

**OCT**

**1921**

## "DOC" SLATED TO BE OUSTED FROM BOARD

Minister at Victoria Says  
Doctor Will Be Removed  
at Early Date

### FIRST CAUCUS OF SESSION TOMORROW

Old Political Heads Predict  
Fireworks Before Sitting  
Has Progressed Far

VICTORIA, Oct. 17.—It was decided over a week ago that Dr. A. R. Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, would have to go because the Government is determined to see to it that there shall be no suspicion of trappers in the northern part of the province not receiving the best possible treatment, one of the cabinet ministers said today.

Charges in connection with the board's dealings in beaver pelts were discussed here before the matter got into the coast newspapers.

First government caucus set for Tuesday morning before the opening of the house is looked forward to with interest, as leaders of the party are anxious to get some indication of the attitude of certain members. Since David Whiteside, M.P.P. for New Westminster, announced that he would leave the government benches and become an independent member, because of his opposition to the government's F.G.E. policy, there has been concern over the attitude of some others.

#### UNIONISTS HOLD OUT

The refusal of A. D. Paterson, M.P. for Delta, to second the reply to the speech from the throne, which will be moved by J. B. Clearihue, M.P.P. of Victoria, has started a flood of gossip in political circles here. Mr. Paterson has privately been expressing independent views lately and is very close to the group of Liberal Unionists here led by Alderman Sangster who have announced their refusal to return to the Liberal organization to support the Liberal nominee in the federal election and have been somewhat enraged by attacks made on them by provincial government speakers.

Overtures have been made to the Rev. Thomas Menzies, M. P. P. for Comox, sitting in the house as an Independent Liberal, to join the government caucus, but Mr. Menzies rejected the offer, saying that he was prepared to take an even more independent stand, although he believed in the premier personally.

As things are, it is not known where Mr. Menzies will take his stand. Through the strength of his personal following in Comox he has upset the Liberal organization there which recently nominated William Marchant as its candidate for the federal election, and has called another convention of Liberals and Progressives at Courtenay on Oct. 29. Mr. Menzies says he will not run for the Dominion House at the present time as he desires to stay in Victoria. To carry his favor here the government, with its small and diminished majority, is willing to make many sacrifices.

#### FERRY IS COURTED

H. G. Perry, M. P. P. for Port George, also returns to Victoria a much respected and courted man. It is said that Mr. Perry is not really anxious to go to Ottawa at the present time, but he jumped at the recent offer of nomination from the Cariboo to increase his prestige at Victoria by throwing fear into government ranks which are not anxious to lose another supporter and open another seat. Mr. Perry has much that he demands the government should give attention to.

Old political heads who have been gathering around the corridors and hotels here during the last couple of days declare that although the session may go along smoothly for the first couple of weeks, there will be fireworks before it is half through.

## Tax of 1 Per Cent on All Incomes Now Proposed

(Special to The Vancouver Sun)

VICTORIA, Oct. 18.—The Oliver Government must raise millions by new levies. Financial affairs of the province have reached a crisis. The Provincial Government must raise an enormous sum of money, probably \$3,000,000 by new taxes in order to carry on through the current year.

Members of the Legislature are being canvassed and urged to support a policy of new taxation as an absolute necessity. Proposed new taxes are being kept secret, but it is probable every class of property and income in the province must be subjected to a new and heavy burden.

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 17.—The first flurry of the session took place this afternoon and evening in the Parliamentary corridors and hotel lobbies when the early contingent of members arriving from all parts of the Province learned that one of the proposed reforms in the Taxation Act to be brought down at the session which opens tomorrow is a one per cent tax on all incomes without any exemption on incomes below the stipulated minimum which is now \$1200 a year. This tax in addition to the graded income levies now in effect it is estimated would bring in considerable extra revenue. It is suggested in connection with its introduction that the present poll tax be abolished. This tax is paid by all persons who do not pay other taxes.

Members from rural constituencies tonight declared that they are opposed to any such one per cent levy as it would hit small landholders who are now pioneering and trying to get themselves established. Many of these men, the members pointed out have a cash income of only several hundred dollars a year and are thus exempted from the present income tax.

It is understood that the talk about the new tax has been started by way of testing out the members before the proposal is actually introduced into the house.

At the same time as this talk was spreading a flood of protests started to come in from retail merchants throughout the Province against the proposal to aid the municipalities by handing over to them the personal property tax. This tax is at present collected in place of income tax where it comes to a larger sum than the income tax. Retailers fear that this burden of this change will fall on them and that it may be subject to abuse.

## Lieutenant-Governor Will Open Legislature Today

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 17.—Lieutenant-Governor Nichol, in Royal Windsor uniform, cocked hat and sword, and greeted on his arrival at the parliament buildings by a guard of honor from the Princess Patricia regiment and an artillery salute, will open the second session of the fifteenth legislature of B. C. at 3 o'clock this afternoon. It is the first Fall session British Columbia has had.

On the floor of the house, when he reads the speech from the throne, there will be, besides the members, relatives and friends of the members, representatives of the army and navy, the bench and official life of B. C. to the number of 295.

With the defection of David Whiteside, M.P.P. of New Westminster government forces behind Premier Oliver will be reduced to a majority of two. There are now 24 Government supporters, 14 Conservative opposition, under W. J. Bowser, K.C., and eight independents of various kinds. The forty-seventh member of the house is Speaker Manson. One supporter from both sides will be absent during the greater part of the session, as M. A. Macdonald of Vancouver and Dr. Rose of Nelson are out as candidates in the Dominion election.

Besides the question of aid to municipalities, revision of the Taxation Act, proposals for the sale of beer by the glass in hotels will come up. It was said today that the measure to give local option to each community in this matter will be introduced by a private member.

Consolidation of the Vancouver charter, which was up at last session of the house, is already on the order paper for second reading as soon as the oratory on the reply to the speech from the throne subsides. The bill, since the close of last session, has been gone over by legal authorities with the result that charges are already being made by members that it has been "gutted" by a Vancouver municipal political faction with the object of ousting George McCrossan, Vancouver city counsel, who has fallen foul of this faction.

Joseph B. Clearihue of Victoria, on Wednesday, will move the reply to the speech from the throne. Up until a late hour tonight no success was reported in efforts to get a member from one of the distant constituencies to second the reply, although several have been tried. If all others fail the duty may be placed on the shoulders of James Ramsay of Vancouver.

# BREAKERS AHEAD FOR LEGISLATURE

### Many Problems Looming Up to Concern Provincial Government

VICTORIA, Oct. 18.—In the presence of a distinguished and representative gathering which completely filled the floor of the chamber and the public and other galleries, Lieutenant-Governor Walter C. Nichol formally opened the legislature this afternoon at 3:10 o'clock.

As His Honor entered the chamber amid the boom of a salute of fifteen guns fired by a squad of garrison artillery at Work Point, across the harbor, the chamber presented an animated appearance.

The ceremony was brief, occupying less than half an hour.

#### SEVEN MEMBERS ABSENT

Of the 47 members of the house, seven were absent—Dr. Sutherland, Revelstoke; M. A. MacDonald and Captain Ian MacKenzie, Vancouver; W. A. MacKenzie, Similkameen; David Whiteside, New Westminster, and R. H. Pooley, Esquimalt.

Lieut.-Governor Nichol was met at the main entrance to the parliament buildings by a military guard from the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, under Major Clark, M.C. Attired in his full Windsor uniform, he passed along the main corridors lined with naval and military representatives and was met at the speaker's dais by Sergeant-at-arms Patrick O'Hara, holding the mace. The Lieutenant-Governor was accompanied by his private secretary, H. J. S. Muskett, and his military aide, Capt. Carew Martin, M.C.

The speech from the throne was brief and was read by His Honor in distinct tones. Concluding the reading, His Honor withdrew and Speaker Manson took his chair.

Prayers were read by Rev. W. D. Spence, pastor of the First Congregational Church, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, which was recited by the assemblage.

#### PRESENTS ACCOUNTS

Routine business was then proceeded with, Premier Oliver presenting resolutions providing for the printing of the votes and proceedings.

Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, presented the public accounts for the fiscal year ended March 31 last, and the premier submitted a statement showing the financial status of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway up to June 30, 1921, and a supplementary statement covering loans up to September 30 last.

Attorney-General J. W. deB. Farris introduced a bill to amend the Summary Convictions Act, providing that where a corporation is found guilty of an offence calling for punishment with imprisonment, it may instead be fined.

#### MET IN CAUCUS

The house adjourned until 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Both parties held lengthy caucuses following the opening session.

J. B. Clearhue, Victoria, will move the address in reply to the speech from the throne. A. D. Patterson, Delta, will second it.

With M. A. MacDonald's resignation literally, if not actually, in the hands of the government, grave murmurings emanating from the department of which Doctor Baker is chief; the support of Fred Perry a very uncertain quantity; the Hon. Mary Ellen on hand to receive her portfolio, and other factions ready to raise a rumpus if she gets it, and the shadows of chagrin on the government temple following the premier being awarded two-bits damages in the Dolly Varden case, Buckworth's one buck's worth in his case and Charlie Campbell, the judicial blue print—things are rather interesting.

In fact, one political prophet, who has shown in the past that he holds his thumb pretty close to the party pulse, confided tonight that he actually believes the government will not get through the session intact.

# FARRIS DEFENDS WAREHOUSE DEAL IN LEGISLATURE

### "Honest John" Shifts Responsibility for Entire Scandal Upon Attorney-General— Moves for All Papers When Mrs. Smith Produces Telegram—Says House Members Must Be Jury

(Special to The Vancouver Sun)

VICTORIA, Oct. 19.—Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, attorney-general, today, in the Legislature, questioned the finding of the special judge and jury which decided the libel suit arising out of the purchase of the liquor warehouse on Beatty Street by the British Columbia Liquor Control Board.

"I do not admit that there was any finding of wrong doing, either on the part of myself or any member of the Legislature in the case in question," stated the Attorney-General.

Mr. Farris read to the house a telegram received yesterday morning by the Hon. Mary Ellen Smith, a member of the government, from The Vancouver Sun. The telegram, copies of which were received by other Vancouver members, read as follows:

Regarding published charges of misappropriation of sixty-seven thousand five hundred dollars of public monies on Campbell Warehouse deal and in view of finding of a judge and special jury last night regarding this matter, please wire us this afternoon whether or not you are still a supporter of the Oliver cabinet. This request along with your answer or refusal to answer will be published in tomorrow morning's Sun for benefit of people who elected you to office.

Vancouver Sun

"I do not admit there was any finding of wrong doing either on the part of myself or any members of the legislature," repeated the attorney-general.

He challenged anyone to produce evidence which would in any way reflect "upon my honor or that of anyone associated with the government."

#### DEFENDS \$150,000 DEAL

Defence of the warehouse was the startling feature of the proceedings in the legislature yesterday.

Evidence given before a judge and jury in the libel action launched by Charles E. Campbell against The Sun was not discussed by the attorney-general at any length.

Charges that there had been misappropriation of \$67,500 of public money in the Campbell warehouse deal he said the government was prepared to meet. He made no reference to the "Dear Wallace" I hope there will be no hitch letter," sent to him by Campbell before the big liquor warehouse deal went through.

#### MOVES FOR PAPERS

"In view of the widespread publicity given to the case and the fact that evidence regarding the transaction gave every phase of the question in its true light, I move that the clerk of the House be instructed to procure three copies of the entire proceedings so that the members may become possessed of all the facts and thereby become a jury to weigh the case to their own satisfaction."

Since the opening of the legislature the outcome of the libel action has been the one topic of discussion in the hotels and corridors of the legislature.

The \$150,000 deal has startled even the legislators who are members of the Liberal party. Up country members are particularly anxious to see the guilty parties dealt with, whether they are members of the government, high officials of the party or private citizens.

The attorney-general in opening his defence to the charges of misappropriation of the \$67,500 on the liquor warehouse deal spoke to a question of privilege.

#### DISCUSSES CHARGES

Mr. Farris said: "The alleged libel was not supported by innuendo. The innuendo could not be accepted as libel. I do not admit there was any finding of wrong doing, either on the part of myself or any member of the legislature in the Campbell warehouse case."

In bringing the warehouse scandal before the Legislature, Hon. Mr. Farris is said to be making the first step in defence of his participation in the deal.

# ASK FOR REMOVAL OF PERSONAL TAX

### Delegation to the Legislature Will Firmly Voice Its Opposition

VICTORIA, Oct. 19.—Joseph B. Clearhue, Victoria, and A. D. Patterson, Delta, were the speakers at this afternoon's session of the Legislature. Both speeches were brief and the House adjourned after sitting less than an hour and 30 minutes.

Mr. Clearhue advocated construction of a link to connect the P. C. E. with the G. P. R. at Ashcroft, advocated extension of the income tax to reach persons now free from the levy, and urged the necessity of action to relieve municipalities of the taxes on land.

Hon. W. J. Bowser, leader of the opposition, filed a resolution calling for the appointment of a select committee to enquire into the administration of the Liquor Control Act.

#### OPPOSE TAX LEVY

Representatives of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver Board of Trade and Canadian Manufacturers' Association will hold a conference tomorrow morning with Premier John Oliver and Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, to urge the repeal of the personal property tax and the elimination of this levy from any legislation that may be contemplated for the consideration of this session of the House.

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Premier Oliver, following the verdict of the jury before which the libel action was tried, put the entire matter upon the shoulders of the attorney-general.

"My hands are clean," is said to be the attitude of the premier. "If any one goes, it's Farris. It's up to him."

**WITNESS FOR GOVERNMENT**

Hon. John Oliver stoutly supported the government in the warehouse case. He was called by Mr. Campbell, the plaintiff in the libel action, and while denying responsibility, said in evidence that "the \$150,000 price was

a fair price if the rentals paid before the deal went through were fair."

**SHORT SITTING**

With the opposition guns primed for the initial bombardment against the government forces and said government ready to face any issues that may be set, the paths to political glory at the present session the actual battle of the legislative assembly now convened, is carded to open at 2:30 this afternoon.

Today's sitting was of short duration and aside from the reply to the speech from the throne which was moved by J. B. Clearihue, of Victoria, and seconded by Alex. D. Patterson, Delta, was featured by an appeal from Attorney-General Farris to the members of the government to study well the evidence of the Cromie-Campbell libel suit and to appoint themselves a jury to draw their own conclusions on the case rather than accept that of the trial jury.

**MAJOR BURDE BUSY**

It was Major Burde that opened the festivities, peaceful as they were, by arising to a point of privilege and quoting a speech that Speaker Manson is supposed to have made at Prince Rupert, where in he had told the electors there that there were too many members in the house that insisted on talking without saying anything and that any constituency was ill-advised in sending any but a party man to the legislature, for independents were excluded from party caucuses.

Major Burde emphatically intimated that so far as he was concerned that he would be accorded the freedom of speech and that as an independent he had certain and important duties to perform at the present session and that he intended to perform them without any interference.

Speaker Manson assured the member from Alberni that he would be given an equitable hearing.

Then the attorney-general arose to his question of privileges. The reply to the speech from the throne by Mr. Clearihue was received as a matter of course, and the debate on the same on motion of Colonel Fred Lister, Kaslo, was adjourned until tomorrow afternoon.

**OPPOSITION PRIMED**

W. J. Bowser, leader of the opposition, when asked tonight how many members of his party would participate in the debate, replied, "Every one of them."

Mr. Bowser filed a notice of motion this afternoon calling for a thorough investigation of the operations of the liquor control board.

Speaker Manson sent a note to Mr. Bowser seeking conference on the notice which the father of the motion saw fit to refuse. Mr. Manson intimated that the motion was either wholly or in part contrary to the rules of procedure and later in the evening said he would refuse to accept it in its present form.

Mr. Bowser on being informed of this said he would call a show-down.

The motion was to have come before the house on Monday. Unless the technicality is adjusted before the house convenes today it is probable that the item will be brought to the attention of the assembly this afternoon.

**LITTLE LEGISLATION**

That Premier Oliver has little if any legislation actually ready to bring before the house was admitted in government circles here tonight.

Should the debate on the reply to the speech from the throne be finished this week there would be naught for the members assembled to do but sit around and twiddle their thumbs until the business to be brought before the house was trotted out for discussion. This despite the fact that Premier Oliver today requested that all members who intended to participate in the debate make it short and snappy.

# REVENUE OF PROVINCE IS \$15,219,264

**Expenditure for the Year Is Greatly in Excess of Estimate**

**DEBT CHARGES ARE EXTREMELY HEAVY**

**Profits From Sale of Liquor Under Prohibition Act \$222,000**

(Special Dispatch to The Vancouver Sun)

**T**HE total revenue of the province of British Columbia for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1921, as shown by "Public Accounts," a voluminous document tabled in the Legislature by Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, was \$15,219,264. This was an increase over the total estimated revenue of \$12,410,019.

The total expenditure on current account, according to the same document, for the year was \$15,236,931, leaving a deficit of \$17,667 on current account. The total expenditures for the year were \$15,626,580.95 (charged to income). The total expenditure exceeded the estimated expenditure by \$2,216,007.65.

The principal items in the detailed accounts of revenue and expenditure are as follows:

**EXCEEDED ESTIMATE**

Agriculture	39,167.68
Attorney-general	1,723,203.16
Education	35,561.13
Finance	8,631,827.62
Fisheries	35,326.05
Labor	23,102.30
Lands	3,365,130.21
Mines	70,487.24
Provincial Secretary	328,263.08
Public works	72,728.38
Railways	50,582.55
Private bills fees	3,655.00

The total expenditures for the year were \$19,626,630.95 (charged to income). Of this amount \$15,236,931.35 was expended on current account and \$4,389,749.60 was on capital account (charged to income). The total expenditure exceeded the estimated expenditure by \$2,216,007.65. Full details of the expenditures are set out in several hundred pages of the volume.

The administration of the department of education cost the province during the year ending March 31 last \$3,076,944.35; department of agriculture \$332,866.71; public debt \$2,222,129.12; department of attorney-general \$1,564,654; department of lands \$1,307,951; department of public works \$2,897,588.71; department of railways \$144,612.08; department of provincial secretary \$2,216,013.60; department of mines \$299,956.46; department of labor \$176,998.24; department of industries \$16,476.16; department of fisheries \$15,672.50; department of finance \$228,928.55; premier's office, \$12,633.59. The cost of legislation during the year was \$124,768.27.

**PRINCIPAL ITEMS**

The principal items in the details of revenue are: Game licenses \$134,150 (increase over amount estimated, \$14,000); land registry fees, \$412,576 (increase \$62,576); motor traffic fees \$582,032 (decrease \$68,000); profit on liquor sold under prohibition act, \$222,526 (increase \$197,526); amusements ticket tax, \$346,870 (increase \$66,870). Close figuring between revenue received and that estimated is shown in the income tax figures, which are \$2,995,973, as against estimates of \$2,000,000. Real property land tax brought \$1,046,343, and wild, coal and timber lands \$861,811, as against respectively estimates of \$1,116,000 and \$980,000. Survey fees and sale of maps produced \$24,071 (estimate \$10,000); timber leases, \$75,698 (estimate \$65,000); timber licenses, \$1,929,542 (estimate \$2,200,000); timber sales, \$290,236 (estimate \$350,000); timber royalties, \$981,557 (estimate \$1,075,000); mining receipts were \$104,272 as against \$100,000.

The total expense of the Vancouver agency is shown to be \$105,312, made up of salaries, \$72,332, and expenses, \$32,980. Mothers' pensions, which are for the first year of operation, totalled \$284,454, of which the sum of \$273,574 was expended on pensions.

## Editorial

### CONSTITUTIONAL ACTION IMPERATIVE

Months ago the Vancouver Sun made definite charges imputing to the Oliver Government malfeasance in office.

Answering these charges Premier John Oliver, speaking to the electors at White Rock, said the charges could not possibly be true, because, if true, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor would have been bound to take action. The fact that the Lieutenant-Governor had taken no action, proved, as the Premier argued, there was nothing in the charges, though he conveniently forgot to mention that no opportunity had at that time been afforded His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to officially review the matter.

These charges have now been dealt with by the Supreme Court of British Columbia and that tribunal, after full investigation and argument, has by verdict and judgment, decided the charges true; public money has been misappropriated; there has been malfeasance in office.

We invoke Premier Oliver's own statement of constitutional necessity. The charges are true and the Lieutenant-Governor must act. There must be a change of administration at Victoria to get back to honest government. The electors of British Columbia have a right to expect and demand from the Lieutenant-Governor prompt and effective action.

# GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE DENOUNCED

## Esquimalt Member Says Cabinet Taxing Industry Out of Existence

## PAYING FOR JOY RIDES FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS

## Opposition Liquor Resolution Rejected by Speaker; Laid Over for Present

(Special Dispatch to The Vancouver Sun)

**VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 20.**—The debate on the reply to the speech from the throne is on. Col. Fred Lister, Kaslo, Independent, started it, Bert Kerwin, Government supporter from Atlin, followed, and R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, continued.

Pooley's speech racked the Government and their reckless methods of expenditure. His denunciations revolved around the expressed intentions on the part of the Government to introduce a bill for increased taxation.

"If the government ministers would practice the economy they preached during the last campaign there would not be any need for the abolishment of exemptions on incomes," he said.

"The Province is hide-bound in taxation right now," he continued. "In fact they are taxing industries out of existence. They invite capital to come here and then chop away the industries to a point of intolerance."

### PAYS 15 TAXES

"The canning industry in my district pays 15 different taxes," Mr. Pooley enumerated as follows: Foreshore tax, provincial and federal trap tax; provincial and federal catch tax, the first being one-half cent per fish and the Dominion assessment, one dollar a thousand; provincial and federal case taxes; mild cure tax; income taxes to both governments; sale taxes, and workmen's compensation tax.

"This particular company of which I speak pays \$3500 in taxes annually; on the other side of the line they would pay \$150, that's why I claim the government is taxing industry out of existence."

"I suppose they need this money to compensate some more high-salaried officials."

"Right now they are planning to create a new post, that of fire marshal. It would be interesting to know what salary this august person will receive, in any event it is a pretty safe bet that he will be a strong government supporter."

### RUNNING RIOT

"Or perhaps they need more money to pay travelling expenses for Doc Baker, who last year used \$1880.01 of the government money in 'travelling around.'"

"They bought a car two years ago for Baker and now they are going to buy him another one."

"The government is running riot—paying for joy rides for such fellows as Doctor Baker. And again, there is a chance that money is needed to develop Stuart Henderson's mineral claims. Right here I would like to ask the Minister of Mines how his friend Henderson is? Is he well? Is he fat? Is he being well cared for?"

"The last time I saw him he was very well dressed and looked quite wealthy. Perhaps Charlie Campbell has a garage that he wants to sell as well as his warehouse—if he hasn't had his fill."

"The whole thing stinks in the nostrils of the public. Altogether likely some cabinet minister would like to make a joy-ride to Japan or Timbuctoo. I notice the Minister of Lands has just returned from a tour of Europe, including Norway and Sweden. A three-cent stamp would have procured all the information that he was able to get."

"We've got inspectors of typewriters, inspectors of cash registers—"

At this point it was necessary for Speaker Manson to call the gallery to order. When the ripple of hilarity had subsided, Mr. Pooley again went to bat.

### FULL OF LABEL SUITS

"The Minister of Lands has a pipit dream on an immigration scheme. 'What have we got to offer the poor devil when he gets here?' he asked. 'If he goes out to Saanich and grows one onion some cabinet minister comes along in a limousine and takes it from him.'"

"The Minister of Lands has been travelling in Europe at the government's expense studying how to extract heat from a snowball to roast chestnuts. We have a B. C. house in London where they preach the gospel of British Columbia to heathen Britshers. Yet they find it necessary to send ministers over there to help them and they come back fat and rosy. They get the benefits and the people pay more taxes."

"Perhaps the member from Fort George can enlighten us on the Doctor Baker automobile wreck incident. At this point Mr. Pooley injected a remark acknowledging that he had better be careful of what he said. The woods are full of label suits these days and it behooves one to watch their step."

"I understand there is a movement on foot now that the government will not hold a session next year."

"What a walloping time they will have, 15 months without having to report on their stewardship."

"I can see Doc Baker and Stuart Henderson right now on one of their famous 'filibustering joy-rides.'"

### "CALLED" PREMIER

During the course of R. H. Pooley's attack on the government this afternoon Premier Oliver was drawn into the first session of crossfire.

Mr. Pooley was referring to the fact that the government had last session increased the indemnity for members from \$1500 to \$2000 and on the same day had reduced the wages of road employees.

The member for Esquimalt charged that the government had effected the wage reduction of employees secretly and with deliberate intent of keeping it quiet.

Premier Oliver denied the imputation and referred to the journal, contending that such a question had not been asked, pointing out that there are right and wrong ways to obtain information.

"Simply hurling some questions across the floor cannot be accepted as parliamentary procedure," he said.

Whereupon Mr. Pooley referred to a newspaper report, quoting George S. Hanes, member from North Vancouver, who had arisen and directed the question to Dr. King and the premier.

Then Mr. Hanes got up and "called" the premier, reminding him that both the Hon. John Oliver and the Hon. Dr. King had remained mute when he had queried them on the subject.

Mr. Hanes' "call" was evidently conclusive, for the argument closed so far as the house was concerned, although it was a live topic of conversation in the corridors following adjournment.

### LIQUOR MOTION REJECTED

The opposition notice of motion for a thorough investigation of the operation of the Liquor Board was this afternoon formally rejected when Speaker Manson arose just before adjournment and referred to the notice as follows:

"Yesterday after the adjournment of the house, there came to my notice a proposed notice of motion in the name of the honorable the leader of the opposition. In view of its contents I felt it my duty to give it my most serious consideration as to its compliance with proper parliamentary procedure."

"Only under special and serious circumstances do I think that I should withhold from the notice paper proposed notices, it being after all, the prerogative of the house in the last resort to pass upon proposed motions. But where the practice is being seriously contravened and opportunity does not offer to bring the matter to the attention of the house I feel it to be the duty of your speaker to withhold from the notice paper, notices of such a character."

### GRAVE ALLEGATIONS

"In this case grave allegations were contained which I do not feel should be permitted to appear in the notice paper without the knowledge and the approval of the house. I am, therefore, taking the earliest opportunity of bringing the matter to the attention of the house with an expression of my views. It is accepted without question that imputations of wrong-doing on the part of ministers of the crown or private members, or improper conduct or wrong motives can not be made in debate. The proposed notice of motion not only imputes but asserts in the preamble grave misconduct on the part of ministers. Very manifestly the house could not possibly agree to the motion which concludes with a request for a select committee to enquire into the truth of the allegations, because if the house were to do so it would be asserting that to be true which it proposed to enquire into. The proposed motion is, in my opinion, a contradiction and can not be permitted in that form."

On the other hand, the conduct of the government in its administration of the affairs is subject to enquiry by this house. It is one of the privileges of the house that it should enquire, and the matter raised by the proposed motion is, I think, distinctly one of privilege and the end desired by the honorable member, namely, an enquiry may be fairly attained in either of two ways: (a) By a simple motion without preamble for a select committee to enquire into certain matters as was done in the case of the enquiry into the Kalien Island purchase; (b) By the honorable member declaring from his seat that he is credibly informed and believes that he is able to prove by satisfactory evidence that certain facts are true, followed by a simple motion for a select committee, as was done in what is commonly known as the McGreevy Enquiry in the Canadian House."

### MATTER LEFT OVER

Br. Bowser, in reply, asked that the subject be left over until the next sitting of the house. Later, he announced that he will confer with the Speaker in an effort to have the notice accepted in its present form with a few alterations.

"I can not do that, then I shall draft a new one, but I am not going to deviate from the context of the thing so far as the allegations are concerned."

"The premier intimated this afternoon that he welcomed any legitimate investigation and suggested that I take the responsibility of it."

### BROKEN PLEDGES

Col. Fred Lister, Kaslo riding, this afternoon unleashed a tirade of criticism against the broken pledges of the Oliver government in respect to the soldiers' settlement programme.

"I admit the scheme is one of the best ever devised," continued Mr. Lister, "but it has been spoiled by gross mismanagement. Apparently they have not realized the importance of the situation, for they have undertaken a task without having deliberated on the project, which in its present state is an utter failure."

"They continue to talk of inter-provincial highways, but there is not a word of roads for farmers. Around Creston there are men who have gone on the land, cleared, planted trees and grown fruit and have been unable to market their crop for the simple reason they had no road facilities. At Camp Lister, near Creston, returned soldiers who took advantage of the government's offer of re-establishment, have been forced to quit their places and seek employment to provide the necessities of life for their families. Meanwhile the small trees in the new orchards have been left to the mercy of pests."

"As an illustration of the manner of assistance the government is offering these returned men, they are selling these boys stumping powder at twelve dollars a case, while firms in that line of business have quoted a rate as low as \$9.35, which, with the returned soldier rebate from the government of \$7.75, would make the price \$1.60."

Col. Lister also pointed out on the patronage system of running the practice of the government dealing only with government supporters.

"I think that the purchase as made by the government of all communities entailing the distribution of public funds, should be equally divided among the dealers of that locality, regardless of their political leanings," he said, in conclusion.

# ATTORNEY-GEN'L. ASKED TO EXPLAIN

## Motion Filed for Information as to Conservation Board

(Special Dispatch to The Vancouver Sun)

**VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 20.**—Attorney-General J. W. deB. Farris is slated to come under the guns of enquiry on Monday next when he will be asked to explain certain and several transactions in the operation of the Game Conservation Board. The notice of motion was filed by Mr. H. G. Perry of Fort George and was issued late tonight.

Mr. Perry seeks information on the buying, selling, authority, organization and inside stuff regarding the traffic in beaver pelts.

Doctor Baker arrived at the capital this afternoon and when queried regarding the allegations of maladministration in his department, declared that he was ready, willing and anxious to entertain all and any enquiries or investigations that might be instituted.

Mr. George S. Hanes, North Vancouver, is also primed to participate in the showdown, according to the notice of motion.

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# ATTACKS ON CABINET FOR HIDING ACTS

Rosland M.L.A. Says Public Debt Has Increased Fifteen Millions

GRAND TOTAL NOW SIXTY-FIVE MILLIONS

Alleges That "Bonds of Sympathy" Only Kind Premier Has Not Tried to Float

By The Vancouver Sun Staff Correspondent  
**VICTORIA, Oct. 21.**—Charging that the public debt of the Province has increased \$15,000,000 within the last six months and that the grand total is now \$65,000,000 where it was but \$20,000,000 five years ago, W. K. Esling, Rosland, this afternoon scored the Oliver government and berated the premier for deliberate efforts to hide from the public the true state of affairs. Mr. Esling used the P. G. E. to illustrate his contentions. "We have not seen much about the bond issues that have been going on this summer but it is interesting to note that the Hon. Minister of Finance negotiated an issue in New York last March for two million dollars. The Canadian Bank of Commerce took it all and applied it to the indebtedness of British Columbia. "In April there was another New York flotation, this time for three millions and the bank took that, too. Last June there was still another issue in Eastern Canada, for another three millions. The bank didn't take all that, it only took one million eight hundred thousand of it and gave us two hundred thousand for spending money.

**BONDS OF SYMPATHY**  
 "Then there was another two million issue and since July there has been five millions more raised to 'carry on' with—making fifteen millions in all. "If there are any bonds that the Minister of Finance has not tried to float it must be the bonds of sympathy and confidence between the premier and his cabinet officers. "For the first time since the government took over the P. G. E. in 1913 has there been a statement of account issued and this one that is now ready is wholly unsatisfactory and intentionally confusing because the expenditure and government ownership are not itemized. The reason they are not itemized is to hide from the public the outrageous wastefulness."

**PREMIER RESENTS**  
 On two occasions the Premier arose and resented the imputations by Mr. Esling, and once, Geo. S. Hanes of North Vancouver was on his feet. Speaker Manson interrupted the three-cornered debate that was brewing and Mr. Esling continued:

"There was an agreement with Foley Welch and Stewart to complete the road to Fort George for six million dollars," said Mr. Esling. "We were to have received a mortgage from the contractors on their townsites, two million dollars worth of stock in the P. G. E. and the personal guarantee of all three members of the firm in consideration for the loan and that the road would be completed according to contract.

"That wasn't good enough so the government tackled it and in the last three years have expended seventeen millions, almost three times as much. "Furthermore, this report that is now out is wrong. In one place it shows that \$1,246,000 has been expended for equipment, where in the \$1,150,000 worth of equipment that Foley Welch and Stewart were to have turned over, which the people of this province paid for but which they evidently did not get.

## NO MONEY THIS FALL

"The premier has stated that he will not ask for any money for the P. G. E. at this session. "Isn't that amazing? "The real reason why he will not ask for any is because if he did the government would go down in defeat and he knows it. "But it must not be overlooked that while he says he does not need any money for the road, there is only about one million dollars to go on with and that is not going very far with the amount of interest charges and the million other white elephants to be taken care of. "There are only two ways out; they either have to ask for a loan or spend the money without the sanction of the house."

## PLANS TO RAISE INTEREST RATE

(Special Despatch to The Vancouver Sun)  
**VICTORIA, Oct. 22.**—A bill to amend the Vancouver Sewage Act is to be moved by Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance. He proposes to raise the rate that may be paid on bonds from 5 to 6 per cent. The action, it is stated, is based on the difficulty of borrowing money.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS FILE QUESTIONS ABOUT BEAVER TRANSACTIONS IN HOUSE

**VICTORIA, Oct. 21.**—Beaver transactions are interesting the private members to no inconsiderable extent at the present session of the Legislature. H. G. Perry, Fort George, and G. S. Hanes, North Vancouver, both have filed lists of questions on the subject for the attorney-general to answer. Mr. Hanes wants to know about any beaver transactions in which A. Fitzpatrick of Vancouver participated. He also wants to know if anybody sent him \$2,000 from Victoria to help him finance his operations. Mr. Perry wants to know more than this—much more. He wants to know all about the members of the Game Conservation Board and whether there was any statutory authority for the board dealing in beaver transactions. He also asks: "Is Mr. Baker still chairman of the Game Conservation Board?" In view of the demand for Dr. Baker's resignation made by Mr. Perry on condition of his continued support of the government this is the question around which greatest interest centres.

## WOMAN MINISTER IS ABSENTEE FROM CAUCUS

**VICTORIA, Oct. 21.**—Chief topic of conversation among members of the Legislature, second only to the surmises about how long the government can hold together, is speculation about the refusal of the Hon. Mary Ellen Smith to attend Liberal caucus. Such a course upon the part of a cabinet minister is said by experienced parliamentarians to be without precedent. Her resignation from the government, possibly from the House, is said to be the only course consistent with her open breach with the premier. Whether the trouble is caused by the premier's refusal to grant her a portfolio or by her unwillingness to accept one at a time when she would have to assume responsibility for the government's record is a topic of speculation.

# SAVE LIBERAL PARTY BY CLEANING OUT THE GUILTY DEMANDS H. G. PERRY

## ENQUIRING AS TO BORROWINGS BY THE PROVINCE

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 24—While H. G. Perry's sensational speech featured the legislative programme today other items of interest included a meeting of the executive at which every cabinet officer attended. The Hon. Mary Ellen Smith was also present for the first time in months.

That W. J. Bowers, leader of the opposition, is not to confine his queries to the operations of the liquor control board and P. G. E. matters is evidenced in his latest move to have Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, explain how much money the government has borrowed since taking office; from whom it was borrowed; what commissions were paid on the loans and who received said commissions.

Capt. Ian Mackenzie, Liberal member for Vancouver and Dr. Sutherland, Revelstoke, chief Liberal whip, arrived in the capital today and attended the sitting.

J. A. Catherwood, Conservative representative from Dewdney had his fling in the debate on the speech from the throne this afternoon, confining his criticism of the government to the Nicomen Island affair in particular and dyking projects in general.

M. B. Jackson, K. C., government member for the islands, this afternoon introduced his anti-billboard bill which has as its object the abolishment of sign boards at scenic resorts throughout the province. Adam Smith Johnson, Vancouver, is here in the interests of the outdoor advertising men to fight the movement.

## Liberal Member for Fort George Says That \$150,000 Liquor Warehouse Scandal and Other Outrages of Attorney-General's Department More Than Overburdened Taxpayers Can Bear

(Special Dispatch to The Vancouver Sun)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 24.—H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, today led the fight on the floor of the Legislature to rescue Liberalism in British Columbia from the gutter.

"It is time that the premier told them to get out," the Northern member declared, in referring to the \$150,000 liquor warehouse scandal.

"Liberal members are refusing to become parties to the slaying of Liberalism," he said. "They repudiate this sort of work. Electors in my home called for a real Liberal Government, carrying on honest administration."

In demanding that ministers who are a menace to the Government be driven out of office, Mr. Perry turned his attention to J. W. de B. Farris, attorney-general.

"It is all very well to ask me to go back and tell my constituents that the Government is broke.

"But they are reading in the papers of digging up \$150,000 for a liquor board warehouse in Vancouver and \$15,000 for a liquor board warehouse in Victoria."

Mr. Perry, in following up his attack upon the attorney-general, dealt with the flagrant violations of law in the north, to which the officers of the law were guilty parties.

"I am informed that \$5,000,000 worth of beaver skins were shipped out of British Columbia illegally, with the knowledge and consent and assistance of the attorney-general's department," declared Mr. Perry.

It was the most noteworthy speech delivered in the House since 1912, when Parker Williams, lone man in the Opposition, laid down charges against the administration of the day. It was applauded by the Independent Liberal group and by the Independent and Opposition benches. The speech was a bombshell to the Government itself, Perry, who had turned down the Federal nomination in Cariboo to remain in provincial politics, was said to have been brought into line by the Vancouver politicians upon his visit to the coast on the eve of the session. The fiery Fort Georgian was not prepared to throw down the settlers along the northern trails to bolster up a political clique, he said.

### HONEST FIGHT TO COMBAT CAUCUS RULE

Following his speech Mr. Perry was congratulated by Liberal desk-mates upon having made an honest fight to combat what members stated to be a pernicious doctrine that everything affecting party politics had to be decided in secret caucus.

Such alarm did Perry's insurgency cause that when the House rose Liberals met in caucuses in the corridors, ending up in a big caucus behind closed doors, at which other members spoke as frankly as did Perry on the floor of the House.

Up-country members are openly demanding Farris' resignation on the grounds that the only alternative to immediate rescue work undertaken by the Liberals themselves will be the total downfall of Liberalism in British Columbia and the ousting of the party from power.

### FIRE OUT MINISTERS WHO ARE GUILTY

Mr. Perry branded Dr. Baker as utterly incompetent for the position of chairman of the Game Conservation Board. He said Baker had violated the very rules of the land which he was appointed to enforce. He named Attorney-General Farris as having stooped to subterfuge to cover Dr. Baker's tracks. He urged the dismissal of Dr. Baker, the abolishment of the Game Conservation Board and called on Premier Oliver to get rid of ministers who are a menace to the government.

In suggesting reorganization of the Cabinet, Mr. Perry declared there were perilous times ahead for which British Columbia must be prepared. To illustrate, he told of a canoe trip in the north when the party neared Finlay Rapids.

"Look out for the rapids," someone shouted," said Mr. Perry. "It wasn't necessary to shout that. We could all hear the roar of the waters of difficulties, and we accordingly made a landing and pulled our craft through the turbulent stream into the more placid portions of the river where we could make progress without danger."

"I do not believe that the people of this province want a change of government right now. I believe they still have confidence in the Liberal party and the principles for which the party stands and I would therefore advise the Premier to take this parable to heart and tell certain officials in certain departments that it is time for them to get out."

Earlier in his speech, when Mr. Perry was referring to the government's policies in general, he said: "It is all very well to expect me to go back and tell my constituents that the government is broke, but they are reading in the papers of digging up \$150,000 for a liquor board warehouse in Vancouver; \$15,000 for a liquor board warehouse in Victoria and other such items."

"I would advise my friends that we look toward the east and read the handwriting on the wall."

### A MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF BEAVER

In respect to the Dr. Baker episode and the beaver skin industry Mr. Perry said, in part: "I am informed that there were five million dollars' worth of beaver skins shipped out of the province last year; one million of which came from the district which I represent."

"The value of these beaver skins up to two weeks ago was, roughly, \$25 apiece.

"Two years ago the Game Conservation Board saw fit to declare a close season on beavers. The idea was justified, in my opinion, and last year everything went along all right."

"In case some of the younger members of the house do not understand the situation I will explain a few things.

"The Indians of this province regard the beaver as their natural heritage, just as they used to regard the salmon."

They feel that they have a right to kill the beaver for they use it as food and trade the hide for other necessities. They are probably justified in holding to that opinion to a certain extent.

Last year the Indians did kill a few beaver, but did not attempt to sell the skins, they saved them until an open season would permit. But then came the white men buying these skins and paying them one dollar or two dollars or even a glass of whiskey. The white men surreptitiously ship these skins to Alberta.

At this point Mr. Perry questioned the logical procedure of the game conservation board if said board had been sincere in its desire to administer its affairs as it should and even outlined the course that could have been followed to stop any illegal trading in this respect.

"But what the board did do looks like a concerted plot to benefit from the situation and everybody in my riding is absolutely convinced of that from the evidence at hand," he continued.

"When the reports came to me that government men were going through the province buying up beaver pelts out of season, I said it is a 'tory rumour'."

"But then I found out that it was true, that men had actually been given cash to go out and buy up the skins. These men had no check on them, no reports to make, no vouchers to return and without any method of accounting to even question their honesty. They simply went flying around the country with this money buying up skins."

"Where did they get the money?" the opposition asked.

"From Dr. Baker," replied Mr. Perry.

### BAKER PARTICIPATED WITH "THE ROLL"

"I have heard that Dr. Baker himself was flying around Williams Lake with a roll for the same purpose."

"I know of another fellow who was given a roll of bills to go out and buy beaver skins but who has not yet returned and from what I know of him he won't return either."

"Another one, by the name of Dawson, turned up in the north country with a combination sleuth and buyer to enforce the law which he was empowered to break."

"Talk about your Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, this Dawson got on a train and entered the baggage car, and seeing a trunk that looked suspicious to him had it put off at the depot. He could not wait to get hold of the owner or the keys for the trunk, but jimmied his way into it looking for beaver skins, and discovered that it contained lingerie, the property of a bride on her honeymoon."

"Another one violated all laws of the north by smashing his way into a cabin, a thing unheard of on the trail. That act is most despicable, it is one of the laws of the land that under necessity a man may try to enter a cabin in the proper way, but only government men from Vancouver have been known to go to the extent of smashing the windows."

"The chief game warden of the province did not know that Dr. Baker, or Mister Baker, or whatever his name is, had even authorized men to violate the law, as is shown by a telegram that he was 'sorry to find out certain men have been sent out to purchase beaver skins.'

"As might be expected the suspicion became general that as there were a large number of skins being sent down from the north the authorized purchase price of which was anywhere from six to fifteen dollars and the underhand methods that were being employed to obtain said skins, that large profits were being made, and also, as to where those profits were going."

"So I wired to Mr. Farris protesting against the entire affair and the reply was to the effect that they would change the practice and make the purchase with a view to resale to local fur dealers," which," said Mr. Perry, "has not been done."

### SHAMEFUL BARTERING IN "BOOTLEG" FURS

Mr. Perry then went on to relate that following the receipt of Mr. Farris' wire that Dr. Baker arrived at Fort George and in his inimicable manner preferred not to wait for the return of Mr. Perry until they could discuss the situation, but called a meeting of fur dealers.

That this act did not atone for the fact that the favored ones had been dealing in pelts for some time and had made certain profits that the new permit-holders could not hope to equal was the opinion of Mr. Perry, who declared that one man had offered to pay Mr. Perry, the government, or any person that the government might name, the sum of \$5000 if he could get a permit even 24 hours earlier than the other licensed purchasers.

It was charged that six kinds of permits had been issued. One granting power to purchase beaver skins at \$5 per skin on which a commission of \$2.50 would be paid, said permit being unrestrictive and without time limit.

2. A permit to pay from \$5 to \$10 per skin, which permit expired on September 30th.

3. A permit whereby the government would pay the purchaser \$10 a pelt regardless of the size of the skin.

4. A permit whereby the government would pay \$15 per skin, but which pelts had to be sixty per cent large.

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5. A permit whereby the government would pay \$15 per skin. 6. A special permit issued to the Hudson's Bay Co., but under which no skins have been shipped to the government.

**"TIME PREMIER TOLD THEM TO GET OUT"**

That the traffic in skins had been going on since last March, although the order ratifying the stunt was not issued until July, and has not yet been gazetted.

Mr. Perry said the Game Conservation Board was guilty of failing to punish persons who had broken the provincial laws and had broken the law itself; in other words, he said, "they give you money to go out and break it."

Then Mr. Perry recommended that the Game Conservation Board be abolished and that a committee of the house be appointed to conduct the affairs of the department.

As Mr. Perry concluded his remarks, government, opposition and independent members looked significantly at each other and then turned to catch the parting shot from the member from Fort George.

"There has been much criticism and numerous rumors going around regarding the administration and after careful analysis one finds it is confined to certain officials in certain departments—it is time that the premier told them to get out."

The remainder of the talk was to touch on the principles of the party and to plead that the government should not be placed in jeopardy by these officials to which Mr. Perry referred.

As the house adjourned there were unmistakable traces of anxiety on the faces of both Mr. Farris and Premier Oliver, while the legislative atmosphere generally vibrated with activity. Tonight the political pot is agog with secretive conferences between members of the various interests, but on the whole it is openly acknowledged that a show-down has been precipitated.

attorney-general came back with the declaration that if Baker went, he went too, and he threatened that his going would tear down the whole pack of cards.

Perry's onslaught followed this and David Whiteside is showing no signs of relenting. It is evident, therefore, that threats of this kind are not deterring the better element in the party from their determination to clean house before it is too late.

**SCRAMBLE FOR 'SUN'**

The first four desks on the government side of the House are tenanted by the Hon. William Sloan, Attorney-General Farris, Premier Oliver and the Hon. J. H. King respectively.

During Canon Hinchcliffe's participation in the debate on the reply to the speech from the throne this afternoon, there was one stage of the proceedings when the premier and attorney-general were both absentees.

Enter a page with a few Vancouver Suns under his wing. He drops one on the desk of the attorney-general and the scare head, "Farris must quit cabinet," almost yelled its arrival.

With the agility of a monkey in his grab for a peanut, the Hon. William Sloan snatched the copy of the paper from off Mr. Farris's desk, but not before certain members of the opposition had a flash at the line.

Dr. King was writing a note and his copy dropped over his desk allowing nearly every member across the floor to get a flash at the thing.

Immediately Canon Hinchcliffe's speech became punctuated with the snapping of fingers from the legislators who craved the latest news from the mainland. The young messengers that await on the members began scooting around like a flock of chickens dodging a playful pup. At one time 20 members of the 32 in the House were engrossed in reading Mr. Perry's famous criticisms of government policies.

G. S. Hanes, North Vancouver, was the means of eradicating a smile from the twinkling countenance of Premier Oliver by courteously slipping a copy of The Vancouver Sun on the premier's desk.

**BROKEN DYKES**

Broken dykes, some of which had crumbled from erosions in the river bank, some deliberately cut through, others started by river rats and others just plain washes almost had the members of the assembly slipping and climbing the walls in the chamber to retreat from the waters of the Fraser when the Hon. John Oliver launched into a lengthy exhortation on the Nicomech Indian problem in particular and dyking schemes in general.

The premier's speech was in reply to an amendment to the motion now before the House to the effect that "This House regrets the attitude of the government towards the petition of settlers in dyked areas for effective action towards securing their dykes against erosion of river banks" that was brought in by Mr. J. A. Gatherwood, Dewdney.

Although there was no question that the government leader is keenly interested in the amendment, contending as he does that he had been maligned on many occasions by this question and challenging as he did the opposition to show a reversal of attitude toward a policy which said opposition had supported when it was in power, the general inference drawn was that the premier is seeking a vote of confidence on this issue rather than await the outcome of larger issues such as the Liquor Board's operations as well as that of the Game Conservation Board.

**PREMIER TOUCHY**

The premier read letters from district, provincial and federal engineers, deputies, boards of trade and had a sheaf of documents on his desk that suggested the evidence supporting Mr. Einstein's theory of relativity.

He made it plain that the provincial government is in the first place not responsible for most of the charges that have been made to it regarding dyking projects and also gave as his opinion that the hundreds of thousands of dollars needed to protect the four or five thousand acres in question might better be expended building good roads through other sections of the valley that would accommodate many more settlers and be of greater benefit to the province generally.

Following adjournment, which was moved by Major Burde, Alberni, Alex. D. Paterson, Delta; David Whiteside, New Westminster, and the Hon. E. D. Barrow engaged in earnest conversation in the corridors.

**ASIATIC EMPLOYMENT**

George S. Hanes, member for North Vancouver, got a rise out of Attorney-General Farris in the House today when the Attorney-General came to the rescue of the Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, whom Mr. Hanes confronted with statements and questions concerning the employment of Asiatics in the logging camps. "We have an Asiatic Exclusion League," began Mr. Hanes, "that has a membership of about 25,000 persons."

"It is evident that the public sees the need for protecting British Columbia against the Oriental. In the year 1921 the Attorney-General introduced a bill containing and approving of an order-in-council relating to the employment of persons on crown properties. I have asked the minister of lands to explain why the Asiatic clause has been left out of certain contracts and he has seen fit to reply to me personally with the explanation that the information is not such that can be made public at

this time if the best interests of the public are to be served. It appears to me—"

At this point Attorney-General Farris arose and informed Mr. Hanes that the order-in-council to which he referred had been declared unconstitutional as it was not in keeping with the Anglo-Japanese treaty.

"The Japanese consul," continued the Attorney-General, "took the matter up with Ottawa and the minister at Ottawa advised the government to take it to the Court of Appeal; the Court of Appeal decided that the order-in-council was ultra vires and it is now under reserve judgment before the Supreme Council, we having been forced to institute a lawsuit to get the opinion of the highest court in the land."

**MINISTER COACHED**

Mr. Hanes then asked the minister of lands if the clause excluding the employment of Asiatics on crown lands had been left out during his term of office. The Attorney-General wheeled and whispered hurriedly to Mr. Pattullo, who arose and replied: "The former government rejected it and we continued for a while. I have told the member from North Vancouver the reason that our actions in that respect were not in the best interests of public for it to be openly explained."

"There is an order-in-council of June 8, 1920, that claims that the Asiatic clause has been included continuously," said Mr. Hanes.

The Attorney-General asked to be shown. The member for North Vancouver showed him. Continuing, Mr. Hanes admitted that he had been told

privately that the exclusion of the clause was for "imperial reasons" during the war; they claimed that it was because so many men were overseas.

"If the government is sincere in wishing to protect our industries, they will take immediate action to endeavor to abrogate the treaty so far as it applies to us," he added. "I would also suggest that the minister of mines be dismissed," he said. "Any minister who betrays the confidence of his legislature should be removed from office."

Mr. Farris again arose to a point of order and with an appreciable degree of emphasis said that Mr. Justice Murphy had issued an injunction restraining the attorney-general or the department of lands from including the clause and that the act as it now stands in British Columbia is ultra vires.

**CAMPBELL WAREHOUSE**

Mr. Hanes was about ready to come back again when Speaker Manson questioned the extent to which he could carry the discussion during the debate, whereupon Mr. Hanes switched to the Campbell-Cromie trial.

"I heard the Hon. John Oliver cross-examined at the trial," he said, "and he did not enlighten the public on that deal. I would like to know if the premier does not approve of this time to take action or the lieutenant-governor of this province."

Here the premier arose and questioned the advisability of any member having the right to even refer to the lieutenant-governor during the debate. The question was upheld and Mr. Hanes made a few brief references to financial policies of the government and particularly in respect to the Grant-Whyte case, the operations of pulp and paper companies and the P. G. E.

"The P. G. E.—there's the most colossal graft that has ever been perpetrated—"

"Does the member from North Vancouver connect me with any graft?" asked the premier.

Hanes—"No, Mr. Speaker."

Premier Oliver—"He'd better not."

"Why, what would you do?" interjected Major Burde.

**BAKER DENIES STORY**

Mr. Hanes then launched into jocular descriptions of travelling on the P. G. E., denounced one-man street cars, touched on the unemployment situation, mothers' pensions and called it a day.

He was followed by Canon Hinchcliffe, who appealed for better conditions for working men in camps in the northern part of the province.

VICTORIA, Oct. 25.—The following wire was received by Premier Oliver from Doctor A. R. Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, this afternoon:

"If Perry had made statements attributed to him by Vancouver Morning Sun I brand them as false and demand an immediate investigation."

The premier handed the telegram to Attorney-General Farris for attention.

**FARRIS LINES UP FORCES TO MEET ATTACK**

**Hurry Up Call for Help Sent to City; Aid Rushed on Night Boat**

**THREATS NOT DETERRING EFFORT TO CLEAN HOUSE**

**Geo. S. Hanes Mentions "Warehouse and Lt.-Gov." and Premier Gets Touchy**

(Special Dispatch to The Vancouver Sun)

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 25.—

The Attorney-General is gathering his forces around him, following H. G. Perry's attack on the game board administration and the failure to stop the opposition motion for an investigation of the Liquor Board from getting on the order paper. The hurry up call for help went to Vancouver.

Gordon Wismer and W. T. MacArthur sped over on the night boat and were closeted with the attorney-general in a room in the Empress Hotel all morning. They returned to Vancouver at 2:30 p.m.

The 3 o'clock boat brought the attorney-general's two brothers, Wendell E. Farris and Bruce Farris, "Wallace" was not in the House this afternoon except for a few minutes. He spent the time with his two brothers.

Briefly the attorney-general's position is this. On Saturday night in caucus he was given an easy way out by the demand that he fire Doc Baker as head of the Game Board. The

a right y use it for other bly justification to a d kill a tempt to em until nit. But i buying hem one n a glass non sur- s to Al- uestioned he game oard had o admia- and even ould have y illegal do looks eft from y in my d of that he con- me that hrough ver pellets a "tory it it was lly been y up the heck on vouchers ethod of n their t flying is money money?" ed Mr. D ROLL" ker him- Williams me pur- who was out and has not I know er. of Daw- country d buyer he was yll and t on a ge car, get hold for the into it nd disre- ee, the honey- f laws is way and of most laws istry a bin in overca- have extant of the at Dr. hatever ed men own by to find out suspi- there being author- h was dollars t were skins, made, profits esting he ra- would ce the ade to d Mr. URS relate f Mr. rived cable for they but r the been and the hope Mr. man the t the m of even r il- ds of rant- skins amia- per- thout p \$10 d on vern- \$10 f the vern- but cent



# BOODLE WAS USED CLAIMS MAJOR BURDE

## Did Campaign Funds Originate from Farris' League With Underworld?

### "PROVE CHARGES FALSE OR RESIGN OFFICE"

#### Upper Country Member Joins in Attack; Asks for Enquiry of Liquor Board

(Special Despatch to The Vancouver Sun)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—Hon. J. W. Deh Farris, Attorney-General, spent much of the day perusing the evidence given in the recent libel action arising over the purchase of the Beatty Street liquor warehouse. Mr. Farris is preparing for eventualities in the event of the Liquor Board asked for by the leader of the opposition be granted. Mr. Bowser speaks tomorrow. He will renew his application for a select committee to enquire into the liquor scandals.

It is almost certain that the government will grant enquiry into the charges made.

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—J. W. Jones of South Okanagan held the floor for two hours in the Legislature this afternoon and succeeded in drawing several of the ministers, notably the Premier, Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Hon. Dr. J. H. King and the Attorney-General into controversies.

Extravagance in such matters as the \$600,000 Prince Rupert court house, the \$150,000 Vancouver liquor warehouse, the \$2,000,000 South Okanagan land deal and other matters were contrasted with parsimony in road matters and the cutting of widows' pensions.

Mr. Jones in opening his speech commented on the part of indecision hanging over the government forces and ascribed the situation to the three big libel suits of the past few months, in one of which the premier had got twenty-five cents damages because his honor had been impinged. A. E. Buckworth, manager of the government railway, had got \$1 and Charles Campbell had got nothing.

He then proceeded to discuss the evidence of Charles Campbell, admitting helping people in their petitions to the government and collecting campaign funds on the strength of it.

Premier Oliver claimed this was out of order as it could be discussed under the Bowser resolution for an investigation, but the opposition leader jumped to his assistance by charging the premier with trying to burk discussion.

#### ROADS TO OLIVER FARM

Mr. Jones declared that the government had an insatiable appetite for taxes. It has increased the revenues from six millions to seventeen since it was in office and was asking for still more taxes.

"What are we getting for it?" he asked.

He said the high taxes were preventing capital and settlers from coming into the province. Dealing with roads, the member for South Okanagan said that in two sessions the member for Delta had got \$300,000 for paved roads which passed the farm of Premier John Oliver, while in Okanagan they could not get enough money to maintain the mud roads they already had. He stated that the Campbell warehouse money would have built many miles of roads; that the Prince Rupert courthouse money would have maintained roads in six districts, and that the B. C. Electric grant would have maintained roads in ten districts.

#### REFERS TO PATTULLO'S VIEW

He quoted freely from newspaper interviews by the minister and drew repudiations from Messrs. Pattullo and Oliver of the said interviews. He ridiculed Mr. Pattullo's view, the

old country and his announcement that the lumber commissioner, Mr. Turnbull, was staying on to continue the work.

"What work?" he asked. "The minister in an interview says that he left Mr. Turnbull addressing a class of school children on the use of British Columbia timber. What for? Lead pencils, I suppose. He is not addressing chambers of commerce or committees of the House of Commons, but a bunch of school children, and that is what we are paying for."

Mr. Jones went on to charge the ministers of lands and agriculture with conducting rival schemes of land settlement, and urged closer cooperation. He declared that the South Okanagan scheme had cost over \$2,000,000, although the premier and the minister of lands had said it would cost \$1,000,000. He said that the return for this was the sale of fifty-one lots on which the government had received a little over \$20,000.

He also charged the government with stopping the donations of some of the mothers, for which the attorney-general offered an explanation.

#### B. C. GAME BOARD

One of the interesting sidelights was a bit of dialogue in which M. B. Jackson, K. C., member for the islands participated. Mr. Jones referred to H. G. Perry's memorable attack on the government in reference to the Game Board administration, and asked how the member for the islands expects to explain the matter to his constituents.

"Why does he refer to me?" Mr. Jackson asked the speaker.

"Because Mr. Jackson is a member of the Game Board," replied the member for South Okanagan.

"Then I would point out that the matters complained of by the member for Fort George was full accomplished before I was appointed to the board," declared Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Jones: "Mr. Jackson was appointed on July 2 and the order-in-council involved was passed on July 22 and made retroactive. I presume that the member, therefore, had full opportunity to consider the subject before the board of which he was a member recommended the matter to the government."

Mr. Jackson: "To put the matter right and without admitting anything wrong I will inform the member that I knew nothing of the order-in-council to which he refers."

Mr. Jones: "Well, if that is the case it is high time that the Game Board was dispensed with, if that is the way it works."

VICTORIA, B.C., Oct. 26.—Major Richard Burde, M.L.A., Alberni, who supported the government in the last election, openly opposed the Oliver administration in a speech in the Legislature this afternoon.

Such interest centered in Major Burde's speech as the reputation for being a jester, today he was deadly in earnest, and parts of his speech in almost as electrifying as the peroration of H. G. Perry, Fort George, some days ago.

He dealt at length with Mr. Bowser's famous charge that the attorney-general had made a compact with the underworld and with other charges that have been levelled against the government.

"It is up to the premier to make some move that will clear the atmosphere," he declared, "and unless he acts quickly and shows a complete disregard of whom he hurts, the public is going to make a man to lead this government."

#### PUBLIC MIND DISTURBED

"The public has come to the conclusion that something is wrong," he declared. "They are not concerned with any quarrel between the publisher of The Sun and members of the government. The newspaper is putting up a stiff fight on questions of public importance and that fight is taking effect."

He demanded that the leader of the opposition take into his confidence the members of the House as to the evidence he had supporting the charge that the attorney-general had made a pact with the underworld. He commented that The Sun had published a statement that the brewers and jitney drivers had subscribed \$85,000 to elect Liberals in Vancouver. He drew attention to the fact that these statements were generally believed because they had not been contradicted by anybody concerned.

"Everybody knows of the wonderfully extravagant way in which the government spent money in Vancouver in trying to win that last election and the even more strenuous effort made in the closing day of the campaign to get more money still. Under the circumstances it is up to every member for Vancouver to state his position clearly."

#### MENTIONS R. H. GALE

Another leading feature of Mr. Burde's speech was an attack on the influence which he said Vancouver had on the government. He referred to reports that Mayor Gale had persuaded the minister of public works to build the Hope-Princeton road and said this was fine for Gale's political boom. It was time the government ceased to be operated for the benefit of Vancouver, he said.

Last year's appropriation for roads had been splendid, he said, but by the time the government paid for its liquor warehouse and the attorney-general found people were not buying booze as fast as expected, the minister of public works had announced that road appropriations had been cut 25 per cent. Then he had held back the other 75 per cent of holding it for unemployment. But the result of the hold-back was, he said, that the season was now

is identical in every detail down to the last one cent piece and amounts in total to exactly \$4,510. And she swears that she makes the statement conscientiously believing it to be true."

"No matter where that money came from the public will believe it was party funds. If you go through the six members you'll find that the total comes to several thousand dollars, but it comes to much less than the sum The Vancouver Sun mentions."

#### "BARTENDERS AND BOOT-LEGGERS"

"The house should demand that The Sun make good its charges or else there should be several resignations on the floor of this house. The public will not stand for that sort of thing. The Premier is at his wits' end. He asked the other day if he was accused of graft and was told he was not. Well, I don't know how much the Premier does know and I don't know how much the fourth member and the lady member from Vancouver know, but I do know that every bartender and bootlegger in Vancouver is boasting that he voted the straight six Liberals, including the fourth member and the lady member at that election. These members may not know where the money came from that elected them, but it's their business to know in view of the charges that have been made. There is some explanation coming to this house and to the public."

That the criticisms of the member for Alberni were meant in a kindly spirit insofar as the Premier was concerned was manifested by his frank statement that he would not vote against confidence in the Government for the sake of giving the Opposition any party advantage.

He dealt with rumors of reconstruction of the Government.

"I have heard that the lady member would not attend caucus because she had an application in or a promise of a portfolio, and that if she did not get it she was going to resign."

"I will tell the Premier that my confidence in him will be greatly shaken if that portfolio goes through," declared the Major emphatically.

He then twitted the Government party about current rumors that the Premier and attorney-general would have to get out, that the minister of lands was to become Premier, that the member for Revelstoke (Dr. Sutherland) was already counting himself in the cabinet, and that the speaker, Hon. Alex. Manson, was likely to be made attorney-general.

Another point on which he introduced the lady member was in reference to social legislation. He declared that the Liberal party had pulled the bluff that the influence of Mrs. Smith was responsible for its social legislation.

"That bluff won't go down any longer," he declared. "If her influence is so great let us see her use it to bring into effect the five acts that were half promised to women and children of this province by the passing of them last session on the understanding that they were to become effective as soon as all the other provinces fell into line. I'd like to see her attitude on the bills now before the house to make those acts operative on May 1," declared Major Burde.

#### MRS. SMITH SPEAKS UP

"The attitude of the lady member will compare favorably with that of the member for Alberni," snapped Mrs. Smith, interrupting.

"I hope it does," he declared. "That's all we ask—that she'll put up her little white hand and vote for these bills and then we'll see what her influence with the government is."

The member then waxed facetious and used the expression, "stage play" in connection with Mrs. Smith's first entrance into the house this session. He teased the speaker with having told his constituents in the North that an independent member was no use and said that either he was wrong or the government's pretense that Mrs. Smith as an independent member was responsible for the social legislation was wrong.

"Maybe some people have their doubts about her ever having been very independent, however," he drily remarked. "The government applauded her and she applauded the government for these acts," he continued, "at the last election time and this is said to have been responsible for the government's election. If Mrs. Smith was responsible for their election she was responsible for returning a government that is more discredited today than it was at election time."

In abandoning his attack of the Hon. Mary Ellen Smith, the member for Alberni told the government supporters that he had now given them a splendid opportunity to pull the "chivalry" stuff.

#### MENTIONS R. H. GALE

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So far advanced that road work could not be done in most parts of the province for unemployment relief or any other purpose.

He said it would be a political crime to spend another dollar on the P. G. E. and opposed the government imposing any more taxes.

A racy portion of his address, more characteristic of previous speeches by this member was an attack on the Victoria clergy for writing, as he said, anonymous letters to the families of members of the house attacking their conduct at the close of the last house.

"I resent such interference from gospel fakirs, who spend their time passing resolutions instead of praying," he declared, and said he found better company in the cabarets than in their society.

## GOSSIP OF LOBBIES IN LEGISLATURE

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—The Hon. Mary Ellen Smith took her first session under real fire in the house like a good sport. She was a little nervous at first, but came out of the chamber afterward with a smile on her face and showed that she is a real politician by her sang froid.

One of the real battles of the session is going to be over the personal property tax. The Government is finding its supporters very much opposed to the measure, but expects to get a compensating support from such good supporters of the municipalities as George Hanes and Alex MacKenzie as Thomas Pearson, George Hanes and Alex MacKenzie, Conservatives.

Many congratulations have been received by the Liberal member for Fort George on his fearless attack on the attorney-general's department Liberals of the old school hold that H. G. Perry is destined to go far in the public life of British Columbia.

Premier Oliver has evidently not given up hope of again winning the support of Messrs. Whiteside and Perry. At all events he re-appointed them as heads of the municipal and railways committees regardless of their defections.

Government supporters have dropped out of the debate on the speech from the throne for a while. Thomas Menzies, the Independent member for Comox, adjourned the debate today and is scheduled to speak first thing tomorrow.

Judging from a discussion of the rules of order between the Premier and the Speaker of the House at the close of today's sitting, the Opposition leader's resolution demanding an investigation of the Liquor Board administration is to be brought on tomorrow or next day. The attorney-general spent the afternoon deeply immersed in study of the transcript of the evidence of the Campbell-Sun libel suit on which he is expected to comment on the debate for an investigation.

Judging from gossip of the members the Government is not going to risk opposing the Bowser resolution, but before granting it will probably put as good a front on the situation in the house as possible.

"Passing the buck again," was his rejoinder when Premier Oliver declined to answer a question about the Prince Rupert court house on the pretext that the question should be addressed to the minister of public works with two days' notice.

The Vancouver Sun is not the only paper whose statements the Government denies. Ministers today repudiated an interview given by themselves to the Victoria Times, a Government supporter, the Vancouver Province, the Victoria Colonist and several other newspapers.

The people of Stave River want to be incorporated as a municipality. A petition to this effect was presented to the house today by Capt. Ian MacKenzie. The city of Greenwood is also petitioning for power to rearrange some of its financial problems.

Thomas Pearson of Point Grey is asking for the cost of the coal price commission last spring while John McRae of Yale wants to know all about the Pacific Highways contracts to the Peterson Company and Harrison and Lamand.

Fred Anderson of Kamloops, evidently aroused by rumors that the Hope-Princeton route for the provincial highway is going to be adopted, is asking a series of questions about the report of the engineer, if any, who surveyed the route.

# "INNER RING" GETS THE CASH

## "YOU 'J.W. DEB'

### Rival Leaders Clash and Public Get Much Truth at Victoria

### "POOR LIQUOR AT THAT," SAYS BOWSER

### Unwholesome Revelations When Opposition Leader Asks for Enquiry

By The Vancouver Sun Staff Correspondent

MEMBERS of the Legislative Assembly who are in the habit of taking things calmly were startled out of their reverie yesterday when the present attorney-general and a former attorney-general locked horns and staged a battle, the like of which has seldom been witnessed in the house.

The battle was far more gladiatorial than oratorical and the former fountain head of the provincial justice department had things fairly much his own way, displaying the old fire that made him a conspicuous figure in the days of the McBride-Bowser administration. The present head of the legal department of the province, J. W. de B. Farris, made a vain attempt to combat his opponent's onslaught, but the old war-horse proved too good a ring general, and the present attorney-general had to appeal for more time in which to get ready for the second round.

The Liquor Act and the purchase of the Campbell warehouse was the cause of the battle, and during the encounter the leader of the Opposition charged incompetency, favoritism, scandal, misadministration, illegal purchase, poor business judgment, unjustifiable expenditure and even the supplying and purchase of "poor liquor."

He even went so far as to name some of the leading figures in the present administration as men who had sold liquor to the government, and intimated that he was prepared to prove his statements and show that scandal had been rampant from the early days of the Prohibition Act of 1917 as administered by the present attorney-general.

#### MANY SOLD LIQUOR

Included in the list of those charged with selling liquor to the government were Wendell B. Farris, brother of the attorney-general; Charles Campbell, president of the World Newspaper Company and member of the Liberal organization committee; J. P. Dougherty, defeated Liberal candidate in the last provincial election and now a civil servant; W. T. MacArthur, the attorney-general's appointee as police commissioner for Vancouver on two occasions; Gordon S. Wiesner, campaign manager extraordinary in the interest of Farris and his friends; H. J. McLatchy, organizer of the Liberal party; Jas. Conley, president of the Vancouver Liberal Association and the Farris candidate for the Burrard Federal nomination; C. G. Delbridge, president of A Ward Liberal Association in Vancouver, and possibly James H. Falconer, member of the Liquor Control Board. These are the men whom the opposition leader promises to prove sold liquor to the provincial government.

"Poor liquor at that," he commented, "as the well-known brands allow their agents such small commission that there is no room to take anything out for the kitty, I mean the campaign fund kitty."

#### THE CAMPBELL WAREHOUSE

The opposition leader's speech in support of his charges of maladministration under the Liquor Board lived up to advance notices.

He even went so far as to state that he would submit evidence that "consents" for the establishment of bonded warehouses were being given by the attorney-general's department after an exchange of monetary consideration.

"This evidence," he declared, "will affect one or more members of the legislature who participated in the profits."

In reference to the Campbell warehouse deal Mr. Bowser said that the jury had passed on the moral aspects of the deal, but he charged that the whole purchase was illegal inasmuch as there was no authority from the legislature or the Lieutenant-Governor for the expenditure.

#### BLAMES SUBORDINATES

At the conclusion of the opposition leader's speech the attorney-general almost frothing at the mouth with rage launched upon an abusive tirade which he subsequently asked the consent of the House to continue at a later date.

Summarized, the charges made by the opposition leader, was as follows:

First—The Vancouver Sun is a liar.

Second—The opposition leader has made no charges.

Third—The things he complains of were done by my subordinates.

Included in the answer was a play for sympathy in which, with a catch in his voice, he referred to "my brother." The usually suave attorney-general fulminated, defied, challenged, pounded his desk, declared that there was not a single thing in what the opposition leader had said that in any way suggested anything dishonorable, gazed appealingly at the gallery, declared that he would insist upon certain of the charges being investigated, but intimated most clearly that he was going to ask the House to emasculate the opposition leader's resolution, in which his charges are explicitly set forth in detail.

There was nothing to the charges, he declared, that a man could shake his seat and his reputation on, but he asked for permission to adjourn the debate to study the speech more carefully and prepare his answer for another sitting of the House.

R. H. Pooley (Esquimalt) asked the speaker if this did not amount to speaking twice to the same motion, but the leader of the opposition said he was quite willing that the House should consent if there was any doubt about the rule. So Mr. Farris will speak probably to move certain amendments to the motion, striking out those charges that he does not wish to have investigated.

#### SCANDALS RAMPANT

"From the early days of the Prohibition Act of 1917 as administered by the present attorney-general, scandals have been rampant," declared W. J. Bowser, K.C., in support of his motion for a committee consisting of Messrs. David Whiteside, James Ramsay, Alex. Paterson, J. B. Clearhue, George Hanes, R. H. Pooley and himself to investigate charges of maladministration of the liquor act. Continuing, he said:

"One official of that department served a term in the penitentiary following his exposure.

"We have had the new liquor act in force for only four months. It is under the same attorney-general and already we hear rumors of maladministration. I have had certain evidence submitted to me and feel it my duty to ask for an investigation.

"When the public voted for government control, one of the strongest arguments was that they were going to get good liquor at the cheapest possible price to give a fair profit, not an exorbitant one.

"Yet at the very outset we find the government purchasing from one of its closest political supporters a warehouse—from one who admitted on oath that he was a go-between for people who had business to do with the government and extorted campaign funds from them for so doing.

#### ENTIRELY ILLEGAL

"The committee can see for itself if the price was fair or not. I hold that it was extremely high and that the government did not act as a prudent business concern in paying this extravagant sum to one of its friends in the condition of the market at that time.

"I charge that the purchase of the Campbell warehouse was entirely illegal.

"The Liquor Act did not become law until June 15. The warehouse was purchased on May 1. True, the Liquor Board was appointed April 12 and some lawyers might claim this could not be done, but I shall not argue that. But in purchasing the warehouse the board did so under an act which was not in force and I will ask the committee to find that the purchase was illegal and unjustified.

"There is a certain way for the government to get money. That is by vote of this legislature. But they did not do so. We never heard of that \$150,000 warehouse purchase when we were sitting here last spring. Yet we find that even before this house assembled, as far back as January 13, before the board had been named, this matter was being discussed in correspondence between Campbell and his political friend, the attorney-general.

#### REMARKABLE LETTER

Mr. Bowser referred to the famous "Dear Wallace" letter, enclosing valuations of the property, quoting \$1920 a month as a fair rental.

"We find this extraordinary language—I trust there will be no hitch tomorrow in reaching a decision.

"What was the decision about which there was to be no hitch? It resulted from some conversation between the attorney-general and his friend about the acquisition of this warehouse at an exorbitant figure before Mr. Campbell left for the East to negotiate the purchase of the World to establish it as a political paper.



"It may be said that is just a local matter. But the attorney-general has a close personal friend in Mayor Gale and his appointee on the police commission, Tom Harnett, so he has two good friends who could bring this matter to his attention even if the newspaper publicity on the subject were not enough for him to know about it.

"Twenty-six clubs were incorporated in Vancouver in one week. Many are now running wide open, and it is stated that this is being done to help the campaign of the mayor as a federal candidate in order to win votes for him. Of the 26 clubs I notice that Wismer and McGeer incorporated, Macdonald 6, Ian Mackenzie 5, and as a sort of sop, Joseph Oliver got 2. It is also reported that some of these lawyers, on account of their influence, charged these clubs very heavy fees for getting the incorporations through.

"The reasons I say these things is that it is the duty of the attorney-general to advise the government that these charters should be cancelled."

Mr. Bowser then charged that under the late receiver of South Vancouver the word went out that certain well known resorts were not to be interfered with, and he asked the attorney-general who is charged with the administration of justice if he had not heard this story, too.

He charged that the attorney-general had used certain members of his departmental force as an adjunct of his political machine, and that A. B. Buckworth, manager of the P. G. E., had showed great activity in the election campaign and had used public funds to pay certain officials of the road to carry out

political service instead of the work for which they were employed.

**WANTS REAL ENQUIRY**

In conclusion, Mr. Bowser stated his reasons for asking a select committee of the House instead of royal commission as being more inexpensive. He cited certain instances of investigations by select committees, instancing the investigation into the Columbian and Western Railway, in which he said the Premier was interested.

Mr. Oliver—But as the man who laid the charges I did not include myself on the committee as judge.

Mr. Bowser—The rules of the House say that the mover of a committee must include his own name. But I don't want such a royal commission as enquired into the gravel pit deal where the Premier put one of his own employees, a \$10 a month clerk, as the commissioner, and went through the farce of jessing him a royal commission instead of naming a judge of the supreme court as we expected.

Mr. Oliver—Do you object to the proceedings of that commission?

Mr. Bowser—I certainly do.

Mr. Speaker—That is out of order.

Mr. Bowser—Well I hope to speak to that again.

Mr. Speaker—In the leader of the opposition's remarks about a member of the legislature receiving a financial benefit he has put the whole House under imputation of wrong-doing and I think he should give the name, as he does not I am sure, mean to do that.

Mr. Bowser—I don't wish to give the name and put any member under wrongful suspicion for fear I may not be able to prove the charge, but I do not retract one word of the statement that one or more members benefitted financially.

Mr. Speaker—Perhaps as he had not said benefitted improperly the expression may pass.

Mr. Oliver—If he does mean imputation properly why hold any investigation?

Mr. Speaker—Well, I think the section of the rules says he must be specific. I'll have to consider my ruling further before I decide.

**ASKS FOR TIME**

The attorney-general made a partial reply to the charges of his predecessor in office, but intimated that he wanted to look into some matters before he replied in full, and adjourned the debate on the motion himself.

"I am not going to oppose any investigation of charges that warrant investigation," he declared, "and I'm going to insist upon the fullest investigation of some of the statements he has made. But in most instances the leader of the opposition has gone far afield and has used very vague language in the garb of charges. Nobody can overlook the fact that what he has had on the order paper for several days has done a lot of harm to the characters of these men, whether the charges are proved or not. Yet he is in a position to say, if he does not prove what he says, that he has just made a mistake.

**VIOLENTLY ABUSIVE**

"He has mentioned a list of names—including my own brother—yet I ask the members of this house, has there been any charge mentioned against any one of those men whose names you'll see in black and striking type in The Sun tomorrow? He intends to go out that there's something crooked in this matter, but what single thing has he alleged against those men of an improper nature?

"I am not unmindful of the cordor rumors so nauseating and false that they stink. I have to pay attention because of the new combination that has sprung up between the leader of the opposition and the Morning Star of Vancouver.

"The word has gone forth from The Sun that the publisher of that paper is going to concentrate on getting me out of the house. That comes nicely with the stuff the leader of the opposition has been talking this afternoon. There are some allegations he has made that will be dealt with. I looked forward to this speech as I wanted to see what he was going to prove. Surely a man accused is entitled to an express charge.

"The only charge he has made is of incompetence. I can't see one specific allegation of impropriety.

**CASTS DIGNITY ASIDE**

"I charge that that speech was concocted and delivered to create the impression of wrong-doing without one allegation that I can stake my seat on. But I am going to fight, and I don't propose to let any newspaper thug in Vancouver take my political life.

"The last time I saw him he told me that 'Old John' had not kept his word to him. It is a poor introduction for any man to set his word up against the premier's.

"I asked him what he wanted and said we would do a lot for our friends. He said he did not care about friendship; he got what he was after by fighting. He asked me to put Pineo on the books of the Powell River Paper Company and I'm glad to say that since then I've never spoken to the dirty blackmaller since.

"The word has gone forth that I am to be driven from public life. I did hope on this occasion we'd get down to the short strokes and get from the leader of the Opposition what he's really driving at."

The attorney-general then declared that all liquor purchases had been made by Mr. Patterson, the liquor purchasing agent, and he waved aloft a list of every purchase made as reported to him by Patterson.

"He could have had this by putting a question on the order paper," declared the attorney-general. "Instead of that he reads this list of names, including that of my own brother. What is there in public life good enough to have to stand for this and endure and go through what I have been persecuted with?"

**HAS ENOUGH TO DO**

He said that he had enough to do without being concerned with purchasing liquors.

"Suppose my friend prove that Mr. Delbridge purchased liquor," he postulated. "I don't wish to make a definite statement yet, but I believe there is a letter on file from one of the smaller liquor firms telling us that Mr. Delbridge was their agent in British Columbia.

Suppose he did make a little commission. The purchasing agent wrote to every distillery last August asking to buy direct and almost without exception the distillers said they were bound by agreement to book only through their agents.

"I don't know if any or all of these men made commissions. I don't think the purchasing agent knows or cares if they did. Let him point to anything dishonest in it if they did. I'll venture to say that 90 per cent. of the liquors mentioned in this list were purchased from agencies that have never maintained any political support for this Government.

**IGNORES PUBLIC**

"So far as the warehouse is concerned I feel no obligation to the public to go into the question. There has been a trial in the courts created for the purpose and I was in hopes that after I moved to bring that evidence in here my friend would take it and base some charge on the strength of it. But I'd be very sorry to trust my reputation to any committee of which the opposition leader was a member.

"I can assume that when Cromie, who has been seen with his head down beside my honorable friend whispering together and Joe Martin got their heads together if there was anything they could dig up it would be in that evidence. I had hoped he would take that evidence and move a want of confidence as I prefer to have the issue fought out on the floor of this house and take my chances on the evidence."

Mr. Farris then made a play on the strength of the motion by counsel for The Vancouver Sun to dismiss the Campbell suit because it was not libelous against Mr. Campbell and said the judge had by more than inference told the jury the same thing. From the fact that the jury was out three hours it might be inferred that they were not unanimous, and he said if anybody would read that evidence they would see that men just as estimable on one side as on the other had sworn to conflicting statements as to the value of the Campbell warehouse.

**GAME BOARD SCANDAL**

IF ANYTHING more were needed to indicate that there is something radically wrong with the Game Conservation Board under the present Attorney-General's administration it was provided by M. B. Jackson, K.C., member for The Islands, in the House on Wednesday. Mr. Jackson, who is a member of the Board, appointed on July 2, boldly told the Legislature that he knew nothing of the order-in-council authorizing the Board's beaver pelt transactions although that order was passed on July 26. Why did the Attorney-General take that recommendation to council without ascertaining the views of so important a member of the Board as Mr. Jackson, whose office is only a few blocks away from that of the Minister? It would naturally be imagined that the appointment of a Member of the Legislature to the Board was for the purpose of enabling that member to take some part in the presentation of the Board's activities to the House. Mr. Jackson enjoys an enviable reputation for personal probity and his clean-cut statement on the floor of the House that he knew nothing of this matter calls for a searching investigation.

# PREMIER WILL NOT GRANT AN INVESTIGATION

## Opposition Motion Is Refused and Government Amendment Carries

### ATTACK ON SUN FEATURES DEBATE

#### Inform House That He Will Appoint Committee When Definite Charges Laid

By The Vancouver Sun Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 28.—Premier John Oliver, speaking in the House tonight, branded Mr. W. J. Bowers' assertions relative to the liquor board "scandal" as mere insinuations, and declared that as soon as definite charges were made he would agree to a sweeping investigation by a select committee, as urged in the Bowers resolution.

At the conclusion of a long address, featured by heated attacks on R. T. Elliott, K.C., and R. J. Cromie, publisher of the Vancouver Sun, the premier moved an amendment to the Bowers motion asking that the Bowers "insinuations" be put in the form of definite charges.

#### THE DIVISION

Here is the division:  
Against the investigation—Sloan, Farris, Oliver, King, Sutherland, Anderson, K. C. McDonald, Yorton, Patterson, Ramsay, Henniger, Kergin, Ian MacKenzie, Pauline, Buckham, Whiteside, Barrow, Hart, Pattullo, MacIsaac, Stenches, Clearhouse, Jackson.  
For the investigation—Hanes, Neelands, Guthrie, Uphill, McRae, Catherwood, Pearson, A. McDonald, Esling, Schofield, Pooley, Bowers, Jones, W. A. MacKenzie, Lister, Hunter, Burde, Duncan.

#### SAYS NOTHING NEW

The attorney-general began his second dissertation upon the charges of maladministration of the Liquor Act about 4:30 and kept it up till after 6, when it was announced by Mr. Speaker that there was to be night sitting. As nobody had adjourned the debate the members were wondering if he intended to make a third effort to refute the charges against him at that time.

Notwithstanding that the leader of the opposition has shot his bolt," began Mr. Farris, "I find that he leaves me where he started when he put his resolution on the order paper. He has simply renewed his insinuations in generalities and has failed to resolve them into direct and specific accusations. If the public of Vancouver, which the member and I both represent, thinks that the method offered by the leader of the opposition of settling these things is a fair one, then I am ready. I have nothing to fear or conceal."

Two-thirds of the attorney-general's speech was devoted to the Campbell warehouse deal, on which the previous day he said he felt no obligation to the public to answer for.

#### PLEAS TO DENY

He conceded it was useless to deny that it was purchased from a close political supporter of the government. He said that the opposition leader's reference to the assessed value of \$58,000 was unfair because everybody knew assessed values had no relation to actual value.

As to the charge that \$150,000 had been paid for the building illegally he protested putting such a question before a committee of laymen incompetent to decide a point that was really for lawyers to determine.

"He makes three charges, two in words and one that he just implies," declared the minister. "The first is that the price was too high; the second that the payment was unequal and that he dare not put in words the suggestion by inference that the transaction was corruptly and wrongfully entered into."  
"Some witnesses at the trial said the price was too high. Others said

probably less political bias, like Col. Eddie Ryan, a reputable contractor, pledge their oaths as to the replacement value of the building and the value of the land. Mr. Murdoch, a reputable real estate man and Mr. Waghorn, a lifelong Conservative, furnish their written opinions to this government that the rental was fair. Mr. D'Alton, the warehouseman, swore that the rental was not only fair but cheap."

#### WAKES ELOQUENT

He concluded by disagreeing with the finding of the court and submitted that the weight of evidence was to the effect that the price was fair.

"If he wants an investigation, he should make a charge," declared the attorney-general.

The minister waxed eloquent over the "Dear Wallace" letter.

"Why should not an old friend whom I have called Charlie for years call me 'Dear Wallace,'" he asked.  
"And if there was anything sinister in the hope expressed that there would be no hitch tomorrow, then I'll point out that this was written in January and there was a hitch. Mr. Campbell testified at the trial that I turned him down and refused to purchase his building as I was unwilling to tie the hands of the liquor board."

#### REHASHES TRIAL

"I should not say purchase. The only question then was a lease. The only question of purchase arose through the deputy attorney-general, who insisted Mr. Campbell should be obligated to sell if we wanted to buy. He refers to Mr. Campbell wanting no hitch so that he could buy the World at that time. John Nelson was the owner of the World then and defied him to procure from Nelson any suggestion that negotiations were on then between Mr. Campbell or myself or anybody else. There is not one suggestion that Mr. Campbell went East to buy the World and Mr. Nelson, the owner, and Messrs. Cameron and Davidson, the mortgage-holders, were Vancouver men."

The attorney-general then repeated the arguments used at the trial about Archie Johnson urging him in March to acquire the warehouse because of the large quantities of liquor coming to B. C. He also used the exploded argument about Col. Slater already having a portion of the building under lease at a larger rental lease than the new rate that went in when the whole building was leased. He made no reference to the difference between warehouse space rates and building rentals that was gone into so fully at the trial.

#### PASSES THE BUCK

He passed the whole responsibility of the transaction to his deputy, Archie Johnson, and asked why not? He was the official charged with the business administration of the department over which I preside. He declared "Mr. Campbell and Mr. Johnson were in my office for only a few minutes to get my signature to the lease." As to why he had not told the legislature there was no reason why he should. It was only a detail of administration and could come before the legislature in the ordinary way in the public accounts.

He declared that the method of paying out the money adopted by the chairman of the liquor board through the government agent at Vancouver was the ordinary way that is used by lawyers in conveying.

"The facts are as straightforward and above-board as any business transaction could be," he declared amid applause from some of the government supporters.

Like the leader of the opposition, Mr. Farris went into the legality of the expenditure of the money which he had said the previous day was authority by the departmental solicitor in his absence from town and claimed that an omnibus clause in the interpretation act gave the board power to do anything expedient or necessary for the operation of the act before it, was actually in force. He then said the question was one that the select committee could not deal with because of its technical ramifications.

#### HIS OWN JUDGE

Mr. Farris then quoted carefully chosen extracts from the addresses to the jury at the Campbell-Sun libel suit, which was won by this newspaper and claimed that the only issue before the jury was whether the statements were libelous, not whether they were true or not. He quoted Joseph Martin as asking that the suit be dismissed because there was no libel against Charles Campbell, but omitted to mention that the judge had overruled this plea at the beginning of the trial and failed to state that Mr. Martin very clearly stated that the reflections were all against the attorney-general, not against Mr. Campbell.

Dealing with Mr. Justice Morrison's charge to the jury, he appealed to lawyer members of the house whether there was anybody who could convey more meaning to words by inflection and intonation than His Lordship. He then proceeded to read extracts from the judge's charge, attempting to imitate the inflections of the judge's voice. The extracts were selected on the same basis as those from Mr. Martin's address.

#### APPEALS TO FRIENDS

"If my honorable friend across the house does not come forward with any more specific charges, then I appeal to the honorable members of this house to try the issue on the extracts that I have read to you," were his concluding words on this phase of the subject.

Regarding charges of extravagance in renting premises he asked if Pither

and Leiser, who rented the Victoria warehouse to the government, were political friends. He said he did not know who were the owners of the Belmont block where the board's offices are situated.

John Hart came to his rescue with the statement that they were Conservatives, which another member promptly repudiated by saying the owner was a mortgage company.

The minister took great credit to himself because the Victoria store was in Johnson Street, although for several years the prohibition store had been in the Dominion Hotel, owned by Stephen Jones, a life-long Liberal.

#### FORGOT LADYSMITH

"We actually removed the store from that building because Johnson Street was cheaper," he declared with a dramatic gesture, "and he says that the board should be investigated on that."

He skipped Ladysmith, where Mr. Bowers said the store was rented from a delegate to the Liberal convention and went to Nanaimo where Mr. Sloan had claimed that premises which Mr. Bowers said were formerly rented for \$30 a month had really fetched \$150 before the government took them over.

Dealing with the statement that the board was employing convicted men, Mr. Farris asked why aside from righteousness or wrongness a department with so many troubles as his own should wish its ordinary common sense to employ that type of men.

"At any rate don't know of any, although it may be true," he said. "I suppose they ask that if there is an employee who was convicted and who served his term he should be dismissed because his character is unfit. Once before the opposition leader disputed an affidavit I filed, because a man had been convicted. And what was he convicted for? Because a girl employee in his drug store while he was out inadvertently sold a bottle of patent medicine without affixing the stamp. Do you wonder I am skeptical about the kind of conviction he talks about?"

#### WASN'T TIPPED OFF

"Then he says that we are incompetent because liquor was stolen. He blames the government because there is a temptation to steal liquor. Surely there must be some limitation to what this committee can be asked to investigate." Dealing with the charge that he had been negligent in not paying the duty on the liquor before the new Dominion taxes came in, Mr. Farris declared that the booze dealers in Vancouver had been tipped off and that he had not. Even if he had been he said he could never have believed that any government would be so unfair as to collect \$1.50 a bottle from every bottle sold, when that was more than the province got out of it.

He then said that he did not think it was his duty to try and avoid the payment of taxes, but said that the Province of British Columbia with its 6 per cent. of the population of Canada would only get back 10 cents worth of benefit from the \$1.50 collected for the benefit of all Canada.

Dealing with the alleged booze ring he asked:

"Was there any suggestion that the liquor was increased in cost through the fact the liquor was purchased through these men? Could a more cowardly method of insinuation have been used than was used yesterday afternoon?"

#### KNOWS THE BRANDS

With the smooth professional air of a regular liquor dealer the attorney-general then began to read off the list of Scotch whiskeys (the liquor which he said was most in demand) purchased by the government. Some of the names he admitted himself he had never heard of before. He said he had been informed on the long distance phone from Victoria that morning that the only man in the whole list who had ever sold liquor to the government was C. C. Debridge who was the official agent for Old Orkney. The list that he read showed that 2500 cases of this liquor had been purchased. The amount being the largest of any of the brands quoted.

"He takes this group of men, some of them my friends, some my political associates, including even my own brother and throws a ring of mud around them. That is the sort of thing that makes one wonder if the game is worth playing," declared the Attorney-General with attempted pathos.

He charged Mr. Bowers with unworthy conduct in mentioning James Falconer's name when he only hoped to bring the charge home to him.

#### BLAMES JUDGE

Regarding the bonded warehouse consents he challenged Mr. Bowers to make the assertion that he had ever profited one five cent piece. He did not ask for the name of the member of the legislature supposed to be implicated but charged the attorney-general with inconsistency in throwing an imputation on the whole house in this matter although he had been very sorry for the 13 employees of the Hastings Street liquor store thrown under imputation when they were dismissed because of liquor disappearing from that store.

He stated that the reason men convicted under the liquor act were walking the street was because Judge Cayley had quashed their convictions.

He said he had not the power under the companies act to refuse incorporations to club but promised that when the liquor act came up for amendment there would be some provision for dealing with improper liquor sales.

The attorney-general's criticism of the Bowers motion was not only a rebuff to the opposition but a warning to the government that it must be prepared to face a full-scale attack on the liquor board if it does not grant an investigation.

The minister's attack on the opposition was a masterpiece of political strategy, as he managed to turn the tables and accuse the opposition of insinuations and lack of evidence.

The debate in the House was a dramatic one, with the attorney-general's eloquent speeches and the opposition's determined attacks.

The minister's response to the opposition's charges was a masterclass in political deflection, as he managed to avoid any direct answers to the opposition's accusations.

The debate on the liquor board's operations was a key moment in the government's attempt to reform the industry, as it highlighted the need for a more transparent and accountable system.

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The attorney-general concluded by saying he was willing to face any criticism for incompetency or mistakes but declared that where dishonesty was involved he would demand a full measure of British fair play.

He demanded that charges of dishonesty whether addressed to himself, his brother, his political friends or his subordinates be so definite that he did not have to paw the air in reply.

**JOHN McRAE BUSY**

Maiden speeches are always interesting occasions in the legislature, but that by John McRae of Yale today was unusually so. The member was obviously nervous, but he was able to score a couple of good hits by the vehicle of humor and wound up with a real good fighting defiance of the premier on the Mothers' Pensions Act administration.

He accused Premier Oliver of paying more attention to constituencies that elected government supporters than to others. Delta, for instance, had had \$330,000 of government money in the past year and he could understand the reason why Alex. Patterson, the Delta member, had seconded the reply to the speech from the throne. (Laughter.)

He declared that two men in his district were paying more taxes than all the money the government had spent on roads in Yale.

"We've heard the Liberals condemn the old government for piling up a debt of \$19,000,000, but since they've been in power themselves for a little over four years they've run it up to \$40,000,000," he declared.

"Where are we going to land? If there was an election tomorrow, you, Mr. Speaker, are the only Liberal who could get elected."

He charged that there was something radically wrong in the matter of administration of mothers' pensions and said that a most deserving widow in his own constituency had been refused a pension without investigation.

**LABOR MEMBERS TOO**

"Why?" he asked. "The only reason is because she voted for me. The first question they asked her when she applied was which way did she vote. No real man would stoop to a thing like that, and I appeal to the premier to see that this woman gets what's coming to her. I've started on this thing and I'm going to see it through."

Harry Neelands and Tom Uphill, labor members for South Vancouver and Fernie, also spoke, both criticising the government for its failure to mention the grave unemployment situation in its speech from the throne.

Harry Neelands also took a whack at one-man street cars, claiming that they would throw a number of men out of work and that in other places they had been the cause of many accidents. He opposed any suggestion of taxing incomes below \$1,500 and urged that if the government needed new sources of revenue it should impose a graduated tax on the interest and earnings of big corporations.

**TWITTED MR. SLOAN**

Tom Uphill said he felt so sorry for the premier in the trouble he was having in keeping his own supporters from throwing brickbats that he felt disposed to be lenient himself. He asked the government to see that no man went hungry in B. C. this winter and appealed for amendments to the Coal Mines Act, twitting the minister of mines, Hon. William Sloan, for having called a great mining convention at St. Louis with delegates from all over the world and then never producing a single idea for the legislature as a result.

He charged the government with refusing to do road work in his district because it did not vote the right way.

"The premier is a pretty good old scout," he said. "But honest? Is it honest to take all the taxes you can get from a district and spend nothing back in it?"

