"I ask the members of the Opposition to come out now and declare themselves."

Conservative Premier Got \$9,000.

The Premier explained that from 1911 to 1916 when the Brewster Government came in, the Premier of the Province drew \$9,000 a year in addition to the Legislative indemnity.

"I am now carrying two departments as well as being Premier, and also that infernal burden of the F. G. E., the Premier went on.

The Premier asserted that the mandate for the increase was supported by the almost unanimous demand of the members of the Legislature, and that the mandate comes on the Government from the elected representatives of the people.

"I am thankful to say that I lived and lived decently before I was a Minister of the Crown, and I have never yet had to ask for anything in the way of assistance," he went on.

Mad With Much Learning.

Regarding the status of the Hon. Mary Ellen Smith, the Premier read the statute setting it out that the Executive Council is not to exceed eleven members.

"I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to say that no member shall be a member of the Executive Council unless he holds a portfolio," the Premier said.

He went on to declare that in spite of what Mr. Bowser said there are only eight persons in the Cabinet, although they may hold twelve portfolios.

The Premier declared that there was no argument needed about the matter, referring to Mr. Bowser's words.

"He goes on to read of the words of the Apostle Paul, 'Verily much'."

C. H. Hanes, independent member for North Vancouver, said he did not sign the statement asking for the increase.

"I think \$400 as an increase in the sessional indemnity is sufficient to care for the needs of the time, and I think that should be enough for the Cabinet Ministers also," he went on.

"On behalf of the members of the Opposition, outside of our Leader, I would say that all signed the round robin," said R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt. "We stand by our signatures and accept the responsibility."

Better to Come Out in Open.

"Although the Leader of the Opposition makes a great appeal on sentimental reasons, he cannot go through this country and say that the civil service could not be put on a more efficient and economical basis," said Fred Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops. "There is a lot of deadwood that can be cut out. Some of them are almost as bad as army officials, who make a lot of work for themselves by writing letters to one another."

Mr. Anderson declared that "it is far better to come out in the open and pay members a decent salary," instead of adopting the methods of the last Government and rewarding members who "went broke" in politics by appointing them to one of the many well paid commissions that were set up for that purpose by the late Government.

B. C. Premier Got Most Work.

"The Premier of B. C. has got far more work to do than the Premier of Ontario," Mr. Anderson went on. "Ontario is a highly organized Province. Here it is different, and we have our coast problems to deal with. You will now appoint a liquor board and pay them salaries equal to that of the Premier, who has to carry all the responsibilities of this Province and is working himself to death."

Mr. Anderson declared that it is absolutely unfair not to pay well Cabinet Ministers like the Attorney-General, who must be an experienced and successful lawyer in order to fill the office.

"If a man is a good enough lawyer to hold that position, he is not practising economy in becoming Attorney-General," he added.

Labor Men Out For Increase.

"We have heard a good deal of hypocrisy from the Leader of the Opposition when he was speaking of economy," said Sam Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle. "But it was that same man who spent \$180,000 of the money of the people of the Province to crush the miners of Vancouver Island, and he did not ask the people of the Province whether they wanted that money spent for that purpose."

"I feel our indemnity in view of the increased cost of living is not enough. You can't live in a decent hotel here for less than \$5 a day. I am prepared to face the workers on this, knowing that the increase is needed so that we can do our best for the workers."

"I was one of the last to sign that round robin," said Tom Uphill, Labor member for Fernie. "I wish that I had been one of the first, and I will defend my position in front of any one. The \$2,000 is needed. It is not paying a good man for the services he gives, and I don't consider that I'm scabbing at that. In 1913, \$1,600 was worth far more than what \$2,000 is worth in 1921. Consequently I am really working under a reduction."

"Unblushing Effrontery."

M. B. Jackson, Liberal member for the Islands, arose to protest against "the abandoning of all sense of decency and honor" on the part of the Leader of the Opposition "when he contends that this matter has been sprung on him."

Mr. Jackson declared that the situation appeared to him as a case of "unblushing effrontery" on the part of the Leader of the Opposition.

"There is a case in history where the leader of a body of men betrayed them, but he had the decency to go out and hang himself," Mr. Jackson said, facing Mr. Bowser.

Mr. Bowser arose to say that he never knew until the night before last that it was intended to bring down the Constitutional amendments as a Government measure. Turning to Mr. Jackson, he said:

"You have nothing to justify that statement about me betraying the members of my party."

Liberal Whip Tells Details.

The Opposition Leader then demanded an apology from Mr. Jackson, who withdrew part of his statement, but added that Mr. Bowser had been fully cognizant of the situation from the very beginning.

This did not satisfy the Conservative Government, whose leader appeared to

Mr. Jackson was taken up on his ground and the debate was taken up by Dr. W. H. Sutherland, Liberal member for Revelstoke, and chief Government whip. Dr. Sutherland explained that as whip he disliked taking any part in the altercation, but he felt that he must explain. He said he had gone to the Conservatives early in the session and had found them unanimous upon the question of an increased indemnity. The Labor and Independent members, also, the doctor continued, were in favor, with the exception of one Independent. It was the intention at first to have the private members sign the request and then put the matter up to the leaders of the parties.

Wanted Bigger Raisa.

Mr. Jackson: Was that before the day before yesterday? Dr. Sutherland: Yes, ten days ago. He added that it was the intention to ask for \$2,400 per annum and support a proportionate increase for the Ministers. This would have meant a fifty per cent. advance.

"I was informed that the Leader of the Opposition did not care to sign, but that he would not oppose the move," said Dr. Sutherland. "The lone Independent member who did not want to sign said he would not oppose the advance. I feel that faith was broken. When I read the newspaper reports yesterday this seemed the case to me."

Had Trouble With Premier.

And, continued the Government whip, hesitating and glancing towards the Premier, "I don't know whether this is breaking a confidence or not."

Premier Oliver: Go to it. Dr. Sutherland: Well, we had more trouble with the Premier than any other person. He insisted upon a reduction to a 25 per cent. increase.

The doctor looked upon Mr. Bowser's action as a partial breach of faith at least.

Conservative Whip Corroborated.

J. H. Schofield, Conservative member for Trail, and chief Conservative whip, said he wished to endorse what had been stated by Dr. Sutherland. There was one reservation, perhaps, which should be made in connection with the Opposition Leader, and that was regarding his not actually knowing of the arrangement in detail until Wednesday.

"When we first came to Victoria this year," continued Mr. Schofield, "we were approached regarding an increase in the indemnity. In fact the Government whip and I were looking for each other at the same time in connection with this matter, and I have no hesitation in taking full responsibility. I can justify my action both in my own constituency and in this House. I told Dr. Sutherland that I felt sure we could get the Leader of the Opposition to agree to the increase, but I fell down on that. However, I accept the responsibility. I am sorry to have to say this—but that is all."

Changes Mind On Issue.

After hearing the explanation of the whips, Mr. Jackson rose and said he wished to apologize for hurting the feelings of Mr. Bowser. Perhaps he had not fully understood the situation.

Canon Hinchcliffe said he had not been particularly enthusiastic about signing the round robin when first approached, but his attention was drawn to the fact that he was not placed like other members. He had a small constituency which he shared with other members and it was comparatively easy to get around it. On the other hand some of the members were forced to spend large sums in attending to the affairs of their constituencies.

"I should not have asked for any increase for myself," he added, "but I did so for all, and I also partake of the responsibility."

The motion was then put, a chorus of "yes" greeting the chairman's call for those in favor, while Mr. Bowser played his hand through to the end and voiced the single "nay" registered against the increased indemnity amendment.

THE SESSION.

Legislation to provide for the sale of spirituous and malt liquors in sealed packages; a measure to establish superannuation machinery; an amendment to the Constitution Act designed to create another non-salaried Minister; and a bill to increase the sessional indemnity of members of the Legislature and the salaries of Cabinet Ministers are the four outstanding courses of the legislative menu which have absorbed more interest and attention than all the rest of the business transacted during the last seven weeks.

A lengthy discussion of the Liquor Control Act is not necessary at this stage. Those who have not attended the debates in the Legislature have found sufficient to interest them in the newspapers. The broad principles of the measure give effect to the instructions of the people. They provide for the sale of spirituous and malt liquors in sealed packages. Which means that the people of this Province may go to the Government stores and supply their needs in either of the two varieties providing they have procured the permit as prescribed by the law. Visitors to British Columbia may do likewise. The restrictions in this case are identical in principle; the permit is a little more costly.

As far as the new law is concerned the Legislature appears to have done its best. It has had the benefit of plenty of advice and suggestion if not that of organized judgment. Whether the Act will succeed in its early operation remains to be seen. At all events the instruction of the people has been obeyed. It may not be that every individual opinion harmonizes with what has been done by their elected representatives. But the fact remains that a measure has been enacted which presumes to interpret popular demand. It is now the bounden duty of every citizen, whether he be a prohibitionist or a moderationist, to lend his support to the enforcement of the law. That is the essential minimum.

Nothing could be more welcome to the commercial and industrial life of this Province than any measure which tends to promote a common understanding and interest between the employer and the employee. The Superannuation Act is intended to establish machinery whereby the worker may provide for the autumn of his days. Except in the case of Government servants the employees of the Province must depend upon the magnanimity of the private corporation or the individual employer of labor. But it may be supposed that the system will appeal to all those who observe the signs of the times.

Mrs. Smith's admission to the Ministry is a tribute to her political standing in this Province as well as an official acknowledgement of the new status of womanhood. This signal elevation places the senior member for Vancouver in an unique position in the parliamentary life of the British Empire and assures to the inner councils of British Columbia's governing body an appropriate leaven of feminine wisdom.

Public opinion does not agree with the demand of the legislators for an increase in their indemnities. It recognizes in the "round robin" the gun at the Premier's head and the narrow choice which confronted him. It contrasts the action of the Legislature with its attitude towards the municipalities, towards the many deserving cases in the Civil Service, towards the hospitals. It very naturally points to the financial condition of the Province and the official exhortation to "produce and save." It would agree that the Ministers and private members of the Legislature should be placed on an even footing with those of

Provinces such as Alberta. But it is on solid ground when it declares the present to be an inopportune time to increase the already wearisome burden of the taxpayer. In a normal period it would recognize the merits of the case.

Considering the session generally the Government's majority has held. It is noteworthy that the Independent voice of the Legislature has been heard in favor of the Administration on a number of occasions. In other words the people of the Province have nothing to regret in returning Mr. Oliver to conduct their affairs for another term.

THE LIQUOR BOARD.

No doubt the Provincial Government will appoint the Board authorized by the Liquor Act with the least possible delay. This is an extremely important, if it is not actually a critical, duty. Whether the administration of the new law will be reasonably successful or a howling fiasco will depend very largely upon that Board. In other words it will be for the Board to determine whether the liquor traffic in British Columbia is to be carried on under the safeguards involved in real state control as far as this can be done under the Act, or whether the Province will be made thoroughly disreputable by debauchery arising from lax, incompetent or dishonest administration.

The Board should be composed of the best men it is possible to obtain—men of unimpeachable integrity and record, and of the highest ability. Its personnel should combine administrative experience and knowledge of law enforcement with sound business sense and a sane conception of what the public interest needs for its own good. It should be absolutely fearless, and strong enough to resist a greater weight and variety of pressure to relax regulations or wink at their violation than ever have been brought to bear upon any other public body in this Province. The Government, responsible for the Board, in the last analysis will be held responsible for what the Board does to a large degree, and it should desire, therefore, to appoint the best men it can get, without regard to political expediency or any other considerations than those of ability, honesty and proper regard for the public interest.

ground and
up by Dr. W. H.
member for Rev-
Government whip,
explained that as
taking any part in
but he felt that he
he said he had gone
ves early in the ses-
them unanimous
n of an increased in-
bor and Independent
he doctor continued,
the exception of
It was the inten-
the private mem-
quest and then put
the leaders of the

Bigger Raiss.