**GOSSIP HEARD  
IN LOBBIES OF  
LEGISLATURE**

VICTORIA, Oct. 28.—Mr. Esling, the member for Rossland, lives a long way from the P. G. E. country, but he had a lot of fun with the premier on Thursday, moving the perennial motion for a return of the contract between that railway and the Northern Construction Company. The answer is always the same—the premier files a copy of a letter from R. Mann, offering to build 62 miles of railway at certain figures. This the opposition professed to believe is not the contract, but the premier's now past the stage of getting on his dignity at the job, so that he is holding the real contract back. George Hanes lent Mr. Esling a hand on Thursday and expressed amazement that such a great engineer and constitutional lawyer as Honest John should consider a document without signatures, seals, forfeits, time limits or anything of that sort in a contract.

Applications for jobs in the attorney-general's department are not likely to be so numerous in future, the galleries declare. So long as Mr. Farris lays himself open to attack and then passes the buck to his subordinates, as he has done in the past week to Archie Johnston, Doc Baker, W. D. Carter and Purchasing Agent Patterson, the job hunters hold that there are pleasanter offices at less money than the attorney-general pays his hired help.

Now that the smoke of battle has cleared away, friends of the attorney-general are kidding him about his glibness for punishment. After his bete noir the leader of the opposition had spent an hour and a half struggling with the English language to express his not over great enthusiasm for the attorney-general, Mr. Farris arose in his seat and demanded that if an investigation was wanted somebody ought to make charges. "As nobody else seems able to say anything strong enough to constitute a charge, perhaps the attorney-general had better draw up a form which his opponents can fill in when they have charges to make," was the bright suggestion of one of the members.

The press gallery asserted itself this afternoon when a certain member, in his opening remarks, referred to "lying reporters," the gallery walked out on him and sent a protest to Mr. Speaker.

Dick Burde, the genial member for Alberni, interrupted the attorney-general in his defence this afternoon to find out if he was addressing the chair or the little group of government supporters who sit immediately alongside the treasury bench. "If he is not addressing the chair, let him at least look over our way once in a while," he suggested.

David Whiteside's municipal committee organized itself this morning. T. A. Pearson of Richmond is secretary. The other members of the committee are—but then, it would be shorter to enumerate the members not on this committee. This committee and the private bills committee have the pleasant little task of seeing the municipal taxation question, about which there is so much controversy. The personnel of the two committees overlaps to some extent, so that the results may be co-ordinated.

The Hon. Mary Ellen Smith paired with Dr. Rose (Nelson) today. Mrs. Smith went to Vancouver on the afternoon boat as her son, Bob Smith, is to be operated on for appendicitis at the hospital Saturday morning.

Mrs. Smith is now in the George Washington, Earl Kitchener class—they've started naming children after her. She received a letter this morning from Malcolm Island. A Finnish family has named its baby daughter Mary Ellen Ralph Schmit Johannessen, and wants a photograph to inspire the little girl to take after her namesake.

**Editorial**

**Oliver-Farris  
Regime Must End**

FIGHTING public criticism with vituperative personal slander; deprecating Supreme Court findings; and answering grave charges of official malfeasance with evasion and subterfuge, the Oliver-Farris regime is nearing the end of its maladministrative career. "No rogue 'ere felt the halter draw, with good opinion of the law," and when Premier Oliver complains of his 25-cent verdict, and Mr. Farris raves about The Vancouver Sun being out to "get" him, they both well know, and the public knows, that before anyone can "get" them, there must be just cause.

Maladministration of the Prohibition Act wrecked prohibition and we did not hesitate to publicly say so.

Corruption on the part of the Farris ring threatened to wreck the Liberal party and Liberalism in British Columbia, and we did not hesitate to privately and publicly say so. Before the elections last November Premier Oliver was asked by us to take on a man of the David Whiteside type as Attorney-General, because, in our opinion, the Liberal party could not carry Mr. Farris and win the election. Our judgment in respect to Mr. Farris was wrong: Why? Because out of the \$240,000 spent on returning the Liberal party to power last November, three-quarters of the campaign efforts were directed to electing Mr. Farris. And three-quarters of the maladministration now facing the Oliver Government can be credited to the Farris ring.

Much as the character and private life of our ministers has made them subject to criticism and ridicule, The Sun has never stooped to deal in personalities. We have consistently dealt with facts and principles, not men. This course we shall strictly adhere to in the hope of restoring in Victoria responsible government.

Facts which have been exposed, published, and declared by the Supreme Court to be true, shows that a large sum of the public's money has been misappropriated and that therefore ministers of the Crown are guilty of malfeasance in office. Confronted by such a situation the proper and dignified course to follow is for the House to purge itself as quickly and quietly as possible. When that is not immediately done the good name and fair fame of the Province rests with the Lieutenant-Governor. No one else can protect the interests of the Crown.

Nothing on Oct 31

**OCT**

**1921**

## READJUSTMENT OF PENSIONS SOON

### Some Amounts Paid Under Mothers' Legislation May Be Curtailed.

VICTORIA, Oct. 17.—A readjustment in the pensions paid by the Provincial Government under the provisions of the Mothers' Pension Act is being made by various boards throughout the province.

This will mean, in some cases, that the recipient of the pension will find the amount hitherto paid somewhat curtailed, the board in its review of the individual cases, taking the attitude that where a woman has no other means of subsistence she is entitled to a larger payment than is a woman who has some other source of income or has relatives who are in a position to contribute something towards her support. Every case stands upon its own merits and the aim of the board is to readjust claims in the most equitable manner possible consistent with the exact situation of the pensioner.

It has been found that the amount of money appropriated for payment of pensions—\$400,000 for the whole province—is not sufficient to meet the demands upon it. The present revision is to a certain extent inspired by the necessity of curtailing outlays as far as possible consistent with seeing that actually deserving cases are provided for, while in other cases, where outside financial provision is available, that fact is taken cognizance of.

Under the provisions of the act the maximum pension payable to a woman who is legally entitled to secure it is \$35 per month for the mother and \$7.50 per month for each child under sixteen years of age.

Under the revision now being made it is stated any reduction in a pension, if ordered, will not amount to

## VANCOUVER'S CASE IS UP AT VICTORIA

### Mayor Gale Interviews Officials on the Question of Charter Amendments.

VICTORIA, Oct. 18.—Vancouver's special interests are being placed before the government at the earliest possible date. A delegation consisting of Mayor Gale, Alderman Owen and City Solicitor Jones interviewed members of the cabinet this morning on the question of charter amendments and the completion of the consolidation of the city charter.

When the last session of the Legislature was drawing to a close Attorney-General Farris announced that there had not been time to check up the charter in detail and that another year would be required. The Vancouver situation being closely akin to that of the municipalities throughout the province, the Premier promised that Vancouver's interests in common with the welfare of the other municipalities would be considered at the fall session starting today.

Mayor Gale and Alderman Owen said this morning that they were merely here to place the matter before the government and urge quick action. It is expected that the business will be partly disposed of this week, because Mayor Gale is anxious to devote most of his time to campaigning in Vancouver Centre and will have little opportunity to attend committee sessions in Victoria.

# Impressive Ceremony At Legislature's Opening

## Galleries Crowded When His Honor Appeared at 3 o'Clock.

VICTORIA, Oct. 18.—There is always a particular interest in the opening of the Legislature, and one of the most impressive ceremonies of this nature witnessed in British Columbia was enacted today in the opening of the second session of the fifteenth Legislature by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor W. C. Nichol.

Something of the imposing nature of an old world parliamentary inaugural was in evidence. His Honor appeared in his Windsor uniform, accompanied by his secretary, promptly at 3 o'clock. A guard of honor from the Princess Patricia's Regiment stood at attention as the gubernatorial party arrived at the Legislative Buildings and passed into the Assembly Hall. A salute was fired by artillery.

The Assembly Hall was crowded to capacity by an audience from all parts of the province. Military and naval uniforms added color to the scene, while richly gowned women occupied seats of honor upon the main floor. The galleries were crowded, and many were unable to gain admission.

**SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.**  
Lieutenant-Governor Nichol ascended the Speaker's dais and delivered the King's speech, as follows:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature:  
"In summoning you to meet for the second time within the calendar year, I am fulfilling an undertaking given by the leader of my government during the first session of the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

"During the recess investigation has been made into the financial conditions of municipalities, and legislation will be submitted providing for extension of the sources of their revenues.

"Amendments to the Taxation Act will be submitted in order to apportion more equitably the burden of taxation on all classes of property and persons.

"Satisfactory progress has been made on the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and the financial provision made at the last session of the Legislature will prove adequate for the completion of this line to Prince George.

"Having in view the better investigation and prevention of fires, a measure will be laid before you extending the work of the department of insurance.

"Minor amendments to the Government Liquor Act will be submitted.

"Amendments to the Mineral Act will be laid before you.

"Further amendments to the Placer Mining Act will be proposed.

"The public accounts for the last fiscal year will be brought down at an early date.

"The estimates of expenditure for the coming year will be submitted for your earnest consideration.

"Members of the Legislature.—In leaving you to your deliberations I have confidence that you will apply your best endeavors to the solution of the problems before you, and I pray the blessing of Providence on your labors."

**BUSINESS IS BEGUN.**  
Following the reading of the King's speech His Honor left the Speaker's dais and retired. Mr. Speaker Manson then took the chair and prayers were offered by Rev. W. D. Spence of the First Congregational Church. The House then proceeded to business.

An order was passed authorizing the printing of the votes and proceedings for the session and the appointment of the ordinary standing committees.

Then, on motion of Hon. J. W. deF. Farris, attorney-general, a bill was introduced entitled An Act to Amend the Summary Convictions Act. This was given first reading.

Premier Oliver moved the adjournment of the Legislature until Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

## M. A. MACDONALD NO LONGER M.L.A.

### Sends Resignation to Victoria and Will Not Attend Session.

VICTORIA, Oct. 18.—It was learned in the House today that Mr. M. A. Macdonald, M. L. A. of Vancouver, who is contesting Burrard riding in the federal election, has tendered his resignation to the Speaker of the House.

David Whiteside, M. L. A., was another absentee from the Liberal caucus today.

Mr. Macdonald, when seen in his office this forenoon, admitted that he had sent his resignation to Victoria, in order that, if necessary, it should be announced at the opening of the House. His time was to be so much occupied in the federal contest, he said, that it would be impossible for him to represent his provincial constituents on the floor of the House during the session. From all parts of the interior invitations were coming for him to speak. He had his own campaign to look after, he said, and if he were to attempt to attend the session it would mean a constant running to and from Victoria. Nomination day was on November 22, when he would have to resign, anyway. He said that he felt he could not rightfully draw the sessional indemnity and not do the work of the session.

## THE AUTUMN SESSION.

In this province an autumn session of the Legislature can not be called a novelty. Three times in fifty years the Legislature has met in December, and twice in November. We believe that it is eighteen years since the House last met in regular session in the autumn. That was the first session of the tenth Legislature. The fifteenth Legislature in opening its session today sets the precedent for meeting in October. All the previous autumn sessions were continued into the following year, none ending before February. There is a fair prospect that this session may close before the end of the year.

There is much in favor of an autumn session. It will be able to review the business of the fiscal year which closed with the previous March, and to vote the appropriations a reasonable time before the year begins. The provincial administration as well as the federal government, has often found itself at the beginning of the fiscal year without supply for the ordinary services. Ways have been invented to meet the emergency, but they are inconvenient and would be unnecessary if the dates for the meeting of legislatures and the close of the fiscal year were made to correspond. For this year, at least, the inconvenience will be avoided.

Perhaps the most important, and probably the most difficult and complicated legislative problem is that relating to the financial condition of the municipalities. The liquor bill would in the nature of the case be discussed from various points of view, even if the government were not proposing amendments. There are always revenue measures, and the Pacific Great Eastern may be regarded as a part of the regular bill of fare.

Two members of the Legislature, who have taken an active part in the proceedings, will be otherwise engaged during this session. One belongs to each party. They may be supposed to have retired, leaving the party situation unchanged so far as the public has information.



# Says Liquor Purchases Made from Political Friends

## NEW INSURANCE LAWS PLANNED

Legislation Will Embody Recommendations of Supt. J. P. Dougherty.

All Agents to Be Licensed and Fire Marshals Appointed.

VICTORIA, Oct. 19.—Two apparently important acts are to be brought down by the government this session relating to general insurance in British Columbia. The new legislation is said to be the result of the activity of J. P. Dougherty, recently appointed inspector of insurance, whose recommendations will result in the new laws.

The first act will be called the Fire Marshal's Act, and its aim is to provide a fuller measure of fire protection in the province. A government fire marshal will be appointed, who will have full jurisdiction over fire prevention laws; which laws will be those at present in existence and amendments to be passed this session.

### GENERAL PROTECTION.

Deputies will be appointed all over the province. In municipalities where there is a fire department chief he will act; in rural districts the reeve, city clerk or police chief will be appointed. It is not the intention to override existing fire departments, but it is the aim of the department to provide a fuller measure of protection.

There will be no additional expense to the province, explained Mr. Dougherty, as the small tax on all companies doing business in British Columbia will more than cover any extra outlay. The new arrangement will also do away with the position of "fire prevention officer."

The act will come into effect on January 1 if passed by the Legislature.

### LICENSE AGENTS.

The second new law contemplated is an act to provide for the licensing of all insurance agents, canvassers and adjusters. The act will cover every form of insurance—fire, life, plate glass, accident and sickness, casualty, bonding, etc.

At present there is no law covering insurance agents, but under the new act every agent transacting business in the province must hold a license. All canvassers and solicitors in offices will have to be licensed. This does not apply to fraternal societies.

In cities of over 25,000 population the agent's license will cost \$25. In cities of 5,000 up to 25,000 population the fee will be \$7.50. In cities of less than 5,000 the license will cost \$3. All canvassers and office solicitors will be charged a \$2 license fee, and all licenses will date from January 1 to December 31 of any one year.

### FAVOR CHANGE.

Mr. Dougherty, in explaining this proposed new act, said that insurance men were strongly in favor of the change and had officially expressed their approbation. He maintained that undesirable insurance agents and canvassers would be weeded out, since it would be necessary for each applicant to sign a questionnaire, and licenses would not be issued unless the qualifications were high enough.

Provision will be made in the act for the cancellation of licenses where there is sufficient reason, and for the imposition of a fine of from \$50 to \$500 for breaches of the new act. This act will also become operative on January 1 if passed.

## Caucus This Forenoon; Beer Question May Have Been Discussed

VICTORIA, Oct. 19.—Another proposed session of the caucus occupied most of this forenoon. Premier Oliver stated that there were no announcements to be made.

It is a safe guess that the beer question received some consideration at the meeting of the party caucus. It is expected that the beer question will be discussed at the caucus on Monday.

## Charges Laid by W. J. Bowser, Who Demands Enquiry.

Alleges Large Sum Paid for Warehouse Privileges.

VICTORIA, Oct. 19.—A demand for an enquiry into alleged wrongful acts of the government, chiefly in respect to administration of the liquor laws, formed the first move of the leader of the opposition in the new session today.

Charges of a grave nature were made by W. J. Bowser when he gave notice of motion than on Monday next he would ask for a select committee to enquire into matters set forth in his resolution. The members suggested by Mr. Bowser for the committee were: Messrs. Whiteside, Ramsay, Patterson, Clearihue, Hanes, Pooley and Bowser. The resolution deals chiefly with the government's administration of the Liquor Control Act and matters directly related thereto.

### WHAT IS CHARGED.

First, the leader of the opposition condemns the Campbell warehouse deal. Then he alleges "reckless and unjustifiable extravagance" in administration of the Liquor Act.

Next he alleges that secret commissions have been paid to political friends of the government, and that inferior liquor was obtained. He charges that large sums have been paid by applicants for "consents" for excise bonded warehouses given by the attorney-general.

He finally alleges that government officials were over-active politically in the last election.

### TEXT OF RESOLUTION.

The resolution he has filed is, in detail, as follows:

That whereas by the Government Liquor Act being chapter 30 of the Statutes of the Province of British Columbia 1921, the Government of the Province of British Columbia is authorized to purchase and sell liquor; and whereas it was understood by the general public that the government would purchase and sell nothing but the best of liquors at the cheapest price possible to the consumer after allowing for a fair profit and otherwise exercise the greatest economy in the administration of the liquor stores;

And whereas the government purchased from a close political supporter of the government, without any justification, certain premises known as the Campbell warehouse in the city of Vancouver;

And whereas the official value of the premises as fixed by the city assessor was \$58,800;

And whereas the government not only without any justification or legislative authority, but illegally paid the sum of \$150,000 for the purchase of the said premises;

And whereas the government, in the administration of the act, have unnecessarily leased premises for administration and other purposes, and in leasing liquor stores and warehouses in various parts of the province are paying a rental to political friends far in excess of their value;

And whereas the government have been extravagant in the purchase of plant, fixtures and furnishings;

And whereas, in the administration of the act, the government have indulged in reckless and unjustifiable extravagance and incompetency, and in the selection of officials they have in numerous cases employed men convicted and suspected of infractions of the liquor laws and other laws of the province;

And whereas the government neglected to take a large quantity of liquor out of bond prior to the 10th of May, on which date an extra duty was imposed by the federal authorities, thereby entailing a very heavy loss to the province;

And whereas questionable practices have been and are being resorted to in connection with the purchase by the government of liquor for sale both under the Prohibition Act as well as the Government Liquor Act from certain political friends, relatives and business associates of members of the government;

And whereas the government, while in a position to go into the open market and obtain liquors at the minimum market price, have refused to do so under the late Prohibition Act and the Government Liquor Act to make such purchases through political friends and associates of members of the government;

And whereas great abuses have been permitted and encouraged in the use of permits and the amount of liquor purchased thereunder;

And whereas the government claiming that they have lost a large quantity of liquor from the Hastings street liquor store, Vancouver, have, without proper investigation, dismissed the whole staff, thereby casting a reflection and doing injustice to possibly a great many innocent employees;

And whereas no permits to operate bonded liquor warehouses or excise bonded warehouses in this province can be obtained from the Federal Government without the consent of the honorable the attorney-general of the Province of British Columbia;

And whereas, as a result certain consents have been given by the Attorney-General through political friends and agents for which the applicant has had to pay large sums of money;

And whereas certain practices have been followed by the Honorable the Attorney-General in connection with the administration of justice and in dealing with the administration of the Prohibition Act, as well as the Government Liquor Act and other acts, and those convicted thereunder, which have not only brought the administration of justice into disrepute, but have been an incentive to certain officials and employees of the government, with the consent of the members of the government, to give their time and ability for the advancement of the interests of their political friends, as well as of the government as a political party, and for these purposes public moneys have, with the aforesaid consent, thereby been improperly and illegally used;

And whereas, prior to and during the late provincial election certain officials and employees of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, who were being paid out of public moneys for their services, were, with the knowledge and consent of members of the government, engaged in connection with certain reprehensible political activities;

Be it therefore resolved that a select committee be appointed to enquire into all questions directly or indirectly relating to the above matters.

## COST OF P.G.E. IS GIVEN IN STATEMENT

Premier Oliver Tables Details of Accounts of Government Line.

VICTORIA, Oct. 19.—Premier Oliver tabled a statement of accounts relating to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway on Tuesday afternoon in the Legislature. The document covers expenditures and receipts up to June 30, 1921, and shows the total cost of the government-owned line to that date as \$38,544,976.54. The capital stock issued is shown as \$25,000,000, with \$24,960,000 unpaid. Guaranteed 4-1/2 per cent. debenture stock, first mortgage, is listed as amounting to \$16,800,000 with guaranteed 4-1/2 per cent. debenture stock, second mortgage, amounting to \$3,360,000, or a total for the two of \$20,160,000. Subtracting \$3,225,196, the amount pledged to the Government of British Columbia, as security for loans, there is left \$14,234,805.

Loans and accrued interest, plus accounts payable, make up the total of \$38,544,976.

In the list of assets is shown the sum of \$36,275,110.72, being the investment in road and equipment on the main line. The Peace River extension has cost to date \$48,321.48. Real estate, Squamish hydro-electric and waterworks plant and other physical property is valued at \$76,657.61. There was \$232,204.02 cash on hand on June 30. Material and supplies on hand, and accounts receivable are listed at \$576,501.09. Discounts on the funded debt amounted to \$909,248.30.

It cost \$223,950 to operate the road during the year ending June 30, less operating revenues, \$455,307, leaving a net deficit on railway operations of \$375,642. Of the total operating revenue the North Vancouver division produced \$78,937, and cost to operate \$124,753.

The total cost of equipment on the line to June 30 was \$1,246,825. Locomotives cost \$378,311; freight train cars, \$326,246, and passenger train cars, \$211,754.

The statement of loans from the Province of British Columbia on account of the P. G. E. shows that \$17,380,487 was advanced. The interest on that amount was \$1,198,960, a total of \$18,579,447.

# WOULD TAX ALL INCOMES

Too Many People Get Off Free, Says Speaker in Legislature.

Liabilities of Municipalities Too High, and Sinking Funds Short.

VICTORIA, Oct. 19.—Brevity was the feature of the remarks of J. H. Clearihue, Liberal member for Victoria, who had the honor of moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne in the Legislature this afternoon. Ordinarily the opening address is a lengthy affair, containing a forecast in outline of the government's proposed legislative programme, but this year with little new business on the agenda, the mover's comments were brief.

Mr. Clearihue went immediately into the question of municipal finance. The marked difficulties experienced all over the province, he said, were not due entirely to war, but were partly the outcome of the "wild orgy of spending," which prevailed before the war.

"Extensive loans, such as were indulged in could only be justified when founded upon actual values," said the speaker, "and these values did not exist at that time."

### LIABILITIES HIGH.

Mr. Clearihue said the report of the inspector of municipalities up to December 31 last showed that the liabilities of the municipalities amounted to \$108,000,000, while the assessed value of all property was \$596,000,000. This was out of all proportion, he asserted, adding that there was an alarming shortage of sinking funds throughout the municipalities. The average was 25 per cent, with Victoria 60 per cent short in its sinking fund. Dealing with direct taxation, Mr. Clearihue said:

"It is further recognized by all that between 80 and 90 per cent of the burden of taxation falls upon land values in the city. The land owner has to bear the burden and, regretably, it is heavy. When we recognize that the assessed value is generally too high, we can see that the rate is even more oppressive. Placing the income value of land at 10 per cent, and this is moderate, 32 mills on the assessed value means 32 per cent of the income value. In other words, people who have invested their money in land in the City of Victoria and elsewhere are paying to the municipalities 32 per cent of the income value of that land, and if you are unfortunate enough to have to pay for local improvements you probably contribute 100 per cent."

"If I should suggest that 32 per cent be taken off the incomes of all people as an income tax, my honorable friends on the other side would rise in indignation and drive me from my seat, and yet we do it on our land values."

### TAX ON ALL INCOMES.

A readjustment of the whole scheme of taxation was considered necessary by the speaker, who maintained that too many people got off free and that a tax on all incomes was the proper way out of the difficulty. This would include a share of every dollar earned in the province.

The elimination of unnecessary expenses in industrial enterprises was urged, and the introduction of the latest principles of industrial efficiency, the same should apply to political life, argued Mr. Clearihue. Political efficiency won the war, he added, and political efficiency should be sought in peace.

Warning was given against too great economy in education, since the youth of the land must be properly educated.

"A handsome dividend for the municipalities" was the way Mr. Clearihue announced that the government's revenue from the sale of liquor had been large, but he did not mention specific amounts.

The speaker mentioned the trip of the Legislature over the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, urging that the line should be supported so as to make it a productive one. He advocated the construction of the Ashcroft-Clinton line, which would be the last link cut-off, which would be the last link in a "wonderful tourist route" from Vancouver to Ashcroft, via the P. G. E. and return by the Canadian National or Canadian Pacific line.

### SUGGESTS PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN.

In this connection Mr. Clearihue suggested extensive advertising of the tourist attractions along the government railway.

In conclusion the speaker said that British Columbians should not forget their place in the life of Canada and the Empire. The nineteenth century belonged to the Atlantic, but the present would mark the development of Pacific trade. British Columbia, he thought, was destined to become a mighty important unit, and international relations should be studied carefully.

"We must be able to see that our interests are closely wrapped up with those of the world," cautioned Mr. Clearihue, "and that in seeking our own welfare we must seek that of the Empire and endeavor to base our judgment and actions upon the firm foundation of right, which will surely bring us prosperity and fame."  
A. D. Patterson, Liberal member for Delta, will second the address.

# HOLDS RECORD FOR BREVITY OF SPEECH

Member for Delta Spoke Three Minutes in Seconding the Address.

VICTORIA, Oct. 20.—Perhaps the shortest speech ever made in the Legislature by a seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, was that delivered Wednesday afternoon by A. D. Patterson, Liberal member for Delta. The former member said he had intended to talk for a minute and a half, but he held the floor for about three minutes and then, at 3:10 o'clock the House adjourned.

Mr. Patterson heralded his district and constituents as the finest in the province, which brought laughing rebukes from all over the legislative chamber. He urged the need of better and more schools and commended the government had the soundest road policy ever contemplated in British Columbia. He praised the Sumas reclamation project, explaining that he now approved of it, whereas he had been opposed to the scheme for a year and a half. He predicted that the reclaimed area at Sumas would turn out to be the most productive in the province.

The speaker concluded by expressing approval of the work of the Land Settlement Board, commending the government for its operations in central British Columbia, a district which he said had a wonderful future.  
A. J. Fred Lister, Conservative member for Kaslo, adjourned the debate.

# PROVINCE'S REVENUE FIFTEEN MILLIONS

Amounts Taken In by Various Departments Shown in Public Accounts.

VICTORIA, Oct. 19.—The revenue of the Province of British Columbia for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1921, was \$15,219,264, according to the "Public Accounts," a voluminous document tabled in the Legislature Tuesday afternoon by Hon. John Hart, minister of finance. This exceeded the estimated revenue by \$1,241,019. The sum was made up as follows by departments:

Agriculture	\$ 39,167.68
Attorney-general	1,783,203.16
Education	35,561.13
Finance	8,831,827.52
Fisheries	26,329.06
Labor	22,102.30
Lands	4,965,140.21
Mines	170,707.26
Provincial secretary	328,263.08
Public works	73,723.28
Railways	60,582.55
Private bills fees	2,655.00

The total expenditures for the year were \$19,826,689.95 (charged to income). Of this amount \$15,236,931.35 was expended on current account and \$4,589,748.60 was on capital account (charged to income). The total expenditure exceeded the estimated expenditure by \$2,216,007.65. Full details of the expenditures are set out in several hundred pages of the volume.

The administration of the department of education cost the province during the year ending March 31 last \$3,076,944.35; department of agriculture \$332,866.71; public debt \$2,223,139.12; department of attorney-general \$1,564,654; department of lands \$1,307,951; department of public works \$2,897,588.71; department of provincial secretary \$2,318,013.60; department of mines \$299,958.46; department of labor \$175,898.24; department of industries \$16,478.16; department of fisheries \$15,072.50; department of finance \$226,823.51; Premier's office \$12,633.59. The cost of legislation during the year was \$124,768.27.

# GET TRANSCRIPT OF LIBEL EVIDENCE

Hon. Mr. Farris Denies that There Was Any Finding of Wrongdoing.

VICTORIA, Oct. 20.—Hon. J. W. deH. Farris on Wednesday afternoon in the Legislature asked that four copies of the evidence in the Campbell-Cromie libel case be secured and placed at the disposal of members of the four groups in the House.

He did this, he said, following the receipt of telegrams by certain members from the Vancouver Sun which asked them if they were still supporting the Oliver government. The full telegram reads as follows:

"Regarding published charges of misappropriation of \$67,500 of public moneys on Campbell warehouse deal and in view of finding of a special judge and jury last night regarding this matter please wire us this afternoon whether or not you are still a supporter of the Oliver government. This request along with your answer or refusal to answer will be published in tomorrow morning's Sun for the benefit of people who elected you to office."  
(Signed) VANCOUVER SUN.

"I do not admit that there was any finding of wrongdoing either on the part of myself or any member of the Legislature," declared the attorney-general, who challenged anyone to produce any evidence which in any way would reflect on the honor of the government or any member of it.

# David Whiteside in Legislature Today

VICTORIA, Oct. 20.—David Whiteside, member for New Westminster, took his seat in the Legislature this afternoon for the first time this session. The member sat in his accustomed place on the government benches and when asked what his recent announcement of an independent stand might lead to in the way of government support, said he had nothing to add to what had already been reported in the press. There were certain things he did not agree with that the government was contemplating, but developments in the House would decide his attitude.

# SAYS B.C. IS OVER-TAXED

## R. H. Pooley Waxing Facetious in Discussing Government Levies.

### "Complete the P.G.E.," Is Slogan of Member For Atlin.

VICTORIA, Oct. 21.—"What have we got to offer the poor devil of an immigrant when he comes here?" R. H. Pooley of Esquimalt asked in the Legislature yesterday.

"Nothing but unbearable taxation. If a man takes some land in Esquimalt and grows one onion, a government official comes along and takes that one onion. If he grows a chicken a government inspector comes up in his Cadillac and plucks the chicken.

"It is time this government practised some of the economy they preached on the hustings. They were going to economize. I ask you if they have? They have split up departments and filled them with inspectors and job hunters.

#### WASTE OF FUNDS.

"My friend the minister of lands, has been joy-riding to Norway to learn how to extract heat from a Norwegian snowball to roast chestnuts. That is a waste of public funds. No doubt the gentleman in question has had a fine time and he comes back looking rosy and healthy. But that is not the kind of treatment the taxpayer wants.

"If this government would practice a little of the economy they preach, it would not be necessary to abolish the income tax exemption.

Mr. Pooley said that in his own constituency is a little canning industry and this business now has to pay no less than fifteen licenses.

"I ask my honorable friend whether he suggests that these taxes were a hardship on such a company?" M. E. Jackson asked.

"I am just showing the members of this House the way industry is almost taxed out of existence," Mr. Pooley replied. "I have looked up the figures and on the American side of the line I find that such an industry would pay \$150 a year and no more. This cannery in my district pays \$2500 taxes in a year."

Mr. Pooley declared that the overhead cost of conducting the government of British Columbia had gone up from \$1,600,000 in 1916 to \$2,800,000 today.

#### CALLS IT OUTRAGE.

He ridiculed the proposed legislation for creating the new office of fire marshal and appointing another official as "an outrage, as the work has been very well carried on until now by the registrar of joint stock companies."

Mr. Pooley asserted that according to the public accounts, Dr. Baker of the Game Board spent \$1800 last year travelling. He suggested that perhaps taxes were being increased partly to buy a new Lexington car for Dr. Baker.

"This government is running riot," he went on.

Mr. Pooley ridiculed the idea of the government drilling for oil in Northern British Columbia and read a quotation from an oil authority to prove that oil-drilling is a big man's game. The government could not afford to gamble \$150,000 on drilling each well.

He urged that money might well be spent to bring tourists to British Columbia, pointing to how Los Angeles has been built up through the tourist business.

#### INDEMNITY INCREASES.

Mr. Pooley charged that members of the Legislature voted under a misapprehension at the end of last session when they put through the increased seasonal indemnity. He said that he stood on everything that he had done in connection with it, but he was surprised four days after members' salaries had been raised to learn that the wages of government men on the roads had been cut the very day before that on which the members' salaries were raised.

"On March 31 wages of road men were cut 75 cents a day and \$1 a day for teams, and on April 1 the order went through the House increasing the indemnities," Mr. Pooley went on.

Premier Oliver—I would like to ask you whether he had members of the House knew what they were doing when they signed that round robin?

Dr. E. C. MacDonald—Don't be a

Mr. Pooley immediately asked that

Mr. Pooley quoted from a letter written by the Premier to Sydney G. Brown, secretary of the Langford G. W. V. A., in which it was written: "I can only say that the statement that information in respect to a reduction of wages was kept from Mr. Pooley and other members is false and willfully so. John Oliver said: 'Well, I say that as we all voted under a misapprehension, and it was not fair for the government supporters, let alone the opposition, that they should be put in that position,' Mr. Pooley concluded.

#### KERGIN'S POLICY.

Complete the F. G. E. to Prince George, was the policy Bert Kergin of Atlin announced himself in favor of in continuing the debate. He then gave a glowing description of the resources, beauties and possibilities of his constituency.

"But how do you get into it?" he asked. "The easiest way would be by airplane. It is up to this province to make representation to the federal government to build a road from Hazelton to White Horse. It is time now that there should be a survey made at least."

Mr. Kergin asked the government to look into the possibilities of the Naas River country, where tobacco and corn can be grown, but where there are now only thirteen settlers.

#### TO PROTECT WORKERS.

He urged on the government a policy of wage insurance, so that the worker would be protected as far as his pay goes if his employing company should fail. He said that companies in his district had failed, and the workers had been left with no wages and no chance of getting any. He suggested that in cases of failures there should be an arrangement by the government for taking an assignment of the payroll and collecting later through the attorney-general's department.

"Atlin is the finest place in the world when it comes to scenery, yet it is not mentioned in the publications of the tourist associations down here," Mr. Kergin went on. "The finest fox farms in Canada are up there. Do you know that Anyox is the only copper smelter in Canada that is working today, and that it is one of the three on the North American continent that is in operation? I would ask that the province as a whole get better acquainted with the country we have up there."

# MRS. SMITH EXPECTS PORTFOLIO SOON

## May Resign If She Does Not Get It—Does Not Attend Caucus.

VICTORIA, Oct. 21.—There are persistent rumors in legislative circles that Hon. Mary Ellen Smith, minister without portfolio in the Oliver administration, will receive a portfolio within a few weeks. There is supposed to have been a definite understanding between the woman member for Vancouver and the Premier that a portfolio would be forthcoming provided Hon. Mrs. Smith kept out of the federal field.

Mrs. Smith refused all offers of federal nominations made her and decided to stay in British Columbia. She states that her object was not the securing of a portfolio for herself, but she is anxious to have a wider field in which to work out the relief measures she has in hand for women and children.

Hon. Mrs. Smith has not attended any caucus of her party so far this session and is not expected to do so until the matter of her portfolio has been discussed by the government members in caucus.

A well-grounded rumor has it that within a week Premier Oliver will give the woman member a definite answer one way or another. Should a portfolio be provided, it will probably be a new one called the department of social service, because Hon. Mrs. Smith says she wishes to remain actively engaged in work affecting women.

An amendment to the Constitution Act will be necessary to provide for the change.

Should the government refuse the portfolio, it is reported that Hon. Mrs. Smith will resign her present cabinet position, becoming plain "Mrs. Smith" once more. It is even considered likely that she would resign her seat in the House.

There is marked opposition to the establishment of another portfolio on the part of the opposition and independent members in the Legislature. Many of the private members of the Liberal persuasion state that "there is something coming to the woman member," but the portfolio will not be granted without a stiff fight on the part of those opposed to the move, it is stated.

Premier Oliver today said he had nothing to say on the matter as he considered it of a private nature. If Hon. Mrs. Smith becomes a full-fledged minister the portfolio would be made acquainted with the fact in the customary way.

# ASKS INFORMATION ABOUT MOTOR CARS

## R. H. Pooley Is Questioner — Opposition Members Start Barrage.

VICTORIA, Oct. 21.—Members of the opposition have started a barrage of questions in the direction of the government benches. R. H. Pooley wants to know if the government purchased a motor car for the use of the chairman of the Game Conservation Board within the past twelve months, what the car cost and if it was damaged shortly after it was purchased and what caused the damage, if any.

Mr. Pooley, while on the matter of motor cars, asked all the ministers for the number of cars used in the various departments, together with their cost.

Mr. Jones asked for the amount of money expended on public roads in the province during 1917-18-19 and 1920; what sums were borrowed for roads during that time, how much actually expended; the amount spent this year in each riding and the amount borrowed for roads this year.

Mr. Jones also wants light upon the operations of the government in connection with the Sumas reclamation project. The questions on this subject cover nearly everything from machinery purchased to the association between the government and the Marsh-Bourne Construction Company.

Mr. Hanes wants to know if the government has issued any timber contracts, licenses or leases since 1916 without inserting a clause, "that no Chinese or Japanese shall be employed in connection therewith," and if so, why?

# Echo of Indemnity Increase Heard at Victoria Yesterday

VICTORIA, Oct. 21.—Echoes of the indemnity increase for members of the Legislature were heard in the House Thursday afternoon, when R. H. Pooley charged the government with withholding information asked for in the regular manner by a member. The question referred to was asked by G. S. Hanes of North Vancouver at the end of the last session. It dealt with an alleged reduction of wages of persons in the government employ.

Premier Oliver resented Mr. Pooley's charge and said the government had not withheld anything. Mr. Pooley asserted that the question had been left unanswered.

"Even so, that is no ground for a member to charge the government with suppressing information," returned the Premier.

Mr. Hanes added a word about the matter. He said he had asked if the government intended to reduce workmen's wages by 75 cents a day, when the salaries of ministers of the crown were being materially increased. The question had not been answered, he said.

"I stood on my feet waiting for an answer, but got none," added Mr. Hanes, and I resent the statement of the Premier that the question was not asked."

# Opposition Leader Amends the Wording Of Enquiry Resolution

VICTORIA, Oct. 21.—Whether or not the Bowers notice of motion calling for a select committee of the House to investigate the charges set forth in a resolution filed in the Legislature Wednesday afternoon should be permitted on the order paper, was a matter which gave Mr. Speaker Manson cause for thought on Thursday.

Mr. Speaker read a statement to the House wherein he set out a summary of the charges contained in Mr. Bowers' resolution. He maintained that ministers were charged with grave offenses and therefore the House could not admit the resolution and appoint the committee asked for, because by so doing there would be a direct admission that some of the charges were true.

Premier Oliver said the government was at all times anxious to let in the light upon its administration of public affairs. He wanted it understood, though, that when a member took it upon himself to make charges of the nature referred to, namely, that the liquor law administration was corrupt, then the member must stand prepared to make the charges good and assume responsibility for his actions. The Premier assured the House that nothing would be done to hamper members in securing information on the matter in question.

This afternoon the leader of the opposition changed the wording of his resolution slightly and again filed it. Mr. Speaker Manson accepting the notice of motion, which will be formally moved by Mr. Bowers on Monday.

The resolution's preamble now reads: "That whereas we are creditably informed and do believe that we will be able to establish by satisfactory evidence, etc."

The insertion of these few words satisfied Mr. Speaker that the House rules were not being transgressed and the resolution was placed on the order paper.

## PERRY ON DR. BAKER'S TRAIL

Liberal Member for Prince George Leads Hunt for Beaver Pelts.

Are Traps Concealed in the Questions Asked of Attorney-General?

VICTORIA, Oct. 21.—Another move in the expected enquiry with regard to the government's dealing in beaver skins has been made by H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George. On Monday next he will ask the attorney-general the following questions:

"What are the names, occupations, and addresses of the persons composing the Game Conservation Board?"

"By what statutory authority did the government permit the Game Conservation Board to buy, sell and trade in beaver skins?"

"What are the names and addresses of all persons and companies to whom permits to purchase beaver pelts during closed season were issued?"

"What was the date of issuance and date of expiry of all above-mentioned permits?"

"How many beaver pelts were purchased by the government from each permit-holder and the amount paid or owing to each permit-holder (a) for pelts; (b) for commission; (c) for expenses; (d) total paid?"

"How many of these pelts have been sold by the government, and if any have been sold, by whom and when, and the price received, when were said sales (if any) advertised, and in what papers or where?"

"Did an employee of the board named Dawson issue any permits, and if so, by whose instructions?"

"Is the said Dawson still in the employ of the government in any of its departments and, if so, where and what is he employed at, and by whose recommendation was he engaged?"

"Was he dismissed by the Game Conservation Board?"

"Has the chairman of the board permitted non-resident fur traders to purchase and trade in furs at Vancouver without paying the non-resident tax of \$200?"

"If so, by what authority?"

"Is Mr. Baker still chairman of the Game Conservation Board?"

"Were any beaver pelts bought by Mr. Baker for his private use?"

"Was a permit issued to the Hudson's Bay Co. and, if so, how many pelts have been shipped to the board, and when does their permit expire?"

Dr. A. R. Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, is in Victoria at present, but has nothing to say with regard to the situation except that he intends to retain his position and that everything is as it should be. He says an investigation will hold no embarrassment for him.

It is rumored that the Premier and the attorney-general have considered the question of Dr. Baker's resignation, but the official himself has declined to step down.

G. E. Hanes of North Vancouver will also ask the attorney-general certain questions relating to beaver skins. He wishes to know if A. Fitzpatrick of Vancouver was given permission to purchase beaver skins and if the sum of \$2000 was wired to anyone in Vancouver for the purpose of financing Fitzpatrick in the purchase of the pelts.

## ASKS BETTER ROADS IN UPPER COUNTRY

Col. Fred. Lister Also Pleads Cause of the Returned Soldiers.

VICTORIA, Oct. 21.—Equitable taxation, better treatment of the returned soldier settlers at Camp Lister and more roads in the outlying districts, were the features covered in the speech of Colonel Fred Lister, Conservative member for Kaslo, who participated in the debate on Thursday afternoon.

The up-country member contended that imposts were not fairly distributed at present, and he called upon the government for adjustment. He did not envy the government its task, but since they were in office there was a duty involved, and the burden should be placed where it could be borne.

Colonel Lister expressed pleasure over the mention in the King's speech of a selected route for the transprovincial highway. He was glad some member of the government knew where the road was to go, as he had heard little else mentioned in the way of road construction for several years. He urged the minister of public works to announce his plans. He also asked for better roads in Kaslo, pointing out that settlers there had cleared land, planted fruit trees and were now gathering their harvests, but still no roads were provided for them to get their produce to market.

"The member for Delta boasts of his good roads," he added, "but we look for cures in vain."

Colonel Lister asked for uniform prices for government liquor, so that those in outlying districts might not be discriminated against.

He then turned to a discussion of land settlement, expressing doubt that a land settlement policy even existed. He had failed to see evidences of it, he said. "Certainly, insofar as the soldier settlement at Camp Lister is concerned, it has been a lamentable failure," he added.

The colonel, after whom Camp Lister was named, said he felt very keenly the failure of the government "to keep faith with the soldier settlers," many of whom had settled on the lands in question through his own suggestion. Promises had been made to the men and broken. In fact, he said, he doubted if it had been intended to keep the promises. After two and a half years' work the men did not have a scratch of a pen to show whether they could remain on the lands or not.

Colonel Lister said the settlement at Creston was one of the best in Canada, provided it was managed properly.

He also touched upon colonization proposals of Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, saying that the prospective settlers would be well advised to find out what they might expect in the way of assistance from the government before taking up land.

The colonel criticized the agricultural department for failing to reduce the price of stumping powder. Settlers in his district were paying \$12 per box, less the government rebate of \$2.50, while powder firms were offering the explosive for \$9.35, which, with the rebate off, left the price \$6.85. There was need for investigation, he declared.

In conclusion Colonel Lister asked for a fairer distribution of public funds, saying that no one other than a government supporter could receive patronage, whether he was a garage man renting a government official a car, or a business man selling the government supplies.

# COMPLAIN OF HEAVY TAXES

## Thomas Pearson and W. K. Esling Heard in Legislature Friday.

### University More Important Than Rule of Road, Is Contention.

VICTORIA, Oct. 22.—Taxation, schools and the University problem occupied the attention of Thomas Pearson, Conservative member for Richmond, when he participated in the debate on Friday afternoon. He said the government had taxed everything taxable, and it was high time to call a halt. Merchants and business men were already facing sheaves of tax bills, and now the government proposed to add to the merchant's troubles by turning over the personal property tax to the municipalities.

"It is high time for the government to stop, look and listen," cautioned Mr. Pearson. "And if they would listen they would hear much about extravagant expenditure. In private business we have to study economy, and we to the man who spends more than his revenue. So with the government."

The Richmond member said the present government now had the opportunity of a lifetime. A study should be made of economic administration and soon bouquets might be handed the government, instead of a censure as at present.

#### EDUCATION'S NEEDS.

He then turned to a discussion of public schools and the University of British Columbia. The children came first, he contended, and yet today in the University it was necessary to have lectures repeated three times so all might hear.

"Is the University not more important than the change in the rule of the road, which is costing \$400,000?" asked Mr. Pearson. "Is it not more important than the building of the new Prince Rupert Courthouse, which will cost \$600,000? Surely those things might have been deferred. The same applies to the Sumas swamp. A huge sum is being spent and in the end the lands become a swamp once more."

The speaker referred to the purchase of the Campbell warehouse, claiming that a rented place would have sufficed, considering the financial stringency. He said he was paying only a little over a cent a foot rent for warehouse space equally good.

Mr. Pearson charged the government with wasting public funds. The temporary University buildings meant a waste of \$140,000, and even at that some of the students had to use tents at the present time. He concluded with a second appeal for school and university extension.

#### ROADS NEEDED.

The second Conservative speaker of the afternoon was W. K. Esling of Rossland, who devoted most of his time to taxation questions in his riding. He appealed for a fairer distribution of the taxes in that district and for more roads.

"The neglect of the government is discouraging industry," he asserted, instancing the case of a nitrate concern in the Trail riding. Over \$200,000 had been spent by the firm, he explained, but it was found impossible to get the government to build a road. The company had to do this work. Perhaps the reason was that out of the thirty-four votes in that particular section thirty-two went to the present Conservative member for Trail, he suggested.

"We find the minister of lands going to Sweden to find out all about nitrate," continued Mr. Esling, "when right at home we have a nitrate plant but without the government showing sufficient interest in its development to build a decent road."

Mr. Esling charged the government with holding back information pertaining to the P. G. E. Railway. The Premier denied this and a controversy arose, which brought Mr. Hanes and Mr. Speaker Manson into a clash. The Speaker said Mr. Hanes had no right to the floor and when the latter insisted upon asking a question relating to Mr. Esling's remarks he was ruled out of order. Later Premier Oliver rose to interject some remark and the House Speaker member appealed to the Speaker to rule Mr. Esling out. Mr. Esling said there was altogether too much interruption and he hoped the members would discontinue the practice.

Mr. Esling said that the P. G. E. had cost three times as much as the original estimates and it was time to reap a bill.

# CAPITAL READY TO INVEST IN B.C.

## Hon. T. D. Pattullo Breathes Optimism After His Return from Europe.

### Tells Legislature How Province's Timber Exports Have Recently Grown.

#### Believes P.G.E. Should Be Completed as Originally Planned.

#### Says Legislators Waste Too Much Time in Petty Criticisms.

VICTORIA, Oct. 22.—How exports of British Columbia lumber have been increased was told in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, when he joined in the debate on the address.

In 1911 lumber exports totalled 49,964,000 feet; in 1915 they ran as high as 56,701,000 feet, and in 1918 to 93,000,000 feet, Mr. Pattullo said.

In 1919 the railways of Great Britain required large quantities of timbers and sleepers, totalling some 70,000,000 feet. This order was too big for any one mill to handle, so the Associated Timber Exporters of B. C. Limited was formed with the guarantee of financial support by the Provincial Government, to act as sales agent for all mills except one or two which had their own selling organizations.

#### DELIVERED ORDER.

This new association, Hon. Mr. Pattullo explained, which was formed after conferences with himself, accepted the order for the 70,000,000 feet of railroad ties and delivered the order without having to call on the government for assistance.

"The result is that since this association took over timber exports have made big jumps," he explained. "In 1919 our exports were 103,000,000 feet. In 1920 the exports went up to 146,624,000. This year, total sales up to September 1 were 218,555,000, and total shipments to the same date, 208,772,000," Hon. Mr. Pattullo said.

Through lack of organization on this side of the line and better organization by the American lumbermen, the annual export from this province in relation to the annual cut had dropped from 24 per cent a number of years ago to 4 per cent when this government came into power, Mr. Pattullo went on.

The minister told of his findings, during his recent trip abroad, that a campaign of education on British Columbia lumber was just as necessary in England as in Ontario. He said that it was doubtful whether British Columbia would be able to compete in certain lines, but as far as dimensional timber went, this province could cut into the business.

#### DIFFICULT TASK.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo told how even the British admiralty had to be educated regarding British Columbia lumber and how hard work had to be done to get specifications in their contracts changed to include Douglas fir as well as Oregon pine. When this change was made, he said, British Columbia obtained a large order from the admiralty.

Protection of British Columbia forests from fire cost only \$97,000 this year against \$289,000 last year, Hon. Mr. Pattullo announced. This decreased cost had been made possible not only by the weather conditions which had lessened the fire hazard, but also as a result of the increased efficiency of the fire protection organization, he said.

"This year we had better protection work than ever before," he went on. "We used airplanes, wireless telegraphy and telephones and other of the most modern appliances to guard against forest fires."

"Today our annual timber growth exceeds our annual cut, but that does not obviate the necessity of protecting our forests from destruction by fire."

The minister said that when he was in Sweden he learned that they do not have forest fires there. The reason for this was that the people of that country have been so thoroughly educated for centuries to guard their forests that fire destruction has been eliminated.

"We are as far as we can and we are not going along the lines of conservation so that there will be no more forest fires in this province."

#### MARKS PROGRESS.

Referring to the policy of the Land Settlement Board, he declared that it had been of the greatest benefit, especially to the northern part of the province, as it had brought into use roads along the Grand Trunk Pacific which had been held at exorbitant speculative prices.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo deprecated the idea spread in some quarters that the government must provide ready-made farms where men can go out and be prosperous from the very start. He said that such an entry into farming was not possible, as success could be achieved only by hard work.

"There is no royal road to farming," he went on. "We have too many fire-side farmers who sit around in the salubrious climate of the Coast cities and talk of what the government should do, but who won't go out on the farms themselves."

He pointed out the advisability of settling up the lighter timbered lands and those easily reclaimed like Sumas first, before encouraging men to go on the more heavily-timbered areas.

One of the great needs of the country is immigration, he declared. It was a mistake to think that immigration should be postponed until there are no unemployed in the country.

#### RIGHT KIND NEEDED.

"Getting people into the country and on to the land will of itself create employment," he went on. "If you wait until everybody is profitably employed in the country, if you wait until all the difficulties are surmounted, you will never start. I am aware of the agitation against opening the gates too wide to immigration. But while I would not dump large bodies of men into the cities, I would put large numbers on the land. I believe a policy can be evolved whereby, with no more organization and with little expense we can secure the right kind of settlers for British Columbia. Great Britain is not anxious that the best of her people should leave, but she is willing to advance money on the security of lands in the Dominion for emigration of her people. Maybe we can't assimilate too many settlers aided in this way, as we should have many men with money in the province. As for the \$1,400,000 the province has expended in irrigation works, Hon. Mr. Pattullo declared that money was not unproductive, and was not a liability, as it would be returned many fold, and the province would not lose one dollar."

"I believe we should go on with this work until every suitable acre in the province is irrigated. Such development work does not constitute a liability," he said.

The minister praised the work of F. C. Wade, agent-general for British Columbia in London. He said he felt that many of Mr. Wade's critics would mellow if they saw the work he was doing.

While in London Hon. Mr. Pattullo said he interviewed men who were considering the inauguration of the steel industry in British Columbia, and "they were not merely talking about it, but seriously considering it."

#### CAPITAL INTERESTED.

He was also interviewed by men who were planning a power plant at Campbell River, and another group interested in a pulp and paper mill near Prince George. The pulp and paper men were coming to British Columbia in November, and from what he learned in England, capital was ready and willing to come to British Columbia under present conditions, despite the talk of opposition politicians.

As for the P. G. E. Hon. Mr. Pattullo considered a breach of faith not to complete the line to Prince George. Traffic plate the line to Prince George. Traffic would be developing along the line, and would be larger than anticipated. He believed the P. G. E. would have to be continued into Northern British Columbia.

"I find on my return that the same policies are being pursued, with rumors circulated that the government is not going to last more than a few days," Mr. Pattullo said.

"I am getting a little tired of the discussions and the time wasted, each session on a lot of little, trifling matters and small town gossip. Two months is spent hurling anathemas at one another. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is time we should change our tactics. In my judgment the average politician is just as honest as the average business man. Last December the people of this province saw fit to express their confidence in the government, and nothing has happened since to destroy that confidence."

## WANTS LABOR ACT MADE EFFECTIVE

### Major Burde Thinks B. C. Should Not Wait for Other Provinces.

VICTORIA, Oct. 22.—Not content to await that time when all the provinces of the Dominion enact legislation bringing into effect an eight-hour day, Major R. J. Burde, M.C., independent member for Alberni, has introduced in the Legislature a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Hours of Work." If approved the act passed at last year's session providing for the eight-hour day when other provinces of the Dominion pass similar legislation, will be altered to make it come into effect on May 1, 1922.

At last year's session, too, legislation governing the night employment of young persons, the night employment of women, the employment of children and the maternity protection act were passed, all in the case of the Hours of Work Act, coming into effect only when the other provinces passed similar laws.

Amendments to the last year's legislation have been presented by Messrs. Neelands, Guthrie, Uphill and Hanes, all independent members, the amendments being designed to make all such acts effective on May 1 next, irrespective of what action the other provinces take.

Each of the amending bills was introduced in the House yesterday and given its first reading.

M. B. Jackson, Liberal member for the Islands, is back again with a bill he introduced last year and which was rejected, one dealing with the erection of advertising hoardings. The aim of the bill is to regulate such hoardings at Active Pass and other scenic points. The bill was given its first reading.

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1921

### R. H. Pooley Obtains Information About Government Motors

VICTORIA, Oct. 24.—The department of agriculture owns twenty-six cars, which cost \$22,704, according to an answer given Mr. R. H. Pooley by the minister of agriculture. The department of finance gets along without any, while the mines department owns seven machines, which cost \$555. The department of public works possesses thirty-three cars, costing \$27,115, and the office of the Premier and minister of railways has one, a Ford, for the inspector of equipment.

Mr. W. A. McKenzie is seeking information regarding the operation of the government in the Southern Okanagan district. He wants to know the cost of the water supply and particulars regarding a washout which occurred during the construction of the irrigation system.

Mr. Harry Neelands on Tuesday next will ask the Premier if the B. C. Electric Company has applied for permission to run one-man cars in Vancouver and Victoria; also other particulars regarding the effect this might have upon the unemployment situation.

Mr. W. J. Bowser wishes to know what amounts the government has borrowed since it took office in 1916; from whom the money was borrowed, the rate of interest paid, and what amount the government received from the proceeds of each loan. He is also asking for the amount of the capital liabilities of the province at the present date.

### M. B. Jackson Is Pushing Anti-billboard Campaign In the Legislature

VICTORIA, Oct. 24.—Determined to save the countryside from what he terms are "obnoxious blots upon the landscape," M. B. Jackson, K. C., Liberal member for The Islands, is carrying on a campaign against the posting of signs and billboards in conspicuous places along favored highways and sea routes.

Last year Mr. Jackson was unsuccessful in his attempt to have a bill put through the House, but he is renewing his efforts.

This morning Mr. Adam S. Johnston, counsel for the sign painters, and others interested in such advertising as Mr. Jackson would place under the bill, interviewed members of the Legislature in an endeavor to block Mr. Jackson's move. The bill fathered by the member for The Islands will come up in a day or two.

## BAKER ASKS FOR ENQUIRY

### Denies Statements Made by H. G. Perry, M.L.A., on Beaver Question.

### Game Board Chairman Reviews Reasons for Special Order-in-Council.

With a demand for immediate investigation, Dr. A. R. Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, today branded as false some statements regarding beaver pelt shipments, made on the floor of the Legislature Monday afternoon. Mr. H. G. Perry, member for Fort George, was reported as saying that \$5,000,000 worth of pelts were illegally shipped out of British Columbia with the government's knowledge and consent. Although he is a Liberal member, Mr. Perry's speech was a stinging attack upon the administration.

Dr. Baker today sent the following telegram to Premier Oliver:

"If Perry has made the statements attributed to him by the Vancouver Sun I brand them as false and demand an immediate investigation."

Dr. Baker also asked The Province to publish the following statement:

"In 1920, following a thorough investigation into the situation, we found that large quantities of beaver pelts were being bought from Indians and shipped out of this province illegally. Up to that time, we had not interfered with the Indian rights to kill for food, but we found that the buyers were persuading the Indians to kill illegally for the trade. We sent out several secret service men and found that the chief offenders were being committed along the line of the Grand Trunk, whence the pelts were being shipped into Alberta. Although we placed special officers and used every means within our power, our best efforts to check the traffic met with little success, as the pelts were being shipped in trunks, in baggage and by parcel post," said Dr. Baker. "We did, however, seize large numbers where we were able to get track of them."

#### ONLY ONE OBJECT.

"I then wrote a letter to the Provincial Government, outlining the emergency and pointing out that strenuous steps must be taken to check the evil. I recommended the passing of an order-in-council which would make it lawful to purchase and sell regulations—all the beaver skins the Indians of B. C. had on hand, with the sole view of cleaning up the situation and giving us a starting point to work upon. I also suggested then that special legislation be enacted at the present session, making it a criminal offense instead of a mere misdemeanor under the act to sell these pelts except in the prescribed manner.

"On receiving these recommendations the government sent for me, and at Victoria I explained the whole situation before the entire cabinet, and the order-in-council which I suggested was passed. Under this order-in-council permits to purchase beaver pelts for the Game Conservation Board were to be issued, all for the purpose of cleaning up the aggravated situation. It was arranged that under these permits legitimate fur dealers would buy beaver pelts as agents for the board. We began from the Williams Lake district in the Cariboo, where a game warden was placed to supervise the buying. The next permits were issued throughout the northern district from Prince George to Prince Rupert, along the G. T. P. route. While I was in this district every fur dealer I interviewed, with one exception, asked for the board permit, and the permits were issued. The exception was a dealer who did not want it."

#### LICENSES ISSUED.

"Premier Oliver had informed me that all fur dealers or traders holding British Columbia licenses were entitled to the permit, and all who applied received them. As a result, about 2500 beaver pelts were shipped to the Game Conservation Board. They were subsequently sold at public sale by Little Brothers Fur Sales Agency, the only agency in this province through which the sales could be held. This means of selling pelts was adopted so that everybody interested could examine the pelts and bid on them.

"As a result, \$32,000 was received by the provincial treasury, and there are still on hand about \$19,000 worth of pelts to be sold at Little's next fur sale. Reports in my department also show that probably 600 or 800 pelts have not yet been shipped in owing to transportation difficulties.

"I am free to make the statement that there has been not the slightest reason for intimations of misconduct, and there is absolutely nothing to hide and no reason to cover up the real facts, either in the beaver pelt purchase or the subsequent sales, and I demand a probe to the fullest extent."

#### VISIT TO EDMONTON.

"Two weeks ago on a visit to Edmonton, where I was investigating the beaver situation, I obtained information which led to the confiscation of 300 pelts illegally shipped by the holder of one of our B. C. permits, a Burns Lake agent, who was presumed to be buying for the government. Also I obtained information there which will probably lead to the conviction of others who attempted to defraud the government in the same way. All these attempts to defraud were reported from the country adjacent to the Grand Trunk line, or in Mr. Perry's district."

"It is my contention that instead of being a detriment, our system has been a direct advantage to the people of this province, and also to the legitimate fur trader. Approximately 1500 pelts have been offered to the public of this province to advantage by dealers and a considerable item of revenue was raised for the provincial treasury and taxpayers' benefit. Primarily, however, the beaver buying was to put a check on an illicit traffic in skins. The quality of the pelts sent in is best attested by the regular market prices they brought at the sale, and they were by no means an inferior grade," said Dr. Baker.

## URGES AID FOR NICOMEN

### Member for Dewdney Se- verely Criticizes Attitude of Oliver Government.

### Says Premier's Stubborn- ness Prevents Granting of Assistance Now.

VICTORIA, Oct. 25.—J. A. Catherwood, Conservative member for Dewdney, took up the Nicomen Island question in his speech during the debate yesterday and at considerable length went into the question of responsibility for the protection of the island from river floods as between the provincial and federal governments.

Mr. Catherwood, who was the only Conservative member to make the P. G. E. trip with the government party last summer, said he was sorry more members of the House did not avail themselves of the opportunity of going along, since those who did go were amply repaid by what they saw and learned.

He regretted that there was no mention in the speech from the throne of more aid for the University of British Columbia.

Mr. Catherwood criticized the proposal of the Victoria grand jury last week that a new courthouse be built in the capital. Such a building would cost between \$600,000 and \$800,000. One hundred more settlers on Vancouver Island would be of infinitely more benefit to Victoria than a new courthouse and the people of the capital should realize what the amount mentioned would do in opening up settlement areas.

#### LOSS BY FLOODS.

Mr. Catherwood then launched into the Nicomen Island question, telling how the floods in 1920 had occasioned a loss of \$140,000 to the settlers, and about the same amount in 1921.

"Surely if Sumas prairie is worth \$50 to \$120 an acre to reclaim, then this island should be worth the \$50 an acre it would take to protect it," he went on.

"During the years 1920 and 1921 Nicomen Island was inundated. The area affected was between 4000 and 5000 acres, and had a population of about 400 happy and contented people engaged in the small fruit business, and in mixed farming. They were a peaceful and prosperous community, making a good living, and contributing their quota to the prosperity of the province. In this district were twenty-two returned soldiers, who had been located under the Soldier Settlement Board, and who were just getting a start with every chance of making good.

"As a result of the flood the settlers' crops of berries and grain, and their pastures were ruined. Many had to sell their cattle and other stock as they had no feed for them. The soldier settlers lost their crops, and had nothing to look forward to in the way of assistance to meet the payments on their lands."

#### NEGLECTED ATTITUDE.

"Most of them struggled through 1920 and started in 1921 with new hopes, but disaster overtook them again, and they once more lost their all."

"I regret the attitude of the Premier and the government in respect to the petition presented by the residents of Nicomen Island, backed up by the Boards of Trade of Vancouver, New Westminster and Mission in regard to assistance in protecting the island."

"The present government takes the stand that it is the duty of the Dominion Government to undertake the whole of the river bank protection and that the Provincial Government has no obligation in connection with it."

Mr. Catherwood then read telegrams between Hon. J. H. King, minister of public works and Hon. Frank Carvell, then minister of public works at Ottawa, with the object of showing that the British Columbia Government has not always taken the view that it had no responsibility as regards protection of the banks of the river at Nicomen.

**COULD NOT AGREE.**

"In one of these telegrams you see Dr. King begs Ottawa to contribute part of the cost," Mr. Catherwood continued. "Ottawa took the ground that it was the Provincial Government's duty to protect the banks of the river and of the Dominion Government to keep the river open for navigation by dredging and by other means."

"Finally, Ottawa agreed in 1920 to go fifty-fifty with the government of this province and again in May, 1921, Ottawa telegraphed the Premier to the same effect, but made it clear that the province had to shoulder some responsibility."

Mr. Catherwood declared the protection of the river banks was really protection of the dykes.

This brought Premier Oliver to his feet to say that most of the banks protected were miles away from the dykes.

"There is other evidence of the responsibilities of this government," Mr. Catherwood went on. "In the records at Ottawa there is the incident when the Hon. William Pugsley, minister of public works, proposed a vote in repayment to the Municipality of Delta of money spent on the protection of the river bank there and made the payment conditional on the contribution of a like amount by Victoria."

"Being asked why this proviso appeared, Mr. Pugsley said it was suggested to him by John Oliver, who represented it as the duty of the government at Victoria to make this contribution."

Mr. Catherwood declared that Premier Oliver supported this policy, adopted by the Dominion Liberal government at his suggestion, when he was a candidate.

**CHANGED ATTITUDE.**

"But when Mr. Oliver became member for Victoria and a minister and found a government of another political stripe at Ottawa, his attitude suddenly changed," Mr. Catherwood went on. "Our Premier then became the censor and critic of federal assistance in the past. The result is to make it most difficult to induce Ottawa to take further interest in this matter. A liberal proposition was made to spend a large sum of money for the protection of the island conditional on a very small contribution by Victoria. This offer of co-operation is still good, but our Premier stubbornly refuses to take it up and the settlers are to be left to their fate so long as the present ministry rules at Victoria."

Mr. Catherwood said it was his duty to ask the House to support a resolution regretting "the attitude of the government in dyked areas for effective action towards securing their dykes against destruction by erosion of river banks."

**Expect Sumas Work To Cost \$1,800,000; Motor Car Figures**

VICTORIA, Oct. 25.—Answering questions asked by J. W. Jones regarding Sumas reclamation work, Hon. R. D. Barrow, minister of agriculture, stated that an agreement had been made with the Marsh-Bourne Construction Company on April 29, 1920, for \$1,825,000 and that the amount paid on construction up to the month of August was \$107,247.

Since that date control of all contractors, approved accounts for labor and material, has been assumed by the Land Settlement Board and through the board payments amounting to \$139,643 have been made.

The board has also advanced to the dyking commissioners on another understanding \$154,295. The estimated cost of reclaiming the whole area is given as \$1,800,000.

Mr. Pooley ascertained that the department of lands has sixty-one motor cars, which cost \$48,081.

**DEBIAS GAME BOARD BE ABOLISHED**

**Charges of Incompetence Laid in House by Fort George Member.**

**H. G. Perry Discusses the Beaver Situation and Dr. Baker's Activities.**

**Says Indians of North Have Been Degraded and Cheated.**

**Advises Premier to Rid Himself of "Certain" Government Officials.**

VICTORIA, Oct. 25.—Charges of incompetence on the part of the Game Conservation Board and a demand of the government that the board be absolutely abolished, marked the speech of H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, in the Legislature on Monday afternoon.

Following rumors that the northern member was seeking the scalp of Dr. A. R. Baker, chairman of the board, and would ask that a royal commission be appointed, it was expected direct charges would be laid by Mr. Perry, but this was not done. However, he spent upwards of an hour in an exhaustive study of the beaver situation and closed his comments upon that subject by demanding the abolition of the board.

**FABLE FOR PREMIER.**

In addition, Mr. Perry addressed some advice to the Premier, suggesting that "certain" government officials be removed. He was ambiguous as to who was meant.

"Recently, when travelling in the Peace River country, we came to Finlay Rapids," he recounted. "We approached the rapids and could hear the roar. The warning was there; so when we considered it unsafe to proceed farther we went ashore and lined down to safe and quiet water. I think the Premier might well remember this little parable. The people placed their confidence in the government and I do not think they have changed their opinion, but I do feel that the electors want to see some changes in certain departments."

"I say to the government, look for the handwriting on the wall," he warned.

Applause from independent and opposition members followed Mr. Perry's speech, whereupon the Fort George member advised them not to become too greatly encouraged.

In opening, Mr. Perry said the people of the northern half of the province were up in arms over the question of the government sale of fur. More than \$5,000,000 worth of fur is shipped out of British Columbia annually, he explained, and of this no less than \$1,000,000 represented the value of pelts handled through Prince George. Beaver fur is very expensive, he said, and prime skins are worth \$25. In 1914 beaver skins could be bought for one and two dollars each.

**RIGHTS OF INDIANS.**

"Beaver were becoming depleted," he continued, "and two years ago a close season was ordered. This year everything has gone wrong. The Indian considers the beaver his natural heritage, just as he did the salmon before they all but disappeared. The Indian still feels that he has an inalienable right to beaver. They are his food, and he trades their skins for all kinds of supplies. So the Indians have killed beaver, and no one has paid much attention. The natives did not try to sell the hides, but the white men, avaricious as always, went to the camps and bought the skins for the magnificent sum of one dollar or a glass of whisky."

Traders got the skins and surreptitiously shipped them to Alberta, added the speaker, and there they received the government stamp.

"The game board decided to take action," continued Mr. Perry. "They closed a close season and should have enforced it. Therefore, there are only two courses for them to follow—either to resign or take the strongest measures to enforce the law. It would have been easy for officials of the board to keep watch at Lucerne and Humboldt Hope, or send out detectives in Alberta and British Columbia where the pelts were coming from and who purchased them."

**FUR BOOTLEGGERS**

Mr. Perry said the whole business had resulted in the degradation of the Indian. He argued that the proper course would have been for the government agents to pay the Indians the full value for the skins. Fur bootleggers was the name attached to the dealers in beaver pelts.

"What did the chairman do?" asked the member.

"Certain individuals floated into the country surreptitiously and were said to be purchasing beaver skins. I thought it a Tory rumor but it was true. No vouchers were issued."

Mr. Jones—Where did they get the money?

Mr. Perry—From Dr. Baker, I presume.

Mr. Jones—Where did he get it?

Mr. Perry—Dr. Baker himself was floating about Williams Lake with a roll of bills in his pocket.

The speaker went on to say that representatives of the government were moving around the northern towns, paid by the government to break the law which had been enacted.

**"FUNNY" METHODS.**

"Talk about Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde!" he exclaimed. "Why, a man named Dawson came into our country and used all kinds of funny methods. He seized a trunk on a Grand Trunk Pacific train, had it taken off, placed in the baggage room and then he 'timed' it open, only to find a lot of lingerie belonging to some lady headed for Vancouver on a honeymoon."

"Windows in trappers' cabins were broken and other high-handed methods used," said Mr. Perry, but the investigators never looked in the right place.

"It is a disgrace to the department," he ejaculated. "Why, even the chief game inspector expressed surprise that beaver pelts were being purchased. Things like that are causing all the trouble. The people are saying ugly things. When skins are being bought for about \$2 to \$5 each and are worth from \$15 to \$25 the people are naturally suspicious as to who is making the profit."

Mr. Perry said that Dr. Baker had been ordered into the interior following rumors of the dissatisfaction felt there over the situation.

"This autocrat, this high and mighty person could not wait until I returned to Prince George, although I telegraphed that I would be there in twenty-four hours," continued the speaker.

"He called the fur dealers into conference and gave everybody permits and a good line of—well, what we call 'hot air'."

"When I returned I told him that of all the fool things I ever heard of that was the most foolish. It would result in chaos. You would think that any man, particularly a politician like Dr. Baker, would have known better."

"Later one man said to me that if he could get a permit twenty-four hours before anybody else secured one he would pay \$5000 for it."

**FORMS OF PERMITS.**

Mr. Perry explained that many forms of permits were issued. One granted the buyer \$250 profit on each skin; another permitted the buyer to pay from \$5 to \$10 per skin, but was not good after September. Still another said the government would pay \$10 per skin regardless of quality. Another permit mentioned a price of \$12, with the provision that 60 per cent. of the skins must be large. The man holding this particular permit bought 550 skins.

"Then, again, the Hudson's Bay Company had a blanket permit, but they have not shipped a single skin to this government. I can not imagine the Hudson's Bay Company doing so. They have a reputation for more shrewdness than that."

"No sale was advertised, although Dr. Baker said he would advertise an auction sale in Prince George."

Mr. Perry said he had felt very "small" when he found that Dr. Baker's recommendations had been listened to when his own, as those of a humble member, had no weight.

"I accuse him (Dr. Baker) of utter incompetence at least and will let it go at that, but I think that he should resign at once," was the final sally of the member from Fort George.

He advised the government to abolish the Game Conservation Board and leave the affairs of that organization in the hands of a committee of the House. He also recommended that a better class of game official be appointed.

**OTHER SUGGESTIONS.**

While Mr. Perry's discussion of the beaver situation was the outstanding feature of his address, he had other things to say. He felt that a member and a supporter of the government should not allow that support to conflict with his sense of duty. So he intended to speak plainly. He had little to say in favor of the personal property tax and felt that the municipalities should be restricted to a certain millage rate. Some form of control should be placed in the hands of the finance minister or in those of the inspector of municipalities.

As at present constituted, the office of the inspector represented a waste of money, he argued. It might well be abolished.

The Fort George member commented upon the operations of the Liquor Control Board. The officials of that body had promised a substantial present to the municipalities by Christmas, he said, but it would be well to give the present now.

He was strongly opposed to the government's proposal to abolish tax exemptions on incomes under \$1500, since this would affect the workmen most unfairly.

"I can not conceive that this idea ever emanated from the minister of finance," exclaimed Mr. Perry, "and I hope my confidence in him will not be displaced. It would be far better to tax the luxuries. It is certainly no luxury to work for \$1500 a year. Why, the man who receives that works far harder than the man whose income amounts to \$10,000."

**SUGGESTED TAXES.**

Automobiles should be taxed, continued the speaker, who advocated a tax of one cent per gallon on gasoline.

"Furthermore, give the workingman his glass of beer, and tax him a cent on that, if you want to. It would go down better."

Mr. Uphill, interrupting—What, the beer? Laughter followed.

Mr. Perry suggested the appointment of an "economy committee," composed of members from both sides. The committee's business would be to cut down overhead expenses. The member was not alarmed over the increase in the provincial debt so long as it represented money advanced to foster the industries of the country.

He advocated the continuation of the proposed trans-provincial highway through Yellowhead Pass, and the utilization of the abandoned grade of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway from Lucerne to points in Alberta.

Dealing with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, Mr. Perry said the government should not be worried about reducing expenditures on that line, but should be considering extensions into the Peace River country. There was a great empire up there, he explained, a country rich in coal, oil, minerals and farm produce. In fact, he claimed, the ultimate success of the line depended largely upon its continuation into the rich northland. "It is time for optimism regarding the P. G. E.," he exclaimed. "Freight would pour out of that country and the settlers there would require large amounts of produce from the Coast. There would be no need for unemployment in British Columbia if the Peace River country were opened up and the people would go upon the land."

**OPEN OIL FIELDS.**

The speaker expressed the hope that the Premier would continue his negotiations with the Alberta Government over railway extensions. He also advocated the abandonment of oil operations on the part of the government and the throwing open of the field for staking.

"The reports of the engineers prove that the country is rich in oil prospects," he continued, "and the best way to get the oil is to let everybody have a chance. True, there is a certain amount of speculation about it, but if there is proper supervision of the operations of flotation companies there will be no losses other than those which may be expected by the speculator."

Mr. Perry claimed that an amendment should be passed to the Forestry Act. Mills were running into debt and the workers left unprotected. The amendment should provide that wage claims came first.

He also criticized the work of the Land Settlement Board, asserting that owners who had paid as much as \$20 per acre for their land were forced to accept as little as \$4 per acre from the government.

More roads were also asked for, Mr. Perry expressing wonder over the curtailment of road work last summer.

"It is all very well for me as a government supporter to say that the government needs to economize, but it takes some explaining in my district, where men are intelligent—(laughter)—to get them to believe that when the government is buying warehouses at \$150,000.

Mr. Samuel Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, adjourned the debate.

**NEED BETTER PAY FOR RAILWAY WORK**

**Canon Hincliffe Relates Results of His "Incognito" Tour of P.G.E. Camps.**

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—Speaking in the Legislature Tuesday afternoon, Canon Hincliffe, Conservative member for Victoria, went thoroughly into the investigations he made last summer into the unemployment question. He spoke of his trip over the route of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and told of the conditions he found. Smiles flitted over the faces of some of the members, but they disappeared before the canon had proceeded far. He said the trip had been made at his own expense, that he had used his own name on all occasions excepting when he went to a hotel in Quessal and registered under an old pen-name.

Canon Hincliffe said he travelled in old clothes, and always introduced himself properly. He was met with every courtesy and given the freedom of the camp. But he paid for all he got, with the exception of one meal, which was furnished by Premier Oliver. The speaker claimed he belonged to the great fraternity of the unemployed from May 1 until the end of November, and if workingmen he talked with thought he was out of a job they weren't far wrong.

"I studied two questions," said the Conservative member. "Unemployment was one, and the other was, how is it that men from the cities can not remain long at work in the camps. I found few of British birth, but plenty of Swedes and Russians. I also wished to know if returned men were being discriminated against. I am happy to say they were not. That returned soldiers were working in earnest, some holding the better-class jobs and others doing the hardest work imaginable, and for very small pay."

The speaker's remarks were more of an eulogy of the government than otherwise, insofar as the P. G. E. camps were concerned. He said the men were well fed, although poorly paid. He did not think they were well housed, and he recommended more sanitary conditions.

"And speaking about that old suit of clothes," said the canon with a smile. "I was mighty glad I wore it. I slept in bunks with the men and came to a realization that we were not the only occupants. In fact, after leaving the camps I found out that I was not the only occupant of my clothes—(laughter)—and I threw them into the river."

In more serious vein the member urged camp sanitation and better pay. In the latter regard he pleaded with the government to reconsider the question of removing the exemption on workingmen's pay.

"When you have a minister of the government getting from \$10,000 to \$16,000 a year and plain laborers earning 10,000 to 15,000 cents, what justification could there be for taxing these men?" he asked.

Canon Hincliffe said that many of the married men in the camps were hard pressed to save \$50 or \$60 per month to send to their families. In fact, he said, one Swede explained to him that, in the P. G. E. camp he was working for the same money all the time. The Northern Construction Company paid wages every fortnight and by the time the next pay-day came around the whole amount had been paid back to the company for meals and supplies. He asked for two things. One was better housing for the men and the other fuller protection against high prices for commodities.

**Pattullo Designs to Bring the Okanagan Lands to One Basis**

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—According to a proposed amendment to the Water Act, introduced by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, it is intended to provide for the issuance of crown grants of lands in the Southern Okanagan irrigation district in similar manner as crown grants are now issued under the Land Act.

The lands under the project vary at the present time in respect to title. It has been necessary to make an entire new subdivision of the lands comprised in the tract, and the present bill before the Legislature is designed to bring all the lands under the project upon the same basis. This will save a great deal of confusion and trouble in issuing title to purchasers under the system, the minister explains.

**ANTI-ASIATIC CLAUSE IS DEBATED**

**G. S. Hanes Opens Attack on Government on Floor of House.**

**Attorney-General Explains Why Legislation Is Not Being Enforced.**

**North Shore Member Advises Premier to Dismiss Mr. Pattullo.**

**Campbell Warehouse Deal Comes In for Some Discussion.**

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—G. S. Hanes of North Vancouver started his Anti-Asiatic campaign in the Legislature, and went so far as to tell Premier Oliver that he should dismiss Hon. T. D. Pattullo as minister of lands, because he had not enforced the Anti-Asiatic clause in contracts dealing with crown-granted timber lands. Mr. Hanes said that in 1902 the Legislature had passed a resolution calling for the insertion of such a clause in government contracts, and that in 1921, the Legislature, by a bill translated its terms into a statute.

**MR. FARRIS REPLIES.**

The attorney-general also explained that the order-in-council calling for the Anti-Asiatic clause in contracts was declared unconstitutional by the Court of Appeal in this province, after it had been argued for three days.

"The court decided unanimously that such an order was ultra vires," Hon. Mr. Farris went on. "But we were not satisfied with that, and decided to appeal to the highest court in the land. The reason for introducing that act last year was to lay a foundation to have the case tested before the Privy Council. That case has been before the Supreme Court of Canada, which now has it under reserved judgment. If we do not win it we will go before the Privy Council."

"In correspondence with the minister of justice it was pointed out to us that it was not fair to harass timber holders here until we got a final decision."

Mr. Hanes then took up the reply of Hon. Mr. Pattullo to his question why the anti-Asiatic clause was not being enforced in contracts. The minister had replied that it was "not considered in the public interest to make the information public," although he was willing to give the information privately to Mr. Hanes.

**IMPERIAL REASONS.**

"The public is entitled to know everything in connection with the Asiatic situation," Mr. Hanes went on. "Any suggestion given by the minister of lands as a private reason is not satisfactory."

Mr. Hanes explained that he had been informed privately that the clause was not enforced for imperial reasons. Before the case was brought into court, he was told the clause was left out because so many men had gone overseas and the Japanese were needed to carry on the business.

When he made his last trip over the P.G.E. he found that the bulk of passengers on the line were Japanese going out to start logging camps. It was strange that the minister of lands could not enforce the anti-Asiatic clause in contracts when such a clause was inserted in contracts made by the minister of public works.

"Any minister who refuses to carry out measures passed by this Legislature violates his path of office, although I realize it would take considerable to shake any minister loose from his present job," Mr. Hanes said.

Attorney-General Farris again arose to explain that timber-holders last summer had made application to Mr. Justice Murphy of the Supreme Court for an injunction against the minister of lands and the attorney-general putting this clause into force and the injunction was granted.

"There it stands," the attorney-general went on. "At this time the law of this province is that the clause is ultra vires."

**THE WAREHOUSE DEAL.**

Mr. Hanes then turned his attention to the Campbell warehouse deal and said he had listened to a great part of the evidence in the libel suit in Vancouver.



"It will be said by the Premier that if he does not see it as his duty to take immediate action, he will not do it. If it was shown that there was no liberal use of government money was overpaid, then I think the Premier should act, or that the Lieutenant-Governor should step in."

Premier Oliver—I don't think that the Lieutenant-Governor is the subject for debate in this Assembly. So far the Lieutenant-Governor sees fit to take advice from his responsible ministers.

Speaker Manson—The Lieutenant-Governor and the royal family are not to be brought into debate.

Mr. Hanes then discussed the Grant, Whyte & Co. failure in Vancouver, declaring that hundreds of thousands of dollars had been lost to investors, that the failure was similar to the Dominion Trust crash, because the government had allowed Grant, Whyte & Co. to get away with registering nothing but their name, without any financial backing for the safety of investing clients.

As for the Prince Rupert Pulp and Paper Company, closely connected with the Grant-Whyte concern, he said he would like to know what the operations of that company have amounted to since they were given privileges at the last session of the Legislature.

**SOME GRAFT TALK.**

The P. G. E. came next on Mr. Hanes' list. He asserted that he was still ready to have the Premier "call my bluff" if Mr. Bowser would give him support and see if the members on both sides of the House are ready to look into the P. G. E. campaign fund scandal, "that most colossal graft."

Premier Oliver—are you connecting me with any graft?

Mr. Hanes—No.

The Premier—You had better not.

Major Burde—What would you do about it?

Mr. Hanes then took up the legislative trip over the P. G. E. last summer.

What right has the Premier to hire three or four C. P. R. sleepers and diners and take the members of the Legislature on a trip over that line?

Mr. Hanes asked, "Members took this trip in comfort and luxury when the average citizen has to sit up at night, put up with inconveniences and do without meals."

He declared that on one of his trips over the line the day coach was so leaky that people were sitting in it with their umbrellas up to protect themselves from the shower of water that came down from overhead.

Then the members of the House set up and fell what a fine kind of a trip they had over the line on C. P. R. sleepers," he went on.

**OIL DEVELOPMENT.**

Mr. Hanes suggested that the province could get more revenue from its oil lands by opening the territories and putting into effect a scale of licences similar to that of the Dominion Government.

He wanted to know why none of the coal combines had been prosecuted, in view of the evidence brought out at the enquiry last spring.

As for the B. C. Electric and the one-man car proposal, he said it was not the wish of the citizens that the Premier should give way to the B. C. E. R., as one-man cars would be dangerous, especially in hilly communities like North Vancouver. He declared that the company had said nothing about reducing its fares if allowed to operate one-man cars.

Mr. Hanes said the Mothers' Pensions Act was working out successfully, but he suggested that sufficient money should be voted, so that there will not be one mother getting a full pension and another going short, because there is not sufficient money.

**SPLIT COST ON NICOMEN**

Premier Offers This Providing Dominion Will Protect Island's Banks.

Hon. John Oliver Hotly Defends Government's Record in Matter.

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—For an hour and a half on Tuesday afternoon Premier Oliver reviewed the drying situation on Nicomen Island. J. A. Catherwood, Conservative member for Dewdney, introduced a resolution asking the government to take steps for the improvement of the island, with regard to the drying situation. Mr. Oliver explained the situation as follows: "The island is a small island, and the drying situation is a serious one. The government has taken steps to improve the island, and the drying situation is being dealt with as a matter of public works."

into the situation which has become a matter of question as the floor of the Legislature year after year. He dug up correspondence of ten and twelve years ago, and quoted reports of federal and Provincial Government engineers, until the heads of his hearers swam. At that he held their interest, and was heartily applauded by the government members. The government leader commenced by drawing comparisons between the present situation and that of his early married life in the Delta. In those days, he explained, he found it necessary to get his family into the upper part of the house for protection against the salt water. So he felt he was entitled to full credit for appreciating the regrettable condition of the Nicomen Island settlers.

**ORANGE NEGLECT.**

He took the attitude that the settlers never should have been there in the first place, since the lands were very difficult to protect, and he took the Dewdney member to task for not objecting to the settlement of returned men on the island by the Soldier Settlement Board. He also charged the federal member with gross neglect. Premier Oliver explained that the Provincial Government had already spent something like \$100,000 at Nicomen, and claimed that it would require \$400,000 to protect the lands in question properly. This figure, he said, was based upon the estimates of engineers of both governments. He offered on behalf of the Provincial Government to spend dollar for dollar with the Ottawa authorities on the drying of the island, provided the Dominion body would first protect the river banks against erosion.

"In spite of the fact that all such work is the task of the Federal Government, we are willing to do this," he continued, "but give the settlers on Nicomen Island would not have us spend the public's money in a wasteful manner. To undertake such a thing now would mean pledging ourselves to carry out such work in the future, work which might run into millions of dollars."

Some of the letters which the Premier read showed that the late Conservative Government had refused to undertake the work, and he wondered why a member of the opposition was demanding that a Liberal Government do what its predecessor would not. An appeal for rescue was made in 1915, he continued, and he wondered why the settlers were not relieved then.

**TO BUILD HIGHWAYS.**

Mr. Catherwood interrupted to explain that the late Conservative Government had agreed to construct roads that would serve as dykes, by raising the level of the road above the high-water mark of 183.

"That did not bring protection," said the Premier, who then waded through a mass of correspondence in support of his contention that the blame attached to the federal authorities and not small part of it to the late provincial government. He accused Mr. Catherwood of trying to build up a false case against the government.

Mr. Hanes asked if a certain letter on the subject, written by the Premier, had not carried the suggestion to Ottawa that an election was held and it might be expedient for Ottawa to authorize the work.

The Premier hotly repudiated the suggestion and offered to donate \$50 to the Jubilee Hospital if Mr. Hanes could produce such a letter. Mr. Hanes said he might be able to produce the letter, yet, since he had written for a copy.

The Premier mentioned the recent activity of the Vancouver Board of Trade on the matter, reading a letter from Secretary W. E. Payne stating that the board appreciated the "clear statement" given by the Premier.

**WOULD COST \$250,000.**

He had met officials of that organization, he said, and they were satisfied with the stand he had taken. He then explained that Hon. Frank Carvell, then minister of public works in the Federal Government, had shown the work required at Nicomen Island would cost \$250,000.

"And still, the story was given out that all the Provincial Government would have to spend would be \$20,000," rapped the Premier.

He claimed credit for having a dredge sent up to Nicomen Island to dredge a channel to carry the water away from the eroding banks. This should have been urged by the Dewdney member, he chided, or by the federal representatives.

Mr. Jones—Was there any election pending at that time?

Premier Oliver—No, the election was over and we had been sent back to office. (Laughter).

Mr. Bowser—The election was on what you wandered around the island.

Premier Oliver—That was not the first time I walked around it.

**A WALK KISS.**

Then followed a passage-at-arms between Mr. Catherwood and the Premier regarding the breaking of the dyke, the former claiming that the dyke did not break as the Premier said it had, except as the result of the banks being washed away.

Premier Oliver—It broke; so what is all the row about?

The Premier spoke in a heated manner addressing the member as "Mr. Catherwood." Major Burde called for order, and the Premier called for order. The Premier spoke with a smile the Premier.

What is the use of putting in such nonsensical questions as that? chided the Premier, who added that he would then and there challenge the Dewdney member to go back to his electors and ask them if the government's policy was not right. How could the people sanction an action which would involve the spending of millions?

He added that he felt strongly on the matter since he had been attacked time after time, and he apologized to the House for taking up so much time.

Major Burde moved the adjournment of the debate on the resolution.

**GUTHRIE PROTESTS PROPOSED TAXATION**

Socialist Member Also Objects to Spending More on University.

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—Sam Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, speaking in the debate in the Legislature yesterday, took up the cry of J. B. Clearihus of Victoria, who said that what British Columbia needed was fame.

"I thought the Campbell building in Vancouver, the P. G. E. and the Liquor Board would have brought us enough fame by now," said Mr. Guthrie.

He said the Liberal party got into power on a platform of peace, re-entrenchment and reform, but nothing has been heard about these since last election, and nothing will be heard until the next election, when the Premier will appeal to the working class and make more promises to them.

Referring to the proposal to put a one per cent. tax on the incomes of all persons earning less than the present exemption limit, Mr. Guthrie said:

"After watching this government perform for the last five years, there is nothing I would not believe about them. I ask how many members of this House could live on \$3.50 a day, which is the salary rate you propose to tax. This is grossly unfair, especially when it comes from the party that claims to be the party of reform."

Mr. Guthrie said that before the government gives any more money to the University of British Columbia it should see to better educational facilities in rural districts. He asserted that in some cases, rural teachers had to handle thirty-six to thirty-nine pupils in seven or eight classes.

"You will never encourage rural settlement by that," he went on.

As for the Liquor Control Board, Mr. Guthrie said that the job of vendor at Ladysmith was given to the defeated Liberal candidate in the district, and not to a returned soldier, who was denied to the House.

**Copies of Evidence Are Distributed**

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—As the result of a motion made by Premier Oliver on Tuesday afternoon, copies of the evidence in the Campbell-Crumie libel case have been distributed. Attorney-General Farris explained that he was anxious to have the complete details at the disposal of all members; hence the acquisition of the evidence.

# SEES PROVINCE ON VERGE OF BOOM

## J. W. Jones of Okanagan Advises Passing of "Blue-sky" Laws.

### Upcountry Member Severely Critical of All Government Acts.

### Discussion of C. E. Campbell's Activities Is Ruled Out.

### Road and Land Settlement Policies Are Strongly Disapproved.

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—If there was one action of the Oliver administration during the past year, which J. W. Jones, Conservative member for South Okanagan, did not criticize, some of the government members failed to recall it. For more than two hours Mr. Jones flayed the administration, advocating a "definite constructive policy" that would protect the investing public from all sorts of "wild-cat" schemes. He suggested legislation that would effect this.

Only men of high repute should be countenanced as directors of big companies, counselled the member, and in this way there could be no repetition of the disastrous failures of the years before the war. He instanced the days of the Calgary oil boom, when companies were formed with a total capitalization of \$33,000,000 for the exploitation of that field. Manitoba, however, refused admission to the stock salesmen and forbade them to advertise. Many millions of dollars were thus saved to the people of that province, he added.

#### SEES BOOM COMING.

Mr. Jones said he brought the question up at this time, because he felt the province was on the verge of another boom, and he advised the passing of "blue-sky" laws that would avoid loss to the citizens. Millions could be saved for better purposes, he said, and the government would prove guilty if adequate steps were not taken.

Touching upon the remarks of H. G. Perry regarding Dr. A. E. Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, Mr. Jones asked what M. E. Jackson, K. C., member for the Islands and a representative on the board, had to say on the subject. These things were "left accomplish" before I became a member of the board, I had nothing to do with the order-in-council which was passed.

Mr. Jones—All the more reason why the board should be abolished. The dry belt member then turned his attention to the Campbell-Cronie libel case. He started in to tell how Mr. Stanislas Campbell had been secretary of the Liberal Association; that he handled campaign funds for the party and assisted in getting certain legislation passed. Premier Oliver rose on a point of order, explaining that Mr. Bowser's resolution dealing with this matter was on the order paper, and the proper time to deal with the question would be when the resolution came up for discussion in the House.

The opposition leader rallied to his supporter, claiming that a member of the legislature has every right during the debate, to discuss any question relating to affairs affecting the House. "If we are not allowed to refer to evidence given before the Supreme Court, then this House had better close," he rapped.

The Premier contended that the rules were made to prevent duplication, and since they were a resolution on the order paper, comment on the situation would have to wait.

#### G. W. CAMPBELL DISCUSSED.

Mr. Jones—All I want to say is that according to the evidence before the Supreme Court in this trial, Mr. Campbell, who was able to put over this deal with the government, was also secretary of the campaign committee of the Liberal party, and was accustomed to come over here and assist certain people in getting measures put through, and then going back to these people and get campaign funds to assist in the election of the Liberal party candidates to this legislature.

Premier Oliver—I ask my honorable

friend to be specific. Mr. Jones—I think that if my honorable friend, the Premier, will read the evidence he will see that Mr. Campbell has acknowledged that he had done so.

Premier Oliver—I ask, Mr. Speaker, if it is in order for my friend to implicate Mr. Campbell without giving specific instances.

Mr. Jones—I notice a very strong disposition on the part of the government to discuss these things in connection with the Campbell warehouse to say "hush, hush, hush!"

Premier Oliver—No, no, no. F. A. Pauline, who was setting Speaker, had it was not the proper time to discuss the warehouse deal, and Mr. Jones agreed to drop it.

#### FAMILY DEBTS STORY.

He then discussed the financial situation in the province, and quoted a Vancouver newspaper story to the effect that the Premier and Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, had been called into conference with officials of the Canadian Bank of Commerce because of serious financial condition of the province.

Premier Oliver at once challenged this statement, declaring it was untrue, as he had not been called into conference by any bank officials.

Mr. Jones said that once British Columbia boasted of its creditworthiness, but this was no longer possible. In the four and a half years since the present government took office he said that it had spent \$102,044,441. Total borrowings since December 1, 1917, were \$41,209,590, he said.

Mr. Jones next turned his attention to the taxation burden, declaring that the government has an insatiable appetite for taxes, land, amusement, automobile and income taxes having been increased from \$6,000,000 to \$17,000,000 in five years. He asserted that British Columbia is now the highest taxed province in Canada.

#### HIGHWAY MATTERS.

Taking up road administration under Hon. J. H. King, minister of public works, Mr. Jones declared that although the Liberals had promised a more efficient administration, with contracts and no patronage, the cost of overhead administration had increased. In four years engineers cost the province \$100,742 and in 1921 the cost would be \$61,402.

The tender for the construction of three miles of the Pacific Highway was \$88,500, Mr. Jones continued. But there was actually paid for this piece of road \$122,935, with \$34,176 of extras, making a total of \$157,111.

"It is time we had an opportunity of checking up such extravagance in connection with public works," he said. "There is a lack of pep in this department."

"Talk about a road policy," he continued. "We haven't even a scheme. If we haven't money for road work, I would like to ask the minister where have all the automobile taxes gone? It is estimated that almost \$1,000,000 has been collected from automobile owners in the last year and eight months, and the money was to be set-marked for road work."

#### ATTACKS LAND BOARD.

Mr. Jones declared that the Land Settlement Board was a "fiasco," the members doing nothing but drawing salaries. No loans, roads, encouragement or aid was being given to men on the land.

"We have this board and all its policies, but no one is going on to the land," Mr. Jones criticized. "I want to know why the minister of agriculture is keeping so many superintendents around, going around sitting in offices wondering what they are there for?"

Hon. Mr. Barrow—For instance? Mr. Jones—Do you want them? Well, Col. Latta. What good is he to the board? What good is Mr. McDonald. The only good man you have on the board is Mr. Munro.

Mr. Jones asserted that failure characterized the land settlement areas with hundreds of thousands of dollars lost to the government. He said that the South Okanagan scheme to date has cost \$350,000 for the land and \$7,000,000 for irrigation, and the present system covers only half the area. Against this big outlay there has been brought in at three sales to fifty-one lot holders, \$145,000, with only \$20,000 cash actually received, while interest charges against the scheme run up to \$150,000 for 1921. He asserted that there had been "frightful extravagance in connection with the work, with men reporting in the morning and doing nothing all day, the place overrun with engineers."

He also attacked the government's policy in connection with the administration of the Mothers' Pensions Act, saying that he had a case brought to his attention where a mother whose husband died two years ago, leaving her with five children, had been receiving \$15 a month until last July, when her pension was cut off.

Hon. Mr. Farris explained that at last session the Legislature had passed an amendment providing that the definition of "mother" would include only a person whose husband died within the province and that in the case mentioned by Mr. Jones the husband had died outside the province. The intention of the measure, Mr. Farris said, was to prevent women whose husbands died outside coming into the province to take advantage of the act.

# PROVINCE'S INCOME EXCEEDS ESTIMATES

## Six Months' Statement of Finance Minister Reveals Interesting Figures.

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—In place of the financial statement for nine months, made up by the comptroller-general, which is presented by the minister of finance each session, covering three-quarters of the fiscal year in which the Legislature is meeting, Hon. John Hart, minister of finance presented a statement for six months. This shows the state of the revenue at the end of September, and also the amount which has been expended out of the appropriations for the twelve months.

In the course of the six months receipts have aggregated \$9,522,123.13, comparison of which with the estimated revenue of \$17,010,595.13 for the full year and with the partial returns for previous years demonstrates a continued improvement in the collections from all sources, said the minister. The increase in income-tax is a striking one, the amount brought to account in six months being \$2,551,443.17, while the estimate for the whole year was only \$2,000,000. The finance department claims this to be due to stricter collection and the system of auditing income tax returns. From real property there was received \$774,759 for six months, out of an estimated \$1,050,000 for twelve months. Wild coal and timber lands \$595,231, out of \$974,000 and from personal property \$550,000 out of \$860,000.

The actual expenditure on current account was \$7,266,684.17, out of an estimate of \$16,975,598.93 for the year; and on capital account chargeable to income \$1,479,004.21 out of \$2,351,765.26. The total actual expenditure on all accounts was \$8,745,688.38 out of an estimated expenditure for the year of \$19,334,724.29. The capital expenditure out of income included \$696,796 for sinking funds and \$338,347 interest on P. G. E. bonds.

The sum of \$2,333,571.87 was expended on capital expenditures out of the various loans floated by the department during the year.

## List of Select Committees Of the B.C. Legislature

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—Following is a complete list of the select standing committees of the Legislature for the present session, the first named in each instance being chairman:

Private bills and standing orders—Messrs. Jackson, Whiteside, Anderson, Clearihue, Ramsay, Duncan, Hinchcliffe, Catherwood and Pearson.

Public accounts—Messrs. Buckham, I. A. MacKenzie, K. C. MacDonald, Pauline, Kergin, Sutherland, Jackson, Neelands, Pooley, Jones, Bowser and W. A. McKenzie.

Agriculture—Messrs. K. C. MacDonald, Yorston, Anderson, Paterson, Perry, Henniger, Buckham, Menzies, Duncan, A. McDonald, Jones, Lister, Hunter and Catherwood.

Mining—Messrs. Yorston, Buckham, Kergin, Henniger, Sutherland, Anderson, Menzies, Guthrie, A. McDonald, Hunter, Essling and Schofield.

Municipal matters—Messrs. Whiteside, Paterson, Ramsay, Perry, Jackson, Pauline, Clearihue, I. A. MacKenzie, Hanes, Burde, Uphill, Schofield, Hinchcliffe, Pearson and McRae.

Printing—Messrs. Pauline, Clearihue, Menzies, Hinchcliffe and Jones.

Railways—Messrs. Perry, Yorston, Kergin, Buckham, Essling, Catherwood and Lister.

On motion of Premier Oliver, seconded by Mr. Hart, it was resolved that F. A. Pauline, member for Saanich, be appointed Deputy Speaker of the House.

## Asks Copies of All Regulations Made by Liquor Control Board

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—The member for Esquimalt, R. H. Pooley, has asked the Legislature for a return of copies of all regulations made by the Liquor Control Board under the provisions of the Liquor Control Act, including as well all regulations proposed by the board but not approved by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-council.

Full particulars regarding the appointment of the commissioner who held the coal enquiry for the government last summer are being asked by Thomas Pearson, member for Richmond. He wants to know the amount paid the commissioner and his staff, and the cost of the enquiry.

F. W. Anderson is seeking information regarding the trans-provincial highway and extensions. He wishes to know if in connection with the Harrison-Lake Pemberton-Lillooet route consideration has been taken of the possible abandonment of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway from Squamish to Clinton, and the use of part of the railway grade for highway purposes. If the answer to the latter question is in the affirmative, Mr. Anderson wishes to ascertain the amount by which the estimated cost of this route should be reduced.

# VERY CRITICAL OF MINISTERS

## Major Burde Regales Legislature With Characteristic Speech.

### Alleges Talk of Cabinet Reconstruction—P.G.E. and Salary Increases.

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—It took Major R. J. Burde, independent member for Alberni, an hour and a half to complete his remarks on provincial questions in the Legislature Wednesday afternoon. He admitted that he talked against time for a third of that period, because the Premier had ordered the House opened half an hour earlier than usual.

Outstanding in his address was the advice to Premier Oliver to make some move to "clear the atmosphere," and that unless quick action was taken, with total disregard for who was hurt, the people would soon make it known that Premier Oliver was no longer the man to head the Provincial Government.

"There is a shuffling of feet, a sharpening of stiletos and a muffled knocking of hammers in the legislative corridors," said the major, "and the Premier is being made the victim of certain machinations."

#### SAME STORIES.

"The situation reminds me of a story," he added. "A customer went into a bookstore and asked the clerk: 'Have you the Life of Christ here?' The clerk replied: 'No, I have the life of a dog and won't hold that for long.'"

"The situations were analogous," added the speaker, "and Premier Oliver was like the officer who was headed for a front-line position in France. His guide took him to a cross-roads and said: 'This road is dangerous; that one unsafe. Goodnight and good luck.'"

He declared that his sympathies were with the Premier, and he deprecated the action of the members for Grand Forks and Fort George, who evidently were seeking something for their own ridings and forcing the hand of the government. That was not party loyalty, nor fair play, said the major.

"And, at that," he added, "neither member could have put anything over, even if the government had a majority of fourteen."

Major Burde referred to criticisms directed toward "certain" members of the Legislature for alleged visits to cabarets and road-houses the night of the prorogation of the last session. Members of the clergy had been very active, he contended, and after they "got into trouble with the newspapers, sent scandalous letters without signatures to the homes of members throughout the province. Even the Premier's home was not immune."

"Gospel-fakira, who sent resolutions instead of praying!" exclaimed the Alberni member. "Why, I meet men and women in cabarets and road-houses that I would much prefer to trust, and men of my rank do not figure half so largely in criminal statistics as that class of the clergy."

#### INDIGNITY INCREASE.

He next spoke of the "salary grab," claiming that the members hadn't forgotten the episode. Criticisms had been made of the members for accepting the additional \$400, he added, but for himself had he known the pay of roadworkers was to be cut 75 cents per day he would have accepted a reduction of \$400 in his indemnity rather than an increase, in order that the working man would not have to suffer. At that, he went on, no member could cover his riding conscientiously and come out even on \$2000 a year.

Major Burde said the cabinet was top-heavy and if the small amount of material contained in the King's speech was an evidence of the ministers' activities, then the cabinet should be cut in half. The idea of establishing a new portfolio for Hon. Mary Ellen Smith was not to be considered, he said, declaring that his confidence in the Premier would vanish if that move were made.

He then spoke of the cabinet reconstruction that he had heard. Hon. T. Pattullo was to form a new government with Mr. Speaker Manson as Premier, General and Dr. Sutherland as Ministers. There would be an independent member as minister of labor.

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#### WARNING OF DEATH.

"In fact, it might have been disastrous for all of us," said the major, reading a letter from a returned soldier friend, which had been forwarded to the major after the drip. This letter warned of a plot to blow up a trestle on the line when the government party's train reached that spot. He took Hon. Mrs. Smith to task for not exerting more influence in the cabinet.

The woman member retorted that her attitude would stand comparison with that of the Alberni member any time.

"I hope it will be the same as mine when the eight-hour day legislation comes up," replied the major.

He checked up Mr. Speaker Manson for newspaper reports attributed to him that the influence and usefulness of independent members was small.

"Then how about the influence of the lady member?" She was an independent when she mothered her splendid mothers' pensions legislation," he jibed.

He referred to a "combination campaign" carried on by Hon. Mrs. Smith and the government during the last election, saying that each went about praising the other for campaign purposes.

"Did not the public know of that?" he asked. "Certainly, and if the lady member was responsible for returning the government to power I want to tell her that it is a much weaker government today."

#### REFERS TO P. G. E.

Major Burde criticized Mayor Gale of Vancouver for stating that the work of the Good Roads League was completed after the mayor, as president of that body, had talked to Hon. Dr. King about the transprovincial highway.

"Is Mayor Gale using this government for the purpose of working up campaign material for himself in Vancouver?" he questioned.

Next came a discussion of the P. G. E. situation. The major explained that he had been a member of the excursion party in August and said he found a wonderful railway and a wonderful country.

"Yes," he reflected. "It is all wonderful. But the wonderful thing about the railway is that anyone rides on it. The wonder is that the rails stick to the ties; that everyone who works on it is not smothered under slides. And the wonderful thing about the country is how even a grasshopper can find a living in parts of that wilderness."

"I recall a picture of the Premier standing on the brink of the Cottonwood gully, addressing a thousand detestable enemies. The attorney-general was standing there in a dreamy attitude, paying little attention, when the Premier turned to me and shouted: 'Wasn't I right?' He wanted me to commit myself. The impression in the mind of any disinterested observer must have been that the work should have been stopped right there."

Major Burde said it would be a crime to spend another dollar on the line, in spite of the appeal of the member for Fort George. He claimed that the party got a poor reception from the people at Quasnel, a lot of money was expended in the first place to make money for the contractors and every time the line approached anything good it ran away. He instanced Lillooet and Clinton, claiming that these places had been sidetracked in order that millions might be made out of new town-sites.

Major Burde blamed the Vancouver members for saddling the government with the P. G. E., and also the Campbell warehouse. The result of the Cromie-Campbell libel suit was to show the people that there was something wrong, he remarked.

# CARIBOO URGING "RESERVOIR FARM"

## Liberal Member Revives His Hardy Annual in the Legislature.

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—Still another effort is to be made by John Yorston, Liberal member for Cariboo, to have the government establish a "reservoir farm" at Williams Lake. This question has become a hardy annual with the Cariboo member, who has repeatedly urged the use of the Borland Ranch property, which came to the government when the assets of the P. G. E. were taken over.

The property comprises 3000 acres and contains some of the finest irrigable land in the province. In fact, explained Mr. Yorston, a good irrigation system was installed many years ago, but this fell into disuse and was abandoned.

Last summer an inspection was made by officials of the agricultural department and Hon. E. D. Barrow favors the establishment of a government farm where pure-bred stock may be kept, bred and made available for settlers desiring to build up their herds. This would make it possible for the small farmer to secure a standard-bred sire or other stock without the expense of importation.

Mr. Yorston will urge immediate action before the debate closes on the King's speech.

# NO INVESTIGATION OF "BEAVER" CASE

## "Seems No Cause for One," Is the Comment of the Attorney-General.

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—Attorney-General Farris stated this morning that he had made no arrangements for an investigation of the beaver-pelt question, because there seemed to him no cause for one. Statements of incompetency had been made by H. G. Perry, member for Fort George, but no charges had been laid, he added. No opposition member had moved for an enquiry, and so far as he was concerned, there would be no investigation unless there was something to investigate, the attorney-general asserted.

J. W. Jones of South Okanagan directed questions regarding the board's activities to M. E. Jackson, K.C., member of the Game Board, but he, too, refrained from charging anyone with wrong-doing.

Dr. Baker has been in Victoria for several days, and when asked for particulars regarding the situation said he had demanded an investigation, but apparently no one knew what was to be investigated. And there the matter rests.

# Legislature Hears Bowser Make Liquor Charges and Farris Begin His Reply

1113 Library Legislative Assembly Apr 1922

## House Is Electrified as Antagonists Begin Struggle.

## Opposition Leader Claims Existence of Liquor Ring.

## Names Vancouver Men Who, He Says, Are Members.

VICTORIA, Oct. 28.—After slumbering peacefully for nearly two weeks, with scarcely a ripple to ruffle the surface of the legislative waters, the House was completely electrified on Thursday afternoon.

Political enemies for many years, W. J. Bowser, K.C., leader of the opposition, and Hon. J. W. G.B. Farris, attorney-general and minister of labor, locked horns in a struggle which each declared must be fought to a finish.

The occasion was Mr. Bowser's resolution relating to the administration of the Liquor Control Act. At great length he discussed the clauses of his resolution, which only reached the order paper after he had changed its wording to conform to Mr. Speaker Manson's interpretation of the rules of the House. The resolution, already published in full in The Province, was analyzed by the opposition leader, who dealt with its clauses seriatim.

### SCANDALS RAMBANT.

"In October, 1917, the Prohibition Act came into force," he explained. "Soon scandals became rambant and discussion of them occurred on the public platforms of the country and in the Legislature. Escapades of all kinds came to light and one prominent official under the administration was sent to the Penitentiary and there served his term."

"The people of British Columbia became dissatisfied either with the Prohibition Act or with the manner in which it was administered, he declared, and a new law was enacted. "Now, after four months of that law—the Liquor Control Act—we hear fresh rumors of maladministration," he continued, "and after what was tried previously no one could look for a better administration. I now feel it my duty as leader of the opposition and in view of my long experience in public life, to move as I have done."

"The first charge dealt with was that pertaining to the kind of liquor which the public expected to purchase at government stores. Mr. Bowser said the people had expected to buy the best of liquor and at the lowest prices consistent with a fair profit. This was not the case."

### THE WAREHOUSE DEAL.

He then charged that the department had purchased from a close friend of the government certain premises known as the Campbell warehouse, and that the former owner of that property had acted as a go-between in securing the passing of legislation for which certain prices had been contributed. This evidence came out on oath during the recent Campbell-Cromie libel suit, he explained, and he presumed there was nothing to do but accept the situation as the one under which the government of the country did business.

Mr. Bowser said that the price paid was a most extreme one. Many owners were willing to sell suitable property to the government at much lower prices.

"So it would have been thought that the government as a business concern would not have given this extravagant price, even to a close political friend," he declared.

"And now we have the results of the recent trial," he went on. "A special jury has given its opinion and what are we to think?"

He then explained that, according to his opinion, the purchase had been entirely illegal. He quoted a section of the provincial statutes to show that the purchase of any warehouse should not have been made before the new

Liquor Control Act became law. The Interpretation Act, he said, clearly showed that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council would have to proclaim the act law before its clauses could become operative.

"Therefore, I make the charge that the purchase of the warehouse was not legal," he said, adding that the people never expected the government to spend \$150,000 on such a deal. Had they done so such opposition would have been expressed that it blot upon our political history would not have occurred."

### LETTER FROM CAMPBELL.

Mr. Bowser declared that negotiations had been going on for a long time between Mr. Campbell and Attorney-General Farris. He quoted from a letter written by the former to Hon. Mr. Farris, under date of January 18, 1921, as follows:

"Dear Wallace,—I am handing to Mr. Paterson today the originals of the enclosed letters, which are self-explanatory.

"Messrs. Waghorn, Gwynn & Co. Limited is one of the largest and oldest mortgage and real estate firms in British Columbia, and Mr. Waghorn is a prominent Conservative.

"Messrs. Frank L. Murdock Limited advertise themselves as expert valuers and appraisers and have been established in Vancouver since 1904. You will note they consider the sum of \$1920 to be a fair rental value, per month, on a five-year lease, which is four cents per square foot for 48,000 square feet.

"In view of these letters, I trust there will be no hitch tomorrow in reaching a decision."

Mr. Bowser paused for a time in reading the letter to make comments thereupon. He said that apparently other letters had been enclosed to the attorney-general, letters pertaining to the deal.

"What reason for a hitch was there?" he asked. "Mr. Campbell was exercised over the possibility. He apparently was leaving for the East right away to get money with which to buy the World."

### HOUSE IGNORED.

Mr. Bowser said that in view of the date when the letter was written, which was shortly before the Legislature was called into session, the attorney-general should have taken the members of the House into his confidence and had them endorse his action in paying \$150,000 for a warehouse.

"Was that done?" he questioned. "No, they were as silent as the grave," he made answer. "The first the members of the Legislature could hope to see of the expenditure would be in the public accounts for 1922, a year after the transaction."

"Later on," added the opposition leader, "a memorandum appeared from Archie Johnson. That was on March 3. He was deputy attorney-general," explained Mr. Bowser, "and did not exist as an official of the Liquor Control Board, because that body had not come into existence."

Mr. Bowser read from the memorandum, in which Mr. Johnson was said to have advised the Attorney-General that the Campbell warehouse was the only six-storey one in Vancouver, that Mr. Campbell was prepared to lease the entire warehouse to the government for \$1400 per year on a five-year lease.

### RENTAL VERSUS SALE.

"Mr. Johnson's memorandum also showed," said Mr. Bowser, "recommendations to Hon. Mr. Farris to rent the premises at the figure mentioned. Mr. Johnson also pointed out that the rentals for five years would total \$34,000; that he had discussed the question of outright purchase with Mr. Campbell, who would include a five-year option at \$150,000.

"The recommendation also was made by Mr. Johnson," continued Mr. Bowser, "that there is no question but that the government would be well advised to purchase at this figure."

"At that time," went on the opposition leader, "was and the Legislature in session, and yet here was this remarkable document. What Mr. Johnson had to do with the purchasing of a warehouse, I do not know."

He added that there were lots of good warehouses in Vancouver, in fact, scores of them, with good trackage. Still, Mr. Johnson had advised the attorney-general that warehouses in Vancouver were extremely hard to obtain.

"And Campbell would include in the agreement to lease an option to buy," he continued. "Ah, ha! I should say he would."

The people's representatives were the ones to advise the government to buy, and not "this gentleman," as Mr. Bowser called Mr. Johnson.

There was no vote in the estimates for the purchase of the Campbell warehouse, he added, and the only other way to buy it was through a special warrant. Still, he continued, the House was in session all the time the negotiations were going on.

### SPECIAL WARRANTS.

Mr. Bowser turned to a discussion of the law covering special warrants. He said he was proud to have been the author of the act in question. In spite of the fact that the then Conservative government had an overwhelming majority, he had been anxious to protect the interests of the minority in the Legislature and brought in the special warrant legislation. This provided, he said, that in cases of special urgency a warrant could be put through. He instanced the Fernie fire, the Halifax disaster and certain floods as occasions when such action had been taken. They were "unforeseen" events, he said, such as the act was intended to cover.

"But was this purchase an unforeseen one?" he asked. "Hardly," he added, "when correspondence and the memorandum were on hand."

He then expressed wonder as to how the \$150,000 paid for the warehouse got from the treasury to Mr. Campbell. A government cheque for \$150,000 went to Archie Johnson in April, he explained, and this was disposed of in May by Mr. Johnson exchanging cheques with the government agent in Vancouver. Three cheques for \$50,000 each were issued by the government agent; then Mr. Johnson covered the government agent by endorsing over to him the government's cheque for \$150,000, explained the opposition leader.

"I want to know what pressure was brought to bear upon the controller-general that this transaction was not handled in the customary way," he remarked. "Why did not Mr. Johnson issue his cheque direct so that there would have been a voucher on file?"

### NOT AUTHORIZED.

"I say that if there was not something surreptitious, Mr. Johnson would have followed the methods of honest business men and paid for the warehouse himself instead of bringing in an innocent government employee," charged Mr. Bowser.

He added that since the Liquor Control Act was not in force, the attorney-general had no authority for the purchase.

Section 31 of the Interpretation Act required the comptroller-general to file reports of all transactions, explained the leader of the opposition. "The report shows that we can take it that this was never before the treasury board and the cheque was signed illegally," he went on.

"Why?" he asked. "Simply to close the deal in a hurry and help Mr. Campbell get his \$150,000 before the Premier got back from Ottawa," he made answer.

"All this time the Premier was hurrying back, knowing what he had left behind him at Victoria," Mr. Bowser jibed, and laughter followed.

"But it was no use," he continued. "It did no good to close the door, the horse had been stolen; Campbell had his money and the Liberal party was ahead a party organ."

"I think I have proven clearly that there is something to be investigated regarding this money, apart entirely from the question of the value of the warehouse," he said.

### CHARGES FAVORITISM.

Mr. Bowser then said that political favoritism had been shown in different instances when the government was securing premises for the purposes of the board. In Victoria there was the Pither & Leiser warehouse, the government retail warehouse and "a magnificent suite in the Belmont block" for the use of the commissioners.

"Why not have purchased the Pither & Leiser warehouse?" he asked. "I suppose if there had been a newspaper to buy, it would have been purchased."

"Surely a committee would come to the conclusion that there had been extravagance in Victoria," he added. "And the same thing applies to Lady Smith, where a friend of the government, who later was a delegate to the convention that nominated Mr. Booth as the Liberal candidate in the federal field, was favored."

The premises taken over by the government were said to have rented for poolroom purposes for only \$15 or \$20 per month. Hon. Mr. Sloan, objecting that the property in question rented for \$150.

"That is a small matter, and one for the committee," was the reply.

### STORE EMPLOYEES.

The next clause of the resolution dealt with the "incompetence of liquor store employees." Mr. Bowser contending that it must have been incompetence which resulted in the disappearance

...of government liquor from the Vancouver, Grand Forks and Ashcroft stores. He claimed that many men were no doubt many good men, but he advised that the handling of such stuff as liquor called for the services of the best men available.

"Of course Liberals were appointed," he added. "We could not expect a Conservative to get a job, but at that there surely are enough good men, decent respectable fellows, so that the crown need not be ashamed of its employees. Former bootleggers and blind-piggers were given positions well above their rank."

"Name them, name them," challenged Hon. Mr. Farris. "I will, in committee," was the reply. "I will take the responsibility of giving the names and can promise my honorable friend that I will produce certified copies of their Police Court records. Why, one of them is in charge of a store, and the same thing applies all over the province. My honorable friend will be more than satisfied."

Mr. Bowser then touched upon the clause which charged the government with losing money through not taking liquor out of bond. He said it was well known at the time that Sir Henry Drayton had promised to repeal the luxury tax and was looking around for something else to tax. The attorney-general should have known that Sir Henry would have clapped a tax on bonded liquor.

**SAYS A-G ASLEEP.**  
So evident was this, he contended, that business men in the liquor trade had taken their liquor out of bond, thereby saving a loss of \$104,461. This was in the month of April. In the first nine days of May another saving was made by the liquor dealers amounting to \$78,215, or a total saving, which was a direct profit, of \$182,676 in two months.

"That meant a direct loss to the federal government," he said, "and while the liquor men were alive to the situation the attorney-general was asleep at the switch and did not take a single gallon out of bond. The province suffered through want of business acumen, because of inactivity. The loss was great for a depleted treasury," he continued, "and all we have is the attorney-general's statement that he is going to sue the federal authorities, claiming that they had no right to impose this tax on the province. A law case that will drag its weary way through the courts and give him, Hon. Mr. Farris, a chance to go to the Privy Council—provided he still is attorney-general."

**ALLEGED LIQUOR RING.**  
Mr. Bowser then approached the sharpest charge of his speech. He claimed that liquor had been purchased by the government through a "ring," and that a man had to be a member of that ring and closely allied to the attorney-general in order to sell to the board.

"What was the modus operandi?" he questioned. "It is impossible to purchase certain well-known brands of liquor. Why? Because these brands are distilled by famous firms, old family organizations who have agents all over the world working upon a small commission basis, say half a crown a case. The agent depends upon his large sales in order to make a satisfactory profit, and if the liquor board were to deal with these men there would be nothing for the 'kitty'—I mean the political kitty."

"The purchase of cheap liquor was the result," he continued, "liquor that can be purchased at a low rate and sold at a high price so as to make a very high profit."

Mr. Bowser then named men whom he said were implicated in the "ring." These included Mr. C. C. Delbridge, president of the Liberal Association in Vancouver; Mr. H. J. McLatchey, manager of the Liberal campaign; James Conley, the nominee of the attorney-general for Burrard constituency; Mr. J. P. Dougherty, late Liberal candidate in Vancouver, who, Mr. Bowser said, had now received part of his reward in being appointed superintendent of insurance; and W. T. McArthur, whom he called the nominee of the attorney-general for police commissioner in Vancouver.

He decried to say that Vancouver today, in so far as the police were concerned, was in the control of the attorney-general.

"Mr. McArthur, the close friend of the attorney-general, is the political representative, and I hope to show that he is profiting from the sale of liquor."

Gordon Wismer is another member of the ring," he went on. "He is well-known in Vancouver; he is in all the by-elections and has spent days and nights carrying the political sack around, the sack that brought my honorable friend, the member for Delta, to this House."

"There is also Mr. Campbell and Wendell Farris, brother of the attorney-general. I also hope to have evidence to show that Mr. Falconer is making a profit from the sale of liquor."

**BREWER BEER INCIDENT.**

...same reference to the sale of beer. Mr. Bowser spoke of a "close friend of the attorney-general" who, he said, had been in the house from the government side, when the only other member of the House who was in with the attorney-general was the attorney-general himself.

...right to have liquor... Mr. Bowser closed the incident by saying that the committee might well take up the question of beer shipments.

He then spoke of the discharge of the thirteen employees of the Hastings street store in Vancouver. Here was a case where Commissioner Falconer said a fair investigation had been held, he commented. "However, there is an old saying that every man is innocent until he is proven guilty," he added, "and we find these men, innocent men, thrown out of their jobs at this inclement season of the year. Some of the men have been told that the government can not connect them with the transaction at all. It is high time for a committee to investigate these things. These men are either guilty or not guilty, and it is not fair to them."

**ASKS FOR DETAILS.**

Mr. Bowser then dealt with the clause in his resolution pertaining to clubs. He charged that monetary considerations had been paid for "concessions" for bonded warehouse licenses, and that this charge would implicate one or more members of the Legislature.

Mr. Farris—Is the charge being made that I made money?  
Mr. Bowser—The language speaks for itself.

Mr. Farris—I insist upon details.  
Mr. Bowser—I carefully drafted the resolution.

Mr. Farris—Yes, I see that, and I challenge my friend to make his charge in express language.

Cries of "Hear, hear!" came from the government benches. The attorney-general pounded his desk in emphasis.

Mr. Bowser responded that he was not making the charge until he came before the select committee. If he could not prove his charge he would be the one to suffer, he said.

His next point was the question of club licenses. He claimed that he, when attorney-general, had amended the statutes so as to do away with the selling of liquor by clubs. However, today the public faced the spectacle in Vancouver of clubs running wide open. In fact, he charged, it was possible to join some clubs for a fee of ten cents.

The chairman of the Vancouver Police Board (Mayor Gale) is a close political friend of the attorney-general. He is now the Liberal nominee for Vancouver Centre," he said.

**CLUB LICENSES.**

Mr. Bowser also mentioned the name of Thomas Harnett, president of the G. W. V. A. and a member of the Vancouver Police Commission. This meant that two out of three of the commissioners were in a position to blink breaches of the law to the attention of the attorney-general. So it would be easy to get sufficient information to warrant the cancellation of club licenses, he declared.

He instanced the issuing of twenty-six licenses on one day, with one lawyer acting as counsel for all. He charged that Mayor Gale's activities were carried on for the purpose of winning votes. Messrs. Wismer and McGeer were said to have acted as counsel for seven club applicants, M. A. Macdonald for six and Ian Mackenzie for five. At the heel of the hunt, he added, in came Joseph Oliver, son of the Premier, with two applications.

These legal gentlemen, said Mr. Bowser, had received large fees for their services, fees not commensurate with the services involved. The object was to create "pull," he asserted.

The opposition leader then spoke of certain resorts (in South Vancouver), where women as well as men were operating questionable places, officials being instructed not to interfere with them.

"This went on under the regime of former Commissioner Gillespie," he continued, "and if I could know about this surely the attorney-general could."

Mr. Bowser then referred ambiguously to certain appointees of the government having become active as members of the Liberal machine. He instanced A. E. Buckworth, general manager of the P. G. E., who, he asserted, had paid salaries to men who were on the railway in order that they could carry on political work, instead of attending to their duties.

**OFFERS EXPERIENCE.**

The leader of the opposition then referred to famous investigations which had been held in British Columbia. He cited the case of the Columbia Western Railway, Premier Oliver interrupting to say that as the man who had brought the charges, he did not name himself as one of the judges. (Applause.)

Mr. Bowser retorted that cases were not always the same, and he thought he had acted wisely in offering the benefit of his professional experience to the proposed committee.

"We will be in the minority anyway," he explained. "Furthermore, the rules of the House, dating back as far as 1877 say that the mover of a resolution must be on the committee." (Applause from opposition benches.)

Mr. Bowser spoke of the Bonheues Reserve investigation, the gravel pit enquiry and similar events.

Premier Oliver asked if the opposition leader objected to any proceeding of the gravel pit enquiry.

Mr. Bowser said he certainly did. Mr. Speaker Manson said that the question did not concern the issue at stake, whereupon Mr. Bowser said he would discuss that later.

He then spoke of the personnel of the select committee. He had served on the select committee for the investigation of the gravel pit enquiry. That

...committee. Mr. Clearhue, the junior member for Victoria, would also be a fitting man for the committee. Mr. Hanes should also prove acceptable.

**DIFFICULT TO "PLACE."**

Major Burde asked why a labor man had not been included. Mr. Bowser explained that it was rather difficult to "place" some of the members at the lower end of the House.

Upon objections being registered by Attorney-General Farris and Premier Oliver to some of Mr. Bowser's charges, Mr. Speaker Manson gave the opinion that the opposition leader had either gone too far or had not gone far enough. Nearly every member of the House had been placed under a suspicion.

Mr. Bowser said such was not his intention, but that the evidence before the committee would decide the matter. "I do not intend to retract the statement that one or more members of this House have profited in the way I mention, but I do not want to name anyone and I would like to know what rule will force me to do so," he challenged.

Premier Oliver said that every member had been placed under suspicion because of Mr. Bowser's statement. He believed that authority existed for the Speaker to demand names under such circumstances. There was a direct implication involved.

Mr. Speaker Manson said it was possible that the opposition leader did not mean financial profit. He referred to Page 297 of "May," where it appeared that similar charges must be specific. Premier Oliver—Surely if the matter is one for investigation by this House, it must be because of alleged profits made.

Mr. Bowser—That reference in "May" refers to intemperate or insulting language about an innocent member. I am not under implication and surely no other innocent member may fear. If all are as innocent as I am they will walk home without feeling any imputation. This concluded the citation of Mr. Bowser's charges.

### The Attorney-General Says He Is Fighting For His Honor.

#### Describes Charges as Innuendoes Garbed Spuriously.

#### Is Bitter in References to W. J. Bowser and R. J. Cromie.

VICTORIA, Oct. 28.—Although he announced at the commencement of his reply to the leader of the opposition that anything he might say at the moment would have to be construed as something in the nature of an introduction to a detailed rejoinder, to be made at a later stage, Hon. J. W. deB. Farris epitomized his interpretation of Mr. Bowser's allegations and accusations by laying bare what he considered were his underlying motives contained in the resolution.

In the first place, the attorney-general took occasion to point out to the Legislature that the leader of the opposition had followed his customary practice of indulging in a series of innuendoes, garbed in the spurious clothing of allegations and charges of misconduct in office by himself. He similarly asked the House to recognize the fact that the opposition leader had taken care to allow the terms in his resolution to be scattered broadcast throughout the province before the time had arrived to deal with it in its proper place, that he had allowed the insidious effect of that course to permeate thoroughly the minds of the people before following the constitutional procedure of legislative treatment, that he had yesterday afternoon culminated the process outlined by merely exercising his mind upon a series of vague charges in which he had included a definite reference to a number of reputable citizens of the province against whom he had, haughtily and conveniently refrained from laying any sort of charge which might be understood by the people of the province, or dealt with intelligently by himself, as the first law-officer of the crown.

**VEERS ON INVESTIGATION.**

With that clearly before the House and without going into a detailed reply, Hon. Mr. Farris touched upon some of the questions dealt with by the leader of the opposition by a recital, chapter and verse, in respect of those subjects whose specific nature and the citation of which he considered constituted a full and complete answer to his honorable friend's opposite.

"I am going to fight and fight for my honor," said Mr. Farris, "and for everything I hold dear."

He emphasized his earnestness by smashing blows on his desk, while the crowded galleries and the members on the floor of the House listened almost breathlessly.

Mr. Farris declares that the resolutions and the speech of Mr. Bowser were insinuations against himself or the administration.

"I am not here to oppose an investigation by the Legislature," he went on. "The people are entitled to have the fullest assurance."

"Things have been suggested today which I wish to insist there be the fullest investigation."

"I feel that the leader of the opposition has gone far afield and has made statements and clothed in the garb of charges, which do not contain on examination the essence to which the honorable members of this House are entitled."

**HAVE NAME ALREADY DONE.**

"Whatever investigation there may be in regard to matters discussed this afternoon, no member of this House can overlook the fact that what my honorable friend has had on the order paper has done harm to the characters of a number of men in this province, charges or not. And if he does not prove them he can say that he made a mistake and assume no responsibility for the charges he has made."

Hon. Mr. Farris then referred to the group of names mentioned by Mr. Bowser.

"The names of Vancouver men will be shown in black and stinking type in the Sun tomorrow," went on the attorney-general.

"I ask honorable members of this House to go back in their minds now and note if in connection with these names there has been any charge against anyone," Mr. Farris went on. "My honorable friend by talking about a ring has created the impression that there is something crooked in these transactions and something crooked about myself."

"That is the kind of insidious attack that has been closing around me. I am not unmindful of the gossip and rumors that have been going on in legislative corridors and throughout the country for the last four years about myself. I have had to meet it ever since I have been in this office and I have had to meet it in a combination of the leader of the opposition and the 'Morning Liar' of Vancouver."

**OUT TO 'GET' HIM.**

"I want to say that the word has gone forth from the Sun newspaper that they have got concentrates on Farris, that the proprietor of that newspaper is going 'to get' the attorney-general."

"I looked forward to seeing the leader of the opposition come out like a man and make his statements and charges and not conduct a campaign to spread insinuations by whisperings. Surely any man who is accused of anything is entitled to express charges."

Mr. Farris declared that in the insinuations and so-called charges made by Mr. Bowser, no one was able to put his hand on one specific case of wrongdoing.

"But notwithstanding that, the speech of the leader of the opposition is conceived, concocted and delivered with the intention of creating the impression and imputing wrong-doing on my part, without coming out and making an actual allegation or assertion of wrong-doing," Mr. Farris went on.

"I am going to fight and fight for my honor and my reputation, and I do not propose that a political newspaper thus is going to destroy my reputation unless he comes through and proves his insinuations."

"And what about this newspaper man?" Mr. Farris asked, referring to R. J. Cromie, publisher of the Sun.

**SEEK LAST INTERVIEW.**

Mr. Farris said that the last time he spoke to Mr. Cromie was when the latter walked into his office and with an insolent attitude, referring to the Premier, declared that "the old man had turned me down and I want to know what you fellows are going to do about it," and "friendship" be damned.

Mr. Farris said that Mr. Cromie then brought up his Powell River Pulp and Paper Co. contract.

"I said 'Cromie, what do you suggest?' Mr. Farris went on.

Mr. Cromie, he said, replied: "You get your man Pines in tomorrow to go through the books of that company."

"I am proud to say that I have never spoken to that dirty blackmailer from that day to this," Mr. Farris said, emphasizing each word by pounding his fist.

"What is the result? The word has gone out from the Sun newspaper that I am to be driven from public life."

Getting back to Mr. Bowser, Mr. Farris said that he had hoped to get from the leader of the opposition what he was really driving at.

**BOUGHT BY AGENT.**

"What happened?" Mr. Farris asked. The government appointed Mr. James Brown, then the government purchasing agent, as the purchasing agent of the board. He is an old, respected man of Victoria and not of that notorious place, Vancouver. And the purchase of liquor has not been made by myself or by the liquor board, but by the purchasing agent, the man whom my honorable friend last session recommended."

Mr. Farris then brought in a long list of the firms from which liquor has been purchased, the quantities, the names and the price. He wanted to

know why, if Mr. Bowser had really desired information about these liquor purchases, he had not taken the usual course for members and put questions on the order paper asking for information. Instead of picking out the names of respected citizens and making insinuations against them because in elections they had supported him. Mr. Farris said that two days ago he had his two brothers over from Vancouver and they were out to his home for dinner. The next morning the "Morning Hate" of Vancouver came out and screamed that they had rushed over here to his assistance.

"What is there in political life in this province good enough to have to stand this sort of thing?" Mr. Farris asked.

"There is nothing this province has to offer in public life to induce a man to endure and go through the kind of thing I have had to face for the last three years."

Returning to the question of liquor purchases, Mr. Farris said if certain men had sold liquor to the purchasing agent and had made a commission on it through being the sales agents of certain distilleries, it was only an ordinary transaction.

**QUOTATIONS THE SAME.**

He explained that as late as last August the purchasing agent had written to the distilleries saying that it was the desire of the Liquor Control Board to purchase liquors direct from the distilleries and thereby eliminate all commissions. What happened was that answers came back from all except a few small concerns, to say that members of the whisky association, they were precluded from association, they were precluded from lending themselves to any such arrangement and their quotations were exactly the same for direct purchase as they would be through their usual agents. Some of the smaller concerns offered to cut their prices a bit if the board would give them a large order.

"In all the thousands of dollars of liquors purchased, my honorable friend will have to go far to prove that any appreciable quantity of this liquor was bought from political friends of the government, as most of the agents of these whiskies have not even given political support to the government," Mr. Farris continued.

As for the Campbell warehouse deal, Mr. Farris said that there had been a trial of that question conducted in the courts created for that purpose and he had hoped that the leader of the opposition would have taken the evidence brought in at that trial and made it the basis of his charges on the floor of the House.

As for the make-up of the investigating committee proposed by Mr. Bowser, with Mr. Bowser himself a member of it, Mr. Farris said:

"I would be very sorry to trust my reputation to the judicial disposition of the leader of the opposition."

**PREFERS FIGHT OF FLOOR.**

"I was in hopes that the leader of the opposition would have been big enough to have taken the evidence at the trial as the basis of a motion of want of confidence in the Premier to have it fought out on the floor of the House."

Mr. Farris pointed out that counsel for Mr. Cromie in the trial moved for the dismissal of the libel action on the basis that no charge had been made against Campbell by Cromie. He recalled the closing sentence of the trial judge to the jury, in which he intimated that the jury should dismiss the case, not because no libel was proved, but because no libel was alleged.

"There is no reason why honorable members of the House should accept that verdict, but I do say that they should accept the evidence," Mr. Farris went on.

"I am not afraid to have my case placed before the honorable members of this House and have that transaction considered. Just as many reputable business men in Vancouver signed their oath that the warehouse building was worth what was paid for it, as there were those who swore the other way."

Mr. Farris asserted that the statements of Mr. Bowser in his resolution were placed there one by one, so that there might be a cumulative effect as they were spread before the people of the province.

**LIQUOR PROFITS.**

Referring to Mr. Bowser's talk about the price the people were paying for liquor, Mr. Farris declared it might surprise them to learn that the Ottawa government was taking more profit from every bottle of liquor than British Columbia was. He said that as Quebec and British Columbia were the only two provinces handling liquor, the heavy federal taxes were discriminatory against themselves. He pointed out that \$1.60 on each bottle sold for \$4.50 by the province goes to the Dominion Government.

In moving the adjournment of the debate, Mr. Farris said:

"I think the time has arrived for the leader of the opposition not to flounder around and call witnesses in the hope of proving what he has heard, but to come out and assume the responsibility for making some definite charges if he has any."

"I have never yet heard of the meanest criminal who was not entitled to know the charge on which he was to be arraigned."

"I wish the members of this House to reflect in their minds now and see if they can discover a single specific allegation of wrong-doing that the leader of the opposition has made against myself or the government."

"I protest against his effort to bring

in matters not as charges, but by association try to create the impression that there is something rotten in the department of the attorney-general."

R. H. Pooley of Esquimalt raised the question as to whether under the rules of the House the attorney-general, having spoken once, had the right to speak again, although he did adjourn the debate.

It was pointed out by the Premier, and confirmed by the Speaker, that a member who has been speaking in a debate has the right to adjourn that debate, and if adjournment is sanctioned by the House he has the right to speak on the question when it comes up again.

**WHITESIDE IS MARKING TIME**

**Member for New Westminster Will Take Floor in House Later On.**

**Says He Has Definite Ideas But Isn't Ready to Express Them.**

VICTORIA, Oct. 23.—Complete independence in the stand being taken in the Legislature by David Whiteside, elected as Liberal member for New Westminster. Following his trip over the P. G. E. Railway in August, he announced that he would have something to say when the House assembled regarding the operation of the government and the extension of steel to Prince George. Later, he intimated that he would adopt an independent attitude as a member of the Legislature.

Mr. Whiteside has not attended the government party caucus and said today he did not intend to. He declared that the time had arrived long ago for a radical change in the handling of administrative affairs.

After attending the sittings of the House this week, and the same old condition of affairs," he commented. "Instead of getting down to business, hours and days have been wasted. Surely it is time the government stopped calling the House into session several weeks before being ready to proceed with the important affairs to be considered."

**IS NON-COMMITTAL.**

Mr. Whiteside, always more or less non-committal when interviewed, said he did not expect to participate in the debate on the King's speech, but might later introduce a resolution dealing with the P. G. E. situation. He also intends to take the floor after the estimates have been brought down.

"After your recent announcements of policy, the public seems to expect something interesting from you," it was suggested.

"Well, there may be room for that expectation and there may not be," he smiled. "But I think it is high time that administrative power was taken out of the hands of a small clique."

Mr. Whiteside expressed keen interest in colonization and the settlement and development of the lands of the province.

"Something constructive is what we want," he exclaimed. "A clear-cut policy of business administration. We have the natural wealth in unlimited quantity—minerals, fisheries, lumber and climate—a beautiful land to live in; all making an unequalled opportunity for progress. But lacking administrative efficiency, there can be little progress."

**HAS DEFINITE IDEAS.**

"Have you something definite to suggest in that regard?"

"I have definite ideas which I hope to express before the session is over," he replied. "But I realize fully that no one man and no small number of men can hope to effect a solution of the province's problems. There must be co-operation; petty politics must be forgotten and opposition, independent and government members alike should unite in a determined effort to realize on the opportunities presented. British Columbia is such a young province that time must be spent in learning what is best, but the very youth of the land, together with its splendid possibilities, would result in astounding strides being made if everyone put his hand to the wheel and pushed."

...should be raised, he said, and should be a mother once on the list or should remain there until she dies or should be removed when the youngest child reaches 16, as a child that age could not be expected to earn enough to support his mother.

# HALF MILLION AT MERVILLE

## Total Investment in Soldier Settlement—L.S.B. Policy Inadequate There.

### Address by Rev. Thos. Menzies, Who Desires No More Such Experiments.

VICTORIA, Oct. 23.—Rev. Thomas Menzies, independent member for Comox, speaking in the debate yesterday, told the Legislature he hoped there would be no more experiments in land settlement colonies, carried on as the Merville Colony has been.

"We have hopes that the majority of the men there will make good," he said. "They are not physically as strong as they were. They have put up with many hardships. I am not going into their personal affairs, but some of them need assistance. If we can keep the men on the area and assist them to make their farms productive, they may be able to pay off their indebtedness. But we cannot do this under the present policy of the Land Settlement Board."

**ARE OPTIMISTS.**  
Besides giving immediate assistance to the men, the board must defer the first payment required from them for at least five years as "there is not one settler who will be able to finance himself during this winter and pay that which is due on his stock and cows and horses bought on lien notes." "But yet these men are optimists," he went on. "They wish to stay on their farms and they wish to make good."

Mr. Menzies said he had the assurance of the minister of public works that he had made a grant to this area to improve roads and open up new ones and in this way provide work necessary to tide the settlers over the winter.

Mr. Menzies said that out of the 14,000 acres bought by the board at \$5 an acre for the settlement, 6000 acres were wholly unfit for agricultural purposes, yet the cost of this unsuitable property had to be spread over settlers on the good land. He declared his judgment was shown in buying the 6000 unfit acres.

Dealing with the land clearing, he said the contract was given to Jones and Rant on a basis of 5 per cent commission on all the money spent by them in clearing the area.

"Among the things sent up to Merville to clear the land was a ship's anchor," Mr. Menzies said. "No one knows why it should be sent up there to clear the land. It may have been for Jones and Rant anchoring the job or for anchoring settlers on the land or as a gin pole for anchoring stumps. Anyhow, the anchor is there."

**COSTLY CLEARING.**  
Mr. Menzies said that during the latter part of the operations it cost \$400 an acre to blow and pile stumps, and this did not include ploughing the land to make it fit for cultivation. It will take \$100 more an acre to make much of this land fit for the plow.

He declared that although the worst strip of land to clear was along the Island Highway, this has all been cleared, so that people passing along the highway can see the whole thing and get the idea that there is great activity and prosperity in the settlement.

So far, according to figures he quoted, there are 118 farms occupied, 128 tracts of land cleared and the whole thing has cost more than \$500,000.

Mr. Menzies urged the minister of agriculture to clean the country of cattle affected by tuberculosis and adopt a policy of making a systematic cull. He said people were feeling uneasy, as conditions are not as good as they were six years ago and Japanese are coming in with infected cattle, spreading nearby high-priced Jersey herds contamination. He urged amendments to the Sheep Protection Act to protect the flocks.

### DEER AND VERABANTS.

As for the Game Conservation Board he declared that many persons could not understand why this board and other government boards should be established in Victoria, where the game is so abundant. He said that members of the board should be so that members of the public could see what is going on and get a fair view of the situation.

# CONCLUDES HIS DEFENSE IN HOUSE

## Attorney - General Farris Challenges Bowser to Make Specific Charge.

### Allegations Too Indefinite, He Says—Intended to Discredit Him.

#### Defends Warehouse Purchase—Assessed Values No Index, He Says.

#### Goes on Record as Having Nothing to Fear or Conceal.

VICTORIA, Oct. 23.—Dealing with the "charges and accusations" of W. J. Bowser, K. C., leader of the opposition, which were "hurled promiscuously across the floor of the House" on Thursday afternoon, Hon. J. W. de B. Farris, whose integrity was impeached by the Conservative chieftain, defied his honorable friend opposite to name one specific charge reflecting discredit upon the officials of the department or himself.

The attorney-general, who spoke briefly on Thursday afternoon, following Mr. Bowser's discussion of his resolution, and then adjourned the debate until he had had time to study the charges carefully, repeated his determination to defend his honor and hurl back in the face of his political foe every derogatory statement which the latter had made.

Hon. Mr. Farris said he had no words to express the disgust he felt for a man in public life who would stoop to the making of charges such as had been laid by Mr. Bowser—charges, he added, which were of the most nebulous character, and which did not directly suggest the implication of anyone. He admitted that all men in office made mistakes, that he knew he himself made many. Governments erred at times and for this responsibility must be accepted.

### ASKS DEFINITE CHARGES.

"However, I am in the hands of the members of this House," said Hon. Mr. Farris, "and in the hands of my constituents. I am prepared to meet any charge, but I demand that it be made so that whether against myself, my brother, my friends or members of the government, the person charged will not feel that he has to fight the air."

The attorney-general said he did not intend to weary the House unnecessarily, but he wished to deal with the charges of Mr. Bowser's resolution serially. He said he felt relieved when he discovered the nature of the allegations. They were indefinite and he expected to find clearer charges made, so that it would be possible to meet them with a definite understanding of what had to be fought. But finding the accusations of the opposition leader so vague he knew that it was only another move to attempt to discredit himself and the government, with little assumption of responsibility on the part of the man laying the charges.

"To use a slang expression," he continued, "the leader of the opposition has shot his bolts but he has left me to meet renewed insinuations and generalities, the reports of which have come broadcast all over the country and done the government great harm. Still, I have implicit faith in the people of Vancouver, and I have had dealings before with members of the Legislature. I wish to put myself on record as having nothing to fear or conceal, and I am ready to meet the situation with a consciousness of my position and a sense of fair play."

**THE ASSASSIN'S DEED.**  
The attorney-general, in the course of his speech, referred to the assassination of Mr. Bowser's friend, Mr. Campbell, and declared that he had the highest regard for the outspoken integrity of Mr. Campbell.

was nothing to cover up, he went on, in the admission that the assessed value of the warehouse was \$53,000. "We will assume that is correct also," he said. "But that means nothing. Every business man knows that there is no direct relation between assessed values and actual values. Assessed values are invariably much lower than real value."

The question of the illegality of the purchase, as charged by Mr. Bowser, was next discussed. In this connection the minister said Mr. Bowser had three accusations to make. The first was that too high a price had been paid, the second that the purchase was illegal and the third, which was not clearly made, was an attempt by inference to leave the impression that the transaction had been corruptly and wrongfully made.

He spoke of the Campbell-Cromie libel suit and asserted that Mr. Cromie and his counsel, Joseph Martin, had seen to it that they secured every scintilla of evidence that could be had. Various opinions of experts had been secured. Some opinions were that the price was too high, but men of less political bias asserted that the price was fair. The attorney-general mentioned the name of Col. E. J. Ryan, who he said was a well-known contractor, and that of Mr. Frank Murdock. The latter had said that the rents charged were fair. Then there was the firm of Waghorn, Gwynn & Co., Mr. Waghorn was a life-long Conservative. He was a reputable man and his opinion supplemented the written opinion furnished the government in which the price of \$150,000 was named as a fair one. The government had secured the advice of competent men, advice that was substantiated in court.

### A PERSONAL MATTER.

Hon. Mr. Farris then touched upon Mr. Bowser's charge that the government had corruptly and dishonorably purchased the property. He produced a copy of the letter commencing "My Dear Wallace," and said he could lips over that letter. It was purely a personal bit of correspondence, he asserted. He and Mr. Campbell were old friends and had called each other by their first names for years. The minister denied the suggestion that Mr. Campbell was going east at that time to secure money with which to buy the World.

"That letter was written in January," said Mr. Farris, "and there was nothing sinister in that. The reference to a hitch occurring has been made much of. There was a hitch, I told Mr. Campbell, and he testified at the trial that I turned him down and that I said I could not tie the hands of the board in that way. But the only suggestion in the letter was that of rent, not purchase."

Referring to the memo sent him by Archie Johnson, now chairman of the Liquor Control Board, and then deputy attorney-general, Hon. Mr. Farris asked who was a more fitting man to carry on such negotiations. But in Mr. Johnson's memorandum there was no suggestion of purchasing the warehouse. "Nor was there any suggestion of the purchase of the World by Mr. Campbell at that time," said Mr. Farris. "John Neilson was the owner of the paper, and I would ask my honorable friend to secure a statement from Mr. Neilson that there were any negotiations pending for the purchase of that newspaper."

Mr. Farris defied the opposition leader to produce one word of evidence in support of his statement that Mr. Campbell had gone east to buy the paper. Mr. Neilson, and Messrs. Cameron and Davidson, who all lived in Vancouver, were the owners of the World.

### STORAGE NEEDED.

The attorney-general explained how Archie Johnson had come to him in the lobby of the Legislature and asked if he realized there were several carloads of liquor en route to the board, with no place to put it. It was decided then that a place must be provided. At that time through arrangements made by Col. Scleiter, then prohibition commissioner, one floor of the Campbell warehouse was being used by the government. The price paid for that space was higher than was afterwards arranged by Mr. Johnson.

Hon. Mr. Farris said he had instructed Mr. Johnson that he had better see what could be done. The latter had sent for Mr. Campbell, and together they made the entire arrangements for leasing the premises. The minister could see no ground for Mr. Bowser objecting to these negotiations being carried on by Mr. Johnson. It was the latter's duty as deputy attorney-general to do so. The minister claimed he had no time to attend to all the innumerable details arising in connection with the administration of his department. He also stated that he had the highest regard for the outspoken integrity of Mr. Campbell.

**OPTION INCLUDED.**

"The opposition leader asked why I did not tell the Legislature of the proposed purchase," continued the Hon. Mr. Farris. "It was for this reason; there was no idea of purchasing at that time, but an option to purchase was included in the agreement as good business. My honorable friend suggests something else to give color to the charge which he does not make."

The method of payment for the warehouse was then considered by the minister. He explained that the government agent at Vancouver, Mr. Mahoney, had a government account at the bank. That official was appointed during the Conservative regime and the attorney-general wondered if Mr. Bowser was imputing dishonesty to him also.

"Now, let's test the honesty of these allegations by the honesty of the inferences and see whether the inferences are founded upon facts," he went on.

"Mr. Johnson took the cheque for \$150,000 to Mr. Mahoney and the latter issued three cheques. One went to Mr. Campbell, a second to the mortgagee and the third to meet tax charges, etc.," he explained.

Hon. Mr. Farris felt that this explanation cleared up that situation and he said the charge made regarding the method of payment might be taken as a type of the opposition leader's insinuations.

**QUESTION OF LEGALITY.**

Next came the matter of the legality of the purchase. Mr. Bowser had charged that the act was not in force, therefore no one had any power to buy such property. The attorney-general quoted from the statutes, mentioning the clause which permits the government, through orders-in-council, to make the necessary arrangements for placing the act in operation.

"This was the situation," he continued. "We had the Prohibition Act in force and when that law ceased to operate there would be left a great deal of equipment."

Would it not have been a nice mess if no section like that had been included in the act making it possible for the preliminary work to be done? Had it not been for that clause there would have been an interval of two or three months, after the act came into effect, before the law really became operative.

"Now it requires a careful study of the statutes to understand this situation, but the opposition leader attempted to embarrass the committee by raising such an intricate question," he said.

The attorney-general then turned to a consideration of the libel case. He said so far as the jury was concerned it was for them to decide whether or not Mr. Cromie had made good his allegations, or Mr. Campbell had shown he had been libelled. The government was connected with the affair, he added, and he wished to show some light upon this phase of the matter.

"Now Mr. Martin advised the jury to dismiss the case because there had been no statement made against Mr. Campbell," continued Hon. Mr. Farris, who then read portions of Mr. Martin's address to the jury.

"There was not one word of any wrong-doing imputed to Mr. Campbell," he went on. "Still the Sun newspaper the next morning came out in flaming headlines with the announcement that the charges had been proven."

**THE JUDGE'S CHARGE.**

The attorney-general referred to the address of Mr. Justice Morrison to the jury. He said he would leave it to any lawyer to form an opinion of Judge Morrison's power to impress a jury. His lordship had instructed the jury to consider carefully whether or not anything wrong had been done to Mr. Campbell. Hon. Mr. Farris read from the judge's charge to the jury excerpts which he, the attorney-general, inferred had influenced the jury in bringing in its verdict.

"The whole suggestion in the charge to the jury was that nothing had been said to injure Mr. Campbell and therefore he should receive no damages," averred Hon. Mr. Farris. "So members of the House should not be carried away with the story carried by the Sun the day after the trial."

The minister claimed that if Mr. Bowser would not come forward with specific charges, then the members of the House should "try the case" on the evidence being submitted by the attorney-general.

Next came a consideration of the renting of premises. Mr. Bowser had said that only political friends figured in these transactions, declared Hon. Mr. Farris. The truth of the matter was that no attention whatever was paid to the political faith of the parties dealt with.

The minister cited the Pither & Lester warehouse in Victoria. These people were no friends of the government. As for the Belmont House, Hon. Mr. Farris did not know who owned it and with regard to the Johnson street store, this was a retail store and not a warehouse, as Mr. Bowser termed it.

**TOOK CHEAPER PLACE.**

Furthermore, the former store on Yates street belonged to Steve Jones," said the speaker. "Mr. Jones has been a life-long Liberal and is a friend of the government, but we closed the store rented from him and took the other property because it was cheaper. The only other building actually named by Mr. Bowser was the property of Mr. Norris in Ladysmith. This, Mr. Bowser claimed, was formerly a pool-room, rented at \$20 per year, whereas the truth of the matter was that the property was renting for \$150 per month, the figure at which the government took it over."

Hon. Mr. Farris then touched upon the question of the Government employing men who had formerly been convicted.

"I asked for names," he added, "but I got no satisfaction. I will say this, though. I do not know of a single case of this kind."

The attorney-general said it might be true that men were employed who had served sentence, but their names had not come to light, and if the opposition leader knew of such cases it was his duty to inform Mr. Johnson or the attorney-general.

"When we were deluged with over 6000 applications for position under the Liquor Control Board, why should we have employees who would embarrass us?" he asked.

Mr. Bowser was apparently suggesting the discharge of these employees, continued the minister, who referred to the Kaslo episode in his own experience. At that time the opposition leader claimed the attorney-general had secured some \$40,000 worth of liquor which he had shipped across the line for profit. An affidavit was taken that the charge was untrue, but the opposition repudiated the affidavit, saying that the man who made it had been convicted for an offense against the law and that his statements could not be believed.

Hon. Mr. Farris explained, reading from old newspaper clippings, that a girl in the drug store of the convicted man in question, had a bottle of patent medicine without attaching thereto the government sales stamp, and the owner had been convicted of an offense against the law.

"That is the kind of convicted men the opposition leader is probably talking about," charged the minister. He denied any inefficiency in regard to not taking liquor out of bond before the new federal tax was imposed. He suggested that Dominion authorities had tipped off liquor men so that they could save themselves the proposed tax. However, the British Columbia authorities had not been given this opportunity, he added. He explained again that the Federal Government was making \$1.50 per bottle on every bottle of liquor sold in British Columbia. This was more than the Provincial Government got, and the latter's share had to be divided with the municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Farris then came to the question of the purchase of liquor through which friends of the government profited. This charge by the opposition leader was a direct insult to many prominent men, he said, and he hoped to keep within bounds in expressing his opinion of the man who would make veiled insinuations of this kind without having the courage to state his charges openly.

"Complete information in this connection could have been secured by opposition members if they had placed questions on the order paper," explained the attorney-general. "And if they were not spending so much time hounding Dr. Baker, they might have been able to do this."

Mr. Bowser had charged that a man must be a member of the "ring" before he could sell liquor to the government. The word "kitty," mentioned by the opposition leader, caused the attorney-general to say that Mr. Bowser seldom made a speech without using that expression in a suggestive way.

The picking out of prominent men in Vancouver and naming them as participants in "booze ring" profits was considered by the minister as the grossest slander. Mr. Bowser had put a "ring of mud" around them which would be hard to remove.

**NOTHING IN IT.**

"I will repeat here what I have said before," remarked Hon. Mr. Farris, "although I don't suppose it will do the leader of the opposition any good. The sort of abuse which I have had to face for many years brings a man to the conclusion that there is nothing worth while in public life. There is nothing to repay anyone for having to submit to this persecution."

He then said that only one of the men named by Mr. Bowser had ever sold the government liquor. Mr. Delbridge was the agent for Old Orkney whisky, and he had done business with the board in the ordinary way, selling that particular brand for 55 shillings per case.

He spoke of a telegram received Friday from Mr. James Zetson, the purchasing agent, who said that two of the men mentioned were not even known to him.

The attorney-general said it would be practically impossible to overtake the harm done through publication of the statements of the opposition leader. The insulting innuendos of Thursday had done irreparable harm.

Regarding the quality of liquor purchased by the government, Hon. Mr. Farris said the best brands were always available. He produced a list of the liquor purchased and read off figures that one member said afterwards made his mouth water. Five thousand cases of this well-known brand; 2000 cases of another variety, and a complete statement of all kinds handled should convince the average person of the inaccuracy of Mr. Bowser's statement, he contended.

**HEATED PROTESTS.**

Hon. Mr. Farris raised his voice in protesting against Mr. Bowser naming himself as a member of the proposed committee.

"Just listen to the language of the man who wants to deal with the honor of the men mentioned," he remarked. "A man's good name is the most sacred thing he has and the opposition leader says he 'hopes to be able to bring evidence to show certain things.' He expects to implicate Commissioner Falconer as well."

Speaking about the clause dealing with bonded warehouse "consents,"

Hon. Mr. Farris explained that as attorney-general he had stood out against other provinces' attorney-generals in their dealings with the federal minister of customs. He felt that the Ottawa authorities should handle such affairs, but he informed the federal minister that if he was satisfied with the granting of certain licenses there would be no further objection on the part of the attorney-general of British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. Farris heatedly protested against the suggestion made by Mr. Bowser that he had profited monetarily through these "consents." He challenged the opposition leader to rise and say that he, the attorney-general, had profited by so much as five cents in this way.

He referred to Mr. Bowser's statements regarding the employees of the Hastings street store in Vancouver, saying that a great deal of feeling was being expressed for "the poor innocent employees." Why did not the leader of the opposition show some consideration for the innocence of the members of the Legislature, who were being placed under a cloud?

The matter of pardons granted men convicted under the Liquor Act received the minister's attention. He said that only three pardons had been granted in a year: one to a woman whom the doctors said could not stand a prison sentence, another to a cook who had been convicted of selling liquor in lumber camps and who had served a fair part of his term, and the third to another man upon the request of Police Magistrates South and Shaw and City Prosecutor MacKay of Vancouver. It was true that either Judge Cayley or Judge Ruggles had granted pardons, and that in one case a prison sentence had been changed to a fine, explained Mr. Farris, and any men walking the streets who had been convicted were doing so as the result of the action of either of these judges, he added.

The minister saw no reason to go into the question of the standing of the clubs in the province. He said the charges of the leader of the opposition in this regard were ridiculous.

**CURIOUS CASE IS GIVEN TO HOUSE**

**John McRae Says Pension Refused to Widow Because She Voted Wrong**

VICTORIA, Oct. 28.—Continuing the debate on the King's speech on Friday, John McRae, Conservative member for Yale, first complimented the government for several good works, and then declared that no Conservative ever stooped so low as to turn down a woman's plea for assistance for herself and fatherless children because she had not voted for the party. This, said the Yale member, occurred in the case of a widow in his riding. She had lost her husband and was sorely in need of help. She applied through her representative, Mr. McRae, who took up the matter with Mr. Pyke of the Mothers' Pensions Board. The latter was asked to make an investigation, Mr. McRae threatening to expose the official on the floor of the House if action was not taken.

Nothing came of his efforts, he declared; hence his action. He read a telegram from the woman showing that she had not been communicated with. However, Mr. McRae said that enquiries had been made about her, and she was turned down solely because she had voted against the government at the last election.

"I ask the government members if they ever heard of a Conservative doing a thing like that," continued the speaker. "We all have our faults, and the Conservatives have lots of them. I am not a hide-bound party man, and know there are many fine men in the Liberal ranks, but no Conservative would stoop so low as that. I am appealing to the Premier in this matter, and intend to stay with it until justice is done."

The Yale member said two men in his riding were paying more into the government coffers in taxes than was being spent on roads and trails in the entire district. He said the appropriation for Yale was only \$48,000 last year, which was spread over 700 miles of roads and 300 miles of trails. And yet, he added, Delta received \$325,000. "I can well understand now why the honorable member for Delta seconded the address," he commented. (Laughter.)

He wondered where the country was going to when the Liberals had increased the public debt of the province in four years from \$19,995,000 to \$40,000,000. If a decision were held tomorrow, he predicted, Mr. Speaker Manson would be the only Liberal returned to Victoria. (Laughter.)

E. C. Henniger, Liberal member for Grand Forks, participated in the debate. He said that falsified reports had appeared in the newspapers several months ago regarding his relations with the government. The member referred to the report that if he did not get money for his riding for irrigation work he would move over with the opposition.

Mr. Henniger touched upon the irrigation problems in the Grand Forks Valley, urging the government to provide more funds for that work. He claimed there was no finer section of the province than the one he represented.



# SAYS CHARGES SHOULD BE DEFINITE

## Premier Oliver Refuses Enquiry on Basis of Bowser Resolution.

## Moves Amendment Demanding Specific Accusations, Which Is Carried.

## Government Leader Bitter in Debate and Frequently Out of Order.

## Warmly Defends Reputation of Son, and Almost Breaks Down.

VICTORIA, Oct. 29.—Apparently determined to force the issue to a showdown, Premier Oliver surprised the Legislature Friday when Attorney-General Farris completed his reply to Mr. Bowser, by adjourning the House only for two hours. The announcement was made that the government leader would take the floor. Promptly at 2:30 o'clock he did and held it for two hours. While he flayed the Conservative chieftain and made accusations against him of nearly everything from poor sportsmanship to hopeless inefficiency, the Premier's tense moment came when he dealt with the names of the men who Mr. Bowser had suggested had been implicated in illegal liquor transactions and the securing of money through the issuance of club licenses and "consents" for bonded warehouse licenses.

When he came to the name of his own son, Joseph Oliver, whom Mr. Bowser had mentioned as having profited through acting as counsel for club license applicants, the Premier choked with sentiment and vigorously denounced the opposition leader for "daring to cast aspersions upon that young boy."

**IS CALLED TO ORDER.**

"My son's name is being besmirched. I have hopes that he will grow up to be a credit to the legal profession. But God forbid that he should grow up with the standards of the leader of the opposition," said the Premier.

Mr. Speaker Manson called order.

"I do not know of an uplifting thing that has ever been done by the leader of the opposition," was one of Premier Oliver's charges. After he had completed his remarks he proposed an amendment to the Bowser resolution. The amendment struck out all the words of the resolution and replaced the clause of the Bowser motion with a clause asking that Mr. Bowser, as mover, and Mr. Jones, as seconder, prepare definite charges for the consideration of the Legislature.

An hour was then spent in argument across the floor of the House as to whether the passing of this amendment would preclude the possibility of a full investigation. The Premier emphatically declared there must be a full investigation of certain of the accusations made, but he wished something specific to go on. Mr. Kenneth Duncan of Cowichan moved the adjournment of the debate, but the government would not permit this and a division occurred. Mr. Duncan's motion being lost by 25 to 15, the government members voting solidly and being supported by Mr. Thomas Menzies of the Independents.

After further argument the Premier's amendment was put and carried by the same vote. Towards midnight the House adjourned with the matter still unsettled. Mr. Bowser's resolution was stricken off the order paper and that of the Premier carried. But the Premier had given his assurance that a complete investigation would be held, and the matter was over for the week-end that way.

The accusations were as follows:

Mr. Oliver—Boris Farris, Oliver, the attorney-general, Farris, C. Mc-

making his charges but he felt that Mr. Bowser should take the same position he would if he entered a court of law, namely, to state his charges openly.

The leader of the opposition should either come forward with his charges or get up on the floor of the House, and withdraw his accusations and suggestions," charged the New Westminster member.

### ATTACKS MR. CROMIE.

The Premier first devoted his attention to R. J. Cromie, publisher of the Vancouver Sun, whom he said he first met in 1916 during the negotiations for the taking over of the P.G.E. Railway by the province. He referred to Mr. Cromie as the same man who is "at present using that paper, the Vancouver Sun, to blackmail both the business and political interests of the country."

After negotiating for a settlement and an agreement was finally made and accepted by the House. It was then, the Premier said, he was advised that Mr. Cromie had the control of the newspaper because of his intimate knowledge of the affairs of Foley, Welch & Stewart.

"I am advised that this man never put any of his money into that newspaper of which he got control," the Premier said.

The Premier referred to the Dolly Varden case of two sessions ago, when after an investigation by a committee of the Legislature it was recommended that certain legislation should be enacted. It was then that Mr. Cromie and R. T. Elliott, K.C., who had also appeared in the P.G.E. negotiations, again appeared on the scene together, the Premier asserted, and they endeavored to block the legislation.

In this connection the Premier recalled the "most libelous" telegrams directed to myself, telegrams containing statements which if true would have driven me out of public life and without one scintilla of evidence."

He told how he was compelled for his own honor and the honor of his family to go into court to vindicate himself from the assertions in those telegrams and an interllegent jury gave me the magnificent award of 25c."

### SAYS MORALITY LOW.

"Now," he went on, "the leader of the opposition has so little grace and so little conception of what is fitting that he sneers that the honor of the Premier of this province was worth only the sum of two-bits."

"It is not only evidence of the low morality of persons in this House, but of people in the country when they can sneer at the statement that the honor of the Premier of a British province can be valued only at 25c," the Premier went on.

"What do we find now? We find apparently that the leader of the opposition has joined himself with the publisher of the Vancouver Sun in an attempt to drive from the public life of this province the hon. attorney-general."

Going back to the story of his relations with Mr. Cromie, the Premier said the latter was first found down in Chicago with R. T. Elliott, K.C., making a bargain with the shareholders of the Dolly Varden and undertaking for a consideration of more than a hundred thousand dollars to frustrate the legislation which had been passed by the British Columbia Legislature so that they could reap for themselves a big reward.

Then the Premier went on to assert that when Mr. Cromie obtained control of the Vancouver Sun, he started a system of attempting to levy tribute on the government. One of his first propositions was that the government should discontinue the official printing-office in Victoria and give the bulk of the work to the Sun. Another proposition was that the government should discontinue the publication of the official Agricultural Journal and make the Cromie paper, "Farm and Home," the official government organ.

Another time he made a proposal to issue a publication dealing with British Columbia in 1919 and put it up to the government to subscribe for 10,000 copies at a price of \$1 a copy. This publication the Premier said might have been suitable for a hotel counter, but it was of little value for disseminating information such as the government required, and Mr. Cromie's proposal was turned down.

"Upon that the publisher of the Vancouver Sun began attacking one member of the government and then another," the Premier went on. "He demanded that as the price of his support of the government he should have every advertisement published by the government."

"I say that this man, with whom the leader of the opposition has allied himself, is a professional black-maller, who uses the publication called the Vancouver Sun for that purpose."

### A PAPER INCIDENT.

The Premier said that Mr. Cromie's next move was to send one of his men, Mr. Murray, and he, after actually forcing himself into the Premier's bedroom, put up such a story of the wrongs of his treatment by the Powell River Pulp & Paper Co. that the Premier went to see Mr. Lang, manager of the company. Time after time, over a period of months, Mr. Cromie continued to come to the Premier with other propositions that the government should have coercive measures taken against the Sun's demands.

He said that if the Sun's demands were granted there would be a complete domination of the government.

the government at the present time. With this resolution I think this House and this province will have a better idea of the motives leading up to these attacks."

Coming to the Bowser resolution, the Premier declared it contained a great deal of unnecessary matter, with things in it that have nothing to do with the proposed investigation.

As for the Campbell warehouse, the Premier said that before he went east last summer he knew the government had leased space in the building. He could not say for certain, as far as his memory went, whether there had been any suggestion that it might have been advisable for the government to purchase the warehouse. When he was in Ontario he got a telephone message from a Toronto newspaper informing him that charges had been made by the Vancouver Sun in connection with the government's purchase of the Campbell warehouse. He replied that he was not interested in any charges that might be made by the Sun.

When he returned to Victoria he looked into the whole question and found that the purchase was a complete transaction, the Premier said. He was asked by the Sun what he was going to do, and whether he would appoint a royal commission. He replied that the transaction could not be undone. Then Mr. Campbell issued his suit for libel against the Sun.

"If there is any wrong-doing in connection with this liquor warehouse, the representatives of the people in this room are the proper body to take cognizance of it and to enquire and satisfy themselves if there are reasonable grounds for ordering an investigation, and if so what are the best means," the Premier asserted.

### ASSESSED VALUES.

One reason given for asking for an investigation, he said, was that although \$150,000 was paid for the warehouse the assessed value was only \$25,000. In connection with this the Premier presented to the House assessed valuations and prices paid for other pieces of property. Eight years ago, he pointed out, the government of which Mr. Bowser was a member bought a new courthouse site in Victoria up near Christ Church Cathedral and paid \$75,000 for it. The assessed value of that property was \$26,410. In connection with the purchase he recalled how a man named Hannington, received a commission of \$2000. The property purchased for this proposed courthouse is unsuitable, as it is angular and will not readily accommodate a square building. It will cost many thousands of dollars to excavate the rock before foundations can be put in. He went on to tell how Mr. Bowser had paid out \$75,000 for that property without any authority from the Legislature.

M. B. Jackson—Wait a minute. Let that sink in.

Premier Oliver—You could not put it into my friend with a battering ram. It would take more than that force of a Halifax explosion to drive it in.

The Premier went on to tell how just before the 1916 election Mr. Bowser's government made an agreement with the city of Victoria in connection with the proposed construction of the Johnston street bridge. Neil Mackay and others owned two lots at the foot of Johnston street. There could not be a direct contract as Mr. Mackay was a member of the Legislature. So they went through the farce of holding an arbitration and, as far as he remembered it, the value placed on those lots was \$107,000. The Premier went on to say that this expropriation was made without authority of the Legislature.

"The Johnston street bridge is now being built and not one inch of these lots has been required for the construction of this bridge," the Premier said.

Hon. Mr. Oliver went on to relate how under the leader of the opposition a board of arbitrators had awarded \$48,000 for lots in the Mackay estate at the foot of Johnston street, which were assessed at \$17,000.

"In the case of the Campbell warehouse property the assessed value was about 40 per cent of what was paid," the Premier said. "In the Victoria courthouse site the assessed value was about 35 per cent of what was paid and in the Mackay case the assessed value was also about 35 per cent of the price awarded by the arbitrators."

The Premier went on to declare that by his various assertions in the present case the leader of the opposition condemned his own actions of the past.

### MISLEADS OF BOWSER.

"The atmosphere of this province has been foul with the most startling reports of legislative wrong-doing," the Premier went on. "The country has been infested with a misleas of rumors of corruption which can not but have a demoralizing effect upon the people of this province."

Hon. Mr. Oliver declared statements made by Mr. Bowser that liquor dealers of this province had escaped paying \$150,000 to the Dominion Government as a result of the increased excise taxes this year, while the Provincial Government, not knowing that an increase was coming and was caught with the liquor in bond, was a strong indictment of Mr. Bowser's friends at Ottawa, because if his statements were true there was a suspicion that liquor dealers had been tipped off to the increase which was coming.

As regards the purchase of liquor, the Premier said that when the act came into force many men spoke to him about selling to the government liquor which they had on their hands or liquor which they had on order, as they would suffer unless it were taken off their hands. The Premier explained that he was at first impressed with their pleadings, but soon realized that there was a possibility of wrong being done and declared against it. He then called in the purchasing agent and was told how necessary it was to be done and there could be no trace of liquor which had been with the pur-

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learned since, he believed Mr. Paterson, as purchasing agent, had done everything possible to prevent any wrong-doing in connection with purchasing of liquor and had carried out his instructions.

**BEER INCIDENT.**

Referring to Mr. Bowser's statement that a political friend of his (the Premier) had purchased twenty barrels of beer, Hon. Mr. Oliver said he would leave it to the intelligence of the House if the leader of the opposition did not intend to leave the impression that this man would not have been able to get twenty barrels if he had not been a friend of the Premier's. Hon. Mr. Oliver said that he had seen a statement in one of the Vancouver papers that a man in Surrey had got twenty barrels, but he did not know the man and did not remember the name in the newspaper.

"The leader of the opposition bamboozles me by imputation because a man who is said to be a friend of mine has got twenty barrels of beer," the Premier went on.

"Yet, this man, who has no regard for any man's reputation, comes into this House in the position of informant and as prosecutor and also wants to be judge as to the guilt of the persons he accuses. In the minds of most members of this House there is a reasonable sense of fitness. No sensible minded person would place himself in the position of informant, prosecutor and judge. Such a position is repugnant to my mind and to any man who is mentally balanced."

The Premier then said that Mr. Bowser had even attacked the reputation of the comptroller-general of this province, in his reflections on him as having paid out the money for the Campbell warehouse without authority. Hon. Mr. Oliver said this official, who has a sterling life-long record before he was brought to this province and put in a position of trust to stand between the treasury and the administration, so that no money could be paid out without authority, was entitled to the protection of the Legislature.

**IS OUT OF ORDER.**

The Premier bitterly resented the suggestion that government members, officials and friends were grafting. He referred to an attempt to bring in 40,000 Japanese laborers during the regime of the late Conservative government, making counter suggestions in that connection.

Mr. Bowser declared this reference out of order, and Mr. Speaker Manson upheld him.

Mr. Oliver—I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bowser—Come down to modern history.

The Premier declared that the men whose names were mentioned were being seriously injured throughout the province because of the suggestions made, and no actual charge had been laid. Then followed the Premier's reference to his son, and he was not sparing in his language.

Mr. Bowser interjected that he should not be subjected to such a cat-chasing and would not be if the Premier had better manners.

Mr. Speaker Manson said the Premier should be careful. He admitted it was difficult to carry on the debate without considerable heat being engendered, but he asked for as little strong talk as possible.

The Premier said he would leave it to the House to compare the attitudes of himself and Mr. Bowser. The latter had had the benefit of a university education and knew the value of words, how to use them to the best advantage and as a result of that knowledge the opposition leader had placed a clever but insidious resolution on the order paper. Even supposing the opposition leader failed to prove any wrongdoing before a select committee, Mr. Oliver predicted that Mr. Bowser would say later that no direct charges had been made and would escape "punishment" for the impeachment of innocent men. Ian Mackenzie, at this juncture, wished to read some evidence with regard to the part played by his law firm in securing club licenses. Mr. Bowser declared a member was not in order and the contention was sustained by the chair.

**RECENTS ATTACKS.**

The Premier next mentioned the names of former Commissioner F. J. Gillespie of South Vancouver and Mr. A. E. Buckworth. Was it fair, he asked, that these men should be so accused when they would have no chance to defend themselves? He challenged Mr. Bowser to make a definite charge, so the committee would have something fixed to work upon and not have to "rake over all the coals in the reports spread around the country."

"It is my opinion that this amendment of the Premier's is intended to burke a full enquiry," charged Mr. Bowser, when the Premier's amendment was read. He wished it put on the order paper and considered at the next sitting.

"No," thundered Premier Oliver. "I will not burke any enquiry, but this is a privileged question and it must be proceeded with."

**HE PAYS TRIBUTE TO GOVERNMENT**

**Uphill Says Way They Make Money on Beer Shows Them Good Business Men**

VICTORIA, Oct. 29.—"We heard the leader of the opposition talk yesterday about 'kitties,' the member for Alberni the other day refer to 'shooting craps,' the member for Fort George say there was bootlegging in beaver skins and people were doing everything that is vile, and the attorney-general yesterday calling people liars and blasphemers," said Tom Uphill in his speech in the debate in the Legislature yesterday.

"If the people in my constituency knew that I was mixed up with such a bunch they would be asking me to come back to Fernie," he went on, bringing the House down in roars of laughter.

Mr. Uphill said he had sympathy for the Premier, after listening with regret to members of the government party criticize acts of the government.

He declared that there was no excuse for British Columbia not trying to grapple with the unemployment situation, even in only some small measure, although employment conditions were worse in most other countries. He said that under the present system there will always be unemployment, as it is beneficial to corporations to have a surplus of labor.

"But," he added, "it is the duty of the state to see that no one goes hungry."

Mr. Uphill regretted that there was no mention in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech of amendments to the Coal Mines Regulations Act. He came out for the payment of men taking up mine rescue work as is done in England, where they get two pounds a day. He asked whether members of the House would like to go through receiving remuneration. He said that as they have to be prepared to go through hell in case there is a mine disaster and during their training have to risk all sorts of dangers, it was not unreasonable that they should ask for \$60 an hour, although he thought they were entitled to \$1 an hour. Men taking this training, he thought, should also be insured for \$5000 for the benefit of their families.

The labor members in the House, he said, intend to bring in amendments to the Mines Regulations Act later.

As for the Workmen's Compensation Act, he declared that the compensation for men temporarily disabled was inadequate and that widows and orphans coming under it should be paid as much as they would be under the Canadian Pensions Act. He declared that the maximum of \$40 a month for a woman left with a family, no matter how large, was ridiculously inadequate.

Mr. Uphill dealt in detail with the road situation in his part of the province, declaring that the government does not spend money there commensurate with the revenue it gets from that district. He declared that such a poney was dishonest, although he hoped for an improvement.

"If the government is making a lot of money out of the Moderation Act, why not go into other business, such as the butcher, grocery or dry goods business and then perhaps we can eliminate this proposed taxation," said Mr. Uphill.

"I believe in giving credit and honor where credit and honor is due. This government is a good business government. Business is always judged by the results obtained. Any government that can buy an article for \$15 and sell it for \$24 without any expenses is a good business government. That is what is being done with beer."

**IS OPPOSED TO ONE-MAN CARS**

**R. H. Neelands Wants to Know If Legislature Is to Have Its Own Way.**

VICTORIA, Oct. 29.—R. H. Neelands, Labor member for South Vancouver, brought up the one-man car proposals in the Legislature yesterday during his speech in the debate and expressed the opposition of British Columbia labor towards this introduction.

Mr. Neelands declared that there is a large percentage of accidents with the one-man car and quoted records and reports to back up his statements.

"I want to know by what authority W. G. Murrin of the B.C. Electric speaks with the assurance he does and goes before a public meeting and says that it is not necessary for the company to consult the municipalities, as they have consulted a higher authority," said Mr. Neelands. "I wish to know whether the time has arrived when these large corporations can dominate the Legislature, or whether this Legislature is to have its say."

He declared that by order-in-council the rule prohibiting single-truck cars has been set aside and suggested that the change had likely been made as a result of the representations of the corporation.

"Because of the unemployment situation this is no time to even discuss the introduction of systems of this kind," Mr. Neelands went on. "In the introduction of modern machinery we always find that the workers are the ones who suffer. If modern appliances are to be improved it should accrue to the benefit of the workers and the people."

"I think the elites of B.C. have developed beyond the stage where this type of conveyance is practicable."

Mr. Neelands protested against the proposal to abolish the exemption from taxation on incomes of less than \$1500.

Mr. Neelands expressed the hope that the government will at an early date restore the franchise to South Vancouver.

# DENIES HE MADE PROFIT ON "CONSENT"

## Capt. Ian Mackenzie Replies to "Sun" Story that He Got \$3000.

## Fee Charged by His Firm For Acting for Lloyd & Son, Liquor Dealers.

## Legislator Decided Amount Was Excessive, So He Sought to Return It.

## His Half Was Finally Turned Over to G.W.V.A. Command Here.

VICTORIA, Oct. 31.—Rising on a question of privilege in the Legislature this afternoon, Capt. Ian Mackenzie, Liberal member for Vancouver, sought to make a statement with reference to the part played by the legal firm of Mackenzie & Boyd of Vancouver, of which he is a member, in securing a "consent" for the issuance of a bonded warehouse license under the Provincial Liquor Control Act.

Capt. Mackenzie said he resented very keenly the veiled charge of W. J. Bowser, leader of the opposition, that certain members of the Legislature had profited from the securing of "consents" from Attorney-General Farris.

He also referred to a report, which his partner, Mr. Boyd, had informed him over the long-distance telephone had appeared in the Vancouver Sun this morning, to the effect that their firm had received \$3000 from Lloyd & Son of Vancouver as legal fees for their services in connection with securing the "consent" of the government. The Sun had said: "The clients were told that this was the lowest amount for which the 'consent' could be obtained." The Sun also alleged that another lawyer had obtained a "consent" from the attorney-general, in which the fee charged the client was \$750.

### HE QUOTES LETTERS.

Capt. Mackenzie, when he got on his feet this afternoon, said that on Feb. 28, an application was made on behalf of Lloyd & Son, Limited, for a license. The application was endorsed by Mr. George Miller, who was then chief inspector under the Prohibition Act. The legal work in connection with the application was done by Mr. Boyd during Mr. Mackenzie's absence in Victoria attending the last session of the Legislature, Mr. Boyd being entirely responsible for the arrangement of the fee.

"The attorney-general was never approached in any way except through the letter written from Vancouver by Mr. Boyd," explained the member, who declared that he never mentioned the matter to Hon. Mr. Farris himself personally. Immediately after the close of the session Capt. Mackenzie said he had been detained in Victoria through illness for two weeks and the first day he returned to Vancouver he took up the matter immediately and wrote the following letter to R. T. Colquhoun, one of the partners in Lloyd & Son, Limited:

April 16, 1921.  
R. T. Colquhoun, Esq.,  
404 Hornby St., Vancouver B.C.  
Dear Sir.—Upon returning to the office today after an absence of ten weeks at Victoria attending the sessions, I find that my firm did some legal work for you by way of making application to the proper departments of the provincial and federal governments for a bonded warehouse in your name.

Although I understand the firm gave the best part of a week entirely to this work, I consider the fee charged in excess of the ordinary legal fee. I find that half this fee was deposited to my credit in the bank of Montreal.

In order that there may be no misunderstanding about the propriety of my making any suggestion or statement of influence on your behalf, I enclose herewith a copy of the letter which I addressed to you on the subject.

The campaign of education was also continued by means of posters and literature throughout the press of the country.

The prohibition passed at the last session of the Legislature, regarding the operation of the bonded warehouse since the amendment of last session placed the tax on a unit basis. Price and weight were considered in determining the tax to be paid by each owner, and it was found upon checking up that in some cases there was no increase in the tax.

A few weeks later Capt. Mackenzie wrote the following letter:

April 21, 1921.  
R. T. Colquhoun, Esq., 404 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C.  
Dear Sir.—Adverting to my letter addressed to you under cover of April 16, 1921, and enclosing my personal cheque for \$1500, I find from my bank that this cheque has not yet been cashed.

I would, therefore, ask you to cash this cheque by noon today or return same to me, in which latter case I shall hand it over to the G.W.V.A. fund.

Yours very truly,  
(Signed) I. A. MACKENZIE.

### TO THE G.W.V.A.

On the same day, he wrote the following letter:

Vancouver, B.C., May 21, 1921.  
Provincial Command, G.W.V.A., 405 Crad. Foncier, Bldg., Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir and Comrade.—Upon my return to office duties after the recess session, I find that my firm had done certain legal work which involved making application to the provincial and federal governments. I found that half the fee charged was deposited to my credit.

Immediately on discovering this in order to remove the slightest suggestion of influence on my part, I returned my portion of the fee charged in full. I find on reference to my bank that this cheque has not yet been cashed. I am, therefore, forwarding this amount to you as provincial president of the G.W.V.A. (my personal cheque for \$1500, enclosed), with the request that this sum be used by the present or incoming provincial command for carrying on relief work among our comrades and their dependents or for any other charitable work amongst returned men.

Yours fraternally,  
(Signed) IAN MACKENZIE.

Capt. Mackenzie said that this letter was before the provincial executive of the G. W. V. A. and the following acknowledgement forwarded to himself:

"On behalf of the Provincial Command I wish to thank you for your cheque for \$1500 which was received some time ago and deposited to the credit of the Provincial Command in the Canadian Bank of Commerce. I can assure you that this donation was much appreciated, arriving at a time when the finances of the command were at a very low ebb.

"Again thanking you for your generous consideration, Yours fraternally,  
(Signed) WALTER DRINKMAN.

After reading the correspondence Capt. Mackenzie emphatically declared that not so much as by a single cent had he profited personally from the foregoing transaction. He also stated that Mr. Colquhoun was a brother-in-law of R. J. Cromie, publisher of the Sun.

# FOREST FIRE LOSS REDUCED

## Hon. T. D. Pattullo Declares Results Have Justified Course Pursued.

## Four Million Feet of Merchantable Timber Burned During Summer.

VICTORIA, Oct. 31.—During the past year there has been considerable reorganization in the forest protection force in the province and the system has been greatly improved, said Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, today. Facts and figures have been compiled which show conclusively that the course which has been pursued during the past year is very beneficial, he asserted.

"During last season a larger force was employed at the peak of the fire season and was better equipped with tools and mechanical equipment than formerly," said the minister. "The increase in the protection force was met in part by securing the co-operation of the public, many of whom undertook to take the initial action so valuable in case of fire and at once notify the nearest forest office."

"This splendid public interest in the well-being of the province has shown unmistakable results and the willingness of many settlers throughout the province to aid in the work of keeping our forest heritage safe from fires is really to be commended. Foremen of logging camps also took a very active part in the campaign and rendered excellent service."

### WATERWAYS BUILT.

The campaign of education was also continued by means of posters and literature throughout the press of the country.

The prohibition passed at the last session of the Legislature, regarding the operation of the bonded warehouse since the amendment of last session placed the tax on a unit basis. Price and weight were considered in determining the tax to be paid by each owner, and it was found upon checking up that in some cases there was no increase in the tax.

...the greatest advantage of having such immediately available...  
...at once evident, and many operators have since expressed pleasure at the fact that they were forced to secure such equipment.

### PLAN JUSTIFIED.

"Altogether, a total of approximately five and a half million gallons of water was pumped on forest fires this year, which will make the usefulness of these units apparent. This is best evidenced by the fact that while the Coast district experienced a more favorable year, from a weather standpoint, than in 1920, yet the interior suffered from a prolonged period of intensely hot, dry weather, so that the total number of fires throughout the province show a slight increase over that of 1920, the number for this year being 1500, as against 1351 for last summer. Of this number 85 per cent were extinguished under a quarter of an acre and 20 per cent, between a quarter and ten acres.

"There can hardly be any doubt that these fires show conclusively that there has been an increased efficiency shown. Again in 1920 the average cost per fire was \$205. The cost per fire for 1921 is reduced to \$75, or 26 per cent less than last year's cost.

"The fire burned over this summer is approximately 50,000 acres with a loss of 4,000,000 feet of merchantable timber, as against 398,800 acres with a loss of 225,000,000 board feet. In addition to this, approximately 40,000 acres of slash have been burned this year, thereby not only eliminating potential fire hazards, but preparing the way for the second crop.

# RARE B. C. RECORDS ADDED TO ARCHIVES

## Work of Department for Past Nine Months Reviewed by Report.

VICTORIA, Oct. 31.—Compilation of an index to the Equior Control Act, comprising 600 entries and classification of 1045 rare and historical manuscripts for the archives department, have been completed by the provincial librarian, according to a report for the past nine months just presented to the Legislature by Hon. J. D. MacLean, provincial secretary.

Early manuscripts and records of the lands department are being transferred to the archives department and all records dated prior to Confederation will be assembled, the report announces.

During this year there has been an increase in business, with 20,063 volumes issued from the desk and 1719 new books added to the collection.

The reference department has dealt with the following questions and prepared memoranda on them; government control and liquor traffic in foreign countries, maternity benefits, restriction of Asiatic immigration, licensing and regulating billboards, state budget systems, American-Japanese treaty and League of Nations, colonization schemes, taxation of farm lands in cities, taxation of timber limits in the United States, old age pensions and minimum age of children for industrial employment.

Clippings from Victoria and Vancouver newspapers of the proceedings and debates in the Legislature at last session have been preserved in a permanent form for the assistance and guidance of members at future sessions. Two sets of the revised statutes of British Columbia have been annotated up to the present year.

# AUTOS WILL PAY INCREASED TAX

## Fifty Per Cent. Revision Upward Will Probably Soon Be Announced.

VICTORIA, Oct. 31.—There is a general impression in legislative corridors that the government intends to increase the automobile tax 50 per cent.

Asked for particulars, Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, said the matter had not yet been discussed in caucus and therefore no information could be given out.

However, it is known that the increase in revenue from automobile licenses last year was not up to the anticipated mark. Prior to the amending legislation of last session, owners of motor cars were required to pay a registration fee of \$10 and then a license fee each year of \$10, making \$20 the first year and \$10 annually thereafter.

The amendment of last session placed the tax on a unit basis. Price and weight were considered in determining the tax to be paid by each owner, and it was found upon checking up that in some cases there was no increase in the tax.

**OCT**

**1921**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1921

# HOUSE OPENS THIS AFTERNOON

With Customary Ceremonies  
Second Session of Fifteenth  
Parliament of B. C. Will Be  
Inaugurated

This afternoon at 3 o'clock the second session of the Fifteenth Parliament of British Columbia will be opened by His Honor, Lieutenant-Governor Nichol, with the customary ceremonies. Nearly 300 invitations have been issued for the opening and the gathering will be a most representative one.

His Honor will reach the buildings promptly at 3 o'clock and, after inspecting a guard of honor from the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, will enter by the main entrance. In the rotunda he will be met by his naval and military escort and enter the Chamber. His Honor's arrival will be the signal for the salute of fifteen guns which will be fired from field guns on Belleville Street.

The Speech from the Throne to be delivered by His Honor will probably be the shortest on record, and as a legislative bill-of-fare will prove meagre. It will refer to the fact that the present Fall session is being held in compliance with the promise of the Government to bring down legislation granting additional financial aid to the municipalities and that with this end in view full investigation of the whole question of taxation has been made, an inquiry which will result in amendments to the Taxation Act designed to apportion more equitably the burden of taxation on all classes of property and persons.

### P. G. E. Construction

Reference to the progress of construction work on the P. G. E. will be (Continued on Page 2)

made, and it will be intimated that the financial provision made at the last session for that enterprise will see it through to completion to Prince George. Work is now progressing on construction from Prince George and about five miles of track have already been laid, it was announced yesterday at the Department of Railways. The construction work will be actively pushed so long as weather conditions permit to carry the line southerly to the Cottonwood River, to which point steel has been laid from the South.

So far the legislative work of the session promises to be limited. With the exception of some minor amendments to the Liquor Act and some changes in the Mineral Act and Placer Mining Act, the Speech is bare of suggestion as to new legislation to come down at this session. But as it is usual for the legislative bill-of-fare before the House to increase as the session advances, it is likely that this session will be no exception to the rule.

Petitions have been in circulation for some months urging upon the Government to enact a "beer clause" at this session, and these petitions have been very largely signed. One suggestion has been that the Government should enact legislation based upon the principle of local option allowing municipalities to hold a referendum on the sale or non-sale of beer.

The House will not get down to actual business until tomorrow, when the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne will be moved by Mr. J. B. Clearihue, Liberal member for Victoria. Who will second it was not known yesterday but that detail will probably be arranged at the caucus meeting of the Government forces summoned to meet at 10 o'clock this morning.

Yesterday the advance guard of members began to arrive, among those reaching the city from outside points being Speaker Manson, J. A. Buskham, Columbia; E. C. Henniger,

Grand Forks; Bert Kergin, Atlin, and F. W. Anderson, Kamloops, of the Liberal party, and Messrs. J. W. Jones, South Okanagan, and A. McDonald, Lillooet, of the Conservative side. The other members are expected over on the night boat.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> Session 1921

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1921

### LEGISLATURE STARTS REAL BUSINESS TODAY

Mr. J. B. Clearihue, Victoria,  
Will Move Address and Mr.  
A. D. Patterson, Delta, Will  
Second It

Following the formal opening ceremonies in the Legislature yesterday afternoon the House will get down to work today with the first business, the moving of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, an honor which this session goes to Mr. J. B. Clearihue, Liberal member for Victoria, who will inaugurate the debate which, in past years, has given all members of the House who so desire it, opportunity to express their views.

While the debate is supposed to be confined to the subject matter of the Speech, members are given a wide range, and while the Government supporters emphasize their belief of the merits of the record of the administration, the opposition speakers are afforded opportunity to divest themselves of their opinions of that same administration. The address in reply is sometimes useful as keeping the House occupied while the Government is formulating its programme and getting business for the House lined up. Last year the debate was substantially curtailed, only a moderate number of members participating therein. This year it is not expected to drag out for any undue length, and it is likely that by the time seven or eight of the Government side, an equal number on the Conservative opposition benches, and some of the Independents have unburdened themselves of their ideas, the debate will be terminated.

### Mr. Patterson Consents

For the past few days there has been uncertainty as to whom would fall the duty of seconding the address, and the decision was not reached until late yesterday afternoon, when the honor was thrust upon Mr. A. D. Patterson, Liberal member for Delta, who was first slated for the duty, but refused on the plea that he preferred some member of lengthier service in the House to undertake the task.

Of the seven members who were not present at yesterday's opening ceremony, Dr. Sutherland, Liberal member for Revelstoke and chief Government whip, is absent in the East attending the centenary of McGill University, and he will not be back for some days; Mr. M. A. Macdonald, Liberal member for Vancouver, is candidate for election in the coming Federal contest in Burrard riding, and Dr. W. O. Rose, Conservative member for Nelson, has also entered the Federal field, and it is likely that neither of them will be seen in the Legislature this session, but pair off. Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, and Mr. W. A. MacKenzie, Conservative member for Similkameen, were unable to attend yesterday's ceremony, but will be in the House today. Mr. David Whiteside, Liberal member for New Westminster, is also expected over this morning.

Hon. Mary Ellen Smith, senior Liberal member for Vancouver and Minister without portfolio, received a hearty greeting yesterday when she entered the chamber. She was late in arriving at the ceremony and her entrance was a signal of applause from the members on the Government side.