Was that before the
day?

Yes, ten days ago.
It was the intention
per annum and sup-
nate increase for the
would have meant a
vance.

That the Leader of
did not care to sign,
did not oppose the
Sutherland. "The
member who did not
id he would not op-
e. I feel that faith
hen I read the news-
esterday this seemed

With Premier.

ed the Government
and glancing towards
don't know whether
ng a confidence or

Go to it.

Well, we had
th the Premier than
n. He insisted upon
25 per cent. increase,
oked upon Mr. Bow-
a partial breach of

Whip Corroborated.

Conservative mem-
d chief Conservative
shed to endorse what
by Dr. Sutherland.
reservation, perhaps,
made in connection
tion Leader, and that
is not actually know-
gement in detail un-

st came to Victoria
ined Mr. Schofield,
ached regarding an
indemnity. In fact
whip and I were look-
er at the same time
th this matter, and I
on in taking full re-
can justify my action
constituency and in-
told Dr. Sutherland
we could get the
pposition to agree to
I fell down on that,
ept the responsibility.

Have to say this—but

Mind On Issue.

g the explanation of
Jackson rose and said
ologized for hurting the
Bower. Perhaps he
understood the situa-

cliffe said he had not
rly enthusiastic about
und robin when first
it his attention was
act that he was not
r members. He had a
ney which he shared
nbers and it was com-
to get around it. On
some of the members
spend large sums in
e affairs of their con-

t have asked for any
yself," he added, "but
and I also partake of
ity."

was then put, a chorus
ng the chairman's call-
vor, while Mr. Bowsee-
d through to the end
a single "nay" vote.
is increased if a unity

Legislature Closes With Stunts, Songs and A Thrilling Barrage

The first session of the fifteenth Legislature, which has been in session since February 8, was prorogued just before 10 o'clock Saturday night by Lieutenant-Governor W. C. Nichol.

The House completed its business with the final passing of the Municipal and Vancouver City Acts shortly after 9 o'clock, and then declared a recess until the Lieutenant-Governor arrived. During this interval members entertained themselves and the galleries with songs. Fred W. Anderson was song leader. Major Burde tried to jump over the bar of the House, but the bar gave way and he came down with it. Joseph Clearihue had his head caged in a wastepaper basket. One member threw a wet towel over the head of one of the Ministers. Another brought in an armful of "snowballs" made out of wet, sloppy paper. These were hurled across the House. When they hit they slushed out with a wet sound.

Tom Uphill got into action with a big clay pipe and showed the House how to rejoice. Mr. Anderson gave an imitation of Major Burde making a speech.

Big Final Barrage.

After the Lieutenant-Governor verbally assented to the 86 bills passed during the session, "God Save the King" was sung. The last bar of this was accompanied by the big barrage of the evening. Books, papers, filing boards, baskets and everything detachable were hurled across the Chamber. From the gallery came thousands of copies of bills and "Votes and Proceedings," which spread down on the members like huge pieces of confetti.

There was then a rush for the corridor and into the stenographers' room, where the members scrambled and wrestled with one another in the competition of bidding farewell to the battery of girl stenographers who have done the private correspondence work of the members during the session.

After this the members adjourned to the Empress Hotel and to cabarets, where there were farewell suppers and parties.

In proroguing the House His Honor said:

"Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:
In relieving you of the onerous duties of this first session of the Fifteenth Legislature, it pleases me to express my appreciation of the careful attention you have given to the various matters submitted for your deliberation.

"Among important measures dealt with by me, the Act to provide for Government Control and Sale of Alcoholic Liquors meets fairly the wishes of the electorate as expressed in the referendum held last year.

"The Act to ratify the agreement between the British Columbia Anti-Tuberculosis Society and His Majesty the King, for taking over and maintaining the Tranquille Sanatorium as a Provincial institution, marks an important advance in the care of tubercular patients and provides for a greater measure of success in the prevention of this dread disease.

"Enactments relating to night employment of women, and limiting the hours of work in industrial undertakings, and fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment will meet with general approval.

"The Act respecting superannuation inaugurates a new departure in providing for the care of public servants who reach the age of retirement.

"Amendments to and consolidation of the Companies Act will render this measure more effective for the control of corporations.

"I thank you for the ample provision you have made for the maintenance of public works and institutions throughout the Province, and trust that the legislation you have enacted during the session now closing will result in material advancement of industrial, economic, and social conditions in British Columbia."

Bills Consented to

His Honor gave the royal assent to the following bills: To amend the Companies Act; the Department of Fisheries Act; the Constitution Act; the Devolution of Powers in Local and to consolidate and amend the laws relating to

Appeal Act; Bills of Sale Act; Assignment of Book Accounts Act; to provide for Government Control and Sale of Alcoholic Liquors; the Marriage Act; the Coal Mines Regulation Act; to consolidate the Companies Act and certain other enactments relating to Companies; an Act to regulate the Practice of Optometry; an Act relating to certain Obligations of the Corporation of the Township of Richmond in respect of the Maintenance of the Eburne Bridges crossing the North Arm of the Fraser River; to amend the Summary Convictions Act; an Act respecting certain Loans to Municipalities in connection with Relief of Unemployment; an Act to ratify an Agreement bearing date the Twenty-third Day of February, 1921, between the British Columbia Anti-Tuberculosis Society and His Majesty the King; to amend the Vital Statistics Act; the Adoption Act; the Better Housing Act; the Public Schools Act; the Minimum Wage Act; the Provincial Elections Act; an Act concerning the Employment of Women During the Night; an Act limiting the Hours of Work in Industrial Undertakings; an Act fixing the Minimum Age for Admission of Children to Industrial Employment; an Act concerning the Night-Work of Young Persons employed in Industry; an Act concerning the Employment of Women before and after Childbirth; an Act respecting the Mission Municipal School District; to amend the Infants Act; an Act respecting The Corporation of the City of Port Coquitlam; to amend the Employment Agencies Act Repeal Act; the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital Act, 1890; The Brand Act; an Act to authorize the Leasing of Warehouses on the Government Wharf at Prince Rupert; to amend the Dying Assesment Adjustment Act, 1907; the Mothers' Pension Act; an Act to permit Municipality Owned Cemeteries, Crematoriums and Mausoleums; to amend the Anglican Theological College of British Columbia Act, 1915; an Act relating to the Corporation of the City of Victoria; an Act to incorporate the Fernie and Elk River Railway Company; an Act respecting the Corporation of the District of Burnaby; to amend the Testators' Family Maintenance Act; the Special Surveys Act; the Land Act; an Act for the Protection of Breeders of Goats; to amend the Pharmacy Act; the Animals Act; the Agricultural Act, 1915; an Act to repeal the Mosquito Control Act; to amend the Amusements Tax Act; the Poll-Tax Act; the Legal Professions Act; the Attachment of Debts Act; the Small Debts Court Act; an Act to borrow the Sum of Three Million Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars for the Purposes therein specified; an Act to incorporate The Corporation of the City of Phoenix; an Act respecting Superannuation; an Act to validate and confirm certain Orders-in-Council and Provisions Relating to the Employment of Persons on Crown Property; to amend The Corporation of the District of South Vancouver Administration Act; the War Relief Act; Further Powers Act; the Taxation Act; the Medical Act; the Industrial Operations Damage Compensation Act; the Supreme Court Act; the Succession Duty Act; the Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1909; the Municipal Act.

HUDSON'S BAY CO. ATTACKED IN HOUSE FOR LAND POLICY

Members Vote Against Company Concerning Oak Bay Assessment

The Hudson's Bay Co. owns one-quarter of Oak Bay, F. A. Pauline said in the Legislature just before it closed on Saturday in explaining the clause in the Municipal Act amendments which legalizes the action of the municipality in equalizing all assessments, so that Hudson's Bay Company property will have to pay the same as other property.

"If the Hudson's Bay Co. is allowed to appeal and get relief year after year, it affords them the means by which they can evade their fair share of taxation," said Mr. Pauline. "The Hudson's Bay Company in the vicinity of Victoria has large areas of land which they have not seen fit to put on the market. Although we admire the Hudson's Bay Co., their land policy is archaic. There is a down town lot on Government Street near the Post Office which has been held unimproved by the company for fifty years.

Cannot Do Business With Company.

Mr. Pauline said that it was almost impossible to do business with the company on this lot, because when a man makes an offer for it, head office in London sends back word that he can have it "for several thousand more."

"The properties of this company receive their value because of their contiguity to the city of Victoria," Mr. Pauline went on. "It is unfair that this large corporation by appealing against assessments should obtain relief that is not accessible to the average ratepayer. Oak Bay is only asking this House to see that this corporation does pay its fair share of the assessment in that municipality, and to authenticize the new assessment roll which they drew up when they lost their case."

Calls Precedent Dangerous.

"I don't think the municipality is doing anything but its duty in trying to equalize these assessments," said R. H. Pooley. He added that there was no reason to be frightened of the Hudson's Bay Co. here as it is really only the Puget Sound Land Co.

"The company took an appeal under the Act and were successful on the appeal," said David Whiteside. "Then the municipality said to the company: 'You have a judicial decision, but we can nullify that by going to the Legislature. That is a dangerous precedent. You see a man who has got a judgment against you and then you go to the Legislature and get an Act to nullify it.'"

Mr. Whiteside moved that the section be struck out.

Still "Band of Adventurers."

M. B. Jackson, K. C., also objected to the principle behind the clause, "as it was done by the Council to neutralize the effect of a successful appeal by the Hudson's Bay Co."

G. H. Hanes, however, got up and declared that the Hudson's Bay Co. was the same outfit as that known as a "band of adventurers" and should pay on the same assessment as the rest of the municipality.

When the members heard this they at once voted down the Whiteside amendment and passed the clause giving Oak Bay the powers it sought.

This year's dying hours of the legislative session were marked by a Dolly Varden sensation. Nothing more exciting than the municipal problem and the decision to meet again in the Fall could be whipped up after the exhausting discussions about the people's liquid refreshment.

ANOTHER SESSION.

If Mr. Whiteside's proposal to the Legislature that it should give itself over to a thorough investigation of the taxation question could have been adopted at the beginning of the session, before the members began to get restless and somewhat ragged in their judgment, something might have been accomplished in behalf of the municipalities by this time. But it would have been unwise to have detained the Assembly any longer at this late stage of its deliberations. And the week-end would have been too short a period in which to reconstruct the legislative mind after the varied political emotions to which it has been subjected during the last seven weeks. On that account and for other equally obvious reasons it is just as well that the Premier agreed upon a compromise and consented to arrange for another session in the early Fall.

Meanwhile it should be the duty of each member to concern himself with the needs of his particular locality and construct his contribution to the discussions which will take place later on. As far as the Government is concerned it has promised to conduct an inquiry and to confer with municipal officials generally. If the Cabinet and the elected representatives of the people, as well as civic leaders, will concentrate upon this highly important subject in the meantime the pooled judgment of all should point a way to municipal relief. The idea of a second session this year is a good one in this particular relation alone; but it may be useful also if developments in the operation of the new liquor law should demand action beyond that vested by the Act in the Board of Control.

TIME WILL TELL.

If the majority of the people in this Province follow the attitude adopted by some of the members of the Legislature and nurse the opinion that the Liquor Control Act will not be a success the new law will commence its operation in an unfair atmosphere. But if the gloomy prophecies originate in the difference of opinion arising over the exclusion of a provision for the more general sale of beer the doubt is supported only by the varied estimates of what the people understood by the sale of spirituous and malt liquors in sealed packages. It is comparatively simple to be wise after the event. The plebiscite ballot paper asked two distinct questions and the people did not have an opportunity to express themselves upon a phase of the issue which at that time was not considered a fundamental point for specific treatment. The verdict was a clear instruction to the Government, and the Legislature in substantial majority considered it to be better judgment to conform to the letter of the people's will. Whether or not it would have been wiser to have interpreted the result of the plebiscite in a more liberal manner by an acceptance of the fairly obvious effect of the law

as it stands is not a question with which the Legislature could take the right to deal. It would have exposed itself to criticism if it had gone farther than it has. Only a third question on the ballot paper itself would have solved the problem which developed after—not before—the vote had been taken. In the meantime the operation of the law itself should indicate the desirability or otherwise of future legislative action in behalf of the more liberal interpretation.