### In Cabinet Seats

In the arrangement of members' seats for this session Hon. Mrs. Smith finds herself seated on the Government side alongside the seats occupied by members of the Cabinet, on the right of Mr. Speaker. In previous sessions she occupied a seat on the left of the Speaker.

Government members attended a lengthy caucus session yesterday morning, and the Conservative opposition met in caucus after the afternoon opening ceremonies were concluded.

Mr. Speaker Manson is ordering some changes in the old-time practice of the Legislature. Commencing today the clerk of the House and law clerk will be seated at a fine mahogany table placed in the aisle leading from the bar of the House to the Speaker's dais. The mace, which has reposed on the table in front of Mr. Speaker, will be placed at the end of the table nearest the bar of the House, reposing upon a dainty cushion, and the sergeant-at-arms will be provided with a desk adjoining the bar and to one side. This arrangement is based upon the practice in vogue in the Imperial House of Commons at Westminster and in the Federal House at Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker Manson would also like to see the pages in some sort of uniform, though it is hardly likely that any such change will be effected at this session. Mr. Speaker makes it clear that he is going to insist on correct House procedure and etiquette this session, though he will be ready to allow every reasonable latitude to members, but he feels that in some respects stricter observance of the rules is proper and timely, and he proposes to see to it that such is forthcoming.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS SHOW FINANCIAL DEALINGS

Details of Revenue and Expenditures for Fiscal Year Ended March 31 Last Presented to the Legislature

In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1921, for which the public accounts were tabled in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, the actual revenue derived by the Province aggregated \$15,219,264, compared with an estimated revenue of \$13,978,245, an increase over the estimated revenue of \$1,241,019. On the other hand, expenditures in the same period totalled \$19,626,680, compared with an estimated expenditure of \$17,410,673. Of this outlay \$4,389,749 was capital account charged to income, the total current expenditures having been \$15,236,931, against an estimated outlay on current account of \$13,960,711. The total outlay on current account was, therefore, \$17,667 in excess of total revenue, or, including capital account charged to income, the total expenditures exceeded receipts by \$4,405,416. Below is the statement of revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year:

Revenue	
Current Account—	
Department of Agriculture .....	\$ 39,167.68
Department of the Attorney-General .....	1,783,302.16
Department of Education .....	25,551.13
Department of Finance .....	5,311,327.52
Department of Fisheries .....	38,326.05
Department of Labor .....	23,192.30
Department of Lands .....	3,965,146.21
Legislation (Private Bills Fees) .....	2,655.00
Department of Mines .....	170,707.26
Department of the Provincial Secretary .....	258,262.93
Department of Public Works .....	73,728.38
Department of Railways .....	50,882.55
<b>Total Revenue .....</b>	<b>\$15,219,264.32</b>
Expenditure	
Current Account—	
Public Debt .....	\$ 2,222,129.32
Legislation .....	124,768.27
Premier's Office .....	12,632.59
Department of Agriculture .....	332,566.71
Department of the Attorney-General .....	1,564,654.87
Department of Education .....	3,976,944.25
Department of Finance .....	828,328.55
Department of Fisheries .....	15,672.50
Department of Industries .....	16,474.16
Department of Labor .....	75,832.54
Department of Lands .....	1,307,551.14
Department of Mines .....	239,523.46
Department of the Provincial Secretary .....	2,216,612.60
Department of Public Works .....	2,597,888.71
Department of Railways .....	144,812.08
<b>Total Current Account .....</b>	<b>\$15,236,931.35</b>
Capital Account (charged to income) .....	4,389,749.60
<b>Total Expenditure (charged to income) .....</b>	<b>\$19,626,680.95</b>

**Income Tax Leads**  
Details of the receipts for the fiscal year show some interesting facts. The largest single item of revenue was the income tax, which produced \$2,005,978, against an estimated revenue from that source of \$2,000,000. Some of the chief items of revenue compared with the estimated revenue therefrom were as follows:

	Actual	Estimated
<b>Land Taxes—</b>		
Real Property .....	\$1,646,242	\$1,131,000
Wild Land, etc. ....	861,811	280,000
Timber Licenses .....	1,329,642	2,200,000
Timber Royalties .....	91,537	1,075,000
Court Fees and Fines ..	75,188	45,000
Game Licenses .....	134,160	120,000
Registry Fees .....	412,575	250,000
Motor Fees .....	532,632	650,000
<b>Prohibition Act—</b>		
Profit on Liquor Sold ..	323,526	25,000
Personal Property Tax ..	369,603	280,000
Real Estate .....	263,693	50,000
Rural School Tax .....	213,339	175,000
Succession Duties .....	342,257	325,000
Coal and Coke Tax .....	316,430	190,000
<b>Interest—</b>		
Sinking Fund .....	230,235	200,000
Miscellaneous .....	380,179	450,000
Mineral Tax .....	119,247	150,000
Probate Fees .....	44,537	75,000
Rent, B. C. House .....	41,075	37,500
Land Sales .....	391,449	350,000
Mining Receipts .....	394,312	190,000
King's Printer .....	339,824	175,000
Dog Licenses .....	1,222	1,500
Par Licenses .....	1,125	75,000
Water Rentals .....	97,269	60,000
Marriage Licenses .....	22,725	14,000
Asst. Hospitals .....	28,252	20,000
Amusements .....	178,232	15,000

### Some Expenditures

Under the head of expenditures, Provincial police called for \$484,971 against an appropriation of \$411,800; Okalla Prison Farm, \$74,963; Industrial schools, \$71,897; Infants' Act and refuge homes, \$33,750; witness fees, \$26,477; grand and petit juries, \$15,852; prosecutions and interpreters, \$20,258; inquests, \$6,101; constitutional litigation and general law costs, \$14,361; administration of Prohibition Act, \$48,456; mothers' pensions, \$284,454; per capita educational grant to cities, \$610,863; per capita grant to municipalities, \$380,919; per capita grant to rural school districts, \$131,985; teachers' salaries in assisted schools, \$413,990; salaries of teachers in E. & N. belt, \$88,859; new schools and repairs, \$378,195; grant to University of B. C., \$420,000; statutory grants to schools, \$258,463; Agent-General's office, London, \$79,011; Forest Branch, \$182,862; Forest Protection Fund, \$189,816; expenses of Land Department, \$173,270; land surveys, \$252,726; photogeographical surveys, \$29,762; forest reconnaissance, \$31,189; returned soldier prospectors, \$15,336; Provincial Board of Health, \$73,223; Provincial Library, \$20,736; mental hospitals, \$643,203; grants to hospitals, \$449,356; King's printer, \$253,462; registration of voters, \$61,033; Returned Soldiers' Aid Commission, \$171,505; temperance plebiscite, \$88,461; Provincial elections, \$107,007; maintenance of Parliament Buildings, \$121,138; maintenance of Government House, \$21,790; district engineers, \$61,402; steam boiler inspection, \$54,717; roads, streets and wharves, \$2,288,572, as against an appropriation of \$2,373,600; steamboats, ferries and bridges, \$201,052; relief of unemployment, \$56,932; Fraser River bridge, \$52,467.

### Assets and Liabilities

The balance sheet for the year ended March 31 last shows capital assets of \$48,483,331; current assets of \$14,230,913 and deferred assets of \$21,259,705, a total of assets of \$83,973,972.

Capital liabilities were: B. C. stock and debentures, \$46,511,436, and mortgage on B. C. House, London, \$235,225, a total of \$46,746,661, leaving a balance of capital assets over capital liabilities of \$1,736,693.

In addition to direct liabilities of the Province the following securities as to both principal and interest have been guaranteed by the Province: Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Co., \$40,157,523; P. G. E., \$20,760,000; Vancouver and Districts Joint Sewerage Board, \$3,233,333; French Complex Ore Reduction Co., \$65,000; Agricultural Credits Commission, \$1,000,000; Corporation of South Vancouver, \$704,370; West Nicomen Dyking District, \$87,000. Total, \$65,407,227.

## LEGISLATURE IS FORMALLY OPENED

Distinguished Gathering Presented at Inaugural Ceremony at Second Session of Fifteenth Parliament of B. C.

In the presence of a distinguished and representative gathering which completely filled the floor of the chamber and the public and other galleries, Lieutenant-Governor Nichol formally opened the second session of the Fifteenth Parliament of British Columbia at 3:10 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

As His Honor entered the chamber amid the boom of a salute of fifteen guns fired by a squad of garrison artillery, under command of Major Hughes, at Work Point Barracks across the harbor, the chamber presented an animated appearance. The ceremony was a short one, taking less than half an hour.

Arrangements for the ceremony were excellently carried out and the large number of invited guests were speedily seated. Among the throng of guests were members of the bench and bar, representatives of the clergy and other professions, members of the consular service, members of the Senate and Federal House of Commons, municipal heads and prominent citizens. The uniforms of the naval and military escort of His Honor added a touch of color to the scene.

### Distinguished Assemblage

For the purpose of making room for the guests, the seats of the members of the House were hunched towards the front portion of the chamber. Of the forty-seven members of the House seven were absent, Dr. Sutherland, Revelstoke; Mr. M. A. Macdonald, and Capt. Ian Mackenzie, Vancouver; Mr. W. A. Mackenzie, Similkameen; Mr. David Whiteside, New Westminster, and Mr. R. H. Pooley, Esquimalt.

Lieutenant-Governor Nichol, on arrival at the main entrance of the legislative pile, where a guard of honor of 100 men of the Princess Patricia Regiment, under command of Major Clarke, M.C.; Capt. J. H. Carvoso and Capt. J. S. Woods, presented arms, alighted and after inspecting the guard, entered by the main entrance to the rotunda, where his naval and military escort was awaiting his arrival. Preceded by his escort, which ranged themselves on either side of the central aisle, His Honor entered the chamber attired in Windsor uniform, and was met at the Speaker's dias by Sergeant-at-arms O'Hara holding the mace. As His Honor mounted the dias the entire assemblage stood until he seated himself. He was accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. H. J. C. Musket, and his military aide, Capt. Carew Martin, M.C.

### Services Represented

His Honor's escort was composed of the following officers: Of the Navy, Commander E. A. E. Nixon; Engineer - Lieutenant Commanders Clarke and Jefferson, and Lieutenants Laurie and Beech; of the military forces, General Ross, D.S.O., C.M.G., D.O.C.; Brig-General R. P. Clark, D.S.O., C.M.G., M.C.; Inspector Shoebottom, R.C.M.P.; Colonel Bennett, D.S.O.; Colonel Fick, D.S.O., C.M.G.; Colonel Greer, Colonel Lorne Drum, Majors Pridaux, L. W. S. Cockburn, Goodeve and Sherman, Captains Spinks, Cummings, Finter, Campbell, Westmoreland, Gordon, Smith and Dunsford, and Lieutenants Broadbrook and Hill.

The Speech from the Throne was a short one, and was read by His Honor in distinct tones. Concluding his reading of the speech, His Honor withdrew, accompanied by his escort, and Mr. Speaker Manson took his chair.

Prayers were read by Rev. W. D. Spence, pastor of the First Congregational Church, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, which was recited by the assemblage.

Some items of routine business were then proceeded with, chief among which were resolutions presented by Premier Oliver providing for the printing of the votes and proceedings of the House, providing for the select standing committees, and the customary motion promising penalties against any member who should it so appear, was elected to the Legislature through bribery or other corrupt practice.

**Public Accounts**

Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, presented the public accounts for the fiscal year ended March 31, last, and Premier Oliver presented a statement showing the financial position of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway up to June 30, 1921, and a supplementary statement setting forth loans made to that project up to September 30 last.

The customary practice of introducing one bill at the opening sitting was followed. Attorney-General Farris introducing a bill to amend the Summary Convictions Act to provide that where a corporation is convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment, the corporation may, in lieu of the prescribed punishment, be fined in the discretion of the Justice before whom it is convicted.

The House then adjourned until 2 p.m. this afternoon.

**Speech From the Throne**

The Speech from the Throne was as follows:

"Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature:

"In summoning you to meet for the second time within the calendar year, I am fulfilling an undertaking given by the Premier during the First Session of the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

"During the recess investigation has been made into the financial conditions of the municipalities, and legislation will be submitted providing for extension of the sources of their revenues.

"Amendments to the Taxation Act will be submitted in order to apportion more equitably the burden of taxation on all classes of property and persons.

"Progress has been made on the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and it is estimated that the financial provision made at the last session of the Legislature will prove adequate for the completion of this line to Prince George.

"Valuable information respecting a feasible route to connect the Coast with the Interior links of the Transcontinental Highway has been assembled, permitting decision of the route to be selected and early undertaking of construction of this important link.

"Having in view the better investigation and prevention of fires, a measure will be laid before you extending the work of the Department of Insurance.

"Minor amendments to the Government Liquor Act will be submitted.

"Amendments to the Mineral Act will be laid before you.

"Further amendments to the Placer-Mining Act will be proposed.

"The Public Accounts for the past fiscal year will be brought down at an early date.

"The estimates of Expenditure for the ensuing year will be submitted for your earnest consideration.

"Members of the Legislature:

"In leaving you to your deliberations, I have confidence that you will apply your best endeavors to the solution of the problems before you, and I pray the blessing of Providence on your labors."

**ASKS PROBE OF LIQUOR DEALINGS**

**Mr. W. J. Bowser, Leader of Opposition, Moves for Appointment of Select Committee to Probe Question**

A full legislative investigation, through the medium of a Select Committee of the House, into the question of the enforcement of the liquor regulations and the operation of the Liquor Control Board is asked by Mr. W. J. Bowser, leader of the Conservative opposition in the Legislature, in a resolution he will move in the House on Monday next, notice of which he filed yesterday.

Under the existing procedure the Speaker must first pass upon all motions filed by members, and Mr. Bowser's notice was under his advisement yesterday afternoon. Some portions of the resolution as filed did not meet with the Speaker's approval and he notified the opposition leader to that effect, but Mr. Bowser holds that his notice of motion is strictly in order and he will persist in seeing it brought before the House.

The motion to be moved by Mr. Bowser, as set forth in the notice filed yesterday, is as follows:

**Asserts Mal-Administration**

"That whereas by the Government Liquor Act, being Chapter 30 of the Statutes of the Province of British Columbia, 1921, the Government of the Province of British Columbia is authorized to purchase and sell liquors;

"And whereas it is now understood by the general public that the Government would purchase and sell nothing but the best of liquors at the cheapest price possible to the consumer after allowing for a fair profit, and otherwise exercise the greatest economy in the administration of the liquor stores;

"And whereas the Government purchased from a close political supporter of the Government, without any justification, certain premises known as the Campbell warehouse in the City of Vancouver;

"And whereas the official value of the premises, as fixed by the City Assessor, was \$58,000;

"And whereas the Government not only without any justification or Legislative authority but illegally paid the sum of \$150,000 for the purchase of the said premises;

"And whereas the Government, in the administration of the Act, have unnecessarily leased premises for administration and other purposes and in leasing liquor stores and warehouses in various parts of the Province are paying a rental to political friends far in excess of their value;

"And whereas the Government have been extravagant in the purchase of plant, fixtures and furnishings;

"And whereas, in the administration of the Act, the Government have indulged in reckless and unjustifiable extravagance and incompetency and in the selection of officials they have, in numerous cases, employed men convicted of infractions of the liquor laws and other laws of the Province;

"And whereas the Government neglected to take a large quantity of liquor out of bond prior to the 10th of May, on which date an extra duty was imposed by the Federal authorities, thereby entailing a very heavy loss to the Province;

**Questionable Practices?**

"And whereas questionable practices have been and are being resorted to in connection with the purchase by the Government of liquor for sale both under the Prohibition Act as well as the Government Liquor Act from certain political friends, relatives and business associates of members of the Government;

"And whereas the Government, while in a position to go into the open market and obtain liquors at the minimum market price, have seen fit, both under the late Prohibition Act and the Government Liquor Act, to make such purchases through political friends and agents at greatly increased cost over and above the actual market value and have adopted a practice of purchasing cheap liquor of inferior quality in order to permit of a large secret commission or profit being acquired by their aforesaid political friends;

"And whereas great abuses have been permitted and encouraged in the use of permits and the amount of liquor purchased thereunder;

"And whereas the Government, claiming that they have lost a large quantity of liquor from the Hastings Street liquor store, Vancouver, have, without proper investigation, dismissed the whole staff, thereby casting a reflection and doing injustice to possibly a great many innocent employees;

"And whereas no permits to operate bonded liquor warehouses or excise bonded warehouses in this Province can be obtained from the Federal Government without the consent of the Honorable the Attorney-General of the Province of British Columbia;

"And whereas as a result certain consents have been given by the Attorney-General through political friends and agents for which the applicant has had to pay large sums of money;

"And whereas certain practices have been followed by the Honorable the Attorney-General in connection with the administration of justice and in dealing with the administration of the Prohibition Act as well as the Government Liquor Act and other acts and those convicted thereunder, which have not only brought the administration of justice into disrepute but have been an incentive to certain officials and employees of the Government with the consent of the members of the Government to give their time and ability for the advancement of the interests of their political friends as well as of the Government as a political party and for these purposes public moneys have with the aforesaid consent thereby been improperly and illegally used;

**Reprehensible Practices**

"And whereas prior to and during the late Provincial election, certain officials and employees of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, who were being paid out of public moneys for their services, were, with the knowledge and consent of members of the Government, engaged in connection with certain reprehensible political activities;

"Be it therefore resolved that a Select Committee, consisting of seven members of the House, viz.: Messrs. Whiteside, Ramsey, Paterson, Clearhue, Hanes, Pooley and the mover, be appointed to inquire into all questions directly or indirectly relating to the above matters;

"And the said committee shall have power to call for and compel the attendance of persons and the production of books, papers, documents, telegraph and telephone messages and generally all things that may be necessary in carrying out the most searching inquiry in connection with the above matters and the committee shall have power to administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses to take evidence under oath and they shall report the evidence and their findings to this House."

## HINTS AT NEW TAXATION PLAN

Mr. J. B. Clearihue Moves Address in Reply and Urges Income Tax as Best Mode of Raising Revenue

A forecast of the new taxation plans of the Provincial Government was given in the Legislature yesterday by Mr. J. B. Clearihue, Liberal member for Victoria, in opening the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. It is stated that the Government, under its new taxation proposals to be brought down in the Legislature this session, is contemplating levying an income tax of at least one per cent on all incomes and eliminating the existing exemption clause which applies to married men and to unmarried persons up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year.

While Mr. Clearihue dealt only with the necessity of securing additional revenue and based his argument for more revenue upon the need of the municipalities for further financial aid, he did not go into details but made it apparent that the aim should be to tax individuals according to their ability to pay, and, incidentally, he laid the foundation for a House discussion upon taxation proposals to be later presented by Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance.

These proposals will provide for a levy upon the income of all persons in the Province of at least one per cent, the elimination of the existing poll tax which is held to be an unsatisfactory means of raising revenue, and the easing up of the burden of taxation on land and placing it upon income.

The motion moved by Mr. Clearihue was as follows:

"That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, thanking His Honor for the gracious Speech delivered at the opening of the present session.

"We wish to assure His Honor that we appreciate fully the importance of the investigation into the financial conditions of municipalities, and are gratified to learn that the Government intends to apportion the burden of taxation as equitably as possible by amendments to the Taxation Act.

"It is eminently satisfactory to us to learn that progress has been made in the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and particularly to be advised that the financial provisions of last session are estimated to be adequate to complete the construction of this railway to Prince George.

"We are sensible of the importance of additional protection of the public in the matter of destructive fires, and will support worthy legislation having this object in view.

"Such amendments to the Government Liquor Act as are laid before us will have our serious consideration.

"We shall be pleased to give earnest attention to the amendments to the Mineral Act and to the Placer-Mining Act which His Honor advises us will be submitted.

"The Public Accounts will have our close scrutiny and the Estimates of Expenditure for the ensuing year will be given careful criticism."

### Municipal Aid

In his address Mr. Clearihue pointed to the fact that the present Fall session was summoned primarily for the purpose of finding some solution to the existing financial stringency affecting municipalities, due not wholly to the war but chiefly to the "wild orgy of spending and the Western optimism which prevailed through our fair Province previous to the war." He held that the extensive measures made by the municipalities to meet their obligations were founded

have to liquidate these loans, it is found that the municipalities are unable to realize their assets. Quoting from the report of the Inspector of Municipalities, Mr. Clearihue stated that on December 31, 1920, the total liabilities of the municipalities in British Columbia was over \$103,000,000, while the assessed value of the taxable property was only \$596,000,000; in other words the percentage of the liabilities to the assets was eighteen per cent, while in Victoria alone the percentage was as high as twenty-four per cent. The sinking fund shortage he described as alarming, stating that instead of \$20,500,000 for this purpose the municipalities find themselves short approximately \$5,500,000; in other words on the average twenty-five per cent short, while the City of Victoria is today sixty per cent short in its sinking funds.

In view of these facts, Mr. Clearihue argued, it was incumbent upon the Legislature to seek some readjustment to ward off the disaster towards which the municipalities are heading. He stated that between eighty and ninety per cent of the burden of taxation falls upon land values; that the average assessment rate for all municipalities is thirty-two mills, and, recognizing that the assessed values of land are too high, the rate as levied is still more oppressive.

Placing the income value of land at ten per cent, a moderate estimate, he held, Mr. Clearihue stated that thirty-two mills on the assessed value meant thirty-two per cent of the income value of the land, "and if you are unfortunate enough to have to pay for local improvements you probably contribute 100 per cent," he said.

### Actually Doing It

"If I were to suggest that thirty-two per cent be taken off the income of all people as an income tax, my honorable friends on the opposite side of this house would rise in indignation, and yet we do it on our land values," said the member for Victoria, who argued that taxation was not popular but necessary, and the aim of the Government should be to make it as equitable as possible. It was universally recognized, he said, that the best and most equitable tax is the income tax, and that in seeking a more equitable adjustment of taxation throughout the province consideration of a readjustment of the existing taxation methods, based upon that of an income tax, must be had. Today, he held, too many are entirely tax free. There is the poll tax, it was true, but it was a difficult tax to collect, was actually not being collected, and was inequitable owing to the fact that it was not based upon the value of one's income. A readjustment should be made, he held, under which every person enjoying the privilege of citizenship should also meet his or her share of taxation.

### Readjustment

"In the readjustment of our industries throughout this period of reconstruction, we find our great leaders of finance have adopted two fundamental principles, which I submit should be the basic policy upon which every government should be founded. The first principle to which I refer is the elimination in every possible way of any unnecessary expense and waste, and, secondly, the introduction of the latest principles of industrial efficiency. This has in many cases caused the scrapping of much old machinery, and has even required extensive borrowing in order to bring up their establishments to a high standard of efficiency. The same principles must apply to our political life. We must not hesitate to scrap our inefficient and wasteful services and establish therein the highest standards of political efficiency. World competition is driving our industrial wheels; world competition in political life is forcing us to readjust our political thought. Political efficiency won the war. Let us seek political efficiency to re-establish us in peace. But beware of seeking economy in education. The most precious asset of this land is our child. We must preserve him, educate him, and then save him for our country and turn him into an efficient citizen. I thus hope that in our readjustment of finance, our municipalities will be enabled to make greater appropriations for the education of

### Natural Resources

"Besides seeking to re-establish our municipalities upon a firm financial standing, we have other duties to perform to our country, and the greatest of these is probably the development and the preservation of our natural resources and wealth which we have already accumulated. It is thus a pleasure to note in His Honor's speech that the Government intends to take steps in order to curtail the very heavy losses which occur each year, due to faulty fire protection. The department of insurance has for some years carried on a measure of investigation of fire, particularly with the object of preventing those of suspicious or incendiary origin. Under the new department, and under the new legislation which will be introduced, the fire marshal will have more exhaustive scope, with power to appoint several local assistants in different parts of the Province, who will have certain duties to perform.

"Funds for the carrying on of the work will be provided by a special tax not exceeding one-third of one per cent of the premiums levied on insurance companies. It is anticipated that the insurance companies and the general public will appreciate the good which will result from the enactment of these laws."

### P. G. E. Suggestions

Referring to the recent legislative jaunt over the line of the P. G. E. Railway, Mr. Clearihue said members must feel more than ever that now the Province has that railway, it must strive to make of it a productive asset. This could be done, and must necessarily be done by a connection from Ashcroft to Clinton, a connection which would enable development of the Cariboo section from a commercial standpoint. The remainder, from Squamish to Ashcroft, and back to Vancouver by the C. P. R., would provide one of the most wonderful tourist resorts known to the world, even dimming Switzerland with its splendor.

"Any industrial financier who has a good product does not hesitate to spend large sums to advertise, and even borrow money for that purpose," said Mr. Clearihue, who said that by creating a tourist district along the first section of the P. G. E. Railway the Province would be able ultimately to make it a source of revenue and a great financial success. He believed that there was no other means of making it pay than by a system of advertising. California owed its greatness to advertising and its tourist trade. The Province should endeavor to do likewise for the P. G. E. In thinking of local interests, however, he urged that it should not be forgotten that British Columbia is part of a great Dominion, a part of the British Empire, and that its actions will be reflected in international relations. Civilization, in the development of the world, has gradually but surely moved westward. As surely will the twentieth century be that of the Pacific. Great Britain in the nineteenth century became a power in the commercial world and a dominant factor in the political. "Vancouver Island, with the lower mainland of British Columbia, lies in the same latitude; is blessed with the same climate, and is related to the world markets of the Pacific as Britain is to the Atlantic. British Columbia has better harbors, greater resources, more extensive potential wealth. Can we not look forward to as bright a future? All we need is to produce and then reach out for the markets of the Pacific, and British Columbia should stand to the Pacific as Britain stands to the Atlantic. Our thoughts then should go beyond our Province to those who will shortly labor for our welfare at that great conference at Washington, and upon whose judgment will depend our very life. May their decisions be wise.

"In legislating, then, for the good of this country, we must as true citizens show a vision compatible with the greatness of our land. We must be able to see that our interests are closely wrapped up with those of the world, and that in seeking our own interests we also must seek that of the Empire, and endeavor to base our judgments and actions upon the firm foundation of right, which will surely bring us progress and glory."



**Mr. Paterson Is Brief**

Brevity featured the speech of Mr. Alex. D. Paterson, Liberal member for the Delta, in seconding the motion for the address in reply. He used few words in seconding the address, declaring that he represented the best constituency in the Province and that his constituents were the best people in British Columbia.

Mr. Paterson drew good-humored fire from other members on both sides of the House, who wanted to put in a good word for their respective districts. The voice of Tom Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, was heard above all the rest in this regard.

Mr. Paterson stated that it had been his intention to limit himself to one minute and a half. In actual time the Delta farmer consumed three minutes, after which the house adjourned through a motion of Col. Fred Lister, Kaslo, who will resume the debate at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon.

It is probable that Colonel Lister will touch on conditions in the Camp Lister district, where returned soldiers are said to be far from satisfied with their present outlook.

Premier Oliver yesterday intimated that he was desirous of getting through with the debate as early as possible, and for that reason any members who wish to speak should get ready. It seems likely, however, that the debate will run over till next week, as members on both sides of the House have intimated their desire to be allowed to touch on topics mentioned in the speech.

During his brief address, Mr. Paterson mentioned his pleasure that the Government was dealing with municipal finances, although his constituency, comprising three municipalities, was in better condition than others, one municipality having no bonded indebtedness, while the other two were in a sound financial condition. What the Delta wanted, he said, was more schools.

"The soundest road policy ever established in the Province," was Mr. Paterson's reference to the present Government. He had no hesitation in declaring that. He had reference to Dr. King's classification scheme.

"Today we have the best concrete road started of any place in America," Mr. Paterson said when referring to the Pacific Highway.

While at first opposed to the Sumas reclamation scheme, a recent visit made to the scene of operations had convinced him of the feasibility of the scheme.

"I believe the scheme is a sound one and the land to be reclaimed will increase in value to offset the expense of the dyking," he said.

The Delta member also praised the work of the Land Settlement Board, which had come to the assistance of the men who were unable to start out in agricultural pursuits on account of lack of funds. Mr. Paterson told how some of the young men in his constituency have been enabled to buy land in Northern British Columbia in this way. He thought they would make good.

**ALBERNI'S MEMBER  
IS AFTER THE SPEAKER**

**Major Burde Objects to Reported Statements by Hon. Mr. Manson—House to Hear Libel Action Evidence**

Two questions of privilege were brought up in the House yesterday afternoon before the main business was taken up. One of these was from Major R. J. Burde, member for Alberni, who made reference to a press dispatch from Prince Rupert wherein Mr. Speaker Manson is reported to have addressed the Rotary Club in the Northern city.

Major Burde took exception to Mr. Manson's remarks regarding an Independent member and the loss the people were alleged to suffer by reason of these Independents being unable to enter a caucus.

Major Burde believed an Independent had certain duties to perform, and he intended to perform them before he left.

Mr. Speaker Manson considered the question not well taken, and there the matter ended.

Another question was that raised by Hon. Mr. Farris in connection with the recent Campbell-Cromie libel suit. The Attorney-General stated that since the verdict had been given the defendant, The Vancouver Sun, had wired certain members asking for their views on the situation and as to whether they intended to continue their support to the Oliver Government. In view of the evidence which had proved that the allegations were velled in innuendo, he thought that all members should become conversant with the full evidence given at the trial, and to that end he moved that three copies of the evidence be obtained, one for the Government side, one for the Opposition and one for the Independents.

Major Burde thought that four copies should be secured, two to be divided between the Labor members and the remainder of the Independents. To this Mr. Farris agreed.

Asked how long it would be before such copies would be prepared, Mr. Farris thought that a week should see them in the hands of the members.

The telegram from The Vancouver Sun to various members on the Government side read as follows: "Regarding published charges of misappropriation of \$67,500 of public monies on Campbell warehouse deal, and in view of finding of special judge and jury last night regarding this matter, please wire us this afternoon whether or not you are still a supporter of the Oliver Government. This request, along with your answer or refusal to answer will be published in tomorrow morning's Sun for the benefit of people who elected you to office."

**SPEECH HEARTENS  
HIGHWAY LEADERS**

**Good Roads Advocates Interpret Lieutenant-Governor's Message as Indication of Definite Action**

Officers of the Canadian Highway Association and other Victoria good roads and motor organizations hailed the passage in Lieut.-Governor Nichol's speech from the Throne referring to the transprovincial highway as the first definite intimation that the Provincial Government is determined to go through with the long-deferred project.

The Canadian Highway Association, with headquarters in Victoria, was formed only a few months ago for the purpose of promoting the construction and maintenance of a coast-to-coast Canadian highway. Members of its executive interpret Mr. Nichol's statement as indicative that during the present session the Legislature will appropriate money to link up the roads in British Columbia so as to provide through connection eastward and to the Pacific Coast.

The passage in the speech referred to was as follows:

"Valuable information respecting feasible route to connect the coast with the interior links of the Provincial highway has been assembled, permitting decision of the route to be selected and early undertaking of construction of this important link.

"The Minister of Public Works has arrived at a decision only after looking thoroughly into every phase of the question, and the public should be prepared to accept his choice of a route as the result of exhaustive and efficient investigation," said Ald. A. E. Todd, organizer and fourth vice-president of the Canadian Highway Association.

**Organizations that have been pressing for immediate completion of the road, among them the Good Roads League, which passed strong resolutions on the subject at its Port Alberni convention, have not specified a route. They have left that to the Government, and, judging from the statements of their officers, they will be satisfied with any route so long as the essential connection is made.**

**MOTHERS' PENSIONS**

Some uneasiness has been occasioned by the announcement that there is to be a readjustment in the amounts paid under the provisions of the Mothers' Pensions Act, the readjustment mainly having to do with reductions. The policy now appears to be to grade these pensions by basing them on the earning power of the individual concerned, as well as taking into consideration cases where relatives may contribute to the support of widows who find themselves in indigent circumstances. A policy of this character is, despite the greatest care that may be exercised by the various pension boards, going to occasion hardship, and the boards will find that their troubles are multiplying. Pensions of any character that are on a sliding scale and subject to conditions which may be only ephemeral are likely, in a number of cases, to fail to meet the need for which the legislation was put into effect. Widows and mothers who are dependent on what may prove the precarious charity of relations, or upon their own individual efforts in times of economic stress, have regarded the pensions plan as a sheet anchor, or, in other words, as a certain official provision against the worst features of poverty. It is small wonder now that the readjustment policy should have created something like consternation.

The need for this readjustment policy in pensions may be much more apparent than appears on the surface, but how, under it, hardships are to be avoided, is the problem to be considered. There is, after all, a principle at stake and that is the right of those mothers in indigent circumstances, and who have no breadwinners whose duty it is to support them and their children, to recognition from the State. We believe that in the extent of that recognition there should be a stated pension with so much added in the case of each dependent child. That is the only safe principle where the policy of pensions has been adopted, for the advantages of such pensions should not be discounted by extraneous circumstances which may vary from year to year. This readjustment policy now in progress should be of peculiar interest to Mrs. Ralph Smith, who, we believe, was mainly instrumental in bringing about the Mothers' Pensions Act. The mothers concerned will look to her to exercise all her efforts on behalf of their interests, and we do not believe they will look in vain.

**SETTLING THE LAND**

A new land settlement policy and more practical aid to the agriculturist are prerequisites to any campaign to induce agricultural immigrants to come to this part of the Dominion. There will be a general hope that the Provincial Government will bear this in mind before it asks the Legislature to sanction any expenditures for propaganda work designed to attract settlers. Mr. Pattullo, the Minister of Lands, has returned from a trip to England imbued with the idea that the time is ripe for engaging in a campaign to settle the lands of British Columbia with British immigrants. We admire his enthusiasm and optimism and subscribe to his belief that a vital need in this Province is to make it more self-supporting in the matter of food products. What we are at liberty to doubt, however, is the possibility of securing the right kind of immigrants under the conditions which at present confront those embarking in agriculture in British Columbia. The experiences in connection with the returned soldier settlements on Provincial lands, even where special aid was forthcoming, is an illustration of what we mean.

It should be pointed out, too, that to counteract any campaign to take away agriculturists from Great Britain there are strong efforts in the Motherland to place a greater amount of acreage under cultivation. All those who are on the land there, and who are reaping the reward of their toil, are unlikely to make the venture of coming to British Columbia. Those wanted here are of the calibre that will make good on the land and not drift into the cities after proving failures. In Britain the home-grown food supply is sufficient to last in each week from 6 p.m. on Friday until 10 a.m. on Monday, and to make that country self supporting in food another three and a half millions of acres must be cultivated. A campaign towards this end is under way in Great Britain, and anyone who realizes the perseverance of the British people will appreciate that it will be attended with a considerable measure of success. In the face of this, and unless some unusual inducements are offered, it is not easy to see how desirable agricultural immigrants from Great Britain, in large numbers, can be secured at this time.

A land settlement policy that will direct the attention of British farmers to a country 6,000 miles away from their homeland must have features of outstanding interest. The handicap of land clearing alone in British Columbia is often regarded as an insurmountable obstacle because of the cost. Another handicap is the cost in bringing the produce to markets, and in many cases the lack of up-to-date transportation facilities. For the time being by far the best policy for the Provincial Government would be to induce people with farming experience now living in the towns and cities in British Columbia to take up land. That would relieve the unemployment situation, and in any efforts made in this direction they should be accompanied by a policy of specific aid to agriculture in land clearing and facilitating co-operative marketing. The tendency, too, should be to build up settlement outwards from the populated centres rather than in isolated districts difficult of access, and where the handicaps of climate and loneliness are particularly felt. When a real agricultural policy is

topographical and soil characteristics of the Province and warranted to overcome local handicaps, it will be time enough to indulge in expenditures to induce the right class of settler to immigrate to British Columbia. By that time, no doubt, they will come without the inducements held forth by literature and lectures.

**SOLDIER MEMBER OFFERS CRITICISM**

**Colonel Fred Lister, Conservative Member, Comments on Government's Handling of Soldier Settlement Question**

"Absolutely rotten," was the emphatic description applied by Colonel Fred Lister, Conservative member for Kaslo, to the Government's soldier settlement policy as it is now being worked out in the Camp Lister settlement area, in speaking yesterday afternoon in the Legislature in the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He declared the veterans there are not receiving a fair deal from the Government and that owing to an almost entire lack of any definite policy, the Government has failed to carry out the promises made to the men.

Colonel Lister was the first speaker yesterday. He was followed by Mr. Bert Kergin, Liberal member for Atlin, and by Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, the debate being adjourned by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, who will speak this afternoon. Pointing to the brevity of the Speech from the Throne and congratulating the mover and seconder of the address upon their efforts, Colonel Lister expressed the hope that the Government would see fit to carry out the promises made in the speech. Those residents of the Province outside the bounds of the municipalities would make no objection, he considered, to any financial aid to the municipalities, and he was willing to agree that it is wise to tax all those who are not paying anything towards the upkeep of the Province, but he very much doubted, he stated, whether there is anyone who is not paying, directly or indirectly, and it was certain that some are paying far beyond their capacity.

**Running Behind**

"It appears we are running behind and I do not envy the Government its task of legislating to provide financial means for those municipalities who find themselves in difficulties," said the member for Kaslo, who was certain that the people of the Province would be delighted to hear that no more money was required for the P.G.E. project. He expressed his regret that he had been unable to participate in the recent Legislative trip over the Government-owned line owing to previous engagements.

Colonel Lister was also glad that the Government had at last reached a decision to carry through the construction of the transprovincial highway and had finally decided as to the route to be followed. Much had been heard of the project, and it was about time that something definite was given to the House of the Government's intentions. The linking up of the Coast and Interior road systems would prove a decided asset to the Province, it would attract tourists and give them opportunity to see the resources of the Province. But, he held, the Government should not forget that there is need of roads for the struggling agriculturist. In his own district there are sections where the farmers cannot get their produce to market owing to lack of roads.

In this connection Colonel Lister stated he had not been able to ascertain how much of the appropriation made last year for roads has been spent. The Government had given as its reason for curtailing road outlays the necessity of providing for winter work for the unemployed. He hoped the Department of Public Works would not fail to spend the money in

**Liquor Prices**

Colonel Lister recalled the promise made to the House last year that the price of liquor would be the same throughout the Province, but the fact remained that such was not the case. The price might be the same at the various liquor stores, but interior points found they were being mulcted express charges, and that had proved to be a heavy tax levied upon the people in the outlying sections.

Emphasizing the need of immigration of the right sort, and congratulating the Minister of Lands, Hon. T. D. Pattullo, who, he felt, has the right idea in that only by settling up the Province could its future progress be assured, Colonel Lister, at the same time expressed doubt whether any such policy would be carried into effect by the present Government in view of its record in the matter of land settlement.

"Absolutely rotten," was the way the member for Kaslo described the Government's settlement policy. In fact, he doubted if the Government actually possessed any policy.

"There are settlers in this Province who have been here for years, who went overseas and came back anxious to go back on the land, and this Government promised to assist them. Very few of the promises made to those men have been carried out, and I doubt very much if it was ever intended by the Government that they should. The utter, absolute failure of the whole soldier settlement plan of this Government is painfully evident. There has been no properly thought-out plan and despite the promises made, the Government, apparently, never did have a single idea of what it was going to cost. At Camp Lister but fifty per cent of the men remain. They went there in good faith, worked hard and were promised much, and yet not a man has a scratch of the pen to show he can stay there. Those men have secured the Soldier Settlement Board qualifications, but we find that today the Provincial Land Settlement Board refuses to deal with the Federal body, the reason given being that this Province cannot afford to turn over the lands at the appraisal price fixed by the Federal authorities."

**Must Aid Soldiers**

Colonel Lister was willing to admit that about the only cause of complaint the returned soldier settlers at Camp Lister now have was the charge of seven per cent on loans, but he held that despite the fact that there is excellent land in that settlement area, it takes time to grow fruit trees, and irrigation is required, and the men must be assisted by the Government by an extension of the period during which they are not called upon to make payments of interest. He held that the soldier settlement policy was one of the best colonization plans ever launched in Canada and would have proved successful had its operations been properly managed. But the men had not received fair treatment, and he would suggest to the Minister of Lands that before he started bringing in settlers he must see that once they come they are given a square deal. He recalled how, at the last session of the House, the promise of cheaper stumping powder for the farmers was made, and yet the fact was that while powder was being supplied by the Government at a rate of \$12, the Canadian Explosives Company was selling it to members of the United Farmers' organization at \$9.35 per box, subject to a rebate, which made the net price \$6.35. That was one illustration how the Land Settlement Board was helping the farmers, he said. Conditions at the Creston settlement, he stated, were disgraceful. The Land Settlement Board was turning over the lands to the men at \$60 per acre, a fair price, but the same board was selling land to other individuals on long terms at a little over one-half that amount, and much nearer railway transportation.

"I recall the Government in 1916 promised to abolish patronage, but the fact is that patronage in my district is everywhere evident; conditions are rotten. If a storekeeper, a garage man or other person is not a good Liberal he gets none of the money expended by the Government in the riding." He held that public moneys should be distributed among all the merchants and not alone among party supporters.

## ATLIN HAS STAUNCH FRIEND IN ITS MEMBER

Mr. Bert Kergin Sounds Praises of His Riding Before Legislature Yesterday Afternoon—More Roads Needed

A good word for the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, the Government-owned and operated project which has in the past received scant praise, was voiced by Mr. Bert Kergin, Liberal member for Atlin, when, in speaking in the Legislature yesterday afternoon in the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, he expressed his pleasure at having participated in the recent legislative trip over the railway.

"A wonderful piece of work, something the people of the Province agreed to and gave the then Government a mandate to proceed with its construction," was the way Mr. Kergin described the railway. "Now the people have changed their minds about the road, but the Government is bound to see the project through," he stated.

Pointing to the peculiar situation of the Atlin riding, surrounded on the north and west by a foreign territory, Mr. Kergin stated that at present access to the riding through Canadian territory could be had only in the south, and last year he had had to pay twenty per cent discount on good Canadian money in seeing his own riding, having to enter through United States territory and being forced to pay exchange on his money.

The crying need of his district is roads, he said, and he pointed to the fact that much is being said at present about a possible war between the United States and Japan. In such an event his district would practically be cut off, he said. What was imperatively required, he held, was a highway connecting the Atlin district with the rest of Canada, one from Hazelton to Whitehorse to connect with the transprovincial highway in the south. While Atlin is essentially a mining country there are large areas of agricultural land. In the Naas River Valley there was the largest area of fine land to be found anywhere else in the Province, and there is not today even a colonization road to that section, something imperatively required if the area is to be settled.

Mr. Kergin dealt with a number of the problems confronting the people of Atlin advocating a system of wage insurance to protect workers in industries, declaring that there had been cases where companies had defaulted in wage payments. The Government, he considered, should arrange to take a lien on a company's payroll in case of default by the company, collect for the men.

Eulogizing the scenic attractions of Atlin, Mr. Kergin declared: "You talk about Vancouver Island, and you sometimes get as far north as Prince Rupert, but you never hear of your tourist associations down here mentioning Atlin, the district, par excellence, for scenery, game and natural resources, the most consistent gold producer in Canada."

The member for Atlin referred to the Premier mine as an example of the mineral wealth of the riding and declared that at Anyox is located one of the three biggest copper producing concerns in the world. Atlin, he averred, is one of the greatest assets the Province possesses and it would be to the interest of the people of the other portions of the Province to get acquainted with that district, which must bring in all its supplies from outside and, therefore, is a matter of importance to the business interests of the Province.

## SPEAKER HOLDS UP MOTION OF MR. BOWSER

Opposition Leader's Request for Investigation Into Liquor Administration Too Strong in Some Terms He Rules

Holding that "grave allegations" were made in the notice of motion which Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C., Conservative leader, filed in the Legislature on Wednesday asking for the appointment of a select committee of the House to probe fully into the operations of the Government liquor department, Mr. Speaker Manson yesterday explained to members why it was that he had refused to allow the notice of motion to appear on the order paper.

Under the existing practice all such notices must first receive the O.K. of Mr. Speaker before being allowed on the order paper, and while Mr. Bowser filed his notice on Wednesday it did not appear on the order paper yesterday. In giving his ruling Mr. Speaker Manson said:

"Yesterday, after the adjournment of the House, there came to my notice a proposed notice of motion in the name of the Honorable the leader of the Opposition. In view of its contents I felt it my duty to give it my most serious consideration as to its compliance with proper parliamentary practice.

"Only under special and serious circumstances do I think that I should withhold from the notice paper proposed notices, it being after all, the prerogative of the House in the last resort to pass upon proposed motions. But where the practice is being seriously contravened and opportunity does not offer to bring the matter to the attention of the House, I felt it to be the duty of your Speaker to withhold from the notice paper notices of such a character.

"In this case grave allegations were contained which I do not feel should be permitted to appear in the notice paper without the knowledge and approval of the House. I am, therefore, taking the earliest opportunity of bringing the matter to the attention of the House with an expression of my view. It is accepted without question that imputations of wrong doing on the part of ministers of the Crown or private members, or improper conduct or wrong motives can not be made in debate. The proposed notice of motion not only imputes, but asserts in the preamble, grave misconduct on the part of ministers. Very manifestly the House could not possibly agree to the motion, which concludes with a request for a select committee to enquire into the truth of the allegations, because if the House were to do so it would in effect be agreeing to the preamble, asserting that to be true which it proposes to enquire into. The proposed motion is, in my opinion, a contradiction, and cannot be permitted in that form.

"On the other hand the conduct of the Government in its administration of the affairs is subject to enquiry by this House. It is one of the privileges of the House that it should enquire, and the matter raised by the proposed motion is, I think, distinctly one of privilege and the end desired by the honorable member, namely, an enquiry, may be fairly attained in either of two ways. (a) By a simple motion without preamble for a select committee to enquire into certain matters, as was done in the case of the enquiry into the Kalien Island purchase, or (b), by the honorable member declaring from his seat that he is credibly informed and believes that he is able to prove by satisfactory evidence that certain facts are true, followed by a simple motion for a select committee, as was done in what is commonly known as the McGreevy Enquiry, in the Canadian House."

Mr. Bowser suggested that the matter be allowed to stand over. Premier Olliver remarked that it was a well-known principle that a member has a right to bring any grievance to the attention of the House. In the past the House had not been very particular as to the manner in which such grievance was

presented. He had only seen the notice of motion as published in the Colonist, but he understood allegations of a serious nature were made. A member who asserted wrong doing should be prepared to substantiate his charges, and it was not the desire of the Government to, in any way, embarrass any member who seeks to make a charge.

The matter rested at that, but it is likely that when Mr. Bowser again files his notice of motion today some of the personal references contained in the original notice will be toned down.

## GAME BOARD HEAD SUBJECT OF QUESTIONS

House Members Want Information Concerning Activities of Dr. Baker, Chairman of Conservation Board

The administration of Dr. Baker, as head of the Provincial Game Conservation Board, is a subject of interest to members of the Legislature and forms the basis of a series of questions which were filed yesterday in the House by Mr. H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, and Mr. G. S. Hanes, independent member for North Vancouver.

Dr. Baker was in the city yesterday following a trip to the East, in the course of which he visited Montreal and also went to Rochester, Minnesota, where he was operated on by the famous Dr. Mayo for a throat trouble. Dr. Baker said that he was quite willing to have a full investigation into his department, in fact he welcomed it, and had, indeed, asked for it.

Mr. Perry's series of questions addressed to the Attorney-General asks for the names, occupations, etc., of persons composing the Game Conservation Board; the statutory authority under which the Government permits the Board to buy, sell and trade in beaver skins; the names of persons and companies to whom permits to purchase beaver pelts during the closed season were issued; the number of pelts so purchased and how many have been sold to the Government, etc.

Mr. Hanes wants to know if Dr. Baker gave instructions on June 30, 1921, that A. Fitzpatrick, of Vancouver, an employee of C. Korsch, of the firm of the Paris Hat and Frame Company, be given a letter of authority for the purpose of buying beaver skins; if so, under what authority and was the letter gazetted as provided for by the Game Act; was Fitzpatrick convicted of an infraction of the Game Act, and, if so, how much was he fined; whether on or about July 10 last, \$2,000 was wired by the government agent of Vancouver to any person partly for the purpose of financing Fitzpatrick, and what did he do with the money; and was this advance authorized by order-in-council, and was Fitzpatrick a licensed fur trader and why was he chosen by Dr. Baker.

## ECHO OF SALARY INCREASE HEARD

Esquimalt's Member Asserts Government Withheld Information From Members of House.

The now famous "salary grab" at the last session of the Legislature, whereby members increased their seasonal indemnities from \$1,600 to \$2,000, and also gave the ministerial stipends a decided boost, was before the House yesterday, when Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, in speaking in the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, made the declaration that had members of the House been informed of the Government's action in reducing wages paid to workmen on Government work, the House would not have consented to the increase being voted.

"I have no apologies to offer for signing that round robin asking for the increase, but I was very much surprised to learn afterwards that wages of Government employees on the roads had been cut by seventy-five cents per day and one dollar for teams, a reduction dated back to March 1. I doubt if there was a member of this House who knew that that reduction had been made by the Government," declared Mr. Pooley, who recalled that the Premier and the Minister of Public Works had been asked on the floor of the House if it was true that a wage reduction was in contemplation, and they had sat still in their seats and said nothing.

"Did not the members of the House know what they were doing when they signed that round robin?" interjected Premier Oliver.

"Don't be a piker," suggested Mr. K. C. MacDonald, Liberal member for North Okanagan, to Mr. Pooley.

### Speaker Intervenes

Mr. Pooley protested to Mr. Speaker against Mr. MacDonald's remark and demanded that the latter withdraw it. Mr. Speaker Manson stated he had not heard the remark, but if it had been used he would require the member for North Okanagan to withdraw it, which Mr. MacDonald expressed his willingness to do.

"I signed that round robin and I stand by it," declared Mr. Pooley, who held, however, that the Premier or the Minister of Public Works should have informed the House of the wage reduction. He quoted from a letter written by Premier Oliver to the secretary of the G. W. V. A. in which the Premier had denied information concerning the wage reduction had been kept from the House. But that was actually what had occurred, Mr. Pooley asserted, and it was unfair not alone to the Government supporters, but to the opposition.

Premier Oliver rose to remark that he had the journals of the last Legislature before him and he saw no question had ever been asked of the Government relative to wage reductions.

Mr. Pooley maintained that the member for North Vancouver (Mr. Geo. S. Hanes) had asked the Premier whether it was a fact that the cut of seventy-five cents per day had been ordered by the Government, and Mr. Hanes had received no reply.

"There is a proper method of asking for information. I resent most strongly the suggestion that the Government has kept back information from members," said Premier Oliver.

Mr. Hanes interjected to state: "I intentionally asked both the Premier and the Minister of Public Works if, in increasing their own salaries, they were at the same time reducing the wages of the workmen, and I got no answer."

Congratulating Mr. A. M. Paterson, Liberal member for the Delta, on having succeeded in securing the motion for the address in reply to the

speech from the Throne, Mr. Pooley suggested that he would like to take off his hat to the "Pooh Bah of the Administration, the Premier."

### Excessive Taxation

It had been announced, said the member for Esquimalt, that the Government proposed to wipe out the existing exemptions under the income tax. Were ordinary economy practiced by the Government, such a step would not be necessary. At present the Province, he held, was laboring under excessive taxation and capital is shy and will not come into the Province when such taxation amounts to practical confiscation. He referred to the fact that a small cannery he had in mind is paying no less than fifteen different taxes, provincial and federal, aggregating \$3,500 a year, and which, were it operating in the United States, would be paying but \$150.

"But I suppose we have got to get the money. More positions for party followers must be found. I notice the cost of government has increased from \$1,600,000 in 1916, to over \$3,000,000 today. I see where you propose to appoint a Fire Marshall. It is a safe bet that he will be a strong party follower," said Mr. Pooley, who declared it was a disgrace that such an appointment should be made when the recent Superintendent of Insurance could well perform the duties. He suggested that some money might be saved by curtailing the traveling expenses of Dr. Baker, head of the Game Conservation Board, and said Dr. Baker last year had spent \$1,800 in such expenses. The government had bought Dr. Baker a fine car a year ago and now had bought him another. He asserted the public is fed up with such extravagance and he scoffed at the outlay of \$400,000 on the Prince Rupert courthouse, declaring such an outlay under existing conditions was not warranted, and he also criticized the Government outlay of \$400,000 to the B.C. Electric Railway Company to compensate it for the outlays required to meet the changed rule of the road. The Province could get along for some time without the change in the rule of the road, he claimed, but perhaps the Government's efforts to squeeze more money out of the people were necessary to carry on further development work on mineral claims owned by Mr. Stuart Henderson, or maybe, to acquire some more Frongeg Farms.

### People Resentful

"That sort of business stinks in the nostrils of the people of the Province," declared Mr. Pooley, who suggested that the Minister of Lands would be asking for more money for his oil drilling experiments, and he hoped the Minister would tell the House of the success of those efforts. What with Ministers taking joy rides to the Old Country ostensibly for information which could have been secured at the expense of a postage stamp, it was about time, Mr. Pooley said, that the Government commenced to exercise that economy its members were so wont to talk about in the 1916 election campaign.

"The Minister of Lands comes back from Europe with his pipe dream about our needing immigrants. What is there to offer the newcomer? If he goes on the land and raises an onion a Government official comes along in a fine car and takes that onion away. Instead of people coming to the Province they are actually pulling up stakes and leaving. The Province is burdened with taxation, but the Minister of Lands must have his joy ride to Norway at the expense of the people to find out how to extract heat from a snowball. We have no money for roads, but lots for ministerial joy rides; no money for necessities, and yet when we have a B.C. House in London with all necessary officials, we find that Ministers must rush across the seas to add those over-worked officials." Mr. Pooley wondered if Dr. Baker's expense account of \$1,800 covering "a famous joy ride" that gentleman made in the Cariboo. Maybe the member for Fort George could enlighten the House, he suggested.

Mr. Pooley poked fun at the Government over its recent experience in the law courts. First, he pointed out, came the Premier's libel action, with its verdict of twenty-five cents; then there was the Buckworth action against the proprietor of The Vancouver Sun and its verdict of one dollar damages, and finally came the Campbell action, which the jury threw out. It had been suggested, he said, that there should be no ac-

sion of the Legislature next year, and he could imagine how members of the Government would rejoice were they not compelled to face a session for another fifteen months with no one to probe into their conduct of affairs.

If the Government had any money to spend, Mr. Pooley declared, it should spend some of it in giving publicity to the scenic beauties of the Province. He referred to the success attending the publicity efforts of the city of Los Angeles, and claimed British Columbia has more to show the tourist than any other part of the North American continent. He also dealt at length with the need of a stricter censorship of moving pictures, declaring he was no prude, but he believed much of the advertising of moving pictures as well as the pictures themselves were immoral and harmful.

"We spend millions in educating our children, and all the good they derive is lost through the bad influence of the moving pictures," said Mr. Pooley.

"Eliminate this excessive expenditure, practice some measure of economy and encourage the people to come here, but don't tax them to death after they arrive," was Mr. Pooley's parting admonition to the Government.

### TAXATION PLANS

The allusion in the Speech from the Throne, in the Provincial Legislature, to amendments to the Taxation Act, "to apportion more equitably the burden of taxation on all classes of property and persons," involves the extension of the application of the income tax. Proposals are now being considered to do away with the exemption amounts for married and unmarried persons and to make the tax applicable to every income. What the minimum percentage of income to be collected will be is not known, but one per cent is spoke on as the rate likely to be established. The idea seems to be that no one who earns any money within the confines of the Province, either as a casual worker or through steady employment, should escape contributing to the needs of the Provincial Government. The proposal involves the collection of the tax through the payrolls of the employers, as is done in the case of contributions under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

When the new taxation comes into force the poll tax is to be abolished. The poll tax during the last fiscal year realized a total of \$262,580. The new proposal affecting the income tax is to be applied to all incomes, including all those enjoyed by persons who now either evade or are legitimately outside the scope of this impost. At a conservative estimate, some 80,000 more persons in British Columbia would be made contributors to the Provincial exchequer to the extent of one per cent of their incomes. The average of earnings of these 80,000 people is probably \$1,000 per annum, or a total of \$80,000,000, to which the Government would be entitled to one per cent, or \$800,000 per annum. Allow 300 working days in the year the earnings of three of these days every twelve months would have to be set aside to be handed over to the Provincial exchequer.

Under the proposed taxation all those who come within the application of the Workmen's Compensation Act would be included. Minimum wage earners would have to pay their one per cent. It would apply to civil servants and bank clerks, to stenographers and all clerical workers. Day laborers and night watchmen, in fact every earner of a wage or salary, no matter how small, in British Columbia, would come within its scope. The thousands of evasions under the existing law would be safeguarded against by incomes being taxed at their source. Through the operation of a one per cent tax on all earnings

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There can be no question that the receipts of the Provincial exchequer would be very materially increased, and all those who are now in receipt of salaries or wages which barely enable them to secure the necessities of life would be forced to contribute to State needs in order "to apportion more equitably the burden of taxation on all classes."

The Government, even after giving the municipalities their share of the receipts of liquor control, will have an additional revenue this year of somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000. Because of this it ought not to be necessary to impose any new taxation, and, while the matter is still under consideration, we may express the hope that Premier Oliver and his colleagues will hesitate before extending the scope of the income tax. What is proposed will work hardships and it should be possible to finance Provincial affairs without the necessity of taxing those who are earning small incomes. We admit the fairness of the income tax, indeed it is the fairest tax of all, but here as elsewhere there should be an exemption limit such as is now in force. The patience of the people under taxation is proverbial, but that patience should not be tested any further by taxing it in a way which will hit the poorest section of the population.

## GOVERNMENT AIDS LUMBER INDUSTRY

Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, Tells Legislature What Has Been Done to Secure Markets Abroad

That the programme of the Government in the development of the natural resources of the Province is one that is bringing substantial results at present and will prove even more productive in the future, and especially is this the case in connection with the efforts made to encourage the lumber industry along educational lines and stabilize it by securing foreign markets, was the claim of Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, in speaking in the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature yesterday. The Minister referred to the observations he made on his recent visit to the Old country, and emphasized his belief that in the period of readjustment now in progress throughout the world, and in which this Province is sharing, it is the good fortune of the people of British Columbia to be living in what he declared is the greatest portion of the Empire. He asserted that no other part of the world is standing the strain better.

### Lumber Is Leader

"The timber industry is the main one in this province," he said, holding that if that industry is on a prosperous basis then the other industries of the Province will be found generally prosperous and conditions good. No better barometer of general trade could be found, he said, than the timber trade. It was true that during the past year or two a number of mushroom mills erected at the time when the lumber prices were abnormal, had been forced to close down, but he did not consider that even under normal conditions could they have kept going.

Dealing with the conditions in the lumber trade, in which the people of the Province are vitally interested, the Minister outlined the steps taken by the Government to foster the industry. He asserted that there had been the closest possible co-operation between the Government and the trade. When he took charge of the Department of Lands he had stated that it could never be stabilized until export markets were secured. That principle stood good today. It was with that end in view that the Department undertook its campaign of education in connection with the industry to push this market extension work. He pointed to the educational work carried on under Ontario Commissioner L. L. Brown, by which touch is kept with technical schools, and wood-using industries have the merits of the British Columbia product constantly kept before them. The result had proved most satisfactory. He referred to his recent trip to the Old Country, accompanied by Lumber Commissioner Turnbull, a trip made with the idea of securing markets for the British Columbia lumber products. He found that there, too, a campaign of education must be carried on. While he doubted if British Columbia could compete with European countries in the common varieties of lumber, there was every possibility to extend sales of dimension timbers and higher grades. He referred to the methods of publicity inaugurated there through lectures, etc., and he held that while immediate benefits would be forthcoming, it was in the future that the greatest results could be expected.

### Education Needed

The necessity for educating the older countries on this point of British Columbia's capabilities to supply their lumber needs, was indicated.

the Minister stated that through representations made, the Admiralty had been induced to alter specifications calling for Oregon pine and substituting Douglas Fir, which is the same thing, though the Old Country authorities apparently were not aware of it. Thus, trade within the Empire was encouraged. It had been necessary, strange as it might seem, to educate the Ottawa authorities up to the necessity of substituting Douglas Fir, a Canadian product, for Southern Pine, a foreign material. But after all this education and after the outside markets recognized the merits of the British Columbia product, there was still keen competition to be faced. Business was business, and the firms there who had been accustomed to do business along certain lines would not wish to see their organizations disrupted by turning their trade elsewhere, unless they were assured that they would secure equal or better service.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo referred to the disorganization in the lumber trade of the Province following the demand for spruce for war purposes, a trade which suddenly ceased with the armistice. At that time the British Government was calling for a large order of railway ties. The competition was keen, and the Government made strenuous representations why that order should be placed in British Columbia, and it had secured one for seventy million feet.

### Support Offered

As Minister he had no legal authority to sign any contract, but he got the timber men together and urged them to organize to handle the order, promising that the Government would give them every moral support and would be prepared to even give financial assistance. The Minister asserted that he was not seeking to "toot his own horn," but he believed the efforts of his department had proved successful, and in this connection, he pointed to the fact that a few years ago the annual export in relation to the annual cut had been twenty-four per cent, and by 1916 it had dropped to four per cent, consequent upon the complete organization in the United States and lack of organization in British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo quoted from remarks by Mr. J. O. Cameron, prominent lumber man, in a recent speech before the Forestry conference here, in which he referred to that British order and the necessity of an organization to handle it. The Timber Export Association had been formed and had efficiently handled that large order. That organization had sold up to September 1, 1921, 218,556,000 feet, and total shipments to the same date had been 308,776,000 feet. In 1910 exports of British Columbia lumber totalled 73,000,000 feet, the annual exports gradually decreasing to 45,000,000 in 1916, but since that year the exports had steadily risen until they were 146,000,000 in 1920, and for the first six months of the present year they stood at 80,000,000 feet.

### Getting Results

"In view of these results it is clear that the efforts of the Department to stimulate the lumber trade are meeting with splendid success in the immediate present, and the real value of the work will be more fully apparent in the future," said Hon. Mr. Pattullo, who touched upon the great importance of the forest protection work and the efforts to conserve forest wealth. He had no fear that the larger forest areas of the Province would be denuded within the next few years. The annual growth exceeds the annual cut and annual waste through fires, etc., by a large margin, but that should not obviate the necessity of the Government carefully conserving this great natural resource. Preservation of natural growth was best done by forest protection and the improved system of patrols, airship inspection and improved equipment had proved their worth. This year the cost of such protection was \$97,000, compared with \$250,000 last year.

On the subject of land settlement, Hon. Mr. Pattullo declared that the policy of the Land Settlement Board had proved of the utmost importance not alone in placing settlers on the land, but also materially reducing prices of land along the G.T.P. There might have been some mistakes made, but the Board profited by a valuable and difficult experience.

"There has been a lot of nonsense talked about settlers," declared the Minister of Lands. "It is easy to talk of community settlements where the settlers enjoy all the conveniences

of town life, but when this Province is going into mixed farming on farms of large area you cannot expect close settlement. Men who go on the land must be prepared to work and work hard. It is wrong to inculcate in the minds of the people that the Government must spend large sums to aid the settlers. The latter must be prepared to go on the land, work their hardest under difficult conditions, and if they do they will undoubtedly make good through their own efforts. There are too many fireside farmers who are not prepared to go out, use self-denial and face hard work."

**Land Settlement**

The Minister held that efforts should be made to settle up the less heavily timbered lands and those easily irrigated, and such areas as the Sumas Lake, where reclamation plans are feasible. To clear and settle the heavily timbered lands would not prove an economic success, he held.

The necessity of immigration to build up the country was urged by Hon. Mr. Pattullo, who knew that many deemed it unwise to bring in immigrants while unemployment is so acute, but such a theory would get the Province nowhere, he considered. The inflow of immigration would create a movement that would be reflected in every line. Having in view the great undeveloped areas and resources of Canada and its sparse population, the sine qua non is more population, every man settled would mean work for another man in the towns. The various overseas Dominions were hard after British emigrants and while Great Britain was not anxious to see her best type of people depart, yet she is tired of paying doles to the unemployed and has arranged to aid such emigrants to settle within the Empire. But perhaps British Columbia could not assimilate many of that type, for conditions here required that the newcomer should be possessed of capital.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo spoke at length upon the irrigation policy of the Government, maintaining it has proved a success. He was promptly contradicted by Mr. W. A. McKenzie, Conservative member for Similkameen, when he charged the latter with having stated the \$500,000 Conservation Fund for irrigation purposes had been but a political fund. As a matter of fact, up to date the Government had put into that fund \$1,400,000, and the work accomplished had already come back to the people. The districts affected were quite capable of repaying that advance.

The work of Agent-General F. C. Wade, in London, was eulogized by the Minister, who declared he doubted if any other man in British Columbia is as capable of securing as high class publicity for the Province. In this connection he told of how on his visit to England he received assurance of the advent into British Columbia of British capital for development of hydro-electric enterprises at Campbell River, of development of an iron and steel industry and of the assurances he received in Eastern Canada of the development of pulp and paper enterprises at Prince George. Of the "dire predictions" he had heard of the fate of the Government, the Minister declared he was tired of the waste of talk and time in the House, of the "little tattle and small-town talk." He declared the average politician is as honest as the average business man, and the Government had done nothing to indicate that the renewal of the people's confidence expressed last December was not justified. The legislation passed by the Government warranted the full support of the people to the end that its programme may be carried through, he held.

**CHARGES GOVERNMENT WITH EXTRAVAGANCE**

**Mr. W. K. Esling, Conservative Member for Rossland, Claims Investigation Needed Into P.G.E. Construction**

Charging waste of public moneys in the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and asserting that one-half of the amount so wasted during the past two years would build the University of British Columbia, Mr. W. K. Esling, Conservative member for Rossland, dealt at length in the Legislature yesterday afternoon with the alleged sins of commission and omission by the Government in its prosecution of that enterprise. He held that an investigation should be had into the whole matter.

The member for Rossland, in speaking in the debate on the address, declared:

"The people of British Columbia must wake up, because this Government has put the Province on the financial rocks. Many of its sins are trivial in comparison with the outstanding fact that we are so much in debt that we must raise seventeen millions each year for fixed charges, including interest and sinking funds, administration and schools, before we can spend one cent on public works. In 1916 the public debt was \$20,000,000; in five brief years it has increased to nearly \$65,000,000. During the past six months it has increased \$15,000,000, and in that brief time every one of the 600,000 people which the census credits to British Columbia is burdened with an additional tax of \$16 per year."

**Revenues Falling?**

The member for Rossland held that the real reason why the expenditure on road works had been stopped last Summer was not that the work might be done when most needed in the Fall but because the taxpayer of the Province had not produced sufficient to keep up with the reckless outlays by the Government, and when revenues came in the Bank of Commerce got it "while the getting was good." The public had not heard much about Provincial bond flotations during the past year, Mr. Esling stated, not because there was none but because it was not a pleasant subject to speak about.

In March last, he said, the Government floated \$2,000,000 in New York funds and the bank grabbed it all; in April a loan of three millions, also in New York, was floated and the bank took it all. Then the Minister of Finance tried again and a Canadian loan of \$3,000,000 was floated and the bank took it all. As money failed to come in in revenue as fast as the Government required it for its high-priced projects, another \$2,000,000 loan was floated in July of which the bank took \$1,800,000, leaving the Government \$200,000 for spending money. Since July another five millions had been borrowed, though how much of this the bank took did not appear.

"The only bonds the Minister of Finance has not tried to float are the bonds of confidence and sympathy which bind the Premier to his ministers and members," said the member for Rossland. Was it any wonder, he suggested, that every man and woman in the Province may have to be taxed one per cent on his pay cheque. Every property owner who paid Provincial taxes will have those taxes increased ten per cent in 1922, in other words, instead of getting the usual ten per cent rebate for payment on due date, that rebate is abolished, which is nothing more or less than a ten per cent increase and the taxpayer is penalized.

**Charges Extravagance**

Referring to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, Mr. Esling gave it as his opinion that opposition is not being shown to the building of the road to Prince George, but to the extravagant disbursements to the

which is the funnel into which the Government moneys are being poured. "The amount so far spent is so huge that the Government is ashamed to state it. I have it on the best authority that the Government expected to complete the line for \$6,000,000, and if the Minister of Railways says that is not true I am prepared to prove it by Government employees," declared the member for Rossland, who pointed to the fact that for the first time since the present Government took over the P.G.E. project there has been presented to the House a statement of accounts which, he held, was wholly unsatisfactory and intentionally confusing.

"In the speech it is stated that the provision made at the last session for the road will prove adequate for the completion of the road to Prince George and that no further funds will be asked. That really means that the Premier knows full well that it is dangerous to ask for more money, because to do so would mean defeat," declared Mr. Esling. He referred to the fact that the auditors' statement accompanying the statement presented to the House set forth, "We have not examined the accounts of the Construction Company," therefore, he held, the statement was a mere camouflage, purposely confusing and misleading. He asked why there had never been printed the original contract with the Northern Construction Company. Apparently, he said, it was the disposition of the Premier to sidetrack anything connected with the P. G. E.

**A Verbal Clash**

"Be more specific. That statement is not warranted by the facts," interjected Premier Oliver.

"I asked several questions last Spring and the Premier went after me roughshod by reason of my not having asked them earlier in the session," retorted Mr. Esling.

Premier Oliver—Has my friend ever asked for a copy of the agreement?

Mr. Esling—No, I have a copy of it.

Premier Oliver—Then why worry about it?

Mr. Esling—Let the people know the details.

An interruption by Mr. G. S. Hanes, who sought to correct a statement by the Premier, led Mr. Speaker to rule the North Vancouver member out of order. A few minutes later the Premier himself was on his feet, which led Mr. Hanes to call attention to the Speaker's ruling, and Mr. Speaker admonished the members to cause fewer interruptions, stating he would not stand for any three-cornered debate.

Mr. Esling argued that from the statement itself as audited, after paying outstanding accounts amounting to about \$500,000, there would be left at the most only another half million available for further construction into Prince George, and that amount would be pretty well consumed for bond interest, so that the statement showed there would be little or no money available. It followed, he held, that the Government would have to shut down work any day or else carry on and incur liabilities without any authority from the House.

**Rossland's Treatment**

Pointing to the fact that in connection with municipal aid the city of Rossland asked no favors, Mr. Esling held it should be given the money it would receive were it permitted to tax the land and improvements of mining companies. Those companies paid a 2 per cent tax to the Province on ore mined and were exempt from municipal levy. The producing mines had yielded in the past twenty years in excess of \$30,000,000, and had paid into the Provincial treasury \$700,000, and in return for the loss Rossland sustained the Provincial Government had handed back in special grants \$140,000, or much less than could have been collected by the city from the lands and improvements of those mines.

Mr. Esling scoffed at the Minister of Lands going to Sweden to gather facts about nitrate plants and water power development. He asked if the Minister was aware that United States capital has expended \$100,000 in developing water power on the Pond O'Reille River and has one of the greatest nitrate experts as their adviser, and yet the Government would not advance a cent to improve the road in order to permit the concern to get in machinery. The expense of the Minister's trip to Europe would have built that road, Mr. Esling said. Mr. G. S. Haneswood, Conservative member for Rossland, advised the

## TAXATION BURDEN NOW AT BREAKING POINT

Richmond's Member Calls  
Upon Government to Halt in  
Extravagance on Non-  
Essentials

That the Government in its taxation has about reached the breaking point and suggesting that it should "Stop, Look, Listen." Mr. Thomas Pearson, Conservative member for Richmond, in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, in contributing his share to the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, held there was ample foundation for the criticisms being heard on every hand against extravagance of the administration.

Curtailment of excessive outlays on projects not imperative under existing conditions must be made, he insisted, and he made an eloquent plea for utilization of some such moneys in making of the University of British Columbia an institution worthy of the Province and adequate to meet the demands upon it.

The Speech from the Throne, the speaker suggested, was distinguished only by its brevity. He would have liked to see some more lengthy reference to matters of supreme public interest, but the members could secure little enlightenment on the Government's policies from the document presented.

### Time to Halt

Complimenting the third member for Victoria (Mr. Clearihue) on his able reply in which he devoted considerable time to increased taxation, in this connection Mr. Pearson asked "have we not reached the breaking point? Have we not taxed everybody and everything? Can you picture the overburdened taxpayer with a sheaf of tax bills staring him in the face, and in his agony, exclaiming, 'O Death! where is thy sting?' While we have the power to increase taxation, are we going to exercise that power? It may be reasonable in some directions, yet in this we could say, 'Stop, Look, Listen,' and if you listen at the present time you will hear many criticisms of extravagant administration. Is there not some justification of such criticism? I would suggest that the third member for Victoria should have gone further and have suggested in no uncertain terms—Economy. In our private affairs we must practice economy; our expenditures must not exceed our revenue, therefore why should we exercise our power to increase taxation and continue extravagance in every department. Let me suggest with all seriousness to the heads of spending departments that they consider our unfortunate financial position and curtail and cut off many of the unnecessary expenditures which would represent an astounding amount of money. Let the Government do this and the taxpayers, including the big delegation that came over yesterday, would be presenting the Government with bouquets and possibly iron crosses."

### University Needs

The University problem at Point Gray was next touched upon, the member for Richmond returning to the fight to have some definite action taken by the Government in this regard. It was, he said, a subject of vital importance to the large portion of the public and, especially, that portion interested in higher education of their families. This subject had not been suggested in the King's speech and, to say the least, it was decidedly disappointing to those persons connected with the University and especially to the students.

"I wonder," he asked, "how many of the members of the House know the conditions under which the students are obliged to work at the temporary buildings known as the University of British Columbia. Altogether there are 1,000 students working to qualify for life's struggle

in competition with graduates coming from other colleges where every advantage is given the students. Today the greatest financial burden of the municipalities is due to the finding suitable schools and teachers for our young people, and I want to say to the House that those municipalities are doing wonderful work. Yet when these children pass through the public and high schools and seek higher education, and if they are successful in getting in the overcrowded University, their real troubles begin. Can you imagine lectures being repeated three times because of the smallness of the teachers' rooms? Yet that is the case."

### Greater Need Today

In 1920 provision was made authorizing the borrowing of money for the erection of the new buildings, Mr. Pearson said. If it was considered there was a real need at that time, then there certainly was a greater

need today. So when one realized that some of the students are obliged to complete their course in Oregon, Guelph and other universities, and when it was patent the University was not serving only the coast cities and there are seventy-six districts of the Province represented in the University today, therefore was not this question of sufficient importance to receive a passing mention in the King's speech. Surely the Government was sincere in 1920. Therefore was there reason to doubt its sincerity at this late day when one knows the conditions now existing.

Mr. Pearson asked whether the University was not of more importance than the \$400,000 grant to the B.C.E.R. for changing the rule of the road, of the \$600,000 appropriated for the Prince Rupert courthouse. The same applied, he thought, to the Sumas reclamation scheme at a cost over one million dollars, with a chance of it again becoming a swamp that will swamp any unfortunate being who may have courage to take a chance on it.

The Campbell warehouse deal was also referred to as being of much less importance than the University.

Mr. Pearson finished his speech with an appeal to the Government and the members in general to give serious consideration to the crying need of the University and to eliminate the waste of money being spent on temporary buildings which will have to be abandoned to the general hospital under an agreement once the Point Gray site is occupied.

## MR. BOWSER'S CHARGES TO COME BEFORE HOUSE

By Slightly Amending Original  
Notice to Which Speaker  
Objected, House Can Pass  
Upon Request for Inquiry

The notice of motion of Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C., Conservative leader, asking for the appointment of a select committee of the Legislature to inquire into the dealings of the Provincial Liquor Board, finally reached the order-paper yesterday afternoon, after it had been slightly changed in form to tone down some of the direct allegations, which were made in the original notice filed on Wednesday afternoon, but which Mr. Speaker ruled he did not consider should be allowed to be published in the form in which they first appeared, the Speaker holding that should the allegations be allowed to go before the House it would be taken that the House agreed with the charges.

The original notice of Mr. Bowser set forth his allegations in a series of paragraphs, each beginning with the word "whereas." This word has been dropped and heading the whole notice of motion appears the words: "That whereas we are credibly informed and do believe that we will be able to establish by satisfactory evidence—"

The remaining portion of the notice of motion is similar to the original so far as the charges are concerned.

The committee asked for is Messrs. Whiteside, Ramsay, Paterson, Clearihue, Hanes, Pooley, and Bowser. The notice will be moved by Mr. Bowser on Wednesday afternoon next.

## CURIOUS MEMBERS ASK VARIED INFORMATION

Mr. Pooley Is Interested in  
Motor Cars and Mr. Neelands  
Wants Pointers on  
One-Man Car

While the Department of Public Works rejoices in the possession of thirty-three motor cars which cost \$27,115; the Department of Agriculture has twenty-six, costing \$22,704, and the Department of Mines finds use for seven, costing \$5,658, the Department of the Minister of Railways contents itself with one lonesome Ford costing \$970, and the Minister of Finance has no use for a motor vehicle in his department.

This information was given in replies filed yesterday afternoon by the various Ministers to questions put by Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimaux, asking for the number of cars utilized in each department and the cost thereof.

Mr. Bowser will on Tuesday next ask the Minister of Finance what amounts have been borrowed by the Government from all sources since it took office, from whom borrowed, and under what authority; the rate of interest paid, and other details, what amount is owing to the Bank of Commerce, the total capital liabilities of the Province, etc.

Mr. W. A. McKenzie, Conservative member for Similkameen, is seeking information from the Minister of Lands relative to well-boring at the town of Oliver and outlays for erection of a tank which, he suggests, would not hold water. The member also asks details of a water system installed at Oliver, and whether it was necessary to relay pipe line, and the cost thereof. Mr. McKenzie also wants facts concerning the washout of part of the main irrigation ditch on the South Okanagan development scheme.

Mr. Sam Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, will ask the Attorney-General if the latter has any information as to the Granby Company operating at Cassidy not observing Section 19 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and, if so, what steps have been taken to force the company to obey the law, and, if no prosecution has been launched, why not.

Mr. R. H. Neelands, Labor member for South Vancouver, has a series of questions directed to Premier Oliver, asking if the B. C. Electric Railway Company has applied for permission to operate one-man cars in any cities or municipalities, and, if so, has such permission been granted, and have the authorities in the cities and towns concerned been consulted on the matter, and what, if any, of them have expressed approval of the plan, and has the Government taken into consideration the question of added unemployment that will naturally follow introduction of such cars.

Mr. Neelands also asks why the Government, on October 6, by order-in-council, repealed a clause in the Tramway Act to allow of operation of one-man cars, and what steps has the Government taken to ensure the segregation of the cost of the alteration to street cars necessitated through the change of the rule of the road from the expenditures on alteration of cars that are being converted from the two-man to one-man type, and the repairing of old cars, all of which work is being done by the company at the same time. Is the company contributing to the cost of conversion of two-man cars to one-man cars?

## SPEAKER READS PRAYERS

Hereafter Ministers of Gospel Will  
Not Officiate Daily in Provin-  
cial House

Mr. Speaker Manson has brought into effect a new procedure in the Legislature, under which the custom hitherto in vogue of having some minister of the gospel read the prayers at the beginning of each day's sitting has been eliminated.

At the opening session of the House a minister read prayers, Rev. Mr. Spence officiating. Since then, however, the daily prayers have been read by Mr. Speaker, and this practice will hereafter be followed.

## DON'T WISH TO WAIT ON OTHER PROVINCES

Independent Members Seek to  
Have Tentative Measures  
Passed Last Year Made Ef-  
fective Next May

Not content to await that time when all the Provinces of the Dominion enact legislation bringing into effect an eight-hour day, Major R. J. Durde, M.C., Independent member for Alberta, has introduced in the Legislature a bill entitled "An act to amend the Hours of Work Act" whereby, if approved, the act passed at last year's session providing for the eight-hour day when other Provinces of the Dominion pass similar legislation, will be altered to make it come into effect on May 1, 1922.

At last year's session, too, legislation governing the night employment of young persons, the night employment of women, the employment of children and the Maternity Protection Act was passed all, as in the case of the Hours of Work Act coming into effect only when the other Provinces passed similar laws.

Amendments to the last year's legislation have been presented by Messrs. Neelands, Guthrie, Uphill and Hanes, all Independent members, the amendments being designed to make all such acts effective on May 1 next irrespective of what action the other Provinces take.

Each of the amending bills was introduced in the House yesterday and given their first reading.

Mr. M. B. Jackson, Liberal member for The Islands, is back again with the bill he introduced last year and which was rejected, one dealing with the erection of advertising hoardings. The aim of the bill is to regulate such hoardings at Active Pass and other scenic points. The bill was given its first reading.

A bill to amend the Real Estate Agents Licensing Act was presented by Attorney-General Farris. It provides that the act passed last year providing for licensing real estate agents shall not apply to any person in respect of any mine or mining property within the meaning of the Mineral Act or the Placer Mining Act, or in respect of real estate comprised in any Crown grant of a mineral claim under the Mineral Act. The bill was given its first reading.

By a bill to amend the Weekly Half-Holiday Act, presented by the Attorney-General, it is provided that every shop required to be closed under the act shall also be closed for the serving of customers during the entire day on the following public holidays: Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and any day appointed by proclamation and declared to be a public holiday for the purposes of Section 14 of the Weekly Half-Holiday Act.

### NO NEED EXISTS

On a number of occasions it has been pointed out that methods can be devised to give municipalities the financial relief they require without any new taxation being imposed, either Provincial or municipal. We would like to emphasize the point that the present is a most unfortunate time to put into force any taxes over and above those already paid, which, as they stand, are so onerous that they undoubtedly constitute a reason why progress is being retarded in this Province. One of our outstanding needs is to devise methods to restore business confidence, or, in other words, to increase the buying power of the public. When that buying power is interfered with production suffers, and the development of natural resources is retarded. Taxation in its incidence should be designed to safeguard the interests of the people as a whole, that is to say, it must have a limit, set by the ability of the people to pay without interfering with their productive efforts.

A new and lucrative source of revenue has been found in this Province through the introduction of Government control of the sale of liquor. During the first year of its operation this system is going to produce a net profit, through permits and sales, of at least \$2,500,000, and, perhaps, a sum substantially larger. Now the Provincial Government does not propose to give aid to municipalities in excess of this amount, indeed it is questionable if what has been offered reaches this sum. The probability is that as the operation of the Liquor Control Act in the course of time passes the experimental stage, the profits derived by the Government will steadily increase with the growth of population. On this account the Government can look forward to an expanding revenue through this form which is entirely voluntary for the people to pay. The profits from liquor control will be large enough to pay for all Provincial needs over and above those now provided for by the taxation which is in force.

It is the taxation burden on land which has led municipalities to the impasse where they have to secure financial relief. It is a reduction in the taxation on land which will eventually bring about stability in the municipal financial situation. Those people who find the utmost difficulty in paying taxes on the land they have will certainly not be able to pay new imposts on top of the burden which they already bear. The same argument might be more widely applied, and there is general recognition that taxation in this Province has reached its limit, and neither the pockets nor the patience of the people can be taxed any more. We have shown that the receipts from Government sale of liquor will cover the policy of aid to municipalities. If Prohibition was still in effect, then the people might legitimately look forward to heavier taxation, but with the new source of revenue there is no need for new imposts. The people in voting for Government control realized it would be a method of preventing the possibility of fresh taxation. There are many who believe that the profits being derived should lead the Government to effect reductions in its imposts. The latter possibility will loom up in a couple of years, but in the meantime there should be a clear realization that in the public interests it is highly desirable that there should be no new taxation in this Province. Business conditions are too precarious to warrant any such risk.

## RESUME DEBATE MONDAY

Mr. J. A. Catherwood Will Lead Off  
When Legislature Takes Up  
Its Work

Tomorrow the House will resume the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, with Mr. J. A. Catherwood, Conservative member for Dewdney, leading off.

It is not expected that the debate will be concluded before the end of the week at earliest, and it may drag on into the following week, for Premier Oliver and Mr. W. J. Bowser, Conservative leader, will speak, and a number of the other big guns are slated to add their share to the discussion.

A number of Mainland members went over to Vancouver, on Friday night to revisit their findings and take advantage of the week-end recess.

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## PRESENTS PLEA FOR NICOMEN SETTLERS

### Conservative Member for Dewdney Raps Government for Failure to Conserve Inter- ests of Farmers

An amendment to the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, introduced by Mr. John A. Catherwood, Conservative member for Dewdney, regretting the fact that the attitude of the Government toward the petition of settlers in dyked areas for effective action toward securing their dykes against destruction by erosion of river banks, featured the debate on the Speech in the House yesterday afternoon.

The member for Dewdney, armed with considerable correspondence as regards Nicomen Island, which has been a matter of difference between the Provincial and Dominion Governments for several years, dealt with the present financial status of the settlers in that region who, according to Mr. Catherwood, have suffered a loss of their crops two years in succession and are about at the end of their tether.

Mr. Catherwood said he regretted very much the attitude of the Premier and the Government in respect to the petition presented by the settlers of Nicomen Island, and backed up by the boards of trade of New Westminster, Vancouver and Mission. Disaster had befallen these settlers two years in succession, so that they had become dissatisfied, disheartened, and a great many of them broke financially. The area affected was between four and five thousand acres, and had a population of about 400, all happy and contented people who were engaged in the small fruit business prior to the two floods of 1920 and 1921, respectively. The loss during the two years had amounted to something like \$280,000.

Surely, asked Mr. Catherwood, if Sumas prairie was worth reclaiming at a cost of \$60 to \$100 an acre, Nicomen Island is worth protecting at \$30 an acre, especially in view of the settler being on the ground there.

#### Dominion's Offer

In his evidence presented yesterday, Mr. Catherwood stated that in 1920 the Dominion Government had agreed to go fifty-fifty in the matter of dyke protection and repeated the offer in 1921.

This offer, according to the Dewdney member, still stands, although the Premier, at a recent meeting held in Vancouver, when delegates of the above mentioned boards of trade were present, had gone on record as being opposed to the spending of money on the island for dyke protection.

Referring back to the situation in 1910, Mr. Catherwood charged Premier Oliver with flibustering against other Governments, meaning the then McBride regime, which was in power. He cited an instance in 1910 where Mr. Pugsley, when Minister of Public Works at Ottawa, proposed a vote in repayment to the municipality of Delta of money spent on protection work, and made the payment conditional of a like amount from Victoria. Being asked why this proviso appeared, Mr. Pugsley said it was suggested to him by Mr. John Oliver, who represented it as the duty of the Government at Victoria to make this contribution.

During all these years, stated Mr. Catherwood, the Ottawa Government had been spending money freely for river works under the camouflage of supposed improvement to navigation. But always there had been a disclaimer from Ottawa of responsibility for river bank protection generally, either in British Columbia or elsewhere.

A few months after the letter of Mr. Pugsley referred to, Mr. Oliver became the candidate of the Ottawa Government for the district in which Nicomen Island is situated. As a candidate he supported all features of the policy of the then Government.

But when this Mr. Oliver became member for the district at Victoria and a minister there, and found a Government of another stripe at Ottawa, his attitude suddenly changed. He commenced a flibuster against Ottawa at the cost of the unfortunate farmers at Nicomen, claimed Mr. Catherwood, who foolishly had believed his professions of friendship for them. By himself and his colleagues he claimed that the Provincial Government had no responsibility for the protection of river banks, and that they did not carry on such work in the province. Not content with repudiating all responsibility for the future, Mr. Oliver, claimed Mr. Catherwood, became the censor and critic of federal assistance in the past and is credited with dictating, if not writing, a message to Ottawa claiming that recent large federal expenditures with the hope of aiding Nicomen were responsible for the disaster of 1916.

"This offer of co-operation, with the heavy burden on Ottawa and the light one on Victoria, is still good, but the Premier, in face of representations, plans to leave the settlers to their fate so long as the present ministry rules at Victoria."

As a member of the legislature representing the district confronted with the ruin he had described, Mr. Catherwood felt it was incumbent upon him to secure a verdict from the House on the case, and he therefore moved the following amendment:

"This House regrets the attitude of the Government towards the petition of settlers in dyked areas for effective action towards securing their dykes against destruction by erosion of river banks."

## HAS CRITICISM FOR GOVERNMENT

### Mr. H. G. Perry, Member for Fort George, Talks in Plain Terms to Administration— Energetic Measures Needed

Warm criticism of Government policy was voiced in the Legislature yesterday by Mr. H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, who, advance notices would indicate, might prove to be a recalcitrant supporter of the administration. Mr. Perry, in the debate on the reply to the address to the speech from the Throne, almost lived up to expectations in his general survey of conditions in the Province, and more especially of those affecting his own riding. There was only one "boost" for the Government which he was elected to support. He strongly approved of the completion of the P. G. E. in Prince George, his own political stamping grounds, and its projection into the Peace River district, "no matter what it costs."

Outside of that, Mr. Perry's address was a strong condemnation of the Government. His criticisms received frequent and hearty applause from the Opposition benches.

#### Municipal Aid

Expressing his pleasure that the Government proposes to grant to the municipalities financial aid, chief among which is the personal property tax, which he opined should be more than sufficient to place the municipalities upon a sound financial basis, the member for Fort George suggested that it was necessary that this tax should be restricted in the way of operation as to limit the mill rate to the end so that it would apply to certain classes. It should be optional for the municipalities to face the facts because all the municipalities are not in the same financial position as Victoria and Vancouver are represented to be. He did not think that Victoria had gone to its limit in taxation, and to prove his assertion he cited figures to prove that this municipality is less taxed than other cities in the West. In fact, in this respect, he drew the conclusion that Victoria must be a desirable place to live. For instance, in Victoria the tax is \$25.26 compared with \$36.20 in Vancouver, \$42.66 in Edmonton, \$36 in Calgary, and \$50 in Regina. He urged strongly that the minister in charge of municipal affairs should have larger

powers of veto, asserting that the present direction of affairs by the Inspector of Municipalities permitted waste and did not give a direct supervision of matters pertaining to municipalities.

#### Too Great Delay

Mr. Perry criticized the delay under the present system in connection with the supervision of Inspector of Municipalities, and he commented upon the fact that recent press reports intimated that the liquor board had a "Christmas Box" to offer to the municipalities. If that was the case he saw no reason why that aid should not be given immediately, especially in respect of hospitals, which, it was well known, were running behind.

Relative to the suggestion of the Speech from the Throne that there would be amendments to the Taxation Act, the member for Fort George declared it was a certainty that the people of the Province expected reduced taxation. It had been rumored that it was proposed to inflict an income tax on all incomes and to wipe out the \$1,500 for married persons and the \$1,200 exemption for single persons.

#### Wrongful Ideas

"I cannot believe that such a proposal ever emanated from the Minister of Finance. It is recognized by all who have studied the taxation problem, that the best, safest and surest method is to tax luxuries and unearned increment and make those who are able, pay. Is it a luxury to earn \$1,500 a year? Certain it is not unearned increment. Many a man getting \$1,500 works harder for his money than one who gets \$15,000. It means that the unfortunate who may be out of work the greater part of the year must be taxed. Is it difficult to find new

sources of income in view of the tremendous demands upon us? Let me suggest that in British Columbia the tax on companies and corporations (assuming a population of 718,000), is: British Columbia, 15 cents per head; Alberta, 64 cents; Saskatchewan, 77 cents; Manitoba, \$1.95; Ontario, 62 cents; Quebec, 67 cents; New Brunswick, 36 cents; Nova Scotia, 53 cents, and P. E. I., 30 cents. British Columbia could well afford to raise her impost on companies."

He also quoted figures that the tax on motors was less in British Columbia than in the other provinces, being 49 cents per capita, compared with \$1 in Alberta, 92 cents in Saskatchewan, and 61 cents in Manitoba. He suggested that a one cent tax per gallon gasoline, and also, if the Government should grant sale of beer by the glass, a one cent tax on each glass, suggesting that that would go down better.

The member for Fort George was emphatic in his declaration that it was time to reduce expenses. He asserted that the general cost of Government is higher here than in any other Province in the Dominion. The fact that the Province controlled its own natural resources meant higher administrative costs yet existing costs of administration, he claimed, are "outrageously high." And to prove his point he said that in British Columbia these outlays amounted to \$4 per capita compared with \$1.73 in Alberta and \$0.85 in Saskatchewan.

#### Pleads for Economy

"What we want is an economy committee to see where we can pare down the outlays," declared the member for Fort George who, however, while pointing to the increase in the public debt, declared that such increase was not too large provided it went into channels where it would stimulate production. But he urged that in the expenditures it was imperatively necessary for the Government to co-operate with the people in developing plans.

The necessity of new roads was emphasized by Mr. Perry, who expressed his pleasure that the Government had arrived at a decision as to the location of the transprovincial highway, and he suggested that the Minister of Public Works should take into consideration the work already done in Alberta, the work along the lines of the G.T.P., and that advantage be taken of that highway through Tete Juane Cache to connect with the Jasper route.

In referring to the Speech from the Throne relative to an extension of the work of the department of insurance, the member for Fort George referred to the necessity of some authority to the towns in the North to govern building regulations and fire protection methods. It had been suggested, he said, that such powers might be given to local organizations such as to local boards of trade, provided

There was no additional outlays demanded, he would favor extension of the work.

Referring to the P.G.E., he said: "This is the time when we should have faith and optimism in this line. We must carry it out to Pouce Coupe and connect with the Alberta line," he said, pointing to the traffic which would thereby result. He hoped the Premier would continue negotiations with the Alberta Government to the end that connection would be made.

**Closure Policy Wrong**

Pointing to the possible oil resources of the Hudson Hope section and referring to the work of the Imperial Oil Company in Alberta near Pouce Coupe, Mr. Perry suggested to the Minister of Lands that the Government outlays on exploratory drilling cease and the area be thrown open to the public for development. Last year at Grand Prairie, he said, nearly one million was collected in licence fees on oil leases. More than that could be secured in the Hudson Hope area on the British Columbia side if the area was thrown open. To do so would expedite development.

Among other suggestions made by the member for Fort George was legislation giving workmen employed by defunct lumber companies a lien for their deferred wages ahead of the Government's claim for delinquent royalties and stumping dues. He strongly upheld the policy of the Land Settlement Board in opening areas in the North, claiming that over 183 settlers had been located, 26,000 acres of land sold, and 24,000 acres actually brought under cultivation, a great advance upon the indiscriminate settlement methods in previous years. He also approved the Government's policy of aiding creameries, a great advantage to the settlers. But he strongly criticized the appraisals made by the settlement board in those areas, declaring them to be "absurd," and he quoted instances where settlement area lands had been sold by the board for \$11 per acre and resold to other settlers for \$18 and \$20, and yet these latter owners had received notices from the board that it would sell the same lands at \$6 per acre. Something was wrong, he said, and he suggested better methods on the part of the board.

**People Are Wondering**

The member for Fort George objected to the road work in his constituency being cut down and he remarked, "It is all very well for me as a Government member to tell them that the Government has not the money, but I want to tell you that the people there are intelligent, and when they see that you are paying \$150,000 for one liquor warehouse in Vancouver, and \$15,000 for another in Victoria, and \$280 a month rental for head offices, to say nothing of other outlays, they wonder why they are denied necessary road facilities. He advised the Premier and members of this Government to look towards the east and see the handwriting on the wall and take notice therefrom."

"Hear hear" from numerous members of the Conservative opposition.

**PRESS GALLERY OFFICERS**

Mr. Russell Walker, Vancouver, Again Named to Head Newspaper Body

Members of the Press Gallery of the Provincial Legislature held their annual meeting yesterday and elected the following officers:

Honorary President: Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands.

Honorary vice-presidents: Hon. Dr. King, Minister of Public Works, and W. J. Bowser, K.C.

President: Mr. Russell B. Walker, Vancouver Province.

Secretary: Vic. E. Andrew, New Westminster, B.C.

**FORT GEORGE MEMBER SPRINGS SENSATION**

**Demands Dismissal of Head of Game Conservation Board, Charges Illegal Dealings by Government Agents**

Strong criticism of the policy adopted by the Game Conservation Board, or, specifically, Dr. A. R. Baker, head of that body, in connection with the administration of the game regulations, especially in respect of beaver; a demand for the resignation of Dr. Baker, and a pointed suggestion to Premier Oliver that the time has arrived when the Premier must take steps to oust certain individuals in the Government employ, who, he claimed, have failed to enforce the laws and have brought the administration into disrepute, were made by Mr. H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, in the Legislature yesterday.

Mr. Perry, who was speaking in the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, was expected to hand the Government a severe castigation. It had been rumored that he was anything but satisfied with the game regulations promulgated by the Game Board under the direction of Dr. Baker. In fact it was reported that he had urged, and had been promised by the Premier, an investigation into the operations of that gentleman. In his speech yesterday he alleged that Dr. Baker had operated quite illegally, that the latter's superior, the chief game warden, knew nothing of the goings on of the board's chairman, and while he made no definite assertion, he declared that the entire Upper Country is convinced that in the operations concerning beaver there is every suggestion of graft.

**Creates Sensation**

The charges of the member for Fort George were listened to with close attention by Attorney-General Farris, under whose department the Game Board comes. The Opposition forces were clearly delighted with the Fort George member's speech.

"I recommend that the Game Board be abolished. It is serving no purpose and occasioning great expense. Let a committee of the House manage these matters and make regulations and also let us have a better and higher type of employee. I want to tell the Premier the time has arrived when a certain type of official must get out and give way to men who can adequately administer the laws. I don't believe the people of the Province want to change the Government at present, but I do think they want to see certain changes in departments. Unless this is done, the Government cannot survive."

Mr. Sam Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Perry, who at frequent intervals was applauded by the Opposition, pointed out that the estimated value of the furs shipped out of the Province last year was \$5,000,000, of which over one million came from the Fort George section. About two years ago the Game Board ordered a closed season on beaver, a good move along the lines of conservation, he held. And the trappers there commended such order. But during the last year something seemed to go wrong. He went at length into the position of the Indians in the North country, holding that despite any orders for a closed season they had a legal right to trap and kill.

**Indians Victimized**

During the war certain whites induced the Indians to sell hides for one or two dollars or for a glass of whisky, when such hides were actually worth \$20 or more apiece. A closed season was declared, but the game wardens failed to enforce its regulations, and it would have been easier to have operated through the Indian or Government agents, from whom the Indians would have got full value.

He held that Dr. Baker, without any proper authority from the Board, had appointed certain individuals, whose conduct he roundly criticized, to go through the North country and purchase beaver pelts. He recalled that he had wired the Attorney-General in July calling the condition of affairs to his notice, but the action taken by the Board did not reflect any credit upon the Attorney-General.

"It appeared to the people of my riding that the board's action—or, should I say, the action of the board's chairman irrespective of the board's action as such—was a plot. Certain individuals were selected by the board or by the chairman, were given money and sent out to buy beaver pelts. There was no check upon these men, not a voucher or paper to show what they paid."

Mr. J. W. Jones, South Okanagan—Where did they get the money?

**Got It From Baker**

"I presume they got it from Baker," retorted Mr. Perry. "I know the money was sent, and I know Dr. Baker himself was flashing money around the north country. I know one of these so-called fur buyers has disappeared, and I don't think he will come back."

Mr. Perry criticized the issuance of secret permits to these buyers who went through the North country following the board's declaration for a closed season. He told of their illegal efforts to locate beaver skins, smashing the settlers' cabins and breaking open baggage on the trains, and remarked that it was strange that these men never appeared to look in the right place, and he suggested that they should have looked nearer Vancouver.

"If ever there was a condition on a par with Russia, it was that, in my opinion," declared Mr. Perry, who quoted from a letter from the chief game warden, Superintendent of Provincial Police McMynn, in which the latter said he was surprised and sorry to hear that these men were sent out. He declared that the order of the board establishing a closed season on beaver was unknown to the trappers in the North and that suspicion was that a large number of skins had been secured by Dr. Baker's appointees and shipped down from the North before that order was known. "The people are wondering," he said, "and saying ugly things. The public there know that when skins are bought from one to two dollars apiece and can be sold for fifteen to twenty, that something is wrong. They get suspicious as to where the difference goes."

**The Reason**

In reply to his wire to the Attorney-General protesting against the Baker appointees buying skins in direct violation of the board's ruling for a closed season, the Attorney-General had replied that it was known that beaver skins were illegally shipped to Alberta and that it has been suggested that a regulation should be passed permitting of the skins to be sold to local fur traders.

"I want to say, not a skin was sold to a local buyer. Baker came to Prince George, but this high and mighty official, this dictator of the Government's policy, could not wait until I returned. He got the local fur buyers together and gave them a line of hot air. He gave them all permits to buy skins, which made matters all the worse, for all the buyers did not live at Prince George and he might have known of the scores of other buyers at other points.

Mr. Perry mentioned the fact that the Hudson's Bay factor at Fort McLeod knew nothing of permits to buy beaver, though the company had been keeping the Indians for two years, knowing that the Indians had skins and would ultimately come to the company, sell them and pay off their indebtedness. It was suddenly learned that the Indians had sold all their skins to these Government agents. Such a procedure, Mr. Perry claimed, was wholly unfair. Further, he said, it was strange that all shipments of beaver skins had been ordered brought to Vancouver, and no sale of skins there had been advertised though Baker had promised that a sale would be held.

That the Game Board had no legal right in the first place to order a closed season on beaver and that, secondly, the agents appointed to purchase such skins on behalf of the Government were Baker's henchmen rather than Government agents of

## Wants to Know

"I want to know how Baker had authority to do what he did? I believe the board did not do it. I accuse him of utter incompetency, and I'll let it go at that. He ought to resign at once. I want to tell you he was buying beaver skins in March and May, and yet the order-in-council prohibiting the sale of beaver skins, except to the Government, was not passed until July 26, after my wire to the Attorney-General. And I want to add that that order has not even yet been gazetted. It was all done very secretly. Is this board over the Government and over the Attorney-General's department? If so, then I for one want to know why?"

Mr. Perry quoted extensively from up-country papers to show their belief that a "tremendous graft" was somewhere being carried out.

"Baker is incompetent. First for not enforcing the law for having beaver in possession illegally, and secondly for breaking that law. The Indians were robbed; the traders were given permits to buy skins and then the Government came along and denied them the right to buy. If it was wrong for the traders, it was wrong for the Government. The whole transaction stinks in the nostrils of the people of the North," said Mr. Perry, who pointed to the fact, also, that there was something wrong when non-resident fur traders who, under the Government regulations, are required to pay \$200 for a licence to buy in the Province, could attend the Vancouver sale in large numbers, and yet but one non-resident licence has been issued. In fact, the worst these non-residents were called upon to pay was a resident fee, though in Alberta, in Winnipeg and other points a non-resident fee was enforced.

## An Illegal Order

Mr. Perry declared that the ostensible reason for the closed season on beaver, an order which, he declared, was illegally made, was to protect the Indians, who, he said, had during the war been the victim of the illicit fur trader. But it was strange that in the face of that order, which applied to the Government as well as to all others, Dr. Baker's henchmen could go out, supplied with money from some mysterious source, and deliberately break that regulation.

"It is time there was a change in some of these departments. The Government cannot afford to overlook these matters. I believe still in the great principles of Liberalism, but I want to warn the Government that the people will not stand for proceedings such as these. There are members of various departments who are not carrying the laws into effect. They must go. It is time for a show down in these matters," he said in conclusion.

## AGAINST HOARDINGS

## Mr. M. B. Jackson's Bill to Prevent Scenic Desecration Finds Opposition

The second annual fight waged by Mr. M. B. Jackson, Liberal member for the Islands, against the billboards that adorn Plumper's Pass, commenced yesterday in the House, when a bill regulating them and giving authority for their removal, if found necessary, was introduced for first reading.

At the last session the opposition was found to be too strong and the bill was withdrawn, but since then it is evident that the sponsor of the measure has been active. Already a lobby has been commenced against the bill, which has been promised a certain amount of support from both sides of the House.

Mr. Jackson's aim in securing passage of the bill is to eliminate what he claims to be unsightly advertising mediums from one of the scenic points of the Gulf of Georgia.

The matter will be discussed in the committee stage this week.

## AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The conditions at the Merville and Camp Lister settlements should be a warning that a new agricultural policy is wanted if the industry is to be advanced as rapidly in this Province as is desired. At both the settlements for ex-soldiers, what were believed to be strong inducements to remain on the land were given in the way of such assistance as it was believed would insure productive development. In the case of Camp Lister half the settlers have left, and those who remain are by no means satisfied with conditions. At Merville a commission has recently investigated conditions, and its findings show that the assistance given has been inadequate. At Merville settlers were given a period of three years before they were required to make payments on their land. The commission points out that they want this period extended to five years, and what is more, they want road work, both to provide means of transportation and to enable them to earn enough money until in the years to come they bring their farms into a sufficiently productive state so that they can earn a living and make their payments on the land and stock they have acquired.

These ex-soldiers have been located on specially selected lands and have been given assistance of a character that is offered to no other class of settler. In view of this it is in order to ask what benefits will follow a publicity campaign to attract settlers to British Columbia? It is true that settlers who are able to buy their land and stock outright, and are possessed of sufficient capital to tide them over until they can make the land sufficiently productive, have excellent opportunities here, as elsewhere, of making farming pay. It should be remembered, however, that in the vast majority of cases those who are attracted to Canada by governmental publicity are those who have not got the capital requisite for engaging successfully in the agricultural industry. It is not a pleasant confession to make, but the truth of it can hardly be controverted as the experience of the past shows. It is obvious that a new land settlement policy should antedate any renewed efforts to bring agricultural immigrants to this Province.

One of the causes for failure in the present land settlement policy is that it is directed mainly to the acquisition of revenue, and that it is not harmonized with and made a complement of agricultural development. Why land settlement and agriculture should be two distinctly separate departments of government, as they are in British Columbia, we are at a loss to know. Common sense should decree otherwise, and the Minister responsible for bringing in agricultural settlers should be the Minister whose duty it is to do everything in his power to make land settlement a success. From a practical standpoint the two duties are inseparable, and that they have been kept distinct is probably one of the reasons why such poor results have attended the efforts of the Government. Another reason is the lack of a co-ordinated agricultural policy designed to overcome the handicaps which exist in this Province. The whole question of land settlement needs overhauling, and the sooner the better for productive prosperity in British Columbia.

## GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN NEGLIGENT

Canon Hinchliffe, Victoria's Conservative Member, Says Liberals Failed to Deal With Unemployment

Asserting that the Government has failed to seriously grapple with the great problem of unemployment and has trusted too much to the chance of the problem righting itself, Canon Hinchliffe, Conservative member for Victoria, outlined yesterday in the Legislature some steps which could rightly be taken by the Government in at least ameliorating the condition of the workers, his suggestions being based upon his recent trip through construction camps along the line of the P.G.E. Railway.

Incidentally he referred to newspaper reports which had set forth that on his trip he had traveled under an assumed name and had attired himself in a manner to lead to the belief that he was a foreign workman seeking a job, his disguise having been penetrated at Quesnel when he was encountered by the members of the Legislature on their trip over the Government-owned line.

Canon Hinchliffe denied the truth of the statements in that newspaper yarn, and intimated that he understood it was the purpose of some members on the Government benches to hand him a "grilling." He intimated he was quite ready to meet any such attack.

Canon Hinchliffe was speaking in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Major R. J. Burde, M.C., soldier member for Alberni, moved the adjournment of the debate and will speak this afternoon.

### Raps Brevity of Speech

Pointing to the brevity of the speech from the throne, and suggesting that sometimes brevity could be bought at too great a price, and, in this instance, it had been bought by leaving out matters which should have been touched upon, and the Government's intentions in regard to which the people were entitled to information, Canon Hinchliffe held that the great question of unemployment should have been referred to—should, in fact, have been given pride of place, but it had not even been mentioned.

Unemployment, he held, was at the very root of most of the troubles confronting the Government, at the root of the financial needs of the municipalities which the Government was being called upon to aid, and it was because of that that the Legislature was summoned to the Fall sitting. If the laboring men of the Province had been in a sound and prosperous condition the municipalities would have had no difficulty in collecting taxes, and their financial position would not have become so acute, he said.

Referring to the various conferences which had been held between the municipal representatives and the Government, Canon Hinchliffe suggested that surely there must have been some result, some decision which the Government could properly have set forth in the speech and thereby give needed information to the members. The Government could hardly be ignorant of the real conditions of unemployment, and while its members were doubtless earning the \$15,000 to \$18,000 per year, it must know that there were large numbers of men throughout the Province who were unable to earn as many cents.

### Unemployment

In this matter of unemployment and its solution, the Government, Canon Hinchliffe stated, had trusted too much to chance, had, Micawber-like, waited for "something to turn up." During the Winter it had trusted that with the opening up of the camps, etc., in the Spring the situation would be relieved, or at least ameliorated. It was absolutely futile, he held, to ever suppose that work in the camps would ever give a real and

Canon Hinchliffe stated that the observations which he proposed to make on this question were based on his actual experience in a recent visit to various construction camps along the line of the P.G.E. Railway. There he had studied the actual conditions under which the workers lived and labored. He referred to certain newspaper reports which had him going under an assumed name, and he declared that, notwithstanding what those reports set forth, his trip had been made under his own name. In only one camp had he been asked his name, and there he had presented his P.G.E. Railway pass. In the other camps he had reported to the timekeepers and gave his proper name and stated the purpose of his visit, and had then been taken to "that autocrat the cook." He was everywhere greeted with friendship, and was made one of the fraternity, had paid for every meal but one, and that was the one the newspaper reports had stated was given to him by the Premier at Quesnel. Had that report been true, it would have said that he was forced by "the bluff and hospitable Premier" to partake of the meal.

Referring to the rumored "grilling" that he understood was to be administered to him by certain of the Government side based upon that newspaper report, Canon Hinchliffe stated his attire on that trip had been a proper one for the work, the oldest suit of clothes he then possessed. If the men along the line had received the impression that he was out of work they were nearer the truth than they knew, for from May 1 to the end of June he had actually been one of the great army of the unemployed.

### Canon Is Ready

"From the time I began my investigation until I closed it I used the name by which I am ordinarily known. At Quesnel I registered under an old pen-name. The reason I did so I will give after that grilling I am supposed to receive," said Canon Hinchliffe, who stated that he had made his trip to investigate two questions, unemployment, and why it is that men who are sent to the camps cannot or will not maintain themselves there; why it was that such employment is left to Swedes and Russians, and the British-born men will not take it, or, at least, will not continue at it. Also he had sought to ascertain whether it was true that returned men could not get work at the camps, or if they did, were they given the menial jobs.

"As far as I could see in the construction camps of the P. G. E., there was no discrimination against the returned soldier as such. I saw them there as timekeepers and in other of the better paid jobs. I saw also a returned soldier doing the hardest work, and I was sorry after what he had gone through, that was all he could get in a grateful country. But I was also glad to see he was doing that job cheerfully and manfully," said Canon Hinchliffe.

It was not lack of good food that was responsible for men not remaining in the camps, the speaker said, and he cited a bill-of-fare at one of the camps to show that food was abundant, varied and good. He ventured to say that he dined better at the camp than had those members on that legislative trip over the railway, a trip which was made while he was in the camps along the line. It was not that the men were overworked, for he saw no signs of any attempt at slave-driving, except, perhaps, in the case of the steel gangs, who had to keep ahead of machinery and received forty cents per hour for labor that took one dollar of stamina out of them.

### Bad Conditions

But, Canon Hinchliffe stated, the housing conditions were bad, the bunkhouses insanitary and vermin-infested. When he got through his trip he had come to the conclusion that he was not the only occupant of his clothing, and he had rolled up his clothes and dropped them into the Fraser River. Another drawback to such employment was the fact that the men were forced to buy their supplies from the company, and he gathered they were dissatisfied with prices charged. Companies which had been aided by the Provincial Department of Industries, if reports he had heard

were correct, were not guiltless in that respect.

But the great reason why the British-born men did not desire to go to the camps, Canon Hinchliffe believed, was because such work got them nowhere. He had been told that once a man undertook such work, in nine cases out of ten he would get no farther, but must stay at it.

"We tell our boys they must look ahead to the time when they will be able to have a home, raise a family and be useful citizens, but a married man working for ten hours at \$1 per day and paying \$1.50 for his meals, cannot possibly save more than \$2 a day to send to his family, and after his four months' work he returns home with nothing. It is the absolute hopelessness of the whole thing that keeps our men away from the camps."

While he recognized that it would not cure the conditions under which the laborers work, Canon Hinchliffe suggested that as palliatives the Government should enforce regulations tending to improve housing conditions. The company was making money out of the Government and it was the duty of the Government to make life a little more comfortable for the workers. Also, he said, the workers should not be made subject to unjust prices for their supplies secured from the company.

The speaker appealed to the Government. In view of rumors he had heard that it was proposed to do away with the existing income tax exemptions, that such a step be not taken. After seeing conditions the workers led in the camps, the work they do and the pittance they can save, he knew it was a monstrous thing that a married man must lose four cents per day in income tax. That proposed tax of one per cent meant to the laborer exactly half a loaf of bread per day taken from his children, who at present are not getting any too much. The prosperity of the Province depended upon the prosperity and well being of the workers, he said, and he hoped the Government had no idea of imposing the one per cent tax.

### Municipal Aid

Holding that some permanent form of aid must be granted to the municipalities, Canon Hinchliffe noted there was nothing in the speech from the Throne to indicate what the Government proposed to do beyond the broad assertion that something would be done. If that meant that the Government, either directly or indirectly, proposed to increase the already heavy taxation, then the taxpayer would have something to say about it. At present taxation, he said, was stifling industry, and lands and homes are reverting to the municipalities because the owners cannot pay the taxes thereon. He suggested that the Municipal Inspector should be given wider powers to supervise the financial operations of the municipalities with a right of appeal to the municipalities against his rulings.

Commending the idea of the Minister of Lands to inaugurate an immigration campaign, Canon Hinchliffe stated that if the idea was to send agents all over Europe to induce non-British peoples with non-British ideals to come here, then he would oppose it. The best immigration agent for British Columbia, he held, was a contented and prosperous population at home, and the Minister of Lands should seek to bring about that condition.

There were two other important matters which might have been mentioned in the speech but were not, said the speaker. The first was education. He held that a tremendous amount of money is now being spent, but the education given in British Columbia did not appear, on the face of it, to be aiding in making a healthy and contented people.

"It seems to me our educational system and the object of it should be subjected to a complete overhauling," he said.

### Tuberculosis

Then there was, finally, the great question of tuberculosis. He congratulated the Government on having taken over the Tranquille Sanatorium and on the success attending its operation, but if the Government imagined it could fight the dread disease with the Tranquille institution alone it was making a very great mistake. To a certain extent that institution, so far as combating the disease was concerned, was like the P.G.E. Railway.

"I would like to see every man afflicted with the disease given opportunity to go to the sanitarium, but after he is discharged is he to be left to his own sweet will? There is a follow-up work required and also something needed to force people to observe some necessary preventive measures," said Canon Hinchliffe, who cited specific cases of afflicted persons to show the need of this preventive work. The time had arrived, he held, when some modified plan of segregation should be adopted so that men and women who are liable to contaminate others may be kept apart.

In conclusion, Canon Hinchliffe declared if the Government did not propose to deal with these great questions it would be guilty of great negligence; if it did, then it should submit its proposals at an early date so that members might prepare for their discussion.

## NO AID FOR SETTLERS ON NICOMEN ISLAND

### Premier Oliver Intimates That Government Cannot See Way Clear to Spend Money for River Bank Protection

Judging from the remarks by Premier Oliver in the Legislature yesterday afternoon when speaking to the amendment to the motion for the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, moved by Mr. Catherwood, Dewdney's member, on Monday regretting the attitude of the Government towards the petition of settlers asking for aid for dyking works, it is not the intention of the Government to grant any such assistance. The Premier claimed Mr. Catherwood's amendment amounted to a vote of censure on the Government, and he spent ninety minutes replying to the member for Dewdney and outlining his views on the Nicomen Island situation.

Premier Oliver stated he was speaking to the amendment offered by Mr. Catherwood on Monday afternoon to the motion for the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He held that amendment was virtually a vote of censure on the Government. The amendment, he pointed out, required from the House expression of its regret at the attitude of the Government towards the petition of settlers in dyked areas for effective action towards securing their dykes against destruction by erosion of river banks. He presumed the petition referred to was that from landowners on Nicomen Island.

#### Condemnation

"This resolution is intended as a condemnation of the Government in regard to its attitude towards those settlers on Nicomen Island," declared the Premier, who asserted he had just as much sympathy with those settlers as had the member for Dewdney, and a much closer acquaintance of conditions there. "My mind goes back to the time when my own dyke gave way, when my house was flooded and my family had to move upstairs. But sympathy will not build to arrest the waters of the Fraser River."

The Premier referred to Mr. Catherwood's remarks relative to the hardships endured by returned soldier settlers of Nicomen Island, his inference from those remarks being that the Dewdney member was charging the Government with the responsibility.

"I ask my friend, as a resident in that vicinity, and as a real estate dealer, who were the men who took advantage of those poor unfortunate returned men and unloaded the land upon them. If this Government had done it it would have been condemned from one end of the country to the other. In no case has this Government ever put returned soldiers on such lands as those on Nicomen Island. But it is known to my friend and others, who were those persons

who took advantage of the Soldier Settlement Board and secured the settlement there of twenty-two men on lands which, is was well known, were flooded every year. Where was my friend, knowing that advantage was being taken of the Settlement Board, that he did not raise his voice in protest? Where was the Dominion Government member? It was the Dominion Government which called out the men to war and it was their duty to care for them when they came back. That member knew the actual conditions. Why was his voice not raised in protest? The men who sold those lands to the Settlement Board and who stood idly by and saw those veterans so treated, are ten thousand times more to blame than is this Government."

#### Dominion's Work

The Premier criticized Mr. Catherwood's suggestions as to the best methods of protecting the island from the high river waters. He admitted there had been some value from the work done by the Dominion Government but, he asked, had the Dominion performed that work because it was necessary or because it was a matter of political expedience. He asserted that Mr. Catherwood's statement that there was an agreement between the dyking commission of West Nicomen and the McBride Government that if the settlers would build a dyke on the south side the Province would raise the level of the road on the north side to make of it a dyke, was absolutely incorrect.

"I have been charged with a breach of faith in not carrying out a work agreed to by the Province," said the Premier, who quoted at great length from official documents of the Department of Public Works to prove his contention that no such agreement ever existed. In 1912, he quoted, the dyking commission had come to the Government and asked for the assurance of Government work in order to permit of their bonds being sold at a higher price. And in reply, the then Minister of Public Works had informed them that it was not the policy of the Government to aid in any way the inauguration of dyking work. He quoted from a letter written April, 1913, by Mr. Napier, a member of the department staff, reiterating that the Government would not in any way aid such works and would not raise the level of the road, though it would repair the road at its existing level.

"And by the way, is it not remarkable that there is a member of the staff of the old Government still employed under this present Government?" said the Premier.

#### Costly Undertaking

Mr. Bowser—You must have overlooked him.

Saying that it is true that the land on the island was very fertile, Mr. Oliver claimed that but one-half of the island was cleared and that it would cost from \$80 to \$200 an acre to make ready for the plow. Referring to correspondence with the then Minister of Public Works, Hon. Thomas Taylor, in which the latter disclaimed any responsibility for dyking, the Premier stated that in those days they were appealing to be rescued and they continued to make such appeals.

Mr. Catherwood—The late Government did not promise dyking assistance, but to raise the road above the high water mark of 1894.

Continuing, the Premier asked Mr. Bowser whether he was going to support this amendment. He claimed Mr. Catherwood had taken a great deal of trouble going into public accounts and finding out what appropriations had been made for river protection work. The Dewdney member had attempted to build up a case that residents of Nicomen Island were being discriminated against.

To show that the expenditures made by the Dominion Government were more than ten to one in comparison with those made by the Province, the Premier stated that from 1905 to 1916, Ottawa had expended \$1,808,000 on river improvements and river bank protection and that up to the present date, his figures showed a total expenditure in British Columbia of the huge sum of \$2,665,000.

#### A Fifty-Fifty Basis

Questioned by Mr. George Hanes as to whether he had not asked Ottawa to go fifty-fifty in connection with an amount Delta municipality had spent on repairs to a dyke, the Premier admitted that it was so, that he had used his influence with Ottawa to obtain a grant.

Mr. Hanes—And might not I suggest that an election was on hand?

Premier Oliver—I'll give \$50 to the Jubilee Hospital if my honorable friend can produce anything in that letter which would suggest that I was using it as political capital.

Turning to the members, the Premier exclaimed, "You see, I've called his bluff."

Mr. Hanes stated that he had sent for a copy of the letter, which he would read to the members in due course.

With reference to the recent delegation of members of the Mission, New Westminster and Vancouver boards of trade to seek aid for the island, the Premier stated that they were no doubt actuated by a sincere desire for the advancement of the Province and they had seen the pitiable state of the island and settlers. The trouble, however, was that the story, as told by the settlers to these delegates, did not contain all the facts. In the memorial presented by Mr. L. B. Lusby, the report of March, 1917, by the Dominion Department of Public Works was quoted wherein the cost of the protection work was estimated at being \$72,000. Later on, a letter was drafted by Mr. W. G. McQuarrie, federal member for New Westminster, which stated that the cost of the work would be approximately \$100,000, of which \$20,000 was to come from the Province. It was the first time he had seen such a statement made. Yet in the face of it, explained the Premier, the report of January, 1919, by the Dominion engineer, showed that the work would cost \$289,000. He asked what was the federal member doing not to have a more recent report than that of 1919, a report which he himself had supplied Hon. F. B. McCurdy during a visit to Ottawa last year.

#### Ottawa Not Blamed

The statement made that he had blamed the Ottawa authorities as being responsible for the flooding by reason of dredging work, the Premier termed as false and malicious.

The dyke, built by the settlers at a cost of \$87,000, Mr. Oliver claimed was the most disgraceful piece of work ever perpetrated and had proved worse than useless through faulty construction.

In stating his intention to oppose the amendment, Premier Oliver declared that in the Fraser Valley the Province had invested money running into millions and the people of other sections demanded a certain right to public moneys. He dared Mr. Catherwood to go to his own people, those living on the highlands and in the backwoods, and seek sanction for the spending of such money to protect "a few thousand acres of low-lying lands." This money, he declared, would build roads for hundreds of settlers in other districts.

## DEMANDS INQUIRY

Dr. A. R. Baker, Head of Game Board, Brands Perry Charges as False and Insists Upon Investigation

Demanding an investigation into charges made by Mr. H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, Dr. A. R. Baker, head of the Game Conservation Board, has wired to Premier Oliver as follows:

"If Perry has made statements attributed to him by Vancouver Morning Sun, I brand them as false and demand an immediate investigation.

(Sgd.) "A. R. Baker,"

"Chairman, Game Board."

The charges which are referred to are those made by Mr. Perry on Monday when he flayed the administration of the Game Conservation Board and paid particular attention to its chairman, Dr. Baker, in dealing with the beaver situation in the north country.

Premier Oliver handed Dr. Baker's message to Attorney-General Farris under whose department the Game Board comes.

## CHARGES GOVERNMENT NEGLECTS WORKERS

Mr. Samuel Guthrie, Socialist Member for Newcastle, States Alleged Failure to Assist Toilers

Alleging that the present Provincial Liberal administration has wholly failed to live up to its professions of retrenchment and reform and has wholly failed to pay any attention to the needs of the working classes, Mr. Samuel Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, could find little of good to say of the Government when he was speaking in the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

Stating that he had intended to speak on Monday, but after having heard the grilling which the member for Fort George, one of the Government's own following, had given the administration, he had decided to give the latter a breathing spell, Mr. Guthrie referred to the suggestion made by the mover of the address, Mr. J. B. Clearhue, Victoria, that what was needed in British Columbia were some things that would bring this Province fame.

### A Suggestion

"I should have thought that that Campbell warehouse deal, the P.G.E. Railway, the Baker activities and other such incidents have brought us sufficient fame," caustically remarked the member for Newcastle, who pointed to the fact that the present Government had promised "peace, retrenchment and reform" in the Speech from the Throne, but so far as he could see there had not been a reference to the workers he represented. Despite their present condition nothing had been done by the Government to legislate in favor of the working classes. He supposed the House would hear nothing more about the workers until the Government was ready to go to the country again.

"This party of reform has had ample opportunity to do something for the workers. We on this side made our suggestions, but they were promptly voted down," said Mr. Guthrie, who stated it now appears that the Government is prepared to wipe out the income tax exemptions thereby throwing further burdens upon the working class. He recalled that the member for Fort George had declared he could not believe the Government would take such a step, but after watching the Government's course there was nothing he (Mr. Guthrie) would not believe of it. It was now proposed, through the wiping out of the exemption, to rob the workers whose wages the Government had already reduced seventy-five cents per day, by three and one-half cents per day.

Mr. Guthrie referred to the evidence given at the recent coal inquiry by Mr. Carew Gibson to the effect that the Canadian Collieries Company should be paying \$100,000 a year in taxation and a million in ten years, and that the amount should have rightly been two millions, but the company, through making false returns of coal produced had escaped paying its rightful share. He suggested that there was a good opportunity for the Minister of Finance to get revenue. In Vancouver, he alleged, children of unemployed are being fed in the schools because their parents could not provide for them. He criticized the present regulations governing rural school districts, asserting that too many pupils are assigned to each teacher to permit of proper instruction being given them, and he suggested that before further money was given to the University of British Columbia that these rural schools should be adequately provided for.

Mr. Guthrie pointed to certain amendments which he had brought forward last session to the Workmen's Compensation Act, amendments which, in view of the experience of the member for Fernie (Mr. Thomas Uphill), whose amendments were ruled out on the ground that the subject was one referred to in the Speech from the Throne, he had purposely left over until the last day of the session. After being given their first reading they were never referred to again, and while the Premier had said that he did not know anything about them, yet, "this party of reform took no action because a delegation representing big corporations waited on the Premier and urged him not to agree to the proposed changes."

That was how the Government dealt with the workers, said Mr. Guthrie, who said much had been heard from Government members when they were in opposition about the evils of patronage and, since it attained power, of its regard for the returned soldiers, but he asserted these professions were words only, and he cited the case of the liquor vendor at Ladysmith, a party heeler, he claimed, who, while able to secure work in the mines, yet had pull enough to get the job of vendor, while returned men were unable to secure employment.

Denial that the members of the Legislature knew anything of the Government's intention to cut the wages of road workers was made by Mr. Guthrie, who recalled that last session the member for North Vancouver had asked the Premier if the rumor that such a cut was to be made was correct, and the Premier had not had the courtesy to reply. That information had been denied the House, said Mr. Guthrie.

While giving it as his opinion that the present state of unemployment and industrial unrest would not be eliminated until the cause was removed, and that cause was the present capitalistic system, Mr. Guthrie held that the Government has been most remiss in failing to take steps to ameliorate, to some extent at least, the existing hardships of the workers. The Government claimed it had no funds for that purpose and yet it could give \$400,000 to the B.C. Electric Company, but that was because the company was a contributor to the Government's campaign funds, funds to keep "this party of reform in power."

## BILL PROMISES FIGHT

Mr. Jackson's Measure to Regulate Advertising Hoardings Is Not Favored by Many House Members

With an active lobby at work against the proposal, Mr. M. B. Jackson's efforts to get through a bill at the present session regulating advertising hoardings is likely to prove a bone of contention before it is finally dealt with.

The bill was introduced in the House on Monday and Mr. Jackson will likely move its second reading today.

The bill provides that "no person shall erect or display or cause or permit the erection or display of any advertisement containing more than four square feet upon real property other than the property upon which the goods or merchandise or products advertised are manufactured or offered for sale, or upon which the business advertised is carried on in whole or in part."

The bill does not apply to any lands within the limits of any organized municipality. A penalty for infraction is put at not more than \$100 for the first offence, and following conviction the offending advertisement shall forthwith be altogether removed and discontinued, and any person convicted a second time in respect of any advertisement shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$200.

## SEEKS TO EXCLUDE ASIATICS FROM B.C.

North Vancouver Member Would Terminate Anglo-Japanese Treaty and Keep This Province for White Man

A request by the Legislature of British Columbia to the Federal Government that the latter should take steps under Article 27 of the Anglo-Japanese treaty to urge upon the Imperial authorities the advisability of terminating that treaty is the suggestion which Mr. George S. Hanes, Independent member for North Vancouver, will present in the House this afternoon when a motion to the above effect will be moved by him.

Mr. Hanes has also given notice of another motion he will move asking the House to urge upon the Federal Government the necessity of amending the Immigration Act to as nearly as possible prohibit the immigration into British Columbia of Asiatics to the end that this province may be kept for the white race.

Mr. Hanes' first resolution is as follows:

"Resolved, that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to convey to the Dominion Government, through His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, the respectful request of this House that the Dominion Government take the necessary steps under Article 27 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between His Majesty the King and His Majesty the Emperor of Japan to request His Majesty the King to give His Majesty the Emperor of Japan twelve months' notice of the intention of termination of this treaty so far as the British Dominion of Canada is concerned.

"Be it further resolved, that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Hon. the Secretary of State at Ottawa, the Hon. the Premier of Canada, the Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, and Hon. T. A. Crerar."

The Hanes resolution on the restriction of Asiatic immigration reads:

"Resolved, that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to convey to the Dominion Government, through His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, the respectful request of this House that the Dominion Government amend the Immigration Act of Canada so, as near as possible, to totally restrict the immigration of Asiatics into this Province, keeping in view the wishes of the people of British Columbia that this Province be reserved for people of the European race, and that the Dominion Government consult with the Provincial Government on the proposed amendments.

"Be it further resolved, that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Hon. the Secretary of State at Ottawa, the Hon. the Premier of Canada, the Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, and Hon. T. A. Crerar."

## ASKS RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF LANDS

### North Vancouver's Member Holds That Hon. T. D. Pattullo Ignored Regulations Covering Orientals

A demand that Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, resign his portfolio and, in case he failed to do so, that Premier Oliver should dispense with the services of the Minister, was made in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Mr. George S. Hanes, independent member for North Vancouver, when speaking in the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Hanes charged that the Minister had failed to observe the regulations which called for the exclusion of Orientals in participating in lumber operations on Crown lands. He held that there had been a deliberate failure on the part of the Minister to enforce the regulations, conduct which, he held, would justify the Premier in ousting the Minister.

The member for North Vancouver first touched upon the new taxation proposals, claiming that the abolition of the exemption clause in the income tax was resorting to the last expedient to extract moneys to run the Province. He then directed his attention to Mr. Alex. D. Paterson, Liberal member for Delta, who had seconded the reply to the Speech from the Throne. The Delta member, he claimed, was taking a great deal of credit for the fine cement roads being constructed in his riding. It was in line with the big promises made by Government supporters and candidates during the last provincial election, promises that had not been kept in constituencies that returned an opposition member.

#### Not Election Bait

Rising to a point of order, Mr. Paterson claimed that the work referred to by Mr. Hanes had already been contracted for prior to the by-election and could not be construed as an election pledge.

Mr. Hanes claimed that promises made during the election campaign in respect to closed company towns, had not been kept. The people then were told that these closed towns would be thrown open, but in some instances the Minister of Lands had failed to do so. He cited an instance at Ocean Falls where not a single lot had been obtained by the Government nor had any portion of the foreshore been retained for a public wharf.

The North Vancouver member then turned his attention to the "White B.C." slogan which he claimed the Liberals used in the campaign of 1916, and at length read sections of correspondence and acts relating to the exclusion of Japanese and Chinese on all work on timber contracts. Such an act had existed since 1902 and the failure of the Minister of Lands to carry out the true letter of the law, he thought, fully justified his demand on the Premier to dismiss his Minister.

This led the Attorney-General to explain the position the Province is in today in respect of the exclusion of Orientals from contracts. The Court of Appeal had declared the clause unconstitutional, and through the efforts of the Japanese consul the Minister of Justice at Ottawa had written the Premier to the effect that as long as the court verdict stands, it would be unfair to have this clause inserted. The Province had appealed the decision and had recently argued the case before the Supreme Court of Canada, and a decision was pending. Failing a favorable verdict for the Province, the Attorney-General declared, an appeal would be taken to the Privy Council.

Asked by Mr. Hanes why the clause was left out of contracts prior to this court case, Hon. Mr. Pattullo stated that the past administration had done so. The reason for this was a confidential matter and not in the public interest to be made public. He offered to give it to any private member.

#### Not Satisfied

The North Vancouver member came back by declaring that the public are entitled to know the full details on this Oriental question, and any such statement by the Minister he deemed insufficient. He asked for the dismissal of the Minister with all seriousness, although he said: "I realize that it would take considerable shaking to pry a minister from his present job," a remark which created a laugh on both sides of the House.

Mr. Hanes referred to the Japanese treaty, a matter on which he had previously given notice of motion. He did not proceed far before being halted by Mr. Speaker Manson, who reminded him that this was not the proper time to discuss the question.

Turning to the Campbell warehouse purchase, Mr. Hanes stated that he had attended the Cromie trial and had failed to hear the Premier, in giving evidence, enlighten the people as to whether he approved the purchase of the warehouse, which had cost the Province \$67,000 more than what it was worth. Such proceedings the Premier should take immediate action on, or the Lieutenant-Governor should ask the Premier for an explanation.

Premier Oliver retorted he did not think it was seemly to bring the name of the Lieutenant-Governor before the House.

"So far, I might say, the Lieutenant-Governor has taken the advice of his responsible ministers," declared the Premier.

Major Burde—Did you say responsible?

Mr. Hanes criticized the Government in not protecting investors in connection with the recent failure of Grant, Whyte & Company, in Vancouver, which, he claimed, resembled the Dominion Trust Company case.

Returning to his old subject of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, Mr. Hanes declared that he was still ready if the Premier or Mr. Bowser would call his bluff, to demand an investigation and open up a "colossal graft proposition."

Turning to the recent trip of members over the government-owned line, Mr. Hanes asked by what right had the Premier hired C.P.R. sleepers and dining cars for members, when the average citizen is forced to sit up at night and go without meals. Freight cars were attached to this special train, he alleged, in order to give it the appearance of being a financial success. He had traveled over the road a few days after the return of the official party and had found patrons forced to use umbrellas in the day coaches in order to ward off the rain.

Mr. Hanes spoke in opposition to the proposal of the B.C.E.R. to operate one-man cars in North Vancouver and New Westminster, where the steep grades, he claimed, would be dangerous to such operation.

## NOW MEMBERS CAN GET FULL FACTS ON ACTION

### Copies of Evidence in Recent Libel Action Arising Out of Warehouse Deal Before House

The four copies of the evidence in the libel action of Campbell versus Cromie, an action arising out of charges made by The Vancouver Sun in connection with the Campbell warehouse purchased by the Government for Liquor Board purposes, have been received by the Government for the information of members, the idea of the Government in securing them being to allow members to get at the real facts, members of the Government alleging that the newspaper reports of the trial were not accurate. One copy will be retained by the Clerk of the House, one will go to the leader of the Conservative opposition, one for the use of the Premier, and one copy for the independent and labor members. This distribution was authorized by the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

Among new questions put by members is one by Mr. W. A. McKenzie, Conservative member for Similkameen, inquiring if a loan of \$2,000,000 was recently floated by the Government for highway purposes, the net amount received and how much was taken to repay the Canadian Bank of Commerce on account of treasury bills sold to the bank for highway purposes and what, if any, other expenditure already has been made out of the loan?

Mr. McKenzie also wants to know if tenders were called for building a nurses' home at Tranquille Sanitarium, the names of the tenderers and amount of each bid and which bid was accepted.

Mr. Thomas Uphill, Fernie's labor member, seeks information concerning the Creston soldier settlement area, its acreage, the quantity of the land cleared, the amount of money spent to date on improvements, and the total amount invested and how many settlers have been located on the area.

Colonel Lister is asking about the purchase of a tractor from the Canyon City Lumber Company; and whether the Land Settlement Board has taken any contracts from private individuals to clear land and if so, how many and who are the parties. He also wants to know what is the system of accounting for the exchange secured when the Liquor Board sells liquor to Americans and receives American money, and how much has been secured from that source.

Dr. Rose wants to know the amount spent on the Anarchist Mountain Road, the mileage of road built and the total cost to date.

Mr. J. H. Schofield has questions concerning the building of a school at Castlegar, a bridge at Midway and the construction of the Kaslo-Ainsworth Road.

Mr. R. H. Pooley wants to know how many horses have been purchased by the Government since it took office, the prices paid, etc.

Mr. Pooley is also asking for a return of copies of all regulations made by the Liquor Control Board under the provisions of the Government Liquor Act, including all regulations proposed by the Board but not approved by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-council.

## SAYS ATMOSPHERE NOW NEEDS SOME CLEARING

Major R. J. Burde, Member for Alberni, Calls Upon Premier Oliver to Take Action—Criticizes Hon. Mrs. Smith

A declaration that should the present Liberal administration be confronted by a vote of want of confidence, "put across" by the Opposition for political aims, he will be found aligned behind the Government, was made by Major R. J. Burde, M.C., Independent member for Alberni, in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, in speaking in the debate on the address. But at the same time he admonished the Premier that the public mind is stirred over charges arising out of the Liquor Board's warehouse deals, the newspaper charges of an immense fund raised in Vancouver to elect the solid Liberal six in that riding, and the reports of internal differences within the party itself.

"I don't know how much the Premier does know, or whether he knows anything," said the member for Alberni, but he asserted: "It is up to the Premier, in view of the feeling of doubt and suspicion in the minds of the public, to make an early move to clear the atmosphere."

Major Burde had some caustic things to say of Hon. Mary Ellen Smith, minister without portfolio in the Provincial Cabinet, charging her with deserting her former independent attitude and throwing in her lot with the Government, and now she was seeking a paid Cabinet position.

Major Burde held the interest of the House and the filled galleries, and his many thrusts and humorous comments upon matters political entertained his auditors.

### Consolation

Suggesting that some consolation as well as congratulation was forthcoming to Mr. Speaker, and that the Premier's case calls more for sympathy than congratulation, Major Burde declared: "No one sensible of the atmosphere in this chamber and in the corridors can fail to be impressed with the evident grinding of political axes, the sharpening of stilettos and the clear rapping of hammers."

"When I find the Premier in a position where people are trying to take advantage of him, my sympathy is with him," said the member for Alberni, who recalled the visit of the member for Grand Forks (Mr. E. C. Henniger) to Victoria, demanding more consideration for his riding and threatening to resign if he did not get it; and the declarations by the member for Fort George (Mr. H. G. Perez), coupled with a threat to resign were not his demands complied with. Both of these gentlemen were well aware, asserted Major Burde, that if the Premier had a majority of fourteen behind him rather than his present sparse advantage they could not put up that "bluff." He averred that perhaps were he in their position he would be found with his hands in the wool of the Minister of Public Works, in view of the latter's neglect of the riding of Alberni.

Pointing to the meagreness of the contents of the speech from the throne, he declared that if that "miserable little speech prepared by the Cabinet and put into the mouth of the Lieutenant-Governor" was all the Cabinet could do after months of activity, the Province might well get along with one-half the members of the Cabinet. It appeared to him that about the only constructive idea on the Government side was to build a gallows on which to swing the Premier or some other member of the Cabinet.

Was it true, Major Burde asked, that Hon. Mrs. Smith was after a paid Cabinet position and that if she did not get it she would resign? "While I stand here in support of the Premier against any motion of want of confidence in his administration that would be put across by the opposition

in him will vanish should he establish a new portfolio for the lady member from Vancouver," asserted the member for Alberni, who referred to current rumors of Cabinet changes, stating that he had been advised there was a move on foot to oust the Premier and the Attorney-General, that Mr. Speaker was slated for the office of Attorney-General, and, he believed, some one of the Independents was being regarded with favor as a likely Minister of Labor.

"It will be a Provincial crime to spend another dollar on that road," said Major Burde, referring to the P. G. E., and who accused Vancouver interests of having induced the then Government to undertake the project.

He denied to Hon. Mrs. Smith the credit for introducing the Mothers' Pensions Act and recalled she had been first elected as an Independent; that when the question of Government doles to the unemployed was up she had voted against it, but was absent when his eight-hour bill was before the members.

Major Burde declared that it was useless and criminal to put settlers on the lands in the outlying districts unless the Government is prepared to provide adequate educational facilities and give them proper road facilities. He referred to "Gale's smile" over the action of the Good Roads League in supporting the transprovincial highway connection, but he recalled that that same organization had gone on record in favor of roads on the West Coast. But the Government was ready to assist the former because it was political support for Mayor Gale in Vancouver.

"It is pretty nearly time a halt is called on the city of Vancouver so far as this Legislature is concerned, and I think the Premier will bear me out when I say that if he did not have Vancouver on his hands he would be a much happier old gentleman," said the member for Alberni, who declared that after the outlays on that Campbell warehouse and the fact that liquor permits were not being disposed of as rapidly as expected, the order had gone forth that the district road votes should be curtailed one-quarter and the other three-quarters held up on the plea that roads would be constructed in the Winter to give employment. Roads could not be built in Winter in his district, he said.

### A Solution

Major Burde declared that if the eight-hour bill he had before the House were passed it would to a great extent solve the problem of the Orient in the industries of the Province, for then thousands more whites could be secured for the mills and camps.

Recalling the charge made by Mr. W. J. Bowser, Conservative leader, during the Delta by-election campaign, that the Government had made a compact with the underworld, Major Burde demanded that the opposition leader should, if he possessed any evidence in support of his accusations, place it before the House. A Vancouver paper had charged that some \$85,000 had been spent by certain interests in Vancouver to elect the solid Liberal six at the last general elections, and so far he had not heard a denial from any one of those members. It was stated that one member of the Government had dealt with the brewers. Everyone knew that thousands had been spent in the Liberal cause in Vancouver.

## SELLS PROVINCIAL BONDS

Two Million Flotation Disposed of to Dominion Securities Company at High Figure

Announcement was made yesterday by Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, that the flotation of \$2,000,000 of Provincial twenty-year six per cent bonds has been awarded to the Dominion Securities Corporation at a price of 104.64, in New York funds.

The proceeds of the loan will be devoted to land settlement purposes chiefly.

## SAYS GOVERNMENT IS EXTRAVAGANT

South Okanagan's Member Raps Financial Administration—Friends Helped While Mothers' Pensions Reduced

That with the unlimited borrowings and reckless expenditures of the Provincial Government—a species of financial rampage he called it—it is no wonder that the Government finds itself called upon to still higher pile up the burden of taxation upon a people now almost at the breaking point, was the opinion of Mr. J. W. Jones, Conservative member for the riding of South Okanagan, when speaking in the Legislature yesterday afternoon in the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Jones quoted figures to show that in the past four years the present Liberal administration had borrowed some forty millions, and in the same period it had secured in annual current revenue, a total of \$60,834,000, making, in all, the tremendous aggregate of \$102,044,441, and yet it is forced to such despicable methods as curtailing pensions paid to mothers, reducing the wages paid to road workers and in other ways enforcing a mean economy the while pouring out millions on warehouse deals, court houses not needed, mismanaged land settlement plans, and in other reckless ways.

The speech of the member for South Okanagan at times appeared to get under the political hides of the members opposite, and he was frequently interrupted and his statements challenged.

Rev. Thomas Menzies, People's Party candidate in the Comox riding, moved the adjournment of the debate.

### Blue Sky Laws

First suggesting that the Government should bring in a measure along the lines of "blue sky" legislation, Mr. Jones referred to the questionable financial transactions of some companies in the boom days prior to the war when directors were sometimes not of high repute, when stock salesmen were touring the Province using questionable methods, and when many companies were overcapitalized. The time may be near, he declared, when another such boom would be with us, and he cited the Manitoba act which gave a square deal to investors. Such legislation would add millions of capital to the Province, would swell savings deposits, would afford employment to thousands and would increase the production in the Province materially.

Turning his attention to the King's speech, Mr. Jones claimed the presence of an overhanging pall of indecision, doubt and misgiving, and it only required a glance back over the past twelve months to find a cause. The subject of new taxation produced no joy in the Government ranks which had suffered severe setbacks during the past year. He referred to the recent Campbell-Cromie libel suit which, he claimed, had uncovered damaging evidence against friends of the Government. The Mr. Campbell involved in the suit had admitted on the stand that as secretary of the Liberal campaign committee he had occasion to make frequent trips to Victoria to assist legislation for his friends and that those same friends had later been approached on a matter of campaign funds.

### Premier Objects

Premier Oliver objected to the libel suit evidence being dragged into the debate, which led Mr. Bowser to jump to his feet with the remark that "if we are not to discuss evidence given on oath, then this Legislature had better close."

The Premier maintained that unnecessary duplication would occur if such evidence was discussed by the member for South Okanagan. Mr. Bowser had a resolution on the table dealing with this matter, and then again, the Government had secured



trial for the benefit of the members.

The leader of the Opposition was not satisfied and again protested against any such cutting off of the debate. The Premier, he maintained, was now trying to make out that the securing of four copies of the trial evidence was for the purpose of assisting the proposed select committee of inquiry. He for one was not going to allow the House to be turned into a Duma.

Mr. Jones was finally ruled out of order by Mr. Pauline, Deputy Speaker.

Turning his attention to the taxation problems facing the Government, Mr. Jones, in citing figures which showed that taxes from lands, amusements, automobile licences and income had risen from six to seventeen millions inside of five years, asked where had the money gone to. This was the highest taxed Province in the Dominion. The limit had been reached, he claimed. Capital was not pouring into the Province, industries were not creating employment. In his own district he cited an instance where a man was paying \$30 per acre, and the assessors were still busy raising values. The Okanagan had enjoyed good crops this year, the fruit crop amounting to \$9,000,000, yet that made little difference in that taxes were being raised.

**Millions Spent**

A "financial rampage" had taken place during the past six months, declared Mr. Jones. "Up to February, 1920, we had borrowed \$13,770,000; up to February, 1921, an additional ten million had been borrowed; while in the eight months of this year no less than seventeen millions have been added to the total. In four years the revenue collected has amounted to approximately \$102,044,441. The one-time boast of splendid credits was no longer possible. Eight millions had been borrowed this year from the United States with adverse exchange.

Hon. John Hart—I have the pleasure to announce that two million dollars of bonds have been sold today at a price of 104.64.

Mr. Bowser—How are they payable?

Hon. Mr. Hart—They were sold in Canada, but repayable in American funds. That will puncture your argument.

Mr. Bowser—Yes, it will. The exchange today is around ten per cent.

Mr. Jones referred to the alleged acute financial situation of the Province last July when at a conference of the Premier, Hon. John Hart and Canadian Bank of Commerce officials, the Government had been told to retrench. Since then they had borrowed seven million dollars.

Asked by the Premier what authority Mr. Jones had in quoting "myself and the Minister of Finance being called into conference with bank officials," the member for South Okanagan referred to a Vancouver newspaper report.

The Premier—The report is incorrect. If there is any calling to do it is done by either myself or the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Jones then directed his attention to the address of Mr. A. D. Paterson, Liberal member for Delta, in which the latter was quoted as saying his district possesses an excellent road system. It was quite natural, claimed the speaker, that Mr. Paterson was satisfied. During the past two years the Government had spent no less than \$334,346 on roads in the Delta riding.

**Forgotten Promises**

"Compare this situation with that of the interior where settlers were crying aloud for roads. The Liberal party promised cheaper administration, a better system of contracts, abolition of patronage and a dollar's work for a dollar paid. In 1917 the Government introduced a new policy. It engaged highly paid engineers and draughtsmen and appointed foremen having strong party leanings. The cost of engineers alone has amounted to \$180,543, and this year to \$41,902. It is little wonder there is a cry against excessive overhead expense. The Government is squandering money and not getting results." Mr. Jones asked where the auto taxes had gone to, almost one million in two years which were supposed to be earmarked for roads.

Hon. T. D. Pattullo did not escape criticism from the Okanagan member, reference being made to the minister's recent visit to Europe where press reports had quoted the lumber commissioner with lecturing to school children on British Columbia timber. He

thought that the minister's time should have been spent in interviewing the heads of big corporations and speaking before chambers of commerce. Mr. Pattullo's immigration scheme, he declared, to be a false alarm. The Minister had come back with no definite policy and yet had announced the probability of returning soon after the session ended. He had been reported to have announced in England that there were thousands of acres available for settlement.

What was the situation in regard to land settlement today? asked Mr. Jones. There was no co-operation between the departments of Lands and Agriculture. There were too many officials connected with the Land Settlement Board. When asked by the Premier to name them, Mr. Jones mentioned Col. Latta and Mr. McDonald. The only man doing good work was Mr. D. Munro Central British Columbia, he said.

**Excessive Costs**

Turning his fire on the South Okanagan irrigation scheme, Mr. Jones declared that the work had already cost double the amount given out as estimated by government candidates during the recent election. Premier Oliver, at a Vernon meeting, had declared that the scheme would cost \$1,000,000, yet the cost to date was \$2,000,000 and the area affected was but half of the acreage embraced in the original plans. A washout had occurred this Summer, caused by a blunder in engineering plans, which would cost \$100,000 to repair. Offsetting all this expenditure, the Government had sold but thirty-one lots for a total price of \$145,000, cash payments amounting to \$20,000. It would have been far better, declared Mr. Jones, for the Minister of Lands to have stayed at home rather than taking a joy ride around Europe.

In covering the entire spending methods of the administration Mr. Jones referred to the \$1,132,000 expenditure at Sumas Lake, but not a dollar to the university. They could provide \$150,000 for the Campbell warehouse, but not a dollar for the Grand Forks irrigation scheme. The \$300,000 appropriation for the Prince Rupert court house he cited as against lack of agricultural loans, while they could find \$400,000 for the B. C. E. R. at a time when they were cutting down mothers' pensions.

On the latter subject Mr. Jones created quite a debate when he referred to a letter he possessed from a Vancouver mother with five children whose pension had been suddenly cut off in July last when it was found that the husband had died twelve years ago when residing outside the province.

This brought the Attorney-General to his feet to explain that at the last session an amendment had been passed which eliminated a mother from receiving aid whose husband was not a resident of the province at the time of death.

Mr. George Hanes—Is it not a fact that a Victoria mother whose husband resided in Seattle at the time of his death was in receipt of a pension?

**Pension Cut**

This Hon. Mr. Farris admitted, explaining that the pension was continued upon representations made by Hon. Mrs. Smith. Provision to meet such cases would be brought down in the form of an amendment if found to be necessary.

Continuing, Mr. Jones stated that he could not sit wall in idleness knowing that the seasonal indigence had been increased, and know that widows were being cut off from their meagre subsistence allowance. The appointments to the Pensions Board were political ones, and he for one could be equated to oppose any more reductions. The Government could easily reduce expenses in other directions, he averred.

Mr. Jones concluded with an attack on the P.G.E. policy of the Government and especially of the Minister of Railways. He claimed that in 1920 Hon. Mrs. Smith had asked the Premier what the cost would be to construct the road to Prince George. She was then informed that it would cost four millions. The Government borrowed four millions for the road during that year, had secured a similar appropriation during the Spring session, and yet the road was not much farther than Quesnel. The Premier, he stated, talked of the road as a legacy from the late Government. He could have refused it. They did not have to take it. By its actions on this and other work throughout the Province, the Govern-

ment had proved to be the most prolific legacy breeder ever known. It will take heroic efforts to avert the financial crisis now facing the Province, declared the member for South Okanagan.

**PREMIER SUSPICIOUS**

But His Complaint Leads to Elucidation of What, to Him, Was Mysterious

What proved to be but a tempest in a teacup featured the closing of yesterday afternoon's sitting of the Legislature when Premier Oliver drew attention to what, he said, appeared to him to be a species of juggling of the Votes and Proceedings of the House. He cited the fact that certain notices of motion which had been filed subsequent to others were still given precedence on the order paper and he considered that drastic action should be taken against the parties responsible.

Members in the House expected the Premier to give his own explanation of the case but he did not.

Mr. Speaker Manson poured oil on troubled waters when he explained that he too had noticed the matter and had inquired with the result that he had ascertained the fact that the notices of motion had not appeared in their proper order was due to the fault of a compositor in the King's Printer's department.

Mr. F. A. Pauline, Liberal member for Saanich, was elected deputy speaker of the House, an office he held last session.

**BIG GUNS WILL COME INTO ACTION FRIDAY**

Mr. W. J. Bowser Will Speak in Debate on Address—May Move His Liquor Motion Today

The big guns in the Legislature will come into action in the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne on Friday, when Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C., Conservative leader, will speak. Mr. Bowser will adjourn the debate this afternoon, which will bring him on first on Friday afternoon, and as he will deal with a mass of material, and can be depended upon to "get after" the Government with old-time vigor, it is certain that crowded galleries will hear his speech.

Whether Mr. Bowser will go on today with his resolution calling for the appointment of a select committee of the House to investigate into the operations of the Liquor Board and the administration of the Liquor Act, is a question. There is no doubt that Government members are interested in hearing what he has to say, and an effort will probably be made today to curtail proceedings to the end that the opposition leader will "get it over with."

Mr. Bowser stated yesterday that it appeared to be the idea with some members that he put his resolution on the order paper with no particular idea of going further with it. As a matter of fact, he stated, he proposed to use every effort to secure the appointment of the select committee.

With Mr. Bowser speaking on Friday, it is a certainty that Premier Oliver will stage a come-back, and that means that the debate, which some members fondly imagined would conclude by the end of this week, will be carried over into next week.

**SELECT COMMITTEES**

Standing Committees of the Legislature Are Named for the Present Session

Select standing committees of the Legislature were named in the House yesterday when, upon motion of Premier Oliver, seconded by Mr. W. J. Bowser, the following were named:

**Private Bills and Standing Orders**—Messrs. Jackson, Whiteside, Anderson, Clearhue, Ramsay, Duncan, Hinchliffe, Catherwood and Pearson.

**Public Accounts**—Messrs. Buckham, I. A. Mackenzie, K. C. MacDonald, Pauline Kergin, Sutherland, Jackson, Neelands, Pooley, Jones, Bowser and W. A. McKenzie.

**Agriculture**—Messrs. K. C. MacDonald, Yorston, Anderson, Paterson, Perry, Henniger, Buckham, Menzies, Duncan, A. McDonald, Jones, Lister, Hunter, and Catherwood.

**Mining**—Messrs. Yorston, Buckham, Kergin, Henniger, Sutherland, Anderson, Menzies, Guthrie, A. McDonald, Hunter, Essling, and Schofield.

**Municipal Matters**—Messrs. Whiteside, Paterson, Ramsay, Perry, Jackson, Pauline, Clearhue, I. A. Mackenzie, Hanes, Burde, Uphill, Schofield, Hinchliffe, Pearson, and McRae.

**Printing**—Messrs. Pauline, Clearhue, Menzies, Hinchliffe, and Jones.

**Railways**—Messrs. Perry, Yorston, Kergin, Buckham, Essling, Catherwood, and Lister.

**LEASE PARK LANDS TO BURNABY MUNICIPALITY**

Measure Before Legislature Will Ratify Plan Whereunder Public of That District Will Benefit

Legislation designed to grant a ninety-nine-year lease to the Municipality of Burnaby of 160 acres of land at a nominal rental for park purposes, and to set aside eighty acres of land as a forest reserve for experimental purposes in connection with the Forest Branch of the Department of Lands and the University of British Columbia, was introduced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands. The bill was given its first reading.

In 1891 Lot 151, New Westminster district, was set aside as a park for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. Since then some eighty acres of the original 320 acres were subdivided and sold, and what is now known as Central Park in the Municipality of Burnaby comprises 240 acres. In 1910 park commissioners were appointed, and for several years after that the Provincial Government spent about \$500 per year in improving the grounds. But for a number of years no outlays were made by the Government, and the park commissioners had no money for administration purposes, and were unable to secure any assistance from the Municipality of Burnaby or South Vancouver. The latter municipality has agreed to take control and administer the park area provided the Government will grant the ninety-nine-year lease.

A second important measure introduced by Hon. T. D. Pattullo yesterday afternoon was that respecting the lands comprised in the South Okanagan Government Irrigation project. It is designed to authorize the issuance of Crown grants for lands held under the project in a manner similar to grants now issued under the Land Act.

At present the lands under the project vary in respect of title. In carrying out the irrigation project it has been necessary to make an entire new subdivision of the lands in the tract, and the present bill before the House is designed to bring all the lands on the same basis, thereby saving a great deal of confusion and trouble in issuing title to purchasers. The bill received its first reading.

**PROPOSES TO REGULATE MOTOR LOADS AND SPEED**

Minister of Public Works Will Bring In Amendments to Highway Act

An amendment to the Highway Act will be brought down in the Legislature by Hon. J. H. King, Minister of Public Works, designed to give more complete control and regulation of motor vehicles as to loads and speed, thereby obviating the damage now being done to roadways by too heavily burdened vehicles. To effect this aim a special official will be designated to take charge of that work.

It is also proposed to make the change in the rule of the road become effective on New Year's Day at 6 a. m., it being considered that on that day and the day following there will be less traffic than ordinarily.

Expenditures for road work in the Merville soldier settlement area near Courtenay will be immediately provided for, Hon. Dr. King has announced. This will provide employment for the men and relieve their existing plight. The work will be inaugurated at once under the direction of the district engineer.

**BOWSER CHARGES BEFORE HOUSE**

Opposition Leader Alleges Government's Friends Profited Through Dealings in Liquor—Demands Inquiry

Demanding investigation by a select committee of the House into the allegations which, in his notice of motion adorning the order paper for the last ten days, he set forth in general terms, Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C., Conservative leader, kept members of the Legislature on the qui vive yesterday afternoon when, in moving his motion, he made serious and specific allegations against certain of the political following of the Government, including two present employees of the administration, of having profited in selling liquor to the Government. One of the names mentioned being that of Mr. J. H. Falconer, a member of the Liquor Control Board.

Mr. Bowser asked the appointment of a select committee, composed of Messrs. Whiteside, Ramsay, Paterson, Clearhue, Pooley and himself "to inquire into all questions directly or indirectly relating to the above matters."

**Promises Inquiry**

The Opposition leader's request for an inquiry will be granted, Attorney-General Farris declared when he followed Mr. Bowser, and in a short address, which he will continue this afternoon, he roundly criticized Mr. Bowser, alleged the latter was acting in collusion with the proprietor of The Vancouver Sun, whom he called harsh names, and declared that many of the names mentioned by Mr. Bowser as having profited from sales of liquor to the Board (among them Mr. Farris' own brother) were duly accredited agents of liquor concerns.

Mr. Bowser also charged that the purchase of the Campbell warehouse in Vancouver was wholly illegal, that one or two members of the Legislature had profited through the consent given by the Attorney-General for certain bonded liquor warehouses, and he charged activity of the general manager of the P.G.E. Railway in using public funds in behalf of the Government at the last election.

Mr. Bowser had not intended to go on yesterday with his motion, but the stage was cleared by the Government which, through the medium of Mr. E. C. Henniger, who adjourned the debate on the Address, cleared away that feature of the proceedings and brought forward the notices of motion. Mr. Farris remarks yesterday that he was surprised to get

his denial of the Bowser charges out to the public coincident with the charges themselves. The Attorney-General will go into greater detail in his statement this afternoon.

**Maladministration**

Pointing to the scandals in connection with administration of the Prohibition Act, scandals aired on the floor of the Legislature and on the public platform with the result that one official was sent to the penitentiary, Mr. Bowser declared that although the present Liquor Act had come into effect on June 14 and not more than four months has elapsed, already there is every evidence that that same maladministration is being continued. As a result and in view of certain evidence which had come to his knowledge, he considered it to be his duty, as a man occupying an important public position in the Legislature and in public life, to move for a full investigation by a select committee of the Legislature.

The people by a majority of over 40,000 has clearly shown, Mr. Bowser held, that they were entirely dissatisfied with the administration of the Prohibition Act. Certainly they showed in the clearest possible manner that they wanted and demanded a change. They demanded a decent control and decent administration of the liquor laws, they asked for decent liquor at a reasonable price, as cheap as was consistent with a fair profit, but not an exorbitant profit.

Taking up his charges as set forth in his motion and dealing with them seriatim, Mr. Bowser referred to his first charge that the Government has purchased from a close political supporter of the Government, without any justification, certain premises known as the Campbell warehouse, in Vancouver.

**Price Too High**

"I am not going into any long dissertation on the political morality of that transaction or on the action of the Government in assisting a friend, who had extorted campaign funds for its purposes," said Mr. Bowser, who held the price of \$150,000 paid had been a most excessive one. He quoted from the evidence given in the recent Campbell-Cromie libel action in Vancouver, to show that there were plenty of warehouses at that time, available in Vancouver, and he argued that a business government, composed of business men, would never have paid such a price even to a political friend who, on oath, had stated that part of that amount had gone to purchase a paper to support the Government. He claimed that that purchase was entirely illegal. The B.C. Liquor Act provided that that measure should not come into effect until proclaimed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. On May 28 last the Cabinet declared that the act should become effective on June 15 in pursuance of Section 115. It was true that prior to that date the Liquor Board, with Mr. A. M. Johnson as chairman, and Messrs. Falconer and Winship as the other members, was appointed on April 13 and he pre-

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sumed the authority for that was Section 8 of the Interpretation Act, but he quoted from that section to show that when an act does not come into force immediately upon being passed by the Legislature and gives power of making appointments, that power may only be exercised at any time after the passing of the act subject to certain restrictions. But under that Section 8 the Attorney-General, before the Liquor Act came into effect, made his appointments. He was willing to admit, for the sake of argument, that such appointments were legal, but when it came to the purchase of the Campbell warehouse, it was an entirely different matter. That purchase was made on May 1, and in the absence of the Premier. No vote of the Legislature was ever made or even was the purchase ever suggested to the Legislature.

Long before the Liquor Act became effective on June 15 negotiations were underway for the warehouse purchase. He quoted from a letter from Campbell to the Attorney-General which was produced in evidence at the trial in Vancouver. It was the famous letter addressed to "Dear Wallace," and expressing the hope there would be no hitch in the negotiations. The letter set forth that the writer was handing to a Mr. Patterson data concerning certain charges against the premises.

"Who is this Patterson? He was the purchasing agent for this Government under the Prohibition Act, and, later, under the present act," said Mr. Bowser, who went on to quote from Campbell's letter and the hope expressed therein, that in respect of the decision reached there would be no hitch.

"What was the decision in respect of which there was to be no hitch? Campbell was to go East to arrange to purchase The World newspaper as a party organ, and he wanted no hitch. What would have been the proper course if there had not already been arranged in an underhand way a method of assisting a political friend? Why did the Attorney-General not wait and come to this Legislature and freely and openly tell us he had negotiated a lease at five cents per square foot of space with the right to purchase in five years? But the deal was put through as silently as the grave. It would not be shown in the Public Accounts until those for the year ended March 31 next were brought down in the House."

#### Mr. Johnson Busy

Later on, continued the opposition leader, was found a most remarkable letter written on March 3 by Mr. A. M. Johnson, chairman of the Liquor Board, to the Attorney-General. At that time the act was not in force, and Johnson was not in existence as chairman of the board even if, under the Interpretation Act, his appointment was legal. At that date he was still deputy Attorney-General, and the Legislature was actually in session. In that letter was the "remarkable statement that the Campbell warehouse is the only six-story warehouse in Vancouver, the only one with double trackage." No more glaring misstatement than that could be made, declared Mr. Bowser, who asserted that at that time, as shown in the evidence in the Campbell-Cromie suit, there were scores of warehouses of six stories in Vancouver with trackage available for purchase or lease. But Johnson even went further and suggested that as the rental for five years would cost \$85,000, it was advisable to purchase for \$150,000, a suggestion, Mr. Bowser supposed, of Johnson's chief, the Attorney-General. Campbell was to grant an option of purchase as a term of the lease for \$150,000 for premises which he had previously quit-claimed, said Mr. Bowser.

Pointing to the fact that there had been no vote of the Legislature for the warehouse purchase, Mr. Bowser quoted from the Audit Act to show that between-session outlays could only be authorized by special warrant, and no such warrant was ever obtained. He could not say whether any such warrant had ever been presented to His Honor, but certainly none had been issued, as proved by the report of the Comptroller-General just presented to the House. Then how had that \$150,000 reached Campbell's pocket without authority? he asked. But a Government cheque had been issued for that amount, and

explained was handed to the collector in Vancouver. M. Johnson to be checked out of the account there into which the revenues of the Province were placed. Three cheques aggregating the \$150,000 were issued by the collector and Johnson, in turn, covered the issuance of these cheques by endorsing over the \$150,000 cheque.

"I want to know under what authority they issued that cheque and how such pressure was exercised upon the Comptroller-General that he allowed it to be issued, and why Johnson did not turn the cheque over to Campbell or himself deposit it and issue the three cheques against it. If there was not something underhand or surreptitious, Johnson would have followed the course of any honest business man," declared Mr. Bowser.

#### Legal Means Ignored

True, there was another way in which such an expenditure could be authorized, went on Mr. Bowser, who referred to the fact that where the Comptroller-General refused to sanction an outlay under certain circumstances, the Minister of Finance could,

upon written opinion of the Attorney-General that such outlay was legal, appeal to the Treasury Board, composed of certain members of the Cabinet, and authorize the issuance of the cheque. He had too much respect for the Comptroller-General to suppose he would have issued the cheque until an appeal was taken. But the Liquor Act was not then in force, so how could the Attorney-General give the opinion that there existed authority for the expenditure? But even supposing the Attorney-General had given his opinion that the outlay was legal, the fact remained that the report of the Comptroller-General showed that not a single appeal has been made to the Treasury Board. So it could be taken for granted that either the Comptroller-General or someone else had illegally signed the \$150,000 cheque.

"Why was it done? So that Campbell might get his money before the Premier, who was hurrying back across the Prairies, knowing what he had left behind, could get back and find that the horse had been stolen, that \$150,000 of the people's money had gone to a party heeler. And yet the Premier had written a letter approving of that transaction," declared Mr. Bowser. "Is that not enough to show there is something to be investigated?"

Mr. Bowser, again referring to his resolution, declared he was prepared to prove that the Government had unnecessarily leased premises for administration and other purposes and is paying rentals to political friends far in excess of the real value. That applied to Victoria, where there are three premises, the Board's offices, the Pither & Leiser warehouse and the liquor store. He claimed a too high price is paid for the warehouse where there is plenty of room for all three branches of the Board's Victoria business. Why, in view of the Vancouver case, had the Government not purchased the Pither & Leiser warehouse here if it is better to buy than pay rent? He supposed that had there been any newspaper in this vicinity the Government desired to buy it would have been done. At Ladysmith excessive rentals were being paid, and also at Nanaimo, he claimed.

#### Incompetency

Mr. Bowser charged incompetency in administration and pointed to the losses of liquor at the Vancouver, Grand Forks and Ashcroft stores, all cases which required investigation and he asserted many of the men in the liquor stores have police records, though undoubtedly many were men of high integrity. But in view of the nature of the business it was the duty of the Government to see that only men of integrity were employed, men of course, of their own party—he hardly expected Conservatives would be chosen. But the fact was, bootleggers and other disreputable individuals were employed.

Hon. Mr. Farris: "Name them."

Mr. Bowser: "When the committee is named I will take the responsibility of giving their names and I will also give certified copies of the police convictions."

Mr. Bowser also charged the Government with negligence in not removing liquor from the bonded warehouses before the increased Federal taxes came into force. It was

announced in the press, he said, that the luxury tax was to be removed, and dealers in liquor throughout the country concluded that in view of the financial demands of the Government, other sources of revenue would be looked for. They felt convinced that the new tax would be imposed on liquor, all except "the Attorney-General and his incompetent chairman of the Liquor Board." Mr. Bowser quoted figures to show that in April British Columbia liquor dealers took liquor out of bond, paying thereon a total of \$104,161 in duty and excise taxes, and in the first ten days of May, prior to the imposition of the new Federal taxes, a total of \$75,000 was paid, or, in all, \$180,676. That was what shrewd business men had done. The Attorney-General promised a lawsuit against the Dominion to recover the taxes paid on Government liquor left in the warehouses, a poor consolation, and the weakest kind of an excuse for his negligence, Mr. Bowser said, a suit which would drag its weary way through the courts, and give the Attorney-General opportunity for another trip to the Old Country, provided he was still Attorney-General.

#### Charges Liquor Ring

That the liquor, or a great part of it, purchased by the Government, is got through a "ring" composed of political friends, was alleged by the Opposition leader, who declared:

"You must be one of that ring or you can't do business. Many people desire certain brands, but they find they cannot get them in the Government stores, though such brands have been distilled by certain firms for ages and have a standard price, and are sold through agents in every part of the world on commission. The Liquor Board, if it wants those brands, must deal through those agents and there is no chance for a 'split,' nothing for the political 'kitty.' The result is the Government stores are overstocked with cheap brands which are sold at an excessive profit."

"I propose to name some of these political friends of the Attorney-General and of this Government, who have sold liquor to the Liquor Board," went on Mr. Bowser. "There is D. C. Delbridge, a president of one of the Vancouver Liberal associations; McLatchey, late organizer and manager of the Liberal campaign in 1920; James Conley, nominee, I understand, of the Attorney-General at that recent Liberal convention in Burrard, when an effort was made to defeat M. A. Macdonald in the race for nomination; Mr. Dougherty, late Liberal candidate in Vancouver, and who has now received part of his reward by being appointed Superintendent of Insurance; W. T. McArthur, nominee of the Attorney-General on the Vancouver Police Commission—and I may here remark that the Attorney-General has defeated the effort to have applied to Vancouver the system of election of police commissioners as prevailing elsewhere in the Province, with the result that the Attorney-General is in control of that particular body; Gordon Wismer, another one of the ring, and well known to the public and politicians as having carried the political sack which brought the member for Delta to this Legislature; Charles E. Campbell, an old friend, a member of the Liberal political fraternity; and, finally, Wendell Farris, brother of the Attorney-General."

#### Mr. Falconer, Too?

"I hope to bring home to Mr. Falconer, a member of the Liquor Control Board, that he, too, has been making a profit out of the sale of liquor to the Board."

Mr. Bowser declared that everyone knew of the abuses in connection with the sale of liquor permits, especially to Americans, and that the restrictions imposed by the act were being openly violated. Officials in the Vancouver store had been instructed that no matter what might be the restrictions, the Government needs the profit to aid the Minister of Finance in making both ends meet and thereby obviating glaring deficits. He cited a case which he said he was prepared to place before the committee, of a close political friend of the Premier who received twenty barrels of beer in one day, and the only members of the family were himself and his wife.

Premier Oliver—Why do you connect my name with this?  
Mr. Bowser—Because he is a close political friend of yours.  
Premier Oliver—Will you give me his name?

Mr. Bowser—I will give it to the committee on my responsibility as a member.

Premier Oliver—Does he suggest I am connected with that?

Mr. Bowser—If the Premier travels in that sort of company he must suffer.

Touching on the recent investigation by the Liquor Board into the disappearance of liquor from the Hastings Street liquor store in Vancouver and the summary dismissal of thirteen employees, Mr. Bowser declared those employees should have been given a proper investigation, which they demanded and which was refused. The board's investigation was one carried out by a prejudiced court which had already found the men guilty. One of the board, a civil servant, had rushed into print that the vendor was guilty. The public was told that the board had found no evidence against the employees and yet they and their families were resting under a stigma. It was time the Legislature, through the select committee asked for, investigated that case.

**Implicates Members**

Pointing to the fact that under the Federal law permits for bonded warehouses can only be issued by the Dominion upon the consent of the Attorney-General—a good provision, he held, for it gave the Provincial authorities knowledge of what the Dominion was doing in respect to bonded liquor warehouses—Mr. Bowser declared "I am prepared to prove that these consents have been given by the Attorney-General after the exchange of monetary consideration, and that the evidence affects one or more members of this Legislature who participated in the profits."

Hon. Mr. Farris—Be more explicit. Do I understand that I am supposed to have received money?

Mr. Bowser—My language is explicit.

Hon. Mr. Farris—I challenge my friend to put that charge in explicit language.

Mr. Bowser—I am accepting no challenge. I make the charge that one or more members of this Legislature received money. If I cannot make that charge true it is I who will suffer in the estimation of the people of this country.

Mr. Bowser continued his charges by referring to pardons granted in Vancouver under the Prohibition Act and which had been continued under the Liquor Act.

"There are a great many people who have been prosecuted and convicted in Vancouver during the past few months and not one of them but is walking the streets today," said Mr. Bowser.

Then again there were the scandals connected with the clubs which were incorporated just prior to the Liquor Act going into force.

"The incorporation of these," stated Mr. Bowser, "were under the guidance of the Attorney-General," and he made a comparison with the days when he (Mr. Bowser) was Attorney-General, when any complaints were immediately acted upon and remedied. The case today, he averred, was that any person can join a club, in some cases for a consideration of ten cents. The publicity given to these clubs was sufficient for Mayor Gale, a close political friend of the Attorney-General and head of the Vancouver Police Commission, and for Thomas H. Harnett, another member, to favor action being taken against such clubs. On June 11 all sorts of incorporation of clubs were put through.

**Liberal Lawyers Profit**

"We find," said Mr. Bowser, "that C. Brougham fostered twenty-six, Wismer and McGeer seven, M. A. Macdonald six, Ian MacKenzie five, and at the heel of the hunt, none other but Mr. Joseph Oliver with two. These club charters should be cancelled. That's the reason why I have included them in my charges," exclaimed Mr. Bowser. Some people have received a large fee, not for legal services, but for their close connection with the politicians.

Turning to alleged maladministration of justice, the Leader of the Opposition referred to conditions in South Vancouver where, under the regime of the late commissioner, P. J. Gillespie, certain resorts were not to be interfered with. Coupled with all this, he claimed, the Attorney-General had induced several members of the Provincial Police force to become an

In closing, Mr. Bowser charged that A. B. Buckworth, general manager of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, had shown great activity during the election of 1920 and had used public monies towards allowing some of his employees to take an active part in the campaign in favor of the present administration. There was no question, he contended, but to have a select committee of inquiry to investigate these charges. It would be cheaper than by a Royal Commission. He cited instances during the present administration where select committees had been appointed, the Kaalen Island deal, Songhees Reserve, Kiltisano Reserve, Victoria by-election, Vancouver by-election, Dolly Varden mines, sugar inquiry and the Retail-lick claims. He did not want a Royal Commission as was the case in the Gravel Pit inquiry this year, when the Premier selected a \$150 month clerk of the P. G. E. to be in charge of a commission.

Premier Oliver—Does my friend object to any proceedings of that inquiry?

Mr. Bowser—I certainly do.

Mr. Speaker Manson cut short the argument by declaring it out of order.

Mr. Speaker referred to Mr. Bowser's charges that members had been referred to as being gainers through the issuance of licences, to which Mr. Bowser retorted that he did not wish to impute anything against a member. He did not, however, intend to retract any statement that one or more members had profited. He could not recall any authority by which he could be compelled to specify these charges.

Premier Oliver—The members here rest under an imputation. The only reason for this motion is that there is some suspicion of wrong-doing. Otherwise there would be no necessity for such an inquiry.

Mr. Bowser—I have made no charges against any member.

**Mr. Farris Comes Back**

Attorney-General Farris, taking the floor, stated that he found himself obligated to follow the leader of the Opposition by reason of charges of maladministration under the Prohibition Act, and later under the Liquor Control Act. He was not on his feet to propose an inquiry. "There are many things that have been said on the floor of the House this afternoon," he said, "that leads me to insist on a full investigation. The reason of the oratory of Mr. Bowser had been to spread broadcast through the press a suggestion that there had been wrong-doing," he said.

"He has done harm to the character of men, whether he proves these charges or not," exclaimed Mr. Farris. "If he does not prove such allegations he can say 'I have made a mistake.'"

Referring to the names of Vancouver citizens included in the charges, the Attorney-General predicted that these would appear in "black stinking type in the morning Sun." Mr. Bowser, he claimed, had created an impression and it will go out in the press that there are dishonest acts on the part of the administration.

"These insidious attacks which have been closing in on myself," was the expression used by Hon. Mr. Farris, who declared that he was not unmindful of the reports which had been going around the House and the Province for four years.

"I have had to meet them from the leader of the Opposition and, lately, the combination of this leader and the morning Star of Vancouver. The word has gone out from this Cromie that he is out to get the Attorney-General," declared Mr. Farris, with much heat, thumping his desk to give his statement emphasis.

"I am not afraid to face all the allegations made. I looked forward for him (Mr. Bowser) to come out like a man and make these charges. I have today told the Premier that I want an early decision. I am going to fight and fight for my honor and reputation and I do not propose that a newspaper thug in Vancouver shall co-operate with the leader of the Opposition."

Mr. Farris then referred to an interview he had with Mr. Cromie, during which the latter suggested that Mr. Farris should investigate the books of the Powell River Pulp Company with a view of intimidating them.

"I have not spoken to that dirty blackmailer from that day to this," he declared with heat.

"The word has gone out from the Sun that I am to be driven from public life," he declared.

**"Poisonous Stuff"**

Hon. Mr. Farris then referred to the Purchasing Agent, Mr. Patterson, an old and respected citizen of Victoria, and referred to a typewritten list, which he claimed contained all the liquor purchase transactions of the board in recent months. He asked why Mr. Bowser did not place a question on the order paper calling for such a return, why he picked out the names of respectable citizens of Vancouver, including his (Mr. Farris') own brother. He charged Mr. Bowser with "peddling this poisonous stuff in company with the man who is now running for election in the Yukon (Capt. George Black)."

"Suppose that the Leader of the Opposition proves that Mr. Delbridge sold liquor to the Government. What of it?" asked Mr. Farris, who went on to state that he recalled a conversation with a representative of an Old Country distilling firm who had mentioned that Mr. Delbridge was their agent. "Suppose he has made a commission out of these transactions. What of it?" again queried the Attorney-General.

Turning to the Campbell warehouse charges, Mr. Farris stated that he would prefer to have charges fought out on the floor of the House. There was no reason for the members to accept the verdict in the recent libel suit, but rather they should take the evidence of the case which was at their disposal. He asked what Mr. Bowser expected to prove in the matter of not taking liquors out of bond prior to the increased Dominion tax. The Ottawa government, he claimed, was taking more profit out of every bottle than was the Government of the Province.

Mr. Pooley—Does my friend expect a change in the tax if the Liberal Government goes into power?

Mr. Farris—I know one thing. The Liberal Government is going into power, and another, we can expect better treatment than we are now getting.

He moved the adjournment of the debate.

Questioned by Mr. Pooley as to the procedure, Mr. Farris claimed he was within the right.

Premier Oliver injected himself in the argument, which was closed by Mr. Bowser agreeing to adjournment without a division.

**VANCOUVER'S BILL**

**Taxation Clauses Laid Over From Last Session Will Provoke Strong Argument**

In view of the proposed financial arrangements to be made whereunder the municipalities will receive greater consideration, much of the sting in the bill introduced at the last session of the Legislature to consolidate and amend the Vancouver Incorporation Act, and which never got beyond its first reading before that session prorogued and is due to be brought up again this year, will be eliminated.

The bill appeared on the order paper for its second reading at the present session, but on motion of Attorney-General Farris that motion has been discharged and the bill referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Chief objection to it last session—and despite the active lobby in favor of it by Mayor Gale and other members of Vancouver City Council, opposed by financial interests of the Terminal City, it got nowhere—were in respect of the provisions granting the city additional taxation powers.

In addition, this session, will be the question of the granting to the city the right to collect the personal property tax, a move which is being bitterly opposed by the Vancouver Board of Trade and other interests. Already there is a large and influential delegation from Vancouver in the city interviewing members of the Government and members of the House. Mayor Gale was in the city yesterday for that purpose, among other reasons.

But, generally speaking, the financial provisions of the bill will be more or less met by the proposals of the Government in respect of granting further sources of income to the municipalities.

## URGES CONSIDERATION FOR SOLDIER SETTLERS

Member for Comox Tells Legislature of Difficulties Which Veteran Settlers Have Encountered

Pleading the case of the returned soldier settlers at the Merville settlement, near Courtenay, in his own district, Rev. Thomas Menzies, Independent member for Comox, continued the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the Throne in the Legislature yesterday afternoon. He urged that the Land Settlement Board should show consideration to the soldier settlers by reducing the seven per cent interest charge asked by the Provincial Board to the five per cent collected by the Federal authorities, and that cheaper lumber should be provided for the settlers.

Mr. E. C. Henniger, Liberal member for Grand Forks, adjourned the debate. Mr. Henniger, who some months ago came to Victoria and announced his dissatisfaction with the Government he was elected to support, and intimated he might move his seat across to the Opposition side because of its neglect of his riding, is expected to have something to say in criticism of the administration.

Mr. Menzies first dwelt upon conditions at the Merville settlement, in the Comox district, where the returned soldier settlers were in a serious plight by reason of their inability to meet the payments for their land, buildings and stock. The 14,000 acres contained in the settlement had been purchased by the Government at a cost of \$5 per acre, but 6,000 acres of this total was found to be totally unfit for cultivation. The 8,000 acres had been subdivided into farms of fifty to sixty acres, with the exception of a section in the centre, which had been allotted for the purpose of housing the main population and the construction of stores, postoffice and schools.

### Expensive Clearing

The clearing of this land had been under the supervision of Messrs. Rant and Jones, who were engaged on a five per cent commission. The clearing had been an expensive matter, having cost as high as \$400 an acre, while, in certain sections, it would require an additional \$100 an acre to put in a state of cultivation. The wrong system had been carried out. From an agricultural point of view, he averred, it was the worst strip of land that could have been selected. However, he continued, the land was cleared and to the passer-by it looked prosperous. The cost to date had been over half a million dollars to the Land Settlement Board. One hundred and fifteen of the farms are now occupied.

Of the land uncleared, stated Mr. Menzies, the Government had handed over the land to prospective farmers at a price of \$7.50 an acre, even though it had cost the Land Settlement Board but \$5.

Hon. Mr. Barrow rose to his feet and explained that with 6,000 acres useless it was only natural for the Settlement Board to charge more than \$5 an acre for the good land in order to meet the original purchase price for the entire area.

Whatever might be the case, said Mr. Menzies, poor judgment had been shown by the Land Settlement Board in buying 6,000 acres when it was known to be useless.

Proceeding, the member for Comox explained that there was a charge of \$6,000 against some of the farms, the Board charging seven per cent interest on all loans. In the case of the Soldier Settlement Board the interest charge was but five per cent. Another cause of complaint was in respect to lumber, the men having to purchase lumber from a local mill, which could not compete with outside mills employing Oriental labor.

The situation today is a serious one, declared Mr. Menzies. The Fall of 1920 had proved disastrous from a crop standpoint, while the returns this year were not any too satisfactory. The farmers had stock which

was purchased when the market was high and while they were optimistic of the future, there remained the interest falling due on the loans. A solution, he thought, would be to defer the first payment for at least five years. Unless this was done the men would lose their all, and the farms would revert to the Government.

### Urges Cattle Test

Mr. Menzies urged that a thorough test of all cattle be made not only in the Comox Valley but throughout the Province. The influx of Japanese ranchers into the Courtenay district had alarmed the white settlers, if being proved that the Oriental was not so particular in regard to tuberculosis as the white man.

The member had some criticism to make of the head officers of several provincial boards being located in Vancouver. He thought Victoria was the logical place for them, a suggestion which led Mr. Fred W. Anderson to ask, "What about the rest of the Province?" The farmers of Comox suffered from depredations of deer which destroyed crops. They should be allowed to shoot the marauders, said Mr. Menzies.

On the question of mothers' pension, Mr. Menzies deprecated the rumor that a cut was to be made in the allotments. He hoped to see them raised instead of lowered, and that once a woman was in receipt of a pension it should continue unless she should remarry. He also touched on the education problem and claimed that this Province was not the only one suffering from congestion in its university, citing an instance at Toronto where students had been turned away on account of insufficient accommodation.

In conclusion, the member for Comox asked that consideration be given to freight rates. His district was looking for wider markets in its lumber industry.

Mr. E. C. Henniger moved the adjournment of the debate.

## GROWING RECEIPTS

Provincial Revenue for First Six Months of Fiscal Year Makes Favorable Showing

Details of the receipts and expenditures of the Province for the six months of the present fiscal year commencing April 1 last, as compiled for Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, for presentation to the Legislature shows that receipts totalled \$9,522,128.18, and expenditures on current account, \$7,266,684, and expenditures on capital account chargeable to income, \$1,479,004, or total expenditures of \$8,745,688.

There was a decided increase in income tax which in the six months aggregated \$2,531,443.17, compared with \$2,005,000 for the whole of the last fiscal year. Real property taxes totalled \$774,750 out of an estimated return for the whole year of \$1,050,000; wild land, coal and timber land taxes were \$595,281, out of an estimate of \$975,000. Personal property tax produced \$550,000 while the estimate for the whole year was but \$860,000.

The estimated current revenue for the year was \$17,010,595, and the aggregate estimated expenditure, \$18,934,724.

## FANCIFUL FIGURES

In fairness to the Provincial Government it should be pointed out that the resolution passed at a convention of the People's Prohibition Party in Vancouver, is based on entirely erroneous premises, which, if not contradicted, are likely to prove misleading to the people. The figures quoted in this resolution are fantastic, based obviously on an entire misapprehension and they will not impose on the good sense of the members of the Legislature. The argument which the Prohibitionists had to advance could have been put forward with equal force without any misrepresentation, and we can only believe they have not given anything but superficial attention to the policy and methods of the Government, or else they would have been a good deal more circumspect when they deal with figures which they put forward as official. We quote the text of the resolution which is erroneous:

Whereas in the annual estimates of the revenue and expenditure of the Province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1922 (being nine and a half months period of operation by the Government Liquor Act) the Government has estimated its half of the said profits (after providing for reserve aforesaid) at the sum of \$2,500,000, which added to an equal amount for municipalities is \$5,000,000 for nine and a half months, or a sum equal to \$6,666,648 per annum, exclusive of reserve; and,

Whereas Government estimates are necessarily based upon figures supplied by the Liquor Control Board, of indicate the policy which the Government requires the Liquor Control Board to follow in the sale of liquor for production of revenue; and,

Whereas it is obviously impossible to procure profit of such a vast sum without the sale of liquor in tremendous quantities and upon a scale which cannot by any stretch of the imagination be compatible with moderation, etc.

The Government estimated the revenue to be derived from the sale of liquor up to March 31 next at \$2,500,000, but this estimate included the entire amount to be derived, for the Government could not exclude from its estimates moneys which it was subsequently obligated to give to the municipalities. The Government, further, does not know yet what sum it will set aside as a reserve fund in connection with the operation of the liquor law, and it may be pointed out that such a sum comes out of the estimated profits, which are \$2,500,000. If it were the practice of the Government, or any government, to exclude from its fiscal statements amounts which it paid out to municipalities then revenues from certain sources would not be shown because they were transferred to other authorities for school purposes as educational grants. The Government in its estimates shows the moneys that it expects to receive from all sources, and it cannot cover up millions of dollars from public knowledge as the Prohibition Convention's resolution would have us believe.

By carrying an examination of the figures a little farther the fallacy of any reasoning on their basis is shown. The resolution says the profits being derived from the sale of liquor is equal to \$6,666,648 per annum. A few months ago the daily turnover in the liquor stores of the Province was somewhere in the neighborhood of \$28,000. This was at a time when the tourist traffic was particularly heavy, and the receipts, we believe, also covered the amounts derived from the sale of permits. For the purpose of elucidation, and in order to be on the safe side, we will assume that the average daily sales now represent a value of \$30,000, and though this is not sure, we will assume that this average is maintained until June 15 next and that it is the average

throughout the twelve months. On the basis of 300 days of the year during which liquor stores would be open this would represent a turnover in the twelve months of \$9,000,000. Out of this the Government has to pay for its stock and for the costs of operation. The latter charge will hardly fall short of \$1,000,000 and the stock sold will represent a value of approximately \$5,000,000 when the heavy duty charged is included. This would leave a profit of \$3,000,000 to the Government through the operations of the Liquor Control Board.

The Government's estimates were brought down in the Legislature before the Liquor Control Board came into existence, and we are inclined to believe that the estimate regarding the profits from the sale of liquor was based on a much larger turnover than is actually taking place. Those who had been concerned in the liquor business before there was a policy of Prohibition in this Province estimated that under Government control the probability was that there would be a business aggregating about \$20,000,000 annually. This estimate is not being realized, and it would have to be more than realized to result in such profits as the Prohibition Convention's resolution claims are being made. As we have shown the claim is erroneous and we believe the Provincial Government, in its own defence, will substantiate what we say. It is a serious matter that the public should be deluded by figures deduced from false premises.

**LEGISLATIVE SLANG**

It will mark an advance in our ideals and our educational facilities when the day comes that only the English language is used in the debates in our Provincial Legislature. The phraseology now employed by some of the members is a singularly bad example to the youthful generation, and is often nauseating to anyone who believes in the dignity of constitutional government. Slang is mostly employed to cover up deficiencies in education, for the argot of the street comes trippingly to the tongue of those who are at a loss for grammatical verbiage in which to couch their sentences. We say "sentences" advisedly, for as a rule those whose philological limitations drive them to the use of slang are bereft of ideas. None of the great statesmen of the world or the leaders of thought in art, science and literature ever need to descend to slang to enforce what they have to say. It is wholly unnecessary in any sphere of life, but more especially is its use to be deprecated among those who are looked upon as leaders of public thought.

The reports of the speeches of some of our Provincial members, no matter how toned down, corrected and amended for newspaper purposes, make strange reading, which is often unintelligible to a very considerable percentage of the people. There is no advantage derived from this failing, for slang is the hall mark of the pseudo mob orator who prefers to descend to the level of his audience than to have any purpose of being instructive. To slobber a speech with cant phrases is indicative that no thought, study, desire or training has been brought to bear on the responsibilities with which any member of a parliament or a legislature should be endowed. How our Legislature expects to raise the status of the people while its own status and dignity are constantly being assailed upon by mouthings of the

kind to which we allude is a puzzle. If the English language is worth anything, its pure use should be the pride of all who are elected to public office in any land where it is the official speech.

**READY TO MEET  
SPECIFIC CHARGE**

**Attorney-General Farris Demands That Mr. W. J. Bowser Shall Come Forward With Definite Accusations**

Challenging Mr. W. J. Bowser, K. C., Conservative leader, to come forward with specific charges and not hide behind what, he termed, were nothing but mean insinuations trumped up with the object of giving Mr. Bowser opportunity to toot his own horn and make a "grand-stand play" before the country, Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, Attorney-General, roundly scored the opposition leader in the Legislature yesterday afternoon when he replied to the speech which the other made in support of his motion for the appointment of a select committee of the House to investigate into the operations of the Liquor Board.

**Welcomes Charges**

The Attorney-General made it clear he is ready to meet definite charges and to have them investigated to the full. He dealt at length with Mr. Bowser's charge that an excessive price had been paid for the Campbell warehouse, that political friends of the Government had profited through the sale of liquor to the Board, and that there exists a "ring" composed of men in Vancouver, whose names Mr. Bowser mentioned, and among whom figure Hon. Mr. Farris' brother.

The Attorney General spoke for nearly two hours and when the House adjourned at 8 o'clock it was only to meet again at 8:30 p. m., when the debate on Mr. Bowser's motion for the inquiry was continued by Premier Oliver.

This sudden burst of speed on the part of the House was designed to give opportunity to the Government to follow up the Bowser charges as quickly as possible and get its case before the country in the press without the necessity of carrying over the debate until Monday.