REFORM WANTED.

One of the lessons which Dr. MacLean's report upon conditions at Essondale should teach the people of this Province in general and the Dominion Government in particular is the need for a better system of examination of intending emigrants to this country.

At the present time there seems to be a greater regard for the number of people who can be translated from the Old World to the New than there is concern for their mental and physical condition. One of the results is reflected in part by the number of patients undergoing treatment at the Provincial institution and the fact that sixty per cent. of the yearly increase of those admitted are not Canadians.

Anyone familiar with the cursory examination which takes place on the deck of an emigrant ship at Liverpool finds little difficulty in understanding the reason why the adopted country gets the worst of the bargain. And if it is a fact that the Dominion Government failed to co-operate with the British authorities by appointing its own medical examiners fully conversant with conditions in this country it is about time Canada's immigration regulations were changed.

At present the examination is not thorough, nor is it carried out with any special regard for the welfare of the emigrant or consideration for the community into whose midst he is about to be deposited. Non-co-operation in this connection is an economic anomaly which will have to be cured if British Columbia and other Provinces are to be relieved of the cost of caring for the mental misfits from other lands.

RETAILLICK NOT TO GET HIS MONEY

Legislature Does Not Think Report on Former Commissioner Worth Adopting

It looks as if Major Retaillick is not to get even the \$1,800 which the Special Committee of the Legislature recommended as compensation, after spending weeks discussing and investigating his claim for damages because the Government abolished the office of Public Utilities Commissioner just when he thought the job was good for ten years. The committee was in a deadlock for a week as to what award to the Major should be. On Friday night the committee compromised on three months' salary for the Major and this was presented to the House the same evening by H. G. Perry, chairman of the committee. Saturday afternoon Mr. Perry moved the adoption of the report by the Legislature. The motion to adjourn had been made just before Mr. Perry arose and the House adjourned without considering the report at all. At the night session there was no mention at all of adopting the Retaillick report.

ACROSS THE BAY

WHAT EACH RIDING WILL GET FOR ROADS FROM GOVERNMENT

Road appropriation for the various districts of the Province for 1921-22 have been announced as follows:

Alberni district, \$49,500; Atlin district, \$36,500; Cariboo district, \$73,500; Chilliwack district, \$34,500; Columbia district, \$40,200; Comox district, \$50,500; Cowichan district, \$40,000; Cranbrook district, \$52,000; Delta, \$41,000; Esquimalt district, \$30,000; Fernie district, \$36,500; Fort George district, \$78,000; Grand Forks district, \$24,000; Greenwood district, \$24,500; Islands district, \$34,000; Kamloops district, \$78,500; Kaslo district, \$25,000; Lillooet district, \$57,600; Nanaimo district, \$13,500; Newcastle district, \$23,000; Nelson district, \$2,000; New Westminster district, \$1,500; North Okanagan district, \$54,000; North Vancouver district, \$23,000; Okanagan district, \$79,500; Prince Rupert district, \$65,000; Revelstoke district, \$37,000; Rossland district, \$8,500; Saanich district, \$6,000; Similkameen district, \$43,000; Siccan district, \$29,000; South Okanagan district, \$35,000; Trail district, \$41,500; Yale district, \$45,000; Richmond district, \$11,000; South Vancouver district, \$10,000; Total, \$1,379,000.

Want Tax Relief For Soldiers

When amendments to the Taxation Act were under consideration, F. W. Anderson took the opportunity to plead with the Government for taxation relief for returned soldiers. Many returned men, he said, had returned from overseas to find their homes overgrown with weeds and to be welcomed by a huge bill for tax arrears. This burden of taxation arrears, he thought, should be lifted from soldiers holding provincial lands.

Colonel Lister, Conservative member for Kaslo, endorsed this contention and Canon Hinchliffe, Conservative member for Victoria urged that in connection with these taxation matters no distinction should be made between actual combatants and men who had served in the army in other, and often more dangerous, capacities.

Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, explained that it had not been considered wise to go to the extent of wiping out all tax arrears.

Would Keep Out American Sheep

The Government should discourage the entry of sheep from Washington into British Columbia for grazing on Government lands Mr. Bowser asserted when Taxation Act amendments were under review.

Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, explained that it was the policy of the Government to encourage B. C. breeders to pasture sheep on Government lands, but where there were no such breeders outside breeders were encouraged to graze their sheep on vacant ranges.

A P R

1921

FINAL READING IS GIVEN BILL; BEER BARRED

Proposal to Insert Beer Clause Defeated by Vote of 34 to 11

ACT NOT WORKABLE

This is Claim of Mr. Uphill—New Plebiscite Urged by Mr. Mackenzie

(World's Special Service)

VICTORIA, April 1.—The bill for the government control and sale of alcoholic liquors received its third reading in the legislature yesterday afternoon. The proposal to insert a "Beer Clause" was rejected by a vote of 34 to 11.

The discussion of the amendment offered by Mr. Thomas Uphill of Fernie in favor of a beer clause, was preceded by a little verbal sparring. The premier raised the point of order as to the form in which the motion was presented. Upon being overruled in this respect he asked whether this was not properly to be considered a money clause and therefore only to be introduced by the government. Mr. Speaker Manson replied that he had not considered this point, but in the meantime he would allow the discussion to proceed.

Mr. Uphill began by saying that he was not very well pleased with the premier, who seemed to wish to thwart the discussion of the subject.

Mr. Speaker Manson—The member may not say that.

Mr. Uphill—Proceeding said he did not believe any member had the least hope that the bill would prove workable. The bill made it easy to obtain hard liquor and difficult beer. That in itself would create a tendency against the proper working of the act. In his own district, where they were beer drinkers, there was little sickness and no use of drugs.

Would Drink Whiskey.

Mr. Uphill instanced the case of the town of Corbin in his district, which was difficult of access and where as a consequence the result would be that whiskey would be brought in instead of beer. He also mentioned Coal Creek, a town of 2,000 population, where there has been a club for sixteen years with a membership of 25, and where they have always dispensed beer, but to his knowledge never a bottle of hard liquor had been brought into the club's premises. He was satisfied that if the beer question were submitted to a plebiscite it would carry by a large majority. He had been sorry to hear the statement made by the minister of mines charging that the men in the Fernie district were in favor of revolution.

Hon. Wm. Sloan—What I said was that the delegate to the convention of miners made that statement.

Mr. Uphill—Well, he must have been drunk.

Mr. Henniger—He had been drinking beer.

Mr. Uphill—He was in Calgary, in a prohibition district, so I guess he got something stronger.

Whiskey for Profit.

Continuing, he declared that the object of the bill really seemed to be to persuade men to drink whiskey so as to get a profit. And this was what was called moderation. "Oh, consistency, thou art a jewel." He ventured to declare that if the members of the House after passing this bill went back to the country, they would most of them be beaten. They had not voted according to their convictions. There had been 47 men here two months and this question had taken up most of their time, and now we have got an act that is not going to be workable. In fact, the premier himself had so admitted.

Premier Oliver—I deny the statement.

Mr. Uphill—Well, I will withdraw it if he didn't say it, but I still believe he did.

In his opinion, he went on, they ought not to look at the fact that the revenue might be decreased if the use of beer were encouraged instead of hard stuff. In spite of anything to the contrary he still contended that the workers desired to have a beer clause in the bill. He was sure that the act was going to make trouble. If nothing could be done in the way of a beer clause then, he suggested that there might be something along the lines of local option, so as to give each district the right to run its own affairs in this respect. In his opinion a large part of the trouble was that Fernie was too far away from Victoria and the people down here did not understand the needs of the district.

Terms of Plebiscite.

Mr. R. H. Pooley announced that he was going to vote for the motion. "Real beer said he, 'is what we want.' The trouble in his opinion was that the members had got into their heads that they must stick closely to the terms of the referendum. He was sure that in his district at any rate 99 per cent of the people cared nothing about the question of sale in sealed packages, and would vote for the prohibition clause. He believed that the beer and

Capt. Ian Mackenzie expressed pleasure that the House was at least being given an opportunity of placing itself on record on the question. If the beer clause was not adopted, he strongly appealed to the government to take the necessary steps to submit the matter to the people.

Major Burde declared there were members in the legislature who were voting for this act because they hoped that the government would thereby be wrecked. Somebody had told him that the brewers and hotelkeepers had spent \$80,000 to elect the Liberal party. They could not have spent it very well or they should have got better results. The truth was that the brewers and hotelkeepers of Victoria had supported the Conservatives, while those of Vancouver had supported the Liberals. It was not fair that the poor man should be unable to buy a glass of beer while others kept their cellars full of booze.

Major Burde declared that he was a member of four soldiers' clubs and his experience led him to fear that there would be just as much beer drunk in these clubs after the act was passed as there is now. The only result would be to make the returned men law-breakers.

The vote was then taken. The eleven who voted for the beer clause were Messrs. Pooley, Uphill, Burde, Lister, Sloan, Farris, Anderson, Pery, Kergin, Ian Mackenzie and Pattullo. The only absentee was Mrs. Ralph Smith. The other 34 members voted against beer. The bill was then read a third time and declared carried.

POLICY CHANGED ON COAL AREAS

Hon. T. D. Pattullo Denies Criticism Has Influenced Decision Affecting Reserves

(World's Special Service)

VICTORIA, April 1.—The government has under consideration the question of altering the present policy of reserving coal lands and may change the system as a result of investigations now under way. This statement was made in the legislature yesterday by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, who, however, repudiated the idea that the proposed change was in any way consequent upon the charge made by the leader of the opposition that the policy hitherto pursued has been helping to keep up the price of coal to the consumer.

"I have not yet seen a reason," said Mr. Bowser, "that would justify me in changing my opinion on the closing of reserves on coal lands as a backward step which closed up vast areas of coal, perhaps for centuries in the future, as they have been closed for centuries in the past."

Mr. Pattullo replied that coal leases had become very complicated and reserves had become very large so that the whole matter could be cleared up. It had been deemed advisable to take stock of the areas still remaining to the crown.

"Consideration is being given by the government to coal areas and also to oil areas," said Mr. Pattullo. He intimated that there would be legislation on the subject next session.

DEWDNEY WILL FIGHT 'SKEETERS

Repeal of Mosquito Control Act Not to Affect Activities of Fruit District

(World Special Service)

VICTORIA, April 1.—Mosquitoes and their activities in the Fraser Valley were the subject of discussion again for a few minutes in the legislature yesterday during the consideration of the bill to amend the Mosquito Control Act.

Mr. W. J. Bowser asked what districts if any had incurred any expenditure under the bill.

Hon. E. D. Barrow replied that one or two districts had carried on some preliminary work in connection with it, but had not proceeded very far because the information supplied by the Dominion entomologist had shown that the proposed system of control would be of no use. The only purpose in repealing the act was to prevent other districts from starting any work under it. No district to his knowledge had levied any special rates for the purposes of the act.

Mr. Bowser—Has the mosquito pest been dissipated? Are there no mosquitoes now in the province?

Continuing Investigations.

Mr. Barrow—I think there are none in the province at the present time, but I have no doubt there will be the usual number when the weather gets warmer. He added that the Dominion expert was continuing his investigations and that presently the government expected to be in a position to make recommendations under reasonable control.

Mr. J. A. Catherwood of Dewdney declared that his district would continue the use of the act because they had found it helpful. If they did not do this he doubted whether they would be able to gather their fruit at all. They spent \$100,000 a year for the purpose, of which half was contributed by the municipality and half by the C. P. R. He would not see that the repeal would make any difference to them, since they would have to continue this practice anyway. The repeal bill was given its third

MUNICIPALITIES DO NOT WANT TAX

Amendment Will Withdraw Powers of Which No Advantage Is Taken

(World's Special Service)

VICTORIA, April 1.—The bill to amend the Amusement Tax Act was put through the legislature yesterday. Hon. John Hart explained that, at last session a bill was adopted authorizing the municipalities to collect an additional 10 per cent amusement tax, but none of them had taken advantage of this permission, and since they did not wish to exercise the power it was now being withdrawn.

The bill to disincorporate the corporation of the city of Phoenix received its third reading.

The report of the select committee dealing with the proposed bills of the chiropractors and drugless healers was adopted.

A bill was introduced by the attorney-general to amend the War Relief Act Further Powers Act. It extends until March 31, 1922, the power of a judge to order stay of proceedings in actions against returned soldiers in cases of taxation and other matters.

Asked Obscure Question.

A motion on the order paper in the name of Mr. Esling of Rossland, calling for certain information with regard to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, was criticised by Premier Oliver as being so obscure that he was unable to understand just what was wanted. When the premier resumed his seat, the debate on the subject was adjourned on the motion of the minister of public works. This means that it will be heard of no more this session and the member for Rossland will not get the information he seeks.

The bill to regulate the practice of optometry was put through its various stages. An amendment was inserted to the effect that one member of the board of examiners must be a registered physician.

The bill to amend the law relating to devolution of estates in land was read a third time. So also was the bill to amend the Public Schools Act; the bill to amend the Animals Act; and the bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 1915. This last-mentioned act is one to provide that advances for the purchase of stumping powder may be made not only to farmers' institutes, but to other recognized agricultural bodies.

TO AID B. C. E. R. PAY FOR CHANGE

Provincial Government Will Contribute Sum Not Exceeding \$400,000

VICTORIA, April 1.—A sum "not exceeding \$400,000" will be paid by the province to the B. C. Electric towards the cost of making alterations in the track, rolling stock and equipment of the company, necessitated by the change in the rule of the road, which comes into effect in December. The bill introduced yesterday by the minister of finance to borrow \$3,550,000, states that four hundred thousand of this amount is for this purpose.

The rest of the loan will be used as follows: One million to refund to the provincial treasury sums already paid under the provisions of the Soldiers' Land Act; \$100,000 for further expenditures under the provisions of the Soldiers' Land Act; \$300,000 for carrying out the provisions of the amendments to the Forest Act passed this session; \$750,000 for new undertakings under the Soldiers' Land Act; and \$1,000,000 for the conservation fund created under the Water Act.

LIQUOR ACT IN FORCE MAY 1

This is Expectation.—A. M. Johnson, J. H. Falconer for Commission.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 1.—The new provincial liquor act will come into effect on May 1st is expected by government officials here. The board of three commissioners which will administer the act has not been named. A. M. Johnson, deputy attorney-general, and J. H. Falconer, of Vancouver are spoken of for commissioners. The third commissioner will be a returned soldier, it is stated.

LITIES ANT TAX

Withdraw Pow- o Advantage ten

al Service)
1.—The bill to
nt Tax Act was
stature yesterday.
ined that at last
lopted authorizing
collect an addi-
usement tax, but
ken advantage of
since they did not
power it was now

orporate the cor-
Phoenix received
select committee
posed bills of the
gless healers was

ced by the attor-
the War Relief
Act. It extends
the power of a
of proceedings in
rned soldiers in
other matters.

Question.
rder paper in the
of Rossland, call-
ation with regard
Eastern Railway.
nier Oliver as be-
he was unable to
was wanted. When
his seat, the de-
was adjourned on
minister of public
that it will be
session and the
I will not get the

ie the practice of
rough its various
nt was inserted to
member of the
must be a regis-

he law relating to
in land was read
to was the bill to
eals Act; the bill
Act, and the bill
tural Act of 1915.
act is one to pro-
r the purchase of
may be made not
tutes, but to other
l bodies.

the practice of
rough its various
nt was inserted to
member of the
must be a regis-

the law relating to
in land was read
to was the bill to
eals Act; the bill
Act, and the bill
tural Act of 1915.
act is one to pro-
r the purchase of
may be made not
tutes, but to other
l bodies.

C. E. R. CHANGE

ment Will Con- of Exceeding 000

—A sum "not ex-
ll be paid by the
1. Electric towards
alterations in the
and equipment of
ated by the change
road, which comes
er. The bill intro-
the minister of fi-
500,000, states that
nd of this amount

ip will be used as
to refund to the
sums already paid
of the Soldiers'
or further expendi-
tions of the Sol-
0,000 for carrying
f the amendments
essed this session;
ravings under the
and \$1,000,000 for
reated under the

ACT IN CE MAY 1

ion.—A. M. John- Falconer for ission

April 1.—The new
st will come into ef-
pected by govern-
The board of three
h, will administer the
amed A. M. John-
y-general, and J. H.
ver are spoken of for
e third commissioner
soldier, it is stated.

TAXPAYERS ARE NOT SATISFIED

South Vancouver Would Like Wider Control of Affairs

R. H. Neelands Would Rather Continue as Unorganized District

VICTORIA, April 1.—Considerable criticism was levelled in the Legislature yesterday against the bill to provide for the election for reeve and council for South Vancouver. The bill provides that the powers of the reeve and council are to be fixed by order-in-council and there were several members of the House who thought that their power should not be limited, except in so far as might be necessary to safeguard the government's financial interests.

Hon. John Hart, on a second reading of the bill, explained the circumstances under which the government had guaranteed the bonds of South Vancouver and had taken over the administration of the city. There was, he said, a desire now on the part of the taxpayers for a more direct connection with the administration of their local affairs, and it was the intention of the government to gratify this wish as far as practicable.

Mr. Theo. Pearson asked what powers were really intended to be entrusted to the reeve and council.

Powers Limited.
Mr. Hart—That has not been given sufficient consideration for me to make an announcement at this time. It is not the intention to give full powers.

Mr. Pearson said that this would be considered by the people of South Vancouver an unsatisfactory position for them to be placed in. There was, he declared, a decided feeling in the municipality that the reeve and council should have reasonably wide powers and that the administration should be placed in their hands, with the exception of whatever governmental control might be needed to safeguard the bonded indebtedness.

Mr. W. J. Bowser, while agreeing that the government acted rightly in the appointment of a commissioner in 1918, nevertheless felt that the franchise might be given back to the people in a wider form than was apparently proposed. It was only fair that the government should control the future borrowings of the municipality, but otherwise he thought the people of South Vancouver should be put back in the full administration of their local affairs. Under this bill apparently the commissioner and the expensive machinery of his administration would still continue to be maintained at the cost of the taxpayers of South Vancouver. He was very much disappointed to find that the government was not prepared to go further.

Neelands Is Disappointed.
Mr. R. H. Neelands said that he also was disappointed. He had expected something different, and so had the people of South Vancouver. Rather than have this measure, he would prefer to see South Vancouver put back in the category of an unorganized district.

Mr. M. A. Macdonald considered these criticisms unwarranted. There was nothing in the bill to prevent the government giving the reeve and council of South Vancouver full municipal control, with the necessary financial reservations. This was what the Act meant.

Mr. James Ramsay expressed the opinion that the only solution of the problem was to amalgamate South Vancouver with the City of Vancouver.

The bill was given its third reading.

SPEAKER UPSETS PREMIER'S CART

Indemnity Bill Came Within One Minute of Passing Without Discussion

Forced by Objection to Agree to Have the Amendments Printed

(World's Special Service)

VICTORIA, April 1.—An attempt to rush through the amendments to the Constitution Act increasing the sessional indemnity of the members of the legislature and the salaries of the cabinet ministers, was frustrated last night by Mr. Speaker Manson.

The premier, who had the task in hand, was getting along swimmingly. He presented the necessary message from the lieutenant-governor, introduced the bill and had it given its first and second readings as fast as he could offer the motions, and without a hint of objection from anybody. He overdid the thing a bit by asking that the amendments be taken as read, but this was agreed to without difficulty.

The amendments had thus reached the stage of being considered in committee of the whole, without a word having been said to disclose their nature. In another minute they would have been taken as read in the committee and would no doubt have been given their third reading, but Mr. Speaker Manson went over to the premier and pointed out that they had not yet been printed.

Recognizes Defeat.
The premier recognized defeat. He looked sorrowfully at Mr. Speaker and then, with a sigh, he moved that the committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again. This means that the proposed amendments will have to be printed and everybody will have a chance to get a look at them before they are finally made law.

During the afternoon, Mr. Fred Anderson, of Kamloops, offered a suggestion that the salaries of members of the cabinet be graded according to the relative importance of their work.

"Take the attorney-general, for instance," said Mr. Anderson. "He does about ninety per cent of the work in connection with legislation, and is the shock-absorber of the government. The higher bill was just another wild-cat shoved upon his shoulders."

Stands Up for Ferris.
"It is not right for him to administer this department for a measly \$6000, when members of the liquor control board probably will be getting twice as much. If a man is able to hold the position of attorney-general he could easily make three times the salary of that office in private practice. When he leaves office his legal practice is gone and everything is a complete loss for him."

Hon. William Sloan, minister of mines, agreed that the attorney-general should be paid more in view of the importance of his office.

Mr. Bowser laughingly warned Mr. Anderson that he was stirring up trouble when he proposed to re-grade ministers' salaries. Such a re-grading, he feared, would cause a "big-brother."

The premier remarked that he would take the matter into his serious consideration.

More Pay for Legislators.

It is difficult for the ordinary elector to value the services of the members of the legislature. Some may be dear at \$1600, which has been the prevailing indemnity. Others are doubtless cheap at \$2000, to which they have now elevated their salaries. The same comment is applicable to the members of the cabinet.

But to the ordinary man it will appear at least anomalous that a government which, on the plea of extreme poverty, will permit struggling students to be turned from university doors; which will deny the municipalities even sufficient revenue to carry on the ordinary processes of local government; which will view, unmoved, the probability of hospitals being closed for the lack of financial aid; and which knows that in the cities of the province large numbers are in actual want, should gaily increase sessional indemnities by twenty-five per cent, and ministerial salaries correspondingly.

We have already shown that the present government represents only a minority of the electors of the province. In this matter we believe they will represent the view of very few indeed.

MINES ARE TO BE GRANTED ALLOWANCE FOR EXHAUSTION

(World's Special Service)

VICTORIA, April 1.—By an amendment to the Taxation Act, introduced yesterday by the minister of finance, a change of policy is made in connection with the taxation of metalliferous mines. Hitherto such mines have not been entitled to any allowance in respect of exhaustion. In future an allowance "at discretion of the minister" may be made.

The act will also be changed so as to provide that income and property tax returns must be made by the end of March, instead of the end of September. Such taxes will in future become delinquent at the end of June. After that date 5 per cent will be added after the first month and 1 per cent for each succeeding month.

Much Important Work Is Done by Legislators

Moderation Bill Has Overshadowed All Other Activities, But Several Bills Passed Will Have Important Bearing on Future of Province—Financial Position Not Too Bad

(World's Special Service)

VICTORIA, April 2.—So completely have the energies of the legislators and the attention of the public been absorbed by the liquor problem that the other matters which have come before the House during the session have attracted comparatively little notice. Nevertheless, a good deal of important work has been done, some of which is bound to have marked influence on the future of the province. Also, some of the members have improved their repute before the public, while the efforts of others have been less happy.

The financial position of the province has been given a good deal of consideration, and needs it. The minister of finance that \$14,000,000 must be provided to meet expenses of a kind that cannot be avoided, sounds portentous, but is really not dangerous. The minister is not alarmed, particularly at this phase of the situation. Where the actual trouble comes in, is in relation to the capital expenditure and the increase in the debt.