**No Definite Charge?**

Hon. Mr. Farris referred to Mr. Bowser's motion on the order paper as mere allegations and insinuations forming the basis for his demand for the appointment of a select committee of inquiry and asserted the opposition leader had notably failed to come forward with a single definite and courageous charge that could be met.

"I am prepared at all times to put myself on trial, relying upon the sense of fair play of my constituents in Vancouver and of the members of this House and the people of this Province," Hon. Mr. Farris declared. "I have nothing to fear, nothing to conceal, and at all times I am ready to have my conduct passed upon."

Turning to the allegations made by Mr. Bowser in respect of the Campbell warehouse purchase by the Government, the Attorney-General admitted Mr. Campbell was a close political friend and he had always known him to be a Liberal. Whether that purchase was or was not necessary was a matter of opinion, he said, and he was willing to admit the assessed value of the property, but everyone knew that the value fixed by a City Assessor seldom or ever bore any relation to the actual value. The charge that the Government illegally paid \$150,000 for the warehouse property was, in its essence, a legal question and he could not see how it could be anything but a legal question.

men. The opposition leader's effort had been to make it appear that that price was too high and, what was his real object, to attempt by inference to leave the impression that that payment was corruptly and wrongfully made.

**Experts Differed**

On the question of price the Attorney-General quoted copiously from a transcript of the evidence in the Campbell-Cromie libel action in Vancouver to show that while some experts held the price was too high, other equally honest and substantial men of business had held it was a fair price, not alone as to the per square foot rental charge but also as to the final purchase price.

"The weight of the evidence as between these two groups of witnesses was that the rentals and price paid were not excessive," said the Attorney-General. The Government in reaching its decision to purchase had had the advice of competent and honest men and that advice had been substantiated in court on oath by reputable witnesses, he held.

Hon. Mr. Farris waxed indignant as he referred to Mr. Bowser coming out with that letter addressed by Campbell to himself in January last headed "Dear Wallace" and expressing the hope there would be no hitch in the arrangements. "I can imagine how he was smacking his lips over that. Is it surprising that Campbell, whom I have known for years, should so address me in a private and confidential letter? He suggests that Campbell was going East to arrange for the purchase of The World newspaper, and he sees something sinister in the suggestion that there should be no hitch," went on the Attorney-General, who declared there had been a hitch, for he had told Campbell that that property would not be purchased by the Board. The only suggestion in that letter was as to the leasing of the warehouse premises. The first suggestion to purchase was made subsequently by the Deputy Attorney-General that provision should be made in the lease whereby the Government would have an option of purchase.

**Proper Transaction**

Mr. Johnson, chairman of the Liquor Board, properly could have made those arrangements, and he did so entirely without any suggestion from any quarter. He (the Attorney-General) had signed the lease upon recommendation of Mr. Johnson. The statement made by Mr. Johnson in his communication to the Attorney-General that the Campbell warehouse was the only six-story premises with adequate trackage facilities was true, said Hon. Mr. Farris, when the content of that letter was taken into consideration. Mr. Johnson had not meant that there were no other six-story warehouses with trackage, but that the Campbell premises were the only ones at that time immediately available.

In reply to Mr. Bowser's suggestion that the purchase of the warehouse premises should have been notified to the last Legislature, Hon. Mr. Farris stated that when the House was in session no purchase was in contemplation; there was no occasion to come to the Legislature and ask that authority be granted to the Liquor Board to exercise an option of purchase. That was a detail of administration which could properly come before the House only through the medium of the Public Accounts.

Answering what he declared were Mr. Bowser's insinuations concerning the method of paying over the purchase money, Hon. Mr. Farris declared it was done in a proper businesslike manner, as the evidence in the libel action would show. There were charges against the property which had to be removed, and the procedure taken was the customary business one of lawyers.

Hon. Mr. Farris held that the payment of the money for the warehouse was quite legal, and in support of his argument he quoted from the provisions of the Public Accounts Act, Section

Board is empowered to "provide for the construction, acquisition or leasing in the name and on behalf of the Government of premises for warehouse and store premises," etc.

**Sufficient Powers**

"Surely this language is clear enough to exonerate any government for giving permission to the Board to proceed under that section," he said, and he pointed to the powers under Section 102 of the Act granted to the Minister of Finance to advance sums from the consolidated revenue fund as are necessary to provide adequate working capital for the purpose of the Act, and, under Section 104, to the power given the Board to make all payments from the money so advanced necessary for the administration of the Act.

"If I can read the English language correctly, under that section, assuming the Liquor Act did operate, the Board had the right to make those payments," said Hon. Mr. Farris, who, on the point of whether the Act was in force at the time the purchase was made, held that it clearly was under the terms of the Interpretation Act. In pointing to the fact that the Prohibition Act was in force and that on a certain date the new act was to come into effect, and it would have been a "nice mess" if there had been no authority for the Government to appoint the Board, secure premises, purchase liquor and otherwise prepare for the change, he said that had that authority not existed there would have been the interregnum of two or three months and much confusion. It was to prevent just such a condition that the general omnibus clause is in the Interpretation Act providing that when necessary and expedient, such preliminary steps to make legislation effective could be taken.

Hon. Mr. Farris quoted at length from the charge of Judge Morrison, trial judge in the Campbell-Cromie libel action, and from the address of Mr. Joseph Martin, K.C., counsel for Cromie, to prove his point that there was absolutely no allegation that Campbell corruptly or wrongfully got money from the Government. He de-

clared that the claim made by The Vancouver Sun that the verdict of the jury was a condemnation of Campbell and of the Government was absolutely unfounded, and in again criticizing the opposition leader for his penchant for insinuation, he demanded of him to come forward with some specific charge and back it up by proof.

**Didn't Know Them**

Relative to Mr. Bowser's allegation of leases for liquor premises being made at extravagant rentals with party friends, and the reference to the Pither & Leiser warehouse here, Hon. Mr. Farris declared he did not know those persons nor their political affiliation, and the same applied to the Board's offices in the Belmont Block. He did not know the owners of the block.

Hon. John Hart—They are Conservatives.

Continuing, Hon. Mr. Farris said he did not know whether the lessees of the Government Store premises here were friends of the Government, but he did know that the lease of the old store on Yates Street, in premises owned by Mr. Stephen Jones, a lifelong Liberal, had been terminated because cheaper premises could be secured.

Hon. Mr. Farris challenged Mr. Bowser to give the names of employees in the Government liquor store who had been convicted. He knew of no such case though it might be true, but he ventured to say that the Opposition leader had never furnished himself or the chairman of the Board with any such information as it was his duty to do. But he came to the House with his demand for the appointment of a committee with the object of blowing his own trumpet and making a grandstand play.

"I cannot understand how, with all the difficulties we met in getting the Act under way, and with the deluge of over 6,000 applications for positions, we would desire to keep any such type of men in our employ. Do you wonder I am skeptical of his allegation when I recall that at Kaslo he charged me with having 240,000 of liquor stored in the United States,

and when I came forward with the affidavit of a substantial citizen proving that he made such a charge, he countered by claiming that that individual had been convicted of a misdemeanor. The fact was that man operated a drug store, and while absent from his town a girl clerk sold a bottle of patent medicine without first affixing the revenue stamp. Do you wonder then, I say, that I am skeptical of the brand of convictions he appears to have up his sleeve? Let him come out with the names."

Heat was displayed by the Attorney-General when he pointed to Mr. Bowser's allegations of wholesale incompetency on the part of the liquor stores staff, charges based, he supposed, on the fact that there had been liquor stolen from a number of the stores and that at Vancouver the whole staff had been dismissed. Surely, he said, there was a limit to that source of insinuation and malicious attack.

**Not "Tipped Off"**

"I don't know whether the Dominion Government tipped off the fact of its intention to impose increased taxes on liquor, but they didn't tip me off," declared the Attorney-General, answering Mr. Bowser's criticism that while liquor dealers throughout the country, surmising these increased taxes would apply to liquor, had cleared large quantities from the bonded warehouses, while the Provincial authorities had failed to do so. "But even if they had done such a thing I could not have believed they would have been so unfair as they were in stepping into this Province and taking \$1.60 per bottle of the profit we are making. Had the Federal Government applied that tax to the whole Dominion we would have got a reasonable amount back. Of our profit per bottle, one-half goes to the Province and one-half to the municipality. Of the \$1.60 taken by the Dominion we get less than ten cents back, and assuming that we make two millions, the Dominion is taking two millions out of the Province. I am not so sure about the Opposition leader's morals when he suggests we should have cleared that liquor. The people are not supposed to defeat the laws of the country. His suggestion is that the Federal Act is crooked and that we should have been, too. If that Federal tax is not a proper one we can take action; if it is proper, we should pay it.

"A more cowardly method of insinuation was never before used," was the way Attorney-General Farris dubbed Mr. Bowser's allegation of the existence of a liquor "ring," through which a large part of the liquor was purchased by the Government and no one else, not in the ring, had a chance to sell. He read from a lengthy list, the various brands of Scotch whisky and quantities purchased, making the point that such brands were well known, and he remarked, "I have heard of these rumors going around and what the Opposition leader and the member for Esquimalt, if they could find time to let Dr. Baker alone, would likely say, and I had this list prepared."

The Opposition leader, he asserted, was not playing the game. If he had been he would not have picked out a few men in Vancouver, among them his (Hon. Mr. Farris') own brother, and put a ring of mud around them, the while making no definite charges but leaving the suggestion that liquor could not be sold to the Board except through those men.

**Not Worth While**

"I repeat that sort of thing makes one feel that the political game as played in this country is not worth while, and that there is nothing to compensate a man for honestly endeavoring to perform his duties," said Hon. Mr. Farris, who stated that Purchasing Agent Patterson had that morning telephoned him from Vancouver and said that only one man of those named by Mr. Bowser had sold any liquor to the Government, and that two of them he had never seen. That one exception was a Mr. Delbridge, agent for the "O-O" whisky, the only one from whom that brand had been bought and the regular market prices were paid. He asserted that every transaction was honest and clear. He resented Mr. Bowser's allegations respecting Mr. J. H. Falconer, and, he went on: "He asks us to make him a judge and tells us 'I hope to prove, and proving, I hope to convict a member of the Liquor Board.' I want my friend to stand up and make a definite charge that in granting consents for bonded liquor warehouses I have profited a five-cent piece in connection therewith," said Mr. Farris, referring to Mr. Bowser's allegation that one or two members of the House had so profited.

"He says if he cannot make the charge stick he is the one who will suffer. But who is suffering now? But watch his consistency. He condemns us for dismissing the whole staff of the Hastings Street store without first laying a charge, and when he makes a charge against the Government and is asked to back up his allegations, he sneers and tells us, 'Oh, you people need not worry.'"

Hon. Mr. Farris emphatically denied Mr. Bowser's statements that parties prosecuted and convicted under the Liquor Act in Vancouver are now walking the streets. He asserted that three pardons had been granted by him during the past year of persons so convicted, and he cited the circumstances of each case; but, he pointed out, there had been a number of convictions in connection with clubs, convictions which had been quashed by a decision of Judge Cayley, who had held that the section of the Act providing for a fine in such cases, was the only one under which the prosecutions could be laid. Any convicted persons now walking the street were those affected by that decision. He noted the similarity of Mr. Bowser's present allegation to those made against the alleged maladministration of the department under the Prohibition Act, and concluded:

**Ready for Inquiry**

"I make no claims of super ability, no claim that mistakes have not been made in the course of my administration for which the public may be justified in expressing condemnation, and I am willing to take full measure of criticism. But as to charges of dishonesty, either on my own part or on that of the officials of my department, I demand from the leader of the Opposition, as I demand from the Legislature, and as I believe the people of this country will demand, a full and complete investigation, that I get as a man the treatment any man in this Province is entitled to. I am in the hands of the Legislature and before my constituents in Vancouver. I demand that these charges be made on the basis of fair play and British justice."

**SPECIFIC CHARGE OR NO INQUIRY**

**Government Forces Reject Demand of Opposition Leader Based Upon Terms of His Resolution**

On a division in the Legislature last night, the first division to have been taken this session, the Government forces, aided by the lone independent vote of Rev. Thomas Menzies, member for Comox, last night, at 11 o'clock, by a vote of 24 to 18, refused the request of Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C., for the appointment of a select committee of the House to investigate into charges set forth by the Opposition leader in his lengthy resolution, debate on which occupied the greater part of the afternoon and night sittings.

On the grounds that Mr. Bowser's resolutions contained no specific charges, but only a mass of insinuations, Premier Oliver moved an amendment that the Bowser resolution be stricken out and instead that Mr. Bowser and the seconder of his motion, Mr. J. W. Jones, South Okanagan, be requested to set forth specific charges before the appointment of a select committee is named.

The Conservative members had with them the support of the Labor and other independent members, with the exception of Mr. Menzies.

**Demands Specific Charges**

Premier Oliver declared his belief that the many reports of wrongdoing must be cleared up by an investigation, and if the Leader of the Opposition would not adopt the will

of the House as set forth in the terms of the amendment, then some other member would be found to undertake that duty.

Mr. Bowser asked the Premier if he was to understand that some member of the Government would have the hardihood to make a charge against the Attorney-General.

"I'll cross that bridge when I come to it," retorted the Premier.

It would appear that unless the Opposition Leader is prepared to come forth with charges which the Government side considers are sufficiently definite, the asked-for appointment of the committee of inquiry will not be made.

The feature of last night's proceedings was the lengthy and acrimonious attack the Premier made against the proprietor of The Vancouver Sun and Mr. R. T. Elliott, K.C., both of whom, he averred, have been working in collusion and against the Government, and against Mr. Bowser. So strong did he attack the Opposition Leader that Mr. Speaker had to call him to order for the language used.

**His Compliments**

The Premier accused Messrs. Cromie and Elliott of attempting to block the Dolly Varden legislation, and he charged the latter had aided Messrs. Foley, Welch & Stewart, former P.G.E. interests, in an endeavor to obtain an unjust settlement with the Government, and with later seeking to get away with railway equipment which rightfully belonged to the Province. He accused Mr. Bowser with joining forces with those two gentlemen. He declared Mr. Cromie to have been guilty of blackmailing tactics to secure the abolition of the Government printing department, and have Government printing done by private firms; that later he had attempted to obtain \$10,000 for a publication printed from his office, that failing this he reduced his price to \$5,000, and not receiving that amount, he had, the Premier declared, commenced his attacks against the Government. He declared Mr. Cromie to be using his paper for purposes of blackmail, and he told of alleged efforts by that gentleman to have the Government coerce a paper company to which he (Cromie) owed money. The rules of the House, declared the Premier, would not permit him to say what he had said to Cromie on one occasion, when the latter had forced himself into the Premier's room.

Premier Oliver told how, when he was in Toronto, he had heard startling reports of wrong-doing out here, and the crusade of calumny started by The Sun had been assisted by Mr. Bowser and by papers supporting him.

**Wrongdoing**

"This Province has been affected by a miasma of wrongdoing which cannot but have a prejudicial effect upon it," declared Premier Oliver, who turned to the allegation by Mr. Bowser that through the failure of the Province to clear its liquor from the bonded warehouses before the increased Federal tax on liquor came into effect, large sums of money had been lost. He held that Mr. Bowser had admitted that the Federal Minister of Finance had endeavored to keep these proposed new levies secret, and yet Mr. Bowser had also admitted that liquor dealers throughout the country had such advance information that they had saved \$169,000.

Mr. Bowser: "I never made such a statement. I said that as ordinary shrewd business men they anticipated such taxes would be levied."

Premier Oliver maintained Mr. Bowser had stated that Ottawa had lost that amount. That was an indictment of his friends at Ottawa, he held.

Agreeing with Mr. Bowser that the liquor business peculiarly lends itself to wrongdoing, Premier Oliver stated that before the Act came into force he had had conversations with many people, who stated they had stocks on hand or in transit, on which heavy loss would be incurred unless the Government took them off their hands. At first he had no objection to that course, but when he saw the possibility of wrongdoing he held the purchasing agent to be careless in the purchase of stocks to see

that not a trace of scandal should arise. He had that official's assurance that, so far as he could prevent it, no one had received a single dollar in connection with any of those purchases.

Premier Oliver took umbrage at Mr. Bowser's statement that a political friend of his (the Premier) had bought twenty barrels of beer at one time. He declared he knew nothing of it, but he knew that the allegation had been made with the intent of casting a reflection upon himself.

**Besmirched**

"And yet the leader of the Opposition besmirches me in the eyes of the public by his insinuation. This man who has regard for the reputation of any man, is the man who is coming here in the position of prosecutor and makes these charges, and he also wants to be judge of the guilt of the people he accuses. I believe there is in the minds of members of this House a sense of the fitness of things. I do not believe there is a person in this Province who would wish to place himself in the position of informant, prosecutor and judge."

The Premier referred to what he declared to be insinuations against the integrity of the Comptroller-General, that that official had yielded to pressure from the Government to sign the \$150,000 cheque, and to the allegations against the Government agent at Vancouver and against the former Commissioner of South Vancouver, and against the general manager of the P.G.E. Railway. He held that Mr. Bowser was insinuating that certain men in Vancouver were engaged in a grafting proposition. He recalled that years ago similar tactics had been adopted by the Opposition leader on the eve of a Federal campaign.

Mr. Bowser rose to a point of order, holding that what he had said years ago, or his political reputation, had nothing to do with the specific resolution he had placed on the order paper and which was before the House.

Mr. Speaker held that Mr. Bowser's point was well taken, that when a specific resolution was before the House there could only be reference made to it alone.

**Speaker Intervenes**

Premier Oliver respected Mr. Speaker's ruling, but he declared that before the debate of the session were over he would refer to the matter again.

Mr. Bowser: "Why not come down to modern times?"

Premier Oliver: "Oh, yes, I understand my friend's desire to sidestep."

Continuing, the Premier stated that the people of the Province would have the impression that all those persons against whom the Opposition leader's insinuations were directed were actually charged with wrongdoing, and yet "you will not find a single charge against these men." He alleged that Mr. Bowser was even making insinuations against members of his own profession, and he waxed wroth at the mention of his son's name among those of certain lawyers who had acted for clients in securing incorporation of clubs in Vancouver, declaring, almost with tears in his eyes:

"God forbid that that boy should grow up with a standard of honor of that of the leader of the Opposition," a remark which led Mr. Speaker to call him to order.

"This man has no hesitation in besmirching the reputation of that boy. I do not know of a single action of the leader of the Opposition tending to the uplift of the people of this Province," the Premier exclaimed in heightened voice.

Mr. Bowser: "The Premier is hurting himself more than me. I don't think I should be subjected to these personal attacks just because my friend has no better manners."

The Premier declared that Mr. Bowser's allegation that large sums were received as profit by some one of more members of the Legislature through consents granted by the Attorney-General for permits for bonded liquor warehouses, was of a piece with the rest of the insinuations.

**Demand Justice**

"I hold no brief for the Attorney-General," he declared, "but I appeal to this House that it should give full justice to every man, that in the charges laid there shall be no ambiguity, and that plain language shall be used," and he predicted that after the Premier was through the Opposition would say that he had

made no such charges and, he held, Mr. Bowser could rightly say so, because under the language he had used in framing his resolution it was impossible to say what was charged.

If the request for an inquiry was granted as asked for and the committee was to go into all the implications and insinuations, it would never get through. He would not burke an inquiry, but he held that there must be definite charges, and with that idea in mind he would move the amendment to permit the Opposition leader making a direct charge.

This amendment may be interpreted as a means of preventing an inquiry, stated the Premier. It might result in a refusal of the leader of the opposition and the seconder of the motion to submit such charges and the dropping of such an inquiry.

"If the mover and seconder will not comply and refuse to prefer specific charges then I want to say that this should end the inquiry," declared the Premier. "This House should continue it so that justice may be done."

Then followed a legal argument entered into from both sides of the House, Mr. Bowser contending that an amendment to a motion for a select committee should be given at least two days' notice on the order paper. To this the Premier replied that the matter was one of privilege and that as it affected the honor of members of the House, it should be put forthwith.

To this Mr. Speaker Manson concurred, pointing to Rule 55 of the House Rules that on matters of privilege an amendment should have precedence over all other matters.

**Sees Good Faith**

Mr. Davad Whiteside stated that he presumed Mr. Bowser was acting in good faith in putting charges forward. On behalf of himself, he stated that the rumors of scandal had almost made political life intolerable. Was the opposition leader prepared to go before a court of justice with such charges? It was a fair position to adopt the practice of the courts, if Mr. Bowser did not accept this amendment and prefer the charge asked for, Mr. Whiteside claimed that in justice to the Legislature and to the people of the Province he ought to stand up in the House and withdraw his statement.

Mr. George Hanes, North Vancouver, thought the motion contained enough specific charges to go through with it. He had in view a similar inquiry when no definite allegations were made and none could be made except a suspicion of general wrongdoing. Yet it had developed into a serious affair. The amendment might be in order, he averred, but the members had been hurried and he was not so sure that it would mean a full and searching inquiry. The resolution of the leader of the opposition covered sufficient ground to warrant an investigation. He was not satisfied and therefore would vote against the amendment.

Mr. Bowser claimed that he could have asked for a select committee and then have preferred charges to this committee. It was most noticeable how it had been rushed by the Government. The Premier, he considered, was rather in a hurry to get through with it without giving it the courtesy of placing it on the order paper. He recalled that in 1906, on a motion by J. A. McDonald and J. H. King (present Minister of Public Works), there had been a demand for a select committee with no definite charges preferred. And he recalled to the Premier that in this instance the mover had included himself on the committee. In the Kalam Island inquiry, not a single statement of a charge was brought against a minister, yet it later developed into a charge against a minister.

**Bussing Inquiry**

"The people of the country will know tomorrow morning," he stated, "that you are going to burke charges involving the greatest scandal of the day. The P.G.E. inquiry was formed to drive me out of office. The Kitlano Reserve inquiry was another example. Were there charges against me? No. But you again attempted to drive me out of public life. I have made charges. The air is full of rumors. I'm the one who will suffer if I cannot prove them, and perhaps drive myself out of public life. Upon you the responsibility rests."



Mr. M. B. Jackson—"After what he has just said, does the leader of the opposition intend to make a charge against the Attorney-General?"

Mr. Bowser—"I have never yet nor do I intend now to answer such silly questions."

Coming back, Mr. Jackson contended that the opposition leader had taken advantage of the House. There had been a cloud of suspicion aroused about the Attorney-General, and by all the rules of the game and chivalry the opposition leader should accept the responsibility. In cold cynicism, Mr. Bowser had excelled himself, declared Mr. Jackson. "If we go back to the days of chivalry he would either have to make good or retract or he would get a gauntlet in his face."

Major Burde objected to the belligerent attitude of the member for the Islands, and the member for Alberni received some support from his side of the House.

Continuing, Mr. Jackson said that he was very much disturbed over the Campbell warehouse deal. It was too disconcerting to himself and to the people to allow it to drop, but there had been nothing advanced by the opposition leader to indicate any wrongdoing.

#### Forced Discussion

The situation became more complicated when Mr. Kenneth Duncan moved the adjournment of the debate, the Government forces objecting, and on a vote being taken, the motion was defeated by 24 to 18, Hon. Mrs. Smith and Dr. Rose being paired, Canon Hinchliffe being absent, while Mr. Menzies, Independent member for Comox, lined up with the Government.

Asked by Mr. Jackson whether he wanted to continue the debate, Mr. Duncan stated that he was in no position to do so.

Major Burde took an oppositionist view and stated that if he generated much of the heat shown by the Government side of the House during the evening he would require several bucketfuls of water. The Government, he contended, had endeavored to rush the matter. The people were not concerned with the value of real estate in Victoria and Vancouver. They were sick and tired of "this sort of thing." He had doubts whether the Government needed an inquiry which the people are demanding.

Mr. R. H. Pooley declared there had been heard a great amount of words from the Premier. His mind was taken back to those days when the present leader of the opposition had been besmirched by the Liberals, but he had never "squealed." Mr. Pooley stated that when the Liberals in previous years had asked of the former Government investigations they had always got them without any question. He was convinced the Government, in burking the inquiry, was making a great mistake.

Mr. P. A. Pauline declared that when the House knew what the charges were, then it would know how to proceed. He averred the people wanted to see present House methods changed, that they were tired of the bickering and innuendo and both sides calling the other black.

The division caused great interest in the galleries, which were filled when the vote was taken.

#### ASKS P.G.E. CONTRACTS

Rossland's Member Wants to See What Are Terms Under Which Contractors Are Working

The notice of motion introduced by Mr. W. K. Esling, Conservative member for Rossland, calling for copies to be brought down of all existing contracts in connection with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway was passed by the House Thursday afternoon, with no objection coming from the Government benches.

Mr. Esling referred to the copy of an alleged contract between the Government and the Northern Construction Company, which had to do with the construction of a forty-two-mile stretch. He contended that for years there had been no printed details of these contracts, while at the same time other departments were wont, and expected, to submit details of their respective financial transactions.

It was generally conceded, he contended, that the work on the railway had far exceeded the original estimates. According to his copy of the contract, the Construction Company was engaged on the work and received a commission of five and a half per cent on all monies expended. The greater the amount expended the greater the amount that goes to the Northern Construction Company, he claimed, and that company was not only getting this percentage, but by sub-letting contracts, they were also receiving money as a profit on these sub-contracts. He referred to the efforts made by the member for North Vancouver, (Mr. Hanes) to secure such information as contained in the resolution, efforts which had been to no avail. There was no indication that prices mentioned in the original contract had since been revised, even though materials had lowered in price, he said.

Mr. Hanes, in seconding a request for a return of copies of the contracts, claimed that that held by Mr. Esling was not in itself a contract, but really a copy of the contract submitted to the Government by the Northern Construction Company. A city entering upon a contract had it signed by responsible parties, and he would be surprised if the Premier could produce a properly prepared contract.

#### P.G.E. FINANCIAL DATA

Mr. W. Esling, Rossland, Is Curious About Government's Operations in Past Four Years

Mr. W. K. Esling, who has already in the Legislature severely criticized the Government's operations in respect of the P.G.E. Railway project, is asking for details of information governing specific details of that project, the order paper bearing a series of questions he proposes to put, especially in respect of the financial status of the road past and present, the amount expended on construction, interest and losses in operation in the years 1918, 1919, 1920 and up to September 30, 1921; aggregate interest charges on bonds authorized by the Province for the purposes of the railway, and actually sold, on treasury bills, on loans, and on other advances, and what is the capital outlay estimated to be required from September 30 last to complete the line into Prince George.

Mr. J. B. Cleardhue is asking how many licences have been issued this year under the Real Estate Agents' Licensing Act; the amount derived therefrom, and what number in Victoria, and whether there have been any prosecutions under that Act.

Colonel Lister is seeking information on the Creston soldier settlement area; Mr. Pooley is curious about the progress of the work on the Port Hardy-Quatsino road; and Mr. McRae is asking relative to insurance on the Tranquille sanitarium; the Government stock in the liquor store at Kamloops, and what agents placed the insurance. Mr. McRae also wants copies of engineers' reports on the Fraser Canyon and Hope-Princeton highways tabled.

Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education, replying to questions put by Mr. J. W. Jones stated that H. E. Hallwright is in the employ of the department as district supervisor of agricultural instruction at a salary of \$2,120 per annum; that he is not provided by the Government with a motor; is at present teaching in the Victoria High School eight hours per week as part of his duties supervising home work; conducting outdoor excursion classes in various branches, and renders assistance to farmers and gardeners, and is now perfecting plans for organizing home science and agriculture clubs in Victoria for boys and girls.

Mr. W. J. Bowser on Monday will ask questions of the Premier relative to the appointment of Mr. W. G. Wark as commissioner to conduct the gravel pit inquiry; whether Mr. Wark was at that time an employee of the P.G.E. Railway, his salary, and other questions concerning the gravel pit inquiry.

#### LIQUOR LAW AMENDMENTS

There is no indication of the extent to which the Liquor Act will be amended during the present session of the Legislature, but we assume that any amendments will not be insisted upon by the Government, but left, as in the case of the present law, to the good sense of the House. It is anticipated that there will be a tightening up of the methods which in the past have made it too easy for visitors to get permits. One factor in connection with the operation of the law which will have a bearing on its continued popularity is the facilities offered to the people to get what they want. This is a feature which demands some reform, and so far as that reform can be brought about by the Legislature itself, there should be a definite expression of opinion. Under the present legislation it is permissible to all hotel occupants to have liquors in their rooms, but they are not allowed to consume liquor with their meals in the hotel dining rooms. This distinction is a bad feature of the law, for it gives rise to secret drinking, which, in the course of time, may be carried to objectionable lengths.

We do not think there is any very general desire that facilities should be made available for the consumption of all kinds of liquors at meals in hotels, or clubs, but the question of allowing beer and light wines to be used under such circumstances deserves consideration. With the experience of over four months' operation the Liquor Board should be in a position to advise the Government and the Legislature what are the classes of liquor in demand and in how much the restriction on the sale of beer and malt liquors is encouraging the use of spirituous drinks. In many of its aspects the liquor law is proving a workable measure, but, so that abuses do not creep in through its operation, the Liquor Board should report from time to time on measures which, by legislative enactment, will tend to make the law more effective and more likely to satisfy public opinion. In Quebec the operation of liquor control is even more effective than it is in this Province and there may be some of the features in the Quebec Act which can be borrowed by our Legislature.

Another matter which should be considered during the present session is that affecting the right of the Government to impose a tax on liquor imported for private consumption. An effort is being made to impose what amounts to a tax of 50 per cent on liquors which are legitimately brought into the Province under the Federal law. At the time this right was claimed, by the inclusion of a clause in the Liquor Act, this newspaper expressed the opinion that it was ultra vires of the Province. The matter will eventually come before the Privy Council, and until it does it is not good policy of the Government, since its right has not been defined, to institute a search into cases of importations and attempt to impose what can only be regarded as an exorbitant tax. The Government is adopting a strangely irreconcilable policy in this regard. Premier Oliver and his colleagues are staunch supporters of Mr. Mackenzie King in the present Federal election, and, with him, believe that tariffs for protection should be abolished. At the same time they have imposed a 50 per cent tariff on privately imported liquors, thus out-heroding the Federal Government in this respect.

## FREER SALE OF BEER IS MR. UPHILL'S PLEA

Fernie's Member Argues Such  
Would Make for Greater  
Moderation—Criticizes Tax-  
ation Proposals

An appeal for an amendment to the Liquor Act to the end that provision be made for the sale of draught beer by the glass was voiced by Mr. Thos. Uphill, Independent Labor member for Fernie, when speaking in the Legislature on Friday afternoon in the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He showed that he was consistent in the stand he took last year in the House on this matter, and he intimated that that stand would be maintained.

The member for Fernie also protested against the proposed one per cent income tax, the elimination of the existing exemption on incomes.

"Nothing but death and taxes before us," he declared. "Have we got into such a deplorable financial condition that we must resort to such a drastic action?" He cited the case of working men working but part of the year and receiving \$4 and less per day in wages, and asked how men with families could be expected to pay the proposed tax. It was getting to the stage, he declared, where those workmen, if given the same shelter and other attention given to the mules in the mine, would be better off than at present.

### Sympathizes With Premier

Like the member for Alberni, he could feel a little sympathy with the Premier. It was painful, he averred, to have to sit and see some members of the Government side so disloyal. Criticism from within the ranks of a party was deadly, he considered.

Mr. Uphill regretted the Speech from the Throne contained no reference to the pressing question of unemployment. To hold that it is no worse in British Columbia than in other parts of the world was no reason why it should be overlooked. He held that so long as the present industrial system existed there will always be unemployment, for it is to the benefit of the corporations to have a surplus of labor and force down wages. But it was the duty of the state to see that no one went hungry.

Relative to the need of amendments to the Coal Mines Regulations Act, Mr. Uphill referred to the recent convention at St. Louis on mine rescue and mine safety work at which the Province had been represented, and he expressed regret that the Minister of Mines had not seen fit to bring something forth as a result of that convention that would improve the conditions in the mines here. He said the mines in his district of Fernie are the most gaseous in the world and therefore needed every facility for mine rescue work. He held that the British system of paying workers who trained and qualified in mine rescue work should be adopted in this Province, citing the case of England, where such trained men receive £2 per day when standing by in case of mine accidents, as well as other encouragements for training. The request of the miners for fifty cents per hour while training and one dollar an hour, after being qualified, when engaged in rescue work, was a modest and proper one. Further, the miners asked that men engaged in rescue work be insured for \$5,000 each to provide for their dependents should they lose their lives in the work.

### Some Needed Changes

Mr. Uphill pointed to the fact that under the check-weighing system now in vogue in this Province the men are paid by the ton. In Great Britain and here the men select their own check-weighers but there the com-

panies insisted that the mining corporations seek to bar out men whose political ideas they do not approve of.

A strong plea was made by Mr. Uphill for greater compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act to men disabled. He stated that the ratio here of fifty-five per cent of the injured worker's average wages was less than in Ontario, Manitoba and many States of the Union, where the compensation ranged as high as seventy-five per cent. In case of death the widow and dependents should get as much as is paid under the Canada Pensions Act, he held. Further, the compensation should be extended to a greater number of children than four.

The member for Fernie dubbed the Mothers' Pension Act a mere skeleton, for only certain pages came within its scope. He remembered at the time of the election some good women came from the Coast and told of the advantages of the act and of the Government's solicitude for the dependent mothers. The present system under which small earnings of a family were taken into account in fixing the pension was a mere penalizing of thrift, he declared.

### Wants More Road Work

Mr. Uphill criticized the Government's failure in regard to road work, stating the appropriations for the districts of the three Labor members had been seriously curtailed while the money actually spent had not been spent to good advantage. In Fernie, which produced thousands in revenue, a twenty-dollar bill would cover outlays, "and when we complain we are told we did not vote right at the last election." He referred to promises made in 1916 by the Minister of Public Works of road work. Last year those promises were repeated and nothing was done.

"You are taking out all you can from Fernie and putting nothing back. If something is not done this year the Government will show it is absolutely dishonest," declared Mr. Uphill, who opined the Government must be a good business one when it can get beer for \$14 per cask and sell it at \$20, in addition to getting the price of the permit, a tax levied on the public for the privilege of being robbed. He objected to the fact that in his district only a \$5 permit can be obtained.

## MR. W. J. BOWSER IN DEBATE TOMORROW

Conservative Leader Will Have  
Floor in Legislature, and  
Address Is Expected to Be  
Pungent One

Chief interest in tomorrow's sitting of the Legislature will centre in the contribution which will be made by Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C., leader of the Conservative opposition, to the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The debate gives a speaker a wide range over which to travel and it is certain that the opposition leader will take full advantage of the opportunity to expound his opinion of the administration of the Government.

It is probable that Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education, will follow Mr. Bowser, though whether he will go on tomorrow or adjourn the debate until Tuesday is not certain. It is expected that the debate on the Address will terminate not later than Wednesday.

So far little legislation has been brought down by the Government and what has appeared consists almost solely of minor amendments to existing legislation.

Commencing this week the various select standing committees of the House will get down to business, these committees having been named last week. The Municipal Committee has held an organization meeting, Mr. David Whitson, Liberal member for New Westminster, being appointed chairman. Other committees will arrange to meet during the next

## MOTHERS' PENSION ACT POORLY ADMINISTERED

Member for Yale Has Criticism for Method by Which  
System Is Being Carried Out  
by Government

Caustic criticism of the method of administering mothers' pensions was voiced in the Legislature on Friday by Mr. J. McRae, Conservative member for Yale, when he held that there have been instances in his own riding where gross injustice has been done to women deserving of consideration and entitled to the pension.

Mr. McRae was continuing the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He also criticized the failure of the Government to carry on needed road works, declaring that while residents in many districts were being mulcted heavily in taxes the Government is giving them nothing in return.

Others speakers in the debate were Messrs. Neelands (South Vancouver), and Henniger (Grand Forks). The debate was adjourned by Mr. W. J. Bowser, K. C., Conservative leader, who will speak on Monday afternoon.

### His First Speech

Remarking that this was the first time he had spoken on the debate since his election, Mr. McRae stated that he had been petitioned by his constituents to protest against any further taxation being imposed. The Government, he contended, had gone the limit in this regard, and that it was becoming a serious question with many of the farmers. When he found that \$335,000 had been spent in the Delta during the past two years, he knew why the member for that riding (Mr. Paterson) had seconded the reply to the speech. It also showed that unfair treatment was being accorded to other districts.

The member for Yale referred to the Premier's activity in abusing the Conservative party when a member of the opposition, and the criticism of the then government for not looking after ridings represented by Liberals. It was the opposite case today, the Government showing a partiality for districts represented by members of their political leaning.

Mr. McRae stated that he spoke of a man as he found him, and since his election he had found the Minister of Public Works had received him with every courtesy. Such an opinion, however, would not last unless more was done for his district where the Government had increased taxation and cut down road appropriations. Two men in his district, he averred, paid more in taxes than the entire amount spent by the Government on the roads. He had 700 miles of road and 200 miles of trail in his district, yet only \$45,000 was appropriated at the last session for repairs.

### Has But One Chance

"Where are we going to land?" he asked. "There has got to be a halt called, and I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that if there was an election tomorrow you would be the only Liberal to be returned." (Cheers from the Opposition benches).

There was something wrong with mothers' pensions, he contended, the member for Grand Forks to the contrary. He cited an instance in his own district where the authorities in Vancouver had refused the evidence offered by prominent people, but had listened to the advice of the political friends. The pension had been refused, and the reason, he contended, for the woman not getting it was because she had voted for him in the last election.

Mr. J. Schofield (Trail)—That is not the only case.

The Conservatives have all kinds of faults, continued Mr. McRae, who stated he was not a hide-bound party man, "but none of us would stoop to do such an act as this."

He had heard the Premier denouncing the Conservatives as being "rotten." He had his chance in this instance to help him (Mr. McRae) get the widow's pension. He had started on this and he intended to stick to it.

The member for Yale received quite an ovation from both sides of the House at the conclusion of his speech. His assertion that while he did not make that trip over the P. G. E. with the rest of the members, because he could not arrange to do so, yet he saw no object to going along for "it would be quite impossible to form an intelligent opinion among a bunch of Liberals." This sally was received with amusement on both sides of the House.

**Unemployment**

H. E. Neelands, labor member for South Vancouver, first referred to the unemployment question brought up by the Independent members at the last session of the Legislature. They had been much disappointed that no reference was made to this subject in the King's Speech. The party he represented believed that when industry fails it was the duty of the state to step in. An unemployed man quickly lost his morale.

Turning his attention to the proposal of the B. C. E. R. to operate one-man cars on their system, Mr. Neelands opined that he would have thought that the matter would not have been brought up at this time in view of the number of men being out of work. From reports from places where the one-man car is in operation he had come to the conclusion that there was a greater percentage of accidents than was the case with cars operated by two men. He asked the Minister of Railways who was the higher authority referred to by Mr. W. G. Murrin, Vancouver, at a conference with the New Westminster Board of Trade held this week. The replies to his questions on the order paper did not justify any optimism on the part of the Vancouver official of the company.

Mr. Neelands then touched on the rumor in circulation as regards the abolition of the exemption clause in income tax returns. He wished to protest against any such move on the part of the Government, claiming that the working man could not afford to pay such a tax. If the Government needed more money they could go to better fields, he contended.

In conclusion, the member for South Vancouver asked that consideration be given to the desire in his district for a restoration of the franchise. A promise to this effect had been given by the Government

this year, and he hoped to see it put in effect at an early date.

**After the Press**

Mr. Henniger, Liberal member for Grand Forks, referred to the seconder of the reply to the Speech, Mr. A. D. Paterson, who, he claimed, had covered more in three minutes than some members had done in one hour and a half. He claimed there was little truth to the interview he was supposed to have accorded newspapermen some weeks ago that he had broken with the Government; that there was just as much truth to it as the statements sent broadcast at the close of the last session in connection with social activities of the private members. He referred to the "lying reporters" and declared he resented that story.

He differed with the member for Comox in the matter of women's pensions, and he had yet to hear of one complaint in this regard, nor would he offer any criticism.

Mr. Henniger made reference to the proposed amendments to the Liquor Act.

"Last year the brewers and other interests by delegations and by telegrams, had pleaded that the poor returned man must have his beer," he stated. "This year they are pursuing the same tactics by placing the demand for beer at the door of the poor working man." He for one did not want the country filled with beer drinkers. The Moderation Act, he considered was a move in the right direction and would lessen the evils of drinking in the long run.

He referred to the liquor store robbery at Grand Forks, and stated that the employees were not to blame.

Mr. Uphill—It shows what a nice lot there are at Grand Forks. They don't do business like that at Fernie.

The member for Grand Forks asked the Government to give consideration to the irrigation scheme in his district. The increasing demand for expenditures made it necessary for great production. He felt confident that his appeal for aid in this direction would not go astray.

In closing, he deprecated the rumors going the rounds that the Government is shaky or is heading for the rocks.

**LICENCE OF SPEECH**

Mr. E. C. Henniger, the member for Grand Forks, in his contribution to the debate on the Address at Friday's sitting of the Legislature, took occasion to allude to what he termed "lying reporters." It is one of the privileges of legislative assemblies to allow their members to indulge in abusive epithets regarding those whom they wish to castigate with their tongues. It is a privilege that has been sadly abused in the Provincial Legislature during the past few days, and the Speaker of the House should have intervened more than once and ordered the retraction of some of the slanderous words employed. That he did not shows that he was remiss in his duty, for we are very certain, if we may judge from parliaments much older than that of British Columbia, that the language indulged in here should not, by all precedent, have been tolerated. There is a limit to the freedom of speech in legislative assemblies and it is reached when slander is intended and the dignity of Parliament is abused.

Were the Press of this Province to answer Mr. Henniger as he deserves to be answered, the member for Grand Forks would doubtless seek the protection of the courts. That is his privilege, and the privilege of every elected representative of the people who seeks a sanctuary in order to perpetrate an abusive epithet. In its own defence, however, the Press has the privilege of entertaining doubt about whatever Mr. Henniger may say in future. If it has erred to the extent that its representatives should be characterized as "lying reporters" it can avoid any opportunity of erring again by restricting its activities in reporting Mr. Henniger to his most harmless and uncolored utterances. At the same time Mr. Henniger, and other members of the Legislature, should remember that they are the repository of the people's trust and are expected to guard their own tongues as well as the people's interest. The frailties of human nature, we know, are great, but that does not mean they should not be exposed as an example that society should not emulate.

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**1921**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1921

## LIVELY SESSION TO OPEN TO-MORROW

### Government Majority in Legislature Now Is Two

The B. C. Legislature will open for its first Fall session at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. It will be the second session of the fifteenth Legislature.

Opening ceremonies will be performed by Lieutenant-Governor Nichol in his Windsor uniform. He will arrive at the Parliament Buildings at 3 o'clock. A guard of honor from the Princess Patricia's Regiment will greet him outside the buildings and artillery on Belleville Street will boom a salute across the harbor.

Judges of the Province, ex-members of the House of Commons, Senators, representative clergy from each denomination and representative army and navy officers with their wives will be present on the floor of the House to hear the Lieutenant-Governor read his speech. Besides these each minister is allowed to invite six friends and each private member two.

At night there will be the state dinner at Government House for the Premier, ministers and members of the House and other dignitaries in this Province.

Predictions of a lively session of the House are being made.

Chief business has to do with changes in the taxation act and aid to municipalities, which is the reason for calling the session this Fall instead of next Spring as usual.

Quite a battle is expected on the P. G. E. policy of the Government and there may be some talk on the liquor administration. Restoration of sale of beer by the glass in B. C. as asked for by hotelmen will come up. A measure to provide for this is now being prepared. It is understood, however, that it will not come down as a Government measure, but some private member will introduce it.

Announcement by David Whiteside, M.P.P. for New Westminster, that he has left the Government ranks and will sit in the House as an independent, has brought the Government majority on the floor of the House down to two. The Government following now numbers 24.

So far no one has been obtained to second the address in reply to the speech from the throne, which will be moved Wednesday afternoon by J. B. Clearhue, M.P.P. for Victoria. A. D. Paterson, M.P.P. for Delta, was asked to do it, but he has declined. The first Government caucus has been set for 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

# 2<sup>ND</sup> SESSION.

# 1921

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1921

## Fall Session of B. C. Legislature Is Opened To-day

### Lieutenant-Governor Performs Ceremony In Crowded Chamber; Speaker Says He Will Insist On Strict Parliamentary Behavior of Members.

Fifteen guns of artillery boomed forth in salute across the harbor from Work Point Barracks at 3 o'clock this afternoon as Lieutenant-Governor Nichol drove up to the main entrance of the Parliament Buildings. He wore his Windsor uniform, cocked hat and sword.

As he stepped from the car a guard of honor from the Princess Patricia Regiment under Major Clarke, M.C., Capt. J. H. Carvosso and Capt. J. S. Woods presented arms. The Lieutenant-Governor inspected them, then accompanied by General Ross and Commander Nixon of the Navy he went up the entrance stairs, through the beautiful gates, under the dome. The centre aisle of the Legislative Chamber was lined with officers as the Lieutenant-Governor passed up to the Speaker's dais.

### LONG RANGE SALUTE

Artillery under Major Hughes boomed forth from Work Point Barracks this afternoon instead of from in front of the Parliament Buildings on Belleville Street. This is the first time artillery has not been brought into the centre of the city for the opening.

Artillery can be heard just as well at Work Point, and it does not interfere with traffic to and from the C. P. R. wharves, which are at their busiest in the middle of the afternoon, it was explained.

While Sergeant-at-Arms O'Hara stood at his side holding the mace, the symbol of authority, the Lieutenant-Governor read the speech from the throne, which was handed him by his secretary.

As soon as he concluded the speech the Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by the corps of officers, left the chamber and Speaker Manson in his robes ascended the dais and took charge.

The Rev. W. D. Spence, pastor of the First Congregational Church, read the prayers. Then a number of formal motions were made and passed, including calling for the printing of the proceedings of the Legislature.

Attorney-General Harris then arose and moved the introduction of amendments to the Summary Convictions Act.

### Members Must Behave.

The Legislature then adjourned until 2.30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, when Joseph B. Clearhue, M.P.P. for Victoria, will move the reply to the speech from the throne. Members are being encouraged to cut their tails short.

Speaker Manson plans a number of improvements in the mode of conducting the Legislature.

"There will be nothing this session like the way some of the members conducted themselves last session," he said to-day.

### No Silver Buckles Yet.

The Speaker planned to have page boys garbed in velvet uniforms with silver-buckled slippers, instead of the ordinary clothing worn by pages in former years. To help carry out his plans for adding to the dignity of the House, page boys, however, appeared to-day without their velvet uniforms. Further negotiations concerning the velvet uniforms are to be carried on.

The big mahogany table which the Speaker has placed in the centre of the chamber to give some of the impressive atmosphere of Westminster, was not in place for the opening ceremonies, as it would block the aisle to the Governor on his way to the throne. The Speaker plans to put the table in place in the centre of the aisle until the last couple of days, when attendants began shuffling the desks of members and crowding things up to make room for visitors at the opening.

All the galleries were crowded this afternoon as the Lieutenant-Governor and the members went through the opening ceremonies. On the floor of the House were seated 235 persons, who are leaders in the official, public and religious life of the Province. Each Cabinet Minister had six persons as his guests seated on the floor of the House and each private member two guests.

After the ceremonies guests of the members were entertained at tea at the Empress Hotel.

To-night all members of the Legislature are guests of the Lieutenant-Governor at the formal state dinner at Government House.

## LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

### Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature:

In summoning you to meet for the second time within the calendar year, I am fulfilling an undertaking given by the Premier during the First Session of the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

During the recess investigation has been made into the financial conditions of municipalities, and legislation will be submitted providing for extension of the sources of their revenues.

Amendments to the "Taxation Act" will be submitted in order to apportion more equitably the burden of taxation on all classes of property and persons.

Progress has been made on the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and it is estimated that the financial provision made at the last Session of the Legislature will prove adequate for the completion of this line to Prince George.

Valuable information respecting feasible route to connect the Coast with the Interior links of the Transprovincial Highway has been assembled, permitting decision of the route to be selected and early undertaking of construction of this important link.

Having in view the better investigation and prevention of fires, a measure will be laid before you extending the work of the Department of Insurance.

Minor amendments to the "Government Liquor Act" will be submitted.

Amendments to the "Mineral Act" will be laid before you.

Further amendments to the "Placer-mining Act" will be proposed.

The Public Accounts for the last fiscal year will be brought down at an early date.

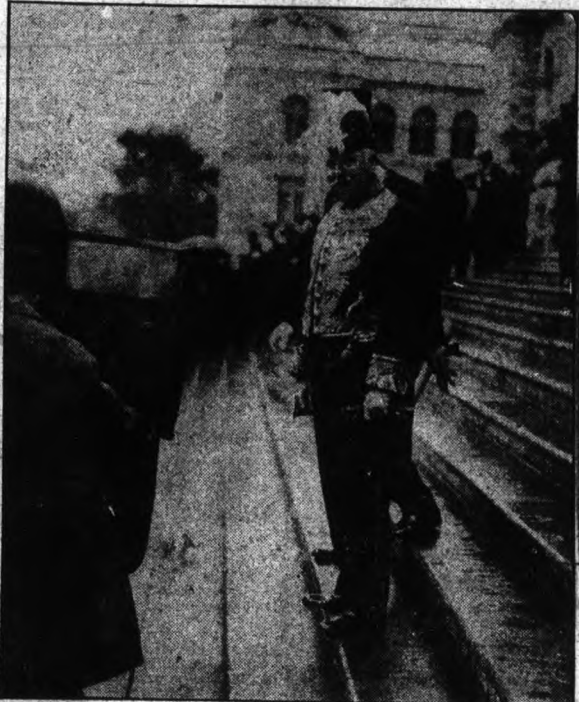
The Estimates of Expenditure for the ensuing year will be submitted for your earnest consideration.

### Members of the Legislature:

In leaving you to your deliberations, I have confidence that you will apply your best endeavors to the solution of the problems before you, and I pray the blessing of Providence on your labors.



## At Opening of Session Of Legislature of B. C.



The picture above shows the Lieutenant-Governor returning to his motor car after delivering his speech at the formal opening of the session yesterday afternoon.

## Clearihue Urges Linking P.G.E. With C.P.R.; Says Land Taxes too High

Joseph B. Clearihue of Victoria started the flow of oratory in the B. C. Legislature this session when he moved the reply to the speech of the Lieutenant-Governor this afternoon.

He outlined the work of the session and declared for solving the Pacific Great Eastern Railway problem by building the Clinton-Ashcroft link, so that connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway may be obtained for the whole Cariboo country over the P. G. E.

Mr. Clearihue also came out in support of the principle of the income tax and the extension of it to catch many persons who did not pay at all.

He took up the question of aid for municipalities, which was the reason for this session of the Legislature, and pointed out the serious plight into which they have run themselves, declared that Victoria was seriously short in its local improvement sinking funds.

"We have now passed through three years of re-adjustment following the financial upheaval due to our colossal expenditures in bringing victory to ourselves and our Allies, and as yet not only the municipalities and this Province, but our fair Dominion, yea, the entire world, are financially quaking," said Mr. Clearihue.

### Can't Blame War For All.

"Let me consider the municipalities a moment. Their difficulties are due not only to the effects of the recent war, but also to the wild orgy of spending and western optimism which prevailed throughout our fair Province previous to the war. Extensive loans such as were indulged in could only be justified when based upon actual values, which in fact did not exist, and now, when we try to liquidate these loans, we find municipalities unable to realize assets."

"The report of the Inspector of Municipalities up to December 31, 1920, gives many illuminating examples. At that date, the total liabilities of the British Columbia municipalities were something over \$103,000,000, while the assessed value of taxable property was only \$596,000,000. In other words, the percentage of the assets to the liabilities was eighteen per cent., whilst in Victoria alone, our percentage rises as high as twenty-four."

### Sinking Fund Shortage Alarms.

"The shortage of the sinking funds throughout our municipalities is alarming. Instead of twenty and a half millions for this purpose, our municipalities find themselves short approximately five and a half millions. In other words, on the average, twenty-five per cent. short; whilst the city of Victoria is to-day short in its local improvement sinking funds."

"With those figures before us, it is evident that the financial conditions of our municipalities are of the worst, and that some material assistance must be given them if they are to withstand the financial pressure of the next few years, and to ward off the disaster to which we are heading."

### Land Burden Too Heavy.

"It is further recognized by all that between eighty and ninety per cent. of the burden of taxation falls upon land values in the city. The land owner has to bear the burden, and regretfully it is heavy. The average assessment rate for all municipalities is 32 mills. When we recognize that the assessed value is generally too high and oppressive. Placing the income value of land at ten per cent., and this is moderate, 32 mills on the assessed value means 32 per cent. on the income value; in other words, people who have invested their money in land in the city of Victoria and elsewhere are paying to the municipalities 32 per cent. of the income value of that land; and if you are unfortunate enough to have to pay for local improvements you probably contribute 100 per cent."

"I should suggest that 32 per cent. be taken off the incomes of all people as an income tax, my honorable friends on the other side of the House would rise in indignation, and yet we do it on our land values."

### Income Tax Best.

"No one likes to be taxed. Unfortunately it is a Government necessity, and we should aim at doing it in the most equitable manner; and that is according to one's ability to pay. This is measured by the income of the citizen. In other words, it is universally recognized that the best and most equitable tax is an income tax."

"I thus believe that if we are to seek a more equitable adjustment of our taxation throughout the Province and the municipalities, we have got to consider a readjustment of our taxation system, based upon that of the income tax."

### Too Many Escape Taxes.

"To-day far too many of our citizens are entirely tax-free. There is a poll tax, it is true, but it is difficult to collect, not collected, and inequitable owing to the fact that it is not based upon the value of one's income."

"I believe that some steps should be taken in adjusting the income tax, so that each and every citizen who enjoys the privileges of our country should also enjoy the privilege of paying its taxes. To-day there are far too many who, though without responsibilities owing to the present exemption are entirely free from taxation. This should not be the case, but there are many clerks and others in the cities who are able and willing to pay their share and should be asked to do so."

### Must Cut Waste.

"In the readjustment of our industries throughout this period of reconstruction, we find our great leaders of finance have adopted two fundamental principles, which I submit should be the basis policy upon which every government should be founded. The first principle to which I refer is the elimination in every possible way of any unnecessary expense and waste, and secondly the introduction of the latest principles of industrial efficiency. This has in many cases caused the scrapping of much old machinery, and has even required extensive borrowing in order to bring up their establishments to a high standard of efficiency."

"I thus say, Mr. Speaker, that the same principles must apply to our political life, and we must not hesitate to scrap our inefficient and wasteful services and establish therein the highest standards of political efficiency. World competition is driving our industrial wheels; world competition in political life is likewise forcing us to readjust our political thought. Political efficiency won the war. Let us seek political efficiency to re-establish us in peace."

**Generous With Education.**

"The standard of democracy varies with the standard of her people. The more efficient her people, the more efficient the democracy. I thus ask you to beware of seeking economy in education. The most precious asset of this land is our child. We must preserve him, educate him, and then save him for our country and turn him into an efficient citizen. I thus hope that in our readjustment of finances, our municipalities will be enabled to make greater appropriations for the education of its youth.

"Some months ago we spent considerable time deliberating upon the best methods of establishing a system of liquor control. This has been very swiftly put into execution, and I am pleased to know that our municipalities can look with assurance to an increasing source of revenue from the profits to be derived from our Board of Liquor Control. I have been informed by members of the Board that this Winter they will be able to announce a very handsome dividend, which we may hope the municipalities will be wise enough to put to the replenishment of their sinking funds.

**Extend Fire Prevention.**

"Besides seeking to re-establish our municipalities upon a firm financial standing, we have other duties to perform to our country, and the greatest of these is probably the development and the preservation of our natural resources and wealth which we have already accumulated. It is thus a pleasure to note that the Government intends to take steps in order to curtail the very heavy losses which occur each year, due to faulty fire protection.

"The department of insurance has for some years carried on a measure of investigation of fire, particularly with the object of preventing those of suspicious or incendiary origin. Under the new department and under the new legislation which will be introduced, the fire marshal will have more exhaustive scope, with power to appoint several local assistants in different parts of the Province, who will have certain duties to perform.

"There has been a desire on the part of numerous small towns in the Province to provide themselves with fire protection, and the fire marshal will have power to constitute them as fire districts and to advise and help them.

"Funds for the carrying on of the work will be provided by a special tax not exceeding one-third of one per cent. of the premiums levied on insurance companies. It is anticipated that the insurance companies and the general public will appreciate the good which will result from the enactment of these laws.

**Must Make P. G. E. Pay.**

"Our late trip on the P. G. E. Railway gave us the opportunity of realizing the dreams of our forefathers who blazed a weary trail into that northland. This year that country was brought under the mastery of man and opened to his exploitation.

"I feel more than ever that now we have that railway, we must strive to make of it a productive asset. I believe that this can be done, and must necessarily be done by a connection from Ashcroft to Clinton. This connection will enable us to develop the Cariboo section of the railway from a commercial standpoint. The remainder, from Squamish to Ashcroft, and back to Vancouver by the C.F.R., would provide, I believe, one of the most wonderful tourist resorts known to the world, even dimming Switzerland with its splendor. With such an asset, why let it go to waste?

"Any industrial financier who has a good product does not hesitate to spend large sums to advertise, and even borrows money for that purpose.

**Urges Tourist Trade.**

"I firmly believe that by creating a tourist district along the first section of the P. G. E. Railway, we will be able ultimately to make it a source of revenue to our province and a great financial success; and I further believe that there is no other means of making it pay than by a system of advertising. Tourists bring wealth and population. California owes its greatness to advertising and its tourist trade. Let us then endeavor to do likewise for the P. G. E.

**International Problem.**

"Civilization has in the development of the world gradually but as surely moved westward. The nineteenth century was the era of the Atlantic. As surely will the twentieth century be that of the Pacific.

"Great Britain in the nineteenth century became a power in the commercial world and a dominant factor in the political.

"Vancouver Island with the lower mainland of British Columbia, lies in the same latitude; is blessed with the same climate; and is related to the world markets of the Pacific as Britain is to the Atlantic. British Columbia has better harbors, greater resources, more extensive potential wealth. Can we not look forward to, as bright a future? All we need is to produce, and then reach out for the markets of the Pacific, and British Columbia should stand to the Pacific as Britain stands to the Atlantic.

"Our future, then, is closely concerned with the successful solution of our international relations upon the Pacific.

"Our thoughts then should go beyond our province to those who will shortly labor for our welfare at that great conference at Washington, and upon whose judgment will depend our very life. May their decisions be wise.

"In legislating, then, sir, for the good of this country, we must as true citizens show a vision compatible with the greatness of our land. We must be able to see that our interests are closely wrapped up with those of the world, and that, in seeking our own interests, we also must seek that of the Empire, and endeavor to base our judgments and actions upon the firm foundation of right which will surely bring us prosperity and fame."

**\$38,600,000  
SPENT BY B. C.  
ON P. G. E. LINE**

**Provincial Railway Shows Operating Deficit for Year  
Revenue Below Running Cost on Both Sections**

British Columbia has spent \$38,652,703 on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway up to the end of last month, according to returns presented to the Legislature by Premier Oliver.

Deficit on operating the whole line last year was \$375,643.

Total cost of operating the line for the year ending June 30, 1921, from Squamish to the head of steel and the North Vancouver division was \$828,950.

Total revenue from operating the line was \$452,307. The Squamish division gave a revenue of \$379,370 from all sources. It cost to operate it \$604,196.

The North Vancouver division gave a revenue of \$73,937 and cost \$134,758 to operate.

Since the end of June last, \$107,727 has been spent on the road. Interest during construction amounts to \$8,565,327.

Out of the P. G. E. Loan Act of 1921 there was spent up until June 30 of this year, \$3,001,290.

Other items going to make up the total expenditure include \$40,000 on capital stock paid up, \$14,334,800 on guaranteed bonds outstanding, and \$7,136,019 on the Loan Act of 1916. The rest of the total is made up from Loan Acts of the various years.

Total capital stock of the road is \$25,000,000. Of this \$24,960,000 is unpaid.

Investment in road and equipment on the main line is set down at \$28,275,110 and on the Peace River extension \$45,221.

Other assets include: Real estate, \$544,955; Squamish hydro-electric and waterworks plant, \$130,515; and other small items of physical property bringing the total value of physical property up to \$738,657.

Total assets on hand such as cash with the Minister of Finance and in various offices of the company, and the value of supplies and materials come to \$575,501.

Grading on the line so far has cost

\$12,410,640; tunnels and subways, \$223,325; bridges and trestles, \$3,942,854; ties, \$965,534; rails, \$2,416,632; right-of-way fences, \$84,729; stations and office buildings, \$102,235; shops and engine-houses, \$124,979; wharves and docks, \$73,420; telegraph and telephone lines, \$143,043.

Steam locomotives have cost \$378,811; freight cars, \$325,246; passenger cars, \$211,754.

Total passenger revenue on the line for the year ending June 30, 1921, was \$116,894, of which \$50,258 came from the North Vancouver division.

Total freight revenue was \$302,494, of which \$29,645 came from the North Vancouver division and \$281,849 from the Squamish division.

**INCOME TAXES PAY  
MOST B. C. BILLS**

**Timber Licenses Also Bring in Big Revenue; Where Other Revenue Comes From**

Income taxes brought into the treasury of British Columbia last year the greatest revenue from any one source.

Out of a total revenue actually received of \$15,219,264, the Provincial income tax contributed \$2,005,973.

The next largest sum came from timber licenses, which yielded \$1,920,542. Timber royalties yielded \$981,557.

Real property taxes came third, yielding \$1,046,343, while wild lands coal and timber lands yielded \$861,311. The personal property tax which is to be divided among the municipalities, according to the proposals of Premier Oliver, amounted to \$909,603 last year.

Poll tax, which may now be abolished and replaced by a one per cent. income tax to cover all incomes without any minimum exemption, yielded \$262,580 last year.

Tax on amusement tickets brought in \$46,879.

From the Dominion Government, British Columbia last year received the annual subsidy of \$180,000, a per capita grant of \$313,984, and the annual interest amounting to \$29,151.

Automobile license fees last year amounted to \$582,082. Profit on liquor sold during the year under the old prohibition law was \$222,526.

The mineral tax brought in \$119,342 and the coal and coke tax \$216,430.

**THE P. G. E.**

Not many people in British Columbia experience anything in the nature of a thrill when they ponder over the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and its annual drain upon the public treasury. In the document presented to the Legislature yesterday afternoon there is no attempt to juggle with the figures or to present a picture which does not exist. The statement of account indicates that this undertaking represents an investment of nearly forty million dollars which is exacting a large annual interest charge without any sort of accompaniment in the way of profit. On the other hand the figures show that the operating expenses of the line during the fiscal year dealt with were something like three hundred and fifty-seven thousand dollars in excess of the earnings of the system. What prospect there is of reducing the gulf which separates an operating profit from an operating loss may not be determined at this stage. For the time being the Province is faced with large outlays upon construction account, an annual interest charge which has already exceeded the six figure mark, and a general operating loss. These are facts which command the respect and serious consideration of the Legislature.



**THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.**

Official statistics relating to the administration of the affairs of this or any other Province are seldom calculated to arouse a great deal of interest in the public mind unless there is either a gratifying surplus or a glaring deficit. The document presented to the Legislature yesterday afternoon by the Hon. John Hart discloses neither. It explains to all and sundry that the Minister erred on the right side in the matter of estimated revenue for he received something like one and a quarter million dollars

more than he anticipated. On the other hand he was compelled to pay out a little over two millions in excess of the amount contemplated. But it must be understood that against the increased expenditure will have to be set a sum of considerably more than four millions of dollars which rightly belongs to capital account. In other words for the twelve months trading in respect of current account Mr. Hart was less than eighteen thousand dollars on the wrong side of the ledger. Compared with other Provinces and many national budgets throughout the Empire British Columbia need not become unduly exercised over the showing which its public treasury has made during the fiscal year under review. This Province has been compelled and will still be compelled to borrow large sums of money in respect of an enterprise which has been anything but successful, but whose commitments present no practical alternative for the time being. And it can be set down that the difference between a gratifying surplus and a small deficit may be traced to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and its demands upon the public purse. None the less there will be general satisfaction experienced in studying the amount of revenue which the Province has received during the fiscal year covered by the balance sheet in question. It is a far cry from a little over six millions of dollars in 1915-16 to fifteen and a quarter millions in 1920-21.

## All Would Have to Pay Under New Income Tax; Employers to Collect

New income taxes of one per cent. on all incomes and doing away with the exemption of all incomes under a certain minimum, which are now being discussed by the Provincial Government in connection with revision of the taxation act, will tap the income of many persons who now escape paying anything to the Province, it was explained to-day.

At present, it has been pointed out to members, casual workers, some of them earning big money, can go through the year without paying any income tax although they may earn between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Proposals being considered by the Government would make it compulsory for employers to collect one per cent. from the salaries of all employees, just as deductions are now made for the Workmen's Compensation Board in the case of industries.

This would enable the Government to tap the income of every employee in the Province, it is explained. Many now escape as they wander from job to job and the Government has no means of holding them to an income tax even if they earn over the exemption limit. Under these latest proposals the Government would get its money at the same time the employee gets his money.

People who come in from outside the Province for casual work and who do not pay anything, would have to contribute from their earnings under this new scheme.

Along with the one per cent. tax on all incomes it is proposed to do away with the poll tax, it was explained to-day, as the poll tax is considered unfair in its incidence and cannot be collected from everybody no matter how many collectors are sent out.

The new tax will mean that the worker on small wages will contribute proportionately to his earnings and not a flat sum, as under the poll tax.

Small landholders, some of whom do not make enough to pay income tax under present law and are exempt from poll tax as they pay small taxes on land to the Government, will have to pay income tax on whatever income they earn, under the new proposals. This, it is hoped, will tax a new source of income that has escaped so far.

## ACROSS THE BAY

What Politicians in Action Are Doing, Saying and Thinking in the B. C. Legislature.

### STYLE AND DIGNITY INJECTED INTO HOUSE

Some of the style and dignity of the British House of Commons at Westminster was injected into the B. C. Legislature to-day when Speaker Manson had placed a big mahogany table in the centre of the Chamber and John Keen, the clerk, took his place at it.

At Westminster, it was explained, this table is used by front benchers as a foot rest, especially by those who have long legs. Front benchers in this House, however, will not be able to make much use of the table unless they move their desks out of the way.

Mr. Speaker has also done away with the table supporting the mace in front of his seat on the throne. The mace has been transferred to the end of the clerk's big table.

Dignity and official standing of Sergeant-at-Arms O'Hara, has also been added to. This dignity has been given a desk on the floor of the House, and it has been put up at the north end of the Chamber next to the Bar where everybody can see him.

The next improvement to be made by the Speaker besides subduing the impetuosity of honorable gentlemen will be to get all the page boys in Lord Fauntleroy uniforms of velvet, with silver-buckled slippers.

### DR. BAKER OR H. G. PERRY?

Either Dr. Baker goes or I go," said H. G. Perry of Fort George when he arrived at the Parliament Buildings to-day.

The Dr. Baker he was referring to is the chairman of the Game Conservation Board.

Trappers up in Mr. Perry's constituency have been excited over the way Dr. Baker, it is alleged, has been handling beaver pell sales.

Attorney-General Farris is out to see that rights of trappers and others are respected and has ordered an investigation.

### PATERSON SECONDS

A. D. Paterson of Delta last night consented to second the reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's speech and is following Mr. Clearihue in the Legislature this afternoon.

Mr. Paterson has taken on this duty to dispel all the recent talk about him not feeling just right towards the Government.

### GIVE UP THEIR \$2,000

Before they get their new velvet uniforms, pages in the Legislature may be sent out to hunt for the resignations of Dr. Rose, of Nelson, and M. A. Macdonald, K. C., of Vancouver, both of whom are candidates in the Dominion election.

Mr. Macdonald in Vancouver says that he has resigned and has sent his resignation to Speaker Manson. Mr. Manson, however, has not seen it yet.

Dr. Rose is also understood to have sent in his resignation as he is paired off with Mr. Macdonald. But this resignation has not yet reached the Speaker.

Nominally, resignations are sent by members to the Speaker, but actually they go to the party leader and he hands them to the Speaker when he thinks the time propitious.

Neither of these candidates is called on to resign before Nov. 22, nomination day. Both say, however, that they are too busy getting their campaign started to be able to come to Victoria.

Neither one will get any of the \$2,000 sessional indemnity.

### MARY ELLEN ARRIVES

The only applause at the opening yesterday was for the Hon. Mary Ellen Smith.

She was not in her seat when the Lieutenant-Governor arrived and people began to ask questions as to her whereabouts.

Finally she made her entrance and the suspense was broken with a general outburst of applause.

## BOWSER DEMANDS PROBE OF DOINGS OF LIQUOR BOARD

Charges Maladministration in  
Long Resolution Before  
House

Speaker Holds Up Motion,  
Says Some Items  
Improper

Enquiry into all the dealings and doings of the Liquor Control Board is demanded in a resolution brought before the Legislature by W. J. Bowser, Opposition leader. Mr. Bowser will speak on his resolution Monday.

In the meantime, Speaker Manson refuses to put Mr. Bowser's resolution on the order paper on the grounds that there are certain things in it that should not be there and were put in for political effect.

Mr. Bowser, however, says that everything in the resolution is justified by recent revelations and that he will stick to his determination to see that all comes before the House and is made public.

### Campbell Warehouse Deal.

In his resolution Mr. Bowser says: "That whereas by the Government Liquor Act, being Chapter 30 of the Statutes of the Province of British Columbia, 1921, the Government of the Province of British Columbia is authorized to purchase and sell liquors:

"And whereas it is now understood by the general public that the Government would purchase and sell nothing but the best of liquors at the cheapest price possible to the consumer after allowing for a fair profit and otherwise exercise the greatest economy in the administration of the liquor stores:

"And whereas the Government purchased from a close political supporter of the Government, without any justification, certain premises known as the Campbell warehouse in the city of Vancouver;

### Charges Recklessness.

"And whereas the official value of the premises, as fixed by the City Assessor, was \$58,000:

"And whereas the Government not only without any justification or legislative authority but illegally paid the sum of \$150,000 for the purchase of the said premises:

"And whereas the Government, in the administration of the Act, have unnecessarily leased premises for administration and other purposes and in leasing liquor stores and warehouses in various parts of the Province are paying a rental to political friends far in excess of their value;

"And whereas the Government have been extravagant in the purchase of plant, fixtures and furnishings;

### Employ Liquor Convicts.

"And whereas, in the administration of the Act, the Government have indulged in reckless and unjustifiable extravagance and incompetency and in the selection of officials they have in numerous cases employed men convicted of infractions of the liquor laws and other laws of the Province;

"And whereas the Government neglected to take a large quantity of liquor out of bond prior to the 10th of May, on which date an extra duty was imposed by the Federal authorities, thereby entailing a very heavy loss to the Province;

### Buy From Friends.

"And whereas questionable practices have been and are being resorted to in connection with the purchase by the Government of liquor for sale both under the Prohibition Act as well as the Government Liquor Act from certain political friends, relatives and business associates of members of the Government;

"And whereas the Government, while in a position to go into the open market and obtain liquors at the minimum market price, have seen fit both under the late Prohibition Act and the Government Liquor Act to make such purchases through political friends and agents at greatly increased cost over and above the actual market value and have adopted a practice of purchasing cheap liquor of inferior quality in order to avoid the large secret commission usually being required by their agents and middlemen.

### Permit Abuses.

"And whereas great abuses have been permitted and encouraged in the use of permits and the amount of liquor purchased thereunder:

"And whereas the Government, claiming that they have lost a large quantity of liquor from the Hastings Street liquor store, Vancouver, have, without proper investigation, dismissed the whole staff, thereby casting a reflection and doing injustice to possibly a great many innocent employees;

"And whereas no permits to operate bonded liquor warehouses or excise bonded warehouses in this Province can be obtained from the Federal Government without the consent of the Honorable the Attorney-General of the Province of British Columbia;

"And whereas as a result certain consents have been given by the Attorney-General through political friends and agents for which the applicant has had to pay large sums of money;

### After Attorney-General.

"And whereas certain practices have been followed by the Honorable the Attorney-General in connection with the administration of justice and in dealing with the administration of the Prohibition Act as well as the Government Liquor Act and other acts and those convicted thereunder, which have not only brought the administration of justice into disrepute but have been an incentive to certain officials and employees of the Government with the consent of the members of the Government to give their time and ability for the advancement of the interests of their political friends as well as of the Government as a political party and for these purposes public moneys have with the aforesaid consent thereby been improperly and illegally used;

"And whereas prior to and during the late Provincial election, certain officials and employees of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, who were being paid out of public moneys for their services, were, with the knowledge and consent of members of the Government, engaged in connection with certain reprehensible political activities;

### Names Select Committee.

"Be it therefore resolved that a Select Committee, consisting of seven members of the House, viz.: Messrs. Whiteside, Ramsay, Paterson, Clearhue, Hanes, Pooley and the mover, be appointed to inquire into all questions directly or indirectly relating to the above matters;

"And the said committee shall have power to call for and compel the attendance of persons and the production of books, papers, documents, telegraph and telephone messages and generally all things that may be necessary in carrying out the most searching inquiry in connection with the above matters and the committee shall have power to administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses to take evidence under oath and they shall report the evidence and their findings to this House."

## KING'S ROAD POLICY AND DELTA PEOPLE BEST SAYS PATERSON

"A.D." Makes Record Short  
Speech in Seconding Reply

In the shortest set speech that the Legislature has been treated to for some years A. D. Paterson told the House yesterday afternoon that his constituency, Delta, is the best in the Province and that his constituents are the best people in B. C.

This declaration was greeted with cries of members in all parts of the House who wanted to put in a good word for their own constituency.

Tom Uphill's voice was heard above all the others as he told Mr. Paterson that he had overlooked Fernie which had everything beaten.

Mr. Paterson said that he had planned to speak one and one-half minutes in seconding the reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's speech. He actually took a little more than three minutes and then the House was adjourned until Thursday afternoon.

Premier Oliver said the Government was anxious to get through with the debate on the reply to the speech as soon as possible and for that reason any members who want to speak should come ready to start, without counting on an adjournment. Col. Lister adjourned the debate and will speak Thursday.

### Delta Municipalities Well Off.

In his three minutes, Mr. Paterson said that he was pleased that the Government is dealing with the municipal financial question, although his constituency, being the best in the Province, with one municipal having no bonded indebtedness and the other two being financially sound, is not as vitally interested as some others where the municipalities are in bad shape.

Mr. Paterson declared that what they want on the Delta is more schools.

### Road Policy Best.

"This Government has established the soundest road policy ever contemplated in this Province," Mr. Paterson said. "I have no hesitation in saying that."

Mr. Paterson went on to explain that under the Hon. J. H. King roads have been mapped out and classified, so that there is now some system in dealing with and aiding them, instead of under the old system where \$50 was given here and \$150 another place for road assistance.

"To-day we have the best concrete road started of any place in America," Mr. Paterson said referring to the Pacific Highway.

### Changes Mind on Sumas.

Referring to the Sumas Reclamation Scheme Mr. Paterson said that for a year and a half he was opposed to it, but recently he made a trip to see the work which is being carried on with the result that he has changed his mind.

"But now I believe that it is worth while," Mr. Paterson went on. "I believe that the Sumas policy is sound and that the land which is being reclaimed will produce enough to meet the expense and that it will turn out to be the most productive district we have in B. C."

Mr. Paterson also commended the Government for the work of the Land Settlement Board. He pointed out that land in many parts of the Province has become too costly for the man with limited capital to buy and develop. The Land Settlement Board, however, has come to the assistance of such a man and enables him to go out and settle on a farm and gives him a chance to make good. Mr. Paterson told how some of the young men in his own constituency have been enabled to buy land in Northern B. C. in this way. He predicted they would make good.

Long range salutes might well be adopted as the permanent custom at the annual opening of the Provincial Legislature. The legislative pile gets more than its share of "fireworks."

Those members of the local House who are not quite sure of their independence or political leanings should conduct a searching inquiry before the real business of the session commences.

If the motion of the Leader of the Opposition gets before the local Legislature it will probably provide an opportunity for a large number of speeches. We shall have one guess at the number of settlers it will assist on the land.

## ACROSS THE BAY

What Politicians in Action Are Doing, Saying and Thinking in the B. C. Legislature.

### LABOR ORGANIZATION

Notice of labor legislation to be introduced this session has been given by Sam Guthrie, who has "An Act to amend the Night Employment of Women Act"; Major Burde, who has one intitled "An Act to amend the Hours of Work Act," which means his eight-hour day act of previous sessions; and F. H. Neelands, who has amendments to the "Night Employment of Young Persons Act."

### ANTI-BILL BOARDS

M. B. Jackson, of the Islands, is out again with his anti-billboard bill called "An Act to prohibit the Erection of Advertising Hoardings."

Mr. Jackson brought in a similar measure last session, aimed chiefly at the big signs along Plumper's Pass and defacing other beauty spots, but it was stood over for a year.

Introduction of Mr. Jackson's bill last year was accompanied by the arrival of a swarm of billboard advertising men, who claimed that their livelihood was imperilled. Arrival of a similar body at the Parliament Buildings is expected now that the Jackson bill is up again.

Attorney-General Farris has some amendments this session to the Weekly Half-Holiday Act, and the Real Estate Agents' Licensing Act.

Sam Uphill, of Fernie, has plans to amend the Maternity Protection Act.

G. H. Hanes, of North Vancouver, wants the Employment of Children Act amended.

### P. G. E. EXTENSION

First move in the House in connection with the P. G. E. and its extension to Prince George has been made by W. K. Ealing of Rossland. Mr. Ealing is asking that all con-

tracts between the P. G. E. and the Northern Construction Co. for the completion of the railway to Prince George be laid on the table.

He will speak to his motion Friday afternoon.

### AUTOMOBILES

The number of automobiles owned by the Government and used by officials of the various departments has excited the curiosity of R. H. Pooley, member for Esquimalt.

Mr. Pooley has taken to asking each Minister in turn about the number of cars in his department and the cost of the cars.

### DR. BAKER AGAIN

Whether Dr. A. R. Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, has had a new car for his business purchased by the Government during the last year, is a question R. H. Pooley, of Esquimalt, has brought up on the floor of the House.

Mr. Pooley wants to know the name of the car, the price paid and some details as to how the car came to be damaged, the cost of repairs and what became of the old car.

### ABOUT ORIENTALS

G. S. Haines, of North Vancouver, is asking the Minister of Lands on the floor of the House whether any contracts, licenses or leases have been issued since 1916 by the Lands Department without inserting a clause "that no Chinese Japanese shall be employed in connection therewith."

Thirteen questions regarding the agreement of the Land Settlement Board with the Marsh-Bourne Construction Company in the project for the reclamation of Sumas Lake are being asked the Hon. E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture, by J. W. Jones, of South Okanagan.

## BOWSER THINKS ON LIQUOR CHARGES

Two Courses Open to Him; Premier Anxious for Light

Whether Mr. Bowser's notice of motion calling for a select committee of the House to investigate charges set forth in his resolution filed in the Legislature Wednesday afternoon should be permitted on the order paper, was taken up late yesterday by Speaker Manson. The point has been left in statu quo for the time being.

The Speaker read a statement to the House setting out a summary of the charges contained in Mr. Bowser's resolution. He maintained that Ministers were charged with grave offences and therefore the House could not admit the resolution and appoint the committee asked for, since by so doing there would be a direct admission that some of the charges were true.

However, the Speaker suggested other ways for Mr. Bowser to achieve his end. A simple motion without preamble for a select committee to enquire into certain matters would suffice, or Mr. Bowser might state from his seat that he believed certain things to be true and move for a committee to investigate.

Mr. Bowser suggested that the matter rest temporarily.

Premier Oliver said the Government was at all times anxious to let in the light upon its administration of public affairs. He wanted it understood, though, that when a member took it upon himself to make charges of the nature referred to, namely, that the liquor law administration was corrupt, that the member must stand prepared to make the charges good and assume responsibility for his actions.

The Premier assured the House that nothing would be done to hamper members in securing information on the matter in question.

## FINISH P. G. E. KERGIN URGES

Atlin Member Also Wants Roads to "Finest Place in World"

Complete the P. G. E. to Prince George was the policy H. F. Kergin of Atlin announced himself in favor of in the Legislature yesterday.

Then he launched on a glowing description of the resources, beauties and possibilities of his constituency.

"But how do you get into it?" he asked. "The easiest way would be by aeroplane. It is up to this Province to make representation to the Federal Government to build a road from Hazelton to Whitehorse. It is time now that there should be a survey made, at least."

Mr. Kergin asked the Government to look into the possibilities of the Naas River country, where tobacco and corn could be grown, but where there were yet only thirteen settlers.

### Wants Wage Insurance

He urged on the Government a policy of wage insurance, so that the worker would be protected as far as his pay went if his employing company should fail. He said that companies in his district had failed and the workers had been left with no wages and no chance of getting any. He suggested that in cases of failures there should be an arrangement for the Government taking an assignment of the payroll and collecting later through the Attorney-General's department.

### Finest in World

Atlin is the finest place in the world when it comes to scenery, yet it is not mentioned in the publications of the tourist associations down here," Mr. Kergin went on. "The finest fox farms in Canada are up there. Do you know that Anyox is the only copper smelter in Canada that is working to-day and that it is one of the three on the North American continent that is in operation. I would ask that the Province as a whole get better acquainted with this country we have up there."

## TAXES NOT FAIR, COL. LISTER SAYS

Distribution Inequitable, He Declares; Wants Cheaper Liquor and Powder

Demand for equitable taxation, better treatment of the returned soldier settlers at Camp Lister and more roads in the outlying districts, were features in the speech of Colonel Fred Lister, Conservative member for Kaslo, in the Legislature Thursday afternoon.

The up-country member contended that tax imposts were not fairly distributed at present and he called upon the Government for adjustment. He did not envy the Government its task, but since they were in office there was a duty involved and the burden should be placed where it could be borne.

Colonel Lister expressed pleasure over the mention in the King's speech of a selected route for the trans-provincial highway. He was glad some member of the Government knew where the road was to go, as he had heard little else in the way of road construction mentioned for several years. He urged the Minister of Public Works to announce his plans. He also asked for better roads in Kaslo, pointing out that settlers there had cleared land, planted fruit trees and were now gathering their harvests, but still no roads were provided for them to get their produce to market.

"The member for Delta boasts of his good roads," he added, "but we look for ours in vain."

Colonel Lister asked for uniform prices for Government liquor, so that those in outlying districts might not be discriminated against.

He then turned to a discussion of land settlement, expressing doubt that a land settlement policy even existed. He had failed to see evidence of it, he said.

"Certainly, in so far as the soldier settlement at Camp Lister is concerned, it has been a lamentable failure, he added.

The Colonel, after whom Camp Lister was named, said he felt very keenly the failure of the Government "to keep faith with the soldier settlers," many of whom had settled on the lands in question through his own suggestion. Promises had been made to the men and broken. In fact, he said, he doubted if it had been intended to keep the promises.

After two and a half years' work the men did not have a scratch of a pen to show whether they could remain on the lands or not.

Colonel Lister said the settlement at Creston was one of the best in Canada, provided it was managed properly.

### Only Supporters Get Patronage.

He also touched upon colonization proposals of Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, saying that the prospective settlers would be well advised to find out what they might expect in the way of assistance from the Government before taking up land.

The Colonel criticized the agricultural department for failing to reduce the price of stumping powder. Settlers in his district were paying \$12 per box, less the Government rebate of \$2.50, while powder firms were offering the explosives for \$9.35 which, with the rebate off left the price \$6.85. There was need for investigation, he declared.

Colonel Lister asked for a fairer distribution of public funds, saying that no one other than a Government supporter could receive patronage, whether he was a garage man renting a Government official a car, or a business man selling the Government supplies.

According to the report of Mr. Fred Lister's speech in the morning paper the member for Kaslo has come to the conclusion that the Government's soldier settlement policy is "absolutely rotten." But he is reported to have been willing to admit that about the only cause of complaint the returned soldier settlers at Camp Lister now have is the charge of seven per cent on loans. This looks like the argument in behalf of the Government's policy is liberally inter-

## MAN'S ONION NOT SAFE NOW POOLEY FEARS

Against "Roasting Chestnuts With Heat From Snowball"

Increased Taxes Killing Industry and Immigration, He Says

"What have we got to offer the poor devil of an immigrant when he comes here?" R. Harry Pooley of Esquimalt asked in the Legislature yesterday.

"Nothing but unbearable taxation. If a man takes some land in Saanich and grows one onion, a Government official comes along and takes that one onion. If he grows a chicken a Government inspector rolls up in his Cadillac and plucks the chicken.

"It is time this Government practised some of the economy they preached on the hustings. They were going to economize. I ask you if they have done anything of that nature. They have split up departments and filled them up with inspectors and job hunters.

### Attacks Patullo Trip.

"My friend the Minister of Lands has been joy-riding to Norway to learn how to extract heat from a Norwegian snowball to roast chestnuts. That is a waste of public funds. No doubt the gentleman in question has had a fine time and he comes back looking rosy and healthy. But that is not the kind of treatment the taxpayer wants.

"If the members of this Government would practice a little of the economy that they preach, it would not be necessary to go to the lengths of abolishing the income tax exemption."

### Too Many Taxes.

Mr. Pooley said that in his own constituency was a little canning industry and this business now had to pay no less than fifteen licenses. "I ask my honorable friend whether he suggests that these taxes were a hardship on such a company?" M. B. Jackson asked.

"I am just showing the members of this House the way industry is almost taxed out of existence," Mr. Pooley replied. "I have looked up the figures and on the American side of the line I find that such an industry would pay \$150 a year and no more. This cannery in my district pays \$2,500 taxes in all a year."

### This Proposal an Outrage.

Mr. Pooley declared that the overhead cost of conducting the Government of B. C. had gone up from \$1,500,000 in 1919 to \$3,800,000 to-day.

He ridiculed the proposed legislation for creating the new office of fire marshal and appointing another official as "an outrage as the work has been very well carried on until now by the registrar of joint stock companies."

### Dr. Baker Up Again.

Mr. Pooley asserted that according to the public accounts Dr. Baker of the Game Board spent \$1,800 last year traveling. He suggested that perhaps taxes were being increased partly to buy a new Lexington car for Dr. Baker.

"This Government is running riot," Mr. Pooley went on. "Now to pay for these joyrides they want to tax us more."

### Stuart Henderson on Job.

"I ask my friend, the Minister of Mines, how is Stuart Henderson? Is he fat and is he feeling well? I wonder whether some of this money from increased taxation is not going to Stuart Henderson to develop for him his Snowstorm mining claims I saw him the other day. He was looking fine and had a new suit."

Mr. Pooley ridiculed the idea of the Government drilling for oil in Northern B. C. and read a quotation from an oil authority to prove that oil drilling is a big man's game and said that the Government could not afford to gamble \$150,000 on drilling each well.

### Fears Government Rollicking.

"There is to be no session of this Legislature next year, because of this Fall session," Mr. Pooley went on. "I can picture to myself the rollicking time members of the Government will have in the next fifteen months. Think of all the joyrides, the new motor cars and nobody to watch them and no public accounts committee to check them up. I suppose they will be having joyrides next to China, Timbuctoo or Siam."

He urged that money might well be spent to bring tourists to B. C. pointing to how Los Angeles had been built up through the tourist business.

### Kept in Dark But Got Money.

Mr. Pooley charged that members of the Legislature voted under a misapprehension at the end of last session when they put through the increased sessional indemnity. He said that he stood over everything that he had done in connection with it, but he was surprised four days after members' salaries had been raised to learn that the wages of Government men on the roads had been cut down the very day before that on which the members' salaries were raised.

"On March 31 wages of road men were cut 75 cents a day and \$1 a day for teams and on April 1 the order went through the House increasing the indemnities," Mr. Pooley went on.

### "Piker" Unparliamentary.

"I think it was due to each and every member of this House that he should have known exactly what he was doing when he voted on that question."

Premier Oliver—I would like to ask my friend whether he and members of the House knew what they were doing when they signed that round robin?

Dr. K. C. MacDonald—Don't be a piker.

Mr. Pooley immediately asked that this remark be withdrawn, which Dr. MacDonald did before the speaker had a chance to ask him to do so.

### Wilfully False, Premier Says.

Mr. Pooley quoted from a letter written by the Premier to Sydney G. Brown, secretary of the Langford G. W. V. A., in which it was written: "I can only say that the statement that information in respect to a reduction of wages was kept from Mr. Pooley and other members is false and wilfully so. John Oliver."

"Well, I say that we all voted under a misapprehension and it was not fair for the Government supporters, let alone the Opposition that they should be put in that position," Mr. Pooley went on.

"Anyhow, we should cut down a lot of these unnecessary joyrides," he concluded, "and encourage people to come here, but don't tax them to death when they do come."

## BOWSER RETURNS TO LIQUOR CHARGES

Alters Preamble of Resolution Demanding Probe

W. J. Bowser, K.C., leader of the Opposition, brought up again in the House this afternoon his motion calling for an investigation of the doings and dealings of the Liquor Control Board.

When the resolution was brought up first two days ago, Speaker Manson refused to allow it on the order paper on the grounds that it contained "grave allegations" and if they were allowed to go on the order paper it would be taken that the House agreed with the serious charges in the preamble.

Mr. Bowser has taken one of the courses suggested by the Speaker and has changed his wording of his motion, by prefacing it with the words, "Whereas we are creditably informed and do believe that we will be able to establish by satisfactory evidence, that the charges all remain the same."

This is the style adopted by Israel Tarte when he made his charges against McGreevy, which resulted in the sensational inquiry at Ottawa.

## ACROSS THE BAY

What Politicians in Action Are Doing, Saying and Thinking in the B. C. Legislature.

### INCREASED INDEMNITY GHOST STALKS AGAIN

Echoes of the indemnity increase for members at the end of last session of the Legislature were heard in the House yesterday when R. H. Pooley of Esquimalt, charged the Government with withholding information asked for in the regular manner by a member.

The question was asked by G. S. Hanes, of North Vancouver, at the end of the last session. It dealt with an alleged reduction of wages of persons in the Government employ.

Premier Oliver resented Mr. Pooley's charge and said the Government had not withheld anything. Mr. Pooley asserted that the question had been left unanswered.

"Even so, that is no ground for a member to charge the Government with suppressing information," returned the Premier.

Mr. Hanes added a word about the matter. He said he had asked if the Government intended to reduce workmen's wages by 75 cents a day when the salaries of Ministers of the Crown were being materially increased. The question had not been answered, he said.

"I stood on my feet waiting for an answer, but got none," added Mr. Hanes, "and I resent the statement of the Premier that the question was not asked."

#### Dr. Baker Again.

H. G. Perry, of Prince George, has started to secure information on the activities of Dr. A. R. Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, in connection with the handling of beaver pelts.

Mr. Perry has put these questions to Attorney-General Farris, which the Attorney-General will answer on Monday:

1. What are the names, occupations and addresses of the persons composing the Game Conservation Board?

2. By what statutory authority did the Government permit the Game Conservation Board to buy, sell and trade in beaver skins and beaver castors?

3. What are the names and addresses of all persons and companies to whom permits to purchase beaver pelts during closed season were issued?

4. What was the date of issuance and date of expiry of all above-mentioned permits?

5. How many beaver pelts were purchased by the Government from each permit holder and the amount paid or owing to each permit holder: (a) For the pelts; (b) for commission; (c) for expenses; (d) total paid?

6. How many of these pelts have been sold by the Government, and if any have been sold, by whom, and when, and the price received?

7. When were said sales (if any) advertised, and in what papers or where?

8. Did an employee of the Board named Dawson issue any permits; and, if so, by whose instructions?

9. Is the said Dawson still in the employ of the Government in any of its departments; and, if so, where at, and what is he employed at, and by whose recommendation was he engaged?

10. Has the Chairman of the Board permitted non-resident fur traders to purchase and trade in furs at Vancouver without paying the non-resident tax of \$200?

11. If so, by what authority?

12. Is Mr. Baker still Chairman of the Game Conservation Board?

13. Were any beaver pelts bought

by Mr. Baker for his private use?  
14. Was a permit issued to the Hudson's Bay Company; and, if so, how many pelts have been shipped to the Board, and when does their permit expire?

#### Mr. Hanes Also at It.

G. H. Hanes, of North Vancouver, is also displaying an interest in Dr. Baker, and has put these questions to the Attorney-General:

1. Did Dr. Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, give instructions on June 30, 1921, that A. Fitzpatrick, of Vancouver, B. C., an employee of C. Korsch, of Paris Hat & Frame Co., Vancouver, be given a letter of authority for the purpose of buying beaver skins?

2. If so, under what authority was such letter given and date of same?

3. If so, was such authority gazetted as provided for by the Game Act?

4. Was A. Fitzpatrick convicted of an offence under the Game Act?

5. If so, what for, and how much was he fined?

6. On or about July 10, 1921, was the sum of \$2,000 wired by the Government Agent at Vancouver to any person partly for the purpose of financing said A. Fitzpatrick in the purchase of beaver skins?

7. If so, how much money was advanced to Fitzpatrick, and how many beaver skins did he return to the Government, and what did he do with the balance of the money?

8. Under what authority existing at the time was this money advanced to Fitzpatrick?

9. Was there an Order-in-Council existing on July 10 authorizing this advance?

10. Was it gazetted?

11. What price was Fitzpatrick to pay for each beaver skin?

12. What was to be his commission or remuneration for said purchases?

13. Why was he chosen by Dr. Baker?

14. Was he a licensed trapper or fur trader?

15. Was the Order-in-Council No. 1034, dated July 25, 1921, gazetted?

16. What action does the Hon. the Attorney-General intend to take under the circumstances?

Tom Uphill of Fernie is asking the Hon. E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture, about the reported purchase of a team of horses by the Land Settlement Board from William Dicken of Fernie. He also wants to know the details of the reported purchases from the same gentleman of a stump-puller and a motor truck.

Mr. Barrow is also being asked by Mr. Uphill about the land settlement area at Fernie, whether the buildings there have been disposed of and on what authority, names of the purchasers and what they paid.

### PATTULLO SPEAKS

The Hon. T. D. Pattullo Minister of Lands, was the first speaker in the Legislature this afternoon in the continuation of the debate on the address in reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's speech.

Mr. Pattullo is dealing with his trip to Europe last Summer to put B. C. lumber and other products on the map and to investigate the immigration situation.

#### Beer by the Glass.

British Columbia brewers will point out to the Government tomorrow the advisability of bringing in a beer clause so that beer may be sold and quaffed by the glass. Certain features of the way the beer business is handled under the present Liquor Control Act will also be discussed by the brewers.

## ESLING ATTACKS B. C. BOND ISSUES

Says Banks Get Most of Proceeds; Claims Debt Is Tripled

W. K. Esling, Conservative, of Rossland, devoted most of his time to taxation questions in his riding, in his speech in the House yesterday. He appealed for a fairer distribution of the taxes in that district and for more roads.

"The neglect of the Government is discouraging industry," he said, instancing the case of a nitrate concern in the Trail riding.

Over \$200,000 had been spent by the firm, he explained, but it was found impossible to get the Government to build a road. The company had to do this work. Perhaps the reason was that out of the 34 votes in that particular section 32 went to the present Conservative member for Trail, he suggested.

"We find the Minister of Lands going to Sweden to find out all about nitrate," continued Mr. Esling, "when right at home we have a nitrate plant, but without the Government showing sufficient interest in its development to build a decent road."

#### Flurry With Chair.

Mr. Esling charged the Government with holding back information pertaining to the P. G. E. Railway. The Premier denied this and a controversy arose, which brought Mr. Hanes and Mr. Speaker Manson into a clash. The latter said Mr. Hanes had no right to the floor, and when the latter insisted upon asking a question relating to Mr. Esling's remarks was ruled out of order.

Later Premier Oliver rose to interject some remark, and the North Vancouver member appealed to the chair for fair play. Mr. Speaker said there was altogether too much interruption of speakers, and he hoped the members would discontinue the practice.

Mr. Esling said that the P. G. E. had cost three times as much as the original estimates, and it was time to call a halt.

#### Attacks Debt Increase.

"Many of the Government's sins are trivial as compared with the outstanding fact that we are so much in debt that British Columbia must raise seventeen millions each year for fixed charges, including interest and sinking funds, administration and schools, before it can spend one cent on public works," Mr. Esling said.

"In 1916, the public debt was twenty millions. In five brief years it has increased to nearly sixty-five millions. During the past six months it has increased fifteen millions, and in that brief time every one of the six hundred thousand people, which the census credits to British Columbia is burdened with an additional tax of \$16 per year.

"Produce and spend is right. And in this connection you will remember that orders went forth this Summer to stop all road work in order that repairs might be made when most needed in the Fall. What was the real reason? The real reason was that the taxpayers had not produced enough to keep up with the reckless expenditures of the Government, and when money came in, the Bank of Commerce got it while the getting was good.

#### Too Many Bond Issues.

"The public has not heard much about Provincial bond flotations this year not because there were none, but because it is not a pleasant subject for the Government to talk about.

"In March last, the Government issued two million in New York funds and the bank grabbed it all.

"In April it floated a loan of three millions, also in New York funds and the bank took it all.

"Then the Minister of Finance tried it again. He thought loans payable in New York came pretty high, so he tried a Canadian loan of three millions in June. The bank said: 'We know you need the money, but you owe us so much that we think we had better keep this three millions,' and so it did.

#### Bank Got Most.

"And as money failed to pour in as fast as the Government needed it for its high priced projects, it issued another two millions in July. The bank only kept \$1,500,000 of this, and let the Government have \$500,000 for spending money. That made ten millions borrowed from March to July and since July, another five millions have been borrowed.

"How much of this the bank took the Finance Minister does not tell. The only bonds the Finance Minister has not tried to float are the bonds of confidence and sympathy, which bind the Honorable the Premier, to his ministers and members.

"Is it any wonder that every man and woman in British Columbia may be taxed one per cent. on his pay cheque?"

"And that is not all. Every property owner who pays provincial taxes will have those taxes increased ten per cent. in 1922. In other words, instead of getting his usual ten per cent. rebate for payment on due date, that rebate is abolished, which is nothing more nor less than a ten per cent. increase, and the taxpayer is penalized.

**Rosland Hit.**

"In connection with aid to municipalities, the City of Rosland, which in my constituency, asks no favors. What it does ask is that it be given the money which it would ordinarily receive were it permitted to tax the land and improvements of mining companies. These companies now pay to the provincial treasury a two per cent. tax on ore mined and are exempt from city taxes. Consequently, the treasury of Rosland is deprived each year of its fair share of income. The producing mines of Rosland are contained in an area of 370 acres and have produced in excess of eighty millions of dollars. During the past twenty years they have paid into the provincial treasury \$700,000, and in return for the loss which Rosland suffers, the Provincial Government has handed back in annual special grants \$140,000, or 140,000 less than we would have collected from the land and improvements of these mines.

**Goos After P. G. E.**

"As to the P. G. E., the opposition is not to building a railroad to Prince George, but the extravagant disbursements to the Northern Construction Company, which is the funnel into which the Government funds are poured. I make the charge that one-half the funds which have been wasted on this road in the past two years would build the University of British Columbia.

"For the first time since the Government took over the P. G. E. in 1918, we have a statement of accounts, which is wholly unsatisfactory and intentionally confusing, because, payments under Government ownership, beginning in 1918 are not separately itemized, but are thrown into a total including all expenditures under Foley, Welsh & Stewart. The only conceivable purpose in doing this is to hide from the public outrageous wastefulness. In fact, a proper investigation might show huge rake-offs. The object seems to be to confuse and conceal.

"As an illustration, take the item of equipment. The total cost to June 30 last was one and a quarter millions. An indefinite list is given, but it is quite clear that this list does not include, as it ought to, the \$1,150,000 of equipment which the Government got from Foley, Welsh & Stewart, under section 14 of the agreement as ratified by chapter 66 of the 1918 statutes. The value of it is set forth in a letter of Burns & Walkern, solicitors for Foley, Welsh & Stewart, in which letter they state that the equipment will be turned over to the Government, as part settlement for the release given by such agreement in chapter 66. What has become of that equipment?"

"Can it be that the Premier has allowed the contractors to take this equipment without paying for it? and if they paid for it why is it not shown in the statement, and having apparently permitted the contractors to take away equipment valued at \$1,150,000, the Government buys more to the value of one and a quarter millions.

**Not Enough Money Left.**

"In the speech, it is stated that the provision made at the last session will prove adequate for the completion of the road to Prince George, and that no further funds will be asked for at this session. It really means that the Premier knows full well that it is dangerous to ask for more money because it would mean defeat.

"Taking this statement as at September 30, and after paying outstanding accounts, amounting to practically one half a million, you will have, at the most, only another half million available for further construction in Prince George. This will be pretty well consumed for bond interest, so that your own statement shows that you have little or no money available. It follows then that you must shut down work any day or else carry on and incur liabilities without any authority from this House."

**STOP, LOOK, LISTEN,  
PEARSON URGES; SAYS  
TOO MANY TAXES**

**Money Devoted to Unwise  
Purposes, Member for  
Richmond Says**

Taxation, schools and the university problem occupied the attention of Thomas Pearson, Conservative member for Richmond, when he participated in the debate on Friday afternoon.

He said that the Government had taxed everything taxable, and it was high time to call a halt. The merchants and business men were already facing sheaves of tax bills, and now the Government proposed to add to the merchant's troubles by turning over the personal property tax to the municipalities.

"It is time for the Government to stop, look and listen," cautioned Mr. Pearson. "And if they would listen they would hear much about extravagant expenditure. In private business we have to study economy, and work to the man who spends more than his revenue. So with the Government."

The Richmond member said that the present Government now had the opportunity of a lifetime. A study should be made of economic administration and soon bouquets might be handed the Government, instead of censure, as at present.

**Education More Important.**

He then turned to a discussion of public schools and the University of British Columbia. The children came first, he contended, and yet to-day in the university it was necessary to have lectures repeated three times so all might hear.

"Is the university not more important than the change in the rule of the road, which is costing \$400,000?" asked Mr. Pearson. "Is it not more important than the building of the new Prince Rupert court house, which will cost \$500,000? Surely those things might have been deferred. The same applies to the Sumas 'swamp.' A huge sum is being spent, and in the end the work may have been in vain and the lands become a swamp once more."

**Campbell Warehouse Again.**

The speaker referred to the purchase of the Campbell warehouse, claiming that a rented place would have sufficed, considering the financial stringency. He said he was paying only a little over a cent a foot rent for warehouse space equally good.

Mr. Pearson charged the Government with wasting public funds. The temporary university buildings meant a waste of \$140,000, and even at that some of the students had to use tents at the present time.

He concluded with a second appeal for school and university extension.

**Pattullo Puts Lumber  
Into World's Markets  
Capitalists Look to B. C.**

How export of British Columbia lumber has been increased was told in the Legislature yesterday by the Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, when he joined in the debate on the reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's speech.

In 1911 lumber exports totalled 49,964,000 feet, in 1915 they ran as high as 56,701,000 feet and in 1918 to 93,000,000 feet, Mr. Pattullo said.

In 1919 the railways of Great Britain required large quantities of timbers and sleepers, totalling some 70,000,000 feet. This order was too big for any one mill to handle, so the Associated Timber

Exporters of B. C., Ltd., was formed, with the guarantee of financial support by the Provincial Government, to act as sales agent for all mills except one or two which had their own selling organizations.

This new association, Mr. Pattullo explained, which was formed after conferences with himself, accepted the order for the 70,000,000 feet of railroad ties and delivered the order without having to call on the Government for assistance.

"The result is that since this export association got to work our timber exports have made big jumps," Mr. Pattullo went on. "In 1919 our timber exports were 108,000,000 feet. In 1920 the exports went up to 146,624,000. This year, total sales up to September 1 were 218,556,000 and total shipments to the same date, 208,773,000," Mr. Pattullo said.

**Organization and Education.**

Through lack of organization on this side of the line and better organization by the American lumbermen, the annual export from this province in relation to the annual cut had dropped from 24 per cent. a number of years ago to four per cent. when this Government came in and prepared to bring about a change, Mr. Pattullo went on.

The Minister told of finding during his recent trip abroad that a campaign of education on B. C. lumber was just as necessary in England as in Ontario. He said that it was doubtful whether B. C. would be able to compete in certain lines, but as far as dimensional timber went, this province could cut into the business.

He explained that B. C. was now conducting in England an educational campaign not entirely for the present but also for the future. If that course had been pursued in the past the province would not be forced to do what it had to do to-day.

**Cut Fire Protection Cost.**

Mr. Pattullo told how even the British Admiralty had to be educated on B. C. timber and how hard work had to be done to get specifications in their contracts changed to include Douglas fir as well as Oregon pine. When this change was made, he said, B. C. obtained a large order from the Admiralty.

Protection of British Columbia forests from fire costs only \$97,000 this year against \$259,000 last year, Mr. Pattullo announced. This decreased cost had been made possible not only by the weather conditions which have lessened the fire hazard, but also as a result of the increased efficiency of the fire protection organization under the department, he said.

**Best Forest Protection.**

"This year we had better protection work than ever before," he went on. "We used aeroplanes, wireless telegraphy and telephones and other of the most modern appliances to guard against forest fires in B. C."

"To-day our annual timber growth in B. C. exceeds our annual cut according to the expert view of our technical men. But that in our view does not obviate the necessity of protecting our forests from destruction by fire."

Mr. Pattullo said that when he was in Sweden he learned that they do not have forest fires there. The reason for this was that the people of that country had been so thoroughly educated for centuries to guard their forests that fire destruction has been eliminated.

**Land Settlement Succeeds.**

"We must go as far as we can and as fast as we can along the lines of conservation so that there will be no doubt about further production in B. C.," he said.

Referring to the policy of the Land Settlement Board he declared that it had been of the greatest benefit to B. C., and especially to the northern part of the province as it had brought into use lands along the Grand Trunk Pacific which were being held at exorbitant speculative prices.

**No Ready-Made Farm Success.**

Mr. Pattullo deprecated the idea spread by some that the Government must provide ready-made farms where men can go out and be prosperous from the very start. He said that such an entry into farming was not possible as success at farming was achieved only by hard work. He declared it was wrong to inculcate into the minds of the people that the Government should spend large sums of money preparing such farms, with very little hope of getting that money back.

"There is no royal road to farming," he went on. "We have too many fringeside farmers who sit around in the salubrious climate of the Coast cities and talk of what the Government should do, but won't go out on farms themselves."

He went on to point out the advisability of settling up first the lighter timbered lands and those easily reclaimed, like Sumas, before encouraging men to go on the more heavily timbered areas.

One of the great needs of the country is immigration, he declared. He asserted that it was a mistake to think that immigration should be postponed until there were no unemployed in the country.

"Getting people into the country and on to the land will of itself create employment," he went on. "If you wait until everybody is profitably employed in the country, if you wait until all the difficulties are surmounted, you will never start. I am aware of the agitation against opening the gates too wide to immigration. But while I would not dump large bodies of men into the cities, I would put large numbers on the land."

"I believe a policy can be evolved whereby with no more organization and with little expense we can secure the right kind of settlers for British Columbia. Great Britain is not anxious that the best of her people should leave, but she is willing to advance money on the security of lands in the Dominion for emigration of her people. Maybe we can't assimilate too many settlers aided in this way, as we should have many men with money come out to settle."

**Urges Irrigation Works.**

As for the \$1,400,000 the Province has expended in irrigation works, Mr. Pattullo declared that money was not unproductive and is not a liability, as it would be returned manifold and the Province would not lose one dollar.

"I believe we should go on with this work until every suitable acre in the Province is irrigated as such development work does not constitute a liability."

**Capitalists Have Plans For B. C.**

Mr. Pattullo praised the work of F. C. Wade, Agent-General for B. C. in London, and his office. He said that he felt many of Mr. Wade's critics would mellow if they saw the work he was doing.

While in London Mr. Pattullo said he interviewed men who were considering the inauguration of the steel industry in B. C., and "they were not merely talking about it but seriously considering it."

He was also interviewed by men who were planning a power plant at Campbell River and another group planning a pulp and paper mill in the northern part of the Province. He said these pulp and paper men will come to B. C. in November. He declared that from what he learned in England capital was ready and willing to come to B. C. under present conditions, despite the talk of opposition politicians.

As for the P. G. E., Mr. Pattullo considered it would be bad business and a breach of faith not to complete the line to Prince George. Traffic developing along the line would be larger than anticipated, he believed. He also believed the P. G. E. would have to be continued into Northern B. C. on the other side of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

**Sick of Old-Time Politics.**  
 "I find on my return to B. C. that the same policies are being pursued with a great many rumors going around about the Government going to last only a few days and the other dire things that are going to happen," Mr. Pattullo said.  
 "I am getting a little tired of the discussions and the time wasted each session on a lot of little tittle-tattle and small town gossip. Too much time is wasted hurling anathema at one another. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is time we should change our tactics. In my judgment, the average politician is just as honest as the average business man. Last December the people of this Province saw fit to express their confidence in the Government of this Province and nothing has happened since to destroy that confidence."

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1921

## ACROSS THE BAY

What Politicians in Action Are Doing, Saying and Thinking in the B. C. Legislature.

Dr. Sutherland, of Revelstoke, chief Liberal whip, arrived at the Parliament Buildings to-day from Montreal, where he has been attending the reunion of 3,000 McGill graduates.

Liberal members were shaking his hand to-day with double enthusiasm when they learned that he had just escaped the train wreck and possible death at the Palliser tunnel disaster on the C. P. R. at the end of last week. It was on the freight train travelling just ahead of Dr. Sutherland's passenger train that the bolters loosened by the rain came down and crushed out the lives of seven men.

### South Vancouver Boom.

A. Wells Grey, commissioner for the Provincial Government in charge of the municipal administration of South Vancouver, arrived in Victoria to-day for a conference with Premier Oliver.

"South Vancouver is leading every other municipality in Canada in building activity just now," said the Commissioner. "There is quite a bit of money being spent in the municipality. This is helping out the unemployed situation."

J. A. Catherwood, Opposition member for Dewdney, opened the speech-making in the debate in the Legislature this afternoon.

He is being followed by Sam Guthrie, Socialist, of Newcastle; H. G. Perry, of Prince George, and G. H. Hanes, of North Vancouver.

The House this afternoon is getting down to work in committee on a number of the small bills and amendments to acts.

### About Those Loans.

Mr. Bowser, anxious to know just how much British Columbia has borrowed under the present Government and the manner in which it was borrowed, has put these questions to the Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance.

1. What amounts have been borrowed by the Government from all sources since it took office in 1916?

2. From whom was it borrowed and under what authority in each case?

3. What rate of interest does each loan carry on its face?

4. What rate of interest does each

loan actually cost the Province, including all discounts and commissions?

5. Were any commissions paid on account of any of these loans?

6. If so, to whom, and their amount?

7. How much is still due on account of said loans?

8. When are each of these loans payable?

9. What amount is owing to the Canadian Bank of Commerce for money borrowed on treasury bills, giving particulars of same?

10. Has any money been borrowed from any other bank or from any other source on treasury bills?

11. What was the net amount received by the Government as the proceeds of each loan?

12. Which of the loans and what total amounts are payable in the United States?

13. What is the total capital liabilities of the Province at the present date?

Department of Agriculture owns 26 cars, costing \$22,704, according to an answer given R. H. Pooley by the Hon. E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture.

The Department of Finance gets along without any, while the Mines Department owns seven machines, which cost \$5,558. The Department of Public Works possesses 33 cars, costing \$27,115, and the office of the Premier and Minister of Railway has one, a Ford, for the inspector of equipment.

W. A. McKenzie is seeking information regarding the operations of the Government in the Southern Okanagan district. He wants to know the cost of the water supply and particulars regarding a washout which occurred during the construction of the irrigation system.

Mr. Neelands will ask the Premier if the B. C. Electric Company has applied for permission to run one-man cars in Vancouver and Victoria; also other particulars regarding the effect this might have upon the unemployment situation, and whether the Government is to help defray the cost of making the change in the cars.

The first full meeting of the Cabinet in months was held to-day, Hon. Mary Ellen Smith attending.

## ANTI-BILL BOARD BILL

M. B. Jackson, K. C., member for the Islands, this afternoon introduced his famous Anti-Bill-Board Bill, which aims to do away with the practice of putting up what he considers unsightly signs at scenic resorts in the province.

Adam Smith Johnson is here to fight the movement, but Mr. Jackson claims that his bill will receive a good deal of support from members from various parts of the province.

## LET REASON PREVAIL.

It looks as if the present session of the Legislature which commenced its business last Tuesday will differ very little from others in the character of contributions to debate. The first four days have produced little of a constructive nature and brevity of utterance has been limited to two members. On the other hand we have been treated to one or two lengthy diatribes against the Government which the people have instructed to conduct their business. One of the Opposition members has interpreted his responsibility to his constituents by informing the House that the Minister of Lands had returned from "joy-riding" in Norway whether he had gone at the public expense to learn the intricate formula involved in extracting heat from a Norwegian snowball to roast chestnuts. The same honorable member likewise found vent for his criticism of the Government's taxation policies in a verbal picture of a Saanich farmer producing one onion only to find that a Government official promptly rolled up in his Cadillac to pluck that edible from its earthly cradle. This sort of nonsense neither represents the considered judgment of its author nor contributes anything to the business whose conduct costs a great deal of public money. Surely members on both sides of the House must realize that the man in the street is looking for and is entitled to something better than this. Wild statements unsupported by facts are deplorable in any department of public life; they are reprehensible in the legislative halls of the Province.

## Perry Thrills House; Demands Game Board Clean-up; Backs Oliver

H. G. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George, thrilled Government members, opposition members under Mr. Bowser and independents in the Legislature late yesterday, when he launched a vigorous attack on the B. C. Game Conservation Board and the doings of its chairman, Dr. Baker, urged the total abolition of the Board, took a "slam" at the purchase of the Campbell warehouse for \$150,000 by the Liquor Control Board, suggested to the Premier to note the handwriting on the wall and then came out for the dismissal of "certain" Government officials.

Asked as to whom he meant by "officials" Mr. Perry explained that he thought it politic to leave it indefinite like that at the present time.

For the Premier he related his parable of Finlay Falls. He told how he and his voyagers on a trip in the North could hear the warning roar of the rapids and falls long before they got to them, but when they came close they overcame their difficulty by pulling their boat to shore and relieving it of some of its cargo.

**Still Believes in Oliver.**

"The Premier will know what I mean by the parable," Mr. Perry said.

"While there are a lot of rumors around, I do not believe that the people of this Province have lost confidence in Premier Oliver and Liberal principles. There was never a time when there was greater need for Liberal principles than there is to-day. The Liberal party is too big and its principles too high for its work to be left undone through the actions of certain officials.

**Fur Selling Causes Friction.**

Direct charges of incompetency on the part of the Game Conservation Board and a demand of the government that the board be absolutely abolished, were made by Mr. Perry.

Following rumors that the northern member was after the scalp of Dr. A. R. Baker, chairman of the Board, and would ask that a royal commission be appointed, it was expected that direct charges would be laid, but this was not done. However, he spent an hour in an exclusive study of the beaver situation and closed his comments upon that subject by demanding the abolition of the board.

Mr. Perry said that the people of the northern half of the Province were up in arms over the question of the Government sale of fur. More than \$5,000,000 worth of fur is shipped out of British Columbia annually, he explained, and of this no less than \$1,000,000 represented the value of pelts handled through Prince George. Beaver fur is very expensive, he said, and prime skins are worth \$25. In 1914 beaver skins could be bought for one and two dollars each.

**Skin for Glass of Whiskey.**

"Beaver were becoming depleted," he continued, "and two years ago a close season was ordered. This year everything has gone wrong. The Indian considers the beaver his natural heritage, just as he did the salmon before they all but disappeared. The Indian still feels that he has an inalienable right to beaver. They are his food and he trades their skins for all kinds of supplies. So the Indians have killed beaver and no one has paid much attention. The natives did not try to sell the hides, but the white men, avaricious as always, went to the camps and bought the skins for the magnificent sum of one dollar or a glass of whiskey."

Traders got the skins and surreptitiously shipped them to Alberta, added the speaker, and there they received the Government stamp.

**Fur Bootleggers Thrive.**

"The Game Board decided to take action," continued Mr. Perry. "They created a close season and should have enforced it. Therefore, there are but two courses for them to follow—either to resign or take the necessary measures to enforce the law. It would have been easy for the members of the Board to keep watch of the Hudson's Hope, or any other place in Alberta and the bootleggers would have been caught."

Mr. Perry said that the whole business had resulted in the degradation of the Indian. He argued that the proper course would have been for the Government agents to pay the Indians the full value of the skins. Fur bootleggers was the name attached to the dealers in beaver pelts.

**Dr. Baker Had "Roll."**

"What did the chairman do?" asked the member.

"Certain individuals floated into the country surreptitiously and were said to be purchasing beaver skins. I thought it a Tory rumor, but it was true. No vouchers were issued.

Mr. Jones—Where did they get the money?

Mr. Perry—From Dr. Baker, I presume.

Mr. Jones—Where did he get it?

Mr. Perry—Dr. Baker himself was floating about Williams Lake with a roll of bills in his pocket. I know Dr. Baker was flashing money around the North country. I know one of these so-called fur-buyers has disappeared and I don't think he will come back.

**Got Bride's Lingerie.**

The speaker went on to say that representatives of the Government were moving around the northern towns, paid by the Government to break the law which had been enacted.

"Talk about Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde!" he exclaimed. "Why, a man named Dawson came into our country and used all kinds of funny methods. He seized a trunk on a Grand Trunk Pacific train, had it taken off, placed in the baggage room and then he 'jimmied' it open, only to find a lot of lingerie belonging to some lady headed for Vancouver on a honeymoon."

**Say Ugly Things.**

Windows in trappers' cabins were broken and other high-handed methods used, said Mr. Perry, but the investigators never looked in the right place.

"It is a disgrace to the department," he ejaculated. "Why, even the chief game inspector expressed surprise that beaver pelts were being purchased. Things like that are causing all the trouble. The people are saying ugly things. When skins are being bought for from \$2 to \$6 each and are worth from \$15 to \$25 the people are naturally suspicious as to who is making the profit."

**"High and Mighty Autocrat."**

Mr. Perry said that Dr. Baker had been ordered into the Interior following rumors of the dissatisfaction felt there over the situation.

"This autocrat, this high and mighty person could not wait until I returned to Prince George, although I telegraphed that I would be there in 24 hours," continued the speaker. "He called the fur dealers into conference and gave everybody permits and a good line of—well, what we call 'hot-air'."

"When I returned I told him that of all the fool things I ever heard of that was the most foolish. It would result in chaos. You think that any man, particularly a politician like Dr. Baker, would have known better."

**Permit Privileges.**

"Lester one man said to me that if he would get a permit 24 hours before anybody else secured one he would pay \$5,000 for it."

Mr. Perry explained that there were many forms of permits issued. One granted the buyer \$2.50 profit on each skin; another permitted the buyer to pay from \$8 to \$10 per skin but was not good after September. Still another said the Government would pay \$10 per skin regardless of quality. Another permit mentioned a price of \$12, with the provision that 60 per cent. of the skins must be large. The man holding this particular permit bought 550 skins. He declared that there was a suspicion in the North that a large number of skins had been detained by Dr. Baker's appointees and shipped down from the North before the closed season order was made known.

**"Doc's" Word Goes.**

"Then, again, the Hudson's Bay Company had a blanket permit, but they have not shipped a single skin to this Government. I cannot imagine the Hudson's Bay Company doing so. They have a reputation for more shrewdness than that."

"No sale was advertised, although Dr. Baker said he would advertise an auction sale in Prince George."

Mr. Perry said he had felt very "small" when he found that Dr. Baker's recommendations had been listened to when his own, as those of a humble member, had no weight.

"I accuse him (Dr. Baker) of utter incompetence at least and will let it go at that, but I think that he should resign at once," was the sally of the member from Fort George.

**Gives Advice to Premier.**

He advised the Government to abolish the Game Conservation Board and leave the affairs of that organization in the hands of a committee of the House. He also recommended that a better class of game official be appointed.

In addition, Mr. Perry addressed some advice to the Premier, suggesting that "certain" Government "officials" be removed. He was ambiguous as to who was meant.

"Recently, when traveling in the Peace River country, we came to Finlay Rapids," he recounted. "We approached the rapids and could hear the roar. The warning was there; so when we considered it unsafe to proceed further we went ashore and lined down to safe and quiet water. I think the Premier might well remember this little parable. The people placed their confidence in the Government and I do not think they have changed their opinion, but I do feel that the electors want to see some changes in certain departments."

**Against Tax Proposals.**

While Mr. Perry's discussion of the beaver situation was the outstanding feature of his address, he had other things to say. He felt that a member and a supporter of the Government should not allow that support to conflict with his sense of duty. So he intended to speak plainly. He had little to say in favor of the personal property tax and felt that the municipalities should be restricted to a certain millage rate. Some form of control should be placed in the hands of the Finance Minister or in those of the Inspector of Municipalities.

Mr. Perry said that Victoria had not gone to its limit in taxation, and cited figures to prove that this municipality is less taxed than others in the West. He drew the conclusion that Victoria must be a desirable place to live, for in Victoria the tax is \$26.26 compared with \$36.20 in Vancouver, \$42.63 in Edmonton, \$38 in Calgary, and \$30 in Regina.

As at present constituted, the office of the inspector represented a waste of money, he argued. It might well be abolished.

**Hard on Workmen.**

The Fort George member had something to say about the operations of the Liquor Control Board. The officials of that body had promised a substantial present to the municipalities by Christmas, he said, but he would be well to give the present now.

He was strongly opposed to the Government's proposal to abolish tax exemptions on incomes under \$1,500 since this would effect the working-man most unfairly.

"I cannot conceive that this proposal ever emanated from the Minister of Finance," exclaimed Mr. Perry, "and I hope my confidence in him will not be displaced. It would be far better to tax the luxuries. It is certainly no luxury to work for \$1,500 a year. Why, the man who receives that works far harder than the man whose income amounts to \$15,000."

Automobiles should be taxed, continued the speaker, who advocated a tax of one cent per gallon on gasoline.

**Wants More Economy.**

"Furthermore, give the working-man his glass of beer and tax him a cent on that, if you want to. It would go down better."

Mr. Uphill, interrupting—What, the beer?

Laughter followed.

Mr. Perry suggested the appointment of an "Economy Committee," composed of members from both sides. The committee's business would be to cut down overhead expenses. The member was not alarmed over the increase in the Provincial



debt so long as it represented money advanced to foster the industries of the country. He said cost of Government is higher in B. C. than in any other province. In B. C. this outlay amounts to \$4 per capita, compared with \$1.73 in Alberta and 85 cents in Saskatchewan.

**Wants P. G. E. To Go On.**

He advocated the continuation of the proposed Trans-provincial highway through Yellowhead Pass and the utilization of the abandoned grade of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway from Lucerne to points in Alberta.

Dealing with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, Mr. Perry said the Government should not be worried about cutting down expenditures on that line, but should be considering extensions into the Peace River country. There was a great empire up

there, he explained, a country rich in coal, oil, minerals and farm produce. In fact, he claimed, the ultimate success of the line depended largely upon its continuation into the rich Northland.

**Urges Opening of Oilfields.**

"It is time for optimism regarding the P. G. E.," he exclaimed. "Freight would pour out of that country and the settlers would require large amounts of produce from the Coast. There would be no need for unemployment in British Columbia if the Peace River country were opened up and the people would go upon the land."

The speaker expressed the hope that the Premier would continue his negotiations with the Alberta Government over railway extensions.

He also advocated the abandonment of oil operations on the part of the Government and the throwing open of the field for staking.

**Attacks Land Settlement Policy.**

"The reports of the engineers have proven that the country is rich in oil prospects," he continued, "and the best way to get the oil is to let everybody have a chance. True, there is a certain amount of speculation about it, but if there is proper supervision of the operations of flotation companies there will be no losses other than those which may be expected by the speculator."

Mr. Perry claimed that an amendment should be passed to the Forestry Act. Mills were running into debt and the workers left unprotected. The amendment should provide that wage-claims came first.

He also criticized the work of the Land Settlement Board, asserting that owners who had paid as much as \$20 per acre for their land were forced to accept as little as \$4 per acre from the Government. He declared, however, that the Board had done good work in opening the North as 182 settlers had been located, 26,000 acres of land sold and 24,000 acres actually brought under cultivation.

**Warehouse Deal Again.**

More roads were also asked for. Mr. Perry expressing wonder over the curtailment of roadwork last Summer.

"It is all very well for me as a Government supporter to say that the Government needed to economize, but it takes some explaining in my district, where the men are intelligent (laughter) to get them to believe that when the Government is buying warehouses at \$150,000.

"I say to the Government, look for the handwriting on the wall," he warned.

Applause from the Opposition followed, whereupon Mr. Perry advised them not to become too much encouraged.

Mr. Samuel Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, adjourned the debate.

**DR. BAKER DEMANDS PROBE OF CHARGES MADE AGAINST HIM**

Dr. A. R. Baker, Chairman of the Game Conservation Board, today demanded an investigation as a result of charges made against him and the Game Board in the Legislature yesterday by H. O. Perry, Liberal member for Fort George.

Dr. Baker telegraphed this statement to Premier Oliver:

"If Perry has made statements attributed to him by Vancouver Morning Sun, I brand them as false and demand an immediate investigation."

"(Sgd.) A. R. BAKER, Chairman Game Board."

The Premier has handed the telegram to Attorney-General Farris for action.

**SETTLERS WORTH MORE TO VICTORIA THAN COURT HOUSE**

**This Is What J. A. Catherwood Says About Proposed New Building Attacks the Government for Nicomen Island Flood Losses**

J. A. Catherwood, Conservative member for Dewdney, took up the Nicomen Island question in his speech during the debate yesterday and at considerable length went into the question of responsibility for the protection of the Island from river floods as between the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Mr. Catherwood, who was the only Conservative member to make the P. G. E. trip with the Government party last Summer, said he was sorry more members of the House did not avail themselves of the opportunity of going along as those who did go were amply repaid with what they saw and learned.

He regretted that there was no mention in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech of more aid for the University of B. C.

**Opposes Court House.**

Coming to Victoria he took up the proposal of the grand jury of last week that a new court house should be built to replace the present antiquated structure. He said a court house for Victoria would cost at least \$600,000 to \$800,000 as the people here would want as much as the people of Prince Rupert got for their building.

"If the people of Victoria would think of how much \$600,000 to \$800,000 would do in opening up the fertile tracts on Vancouver Island through the building of roads, they would forego the building of their new court house at present," Mr. Catherwood said. "One hundred more settlers on Vancouver Island would be infinitely more benefit to Victoria than a new court house."

**How Islanders Suffered**

Mr. Catherwood then launched into the Nicomen Island question telling how the floods there in 1920 had occasioned a loss of \$140,000 to the settlers and about the same amount in 1921.

"Surely if Sumas Prairie is worth \$60 to \$120 an acre to reclaim, then this Island should be worth the \$30 an acre which it would take to protect the banks of this Island," he went on.

"During the years 1920 and 1921 this Island was inundated by the rise of the Fraser. The area affected was between 4,000 and 5,000 acres and had a population of about 400 happy and contented people who were engaged in the small fruit business and in mixed farming. They were a peaceful and prosperous community, making a good living and contributing their quota to the prosperity of the Province. In this district were twenty-two returned soldiers who had been located there under the S. S. B. and who were just getting a start and had every chance of making good."

**Lost Their All.**

"As a result of the flood the settlers' crops of berries and grain and their pastures were ruined. Many of the settlers had to sell their cattle and other stock as they had no feed for them. The soldier settlers having lost their crops had nothing to look forward to in the way of assisting them meet the payment on their lands.

"Most of them struggled through 1920 and started in 1921 with new hopes. But, alas, disaster overtook them again and they once more lost their all."

"I regret the attitude of the Premier and the Government in respect to the petition presented to them by the residents of Nicomen Island backed up by the Boards of Trade of Vancouver, New Westminster and Mission in regard to assistance in protecting the river banks of the Island."

**Says Oliver Changed Stand.**

"The present Government takes the stand that it is the duty of the Dominion Government to do the whole of the river bank protection and that the Provincial Government has no duty in connection with it."

Mr. Catherwood then read telegrams between the Hon. J. H. King, Minister of Public Works for B. C. and the Hon. Frank Carvell, Minister of Public Works at Ottawa, with the object of showing that the B. C. Government has not always taken the view that it had no responsibility as regards protection of the banks of the river at Nicomen.

In one of these telegrams Dr. King begs Ottawa to contribute part of the cost," Mr. Catherwood continued. "Ottawa took the ground that it was the Provincial Government's duty to protect the banks of the river and it was the duty of the Dominion Government to keep the river open for navigation by dredging and by other means."

**Brings Up Ancient History.**

"Finally, Ottawa agreed in 1920 to go fifty-fifty with the Government of this Province on this work and again in May 1921 Ottawa telegraphed the Premier to the same effect, but made it clear that the Province had to shoulder some responsibility."

Mr. Calderwood declared that protection of the river banks was really protection of the dykes, anyhow.

This brought Premier Oliver to his feet to say that most of the banks protected were miles away from the dykes.

"There is other evidence of the responsibility of this Government," Mr. Catherwood went on. "In the records at Ottawa there is the incident when the Hon. Mr. Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, proposed a vote in repayment to the Municipality of Delta of money spent on the protection of the river bank there and made the payment conditional on the contribution of a like amount by Victoria."

"Being asked why this proviso appeared, Mr. Pugsley said it was suggested to him by John Oliver who represented it as the duty of the Government at Victoria to make this contribution."

Mr. Catherwood declared that Premier Oliver supported this policy adopted by the Dominion Liberal Government at his suggestion, when he was a candidate.

**Hints Politics at Basis.**

"But when Mr. Oliver became member for Victoria and a minister and found a Government of another political stripe at Ottawa, his attitude suddenly changed," Mr. Catherwood went on. "Our Premier then became the censor and critic of Federal assistance in the past. The result is to make it most difficult to induce Ottawa to take further interest in this matter. A liberal proposition was made to spend a large sum of money for the protection of the Island conditioned on a very small contribution by Victoria. This offer of co-operation is still good, but our Premier stubbornly refuses to take it up and the settlers are to be left to their fate so long as the present ministry rules at Victoria."

Mr. Catherwood said it was his duty to move and asked the House support a resolution regretting "the attitude of the Government towards the petition of settlers in dyked areas for effective action towards securing their dykes against destruction by erosion of river banks."

**BIG FIGHT LOOMS ON BILLBOARD BILL**

**M. B. Jackson's Measure Aims to Preserve Scenic Beauties of B. C.**

M. B. Jackson's private bill to banish from the highways and scenic water routes of British Columbia billboards which are allegedly "obnoxious blots on the landscape," came before the Legislature yesterday and was given its first reading.

It was immediately sent down for printing for its second reading, which was set down for this afternoon. This second reading, however, may be put off for a few days.

## Hanes Moves to End Japanese Treaty and Stop Asiatic Inflow

Termination of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty and tightening up of the Immigration Act against Asiatics to bring about their total exclusion was made an issue in the B. C. Legislature to-day, when G. S. Hanes of North Vancouver placed two motions to that effect on the order paper. They will be discussed on the floor of the House Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Hanes is bringing up the immigration issue in connection with his declarations in the House this afternoon that Orientals are still being employed on Crown granted timber contracts.

"We have got to get rid of this Treaty before we can do anything," said Mr. Hanes. "The determination of public opinion to see that something is done is indicated by the fact that the Anti-Asiatic League has sprung up with a membership of 40,000."

Mr. Hanes said that although it was stipulated in the Treaty of 1913 that "nothing shall be deemed to repeal or affect any of the provisions of the Immigration Act," it is nevertheless provided in the Treaty that "each of the high contracting parties shall have full liberty to enter, travel and reside in the territories of the other."

The Treaty did not become effective until adhesion was given to it by Canada, Mr. Hanes said, and as it is provided that either of the powers can end the treaty by giving twelve months' notice, it is possible for Canada to be eliminated by giving

notice that this country no longer desires to adhere to its provisions.

### To End Treaty.

Mr. Hanes's Treaty resolution says:

Resolved, That a respectful Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to convey to the Dominion Government, through His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, the respectful request of this House that the Dominion Government take the necessary steps under Article 27 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between His Majesty the King and His Majesty the Emperor of Japan to request His Majesty the King to give His Majesty the Emperor of Japan twelve months' notice of the intention of termination of this treaty so far as the British Dominion of Canada is concerned.

Be it further Resolved, That His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Hon. the Secretary of State at Ottawa, the Hon. the Premier of Canada, the Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, and Hon. T. A. Crerar.

### To Check Immigration.

The Hanes's resolution on the restriction of Asiatic immigration reads:

Resolved, That a respectful Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to convey to the Dominion Government, through His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, the respectful request of this House that the Dominion Government amend the "Immigration Act" of Canada so, as near as possible, to totally restrict the immigration of Asiatics into this Province, keeping in view the wishes of the people of British Columbia that this Province be reserved for people of the European race, and that the Dominion Government consult with the Provincial Government on the proposed amendments.

Be it further Resolved, That His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Hon. the Secretary of State at Ottawa, the Hon. the Premier of Canada, the Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, and Hon. T. A. Crerar.

### ACROSS THE BAY

Interested in Mr. Hallwright.

Concerning H. E. Hallwright of Victoria and Saanich, J. W. Jones of South Okanagan, has put these questions to the Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education:

Is one H. E. Hallwright in the employ of the Department of Education?

If so, in what capacity? What salary does he receive from the Department?

Does the Government provide him with an automobile, also gasoline, at present?

If not at present, when did it cease to do so, and why?

Is said Hallwright at present teaching in the Victoria High School? If so, how many hours per week does he teach?

What other work does he do and (if any) how many hours per week? On what grounds does the Minister think it necessary to pay the salary of a teacher in the Victoria High School?

Was the school-garden on the corner of Stanley Avenue and Vining Street, in Victoria, last Summer a fair example of his work?

Does he receive any additional also, what amount?

What service does he render the Department?

### GET THE FACTS.

It is not to be supposed that those who occupy the Government benches in the Legislature will object to plain talk from either side of the House as long as the subject matter is dealt with upon a foundation of fact. We are not in a position to judge the merit of the statements made by the member for Fort George in connection with the administration of the Game Conservation Board; it is merely permitted to suggest that if the affairs of that Department of the public service have not been conducted in accordance with the wishes of the Legislature the Attorney-General will be the first to take such course as the facts may dictate. In any case the head of an important branch of the Attorney-General's jurisdiction has been treated to a good deal of publicity and he is entitled to the fullest possible latitude in his own defence. To act upon the advice of the member for Fort George and dismiss the official in question without a hearing is obviously contrary to the ideals of British justice which the complainant himself is pledged to uphold.

## GUTHRIE THINKS B.C. FAMOUS ALREADY

### Ladysmith Socialist Wants Better Rural Educational Facilities

Sam Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, speaking on the debate in the Legislature yesterday, took up the cry of J. B. Clearhue, of Victoria, who said that what B. C. needed was fame.

"I thought the Campbell building in Vancouver, the P. G. E. and the Liquor Board would have brought us enough fame by 'now,'" said Mr. Guthrie.

He said the Liberal party got into power on a platform of peace, retrenchment and reform, but nothing has been heard about these since last election, and nothing would be heard until the next election, when the Premier would appeal to the working class and make more promises to them.

Referring to the proposal to put a one per cent tax on the incomes of all persons earning less than the present exemption limit, Mr. Guthrie said:

### Against New Tax.

"After watching this Government perform for the last five years; there is nothing I would not believe about them. I ask how many members of this House could live on \$3.50 a day, which is the salary rate you propose to tax. This proposal is grossly unfair, especially when it comes from the party that claims to be the party of reform."

Mr. Guthrie said that before the Government gives any more money to the University of B. C. it should see to better educational facilities in rural districts of the Province. He asserted that in some cases one rural teacher had to handle thirty-six to thirty-nine pupils in seven or eight classes.

"You will never encourage rural settlement by that," he went on.

### Had No Chance.

Mr. Guthrie said he had found out the reason why his amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act at last session were not printed and were thus precluded from going through the House. He declared the reason was that a deputation of employers had appeared before the Premier and asked that nothing be done to change the Act and the Premier promised that nothing would. He also asserted that amendments to the Compensation Act were precluded by having it mentioned in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, which meant that the Government only could bring in legislation dealing with it, and the Government then failing to do anything.

### Ladysmith Liqueur Job.

As for the Liquor Control Board, Mr. Guthrie said that the job of vendor at Ladysmith was given to the defeated Liberal candidate in the district, and not to a returned soldier who was more entitled to it.

Mr. Guthrie said he wanted to make it clear that members at the end of last session had nothing to do with the reduction in the wages of road men. He declared that wages were reduced by the Government, and that all information was denied to the House.

He said the Government was not dealing adequately with the unemployment situation, although he admitted that he knew of "no cure for unemployment except getting rid of the present system, the capitalist system."

## FARRIS POUNCES ON HANES AS HE LAUNCHES ATTACK

Attorney-General Cuts in on North Vancouver Man's Anti-Asiatic Argument

Premier Not Slow to Check Upon Graft Suggestion

G. S. Hanes, of North Vancouver, started his anti-Asiatic campaign in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, and went so far as to tell Premier Oliver that he should dismiss the Hon. T. D. Pattullo as Minister of Lands because he had not enforced the anti-Asiatic clause in contracts dealing with Crown granted timber lands.

Mr. Hanes said that in 1902 the Legislature had passed a resolution calling for the insertion of such a clause in Government contracts, and that in 1921 the Legislature by a bill confirmed this resolution into a statute.

### Farris Cuts Flow Short.

When Mr. Hanes reached this point Mr. Farris jumped to his feet and explained that the Government order-in-council calling for the anti-Asiatic clause in contracts was declared unconstitutional by the Court of Appeal in this Province after it had been argued for three days.

"The Court decided unanimously that such an order was ultra vires," Hon. Mr. Farris went on. "But we were not satisfied with that, and decided to appeal to the highest court in the land. The reason for introducing that act last year was to lay the foundation to have the case tested before the Privy Council. That case has been before the Supreme Court of Canada, which now has it under reserved judgment. If we do not win it we will go before the Privy Council."

"In correspondence with the Minister of Justice it was pointed out to use that it was not fair to harass timber holders here until we got a final decision."

### Against "Private Replies."

Mr. Hanes then took up the reply of Hon. Mr. Pattullo to his question as to why the anti-Asiatic clause was not being enforced in contracts. Hon. Mr. Pattullo had replied that it was "not considered in the public interest to make the information public," although he was willing to give the information privately to Mr. Hanes.

"The public is entitled to know everything in connection with the Asiatic situation," Mr. Hanes went on. "Any suggestion given by the Minister of Lands as a private reason is not satisfactory."

### Japs Needed During War.

Mr. Hanes continued to explain that he had been informed privately that the clause was not enforced for Imperial reasons. Before the case was brought into court, "I was told that the clause was left out because so many boys had gone overseas, and the Japs were needed to carry on the business."

When he made his last trip over the P. G. E. he found that the bulk of passengers on the line were Japanese who were going out to start logging camps, Mr. Hanes said. He declared that it was strange that the Minister of Lands could not enforce the anti-Asiatic clause in contracts when such a clause is inserted in contracts made by the Minister of Public Works.

### Courts Put on Injunction.

"Any minister who refuses to carry out any legislation such as this passed by this Legislature violates his oath of office, although I realize it would take considerable to shake any minister loose from his present job," Mr. Hanes went on.

Attorney-General Farris again arose to explain that timber holders last Summer had made application to Mr. Justice Murphy, of the Supreme Court, for an injunction against the Minister of Lands and the Attorney-General putting this clause into force and the injunction was granted.

"There it stands," the Attorney-General went on. "At this time the law of this Province is that the clause is ultra vires."

### Wants Premier to Act.

Mr. Hanes then turned his attention to the Campbell warehouse deal, and told how he had listened to a great part of the evidence in the libel suit in Vancouver.

"I want to say to the Premier that if he does not approve of that deal he should take immediate action," he went on. "If it was shown that there was no libel in publishing the statement that \$67,000 of Government monies were overpaid, then I think the Premier should take action, or that the Lieutenant-Governor should step in."

Premier Oliver: I don't think that the Lieutenant-Governor is the subject for debate in this Assembly. So far the Lieutenant-Governor sees fit to take advice from his responsible ministers.

Speaker Manson: The Lieutenant-Governor and the Royal family are not to be brought into debate.

### Grant-Whyte Failure Up.

Mr. Hanes then jumped to the Grant-Whyte failure in Vancouver, declaring that hundreds of thousands of dollars had been lost to investors, that the failure was similar to the Dominion Trust crash, because the Government had allowed Grant-Whyte & Co. to get away with registering nothing but their name without any financial backing for the safety of investing clients.

As for the Prince Rupert Pulp and Paper Co., closely connected with the Grant-Whyte concern, he said he would like to know what the operations of that company have amounted to since they were given privileges at the last session of the Legislature.

### No "Graft" on Premier.

The P. G. E. came next on Mr. Hanes list of subjects. He asserted that he was still ready to have the Premier "call my bluff" if Mr. Bowser would give him support, and see if the members on both sides of the House are ready to look into the P. G. E. campaign fund scandal, "that most colossal graft."

Premier Oliver: Are you connecting me with any graft?

Mr. Hanes: No.

Premier: You had better not.

Major Burde: What are you going to do about it?

Mr. Hanes then took up the Legislative trip over the P. G. E. last Summer.

### Raining in Railway Cars.

"What right has the Premier to hire three or four C. P. R. sleepers and diners and take the members of the Legislature on a trip over that line in comfort?" Mr. Hanes went on. "Members took this trip in comfort and luxury when the average citizen has to sit up at night, put up with inconveniences and do without meals."

He declared that on one of his trips over the line the day coach was so leaky that people were sitting in it with their umbrellas up to protect themselves from the shower of water that came down from overhead.

"Then the members of this House get up and tell what a fine kind of a trip they had over the line on C. P. R. sleepers," he went on.

### Afraid of One-Man Cars.

Mr. Hanes suggested that the Province could get more revenue from its oil lands by opening the territories and putting into effect a scale of licenses similar to that of the Dominion Government.

He wanted to know why none of the coal combines had been prosecuted in view of the evidence brought out at the coal enquiry last Spring.

As for the B. C. Electric and the one-man car proposal, he said it was not the wish of the citizens that the Premier should give way to the B. C. E. R. on their one-man car plans, as one-man cars would be dangerous, especially in hilly communities like North Vancouver. He declared that the company had said nothing about reducing its fares if allowed to operate one-man cars.

Mr. Hanes said the Mothers' Pensions Act was working out successfully, but he suggested that sufficient money should be voted so that there will not be one mother getting a full pension, and another not because there is not sufficient money.

## ZADOK'S P.G.E. TRIP INTERESTS HOUSE; CANON LAUDATORY

Victoria Member Tells of the Bohunk's Railway Camp

Commends Government Policies, But Opposes Tax on Poor Workers

Speaking in the Legislature Tuesday afternoon, Canon Hinchliffe, Conservative member for Victoria, told of investigations he made last Summer into the unemployment question.

He spoke of his trip over the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and told of the conditions he found. Smiles flitted over the faces of some of the members, but they disappeared before the Canon had proceeded far. He said the trip had been made at his own expense, that he had used his own name on all occasions, excepting when he went to a hotel in Quesnel and registered under an old pen-name, "Zodok."

### Premier Bought Meal.

Canon Hinchliffe said he traveled in old clothes, which he said were commonsense attire, and always introduced himself properly. He was met with every courtesy and given the freedom of the camp. But he paid for all he got, with the exception of one meal, which was furnished by Premier Oliver.

The speaker claimed he belonged to the great fraternity of the unemployed from May 1 until the end of November and if workmen he talked to thought he was out of a job they weren't far wrong.

### Workers Mostly Foreigners.

"I studied two questions," said the Conservative member. "Unemployment was one and the other was: 'How is it that men from the cities cannot remain long at work in the camp?'"

"I found few of British birth, but plenty of Swedes and Russians. I also wanted to know if returned men were being discriminated against. I am happy to say they were not; that returned soldiers were working in earnest, some holding the better-class jobs and others doing the hardest work imaginable, and for very small pay."

### Had Visitors in Bunks.

The speaker's remarks were more a eulogy of the Government than otherwise, in so far as the P. G. E. camps were concerned. He said the men were well fed, although poorly paid. He did not think they were well housed, and he recommended more sanitary housing conditions.

"And speaking about that old suit of clothes," said the canon, with a smile, "I was mighty glad I wore it. I slept in bunks with men and came to a realization that we were not the only occupants. In fact, after leaving the camps I found out that I was not the only occupant of my clothes—my hat—and I threw them into the river."

### Shows Salary Inequality.

In more serious vein the member urged camp sanitation and better pay. He pleaded with the Government to re-consider the question of removing the exemption on workmen's pay.

"When you have a Minister of the Government getting from \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year and plain laborers earning 10,000 to 15,000 cents, what justification could there be for taxing these men?" he asked.

### Not Able to Save.

Canon Hinchliffe said that many of the married men in the camps were hard pressed to save \$50 or \$100 a month to send to their families. In fact, he said, one Swede explained to him that in the P. G. E. camp he was working for the same money all the time. The Northern Construction Company paid wages every fortnight and by the time the next pay-day came around the whole amount had been paid back to the company for meals and supplies.

He asked for two things. One was better housing for the men and the other fuller protection against high prices for commodities.

### Take Half Loaf From Poor.

The best a laborer could do was to save two dollars a day, said the canon. "If you charge him four cents a day, or \$1.20 a month, you are simply taking a half a loaf of bread a day away from his needy family." He again warned the Government against such a step.

The speaker appeared to feel that he would be criticized for his tour of investigation, and in this connection said that no matter how badly he was "grilled" over the episode he would feel that he had been fully repaid for his time and expense.

**Commends Tranquille Work.**

He congratulated the Government on the help being given to the municipalities, but warned against increased taxation. This would only stifle industry, he said.

Canon Hinchliffe complimented the Government upon its work at Tranquille, but he contended that the Government was far from correct if it imagined that enough had been done in fighting tuberculosis.

He said the Government's colonization proposals were commendable, provided care was taken to secure the best class of settlers, and particularly those of British birth.

"We need a happy and contented rural population," he said, "and with this there would be no cause for unemployment. With eighty or ninety per cent. of the present settlers prosperous you would not need to take further steps to get others; they would come."

He proposed a complete overhaul of the educational system and urged the Government to submit the legislation to be introduced immediately so that the members of all parties might have a chance to assist.

**FORCED BY FLOODS  
OLIVER AND FAMILY  
FLED TO GARRET**

**Premier Tells of Exciting  
Times in Early Days  
on Delta**

**Explains Government's Policy  
on Nicomen Island  
Protection**

For an hour and a half on Tuesday afternoon Premier Oliver reviewed the dyking situation on Nicomen Island.

J. A. Catherwood, Conservative member for Dewdney, moved a resolution asking the House to express disapproval of the Government's action with regard to the Nicomen dyking situation. Mr. Catherwood explained the situation on Monday, claiming that the Government had not done the right thing by the settlers on the Island, and particularly the 22 returned soldiers resident there. He maintained that the Provincial Government should accept fuller responsibility.

Premier Oliver went exhaustively into the situation, which has become a hackneyed question on the floor of the Legislature year after year. He dug up correspondence of ten and twelve years ago and quoted reports of Federal and Provincial Government engineers, until the heads of his hearers swam. At that he held their interest and was heartily applauded by the Government members.

**No Place to Live, Anyhow.**

The Government leader commenced by drawing comparisons between the present situation and that of his early married life in the Delta. In those early days, he explained, he found it necessary to get his family into the upper part of the house for protection against the salt water. So he felt he was entitled to full credit for appreciating the regrettable condition of the Nicomen Island settlers.

He took the attitude that the settlers never should have been there in the first place, since the lands were very difficult to protect and he took the Dewdney member to task for not objecting to the settlement of the returned men on the Island by the Soldier Settlement Board. He also charged the Federal member with gross neglect.

**Spend as Much as Ottawa.**

Premier Oliver explained that the Provincial Government had already spent something like \$100,000 at Nicomen, and claimed that it would require \$500,000 to protect the lands in question properly. This figure, he said, was based upon the estimates of Government engineers of both Governments. He offered on behalf of the Provincial Government to spend dollar for dollar with the Ottawa authorities on the dyking of the Island, provided the Dominion body would first protect the river banks

**Conservatives Refused.**

"In spite of the fact that all such work is the task of the Federal Government, we are willing to do this," he continued, "but even the settlers on Nicomen Island would not have us spend the public's money in a wasteful manner. To undertake such a thing now would mean pledging ourselves to carry out such work in the future, work which might run into millions of dollars."

Some of the letters which the Premier read showed that the late Conservative Government had refused to undertake the work, and he wondered why a member of the Opposition was demanding that a Liberal Government do what its predecessor would not.

**Only False Case.**

An appeal for rescue was made in 1915, he continued, asking why the settlers were not relieved then.

Mr. Catherwood interrupted to explain that the late Conservative Government had agreed to construct roads that would serve as dykes, by raising the level of the road above the high-water mark of 1894.

"That did not bring protection," said the Premier, who then waded through a mass of correspondence in support of his contention that the blame attached to the Federal authorities and no small part of it to the late Government. He accused Mr. Catherwood of trying to build up a false case against the Government.

**Offers Hospital Donation.**

Mr. Hanes asked if a certain letter on the subject written by the Premier, had not carried the suggestion to Ottawa that an election was near and it might be expedient for Ottawa to authorize the work.

The Premier hotly repudiated the suggestion and offered to donate \$50 to the Jubilee Hospital if Mr. Hanes could produce such a letter.

Mr. Hanes said he might be able to produce the letter yet, since he had written for a copy.

**Would Cost Nearly \$300,000.**

The Premier mentioned the recent activity of the Vancouver Board of Trade on the matter, reading a letter from Secretary W. E. Payne stating that the Board appreciated the "clear statement" given by the Premier.

He had met officials of that organization, he said, and they were satisfied with the stand he had taken. He then explained that Hon. Frank Carvell, then Public Works Minister in the Federal Government, had shown where the work required at Nicomen Island would cost \$283,600.

"And still, the story was given out that all the Provincial Government would have to spend would be \$20,000," rapped the Premier.

**Kidding About Election.**

He claimed credit for having a dredge sent up to Nicomen Island to dredge a channel to carry the water away from the eroding banks. This should have been urged by the Dewdney member, he chided, or by the Federal representative.

Mr. Jones: Was there any election pending at that time?

Premier Oliver: No, the election was over and we had been sent back to office. (Laughter).

Mr. Bower: The election was on when you wandered around the Island.

Premier Oliver: That was not the first time I walked around it.

**Gets Excited.**

Then followed a passage-at-arms between Mr. Catherwood and the Premier regarding the breaking of the dyke, the former claiming that the dyke did not break as the Premier said it had, except as the result of the banks being washed away.

Premier Oliver: Well, it broke, so what is all the row about?

He spoke in a heated manner, addressing the member as "Mr. Catherwood." Major Burde called for order, which request the Speaker repeated, and with a smile the Premier addressed the "Honorable member for Dewdney."

"Did you tell the settlers of the danger from breaks?" asked Mr. Catherwood.

**Would Mean Spending Millions.**

"What is the use of butting in such nonsensical questions as that?" chided the Premier, who added that he would then and there challenge the Dewdney member to go back to his electors and ask them if the Government's policy was right. How could the people sanction an action which would involve the spending of millions?

He added that he felt strongly on the matter, since he had been attacked time after time, and he apologized to the House for taking up so much time.

Major Burde moved the adjournment of the debate on the resolution.

**TO HALT ROAD RUIN  
BY HEAVY TRAFFIC**

**Government Appointing Official to Control Motor Vehicles**

The Hon. J.H. King, Minister of Public Works announced to-day that he had made arrangements for an expenditure for road purposes at the Merville settlement area to relieve serious conditions. The work, which will be carried out by the men on the settlement, under the supervision of district engineers, is to be started at once.

Dr. King gave notice this afternoon of amendment to the Highway Act to deal with more direct control and regulation of motor vehicles in regard to loading and speed. By this regulation an official of the department will be delegated to prevent extraordinary traffic which tears up highways. Previously, when engineers saw roads being destroyed, they were unable to act without communicating with the Minister.

Under this amendment the time and date will be set for the change in the rule of the road, which will become operative at 6 a. m. on January 1, 1922. There is less traffic on New Year's Day and the day following and the date arranged, it is expected will give the general public a good opportunity to get used to the alteration.

**THOSE BEAVER PELTS.**

It is not our intention to attempt to examine the merits of charges made by the member for Fort George against the Game Conservation Board and its chairman; nor do we propose to dwell upon the statement which Dr. Baker has issued in reply to the observations which Mr. Perry has made. None the less we are of the opinion that the request of the Chairman of the Game Conservation Board for a full investigation into the administration of his Department in connection with the sale of beaver pelts should be granted by the Government in order that the Legislature and the people of the Province may know whether the serious allegations in question are true or false. Charges made on the floor of the House are sometimes of the highly imaginative type with merely political significance. These are not taken seriously. Mr. Perry could not have had a political object in assailing an official of the Government which he was elected to support. For this and other obvious reasons the fullest inquiry should be conducted.

**"OVERCROWDED" B. C.**

Judged by the case presented to the Legislature by the Premier yesterday afternoon it looks as if it will be some time before this Province and the Dominion will be able to agree upon the precise division of responsibility for the protection of the banks of navigable streams. As a case in point Nicomen Island seems to present a crop of difficulties which neither Provincial nor Dominion Government has been able to solve to the satisfaction of the people in the area involved. Without any attempt to wade into the complications of the discussion we are constrained to express surprise that the Federal Soldier Settlement Board should have per-

mitted some twenty or more returned soldiers to take up land in that area of Nicomen Island which is constantly exposed to the floods of the Fraser. Surely the local officials responsible for the selection of these lands were acquainted with conditions and might have warned those who seem to be the chief sufferers. On the other hand the average individual will stand aghast and wonder why in an area one and a half times as large as Germany, with a population no bigger than a decent sized European city, a few people should have to herd themselves in one small section where Nature's vicissitudes make annual sport of human handiwork.

### ACROSS THE BAY

To save purchasers confusion in getting title to their properties in the B. C. Government's South Okanagan Irrigation lands, the Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, to-day introduced a bill in the Legislature.

"This bill is designed to authorize the issuance of Crown Grants for lands held under the project in similar manner as Crown Grants are now issued under the Land Act," said Hon. Mr. Pattullo.

"The lands under the project vary at the present time in respect to title. In carrying out the irrigation project it has been necessary to make an entire new subdivision of the lands comprised in the tract, and the present bill before the Legislature is designed to bring all the lands under the project upon the same basis. This will save a great deal of confusion and trouble in issuing title to purchasers under the system.

#### Liquor Board Affairs.

Liquor Control Board affairs are interesting R. H. Pooley, of Esquimalt, and Col. Lister, of Kaslo.

Col. Lister is asking Attorney-General Farris these questions: Is it the custom of Americans purchasing permits and liquor from the Government Liquor Stores to pay for same in American currency? If so, who makes the profit on the exchange?

What is the system for accounting for same?

How much has the Government received from this source?

Mr. Pooley on Friday will move that an Order of the House be granted for a return of copies of all regulations made by the Liquor Control Board under the provisions of the "Government Liquor Act," including as well as regulations proposed by the said Board but not approved by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

Gordon Wismer, F. McD. Russell and W. T. McArthur, of Vancouver, have arrived at the Parliament Buildings to discuss political matters.

#### That \$2,000,000 Loan.

W. A. McKenzie is putting these questions to the Hon. J. H. King, Minister of Public Works:

Was a loan for \$2,000,000 lately floated on account of British Columbia highways?

If so, what was the net amount received by the Government on account of this flotation?

How much of said loan is to be taken to pay the Canadian Bank of Commerce on account of Treasury bills sold to them for this purpose?

Has any other expenditure already been made out of this loan?

If so, how much?

#### All the King's Horses.

It looks as if R. H. Pooley of Esquimalt is asking for a big order when he puts these questions to Dr. King: How many horses have been purchased by the Government since it took office?

From whom were they purchased?

What prices were paid?

How many horses have been sold since the Government took office?

To whom were they sold?

At what prices?

Was public notice given of the sale?

If so, what advertisement was given.

Major Burde is leading off this afternoon in the debate.

He is being followed by J. W. Jones, of South Okanagan.

T. Uphill, of Fernie, plans to speak to-morrow.

## ACROSS THE BAY

What Politicians in Action Are Doing, Saying and Thinking in the B. C. Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Barrow also informs Mr. Uphill that the buildings in the land settlement area at Fernie have not been disposed of, contrary to Mr. Uphill's impression.

#### Capt. Mackenzie on Job.

Capt. Ian Mackenzie, of Vancouver, who has been absent from the House so far this session on G. W. V. A. affairs, has arrived and taken his seat.

#### That Sumas Contract.

For the information of J. W. Jones of South Okanagan, Hon. Mr. Barrow, states that an agreement was entered into by the Government with the Marsh-Bourne Construction Co., on April 29, 1920, for the reclamation of Sumas Lake, for the price of \$1,182,063.07.

The amount paid up to month of August, all on monthly progress estimates of Chief Engineer was \$107,247.07. Since that date control of all the contractors' approval accounts for labor and material has been assumed by the Land Settlement Board as per rights under contract, payment being made direct to firms by Land Settlement Board cheque; progress estimates being credited against disbursements. Amount paid in this way, \$130,643.35.

To the Dyking Commissioners on account of reclamation other than under this contract the Land Settlement Board has advanced \$154,295.21, not included in contract, but contained and specified in estimates laid before property-owners on the occasion of endorsement of plans and contract. Since appointment of Land Settlement Board as Commissioners for Sumas Dyking District. Payments made either at regular intervals in case of Government engineering staff pay-rolls and maintenance, or as occasion required in the case of right-of-way purchases, fencing, administrative costs, or old accounts authorized for payment by special Statms Act.

#### Costs at Sumas.

When the Government or Land Settlement Board were consulting with the owners and Advisory Board regarding the Sumas Lake reclamation scheme, were they told that it would cost in the neighborhood of \$1,800,000? G. S. Hanes is asking the Hon. E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture.

If it costs more, will the Government pay the extra cost or will the total cost be charged to the property-owners?

#### Dr. Baker Again.

Dr. A. R. Baker, chairman of the B. C. Game Conservation Board, has come into the limelight again as a result of questions asked members of the Government about the doctor and the Game Board by R. H. Pooley of Esquimalt.

Mr. Pooley asks: Does Dr. Baker draw any salary on account of his connection with the moving pictures?

If yes, what is the monthly salary?

Covering what period has he drawn said salary?

Has the said Baker been paid anything on account of expenses during this period?

If yes, how much?

What is his official title?

Is there a man named Baker employed on the Government launch "Wattia"?

Is said launch operated by the Game Board?

Is said Baker any relation of the Chairman of the Game Board?

Is said Baker employed by the year, month, or day?

What wage does he receive?

What amount of money has been paid to said Baker, and covering what period or days?

What moneys have been paid said Baker on account of expenses?

Does the Government provide any moneys towards the board or lodging of the said Baker while working for the Government? If yes, how much and covering what period?

Did this man serve overseas? If not, why was not a returned man employed?

Is one Pyke employed by the Game Board? If so, where and what is his position?

Did the Game Board order the said Pyke to move to Victoria this Summer to take up duties here?

Did the said Pyke move his family to Victoria?

Was the said Pyke ordered, shortly after his arrival in Victoria, to move back to the Mainland?

Did the Game Board pay the said Pyke any money to cover the costs of moving his family furniture, and personal belongings either to Victoria, or Victoria back to the Mainland, or both?

If yes, how much?

If yes, under whose orders were said moneys paid?

Who is responsible for said unnecessary expenditure?

If none have been made, has any claim been put in therefor?

Has one Walker been lately discharged as Game Warden by the Chairman of the Game Board?

If yes, when was he discharged?

What notice of dismissal was given?

Was said Walker a permanent appointee of the Civil Service?

What was the reason of his discharge?

#### B. C. Motor Licenses.

Mr. Jones is asking the Hon. J. H. King, Minister of Public Works, these questions about motor licenses:

1. What amount of money was received from motor licenses during 1920?

2. What amount of money was received from motor licenses in 1921 up to October 1st?

3. What sum was set aside for a Reserve Account under "Motor-vehicle Act"?

4. Have any moneys been used from Highway Account, "Motor-vehicle Act," for payment of interest on capital accounts borrowed for roads; if so, the amount?

5. Have any sums from Highway Account, "Motor-vehicle Act," been used for any other purpose; if so, for what purpose?

6. What is the amount now at the credit of the Highway Account of the "Motor-vehicle Act"?

#### About Agricultural Journal.

Kenneth Duncan of Cowichan wants to know about the Agricultural Journal published by the Department of Agriculture and has asked the Hon. E. D. Barrow these questions:

Upon what terms is the Agricultural Journal sent to subscribers?

How many copies have been issued each month from January to September, 1921, both inclusive, and what has been the cost for each month?

Who is the present editor and when was he appointed?

What other duties (if any) does he perform and what are the respective salaries?

What other clerical assistance is employed?

Replying to the question from G. S. Hanes as to whether any timber contracts, licenses or leases have been issued since 1916 by the Lands Department without inserting a clause "that no Chinese or Japanese shall be employed in connection therewith," the Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, says:

All information available in the department has been placed before the honorable member asking the question, but it is not considered to be in the public interest to make the information public.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo informs R. H. Pooley of Esquimalt that there are sixty-one motor cars, which cost \$48,061 owned by the Government and used by officials of the Department of Lands.

#### No Horses From Dicken.

T. Uphill, of Fernie, learned from the Hon. E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture, that the Land Settlement Board did not purchase a team of horses from William Dicken of Fernie. Neither did the Board purchase a stump-puller or a motor truck from Mr. Dicken.

### \$25,000 VOTED FOR IRRIGATION

By Order-in-Council A. R. Millard, Coquitlam, has been appointed liquor vendor for the city of Coquitlam, Premier Oliver announced to-day.

Dr. Paul Whelan Anyox, has been appointed medical health officer and medical inspector of schools.

A loan of \$25,000 has been authorized for the South-Eastern Kelowna Irrigation district.

### GET LABEL SUIT EVIDENCE

As the result of a motion made by Premier Oliver Tuesday afternoon copies of the evidence in the Campbell-Cromie label case have been distributed as follows: One copy each to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Clerk of the Legislature and the Independent and Labor members.

Attorney-General Farris explained that he was anxious to have the complete details at the disposal of all members—hence the acquisition of the evidence.

## Income Tax Return Already Exceeds Estimate for 1921

Hon. John Hart Is Able to Present Remarkable Showing  
to Legislature To-day.

The increase in income tax returns to the Province so far this year surprised the Legislature this afternoon when the Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, presented his financial statement for the first six months of the fiscal year.

This statement shows the state of revenue at the end of September and what has been expended out of appropriations for the twelve months.

Income tax returns for six months amount to \$2,551,443.17. The estimate by the Legislature for the whole year was \$2,000,000.

This increase is attributed to the stricter and more business-like collection under the Hon. Mr. Hart and the system of auditing income tax returns put into effect by him.

Hon. Mr. Hart's financial statement presented to-day was in place of the financial statement for nine months, made by the Comptroller-General, which is presented by the Minister of Finance each session. It covers three-quarters of the fiscal year in which the Legislature is meeting.

During the six months covered by to-day's statement, receipts of the Province have aggregated \$9,522,128.18, comparison of which with the estimated revenue of \$17,010,595.13 for the full year and with the partial returns for previous years, demonstrates a continued improvement in the collections from all sources.

From real property there has been received \$774,759 for six months, out of an estimated \$1,050,000 for the twelve months.

Wild, coal and timber lands yielded \$595,281, out of \$974,000.

Personal property has brought in \$550,000 already out of an estimated \$360,000 for the year.

The actual expenditure on current account is given as \$7,266,884.17, out of an estimate of \$16,975,598.93 for the whole year.

On capital account chargeable to income to expenditure has been \$1,479,004.21 out of \$2,958,765.26.

The total actual expenditure on all accounts is \$8,745,888.38, out of an estimated expenditure for the year of \$19,934,734.23.

Capital expenditures out of income include \$696,796 for sinking funds and \$288,347 interest on Pacific Great Eastern bonds.

## NO CHARGES YET AGAINST BAKER

Doctor Asks For Full Investigation

Nothing Definite, Mr. Farris Says

Dr. R. A. Baker, chairman of the B. C. Conservation Board, arrived at the Parliament Buildings to-day from Vancouver as a result of the assertions made against him and the Board on the floor of the House by H. G. Perry, member for Fort George, and immediately went to Premier Oliver to reiterate personally to the Premier his demand for an investigation into Mr. Perry's charges.

The Doctor told the Premier that he was innocent, and wanted the fullest enquiry into his own doings and those of the Board.

Attorney-General Farris stated this morning that he had made no arrangements for an investigation because there seemed to him no cause for one. Statements of incompetency had been made by the member for Fort George, but no charge had been laid. No Opposition member had moved for an enquiry, and so far as he, Mr. Farris, was concerned, there would be no investigation unless there was something to investigate.

J. W. Jones, of South Okanagan, directed questions regarding the Board's activities to M. B. Jackson, K.C., a member of the Game Board, but he, too, refrained from charging anyone with wrongdoing.

## MAJOR BURDE IN CRITICAL MOOD

Says Vancouver Has Got  
Government Into All Its  
Troubles

It took Major R. J. Burde, independent member for Alberni, an hour and a half to give his opinions on Provincial questions in the Legislature Wednesday afternoon. He admitted that he talked against time for a third of that time, since the Premier had ordered the House opened a half hour earlier than usual.

Outstanding in his address was the advice to Premier Oliver to make some move to "clear the atmosphere," and that unless quick action was taken, with a total disregard for who was hurt, the people would soon make it known that Premier Oliver was no longer the man to head the Provincial Government.

"There is a shuffling of feet, a sharpening of stilettos and a muffled knocking of hammers in the legislative corridors," said the Major, "and the Premier is being made the victim of certain machinations."

In a Quandary.

"The situation reminds me of a story," added Major Burde. "A customer went into a book-store and asked of the clerk, 'Have you the Life of Christ here?' The clerk replied, 'No, I have the life of a dog and won't hold that for long.'"

The situations were analogous, added the speaker, and Premier Oliver was like the officer who was headed for a front-line position in France. His guide took him to a cross-roads and said: "This road is dangerous; that one unsafe. Good night and good luck."

Pities Premier.

He declared that his sympathies were with the Premier, and he deprecated the action of the member for Grand Forks, and that of the member for Fort George, who evidently were seeking something for their own ridings and forcing the hand of the Government. That was not party loyalty, nor fair play, said the Major.

"And at that," he added, "neither member could have put anything over even if the Government had a majority of 14."

Members' Celebrations.

Major Burde referred to criticisms directed towards "certain" members of the Legislature for alleged visits to cabarets and read-houses on the night of the prorogation of the last session. Members of the clergy had been very active, he contended, and after they "got into trouble with the newspapers, sent scandalous letters without signatures to the homes of members throughout the Province; even the Premier's home was not immune."

"Gospel-fakirs, who sent resolutions instead of praying!" exclaimed the Alberni member. "Why, I meet men and women in cabarets and road-houses that I would much prefer to trust, and men of my rank do not figure half so largely in criminal statistics as that class of the clergy." These parsons got into entanglements with a Victoria newspaper and then broke up themselves.

"A man called Colonel Barnes said things about me. But this gallant, snorting, fire-eating gentleman, generally arrayed in golf sticks and stockings—call him old bean, or old top, got well down the Island into Cowichan before he did. I defy him to go to Alberni and say these things."

Ignorant of Wage Cut.

The Major next spoke of the "salary grab," claiming that the members hadn't forgotten the episode. Criticisms had been made of the members for accepting the additional \$400, he added, but for himself had he known the pay of roadworkers was to be cut 75 cents per day he would have accepted a reduction of \$400 in his indemnity rather than an increase, in order that the workingman would not have to suffer. At that, he went on, no member could cover his riding conscientiously and come out even.

Too Many in Cabinet Already.

Major Burde said the Cabinet was top-heavy and if the small amount of material contained in the King's speech was an evidence of the ministers' activities then the Cabinet should be cut in half. The idea of establishing a new portfolio for Hon. Mary Ellen Smith was not to be considered, he added, declaring that his confidence in the Premier would vanish if that move were made.

**Cabinet Rumors.**

He then spoke of the Cabinet reconstruction talk he had heard. Hon. T. D. Pattullo was to form a new Government, with Mr. Speaker Manson as Attorney-General and Dr. Sutherland in the line-up. Perhaps there would be an independent member as Minister of Labor.

He then asked for more dignity in the House, uniforms for the pages and call-bells on the members' desks, so that they would not be calling the messengers to them by snapping their fingers like "a bunch of crap-shooters."

**A Near Disaster.**

Next on the Major's list came a discussion of Canon Hinchliffe's trip up the P. G. E. That member seemed to regret the journey, he added.

"In fact, it might have been disastrous for all of us," said the Major, reading a letter from a returned soldier friend, which had been forwarded to the Major after the trip. This letter warned of a plot to blow up a trestle on the line when the Government party's train reached that spot.

**Even After Speaker.**

He took Hon. Mrs. Smith to task for not exerting more influence in the Cabinet. The lady member retorted that her attitude would stand comparison with that of the Alberni member any time.

"I hope it will be the same as mine when the eight-hour day legislation comes up," replied the Major.

He checked up Mr. Speaker Manson for newspaper reports attributed to him that the influence and usefulness of independent members was small.

**"Combination Campaign."**

"Then how about the influence of the lady member; she was an independent when she mothered her splendid mothers' pensions legislation," he jibed.

He referred to a "combination campaign," carried on by Hon. Mrs. Smith and the Government during the last election campaign, saying that each went about praising the other for campaign purposes.

"Did not the public know of that?" he asked. "Certainly, and if the lady member was responsible for returning the Government to power I want to tell her that it is a much weaker Government to-day."

**Vancouver Troubles.**

Major Burde criticized Mayor Gale of Vancouver for stating that the work of the Good Roads League was completed after the mayor, as president of that body, had talked to Hon. Dr. King about the Transprovincial Highway.

"Is Mayor Gale using this Government for the purpose of working up campaign material for himself in Vancouver?" he questioned.

"It is time to call a halt on Vancouver," he added. "And I think the Premier will bear me out. With Vancouver off his hands he would be a happy old gentleman to-day."

Major Burde said the purchase of the Campbell warehouse and such expenditures had apparently drained the Government coffers until it had been necessary for the Minister of Public Works to cut down on road allowances.

**Even Japanese Calendars.**

He took exception to the number of Orientals in the country, and said if the Government would bring in an eight-hour law, thus cutting two hours a day off the time of Orientals, there would be enough work to keep 1,000 men busy.

"The Orientals get too far," he added. "Why I even see calendars in the offices in this building announcing that — has the best dry-cleaning outfit in Victoria." One of those calendars hangs in the office of the Minister of Labor.

**Can Get No Local Cigars.**

The member for Alberni pleaded for the use of more British Columbia products. He wanted local cigars on sale in the Legislative restaurant and would do away with the oak furniture in the Vancouver Court House, substituting British Columbia fir. He would also curtail lobbying by Vancouver people, suggesting that if the Minister of Finance were to put a tax on every delegate to the Government from that city a lot of money could be collected.

"But you surely don't intend to take three and a half cents from the laborer who earns \$2.50 a day," he exclaimed. "That man likely has a large family—and maybe a lame sister on his hands."

**Railway of Wonders.**

Next came a discussion of the P. G. E. situation. The Major explained that he had been a member of the excursion party in August, and said he found a wonderful railway and a wonderful country.

"Yes," he reflected. "It was all wonderful. But the wonderful thing about the railway is that anyone rides on it. The wonder is that the rails stick to the ties; that everyone who works on it is not smothered under slides. And the wonderful thing about the country is how even a grasshopper can find a living in parts of that wilderness."

"I recall a picture of the Premier standing on the brink of the Cottonwood gully, addressing a thousand fictitious enemies. The Attorney-General was standing there in a dreamy attitude, paying little attention, when the Premier turned to me and shouted, 'Wasn't I right?' He wanted me to commit myself. The impression in the mind of any disinterested observer must have been that the work should have been stopped right there."

**Opposes More for P. G. E.**

The Major said it would be a crime to spend another dollar on the line, in spite of the appeal of the member for Fort George. He claimed that the Government party got a poor reception from the people at Quesnel, a lot of whom wondered why the road was being built at all. In fact, he added, a great deal of the line should be left to rot; it was only built in the first place to make a lot of money for the contractors and every time the line approached, anything good it ran away. He instanced Lillooet and Clinton, claiming that these places had been sidetracked in order that millions might be made out of new townsites.

**Vancouver to Blame.**

Major Burde blamed the Vancouver members for saddling the Government with the P. G. E., and also the Campbell warehouse. The result of the Cromie-Campbell libel suit was to show the people that there was something wrong, he remarked.

He then charged Mr. Bowser with not proving his statements regarding an alliance between the Government members and the Vancouver underworld. The breweries and jitney barmen, he said, had boasted that they voted the solid Liberal ticket in Vancouver. Surely, the Government supporters and other members of the House were entitled to a cleaning up of those charges.

**Ramsay's Election Expenses.**

He then told of an inspection he had made of the statements of election expenses turned in by certain members. The fourth member for Vancouver, James Ramsay, had made a return that his election expenses amounted to \$4,510. Strange to say, he continued, Hon. Mrs. Smith's expenses were exactly the same and the items on the list corresponded. It was entirely too much, said the Alberni member.

"Multiply this by the number of members and you have a large sum," he added. "But still it would fall far short of the sum mentioned by The Sun newspaper as having been received from friends of the Government for campaign purposes."

**TO RE-CONSIDER VANCOUVER BILL**

**New Levies Meet Opposition; To Fight Again Over Bill**

Vancouver's private bill, on motion of Attorney-General Farris, has been referred to the private bills committee for consideration. It will be considered at the first regular sitting of the committee, probably Monday next.

The document is a voluminous affair and has been checked over carefully since last session by the legal department. Last Spring the charter amendments had a rough time before the committee. A complete consolidation of all clauses was sought by the city, but the work could not be completed and only the more urgent changes were made.

This year opposing factions will have to fight the issue over again. The city fathers seek larger powers of taxation, while there is danger of conflict, as there was last year, with a large element of the business men, who opposed the taxation changes desired.

At this time another issue is involved, that of the turning over to the municipalities of the personal property tax. Vancouver would profit to the extent of approximately \$1,000,000 if this were done; so that it is expected if the Government goes through with the personal property tax promises to the municipalities, the city's request for wider powers, as asked for in the proposed amendments, would have to be refused.

Bitter opposition was offered last session by members of the committee opposed to Vancouver being given something which other municipalities were refused.

**JONES OUT TO CURB STOCK PROMOTERS; ATTACKS BIG LOANS**

**Member Would Protect Investors Against New "Blue-sky" Boom**

**Government on Financial Rampage, He Declares; Says Money Wasted**

J. W. Jones, Conservative member for South Okanagan, during his speech of more than two hours in the debate in the Legislature yesterday, criticized in detail the policy of the Government in several departments.

He came out, however, with a definite constructive policy aimed at protecting the investing public of British Columbia from all sorts of wild-cat schemes.

"Some steps should be taken at this session to place an act on our statute books which will give Government some control over and protect the public from the hundreds of organizations and promotions which send out their agents to bespeak the enlistment of capital to help them out," said Mr. Jones.

"During the speculative fever of the last few years, companies were floated by the thousands in this country with unlimited capitalization. They went out to the people to secure financial support. In 1914 and 1915 the crash came and many were ruined."

**Manitoba Protects Investors.**

"Our act does not demand that directors of companies be men of high repute, it does not concern itself with the nature of business of these companies and their assets or with the business ability of the men at the head of these companies."

To show how B. C. might protect its citizens from unworthy stock promotions, Mr. Jones told how Manitoba is handling such organizations. During the Calgary oil boom companies were formed with a total capitalization of \$38,000,000 to exploit that field. Their stock-selling agents went into the various provinces to dispose of stock issues and take in money. Manitoba, however, refused admission to these salesmen. Through the stringency of the Manitoba company laws, administered by Judge Robson, these companies were not allowed to operate at all in that province. They were not even allowed to advertise.

**Save People Millions.**

"The result was that the people of that province were saved many millions of dollars," said Mr. Jones.

"I bring this question up now in this Legislature because I fear we are on the verge of another stock boom. Stock salesmen representing all kinds of companies are beginning to make their appearance. It is time this Legislature should deal with this question. All we ask is that a square deal to the investor be assured."

"The result of protecting the public from blue sky promotions would be that millions would be added to the capital of the province, savings deposits would be swelled, we could afford millions for working capital for factories, which would help solve our unemployment problem and we would increase our production by millions of dollars."

Activities of Fort Norman and Texas oil company promoters were pointed to as an indication of another stock-selling onslaught about to be made on the people of the province.

**Also After Game Board.**

Taking up the Game Board question, Dr. A. R. Baker and the assertions made by E. G. Perry in his speech on Monday, Mr. Jones asked what M. B. Jackson, Liberal member for the Islands and member of the Game Board, had to say.

Mr. Jackson replied that these things were "fait accompli" before he became a member of the Board. He said he had nothing to do with the order-in-council which was passed. Mr. Jones asserted that if such were the case it was only another reason why the sooner the Board is abolished the better.

**Tries to Talk on Warehouse.**

He then turned his attention to the libel suit of Charles E. Campbell against The Vancouver Sun in connection with the Liquor Board warehouse purchase. Mr. Jones had just started to tell how Mr. Campbell was secretary of the Liberal party, how he came to Victoria to assist in getting measures put through for certain

parties and that he collected campaign funds from these parties, when the Premier arose to a point of order, pointing out that Mr. Bowser's resolution dealing with this was on the order paper and the proper time for the discussion of evidence brought out in the trial would be when the resolution comes up.

Mr. Bowser then jumped in to back up the claim of Mr. Jones to discuss the warehouse deal.

"Surely a member of this House is entitled to quote the evidence of the Supreme Court on anything that has to do with this Legislature," said Mr. Bowser. "If we are not allowed to refer to evidence given on oath before the Supreme Court then this Legislature had better close."

**Getting Campaign Funds.**

Premier Oliver: I am not wanting to keep out anything, but we have rules in this House to prevent duplication and my friend has a resolution on the order paper asking for an investigation into this matter. Under the rules of this House we cannot discuss the same question on two different occasions.

Mr. Jones: All I want to say is that according to the evidence before the Supreme Court in this trial, Mr. Campbell, who was able to put over this deal with the Government, was also secretary of the campaign committee of the Liberal party and was accustomed to come over here and assist certain people in getting measures put through and then going back to these people and getting campaign funds to assist in the election of the Liberal party candidates to this Legislature.

**Fears He Is Being Hushed.**

Premier Oliver: I ask my friend to be specific.

Mr. Jones: I think that if my honorable friend the Premier will read the evidence he will see that Mr. Campbell has acknowledged that he had done so.

Premier Oliver: I ask Mr. Speaker if it is in order for my friend to implicate Mr. Campbell without giving specific instances.

Mr. Jones: I notice a very strong disposition on the part of the Government in all these things in connection with the Campbell warehouse to hush, hush, hush.

**No, No, No.**

E. A. Pauline, who was acting Speaker at the time, said that it was not the proper time to discuss the warehouse deal and Mr. Jones agreed to drop it.

**Not Called by Bankers.**

Mr. Jones then launched into the financial situation of the Province and quoted a Vancouver newspaper story to the effect that the Premier and the Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, had been called into conference with officials of the Canadian Bank of Commerce because of the serious financial condition of the Province.

Premier Oliver at once challenged this statement, declaring it was untrue as he had not been called into conference by any bank officials.

**Alarmed by Borrowings.**

Mr. Jones said that once British Columbia boasted of its credit, but this is no longer possible. In the four and one-half years since this Government took office he said that it has spent \$102,044,441. Total borrowings since December 1, 1917, are \$41,209,500, he said. During eight months of 1921, \$17,000,000 has been borrowed and of this \$8,000,000 has been borrowed in the United States, on which adverse exchange running around 10 per cent. has to be paid. He quoted during the last year to show that British Columbia received a lower price on some of its issues than some other Provinces.

**"Financial Rampage."**

"During the last six months we have been on a financial rampage," Mr. Jones went on. "We have reached the end of our tether. Our credit is lowered. It is time to call a halt. Unless the honorable minister is able to curtail his loans there is only one end."

Mr. Jones turned his attention to the taxation burden, declaring that the Government has an insatiable appetite for taxes. Land, amusement, automobile and income taxes having been increased from \$8,000,000 to \$17,000,000 in five years. He asserted that British Columbia is now the highest taxed Province in Canada, which is resulting in capital not pouring into the Province and industries not being able to create employment. He said that men are not going on the land because the people are being taxed out of existence.

**Only Tax Sales and Taxes.**

"Look over the Province to-day and what do we see?" Mr. Jones went on. "The mills are prevalent everywhere. The mills are going over the Province and the assessments. Land is being sold to the Crown. Farmers' crops are being sold three to five times over the market value. The good crops are being sold at a loss, instead of

**Attacks Road Administration.**

Taking up road administration under J. H. King, Minister of Public Works, Mr. Jones declared that although the Liberals had promised a less costly administration with contracts and no patronage, cost of overhead administration has gone up. In four years engineers have cost the Province \$180,542, and in 1921 the cost will be \$81,492.

"We have not yet heard of anything done by these men which a good road superintendent could not have accomplished," Mr. Jones continued.

He charged that Liberal foremen were being appointed and that there was general extravagance in this work, instancing the cost of the road between Sandon and New Denver.

**Have Easy Hours.**

Mr. Jones said that he knows of a place in North Okanagan, not far from his own home, where the men quit work at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and motor back slowly to town and charge up all this time to the Government.

The tender for the construction of three miles of the Pacific Highway was \$88,000, Mr. Jones went on. But there was actually paid for this piece of road \$122,939, with \$31,176 of extras, making a total of \$154,115.

"It is time that we had an opportunity of checking up this high extravagance in connection with these public works," he went on. "There is lack of pep in this department of Public Works."

**Wonders Where Money Goes.**

Mr. Jones gave a list of roads in the Province which are in bad condition, some of them not having been inspected by officials for weeks, until citizens themselves were forced to take action. He also criticized the way classification of roads is being carried on, often resulting in great confusion to municipalities.

"Talk about a road policy," he continued. "We haven't even a scheme. If we haven't money for road work, I would like to ask the Minister where have all the automobile taxes gone? It is estimated that almost \$1,000,000 has been collected from automobile owners in the last year and eight months and this money was to be earmarked for road work."

"The money that was spent for the Campbell warehouse would have built 100 miles of road in the interior of the Province. The B. C. Electric grant would have maintained roads in ten ridings and the money spent on the Prince Rupert court house would have maintained roads in five or six ridings."

Premier Oliver: So would the money invested in the Kitsilano Reserve.

**Only Talking to Children.**

Mr. Jones chided the Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, on his recent European trip, saying that it was a pity he was not able to carry out his intention of visiting the pyramids as he then would have been able to add some interesting features to the Prince Rupert court house.

Mr. Jones quoted an interview with Mr. Pattullo telling how he left Lumber Commissioner Turnbull teaching forty or fifty English children the uses of British Columbia wood.

"This is the very important work that this lumber commissioner is carrying on at the expense of this Province," Mr. Jones went on. "One would have thought that he would have been addressing chambers of commerce, Government departments at Westminster, instead of merely talking on the uses of B. C. lumber to school children. We are paying \$80,000 a year for an agent-general in London and keeping up B. C. House. I believe the Agent-General is a shrewd capable business man and I would like to know what the Minister of Lands has done that the Agent-General could not have done and has not done."

**Settlement Board a "Fizzle."**

Mr. Jones declared that the Land Settlement Board is a "fizzle," the members do nothing but draw salaries, no loans, roads, encouragement or aid is being given to men on the land.

"We have this Board and all its policies, but no one is going on to the land," Mr. Jones went on. "I want to know why the Minister of Agriculture is keeping so many supernumeraries around, some of them sitting around offices wondering what they are there for."

Hon. Mr. Barrow: For instance. Mr. Jones: Do you want them? Well, Col. Latta. What good is he to the Board? Want another? Mr. McDonald. The only good man you have on the Board is Mr. Munro.

**Only Failure.**

Mr. Jones asserted that failure characterized the land settlement areas, with hundreds of thousands of dollars lost to the Government. He said that the South Okanagan scheme to date had cost \$350,000 for the land and \$2,000,000 for irrigation and the present irrigation system covers only half the area. Against this big outlay there had been brought in at three sales to fifty-one buyers only

\$145,000, with only \$30,000 cash actually received, while interest charges against the scheme run up to \$150,000 for 1921. He asserted that there had been "frightful extravagance in connection with the work, with men reporting in the morning and doing nothing all day, the piece over-run with engineers."

**Just "Blowing In" Money.**

"We have been blowing in money in this way," he went on. "Is it any wonder that the people are objecting. On practically all these settlement schemes you are losing money and all because you have no definite policy."

Mr. Jones asserted that the Government could find \$1,182,000 for Sumas Lake, but not a dollar for the university; \$150,000 for the Campbell warehouse, not a dollar for Grand Forks irrigation; \$200,000 for the Prince Rupert court house, but not a dollar for agricultural loans.

**Mothers' Pensions Cut.**

He also attacked the policy in connection with the administration of the Mothers' Pensions Act, saying that he had a case brought to his attention where a mother, whose husband died twelve years ago leaving her with five children, had been receiving \$65 a month until last July when her pension was cut off. Then Mr. Farris rose to explain that at last session the Legislature had passed an amendment providing that the definition of "mother" would include only a person whose husband died within the Province, and that in the case mentioned by Mr. Jones the husband had died outside the Province. The intention of the measure, Mr. Farris said, was to prevent women whose husbands have died outside coming into the Province to take advantage of the Act.

**Uneasy Over Increase.**

"I don't sit very comfortably in my seat in this Legislature after the increase in our seasonal indemnity, knowing that mothers in this Province are having their pensions reduced and cancelled," Mr. Jones went on.

"The advisory boards under the Mothers' Pensions Act are filled with political appointees and some of these women are not sympathetic with the applicants. I will oppose any reduction in the grants to mothers dependent on this act. We can easily curtail our expenditures on other lines but I say give the widows and mothers a chance."

**How Much for P. G. E.?**

Turning to the P. G. E., Mr. Jones said that \$4,000,000 was authorized for construction in 1920, and \$4,000,000 in 1921 and the road was not yet in to Prince George and the company had not even got operating equipment, although the estimate of the cost of completing the line from Clinton to Prince George was given as \$5,410,556.

"I would like to know what it is going to cost to complete the line under the present Minister of Railways?" Mr. Jones asked.

**BURNABY TO GET CENTRAL PARK**

**Government, However, Plans Sixty Acres For Forest Experiments**

An act to authorize a lease of 160 acres of Central Park to the municipality of Burnaby and to set aside sixty acres as a forest reserve for experimental purposes was introduced in the Legislature Wednesday afternoon by the Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands.

In 1891 lot 151, group 1, New Westminster district was reserved and set aside as a park for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. Mr. Pattullo explained, "Sixty acres of the original 320 acres has, since then at different times, been subdivided and sold, and what is now known as Central Park in the Municipality of Burnaby contains 240 acres of the original 320 set aside in 1891."

From 1891 to 1910 private individuals and societies spent considerable money in clearing and making recreation grounds of a portion of the area.

In 1910 Park Commissioners were appointed under Section 3 of Chapter 32 of 1908, Provincial Parks Act. For several years after that the Provincial Government through the Public Works Department expended approximately \$500 per year in making roads and improving the park grounds. No expenditure has been made by the Government for a number of years and the park commissioners have had no funds for administration purposes, and were unable to get any assistance from the Municipality of Burnaby or South Van-



The Municipality of Burnaby have agreed to take control of the park and to administer and improve it. Provided the Government will grant them a 99 years' lease at a nominal rental, and the bill now prepared is to authorize the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to grant a lease of 189 acres to the Municipality of Burnaby for park purposes and to set aside 80 acres as a forest reserve for experimental purposes in connection with the Forest Branch of the Department of Lands and the University of British Columbia or otherwise."

## ACROSS THE BAY

What Politicians in Action Are Doing, Saying and Thinking in the B. C. Legislature.

### ONE-MAN CARS

In answer to questions asked by Mr. Neelands, Premier Oliver states that the Government has been advised of the intention of the B. C. Electric Railway Company to operate one-man cars in certain cities, but no formal application has been received.

Regarding the change in equipment necessitated by the new rule of the road, the Premier said that the Government's interests were being protected by Superintendent of Electrical Energy Muirhead and Mr. Rae, inspector of railway equipment, the Government contributing one-half of the cost of the changes necessary. The Government is not contributing to the cost of changing two-men cars into one-man cars.

### B. C. Agricultural Journal.

Hon. E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture, has informed Mr. Duncan that the subscription price of the Agricultural Journal, published by his department, is one dollar a year, with a club rate of 50 cents to Farmers' and Women's Institutes and to members of other agricultural organizations.

The circulation last January was 9,600, costing to publish \$92,45. The circulation fell to 2,500 in July and August, with 2,300 circulation in September. The cost that month was \$24,50.

The editor is E. W. Laker, secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, whose salary is \$170 per month, as secretary, with no added remuneration as editor. The only assistance he receives was said to be part of the time of one clerk.

### Asks About Coal Enquiry.

Full particulars regarding the appointment of the commissioner who held the coal enquiry for the Government last Summer are being asked by Thomas Pearson, member for Richmond. He wants to know the amount paid the commissioner and his staff and the cost of the enquiry.

### Anxious About Highway.

P. W. Anderson is seeking information regarding the Trans-provincial highway and extensions. He wants to know if in connection of the Harrison-Yake-Pemberton-Lillooet route consideration has been taken of the possible abandonment of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway from Squamish to Clinton and the use of part of the railway grade for highway purposes. If the answer to the latter question is in the affirmative Mr. Anderson wishes to ascertain the amount by which the estimated cost of this route should be reduced.

### The P. P. Tax.

The proposed personal property tax to be handed over to municipalities of British Columbia for them to collect and use was before the government party caucus again Tuesday night. Many of the mem-

bers are showing strong opposition to the proposal.

The Premier has informed the members that he is not determined to see the thing forced through, pointing out that the position is that to meet the demands of the municipalities there must be increased taxation of some sort. If members can agree on some other form of taxation to raise the necessary money, he will be quite agreeable to it.

Select standing committees of the Legislature for the present session, the first named in each instance being chairman, have been named by Premier Oliver:

Private Bills and Standing Bills—Jackson, Whiteside, Anderson, Clearihue, Ramsay, Duncan, Hinchliffe, Catherwood and Pearson.

Public Accounts—Buckham, I. A. Mackenzie, K. C. MacDonald, Pauline, Kergin, Sutherland, Jackson, Neelands, Pooley, Jones, Bowser, and W. A. McKenzie.