\$4,000,000 for F. G. E.
A measure has just been put through to provide another \$4,000,000 for the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. The hope is that this sum will be sufficient to build the road into Prince George, but there is no guarantee that a further vote will not be required next year. Moreover, \$2,500,000 is to be borrowed for various purposes, including \$400,000 to aid the F. G. Electric in changing its tracks and equipment to conform to the new rule of the road. It is understood that this will be approximately half the total cost, and that the company itself will meet the rest.

Million for Soldier Settlement.
There will be a million dollars spent in connection with soldiers' land settlement, and though this may be regarded as an investment which will ultimately be returned, it is in the meantime a burden which will be provided for by the taxpayer. The rate of interest which the treasury is permitted to pay on loans has been increased from five and a half per cent to six per cent. This, however, does not indicate any weakening of provincial credit, but is merely a reflection of world conditions which are felt here as well as elsewhere.

The financial situation is ill-omitted not only by the expenditures that have been decided upon, but by those that have been postponed or eliminated. Friends of education will be grieved at the refusal to proceed with the erection of buildings for the university. The bill to authorize a loan for this purpose was approved a year ago, but remains a letter on the statute books. The youth of British Columbia are still going in considerable numbers for their training to Eastern Canada or the neighboring states, and apparently this is to be allowed to continue indefinitely. Much has been heard during the session as to further provision for public schools and hospitals. Hon. Dr. MacLean made an effort to put through the suggestion that school trustees be permitted to make an extra levy of one mill per annum for building purposes, thus providing a building fund without the necessity of submitting a bylaw to the ratepayer. The legislature, however, would not agree to this, and a compromise was reached by which this additional levy can only be made with the consent of the municipal council. The practical effect is to leave the problem just where it was, because it is a foregone conclusion that the consent of the council will be unobtainable.

More Help for Hospitals.
On the other hand, the hospitals will probably be in better shape than formerly. They will receive one-half of the amount coming to the municipalities under the new liquor act. This ought to largely relieve them from anxiety, so far as concerns running expenses. In Vancouver, for instance, it is calculated that under this arrangement the hospital will receive \$250,000 a year. As the largest sum the hospital has hitherto received from the city in any one year was \$130,000, it is evident that the situation will be substantially improved. The taking over of Tranquille sanatorium by the government will enable the province to deal adequately with tuberculosis.

The action of the representatives of the people in increasing their own personal incomes and the salaries of the ministers of the crown, will require to be explained. The recipients presumably feel themselves equal to the task of moving their electors that the raise is justifiable.

This salary question had a rather curious inside history. It was first proposed as an amendment to the members to vote for a beer clause in the liquor act. The beer clause disappeared, but the prospect of getting a little more money proved the salaried to be resisted. The discussion of it should be put the floor, but the most important shape has been imparted.

ed, but nobody was willing to suggest anything else that can stand it any better. Most of the proposals put forward were in the nature of a raid on the provincial treasury, against which the premier opposed an obstinate and not always good tempered refusal. The proposal of an arbitrary levy approximating \$15 a head on adult employees was perhaps not meant to be taken altogether at its face value. Very little thought was sufficient to show its collection would be attended with difficulties.

Medical Legislation.
The chiropractors' drugless physicians and optometrists aroused interest by their move to obtain legislation to give them a regular professional standing. All of them got what they wanted, in greater or less measure. As a result of the investigations before the select committee, an optometry bill was put through, which is substantially the same as that of the province of Ontario. Chiropractors and drugless physicians were brought under the provisions of the Medical Act, so that their peculiar theories will be recognized, while at the same time they will be required to show themselves possessed of a reasonable amount of technical training.

No "Blue Sky" Laws.
Three acts were adopted which are of great value though rather dry as to detail. These concern the registration of land titles, and the regulation of companies, including trust companies. To a considerable extent these bills are a modification and rearrangement of existing law but, incidentally, a number of changes were introduced. The attorney-general declined to move to the introduction of what are known as "blue sky" laws for the curbing of illicit company promotion, but he did insert clauses which will give a not-losing investor a better chance of not losing everything.

He also put through several measures designed to carry out the provisions of the peace treaty. These comprise an eight-hour law for all industries and provisions of a rather drastic character with respect to the employment of women and children. These amendments, however, are strictly provisional. They do not come into force unless and until similar statutes are enacted by the other provinces. This matter was correctly described as "up in the air." The Dominion government has sought to evade responsibility by disclaiming jurisdiction. The truth is, that the new social laws are recognized as being loaded politically and no government feels like dealing with them hastily. The attorney-general had rather suddenly passed the buck back to Ottawa where the next move rests with the minister of justice, who is trying to forget about it and may succeed in doing so, if the Labor unions will only consent to let him alone.

Labor Legislation.
Something, though not much, was done here during the session in the way of labor legislation for the amelioration of provincial conditions. Hon. William Sloan put through a measure to secure greater safety in coal mines by strengthening the rules with regard to precautions against gas. He refused, however, to accept the appeal of Mr. Thomas Uphill to allow the miners to appoint outsiders as gas inspectors. This matter comes up almost annually. The miners, rightly or wrongly, are of opinion that the privilege of appointing one of their own number as an inspector is not very valuable, because an employee is necessarily under the control of the company. Their representations on the subject may bear fruit another year, as the minister of mines showed himself inclined to do something towards meeting their wishes if the opposition of the companies does not prove too strong.

Vancouver Bill Delayed.
The Vancouver City bill had a stormy and unfortunate course. It had vigorous and active advocates, but it also had enemies of various sorts. The clauses designed to increase the civic revenue aroused the instinctive opposition of the industries and individuals affected. Apart from this, the attorney-general took the attitude that a codification of this sort must be closely examined by the officials of his department in order to see that no changes in the charter were made inadvertently in the process of rearrangement. Such an

examination could hardly be made during the rush of sessional work and therefore, it had to go over for another year. The taxing clauses were the occasion for several deputations visiting the capital to place their views before the private bills committee and the government. The outcome can hardly be described as entirely satisfactory to anybody, but as things were finally arranged, the city will probably be able to get along without serious detriment.

The process of getting the "moderation" bill through the House was of absorbing interest. Each side played all the politics it knew how, and each side was constantly begging the other to play politics. The net result is a measure as to which there will mean varying opinions. It is plainly going to be, as Mr. R. H. Pooley said, ten per cent law and ninety per cent administration. The general feeling on the subject among the legislators cannot be described as hopeful, but they have done the best they knew how and can only await the outcome. The sentiment in favor of encouraging the sale of beer, as against strong liquor, was really considerably stronger than might be inferred from the final vote of eleven to thirty-four. The determining causes of the action finally taken were two. The members feared that if they departed from the strict terms of the plebiscite for "government control and sale in sealed packages" they would be able to offer no defence on the hustings if the act should prove a failure. In addition to this, they could devise no method by which the sale of beer by glass could be prevented from involving a practical return to the open bar, which has been permanently condemned by the people.

Streak of Independence.
A streak of independence developed among the Liberal members which at times must have made the premier uncomfortable. Mr. David Whiteside, as in the past, showed himself possessed of opinions of his own, and not backward in urging them when he considered the occasion fitting. Mr. Fred Anderson was not always amenable to party discipline. Mr. M. B. Jackson wandered off the range several times. To him was due the amendment to the "moderation" bill, which made the act say exactly what it was supposed to mean on the subject of beer. He was commended vigorously for the amendment to the Provincial Elections Act by which the candidates in Vancouver and Victoria are to be grouped on the ballot according to party affiliations instead of alphabetically. On this point he insisted on a vote being taken, but he obtained no support from other Liberals and found himself for a moment in the un congenial company of Mr. W. J. Bowser.

Mr. Speaker Manson has been a successful presiding officer. He has introduced several changes in procedure which facilitate the transaction of business, and in his decisions he has stuck to the rules without regard to who got hurt.

WANTED DOCTORS TO FILE REPORTS

M. B. Jackson Withdraws His Amendment After Illuminating Discussion

(World's Special Service)

VICTORIA, April 2.—The bill to fix the terms upon which chiropractors and drugless-physicians may practice their profession in British Columbia received its third reading in the House yesterday after being amended so as to strike out toxicology, bacteriology, and minor surgery from the subjects in which they are required to pass an examination, and inserting medical jurisprudence.

An amendment was offered by Mr. M. B. Jackson to the effect that all physicians in the province should be required to keep a permanent record of every diagnosis and of the material facts in each case and to send a copy of the same to the provincial health office. In support of this he remarked that many physicians did not keep up with modern knowledge in connection with their profession and he thought a class of this sort would help to maintain the standard.

Dr. Sutherland, Dr. MacLean and Dr. Rose, all agreed that there was something in his view as to occasional laxity among members of the profession, but they could not see how his proposal would cure the matter. All it would mean would be a great deal of work for the doctors. They thought it would prove impracticable. There were many cases, such as colds and other small matters, in which it would be not worth while, and it would put a great deal of work on the doctors which they wouldn't do. Dr. Sutherland pointed out that there is now an association engaged in the work of standardizing the hospitals of this continent, and records of the kind suggested would be kept in each hospital. This would go a long way towards carrying out the purpose intended by the motion.

After some further discussion the amendment was withdrawn by Mr. Jackson.

B. C. E. R. TO \$400,000

(World's Special Service)

VICTORIA, April 2.—The house last night approved the loan bill, which includes \$400,000 towards aiding the B. C. Electric to change its tracks and equipment to conform to the new rule of the road. Hon. Dr. King stated that the change was estimated to cost the company considerably less than a million. The contribution of the province would be \$0 per cent, and he was in hopes that the \$400,000 would prove more than sufficient.

Flays Increase Totalling \$31,000

Married Employees May be Dismissed to Provide Money, Bowser Asserts

MEASURE IS PASSED

Some Reason for Private Members' Increase, but Not for Cabinet

(World's Special Service.)

VICTORIA, April 2.—A merry ruction was raised in the legislature yesterday by Mr. W. J. Bowser in connection with the proposal to add \$400 per annum to the indemnity of private members and \$1500 to the salary of each member of the government. The vigorous criticism offered by Mr. Bowser brought considerable discomfort to his victims, including all of his own followers, but they faced the music resolutely and put the motion through, despite his expressions of disapproval.

As a consequence, members of the legislature will in future draw \$3000 per session, including the present session. Members of the government will get \$7800 per annum, in addition to their seasonal indemnity, making a total of \$9500. The premier will draw \$11,000.

Special provision is made for Hon. Mrs. Ralph Smith by a clause which says that "every person appointed a member of the executive council without portfolio shall be paid the expenses incurred by him in travelling or otherwise in the discharge of his official duties."

It is perhaps unnecessary to explain that under the Interpretation Act, the word "him" means also "her."

Not Disqualified.

In order to place the matter beyond peradventure, there is a further clause to the effect that "the fact that any person who has been appointed a member of the executive council without portfolio has been paid or is entitled to payment of the expenses incurred by him in travelling or otherwise in the discharge of his official duties, shall not make ineligible that person as a member of the legislative assembly, nor disqualify him to sit and vote in the legislative assembly, whether he is elected while holding such office or otherwise."

Mr. Bowser commenced his argument by stating that he was in the matter he wished to touch upon, that of the proposed increase of salaries of the executive council and also that of allowing travelling expenses to a minister without portfolio, which he referred to as Hon. Mrs. Smith. The leader of the opposition referred to his argument a few days ago, wherein he stated that Mrs. Smith had not been legally appointed to cabinet position and he still maintained this contention. There is apparently a dispute between the Premier and Hon. Mrs. Smith as to her position on the council, the Premier contending that he still holds the presidency of the council and intends holding it.

No Authority.

Quoting from the Constitution Act, Mr. Bowser stated that it allows an executive council of twelve, eight of whom are allowed to be ministers. There is no constitutional authority for this new appointment, he contended, and his colleague, the first member for Vancouver, was still a private member. To overcome this difficulty, the Premier should have resigned the position as president of the council or one of the other ministers vacant a position which would then create a vacancy to which Mrs. Smith could be appointed. Or the Constitution Act could be amended to permit thirteen members to comprise the council. The matter could not be brushed aside. A dangerous precedent had been created which allowed a Premier to call a man in from the street and appoint him to cabinet rank.

Referring to the amendment which called for an increase in salary to cabinet ministers of \$1500 a year, Mr. Bowser referred to the late day of the session when this matter was first broached. The government had no mandate from the people, nor had they been consulted. "We are just fresh from an election," he exclaimed, "and if the premier had thought then of increasing salaries, discussion should have been made." If he had been elected premier, Bowser claimed that it would have been the last thing in his mind to commence raising the salary list and that there was no justification of the cabinet ministers increasing both their salaries and their indemnity. He referred the premier to his statements made to municipal delegations that the province was in a serious financial position and that there was no hope for taxation reduction, in fact, the minister of finance had intimated that taxation might be increased next year.

Get to Work.

"In 1917 you told the representatives of municipalities to go home, put on their overalls and get to work," Bowser, who went on to say that the budget this year had picked up the cost to produce and save. The savings are to be made by an increase of \$31,000

in the expense of running the legislature. The leader of the opposition then referred to the serious plight of the hospitals and schools in the province, stating that a director of the Royal Jubilee Hospital had informed him that unless government aid was furnished, the institution would close its doors. The premier was preparing to reduce the civil service list when married men would possibly be thrown out on the street in order to save sufficient to meet this proposed increase.

Referring to the salaries paid premiers in other provinces in the Dominion, Mr. Bowser stated that Ontario paid \$9000 a year, a province of many millions of people. Quebec pays \$7000 a year and \$2000 indemnity; Manitoba, \$4000 and \$1500 indemnity; Alberta, \$3500 and \$2000 indemnity; and Saskatchewan, \$7500 and \$1800 indemnity.

In respect to the salary of the leader of the opposition, Mr. Bowser thought that perhaps this province pays less than in other provinces, and said: "I want no increase in my salary. This is a very inopportune time to increase salaries." The increase in the indemnity paid to private members, he considered was on a different basis than the members of the cabinet. It had been eight years since any change had taken place and he thought that perhaps the members may be entitled to such an increase in view of the present high cost of living and the hardships gone through during the war.

Up to Standard.

The members were forced to live up to a certain standard and must assume increased costs in transportation when visiting their constituencies. In Ontario private members received \$1900; Quebec, \$2000; Manitoba, \$1500; Alberta, \$2000, and Saskatchewan, \$1800. Mr. Bowser ended his speech by stating that the amendment might be called by some as a clear breach of faith and for that reason he intended to vote against it.

Premier Oliver, in reply to the leader of the opposition, referred to the fact that in 1907, immediately after an election, the Conservative government increased the indemnities from \$300 to \$1200, in 1912 the government increased their salaries as ministers of the crown and in 1913, fresh from an election, the indemnities were further increased to \$1600. The premier went on to explain that from 1911 to 1918 when the Brewster government came into power, the premier drew \$9000 a year in addition to the indemnity. "I am now carrying two departments as well as being premier and also that infernal burden of the P. G. E.," he stated, and went on to ask members of the opposition to "come out of the bushes and explain their position. Let them come out and declare themselves," he stated. "If they don't do it voluntarily, they will be forced to do so," a remark which led Mr. E. H. Pooley to exclaim that he did not think any threats were necessary.

Accept Verdict.

The premier stated that he was willing to accept the verdict of the house and "I have yet to learn that I am inferior to the leader of the opposition."

Mr. Bowser—You have got a good concept of yourself. The Premier—This mandate is demanded by almost all members of the legislature. I lived decently before I was a minister of the crown, and if I stepped out I could still live decently. Premier Oliver demanded his action be the appointment of Mrs. Smith to cabinet rank, declaring that the constitution allowed another member of the council. The premier quoted from the opposite Paul in winding up his speech—"Verily much learning has made me mad." (Laurier.)

Mr. George S. Hanes thought the \$400 increase in the indemnity should be sufficient for the cabinet ministers, and saw no reason for the boost of \$1500 proposed. The premier would receive \$9000 as salary, \$2000 as indemnity and \$2000 for travelling expenses, something private members would not get. He thought it was a proper time to ask the question as to whether the government intended reducing wages of government workmen throughout the province by 75 cents per day.

The question remained unanswered. Mr. E. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, stated that, speaking on behalf of the opposition, other than the leader, they had signed the "round robin" and they intended to stick by their signatures. (Applause.)

Defends Amendment.

Mr. Fred Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, defended the amendment, and also had a certain amount of criticism to level against what he alleged was "deadwood" in the civil service. It was just like the army, he contended, a lot of men fill official positions writing letters to each other. The private members were put to a tremendous amount of expense, and the people knew it. It would be better to pay a decent indemnity. He referred to the premier of British Columbia being faced with far more work than the premier of Ontario, which was an older province and better organized.

Mr. Sam Guthrie, Labor member for Newcastle, stated that he and Mr. E. H. Hanes were perhaps the last to sign the "round robin." He was surprised at the statement made by Mr. Bowser that he recalled the \$150,000 spent in 1912 to crush the coal miners' strike. He was the first consulting the people. He had no apology for accepting the extra \$400.

Mr. Tom Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, created a laugh by stating that he was not one of the last to sign the paper; in fact, he was one of the first, and even now considered himself a "round robin."

The \$1000 of 1915 was far greater than the \$3000 of 1921 when on consideration the present high cost of living. He did not intend to work for nothing. Mr. W. J. Jackson, Liberal member for the Island, claimed Mr. Bowser, in common with all other members of the legislature, was aware of the proposed increase. He charged Mr. Bowser with a gross breach of faith in now opposing the amendment.

The opposition leader demanded from Mr. Jackson a retraction of this charge. He said he had not known that the increase would be made until Wednesday night. Mr. Jackson retracted his statement in part. He said he would have to accept the word of the leader of the opposition, but he was still of the opinion that Mr. Bowser had been fully cognizant of the proposal at the time it was first proposed.

Mr. Bowser was not satisfied with this, but Mr. Jackson would give way no further.

Dr. W. H. Sutherland, speaking as a whip of the Liberal party, said that a "round robin" had been circulated by him, asking the government to bring in this measure. "I handed the whip," he said, "first to the whip of the Conservative party, and the members signed it unanimously except their leader. On this side, also, it was practically unanimously signed. I went to the Labor members and asked them what they would do. They were perfectly in accord in wishing for the increase because, as the member for Newcastle said to me, they realized that their expenses were very much greater than they had expected and they would like to have this increase, although under the circumstances they preferred not to sign it first. The intention was to have it signed by the private members and then put it up to the leaders. After having it signed, the whip of the Conservative party took it to the leader of the opposition."

Mr. Fred Anderson—When? Would Not Sign.

Dr. Sutherland—That was about ten days ago and the impression conveyed to me was that he would not sign it. As a matter of fact we asked for twice as much as we have got. We asked \$2400 for the members and a proportionate increase for the ministers. I was informed that the leader of the opposition would not agree to sign, but that he would not oppose it, either in the house or in the country. I went and stated that fact to the Labor people, and they signed it all except one, the independent (Mr. Hanes), and he said he would not offer any criticism about it. So I was very much surprised yesterday when I had the first intimation that faith had been broken. I took it to the premier and he had more trouble really getting the premier to consent to it than we had with any private member. He finally consented to go half way, and make it a 25 per cent. increase instead of the 50 per cent. that we asked for.

Mr. James H. Schofield, Conservative whip, said: "I wish to corroborate what my honorable friend, the Liberal whip, has said in every particular except as to the leader of the opposition. When we first came down I was approached by members on our own side of the house before I saw the whip of the government, and was asked to endeavor to get an increase of indemnity. On the day I was searching for him he was searching for me with the same object in view. I have no hesitation in accepting full responsibility, and can justify it in my own town and in my own riding and in the house. I did ask the leader of the opposition to sign. I asked him twice and he refused each time. I told the government whip that I thought we could make arrangements with Mr. Bowser. I fell down on that, but I said it in good faith and without intentions of deceiving the government or anybody else."

Mr. M. B. Jackson rose and said that his understanding of that matter had been that the leader of the opposition was a party to the arrangement, but according to the explanation of the whip, this was apparently not correct. "I am very sorry," he continued, "as to what I have said. It was based on a misunderstanding and I tender my best apologies to the leader of the opposition and I trust he will understand it was a misapprehension of the facts."

The question was then put and carried, the only negative vote being that of Mr. Bowser.

HOUSE AMENDS POLL TAX ACT

Only One Levy to be Made—Homesteads Free for 5 Years

VICTORIA, April 2.—The Poll Tax Act is amended by a bill which received its third reading yesterday. The minister of finance explained that when an act was passed a year ago giving municipalities the power to levy a poll-tax of 25 cents, the clause permitting a provincial poll-tax of equal amount to be levied was left untouched. The object of the present bill is to provide that there shall be only one poll-tax and that if it is levied by the municipality it can not be levied also by the province.

Among the amendments to the Taxation Act contained in the bill put through yesterday is one to the effect that the homesteaders shall have freedom from taxation for five years. There is also a provision to levy annually 75 cents per head on cattle and 25 cents per head on sheep brought into the province for pasturing.

The bill to regulate the practice of optometry received its third reading yesterday.

WANTS DETAILS OF P. G. E. COST

W. K. Esling Demands Full Information as to What Has Been Done

Rossland Member Places Number of Questions on the Order Paper

(World's Special Service)

VICTORIA, April 2.—A demand that the government should provide full information in regard to the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway has been made by Mr. Esling, member for Rossland. He takes the position that in view of the government asking for another grant of \$4,000,000 for the P. G. E., the public is entitled to all the details, not only of the disposition of this money, but of what has been done to date. He declares that no such information has been given out.

On March 23 he placed the following questions on the order paper:

1. When the government took over the Pacific Great Eastern Railway on April 23, 1918, what was the net expenditure for which the government became liable, not including any moneys then paid or thereafter payable for release of contractors from railway construction?
2. What sums have been received on account of such release, and into what accounts have they been paid?
3. What further sums are still payable on account of such release, and when are they due?
4. What is the estimated cost of actual construction by the government up to December 31, 1920, and how much of this has been to date actually paid, and out of what funds, to what contractors, and how much to each?
5. What is the most recent date up to which estimates of actual construction during the year 1921 have been received; what is the total amount thereof; how much of this amount has been passed and how much paid on account, and to what contractors and out of what funds?
6. Was the statement made in the house on behalf of the government, on or about March 25, 1920, that the special loan of \$4,000,000 for this railway passed by the house, would complete the railway from Squamish to Prince George and furnish necessary equipment?
7. Was this statement based on an estimate furnished by the chief engineer of the railway department, and were the details of items and costs set out; and what is the date of such estimate?
8. By how much is such estimate now expected to be exceeded, and what is the date of the last estimate?
9. Has the advice or estimate of any other railway engineer of experience and high repute in his profession, sought or had with regard to construction costs?
10. What special reason (if any) is there for believing that the present estimate of cost of completion will be found sufficient?
11. If it is sufficient and the line completed during 1921, what will be the maximum cost of constructing and equipping of line from Squamish to Prince George, and the actual mileage and average cost per mile?
12. What additional sum is estimated to cover interest paid and payable since the government took over the railway up to end of 1921, and what during same period will be the total approximate deficit on operating account?

Not Answered.

The questions were not answered, but Mr. Esling was told to ask for a return, which would probably mean the shelving of the whole matter this session.

On Thursday last the member for Rossland returned to the attack by moving the following resolution:

Whereas the public accounts contain no information as to the construction and operating costs and earnings of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway since the government acquired it three years ago; and whereas that railway is neither more nor less than a highway owned and constructed by the province, the full financial details regarding it should be given in the public accounts, the same as for all other provincial highways, and be subject to the scrutiny of the public accounts committee, and of the railway committee.

And whereas all the accounts, vouchers, etc., of this undertaking are kept in the city of Vancouver instead of being in the railway department in the parliament buildings, whereby the members of the legislature are unable to get full information as to financial affairs of the railway by inquiry at such department;

And whereas it appears that, besides the millions of dollars voted for this railway prior to 1920, a loan of \$4,000,000 more was voted in the session of 1920 upon the assurance that that loan would complete and equip the railway from Squamish to Prince George during that year;

And whereas at the present session of the House it was declared that a further loan of \$4,000,000 was needed for the same purpose, and a loan of \$4,000,000 more was voted, and whereas the amount and purpose has

And whereas at neither the session of last year nor at the present one has the government produced or made any detailed statement or detailed estimate of past costs or of future costs, beyond the said statement that the total cost of the line completed and equipped to Prince George will be at least \$40,000,000, and the legislature has been given no data or proper grounds for believing that the moneys just voted will be sufficient under present construction contracts and supervision to finish the work; notwithstanding that this last amount when spent will bring the cost of the line up to fully 65 or 70 per cent beyond what the railway should cost, for as much as in fact, to nearly \$100,000 per mile, preventing for a generation to come the railway earning enough to pay full interest charges.

And whereas it is highly in the public interest and in the furtherance of a businesslike government that all expenditures made and to be made under government ownership of the railway and all negotiations and financial transactions in connection with same should be subject to public scrutiny;

Therefore be it resolved, that all accounts, vouchers, contracts, etc., which are now kept in the city of Vancouver be prepared and placed on file in the parliament buildings in Victoria, in order that members of the legislature may be in a position to acquire full information as to the financial affairs and management of the railway.

In speaking to his resolution, Mr. Esling said in part:

"I understand that the government has all the railway accounts kept at Vancouver. The result is that members of the House can make no personal inquiry as they otherwise might during the session were the accounts or a fair summary of them kept at the place where the minister himself could keep close tabs upon them, especially when it is remembered that not a single detail of money spent in construction has ever been given to the House. Not only so, but the sums actually paid for construction in 1918, in 1919, in 1920 and subsequently even as lump sums have never been given to the House. Not a single item in the form of estimates has been presented to the House. The actual cost to the end of the year or to the present time for construction by the government has never been given.

"What the government to fear from publicity? It has much to gain from full disclosure of estimates and costs. If these were excessive there are many persons who would inform the government of the fact and enable it to make better terms and reduce costs."

WANTS LAW TO BAR ORIENTALS

Attorney-General Plans to Carry Fight Against Chinese and Japs to Privy Council

(World's Special Service.)

VICTORIA, April 2.—As a preliminary to fighting the question of whether the provincial government has power to forbid the employment of Orientals in connection with provincial public works, the attorney-general yesterday introduced a bill which is entitled "An Act to Validate and Confirm certain orders in council and provisions relating to the employment of persons on crown property."

In 1902 the provincial government in pursuance of the statute, passed an order in council which sets forth "that in all contracts, leases and concessions of whatsoever kind entered into, issued, or made by the government or on behalf of the government, provision be made that no Chinese or Japanese shall be employed in connection therewith."

The appeal court of British Columbia has since declared that this provision is not within the power of the province. The matter will be taken to the supreme court of Canada and no doubt eventually to the privy council. The attorney-general explained to the legislature yesterday that this must be done by a direct action at law and not by a stated case. In an action at law the defendant will avail himself naturally of every possible defence and he might perhaps plead that the provincial order-in-council was not in accordance with the provincial statutes. The object of the bill therefore is to validate the order-in-council so that the clear issue may be raised as to whether the legislature has power to enact laws forbidding the employment of Chinese and Japanese on contracts, leases or concessions from the government.

The attorney-general remarked, incidentally, that he is desirous of getting, if possible, a favorable decision from the supreme court of Canada before taking it across the water.

FARRIS INTRODUCES BILL TO HELP LAWYERS COLLECT

(World's Special Service.)

VICTORIA, April 2.—A bill to aid members of the legal profession in collecting their costs was put through by the attorney-general yesterday. It provides that where a solicitor has been employed to prosecute or defend any cause, he shall have a right to payment of his costs out of the property which has been recovered or preserved through his services. He will not, however, be able to recover against the property if it has passed to a bona fide purchaser for value without notice.

No proceeding for the purpose of realizing or recovering any charge or right arising under any contract shall be taken except after application to the court for directions.

FALL SESSION OF LEGISLATURE IS ANNOUNCED

Premier Makes Statement in the House—May Meet on Monday

TO DISCUSS FINANCES

Session in October or November —"Tired Babies," Says Whiteside

VICTORIA, April 2.—That the next session of the provincial legislature be held late in October or early in November to solve the municipal finance problem, was the unexpected proposal which Premier Oliver laid before the house just before the end of its morning sitting today. The premier's suggestion will be considered at the afternoon sitting.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 2.—Last minute proposals to provide temporary financial relief for the municipalities of British Columbia were urged upon the legislature in its closing hours today by David Whiteside, Liberal member for New Westminster. Appealing to the members not to go home, like tired babies, before the all-important question of municipal finance had been considered, he suggested that they meet over Sunday and come back with clear minds Monday and, forgetting all political animosities, concentrate upon consideration of municipal relief measures.

Mr. Whiteside suggested that the municipalities be granted 50 per cent of the cost of their schools and hospitals expenses. He wished to have five per cent of the revenue from the sale of liquor put into the consolidated revenue fund, and he would amend the Taxation Act so that more than enough money would be provided for all the needs of the municipalities.

VICTORIA, April 2.—The first session of the fifteenth legislature of British Columbia finished its work today. The House assembled at 11 a.m. to clean up the remaining business, previous to having the lieutenant-governor make his speech in the afternoon to give assent to bills and tell the members they were at liberty to go home.

The Vancouver City bill was among those that were introduced, but owing to lack of time, giving it consideration, as a consequence the city will have to get along for at least another year without any increased taxing powers. Mayor Dale and those with him, who have been active in trying to get the bill through, were intensely disappointed at the failure of their efforts, representatives of the interests which have escaped extra taxation were correspondingly pleased.

Legislative Session.

During the discussion of the Vancouver city bill Mr. David Whiteside described its taxation provisions as "the bill dropped and an alternative measure substituted, applicable to all municipalities in the province. 'The trouble,' said he, 'is that we are full of the idea of quitting. If we do without dealing with the financial situation throughout the province, we will have furnished an exhibition of governmental and legislative ineptitude that will be embarrassing to the last degree. I will be really ashamed if I have to go home to my constituency and tell those who are so embarrassed over the municipal situation that we have done nothing more in this legislature than talk about booze for two months.'

Mr. Whiteside then put forward a proposal that the province take the whole revenue from liquor and pay half the cost of schools and hospitals. He also suggested a graded income tax running from five dollars to fifteen dollars, with special care to see that Orientals did not escape. He estimated that such a tax would yield a million dollars. He closed by remarking that the members ought not quit like a lot of tired babies without having their work done.

Mr. H. G. Perry, of Prince George, said the situation of the municipalities was not half as bad as the Union of B. C. Municipalities tried to make out. He was of opinion that they would pass through.

An amendment was inserted in the Public Schools Act to permit the New Westminster board to pay an "extraordinary expenditure" any increase of salaries that may be awarded the teachers by the arbitrators.

The minister of finance stated today that the government could not go to the extent of wiping out arrears of taxes due from returned men but the time for payment of arrears, without interest or penalty, would be extended for another year.

The taxation act was amended by striking out the five per cent penalty for not paying within three months of March 31. The law, however, will continue to impose a one per cent, a month and

OFFER BONUS TO MAJ. RETALLACK

Special Committee Recommends That Former Commissioner be Given \$1875

VICTORIA, April 2.—A bonus of three months' salary, or \$1875, to Major Retallack, former public utilities commissioner, was recommended to the legislature last night by the special committee recently appointed to enquire into his claim.

The report which was submitted by Mr. H. G. Perry deals with the financial transactions of the former public utilities commissioner prior to his appointment, states that while prior to 1919 his financial affairs appear to have been prosperous, in April of that year he was at low ebb; so low, in fact, that he pledged his entire mining interests in security for the payment of a debt to his principal associate, General Stewart.

That the commissioner had a reasonable expectation that the office would continue for a longer period than it actually did, was admitted by the committee, the report going on to state, however, that the one year's tenure of office redounded to his direct financial advantage, and his future prospects are enhanced by virtue of having occupied that responsible position. The committee thinks that adverse financial and industrial conditions would inevitably have overtaken the major, irrespective of his being appointed commissioner.

SOUTH VANCOUVER BILL

Measure Is Intended to Give Municipality Wide Powers.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 2.—The bill to provide for the election of rove and councillors in South Vancouver received its third reading last night, after being amended, so as to provide also for the election of police commissioners and school trustees. The premier assured the house that it is the intention of the government to give the new administration of South Vancouver the widest possible powers, consistent with adequate security for the payment of its bonded debt.

VANCOUVER CITY BILL GIVEN SECOND READING

Premier Oliver Far From Enthusiastic Over Measure

VICTORIA, April 2.—The Vancouver city bill, sadly compressed, received its second reading last night. As it stands now, it gives the city certain extra powers of taxation, but much less than was originally asked for. Even in its new form, the premier's commendation of it to the house was far from enthusiastic. He explained that although he was bringing it before the house, the government was not standing sponsor for the contents of the bill. The taxing powers which it asks for were still very extensive and unusual, and he feared that if they were granted other cities would be along next year asking for similar privileges.

Not Progressive, But Retroactive.

AMONG the minor gems in the brilliant product of legislative effort of the session just closing must be counted the amendment to the School Act which gives a school board power to levy a rate, not exceeding one mill, for extraordinary expenditure if approved by the city or municipal council which has to collect the money.

As originally drafted, the amendment dispensed with the consent of the senior civic partner, the idea being that, since property-owners would authorize money bylaws, they might, by this means, be compelled to furnish from year to year the funds necessary for new construction, at the will of the school trustees. The House, it will be remembered, declined to give the boards a free hand in this respect, and the government, pressing the proposal, suffered a defeat which it elected to ignore.

School boards, therefore, may levy for new work to the extent of one mill if city councils agree. For this concession they will doubtless be duly thankful, since before it was granted, they merely had the right to levy to an unlimited extent on precisely the same terms. Now, apparently, even with the consent of the municipal authorities, they cannot indulge in special expenditures that necessitate an addition greater than one mill to the rate. From their standpoint Dr. MacLean would have done better had he dropped the amendment altogether, rather than have allowed the House to put it on the statute book as finally passed.

NO ACTION ON RETALLACK AID

Special Committee's Report Not Dealt With Before Adjournment

Whiteside's Plea Unheeded—Fall Session Not Definitely Called

(World's Special Service.)
VICTORIA, April 4.—When the legislators on Saturday evening decided to adjourn and go home, there were two or three matters of business left undone, which will therefore have to wait for at least another year. The proposed amendments to the Dentistry Act were allowed to die; Mr. Samuel Guthrie's effort to increase the sums payable to injured workmen and their dependents was completely frustrated. His bill didn't even get printed, an oversight for which Mr. Speaker Manson accepted responsibility, but explained that the printing office had been unable to keep up with the work. Nothing was done with the report of the special committee recommending compensation to Major Retallack for the loss of his position as public utilities commissioner. Mr. H. G. Perry tried to have the matter brought up during the afternoon, but the premier blocked him by a motion to adjourn, which was adopted.

The total sum voted during the session was \$20,678,627. The plea of David Whiteside to start a few days longer and do something financially for the municipalities, fell on deaf ears. The premier's suggestion that the next regular session be called in October or November was not received with enthusiasm. He did not actually withdraw it, but he pointed out that the matter could be decided later by the government according to circumstances. It was 9:40 p.m. when the lieutenant-governor made his appearance to prorogue the house.

In proroguing the House, His Honor said: "Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

In relieving you of the onerous duties of this first session of the fifteenth legislature, it pleases me to express my appreciation of the careful and conscientious manner in which you have given to the various matters submitted for your deliberation.

Among important measures dealt with by you this session is the government control and sale of alcoholic liquors; meets fairly the wishes of the electorate as expressed in the referendum held last year.

The act to ratify the agreement between the British Columbia Anti-Tuberculosis Society and His Majesty the King, for taking over and maintaining the Granville Sanatorium as a provincial institution, marks an important advance in the case of tubercular patients and provides for a greater measure of success in the prevention of this dread disease.

Enactments relating to night employment of women and limiting the hours of work in industrial undertakings, and fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment will meet with general approval.

The act respecting superannuation inaugurates a new departure in providing for the care of public servants who reach the age of retirement. Amendments to and consolidation of Companies Act will render this measure more effective for the control of corporations.

I thank you for the ample provision you have made for the maintenance of public works and institutions throughout the province, and trust that the legislation you have enacted during the session now closing will result in material advancement of industrial, economic and social conditions in British Columbia.

The following is a list of the bills to which the royal assent was given: To amend the "Execution Act"; to amend the "Department of Industries Act"; to amend the "Constitution Act"; to amend the law relating to the devolution of estates in land, and to consolidate and amend the acts relating to the transfer of land, and providing for the registration of titles to land; relating to trust companies; to amend the "Court of Appeal Act"; to amend the "Bills of Sale Act"; to amend the "Assignment of Book Accounts Act"; to provide for government control and sale of alcoholic liquors; to amend the "Marriage Act"; to amend the "Coal Mines Regulation Companies Act"; and certain other enactments relating to communities; to regulate the practice of optometry; relating to the obligations of the corporation of the Township of Richmond in respect of bridges crossing the North Arm of the Fraser River; to amend the "Summary Convictions Act"; respecting certain loans to municipalities in connection with relief of unemployment; to ratify an agreement bearing date the twenty-third day of February, 1921, between the British Columbia Anti-Tuberculosis Society and His Majesty the King; to amend the "Vital Statistics Act"; to amend the "Adoption Act"; to amend the "Better Housing Act"; to amend the "Public Schools Act"; to amend the "Minimum Wage Act"; to amend the "Provincial Elections Act"; concerning the employment of women during the

night; limiting the hours of work in industrial undertakings; fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment; concerning the night work of young persons employed in industry; concerning the employment of women before and after childbirth; respecting the Mission Municipal School District; to amend the "Infants Act"; respecting the Corporation of the City of Port Coquitlam; to amend the "Employment Agencies Act Repeal Act"; to amend the "Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital Act, 1909"; to amend the "Brand Act"; to authorize the leasing of warehouses on the government wharf at Prinos Rupert; to amend the "Tyking Act"; to amend the "Adjustment Act, 1905"; to amend the "Mothers' Pensions Act"; to permit municipally owned cemeteries, crematoriums and mausoleums; to amend the "Anglican Theological College of British Columbia Act, 1912"; relating to the corporation of the City of Victoria; to incorporate the Fernie and Elk River Railway Company; respecting the Corporation of the District of Burnaby; to amend the "District Family Maintenance Act"; to amend the "Special Survey Act"; to amend the "Land Act"; for the protection of breeders of goats; to amend the "Fishing Act"; to amend the "Animals Act"; to amend the "Cultural Act, 1915"; to repeal the "Municipal Control Act"; to amend the "Amusements Tax Act"; to amend the "Poll-tax Act"; to amend the "Legal Professions Act"; to amend the "Attachment of Debts Act"; to amend the "Small Debts Court Act"; to borrow the sum of three million five hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the purposes thereof; to disincorporate the Corporation of the City of Phoenix; respecting superannuation; to validate and confirm certain order-in-council and provisions relating to the employment of persons on crown property; to amend the Corporation of the District of South Vancouver Administration Act; to amend the "War Relief Act"; to amend the "Industrial Operations Damage Compensation Act"; to amend the "Industrial Operations Damage Compensation Act"; to amend the "Supreme Court Act"; to amend the "Succession Duty Act"; to amend the "Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1900"; to amend the "Municipal Act".

(World's Special Service.)
VICTORIA, April 4.—Was an effort made to "put something over" at the last minute, in connection with the Vancouver city bill? In reading the measure Mr. W. J. Bowser came across a clause to the effect that the city council might, by a vote of two-thirds of those present and voting, grant franchises or vary existing franchises, without submitting a bylaw to the electors. This provision was not in the original bill, nor had it been before the private bill committee. Moreover, neither the premier nor the attorney-general knew anything about it. Mr. Bowser announced that he would insist upon the observance of the rule which requires that only one stage in the passage of a bill be taken at any one sitting. This meant that the legislature would have to stay until Monday. However, the matter was finally straightened out with the explanation that no evil design was concealed in the clause, but that it had merely been re-drafted to make its meaning clear. The proviso as it stood in the original bill, permitting minor changes of existing franchises by the council, was restored. The clauses giving the city additional powers of taxation were deleted, and what was left of the bill was then allowed to go through. A resolution was adopted to ensure that the Vancouver city charter shall be practically the first order of business next session. It is to be presented by the clerk on the second day of the session and it is to be treated as having been read a first time, although the private bill committee and read a second time. Moreover, the city is to be "charged no further fees in connection with it."

STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE

Statement in the House

FINANCES

April 2.—Last night's session of the legislature in October

November

April 2.—Last night's session of the legislature in October

November

April 2.—Last night's session of the legislature in October

November

April 2.—Last night's session of the legislature in October

November

April 2.—Last night's session of the legislature in October

November

April 2.—Last night's session of the legislature in October

November

April 2.—Last night's session of the legislature in October

November

April 2.—Last night's session of the legislature in October

November

The Session

THE most ardent supporters of the Government will hardly go the length of congratulating it on its conduct of the first session of the fifteenth legislature of British Columbia. Rather will they felicitate it on having at least drawn the curtain on the spectacle of incompetent muddling displayed at almost every turn since the new House met and before the member for Rossland had aroused the country to the real nature of the Pacific Great Eastern situation.

This is not to say that nothing worth while was done during the two months the House was sitting. There were occasional lucid intervals in the midst of the mad whirl in which, for lack of direction from the proper quarter, the Moderation Bill involved the membership. In one of these the act assuming responsibility for and control of the Tranquille Sanatorium, possibly the most truly valuable piece of legislation enacted, was put on the statute book. A suggestion, originally made in these columns, that where municipalities took advantage of the right to levy poll-tax, that right should be foregone by the government, was adopted at the last minute. Of equal importance to another section of the part of the population which really earns and produces and in the end delivers as its output the annual increment of the wealth of the province, is an amending act which relieves homesteaders of taxation for five years.

Not of present moment, the series of laws passed to implement the terms of the labor charter in the Treaty of Versailles, lays the foundation for industrial reforms of a sweeping nature. Similar action must be taken throughout Canada before they become operative, but we may congratulate the Oliver administration on having done what is within its power to hasten a consummation to which workers the world over wistfully look forward.

WHEN, however, what of real value has been accomplished, is set in the scale against what the province at the opening of the session, not unreasonably expected would be accomplished, the balance is heavily against the government. While the liquor legislation was imperative, and it was realized that its enactment would take up a large amount of time, there were other questions, which, had it not been necessary to bring down a Moderation Bill, would almost inevitably have taken first place, and which it was not unreasonable to expect would be given ample consideration despite the exigency mentioned.

For years the city of Vancouver, the other cities and the municipalities of the province had been pleading for such enlargements of their powers of taxation as would enable them, in some cases to provide and increase to meet growing requirements the services it was incumbent on them to supply; in other cases, to stave off an impending bankruptcy which threatened to make services of any kind impossible. For years the financial relations of the provincial and local authorities in respect of education had called loudly for readjustment. For years the position of the public hospitals had grown steadily worse, notwithstanding such efforts at rehabilitation as the Vancouver drive. In the hope that it would either receive direct assistance from the provincial treasury or amendments of its charter that would enable it to help itself, this city maintained throughout the session and even for some little time before the session began, a municipal delegation, the expenses of which must have run into thousands of dollars. The Union of B. C. Municipalities, acting for the other civic incorporations of the province, also made a very considerable outlay of time and money at Victoria. The hospital directorates likewise journeyed to the capital and, of all the various delegations, alone were able to show some results when they returned home—the promise of half of the half of the profits of the government liquor department, a sum which may be great or small, and which, whether great or small, can have but a fortuitous relation to the needs of the institutions benefited.

For the others the session closes with the assurance that the House will meet again in the fall for the special purpose of considering municipal and educational finances—an admission by the executive of the imperative need of action, and a confession of its own ineptitude in that, having been confronted with these issues session after session, it met the House in February without a policy and without any notion of carrying out a pledge given as early as 1914, that the subject would receive serious attention. The cost to the country of this failure of the government to govern will exceed \$100,000, since the indemnities earned in the special session must be liquidated on the new scale the members of the House voted themselves last week.

BUT while this sum is to be spent in merely finding out what to do for the municipalities and school boards no hope is held out to the University of British Columbia that there will be any amelioration of the hard conditions under which the higher education of the province is carried on.

In this case it is no mere promise of investigation and subsequent consideration that is lacking. Specific pledges were given before the session to the University and to the public, and it is united in its approval of the program of university education within the boundaries of British Columbia as it is shown

thing, that the new buildings at Point Grey would be begun this year and as earnestly as that undertaking a large sum of money was actually spent on clearing and roads.

Silence has again descended on what is left of the forest primeval on the University site. No foundations of halls and assembly rooms are being laid. Hundreds of students as a consequence will be turned from the doors of the institution next fall, and hundreds more each succeeding year. The University has been told flatly that it has nothing to hope for from the present administration now or, inferentially, at any time in the future—a breach of faith one of the most flagrant in the history of a government which has been more liberal with its promises and more niggardly in performance than any with which British Columbia has been blessed since Confederation.

IT is not difficult to put one's finger on the cause of the weakness and ineptness displayed at James Bay. Mr. Oliver found, after the general elections, that his cabinet was hopelessly at variance over the liquor bill. It was charged during the Delta by-election that some sort of agreement had been made as a result of which those who expected to benefit pecuniarily by a wide interpretation of the popular mandate had thrown all the influence and support they could command to the Liberal party in the major campaign. This was denied, of course, and in the nature of things was hardly susceptible of direct proof. Any man of ordinary intelligence, however, who watched the proceedings in the legislature in connection with the bill must have observed much that pointed to an understanding, of knowledge of which, however, some members of both government and House may be freely acquitted.

At all events, there was hopeless division in the cabinet itself on a question in which the brewing interests were vitally concerned, and Mr. Oliver, in the face of this dissension, elected to decline responsibility for the bill as far as possible. In the event, he endeavored to go farther than was constitutionally possible, but was ultimately compelled to admit that the government must stand behind the bill, although cabinet ministers might vote against each other on clauses that involved fundamental principles.

Had the premier taken a different course, the course incumbent on him as leader of the government, had he insisted on presenting a measure supported, however reluctantly, by all his colleagues or accepting their resignations; had he caucused the bill with his own supporters, his own flat behind it, the Moderation Act would have been passed in as many days as it actually took weeks, and the business which has now to be done in a special session could have been taken up and dealt with adequately before prorogation.

TUE

V
us
sp
Fi
wa
no
Ni
T
ber
mat
uau
in
ch
plac
ber
of
com
lars
side
pic
and
In
was
Wit
gov
ther
ed
a
the
Com
ced
thro
"Mr
Leg
"I
secc
I ar
by
sion
sem
"I
has
dtk
latic
exte
enuc
A
ag
de
re
mad
fic
Tina
Sess
adeq
line
"y
fess
with
vinci
par
sied
cons
"E
gatio
meas
tend
of L