Agriculture—K. C. MacDonald, Yorston, Anderson, Paterson, Perry, Henniger, Buckham, Menzies, Duncan, A. MacDonald, Jones, Lister, Hunter, and Catherwood.

Mining—Yorston, Buckham, Kergin, Henniger, Sutherland, Anderson, Menzies, Guthrie, A. MacDonald, Hunter, Esling, and Schofield.

Municipal Matters—Whiteside, Paterson, Ramsay, Perry, Jackson, Pauline, Clearihue, I. A. Mackenzie, Hanes, Burde, Uphill, Schofield, Hinchliffe, Pearson, and McRae.

Printing—Pauline, Clearihue, Menzies, Hinchliffe, and Jones.

Railways—Perry, Yorston, Kergin, Buckham, Esling, Catherwood, and Lister.

On the motion of Premier Oliver, seconded by Hon. John Hart, it was resolved that P. A. Pauline, member for Saanich, be appointed Deputy Speaker of the House.

# Farris Challenges Bowser; Demands "Charges" Probe

Only Insinuations With Nothing  
Definite, Attorney-General  
Declares

Alleges Sinister Combination  
to Ruin Him and Blacken  
Characters

The minute Mr. Bowser came to the end of his liquor charges in the House yesterday afternoon the Hon. J. W. de B. Farris, Attorney-General, arose.

"I am going to fight and fight for my honor," said Mr. Farris. He emphasized his earnestness in a vigorous way, while the crowded galleries and the members on the floor of the House listened almost breathlessly.

Mr. Farris declared that the resolution and the speech of Mr. Bowser were insinuations against himself of maladministration.

"I am not here to oppose an investigation by this Legislature," he went on. "The people are entitled to have the fullest assurances.

"Things have been suggested to-day on which I will insist there will be the fullest investigation.

"I feel that the Leader of the Opposition has gone far afield and has made statements clothed in the garb of charge which will not bear on examination the essence of charges to which the honorable members of this House are entitled.

**Harmed Many Without Proof.**  
"Whatever investigation there may be in regard to matters discussed this afternoon, no member of this House can overlook the fact that what my honorable friend has had on the order paper has done harm to the characters of a number of men in this Province, no matter whether he proves these charges or not. And if he does not prove them he can say that he made a mistake and assume no responsibility for the charges he has made."

**Nothing Definite Against Them.**  
Mr. Farris then referred to the group of names mentioned by Mr. Bowser, Messrs. McLatchy, Conley, Dougherty, McArthur, Wismer, Delbridge and Wendell Farris.

"I ask honorable members of this House to go back in their minds now and note if in connection with these names there has been any charge against any one," Mr. Farris went on.

"My honorable friend by talking about a ring has created the impression that there is something crooked in these transactions, and something crooked against the Attorney-General.

**"Insidious Attack."**  
"That is the kind of insidious attack that has been closing around myself. I am not unmindful of the gossip and rumors that have been going on around the corridors and throughout the country for the last four years about myself. I have had to meet it ever since I have been in this office, and I have had to meet it in a combination of the Leader of the Opposition and the 'Morning Liar' of Vancouver.

"I want to say that the word has gone forth from The Sun newspaper that they have got to concentrate on Farris, that the proprietor of that newspaper is going to get the Attorney-General.

## FARRIS MAKES REPLY; SAYS BOWSER IS ONLY UP TO USUAL TACTICS

Although he announced at the commencement of his reply to the Leader of the Opposition that anything he might say at the moment would have to be construed as something in the nature of an introduction to a detailed rejoinder, to be made at a later stage, Hon. J. W. de B. Farris, Attorney-General and Minister of Labor, epitomized his interpretation of Mr. Bowser's allegations and accusations by laying bare what he considered were his underlying motives contained in the resolution.

In the first place, the Attorney-General took occasion to point out to the Legislature that the Leader of the Opposition had followed his customary practice of indulging in a series of innuendos, garbed in the spurious clothing of allegations and charges of misconduct in office by himself. He similarly asked the house to recognize the fact that the Opposition Leader had taken care to allow the terms in his resolution to be scattered broadcast throughout the Province before the time had arrived to deal with it in its proper place; that he had allowed the insidious effect of that course to permeate thoroughly to the minds of the people before following the constitutional procedure of Legislative treatment, that he had yesterday afternoon culminated the process outlined by merely exercising his mind upon a series of vague charges in which he had included a definite reference to a number of reputable citizens of the Province, against whom he had cautiously and conveniently refrained from laying any sort of charge which might be understood by the people of the Province or dealt with intelligently by himself, as the first law officer of the Crown.

With that clearly before the House and without going into a detailed reply, Hon. Mr. Farris touched upon some of the questions dealt with in generalities by the Leader of the Opposition by a recital, chapter and verse, in respect of those subjects whose specific nature and citation of which he considered constituted a full and complete answer.

## No Charges, Only Insinuations.

"I looked forward to see the Leader of the Opposition come out like a man and make his statements and charges, and not conduct a campaign to spread insinuations by whisperings. Surely any man who is accused of anything is entitled to expressed charges."

Mr. Farris declared that in the insinuations and so-called "charges" made by Mr. Bowser, no one was able to put his hand on one specific case of wrongdoing charged.

"But notwithstanding that, the speech of the Leader of the Opposition is conceived, concocted and delivered with the intention of creating the impression and imputing wrongdoing on my part without coming out and making an actual allegation or assertion of wrongdoing," Mr. Farris went on.

## Fears No Newspaper "Thug."

"I am going to fight and fight for my honor, my reputation, and I do not propose that a political newspaper thug is going to destroy my reputation unless he comes through and proves his insinuations.

"And what about this newspaperman?" Mr. Farris went on, referring to R. J. Cromie, publisher of The Vancouver Sun.

Mr. Farris said that the last time he spoke to him was when Mr. Cromie walked into his office and with an insolent attitude, referring to the Premier, declared that "the old man had turned me down and I want to know what you fellows are going to do about it," and "friendship be damned."

Mr. Farris said that Mr. Cromie then brought up his Powell River Pulp & Paper Co. contract.

## Has Cut "Blackmailer."

"I said 'Cromie what do you suggest?' Mr. Farris went on.

Mr. Cromie, he said, replied: "You put your man Pineo in to-morrow to go through the books of that company."

"I am proud to say that I have never spoken to that dirty blackmailer from that day to this," Mr. Farris said.

"What is the result? The word has gone out from The Sun newspaper that I am to be driven from public life."

Getting back to Mr. Bowser, Mr. Farris said that he had hoped that we would get from the Leader of the Opposition what he is really driving at."

## Followed Bowser Suggestion.

Mr. Farris explained that he was not going to deal in detail with the insinuations until the next session of the House, but he did refer to the question of the purchase of liquor for the Liquor Control Board, recalling the suggestion made by Mr. Bowser when the Liquor Act was before the House last session that the Government buy its liquor through the Government purchasing agent.

"What happened?" Mr. Farris went on.

"The Government appointed Mr. Patterson the Government agent as the purchasing agent of the Board. He is an old respected citizen of Victoria, and not of that iniquitous place, Vancouver. And the purchase of liquor has not been made by myself or by the Liquor Board, but by the purchasing agent, the man whom my honorable friend last session recommended."

## Wanted Chance For Insinuations.

Mr. Farris then brought in a long list of the firms from which liquor has been purchased, the quantities, the kinds and the price. He wanted to know why, if Mr. Bowser had really wanted to know about these liquor purchases, he had not taken the usual course for members and put questions on the order paper asking for the information, instead of picking out the names of respected citizens and making insinuations against them, because in elections they had supported him.

Mr. Farris said that two days ago he had his two brothers over from Vancouver, and they were out to his home for dinner. The next morning the "Morning Hate," of Vancouver, came out and "screamed" that they had rushed over here to his assistance.

## Disgracing Political Life.

"What is there in political life in this Province good enough to have to stand this sort of thing?" Mr. Farris went on.

"There is nothing in what this Province has to offer in public life to induce a man to endure and go through the kind of stuff I have had to endure and go through for the last three years."

So far as spirituous liquors and wines are concerned every purchase has been made by the purchasing agent, James Paterson, Mr. Farris said. He asked what if certain men had sold liquor to the purchasing agent and had made a commission on it through being the sales agents of certain distilleries. It was only the ordinary transaction.

Mr. Farris explained that as late as last August the purchasing agent had written to the distilleries saying that it was the desire of the Liquor Control Board to purchase liquors direct from the distilleries and thereby eliminate all commissions. What happened was that answers came back, from all except a few small concerns, to say that as members of the whisky association they were precluded from lending themselves to any such arrangement, and their quotations were exactly the same for direct purchase, and they would be through their usual agents. Some of the smaller concerns offered to cut their prices a bit if the Board would give them a large order.

**Little From Political Friends.**  
"In all the thousands of dollars of liquors purchased, my honorable friend will have to go far to prove that any appreciable quantity of this liquor was purchased from political friends of the Government as most of the agents of these whiskies have not even given political support to the Government," Mr. Farris continued.

**Warehouse Deal.**  
As for the Campbell warehouse deal, Mr. Farris said that there had been a trial of that question, conducted in the courts created for that purpose, and he had hoped that the Leader of the Opposition would have taken the evidence brought in at that trial and made it the basis of his charges on the floor of the House.

As for the make-up of the investigating committee proposed by Mr. Bowser, with Mr. Bowser himself a member of it, Mr. Farris said:

"I would be very sorry to trust my reputation to the judicial disposition of the Leader of the Opposition.

"I think that we can assume that Cromie, who has been seen whispering side by side with the Leader of the Opposition and Joe Martin, Cromie's counsel, if there was anything to be dug up it would have been dug up by them at that trial.

"I was in hopes that the Leader of the Opposition would have been big enough to have taken that evidence at that trial as the basis of a motion of want of confidence. I prefer to have it fought out on the floor of the House."

**Why Libel Trial Failed.**  
Mr. Farris pointed out that counsel for Mr. Cromie in the trial moved for the dismissal of the libel action on the basis that no charge had been made against Campbell by Cromie. He recalled the closing sentence of the trial judge to the jury in which he intimated that the jury should dismiss the case not because no libel was proved, but because no libel was alleged.

"There is no reason why the honorable members of the House should accept that verdict, but I do say that they should accept the evidence," Mr. Farris went on.

**Not Afraid of Case.**  
"I am not afraid to have my case placed before the honorable members of this House, and have that transaction considered. Just as many reputable business men in Vancouver pledged their oath that the warehouse building was worth what was paid for it as there were those who swore the other way."

Mr. Farris asserted that the statements of Mr. Bowser in his resolution were placed there one by one so that there might be a cumulative effect as they were spread before the people of the Province.

**Ottawa Gets Most.**  
Referring to Mr. Bowser's talk about the price the people of the Province are paying for liquor, Mr. Farris declared that it may surprise some people to learn that the Ottawa Government is taking more profit from every bottle of liquor than British Columbia is. He said that as Quebec and British Columbia were the only two Provinces handling liquor, the heavy Federal taxes were discriminatory against these two Provinces. He pointed out that \$1.50 on each bottle sold for \$4.80 by the Province goes to the Dominion Government.

**No Charges of Wrongdoing.**  
In moving the adjournment of the debate, Mr. Farris said:  
"I think the time has arrived for the Leader of the Opposition not to flounder around and call witnesses in the hope of proving what he has heard, but to come out and assume the responsibility for making some definite charges if he has any."

"I have never yet heard of the meanest criminal who was not entitled to know the charge on which he was to be arraigned.

"I want the members of this House to reflect in their minds now, and see if they can discover a single specific allegation of wrong doing that the Leader of the Opposition has made against myself or the Government.

**Trying to Create Suspicion.**  
"I proteg against his effort to bring in matters not as charges, but by association try to create the impression that there is something rotten in the Department of the Attorney-General."

R. H. Pooley, of Esquimalt, raised the question as to whether under the rules of the House the Attorney-General having spoken once had the right to speak again, although he did adjourn the debate.

It was pointed out by the Premier and confirmed by the Speaker that a member who has been speaking in a debate has the right to adjourn that debate and if adjournment is sanctioned by the House he has the right to speak on the question when it comes up again.

## Opposition Leader Elaborated His Resolution on Liquor Dealings

### Says That Friends of Government and Members of House Profited

After deliberating peacefully for nearly two weeks, with scarcely a ripple to ruffle the surface of the Legislative waters, the House was enlivened Thursday afternoon, when Mr. Bowser made his liquor "charges."

W. J. Bowser, K. C., Leader of the Opposition, and Hon. J. W. de B. Farris, Attorney-General and Minister of Labor, locked horns in a struggle which each declared must be fought to a finish.

The occasion was Mr. Bowser's resolution relating to the administration of the Liquor Control Act. At great length he discussed the clauses of his resolution, which had been changed in wording to conform to Speaker Manson's interpretation of the rules of the House. The resolution was analyzed by the Opposition Leader, who dealt with its clauses seriatim.

"I shall try to be consistent with the spirit of the charges contained in the resolution," commenced Mr. Bowser.

"In October, 1917, the Prohibition Act came into force," he explained. "Soon scandals became rampant and discussion of them occurred on the public platforms of the country and in the Legislature. Escapades of all kinds came to light and one prominent official under the administration was sent to the penitentiary and there served his term."

The people of British Columbia became dissatisfied either with the Prohibition Act or with the manner in which it was administered, he declared, and a new law was enacted.

"Now, after four months of that law—the Liquor Control Act—we hear fresh rumors of maladministration of the law," he continued, "and after what transpired previously no one could look for a better administration. I now feel it my duty, as Leader of the Opposition and in view of my long experience in public life, to move as I have done."

The first charge dealt with was that pertaining to the kind of liquor which the public expected to purchase at Government stores. Mr. Bowser said the people had expected to buy the best of liquor and at the lowest prices consistent with a fair profit. This was not the case.

He then charged that the Department had purchased from a close friend of the Government certain premises known as the Campbell warehouse, and that the former owner of that property had acted as a go-between in securing the passing of legislation, for which campaign funds were contributed. This evidence came out on oath during the recent Campbell-Cromie libel suit, he explained, and he presumed there was nothing to do but accept the situation as the one under which the Government of the country did business.

Mr. Bowser said that the price paid was a most extreme one. Many men were willing to sell suitable property to the Government at much lower prices.

"So it would have been thought that the Government as a business concern would not have given this extravagant price, even to a close political friend," he charged.

"And now we have the results of the recent trial," he went on. "A special jury has given its opinion, and what are we to think?"

He then explained that, according to his opinion, the purchase had been entirely illegal. He quoted a section of the Provincial statutes to show that the purchase of any warehouse should not have been made before the new Liquor Control Act became law. The Interpretation Act, he said, clearly showed that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-council would have to proclaim the act law before its clauses could become operative.

"Therefore, I make the charge that the purchase of the warehouse was not legal," he said, adding that the people never expected the Government to spend \$150,000 on such a deal. Had they done so, such opposition would have been expressed that "this blot upon our political history would not have occurred."

Mr. Bowser declared that negotiations had been going on for a long time between Mr. Campbell and Attorney-General Farris. He quoted from a letter written by the former to Hon. Mr. Farris, under date of January 13, 1921, as follows:

"Dear Wallace,  
"I am handing to Mr. Paterson to-day the originals of the enclosed letters, which are self-explanatory.

"Messrs. Waghorn, Gwynn & Co., Ltd., is one of the largest and oldest mortgage and real estate firms in British Columbia, and Mr. Waghorn is a prominent Conservative.

"Messrs. Frank L. Murdock, Ltd., advertise themselves as expert valuers and appraisers and have been established in Vancouver since 1904. You will note they consider the sum of \$1,320 to be a fair rental, per month, on a five-year lease, which is four cents per square foot for 48,000 square feet.

"In view of these letters, I trust there will be no hitch to-morrow in reaching a decision."

Mr. Bowser paused from time to time in reading the letter to make comments thereupon. He said that apparently other letters had been enclosed to the Attorney-General, letters pertaining to the deal.

"What reason for a hitch was there?" he asked. "Mr. Campbell was exercised over the possibility. He apparently was leaving for the East right away to get money with which to buy The World."

Mr. Bowser said that in view of the date when the letter was written, which was shortly before the Legislature was called into session, the Attorney-General should have taken the members of the House into his confidence and had them endorse his action in paying \$150,000 for a warehouse.

"Was that done?" he questioned. "No, they were as silent as the grave," he made answer. "The first the members of the Legislature could hope to see of the expenditure would be in the public accounts for 1922, a year after the transaction."

Later on, added the Opposition Leader, a memorandum appeared from Archie Johnson. That was on March 3. He was Deputy Attorney-General, explained Mr. Bowser, and did not exist as an official of the Liquor Control Board, because that body had not come into existence.

Mr. Bowser read from the memorandum, in which Mr. Johnson was said to have advised the Attorney-General that the Campbell warehouse was the only six-story one in Vancouver, that Mr. Campbell was prepared to lease the entire warehouse to the Government for \$1,400 per year on a five-year lease.

Mr. Johnson's memorandum also showed, said Mr. Bowser, a recommendation to Hon. Mr. Farris to rent the premises at the figure mentioned. Mr. Johnson also pointed out that the rentals for five years would total \$84,000; that he had discussed the question of outright purchase with Mr. Campbell, who would include a five-year option at \$150,000.

The recommendation also was made by Mr. Johnson, continued Mr. Bowser, that "there is no question but that the Government would be well advised to purchase at this figure."

"At that time," went on the Opposition Leader, "we find the Legislature in session, and yet here was this remarkable document. What Mr. Johnson had to do with the purchasing of a warehouse, I do not know."

He added that there were lots of good warehouses in Vancouver. In fact scores of them with good track-ages. Still, Mr. Johnson had advised the Attorney-General that warehouses in Vancouver were extremely hard to obtain.

"And Campbell would include in the agreement to lease an option to buy," he continued. "Ah, ha! I should have guessed."

The people's representatives were the ones to advise the Government to buy, and not Mr. Johnson.

Purchase Not "Unforeseen"

There was no vote in the estimates for the purchase of the Campbell warehouse, he added, and the only other way to buy it was through a special warrant. Still, he continued, the House was in session all the time the negotiations were going on.

Mr. Bowser turned to a discussion of the law covering special warrants. He said he was proud to have been the author of the act in question. In spite of the fact that the then Conservative Government had an overwhelming majority, he had been anxious to protect the interests of the minority in the Legislature and brought in the special warrant legislation.

This provided, he said, that in cases of special urgency a warrant could be put through. He instanced the Fernie fire, the Halifax disaster and certain floods as occasions when such action had been taken. They were "unforeseen" events, he said, such as the act was intended to cover.

"But was this purchase an unforeseen one?" he asked. "Hardly," he added, "when correspondence and the memorandum were on hand."

He then expressed wonder as to how the \$150,000 paid for the warehouse got from the Treasury to Mr. Campbell. A Government cheque for \$50,000 went to an A. M. Johnson in April, he explained, and this was disposed of in May by Mr. Johnson exchanging cheques with the Government agent in Vancouver. Three cheques for \$50,000 each were issued by the Government agent. Then Mr. Johnson covered the government agent by endorsing over to him the Government's cheque for \$150,000, explained the opposition leader.

"I want to know what pressure was brought to bear upon the Controller-General that this transaction was not handled in the customary way," he remarked. "Why did not Mr. Johnson issue his cheque direct so that there would have been a voucher on file."

Claims Illegality.

"I say that if there was not something surreptitious Mr. Johnson would have followed the methods of honest business men and paid for the warehouse himself instead of bringing in an innocent Government employee," charged Mr. Bowser.

He added that since the Liquor Control Act was not in force the Attorney-General had no authority for the purchase.

Section 31 of the Interpretation Act required the Controller-General to file reports of all transactions, explained the Leader of the Opposition.

"The report shows that we can take it that this was never before the Treasury Board and the cheque was signed illegally," he went on.

"Why? he asked. "Simply to close the deal in a hurry and help Mr. Carrville get his \$150,000 before the Premier got back from Ottawa," he made answer.

"All this time the Premier was hurrying back, knowing what he had left behind him at Victoria," Mr. Bowser said.

"But it was no use," he continued, "It did no good to close the door, the horse had been stolen; Campbell had his money and the Liberal party was ahead a party organ."

"I think I have proven clearly that there is something to be investigated regarding this money, apart entirely from the question of the value of the warehouse," he said.

Mr. Bowser then said that political favoritism had been shown in different instances when the Government was securing premises for the purpose of the Board. In Victoria there was the Pither & Leiser warehouse, the Government retail warehouse and "a magnificent suite in the Belmont Block," for the use of the commissioners.

"Why not have purchased the Pither & Leiser warehouse?" he asked. "I suppose if there had been a newspaper to buy it would have been purchased."

"Surely a committee would come to the conclusion that there had been extravagance in Victoria," he added. "And the same thing applies to Lady Smith, where a friend of the Government, who later was a delegate to the convention that nominated Mr. Booth as the Liberal candidate in the Federal field, was favored."

The premises taken over by the government were said to have rented for business purposes for only \$1500 per month. Hon. Mr. Sloan inquired as to the property in question.

"I will answer that matter and one for the reply."

"The resolution of the House on the resolution of liquor control was passed in 1919."

competence which resulted in the disappearance of Government liquor from the Vancouver Grand Forks and Ashcroft stores. He claimed that many men employed had police records. There were no doubt many good men, but he advised that the handling of such stuff as liquor called for the services of the best men available.

"Of course liberals were appointed," he added. "We could not expect a Conservative to get a job, but at that there surely are enough good men, descent respectable fellows, so that the Crown need not be ashamed of its employees. Former bootleggers and blind-piggers were given positions."

"Name them, name them," challenged Hon. Mr. Farris.

"I will in committee," was the reply. "I will take the responsibility of giving the names and can promise my honorable friend that I will produce certified copies of their police court records. Why one of them is in charge of a store and the same thing applies all over the Province. My honorable friend will be more than satisfied."

Mr. Bowser then touched upon the clause which charged the Government with losing money through not taking liquor out of bond. He said it was well known at the time that Sir Henry Drayton had promised to repeal the luxury tax and was looking around for something else to tax. The Attorney-General should have known that Sir Henry would have clapped a tax on bonded liquor.

So evident was this, he contended, that business men in the liquor trade had taken their liquor out of bond, thereby saving no less than \$104,461. This was in the month of April. In the first nine days of May another saving was made by the liquor dealers amounting to \$76,215, or a total saving, which was a direct profit, of \$180,676 in two months.

"That meant a direct loss to the Federal Government," he said, "and while the liquor men were alive to the situation the Attorney-General was asleep at the switch and did not take a single gallon out of bond. The Province suffered through want of business acumen, because of inefficiency."

"That was great for a depleted treasury," he continued, "and all we have is the Attorney-General's statement that he is going to sue the Federal authorities, claiming that they had no right to impose this tax on the Province. A law case, that will drag its weary way through the courts and give him, Hon. Mr. Farris, a chance to go to the Privy Council—provided he still is Attorney-General."

Mr. Bowser then claimed that liquor had been purchased by the Government through a "ring," and that a man had to be a member of that ring and closely allied to the Attorney-General in order to sell to the Board.

"What was the modus operandi?" he questioned. "It is impossible to purchase certain well-known brands of liquor. Why? Because these brands are distilled by famous firms, old family organizations who have agents all over the world working upon a small commission basis, say half a crown a case. The agent depends upon his large sales in order to make a satisfactory profit, and if the Liquor Board were to deal with these men there would be nothing for the 'kitty'—I mean the political kitty."

"The purchase of cheap liquor was the result," he continued, "liquor that can be purchased at a low rate and sold at a high price so as to make a very high profit."

Mr. Bowser then named men who he said were implicated in the "ring." These included Mr. Delbridge, president of the Liberal Association in Vancouver; Mr. McLatchy, manager of the Liberal campaign; James Conley, the nominee of the Attorney-General for the Burrard constituency; Mr. Dougherty, late Liberal candidate in Vancouver, who Mr. Bowser said had now received part of his reward in being appointed superintendent of insurance; W. T. McArthur, whom he called the nominee of the Attorney-General for police commissioner in Vancouver.

He digressed to say that Vancouver to-day, in so far as the police were concerned, was in the control of the Attorney-General.

"Mr. McArthur, the close friend of the Attorney-General, is the political representative, and I hope to show that he is profiting from the sale of liquor."

"Gordon Wismer is another member of the ring," he went on. "He is well known in Vancouver; he is in all the by-elections and has spent days and nights carrying the political sack around, the sack that brought my honorable friend the member for Delta, to this House."

"There is also Mr. Campbell and Wendell Farris, brother of the Attorney-General. I also hope to have evidence to show that Mr. Falconer is making a profit from the sale of liquor."

Then came a reference to the sale of beer. Mr. Bowser spoke of a "close friend of the Premier," who he said had had twenty barrels of

beer delivered to his house from one Government store, when the only other member of the man's family was his wife.

Premier Oliver: Why connect my name?

Mr. Bowser: Because he is a close friend of the Premier, but I do not say that the Premier had anything to do with the transaction.

Premier Oliver: It is quite clear that the Leader of the Opposition is trying to connect my name.

Mr. Uphill: Well, hasn't a man the right to have twenty barrels of beer?

Speaker Manson: The matter is not relevant.

Mr. Bowser closed the incident by saying that the committee might well take up the question of beer shipments.

He then spoke of the discharge of the thirteen employees of the Hastings Street store in Vancouver. Here was a case where Commissioner Falconer said a fair investigation had been held, he commented.

"However, there is an old saying that every man is innocent until proven guilty," he added, "and we find these men, innocent men, thrown out of their jobs at this inclement season of the year. Some of the men have been told that the Government cannot connect them with the transaction at all. It is high time for a committee to investigate these things. These men are either guilty or not guilty and it is not fair to them."

Mr. Bowser then dealt with the clause in his resolution pertaining to clubs. He charged that monetary considerations had been paid for "consents" for bonded warehouse licenses, and that this charge would implicate one or more members of the Legislature.

Mr. Farris: Is the charge being made that I made money?

Mr. Bowser: The language speaks for itself.

Mr. Farris: I insist upon details.

Mr. Bowser: I carefully drafted the resolution.

Mr. Farris: Yes, I see that, and I challenge my friend to make his charge in express language.

Cries of hear, hear; came from the Government benches. The Attorney-General pounded his desk in emphasis.

Mr. Bowser responded that he was not making the charge until he came before the select committee, if he could not prove his charge he would be the one to suffer, he said.

Vancouver Police Situation.

His next point was the question of club licenses. He claimed that he, when Attorney-General, had amended the statutes so as to do away with the selling of liquor by clubs. However, to-day the public faced the spectacle in Vancouver of clubs running wide open. In fact, he charged it was possible to join some clubs for the fee of ten cents.

"The chairman of the Vancouver Police Board (Mayor Gale) is a close political friend of the Attorney-General. He is now the Liberal nominee for Vancouver Centre," he said.

Mr. Bowser also mentioned the name of Thomas Harnett, president of the G. W. V. A. and a member of the Vancouver Police Commission. This meant that two out of three of the commissioners were in a position to bring breaches of the law to the attention of the Attorney-General. So it would be easy to get sufficient information to warrant the cancellation of club licenses, he declared.

He instanced the issuing of twenty-six licenses on one day, with one lawyer acting as counsel for all. He charged that Mayor Gale's activities were carried on for the purpose of winning votes. Messrs. Wismer and McGeer were said to have acted as counsel for seven clubs' applicants, M. A. Macdonald for six and Ian Mackenzie for five. At the heel of the hunt, he added, in came Joseph Oliver, son of the Premier, with two applications.

These legal gentlemen, said Mr. Bowser, had received large fees for their services, fees not commensurate with the services involved. The object was to create "pull," he asserted.

The Opposition Leader then spoke of certain resorts (in South Vancouver), where women as well as men were operating questionable places, officials being instructed not to interfere with them.

"This went on under the regime of former Commissioner Gillespie," he continued, "and I could know about this surely the Attorney-General could."

Mr. Bowser then referred ambiguously to certain appointees of the Government having become active as members of the Liberal machine. He instanced A. B. Buckworth, general manager of the P. C. E., whom he asserted had paid salaries to employees of the railway in order that they could carry on political work instead of attending to their duties.

Precedents For Committees.

The Leader of the Opposition then referred to famous investigations which had been held in British Columbia. He cited the case of the Columbia Western Railway, Premier Oliver interrupting to say that as the man who had brought the charges, he did not name himself as one of the

Mr. Bowser retorted that cases were not always the same and he thought he had acted wisely in offering the benefit of his professional experience to the proposed committee.

"We will be in the minority anyway," he explained. "Premier Oliver will see to that. Furthermore, the rules of the House, dating back as far as 1877 say that the mover of a resolution must be on the committee." (Applause from Opposition benches).

Mr. Bowser spoke of the Songhees Reserve investigation, the Gravel Pit inquiry and similar events.

**Personnel of Committee.**

Premier Oliver asked if the Opposition Leader objected to any proceedings of the Gravel Pit inquiry.

Mr. Bowser said he certainly did. Speaker Manson said that the question did not concern the issue at stake, whereupon Mr. Bowser said he would discuss that later.

He then spoke of the personnel of the whole committee. He had named David Whiteside for chairman. That member was a supporter of the Government or had been elected as such. Mr. Ramsay was also a supporter of the Government and a colleague from Vancouver, being acquainted with the events pertaining to many investigations in Vancouver. Mr. Paterson was a "fair man, who would grace the committee." Mr. Clearhue, the junior member for Victoria, would also be a fitting man for the committee. Mr. Hanes should also prove acceptable.

**Not Going Far Enough.**

Major Burde asked why a labor man had not been included. Mr. Bowser explained that it was rather difficult to "place" some of the members at the lower end of the House.

Upon objections being registered by Attorney-General Farris and Premier Oliver to some of Mr. Bowser's charges, Speaker Manson gave the opinion that the Opposition Leader had either gone too far or had not gone far enough. Nearly every member of the House had been placed under a suspicion.

Mr. Bowser said such was not his intention, but that the evidence before the committee would decide the matter.

**Not Naming Anyone.**

"I do not intend to retract the statement that one or more members of this House have profited in the day I mention, but I do not want to name anyone and I would like to know what rule will force me to do so," he challenged.

Premier Oliver said that every member had been placed under suspicion because of Mr. Bowser's statement. He believed that authority existed for the Speaker to demand names under such circumstances. There was a "real implication" involved.

Mr. Speaker Manson said it was possible that the Opposition Leader did not mean financial profit. He referred to page 297 of "May," where it appeared that similar charges must be specific.

Premier Oliver: Surely if the matter is one for investigation by this House it must be because of alleged profits made.

Mr. Bowser: That reference in "May" refers to intemperate or insulting language about an innocent member. I am not under implication and surely no other innocent member may feel hurt. "If all are as innocent as I am they will walk home without feeling any imputation."

This concluded the citation of Mr. Bowser's charges.

It is said that when the Attorney-General read the names of a long list of popular brands of Scotch Whiskey in the Legislature yesterday afternoon the lips of many in the galleries and on the floor of the House were guilty of that peculiar twitch which has been known to attack a cornet player when compelled to continue his tune in full view of a youth consuming a lemon.

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**SOLDIER SETTLERS ARE OPTIMISTS, MENZIES DECLARES**

**Says Men at Merville Want to Make Good, But Need Aid**

**Comox Member Puts in Plea For Island Farmers**

The Rev. Thomas Menzies, Independent member for Comox, speaking in the debate yesterday, told the Legislature that he hoped there would be no more experiments in land settlement colonies carried on as the Merville colony has been.

"We have hopes that the majority of men there will make good," Rev. Mr. Menzies said. "They are not physically as strong as they were. I am not going into their personal affairs, but some of them need assistance. If we can keep the men on the area and assist them to make their farms productive, they may be able to pay off their indebtedness. But we cannot do this under the present policy of the Land Settlement Board."

Besides giving immediate assistance to the men, Mr. Menzies declared, the Board must defer the first payment required from them for at least five years as "there is not one settler who will be able to finance himself during this Winter and pay that which is due on his stock and cows and horses bought on lien notes."

**Want to Make Good.**

"But yet these men are optimists," he went on. "They want to stay on their farms and they want to make good."

Mr. Menzies said that he had the assurance of the Minister of Public Works that he had seen to make a grant to this area to improve roads and open up new ones and in this way provide work necessary to tide the settlers over the Winter.

Mr. Menzies said that out of the 14,000 acres bought by the Board at \$5 an acre for the settlement, \$6,000 acres were wholly unfit for agricultural purposes, yet the cost of this unsuitable property had to be spread over settlers on the good land. He declared bad judgment was shown in buying the 6,000 unfit acres.

Dealing with the land clearing, he said the contract was given to Jones and Rant on a basis of 5 per cent commission on all the money spent by them in clearing the area.

**Ship's Anchor on Job.**

"Among the things sent up to Merville to clear the land was a ship's anchor," Mr. Menzies said. "No one knows why it should be sent up there to clear the land. It may have been for Jones and Rant anchoring the job, or for anchoring settlers on the land or as a gin pole for anchoring stumps. Anyhow, the anchor is there."

Mr. Menzies said that during the latter part of the operations it cost \$400 an acre to blow and pile stumps and this did not include ploughing the land to make it fit for cultivation. It would take \$100 an acre to make much of this land fit for the plough, he said.

**Cleared Worst Strip.**

He declared that although the worst strip of land to clear was along the Island Highway, this had all been cleared so that people passing along the Highway can see the whole thing and get the idea that there was great activity and prosperity in the settlement.

So far, according to figures he quoted there were 115 farms occupied, 126 tracts of land cleared and the whole thing had cost more than \$500,000.

**Had to Pay More for Lumber.**

Mr. Menzies said settlers objected to having to buy their lumber from the Erskins and May sawmill on the area, where the lumber cost them \$5 a thousand more than what they could buy it from outside mills at. He declared that the co-operative store where under the Board had bought supplies from certain firms, although he knows that quotations from a Victoria concern, for instance, were lower. "The reason you can judge for yourselves," he added.

Mr. Menzies urged the Minister of Agriculture to clean the country of cattle affected by tuberculosis and adopt a policy of making a systematic test. He said people were feeling uneasy, as conditions are not as good as they were six years ago and Japanese were coming in with infected cattle, substituting new by high-priced Jersey cows to contamination. He urged amendments to the sheep protection act to protect the flocks.

**Asks Protection From Game.**

As for the Game Conservation Board he declared that many persons could not understand why this Board and other Government Boards should be centred in Vancouver, when the seat of Government was in Victoria, where the boards should be so members of the House could see what is going on. He challenged anyone to point out another Province where similar boards were located outside the capital.

Mr. Menzies said that it should not be left to the game clubs of Victoria and Vancouver to frame the game laws. Under present conditions the farmer had no redress. He had to sit and see his crops demolished by deer. He declared that pheasants on Denman Island were so numerous that they have taken to scratching up the potato crops.

**Pleads for Mothers.**

Mother's pensions instead of being lowered ought to be raised, he said, and there should be an amendment to the Act whereby a mother once on the list should remain there until she dies or marries. He said it was unfair to stop her pension when the youngest child reached sixteen, as a child that age could not be expected to earn enough to support his mother.

It was difficult to get replies from the Workmen's Compensation Board, Mr. Menzies declared. He told of a Courtenay man who lost a finger and was unable to get compensation although he had paid all his assessments to the Board.

**Other Universities Crowded.**

Mr. Menzies commended the Government for its efforts to obtain lower freight rates, especially on lumber, as lower rates would mean so much to the industry in B. C. He said it was a good thing to build fine highways for tourists, "but the settler has a better right to roads than the man who just passes through and who is only in the country for a few weeks."

He asserted that the Department of Education was well conducted and pointed out that B. C. was not the only Province where students are turned away from the state university through lack of room as Toronto, the largest university in the country had to do the same thing this year.

**SAYS HALLWRIGHT NOT GIVEN MOTOR**

**Activities of Agricultural Instructor Brought Up in Legislature**

H. E. Hallwright is employed by the Department of Education as district supervisor of agricultural instruction at a salary of \$2,210 a year, but the Department does not at present and never has provided him with an automobile or gasoline, the Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education, informed the Legislature this afternoon as a result of questions asked in the House by R. R. Pooley of Esquimalt.

Mr. Hallwright is at present spending part of his time teaching in the Victoria High School, his average time there being eight hours a week.

Among other things Mr. Hallwright does, Dr. MacLean said is to supervise home-project work in gardening and seed-growing among boys and girls in Saanich and Victoria. He also conducts outdoor excursion classes in various branches of agriculture, including the study of farm animals, outside of school hours, renders assistance in many different ways to farmers and gardeners in connection with the many practical problem with which they have to deal.

Mr. Hallwright is now perfecting plans for organizing Home Science and Agriculture Clubs in Victoria for boys and girls of school age, also night classes in agriculture held during the four winter months Dr. MacLean said.

The Department pays the salary of Mr. Hallwright although he teaches in the Victoria High School because teaching of agriculture in High School is provided for in funds supplied by the Federal Government under the Agricultural Instruction Act.

Mr. Pooley asked Dr. MacLean whether the school garden on the corner of Stanley Avenue and Vining Street in Victoria last Summer was a fair example of Mr. Hallwright's work, but Dr. MacLean replied that there is no information available.

Extra money earned by Mr. Hallwright, Dr. MacLean replied to Mr. Pooley includes the usual allowance of \$40 a week for five weeks as assistant instructor in the Victoria Summer School for Teachers.

## FARRIS ANSWERS RECENT CRITICISM

Says Bowser's Innuendoes Do  
Much Harm

Replies Seriatim to Former  
Premier Charges

States Views on Campbell-  
Cromie Libel Suit

The Hon. J. W. de B. Farris, Attorney-General replied to Mr. Bowser in the Legislature late yesterday in one of the most forceful speeches of his career.

Dealing with the attack of the Leader of the Opposition Mr. Farris defied him to name one specific charge reflecting discredit upon the officials of the department or himself.

The Attorney-General, who had spoken briefly on Thursday afternoon, following Mr. Bowser's discussion of his resolution, and then adjourned the debate until he had had time to study the "charges" carefully, repeated his determination to defend his honor and hurl back in the face of his political foe every derogatory statement which Mr. Bowser had made.

### Nebulous "Charges."

Hon. Mr. Farris said he had no words to express the disgust he felt for a man in public life who would stoop to the making of "charges" such as had been laid by Mr. Bowser—charges, he added, which were of the most nebulous character and which did not directly suggest the implication of anyone.

Hon. Mr. Farris admitted that all men in office made mistakes; that he knew he himself made many. Governments erred at times and for these things responsibility must be accepted.

### Prepared to Meet It All.

"However, I am in the hands of the members of this House," said Hon. Mr. Farris, "and in the hands of my constituents. I am prepared to meet any charge, but I demand that it be made so that whether against myself, my brother, my friends or members of this Government, it will be made so that the person charged will not feel that he has to fight the air."

### Aimed Only to Discredit.

The Attorney-General said he did not intend to weary the House unnecessarily, but he wished to deal with the clauses of Mr. Bowser's resolution. There were indefinite and he expected to find clearer charges made, so that it would be possible to meet them with a clear understanding of what had to be fought. But finding the accusations of the Opposition Leader so vague he knew that it was but another move to attempt to discredit himself and the Government, with little assumption of responsibility on the part of the man laying the charges.

### "Shot His Bolt."

"To use a slang expression," he continued, "the Leader of the Opposition has shot his bolt, but he has left me to meet renewed insinuations and generalities, the reports of which have gone broadcast all over the country. Still, I have implicit faith in the people of Vancouver and I have had dealings before with members of this Legislature. I want to put myself on record as having nothing to fear or conceal and I am ready to meet the situation with a consciousness of my position and sense of fairplay."

### Tells of Warehouse Deal.

Hon. Mr. Farris first spoke of the purchase of the Campbell warehouse, and said he saw no reason for not admitting the purchase of the warehouse by Mr. Campbell, who was then in the hands of himself and his own standing. There was no cover up, he went on, and the price paid for the warehouse was \$58,000.

"We will assume that is correct also," he said. "But that means nothing. Every business man knows that there is no direct relation between assessed values and actual values. Assessed values are invariably much lower than real values."

### The Bowser Accusations.

The question of the illegality of the purchase, as charged by Mr. Bowser, was next discussed. In this connection the Minister said Mr. Bowser had three accusations to make. The first was that too high a price had been paid, the second that the purchase was illegal and the third, which was not clearly made, was an attempt by inference to leave the impression that the transaction had been corruptly and wrongfully made.

### Valuation Sworn To.

He spoke of the Campbell-Cromie libel suit and asserted that Mr. Cromie and his counsel, Joseph Martin, had seen to it that they secured every scintilla of evidence that could be had. Various opinions of experts had been secured. Some opinions were that the price was too high, but men of less political bias asserted that the price was fair. The Attorney-General mentioned the name of Col. Ryan, who he said was a well-known contractor and that of Mr. Frank Murdock, who had said that the rents charged were fair. Then there was the firm of Waghorn, Gwynn & Co. Mr. Waghorn was a lifelong Conservative. He was a reputable man and his opinion supplemented the written opinion furnished the Government, in which the price of \$150,000 was named as a fair one.

### Produces Letter.

Hon. Mr. Farris said that the Government had secured the advice of competent men, advice that was substantiated in court.

He then touched upon Mr. Bowser's charge that the Government had corruptly and dishonorably purchased the property. He produced a copy of the letter commencing "My Dear Wallace" and said he could see Mr. Bowser smile and smack his lips over that letter. It was purely a personal bit of correspondence, he asserted. He and Mr. Campbell were old friends and had called each other by their first names for years. The Minister denied the suggestion that Mr. Campbell was going East at that time to secure money with which to buy The World.

### No Early Negotiations.

"That letter was written in January," said Mr. Farris, "and there was nothing sinister in that. The reference to a hitch occurring has been made much of. There was a hitch. I told Mr. Campbell and he testified at the trial that I turned him down and said that I could not tie the hands of the Board in that way. But the only suggestion in the letter was that of rent, not purchase."

Referring to the memo sent him by A. M. Johnson, now chairman of the Liquor Control Board and then Deputy Attorney-General, Mr. Farris asked who was a more fitting man to carry on such negotiations. But in Mr. Johnson's memorandum there was no suggestion of purchasing the warehouse.

"Nor was there any suggestion of the purchase of The World by Mr. Campbell at that time," said Mr. Farris. "John Nelson was the owner of the paper at that time and I would ask my honorable friend to secure a statement from Mr. Nelson that there were any negotiations tending for the purchase of that newspaper."

### Needed Place For Liquor.

Mr. Farris defied the Opposition Leader to produce one word of evidence in support of his statement that Mr. Campbell had gone East to buy the paper. Mr. Nelson and Messrs. Cameron and Davidson, who all lived in Vancouver, were the owners of The World.

The Attorney-General explained how Mr. Johnson had come to him in the lobby of the Legislature and asked if he realized there were several carloads of liquor en route to the Board with no place to put it. It was realized then that a place must be provided. At that time, through arrangements made by Col. Scobie, then prohibition commissioner, one floor of the Campbell warehouse was being used by the Government. The price paid for that space was higher than was afterwards arranged by Mr. Johnson.

Hon. Mr. Farris said he had instructed Mr. Johnson that he had better see what could be done. Mr. Johnson sent for Mr. Campbell and together they made the entire arrangements for leasing the premises.

The Minister could see no grounds for Mr. Bowser objecting to these negotiations being carried on by Mr. Johnson. It was Mr. Johnson's duty as Deputy Attorney-General to do so. The Minister claimed he had no time to attend to all the innumerable details arising in connection with the administration of the liquor control

He also stated that he had the highest regard for the outspoken integrity, if sometimes bluff, honesty of Mr. Johnson.

### Nothing To Tell House.

"The Opposition Leader asked why I did not tell the Legislature of the proposed purchase," continued the Hon. Mr. Farris. "It was for this reason: there was no idea of purchasing at that time, but an option to purchase was included in the agreement as good business. My honorable friend suggests something else to give color to the charge which he does not make."

### Explains Cheques.

The method of payment for the warehouse was then considered by the Minister. He explained that the Government agent at Vancouver, Mr. Mahoney, had a Government account at the bank. That official was appointed during the Conservative regime and the Attorney-General wondered if Mr. Bowser was imputing dishonesty to him also.

"Now let's test the honesty of these allegations by the honesty of the inferences and see whether the inferences are founded upon facts," he went on.

"Mr. Johnson took the cheque for \$150,000 to Mr. Mahoney and the latter issued three cheques. One went to Mr. Campbell, a second to the mortgagee and the third to meet tax and other charges."

### Legality of Purchase.

Hon. Mr. Farris felt that this explanation cleared up that situation and he said the charge made regarding the method of payment might be taken as a type of the Opposition Leader's insinuations.

Next came the matter of the legality of the purchase. Mr. Bowser had charged that the Act was not in force, therefore no one had any power to buy such property. The Attorney-General quoted from the statutes, mentioning the clause which permitted the Government through Orders-in-Council to make the necessary arrangements for placing the Act in operation.

### Attempt To Embarrass.

"This was the situation," he continued. "We had the Prohibition Act in force and when that law ceased to operate there would be left a great deal of equipment. Would it not have been a nice mess if no section like that had been included in the Act making it possible for the preliminary work to be done. Had it not been for that clause there would have been an interval of two or three months after the Act came into effect before the law really became operative."

"Now it requires a careful study of the statutes to understand this situation, but the Opposition Leader intended to embarrass the committee by raising such an intricate question," he said.

### Tells of Libel Case.

The Attorney-General then turned to a consideration of the libel case. He said so far as the jury was concerned it was for them to decide whether or not Mr. Cromie had made good his allegations, or Mr. Campbell had shown he had been libelled. The Government was connected with the affair, he added, and he wished to show some light upon this phase of the matter.

"Now Mr. Martin advised the jury to dismiss the case because there had been no libelous statements made against Mr. Campbell," continued Mr. Farris, who then read portions of Mr. Martin's address to the jury.

### No Charge Against Campbell.

"There was not one word of any wrong-doing imputed to Mr. Campbell," he went on. "Still The Sun newspaper the next morning came out in flaring headlines with the announcement that the charges had been proven true."

The Attorney-General referred to the address of Mr. Justice Morrison to the jury. He said he would leave it to any lawyer to form an opinion of Mr. Justice Morrison's power to impress a jury. His Lordship had instructed the jury to consider carefully whether or not anything wrong had been done to Mr. Campbell. Hon. Mr. Farris read from the judge's charge to the jury excerpts which he, the Attorney-General, inferred had influenced the jury in the verdict rendered.

"The whole suggestion in the charge to the jury was that nothing had been said to injure Mr. Campbell and therefore he should receive no damages," averred Mr. Farris. "So members of House should not be carried away with the story carried by the Sun the day after the trial."

The Minister claimed that if Mr. Bowser would not come forward with specific charges then the members of the House should "try the case" on the evidence being submitted by the Attorney-General.

Next came a consideration of the renting of premises. Mr. Bowser had said that only political friends figured in the negotiations, said Mr.

Farris. The truth of the matter was that no attention whatever was paid to the political faith of the parties dealt with.

The Minister cited the Pither & Leiser warehouse in Victoria. These people were no friends of the Government. As for the Belmont House, Mr. Farris did not know who owned it and with regard to the Johnson Street store, this was a retail store and not a warehouse as Mr. Bowser termed it.

"Furthermore," the former store on Yates Street belonged to Stephen Jones," said the speaker. "Mr. Jones has been a life-long Liberal and is a friend of the Government, but we closed the store rented from him and took the other property because it was cheaper. The only other building actually named by Mr. Bowser was the property of Mrs. Norris in Ladysmith. This, he claimed, was formerly a poolroom, rented at \$20 per month, whereas the truth of the matter was that the property was rented for \$150 per month, the figure at which the Government took it over."

Mr. Farris then touched upon the question of the Government employing men who had formerly been convicted.

"I asked for names," he added, "but I got no satisfaction. I will say this, though. I do not know of a single case of this kind."

The Attorney-General said it might be true that men were employed who had served sentences, but their names had not come to light and if the opposition leader knew of such cases it was his duty to inform Mr. Johnson or the Attorney-General.

"When we were deluged with over 6,000 applications for positions under the Liquor Control Board, why should we have employees who would embarrass us?" he said.

Mr. Bowser was apparently suggesting the discharge of these employees, continued the Minister, who referred to the Kaslo episode in his own experience. At that time the opposition leader claimed that the Attorney-General had secured some \$40,000 worth of liquor which he had shipped across the line for profit. An affidavit was taken that the charge was untrue, but the Opposition Leader repudiated the affidavit, saying that the man who made it had been convicted of an offence against the law and that his statements could not be believed.

Hon. Mr. Farris explained, reading from old newspaper clippings, that a girl in the drug store of the convicted man in question, had sold a bottle of patent medicine without attaching thereto the Government sales stamp, and the owner had been convicted of an offence against the law.

"That is the kind of convicted men the Opposition Leader is probably talking about, charged the Minister.

He denied any inefficiency in regard to not taking liquor out of bond before the new federal tax was imposed. He suggested that the Dominion Government authorities had tipped off liquor men so that they could save themselves the proposed tax. However, the British Columbia authorities had not been given this opportunity, he added. He explained that the Federal Government was making \$1.60 per bottle on every bottle of liquor sold in British Columbia. This was more than the Provincial Government got, and the latter's share had to be divided with the municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Farris then came to the question of the purchase of liquor through which friends of Government profited. This charge by the opposition leader was a direct insult to many prominent men, he said, and he hoped to keep within bounds in expressing his opinion of the man who would make veiled insinuations of this kind without having the courage to state his charges openly.

"Complete inform tion in this connection could have been secured by opposition members if they had placed questions on the order paper," explained the Attorney-General. "And if they were not spending so much time hounding Dr. Baker they might have time to do this."

Mr. Bowser had charged that a man must be a member of the "ring" before he could sell liquor to the Government.

The word "kitty," mentioned by the Opposition Leader, caused the Attorney-General to say that the Opposition Leader seldom made a speech without using that expression in a suggestive way.

The picking out of prominent men in Vancouver and naming them as participants in "booze ring" profits was considered by the Minister as the grossest slander. Mr. Bowser had put a "ring of mud" around them which would be hard to remove.

"I will repeat here what I have said before," remarked Hon. Mr. Farris, "although I don't suppose it will do the Leader of the Opposition any good; the sort of abuse which I have had to face for many years brings a man to the conclusion that there is nothing worth while in public life. There is nothing to repay anyone for having to submit to this persecution."

He then said that only one of the men named by Mr. Bowser had ever sold the Government liquor. Mr. Delbridge was the agent for Old Orkney whisky and he had done business with the Board in the ordinary way, selling that particular brand for 55 shillings per case.

He spoke of a telegram received Friday from Mr. Paterson, the purchasing agent, who said that two of the men mentioned were not even known to him.

The Attorney-General said it would be practically impossible to overtake the harm done through the spreading through the newspapers of the statements of the Opposition Leader. The insulting innuendoes of Thursday had done irreparable harm.

Regarding the quality of liquor purchased by the Government, Hon. Mr. Farris said that the best brands were always available. He produced a list of the liquor purchased and reeled off figures that one member said afterwards made his mouth water. Five thousand cases of this well-known brand; 2,000 cases of another variety and a complete statement of all kinds handled should convince the average person of the inaccuracy of Mr. Bowser's statement, he contended.

Hon. Mr. Farris raised his voice in protesting against Mr. Bowser naming himself as a member of the proposed committee.

"Just listen to the language of the man who wants to deal with the honor of the men mentioned," he remarked. "A man's good name is the most sacred thing he has and the Opposition Leader says he hopes to be able to bring evidence to show certain things." He expects to implicate Commissioner Falconer as well.

Speaking about the clause dealing with bonded warehouse "consents," Hon. Mr. Farris explained that as Attorney-General he had stood out against other Provincial Attorney-Generals in their dealings with the Federal Minister of Customs. He felt that Ottawa authorities should handle such affairs, but he informed the Federal Minister that if he was satisfied with the granting of certain licenses there would be no further objection on the part of the Attorney-General of British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. Farris heatedly protested against the suggestion made by Mr. Bowser that he had profited monetarily through these "consents." He challenged the Opposition Leader to rise and say that he, the Attorney-General, had profited by so much as five cents in this way.

He referred to Mr. Bowser's statements regarding the employees of the Hastings Street store in Vancouver, saying that a great deal of feeling was being expressed for "the poor innocent employees." Why did not the Leader of the Opposition show some consideration for the innocence of the members of the Legislature, who were being placed under a cloud.

The matter of pardons granted men convicted under the Liquor Act received the Minister's attention. He said that only three pardons had been granted in a year, one to a woman who the doctor said could not stand a prison sentence, another to a cook who had been convicted of selling liquor in lumber camps and who had served a fair part of his term, and the third to another man upon the request of Police Magistrates South and Shaw and City Prosecutor MacKay, of Vancouver.

It was true that either Judge Cayley or Judge Ruggles had granted pardons and that in one case a prison sentence had been changed to a fine, explained Mr. Farris, and any men walking the streets who had been convicted were doing so as the result of the action of either of these judges, he added.

The Minister saw no reason to go into the question of the standing of the clubs in the Province. He said the charges of the Leader of the Opposition in this regard were ridiculous.

## NEELANDS BRINGS ONE-MAN CAR MOVE BEFORE HOUSE

### Says B. C. Electric Railway Has No Authority

### Poor Man Needs All His Money Without Taxes, He Declares

R. H. Neelands, labor member for South Vancouver, brought up the one-man car proposals in the Legislature yesterday during his speech in the debate and expressed the opposition of British Columbia labor towards their introduction.

Mr. Neelands declared that there was a larger percentage of accidents with the one-man car and quoted records and reports to back up his statements.

"I want to know by what authority W. G. Murrin of the B. C. Electric speaks with the assurance he does and goes before a public meeting and says that it is not necessary for the company to consult the municipalities as they have consulted a higher authority," said Mr. Neelands. "I want to know whether the time has arrived when these large corporations can dominate the Legislature or whether this Legislature is to have its say."

He declared that he found that by Order-in-Council the rule prohibiting single-truck cars has been set aside and suggested that the change had likely been made as a result of the representations of the corporation.

#### Opposes Taxing Poor Man.

"Because of the unemployment situation this is no time even to discuss the introduction of system of this kind," Mr. Neelands went on. "In the introduction of modern machinery we always find that the workers are the one who suffer. If modern appliances are to be improved it should accrue to the benefit of the workers, and the people I think the cities of B. C. have developed beyond the stage where this type of conveyance is practicable."

Mr. Neelands protested against the proposal to abolish the exemptions from taxation on income of less than \$1,500.

"A man with less than that income requires all his money for the needs of himself and his family," he went on. "If the Government needs additional revenue it should direct its attention to where money can be found, to the large corporations with large incomes. I would suggest a graduated tax on incomes, increasing according to the amount of the incomes."

Mr. Neelands expressed the hope that the Government would at an early date restore the franchise to South Vancouver.

## ASKS ABOUT USING P.G.E. FOR HIGHWAY

### Fred Anderson Asks Minister About the Abandonment of Clinton-Squamish Section

The proposal to abandon the Pacific Great Eastern Railway from Squamish to Clinton and use the railway grade for highway purposes, will come before the Legislature for the first time on Monday when Fred Anderson of Kamloops will ask the Hon. J. H. King, Minister of Public Works, whether the Government has given any consideration to it.

Abandonment of the Coast section of the P. G. E. through the mountains was advocated by a number of members of the Legislature after they made the trip over the line last August.

Mr. Anderson wants to know what the Government is doing in connection with the four proposed routes for the Trans-provincial Highway from the Coast to the Interior, the time spent surveying each of the routes, the distance to be constructed and reconstructed on each route, maximum elevation of each summit, estimated costs, nature of maintenance, national benefits and period during which the route will be open each year. He is also asking Mr. King what is the estimated amount by which cost of construction will be reduced on the Harrison Lake-Pemberton-Lillooet route by using the P. G. E. right-of-way.

*Oct 29 continued on page 15 after The remainder of Oct 28*

(Continued)

## WOULD WIPE OUT RURAL BILLBOARDS

### Jackson Bill Severe in Its Provisions and Penalties

Members of the Legislature to-day learned to just what extent M. B. Jackson, K.C., proposes to go in his bill for the suppression of advertising hoardings, when the printed bill was brought down in the Legislature.

Under the Jackson bill it is provided that outside of any municipality "no person shall erect or display or cause or permit the erection or display of any advertisement containing more than four square feet upon real property other than the property upon which the goods or merchandise or products advertised are manufactured or offered for sale, or upon which the business advertised is carried on in whole or in part.

Persons breaking this law will be fined up to \$100 for the first offence and up to \$200 for the second offence. The police are given the right to destroy any billboards in country districts.

## ACROSS THE BAY

### To-day's Programme.

E. C. Henniger, of Grand Forks, started the debate this afternoon.

R. H. Neelands, of South Vancouver; Tom Uphill, of Fernie; John McEne, of Yale, and the Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary, are down to follow.

The Hon. J. W. de B. Farris, Attorney-General, is ready with his reply to the Bowser liquor charges. Mr. Farris may speak late this afternoon if there is time.

### Municipal Committee Starts.

The Municipal Committee, with David Whiteside of New Westminster as chairman, held its first meeting this morning and decided to meet every morning except Saturday.

Taxation will be discussed and it is proposed to go through the Municipal Act and make suggestions and amendments. It is also suggested that a joint meeting with the Private Bills and Standing Orders Committee be held to discuss the Vancouver bill.

### Real Estate Men Licensed.

J. B. Clearhue, of Victoria, is asking the Attorney-General about the number of licenses issued this year under the Real Estate Agents' Licensing Act in Victoria and Vancouver, the receipts from these licenses and whether there have been any prosecutions.

### Asks About Sidney Estate.

R. H. Pooley, of Esquimalt, has put these questions to the Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance:

Has the Government remitted the succession duties or any part of the succession duties properly payable in connection with the estate of Mary Faussat, deceased, late of Sidney, B. C.?

If yes, how much, and why?

Under what authority?

Who acted for the estate of the said deceased in this matter with the Government?

Was he a solicitor of the Supreme Court?

(Continued)

## Premier Exposes Sources of Attack

Premier Oliver surprised the Legislature last evening when Attorney-General Farris completed his reply to Mr. Bowser, by adjourning the House only for two hours. The announcement went around that the Government leader would take the floor. Promptly at 8.30 o'clock he did, and held it for two hours, while he attacked Mr. Bowser on the Liquor Control administration motion for an inquiry, alleging malfeasance in office.

The Premier's tense moment came when he dealt with the names of the men whom Mr. Bowser had suggested had been implicated in illegal liquor transactions and the securing of money through the issuance of club licenses and "consents" for bonded warehouse licenses.

When he came to the name of his own son, Joseph Oliver, whom Mr. Bowser had mentioned as having profited through acting as counsel for two club license applicants, the Premier vigorously denounced the Opposition Leader.

### Doesn't Want Son Like Bowser.

"My son's name is being besmirched. I have hopes that he will grow up to be a credit to the legal profession. But God forbid that he should grow up with the standards of the Leader of the Opposition," said the Premier.

### Speaker-Manson called order.

"I do not know of an uplifting thing that has ever been done by the Lead-

er of the Opposition," was one of Premier Oliver's charges.

After he had completed his remarks he proposed an amendment to the Bowser resolution, an amendment striking out all the words of the resolution and adding replacing the clauses of the Bowser motion with a clause asking that Mr. Bowser, as mover, and Mr. Jones, as seconder, prepare definite charges for consideration of the Legislature.

### David Whiteside Supports.

David Whiteside, of New Westminster, supported the Premier.

An hour was then spent in argument across the floor of the House as to whether or not the passing of this amendment would preclude the possibility of a full investigation. The Premier emphatically declared that there must be a full investigation of certain of the accusations made, but he wanted something specific to go on.

Mr. Duncan moved the adjournment of the debate, but the Government would not permit this and a division arose. Mr. Duncan's motion being lost by 24 to 18, the Government members voting solidly and being supported by Rev. Thomas Menzies of the independents.

After further argument the Premier's amendment was put and carried by the same vote. Towards midnight the House adjourned, with the matter still unsettled. Mr. Bowser's resolution was struck off the order paper and that of the Premier carried. But the Premier gave his assurance that a complete investigation would be held.

### Political Life Worth While?

"When this afternoon I was listening to the address of the Attorney-General I was very much impressed by one remark of that honorable gentleman when he asked what there was in public life to compensate any man for the abuse and vilification to which he is subject on account of false and malicious accusations," said Premier Oliver.

"It took my mind back to the time early in 1918 when upon the death of the late Premier Brewster we were left without a Premier, and were in consultation as to who should be chosen to succeed that estimable gentleman. There was one thought in my mind at that time which reconciled me to the idea of taking on the duties of that position, and that thought was that it would be a very pleasant thing for my children to say that their father had reached such a place of honor in the service of his country.

"Yet we see the spectacle of an able and gifted man placed in the position which the Attorney-General of this Province has been placed in during the last few weeks and realize that he is to-day fighting for his political life and that under circumstances which, if the accusations which are levelled against him succeed, his wife and children must for the balance of their lives rest under the stigma that their father was driven out of public life in disgrace."

### How He Met Cromie.

The Premier then devoted his attention to R. J. Cromie, publisher of The Vancouver Sun, whom he said he first met in 1914 during the negotiations for the taking over of the P. G. E. Railway by the Province. He referred to Mr. Cromie as the same man who is "at present using that paper, The Vancouver Sun, to blackmail both the business and political interests of the country."

After negotiating for a settlement an agreement was finally made and accepted by the House. It was then the Premier said he was advised that Mr. Cromie got control of the newspaper because of his intimate knowledge of the affairs of Foley, Welch & Stewart.

"I am advised that this man never put any of his money into that newspaper of which he got control," the Premier said.

## NEWS STORIES TO GUIDE LEGISLATORS

### Provincial Library Busy Compiling Information, House Learns

Compilation of an index to the Liquor Control Act, comprising 600 entries and classification of 1,045 rare historical manuscripts for the archives department have been completed by the Provincial Librarian, according to the report for the last nine months presented to the Legislature to-day by the Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary.

Early manuscripts and records of the Lands Department are being transferred to the Archives Department and records dated prior to Confederation will be assembled in the Archives, the report announces.

During this year there has been an increase in business, with 20,068 volumes issued from the desk and 1,719 new books added to the collection.

The reference department has dealt with the following questions and prepared memoranda on them: Government control and liquor traffic in foreign countries, maternity benefits, restriction of Asiatic immigration, licensing and regulating billboards, state budget systems, American-Japanese Treaty and League of Nations, colonization schemes, taxation of farm lands in cities, taxation of timber limits in the United States, old age pensions, minimum age of children for industrial employment, preferential voting in Australia, Doherty Act, water and sewerage boards in the United States.

Clippings from Victoria and Vancouver newspapers of all that went on in the Legislature at last session have been preserved in a permanent form for the assistance and guidance of members at future sessions. Two sets of the revised statutes of B. C. have been annotated up to the present year.



The Premier went on to tell how his mind went back to the Dolly Varden case of two seasons ago when after an investigation by a committee of the Legislature it was recommended that certain legislation should be enacted. It was then that Mr. Cromie and R. T. Elliott, K.C., who also appeared in the P. G. E. negotiations, again appeared on the scene together, the Premier asserted, and they endeavored to block the legislation.

In this connection the Premier recalled the "most libelous telegrams directed to myself, telegrams containing statements which if true would have driven me out of public life and without one scintilla of evidence." He told how he was compelled for his own honor and the honor of his family to go into court to vindicate himself from the assertions in those telegrams and an "intelligent jury gave me the magnificent award of 25 cents."

Now, he went on, the Leader of the Opposition has no little grace and so little conception of what is fitting that he sneers that the honor of the Premier of this Province was worth only the sum of "two bits."

"It is not only evidence of the low morality of persons in this House, but of people in the country when they can sneer at the statement that the honor of the Premier of a British Province can be valued only at 25 cents," the Premier went on.

#### Cromie's Demands.

"What do we find now? We find apparently that the Leader of the Opposition has joined himself with the publisher of The Vancouver Sun in an attempt to drive from public life of this Province the Hon. Attorney-General."

Getting back to his story of his relations with Mr. Cromie the Premier said that Mr. Cromie was next found down in Chicago with R. T. Elliott, K.C., making a bargain with the shareholders of the Dolly Varden and undertaking for a consideration of over a hundred thousand dollars to frustrate the legislation which had been passed by the B. C. Legislature so that they could reap for themselves a big reward.

Then, the Premier went on to relate how when Mr. Cromie obtained control of The Vancouver Sun he started a system of attempting to levy tribute on the Government. One of his first propositions was that the Government should discontinue the official printing office in Victoria and give the bulk of the printing work to The Vancouver Sun. Another proposition was that the Government should discontinue the publication of the official Agricultural Journal and make his paper, "Farm and Home," the official Government organ. Another time he had a proposal to issue a publication dealing with B. C. in 1919 and put it up to the Government to subscribe for 10,000 copies at a price of \$1 a copy. This publication the Premier said, might have been suitable for a hotel counter, but it was of little value for disseminating information as the Government required, and Mr. Cromie was turned down.

"Upon that the publisher of The Vancouver Sun began attacking one member of the Government and then another," the Premier went on. "He demanded that as the price of his support of the Government he should have advertisements published by the Government."

"I say that this man with whom the Leader of the Opposition has allied himself is a professional black-maller who uses the publication of The Vancouver Sun for that purpose."

The Premier said that Mr. Cromie's next move was to send one of his men, Mr. Murray, and he after actually forcing himself into the Premier's bedroom, put up such a story of the wrongs of his treatment by the Powell River Pulp & Paper Co. that the Premier went to see Mr. Lang, manager of the company. Time after time for months Mr. Cromie continued to come to the Premier with other propositions that the Government should use coercive measures against the paper company and threaten that if The Sun's paper demands were not acceded to there would be an investigation of the paper company.

"That is the character of the man who told me that if we would not be the instrument of coercion he would get out and fight the Government," the Premier went on. "Now these are some of the influences that are attacking the Government at the present time. With this recitation I think this House and this Province will have a better idea of the motives leading up to these attacks."

Coming to the Bowser resolution, the Premier declared that it contained a great deal of unnecessary matter, with things in it that have nothing to do with the proposed investigation.

#### Was Aware of Lease.

As for the Campbell warehouse, the Premier said that before he went East last Summer he knew that the Government had leased space in the Campbell warehouse. He could not say for certain as far as his memory went whether there had been any suggestion that it might have been advisable for the Government to purchase the warehouse. When he was in Ontario he got a telephone message from a Toronto newspaper informing him that charges had been made by The Vancouver Sun in connection with the Government's purchase of the Campbell warehouse. He replied that he was not interested in

any charges that might be made by The Sun.

When he returned to Victoria he looked into the whole question and found that the purchase was a complete transaction, the Premier went on. He was asked what he was going to do by The Sun and whether he would appoint a Royal Commission. He replied that the transaction was complete and a Royal Commission could not undo it. Then Mr. Campbell issued his suit for libel against The Sun.

"If there is any wrongdoing in connection with this liquor warehouse the representatives of the people are the proper body to take cognizance of it and to enquire and satisfy themselves if there are reasonable grounds for ordering an investigation, and if so what are the best means," the Premier went on.

#### Bowser's Court House Site.

One reason given for asking for an investigation he said was that although \$150,000 was paid for the warehouse the assessed value was only \$55,000. In connection with this the Premier presented to the House assessed valuations and prices paid for other pieces of property, these in Victoria. Eight years ago, he pointed out, the Government of which Mr. Bowser was a member bought a new court house site in Victoria up near Christ Church Cathedral and paid \$75,000 for it. The assessed value of that property was \$26,410. In connection with the purchase he recalled how a gentleman employed in Mr. Bowser's own office, named Hanington, received a commission of \$2,000. The property purchased for this proposed court house is unsuitable, as it is angular, and will not readily accommodate a square building and it will cost many thousands of dollars to excavate the rock before foundations can be put in. He went on to tell how Mr. Bowser had paid out \$75,000 for that property without any authority from the Legislature.

M. B. Jackson: Wait a minute. Let that sink in.

Premier Oliver: You could not put it into my friend with a battering ram. It would take more than the force of a Halifax explosion to drive it in.

#### More Bowser Transactions.

The Premier went on to tell how just before the 1916 election Mr. Bowser's government made an agreement with the city of Victoria in connection with the proposed construction of the Johnson Street bridge. Nell Mackay and others owned two lots at the foot of Johnson Street. There could not be a direct contract as Mr. Mackay was a member of the Legislature. So they went through the farce of holding an arbitration, and as he remembered the value placed on these lots was \$107,000. The Premier went on to say that this appropriation was made without authority of the Legislature.

"The Johnson Street bridge is now under construction, and not one inch of these lots has been required for the construction of this bridge," the Premier said.

He went on to relate how under the Leader of the Opposition's board of arbitrators had awarded \$46,000 for lots in the Munn estate at the foot of Johnson Street, which were assessed at \$17,000.

"In the case of the Campbell warehouse property the assessed value was about 40 per cent. of what was paid," the Premier said. "In the Victoria court house site the assessed value was about 35 per cent. of what was made, and in the Munn case the assessed value was also about 35 per cent. of the price awarded by the arbitrators."

The Premier went on to declare that by his very assertions in the present case the Leader of the Opposition condemned his own actions of the past.

"The atmosphere of this Province has been foul with the most startling reports of Legislative wrong doing," the Premier went on. "The country has been infested with a miasma of rumors of corruption which cannot but have a demoralising effect upon the people of this Province."

Here Mr. Oliver declared that liquor dealers of this Province had escaped paying \$169,000 to the Dominion Government as a result of the increased excise taxes this year, while the Provincial Government not knowing that an increase was coming, and

was caught with its liquor in a strong indictment of Bowser's friends at Ottawa because, if his statements were true there was a suspicion that liquor dealers had been tipped off to the increase which was coming.

#### To Avoid Scandal.

As regards the purchase of liquor, the Premier said that when the Liquor Act came into force he had many men speak to him about selling to the Government liquor which they had on their hands or liquor which they had on order as they would suffer unless the liquor were taken off their hands. The Premier explained that he was at first impressed with their pleadings, but he soon realized that there was a possibility of wrong being done, and decided against it. He then called in the purchasing agent, and told him how necessary it was to be careful so that there could be no trace of scandal connected with the purchase of liquors. From what he has learned since he believed that Mr. Paterson as purchasing agent had done everything possible to prevent any wrongdoing in connection with the purchasing of liquor, and had carried out his instructions.

Referring to Mr. Bowser's statement that a political friend of his (the Premier) had purchased twenty barrels of beer, Mr. Oliver said he would leave it to the intelligence of the House if the Leader of the Opposition did not intend to leave the impression that this man would not have been able to get twenty barrels

if he had not been a friend of the Premier's. Mr. Oliver said that he had seen a statement in one of the Vancouver papers that a man in Surrey had got twenty barrels, but he did not know the man, and did not remember the name in the newspaper.

"The Leader of the Opposition bamboozles me by imputation because a man who is said to be a friend of mine has got twenty barrels of beer," the Premier went on.

#### A Repugnant Position.

"Yet this man, who has no regard for any man's reputation comes into this House in the position of informant, and as prosecutor and also wants to be judge as to the guilt of the persons he accuses. In the minds of most members of this House there is a reasonable sense of fitness. No reasonable minded person would place himself in the position of informant, prosecutor and judge. Such a position is repugnant to my mind, and to any man who is mentally balanced."

The Premier then said that Mr. Bowser had even attacked the reputation of the Comptroller-General of this Province, in his reflections on him as having paid out the money for the Campbell warehouse without authority. Mr. Oliver said that this official who has a sterling life-long record before he was brought to this Province and put in a position of trust to stand between the Treasury and the administration so that no money could be paid out without authority, was entitled to the protection of the Legislature.

The reputation of the Government Agent at Vancouver, one of the oldest officials in the employ of the Government was similarly attacked, he said, when the Leader of the Opposition showed no hesitation in blackening this man's character by speaking of the cheques in connection with the deal being changed in a surreptitious manner.

#### Reverts Suggestion.

The Premier bitterly resented the suggestion that Government members, officials and friends were grafting. He referred to an attempt to bring in 40,000 Japanese laborers during the regime of the late Conservative Government, making counter suggestions in that connection.

Mr. Bowser declared that incident out of order, Speaker Manson upholding him.

Mr. Oliver: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bowser: Come down to modern history.

Premier Oliver declared that the men whose names were under fire were being seriously injured throughout the Province because of the suggestions made, whereas no actual charges had been laid.

#### Bowser's Advantages.

Then followed the Premier's reference to his son, and he was not sparing in his language. Mr. Bowser said he should not be subjected to such a catechizing and would not be if the Premier had better manners. Speaker Manson said the Premier should be careful. He admitted it was difficult to carry on the debate without considerable heat being engendered, but he asked for as little strong talk as possible.

The Premier said he would leave it to the House to compare the attitude of himself and Mr. Bowser. The former had had the benefit of a university education and knew the value of words, how to use them to the best advantage, and as a result of that knowledge the Opposition Leader had placed a clever but insidious resolution on the order paper.

**Mackenzie Would Explain.**  
Even supposing the Opposition Leader failed to prove any wrongdoing before a select committee, Mr. Oliver predicted that no direct charges had been made and would escape "punishment" for the impeachment of innocent men.

Capt. Ian Mackenzie at this juncture wished to read some evidence with regard to the part played by his law firm in securing club licenses. Mr. Bowser declared the member was not in order and the contention was sustained by the chair.

**Not Burking Inquiry.**  
The Premier mentioned the names of former Commissioner Gillespie and Mr. Buckworth. Was it fair, he asked, that these men should be so accused when they would have no chance to defend themselves? He challenged Mr. Bowser to make a definite charge, so the committee would have something fixed to work upon and not have to "take over all the filth in the reports spread around the country."

"It is my opinion that this amendment of the Premier's is intended to burk a full enquiry," charged Mr. Bowser, when the Premier's amendment was read. He wanted it put on the order paper and considered at the next sitting.

"No," thundered Premier Oliver. "I will not burk any enquiry, but this is a privileged question and it must be proceeded with."

**Whiteside Backs Premier.**  
David Whiteside supported the Premier. The Opposition Leader, he assumed, was acting in good faith in making his charges, but he felt that Mr. Bowser should take the same position he would if he entered a court of law, namely, to state his charges openly.

"The Leader of the Opposition should either come forward with his charges or get up on the floor of the House and withdraw his accusations and suggestions," charged the New Westminster member.

Then arose a spirited debate over the method of asking for select committees. Mr. Hanes said when the P. G. E. enquiry had been granted with no definite charges having been made. He supported Mr. Bowser's original resolution.

**Says Greatest Scandal.**  
Mr. Bowser again charged that the Government was endeavoring to prevent an enquiry into what he termed was one of the greatest scandals in the history of the Province. He showed more feeling than at any other time during the consideration of the question and remarked that he had been dragged before the P. G. E. special committee without ceremony.

"Were there any specific charges made then?" he asked. "Were there any charges when the Kitilano Reserve enquiry was granted?"

Mr. Bowser said he was assuming full responsibility for his actions, and he would scarcely take the steps he was taking if he did not feel sure of his ground. He might even be driven out of public life—the Government had endeavored to do that more than once, he charged.

**Jackson Ask Chivalry.**  
Mr. Jackson asked if Mr. Bowser intended to charge the Attorney-General with having profited financially.

Mr. Bowser: I have reached the stage where I refuse to answer silly questions from the member for the Islands.

Mr. Jackson then harked back to the days of chivalry and challenged Mr. Bowser to show his cards. He spoke of mailed fists and cold cynicism and declared Mr. Bowser was excelling himself.

**Major Burde Jumps In.**  
Major Burde charged the Islands member with using insulting language.

Then came Mr. Duncan's motion for adjournment, which was defeated.

After this Major Burde declared he was not ready for the question, and he called attention to the latitude which he said had been given the Premier and Attorney-General. Their language verged on the destruction of the dignity of the House, he remarked, and he wondered at the resolution shown by the Government to grant a full enquiry.

He was sharing the doubts of the public for North Vancouver. The public does not care for a warehouse, but to get rid of this over the Pro-

**Mr. Pooley Speaks.**  
Mr. Pooley spoke also of former investigations. He declared that in the days of the Conservative Government investigations were granted freely when asked for.  
"Back in 1914, 1915 and 1916 if there ever was a man persecuted politically it was my honorable leader," he said.  
"Did you ever hear him squeal?" he asked. "Not much. When you wanted an enquiry you got it. And the Government is making a tremendous mistake if it does not investigate this thing thoroughly. However, upon your own heads be it."  
The Premier's amendment then carried.

## MOTHERS' PENSION BOARD ATTACKED

### He Declares Speaker Manson Safe With His Constituents

John McRae, Conservative member for Yale, in the Legislature yesterday first complimented the Government for several good works and then declared that no Conservative ever stooped so low as to turn down a woman's plea for assistance for herself and fatherless children because she had not voted for the party.  
This, said the Yale member, occurred in the case of a widow in his riding. She had lost her husband and was sorely in need of help. She applied through her representative, Mr. McRae, who took up the matter with Chairman Pyke of the Mother's Pensions Board. The latter was asked to make an investigation. Mr. McRae threatening to expose the official on the floor of the House if action was not taken.

Nothing came of his efforts, he declared; hence this action. He read a telegram from the woman in question showing that she had not been communicated with. However, Mr. McRae said that enquiries had been made about her and she was turned down solely because she had voted against the Government at the last election.

**Pay Taxes, Get No Roads.**  
"I ask the Government members if they ever heard of a Conservative doing a thing like that," continued the speaker. "We all have our faults and the Conservatives have lots of them. I am not a hide-bound party man and know there are many fine men in the Liberal ranks, but no Conservative would stoop so low as that. I am appealing to the Premier in this matter and intend to stay with it until justice is done."  
The Yale member said two men in his riding were paying more into the Government coffers in taxes than was being spent on roads and trails in the entire riding. He said the appropriation for Yale was only \$45,000 last year, which was spread over 700 miles of roads and 200 miles of trails. And yet, he added, Delta received \$335,000.

"I can well understand now why the honorable member for Delta seconded the address," he commented. (laughter)

**Speaker Is Strong.**  
He wondered where the country was going to, when the Liberals had increased the public debt of the Province in four years from \$10,000,000 to \$40,000,000. If an election were held to-morrow, he predicted, Speaker Manson would be the only Liberal returned to Victoria. (laughter).

Speaking of the P. G. E. trip he said he had regretted not being able to go along, although he did not see how any intelligent opinion could be formed when one was travelling with a bunch of Brits.

Mr. McRae appealed for assistance for the blind, mentioning a specific case in his riding where help was needed.

He complimented Speaker Manson, whom he said had been very kind in offers of assistance to new members.

## HENNIGER STILL WITH PARTY SHIP

### Grand Forks Member Declares Irrigation Will Help Pay B. C. Debt

E. C. Henniger of Grand Forks, speaking in the debate in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, declared that if it were legitimate to pledge the public credit for any enterprises there was surely no fairer field for Government activities than in bringing under irrigation the dry areas of the Interior.

Mr. Henniger pointed out that lands that a few years ago were arid deserts in other parts of the continent, millions of dollars of produce are now shipped out annually. The Yakima Valley this year is shipping out 45,000 carloads of produce and the Okanagan \$9,000,000 worth.

"In no other parts of the Province does there lie such rich promise from irrigation as in the Valley of Grand Forks," said Mr. Henniger. "Irrigation there is a public duty which this

Government dare not neglect. Increased demand for revenue makes it mandatory that production be stimulated."

Referring to reports last Summer to the effect that he had broken with the Government Mr. Henniger said that he wished "to say that there was very little truth in that; in fact, there would be the same amount of truth in that as in some of the reports that got around as to what happened here when the House prorogued at the end of last session."

"During the last few days there have been rumors that this Government was getting shaky and drifting on the rocks," he went on. "I want to take this opportunity of informing my friends opposite that I don't think that they will have to be forced to save the Government by getting up to support. There have been low and insidious attacks by pirates of the sea and by that murderous submarine in the form of the Vancouver Sun and by that old pirate of the political seas, but when the roll is called you will find not a sailor missing from this ship and not one in irons."

Mr. Henniger declared that the Moderation Act is a start in the right direction and that under a system of education the public drinking evil will be gradually lessened.

"Now we see delegations of rich brewers and hotel men, who always want an easy way of making money, coming down here and seeking to shift the responsibility for the demand for beer on to the poor workmen," he went on. "We don't want this country built up as a country of beer drinkers."

## LAY THE CHARGE.

If the Leader of the Opposition in the local Legislature has any information in his possession which is capable of conversion into a specific charge against either the Government as a whole or any of the gentlemen to whom he referred in his speech on Thursday afternoon there is nothing on earth to prevent him from taking the course which last night's disposal of his own resolution leaves open to him. He will have understood from the observations of the Premier and the Attorney-General, as well as from the attitude of the House by its vote, that if he desires to get an investigation into any transactions conducted by the Government or the Liquor Control Board, or such relationship as any public official or "political friend of the Government" may have had with either of these bodies, he will not be permitted to take refuge behind insinuation or innuendo; he will have to make his charge or charges on his own responsibility as a member of the Legislature and Leader of the Opposition. If Mr. Bowser is ready to do this, to follow the

only honest and logical course, the course dictated by the fundamental principles of British justice, he may have the fullest investigation. To repeat rumor or street corner gossip in a new request for an inquiry will get him nowhere; it will delude nobody but himself. His duty is plain. Is he ready to discharge it or default?

**MERVILLE.**

When members of the Legislature are discussing the soldier settlement area at Merville it would be better for them to take the considered statements of Mr. Menzies as a guide to their own criticisms rather than the obviously political "information" upon which a speech may be made without personal knowledge of conditions as they exist. It is doubtful whether even the Minister of Agriculture would look upon this particular scheme in all its phases as a howling success; but he and the Government are entitled to what credit here is in originating as well as financing, a means of rehabilitation which rightly be-

longed to the Dominion authorities. The area in question may not have been the best that could have been selected; it may be quite true that six thousand out of the fourteen thousand acres which comprise the settlement are not of much use for agricultural purposes; but Mr. Menzies has told the Legislature that there are one hundred and fifteen farms occupied and one hundred and twenty-six tracts of land cleared. Surely that much development is worth something to Vancouver Island and the Province even if the whole thing has cost more than half a million dollars. How many undertakings connected with the war and its aftermath could have been accomplished cheaper if there had been a few years to consider them? As for Merville the only real grievance seems to centre upon the question as to whether the Government will extend the time for re-payment of loans and reduce the interest charge. Very probably a solution will be found to get over this difficulty; but the Legislature and the Province as a whole—not excluding the settlers at Merville—will have to begin to get used to normal business methods.

**ACROSS THE BAY**

**Bowser Speaking.**

W. J. Bowser, K. C., leader of the Opposition, is speaking this afternoon in the debate.

According to his plans when he arose to speak he is again dealing with the liquor administration.

Mr. Bowser said to-day that he has not yet decided whether he will amend his resolution proposing an inquiry into the liquor operations in the Province since the Liquor Control Board took charge to bring the resolution up to what the House demanded Friday night when it voted that he should make his "charges" definite.

**Jones After Hallwright.**

J. W. Jones, of South Okanagan, is the member of the Legislature who is asking questions on the floor of the House about H. E. Hallwright's motor car, his activities and the examples of school gardens which he is setting before the children of Victoria. Mr. Hallwright is agricultural supervisor in schools.

R. H. Pooley, of Esquimalt, is not bringing up anything about Mr. Hallwright.

Ian Mackenzie, on the motion of Premier Oliver, is being added to the private bills committee.

**Mr. Frazer's Name Up.**

Sam Guthrie is asking the Attorney-General to tell the House about William G. Frazer, who has been appointed liquor vendor at Ladysmith. He wants to know on whose recommendation Mr. Frazer was appointed and what returned soldiers applied for the job.

**Where Did Guns Go?**

R. H. Pooley, of Esquimalt, wants to know about the guns and other firearms confiscated by the Game Conservation Board, on what authority they were confiscated, where these guns are now, how many have been sold and under what circumstances and to what account the credits from these sales have been placed.

OCT

1921

# HOUSE BEGINS SESSION

Usual Formalities Observed At Opening

## THE SPEECH

Important Changes In Legislation Expected

(World Special)  
**VICTORIA, Oct. 18.**—With all the customary ceremony usual on such occasions, the special autumn session of the Fifteenth Legislature of B.C. was formally opened this afternoon by His Honor Walter C. Nichol, Lieutenant-Governor.

The interior of the legislative chamber presented a crowded and most animated scene. Desks of the legislators, usually semi-detached, were lined up in close order near the speaker's chair to afford room for the chairs placed at the lower half of the chamber for the invited guests. Every inch of space was occupied within the area comprised by the tall Corinthian pillars which adorn the walls on three sides of the handsome hall. The only pictures are oil paintings of the king and queen.

In the ladies' galleries every seat was also occupied in all the four rows. With the arrival of the lieutenant-governor the buzz of conversation there and in the lower portion subsided and after prayers had been read by the Rev. W. D. Spence, of the First Congregational Church, his honor proceeded to read the speech from the throne. The speech was as follows:

**Speech from the Throne.**  
 "Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature:

"In summoning you to meet for the second time within the calendar year, I am fulfilling an undertaking given by the premier during the First Session of the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

"During the recess, investigation has been made into the financial conditions of municipalities, an legislation will be submitted providing for extension of the sources of their revenues.

"Amendments to the 'Taxation Act' will be submitted in order to apportion more equitably the burden of taxation on all classes of property and persons.

"Satisfactory progress has been made on the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and the financial provision made at the last Session of the Legislature will prove adequate for the completion of this line to Prince George.

"Valuable information respecting a feasible route to connect the coast with interior links of the trans-provincial highway has been assembled, permitting decision of the route to be selected and early undertaking of construction of this important link.

"Having in view the better investigation and prevention of fires, a measure will be laid before you extending the work of the Department of Insurance.

"Minor amendments to the 'Government Lignor Act' will be submitted.

"Amendments to the 'Mineral Act' will be laid before you.

"Further amendments to the 'Placer mining Act' will be proposed.

"The public accounts for the last fiscal year will be brought down as an early date.

"The estimates of expenditure for the ensuing year will be submitted for your earnest consideration.

"Members of the Legislature: "In leaving you to your deliberations, have confidence that you will apply your best endeavors to the solution of the problems before you, and I pray the blessing of providence on your labors."

After Mr. J. B. Clearihue (Victoria) had moved that a reply be presented and Hon. W. J. deB. Farris had moved first reading of a bill with regard to fines being imposed on corporations under the Summary Convictions Act, the formal opening ended and the members left to meet again for work at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

During the absence at Montreal of Dr. Sutherland, chief whip, the duties will be performed by Mr. J. A. Buckham, deputy whip stop.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1921

## CHARGE MADE BY W. J. BOWSER

Alleges Government Is Purchasing Liquor From Political Friends.

**VICTORIA, Oct. 18.**—Alleging "reckless and unjustifiable extravagance on the part of the liquor board, W. J. B. Bowser, leader of the opposition, has given notice of motion for a committee of inquiry in the administration of government affairs, particularly in regard to the liquor board. Mr. Bowser claims that secret commissions had been paid political friends of the government, and that inferior grade of liquor was sold. He also condemns the alleged Campbell warehouse price purchase, and that the officials of the board were ever active politically at the last election. He further alleges that large sums have been paid by applicants for "consents for excise bonded warehouses given by the attorney-general."

As members of the committee he suggests the names of Messrs. W. J. Whiteside, James Ramsay, Alex. Paterson, Clearihue, Haies, Pooley and himself.

## MAYOR GALE WORKING HARD AT VICTORIA

(World Special)  
**VICTORIA, Oct. 19.**—A government caucus following that held yesterday took place this morning. With the cabinet very busy engaged on this and other matters today Mayor Gale is making tours of the building, catching the ministers as he can to discuss matters connected with Vancouver's charter amendments, and is putting in full time.

## P. G. E. MAY BE MADE TO PAY, --CLEARIHUE

Victoria Member, Moving the Address, Advocates Ashcroft-Clinton Connection

### LIQUOR DIVIDEND

Handsome Surplus Reported By Members of Liquor Board—Taxation Reform

(World Special)  
**VICTORIA, Oct. 19.**—Advocating a readjustment of provincial taxation based upon the income tax as being the best and fairest system, in order to provide a more equitable taxation system throughout the province, Mr. J. B. Clearihue, (Victoria) dwelt principally on this financial need in moving the address at the commencement of this afternoon's session of the legislature.

In regard to the P.G.E., he said he believed that the railway could be made into a productive asset by a connection from Ashcroft to Clinton and the creation of a tourist district along the first section of the line which would provide one of the most wonderful tourist resorts in the world. A system of advertising, he said, was the way, and the only way of making it a source of revenue and a great financial success.

They had been called together a second time this year, said the speaker, to discover some solution of the present financial stringency, which was having such disastrous effects upon the municipalities.

The municipalities were financially queaking, their difficulties being due not only to the effects of the war, but also, he held, to the wild orgy of spending and western optimism which prevailed through the province previous to the war.

Extensive loans then indulged in could only be justified when founded upon actual values which, in 1912, did not exist. Today, when these loans had to be liquidated, they found the municipalities unable to realize their assets.

**Enormous Liabilities.**  
 The total liabilities of the B. C. municipalities were something over \$103,000,000, while the assessed value of taxable property was only \$59,000,000, the percentage of assets to liabilities, therefore, being 18 per cent. The shortage of the sinking funds throughout the municipalities was alarming. Instead of twenty and a half millions for this purpose the municipalities found themselves short approximately five and a half millions. In other words, on the average 25 per cent short, Victoria being 60 per cent short in its sinking fund. The municipalities 42 per cent of the income value of that land, and if paying for local improvements probably contributed 100 per cent.

Between 80 and 90 per cent of taxation fell on land values in the cities, the landowner having to bear the burden. The average assessment value of thirty-two millions was too high, and the rate was even more oppressive. People who had invested their money in the municipalities were of the worst, and that some material assistance must be given if they were to withstand the financial pressure of the next few years. Consequently it was incumbent upon legislators to seek some readjustment which would give permanent relief.

**Landowner Bears Burden.**  
 He believed they must consider a readjustment of the taxation system based upon that of income tax. Far too many citizens were entirely tax free and steps should be taken so that every citizen who enjoys the privileges of the province should also enjoy the privilege of paying his taxes.

Two fundamental principles, continued the speaker, should be the basis policy, elimination of unnecessary expense and waste and the introduction of the latest principles of industrial efficiency. The same principles must apply to political life and they must not hesitate to scrap inefficient and wasteful services and establish the highest standards of political efficiency. Political efficiency won the war and political efficiency must be sought to establish peace.

**Liquor Board Dividend.**  
The speaker asked that the legislature beware of seeking economy in education and hoped that in the adjustment of the finances the municipalities would be able to make greater appropriations for the education of its youth, which he understood was the policy foreshadowed in his honor's speech.

Mr. Clearhue said he had been informed by members of the liquor control board that this winter they would be able to announce a very handsome dividend. He hoped the municipalities would be wise enough to put their revenue to the replenishment of their sinking funds.

Concerning the development and preservation of their natural resources, he was glad to note in His Honor's speech that the government intended to take steps to curtail the very heavy losses which occur each year, due to faulty fire-protection. Under the new insurance department and the new legislation to be added the fire marshal would have more exhaustive scope. In regard to the P.G.E., he felt that they must strive to make it a productive asset. A connection from Ashcroft to Clinton would enable the province to develop the Cariboo section of the railway from a commercial standpoint. Any industrial commissioner, said the speaker, who had a good product did not hesitate to spend large sums to advertise. Tourists brought wealth and population and California, for instance, could be cited as owing her greatness to advertising and its tourist trade.

In concluding the speaker referred to the fact that British Columbia as part of a great dominion and part of the British Empire would find its actions reflected in international relations. British Columbia, he said, had better harbors, greater resources and more extensive potential wealth than had Great Britain, when in the 19th century, she became a power in the commercial world, and a dominant factor in the political. With production and the reaching out for markets of the Pacific they could look forward to as bright a future and should stand to the Pacific as Great Britain stood to the Atlantic.

Mr. A. D. Paterson, Delta, who was the first choice for the duty of seconding the address, but who would have preferred a member of lengthier service undertaking the duty, followed Mr. Clearhue.

Mr. Speaker Manson will keep a very strict watch on anything transpiring that trespasses beyond constitutional privilege, whoever may be concerned, and correct House procedure and etiquette will be insisted upon.

From start to finish yesterday afternoon the whole proceedings connected with the opening ceremonies lasted only fifteen minutes. The excellent arrangements made for the accommodation of the invited guests resulted in everything passing off smoothly. The entry of Hon. Mrs. Smith was the signal for applause from the floor of the House and the galleries, which the minister without portfolio smilingly acknowledged. Surprise was shown by some members at the premier calling the House to sit at 3 p. m., but expedition is the order of the day.

## ACCOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR PRESENTED

**Current Expenditure of Province Proves to Be Slightly Larger Than Its Income**

### DEBT CHARGES HEAVY

**Mental Hospitals, Civil Service, Education and Public Works Show Increase of Cost**

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 19.—In spite of heavy demands for new services, extension of services, public works, and the public debt, the government has succeeded in keeping the current expenditure within \$17,667 of the revenue. This result is shown in the public accounts for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1921, presented by Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, at the opening session of the house yesterday afternoon.

Public debt charges during the year called for the expenditure of practically \$2,250,000, due to borrowings on account of the P. G. E., irrigation, soldiers' land act and other reproductive undertakings. The balance sheet shows an excess of assets over liabilities of \$26,408,511, an increase of \$3,001,219 above the previous fiscal year. Capital assets have increased \$4,611,748 and current assets by \$1,072,332. Sinking funds aggregate practically \$7,000,000.

**Deficit on Current Account.**  
The total revenue is \$15,219,264 and the total expenditure on current account \$15,236,931, leaving a deficit of \$17,667 on current account. The expenditure on capital account chargeable to income is largely made up of the following items: Sinking funds, \$1,142,832; interest on P.G.E. bonds (provincial guarantee), \$591,134; boys' sub-normal building, Courtilan, \$288,000; main highways, industrial and settlement roads, \$298,000; expenditures under soldiers' land account on South Okanagan project, \$444,881; advances to municipalities for unemployment relief, \$123,000; advances to P.G.E. for construction purposes, \$760,000. The total expenditure chargeable to revenue amounts to \$19,558,939.

The principal items in the details of revenue are: game licenses, \$131,160 (increase over amount estimated, \$14,000); land registry fees, \$412,575 (increase \$22,575); motor traffic fees, \$582,032 (decrease \$68,000); profit on liquor sold under prohibition act, \$222,526 (increase \$197,526); amusements ticket tax, \$364,370 (increase \$68,370). Close figuring between revenue received and that estimated is shown in the income tax figures, which are \$2,000,975, as against estimates of \$2,000,000. Real property land tax brought \$1,046,348 and wild, coal, and timber lands \$861,811, as against respectively, estimates of \$1,115,000 and \$850,000. Survey fees and sale of maps produced \$24,011 (estimate \$10,000); timber leases, \$78,638 (estimate \$65,000); timber licenses, \$1,929,542 (estimate \$2,200,000); timber sales, \$290,436 (estimate \$350,000); timber royalties, \$381,557 (estimate \$1,075,000); mining receipts were \$104,372 as against \$100,000 estimated.

The total expense of the Vancouver agency is shown to be \$105,912, made up of salaries, \$72,232, and expenses, \$33,680. Mothers' pensions, which are for the first year of operation, totalled \$24,454, of which the sum of \$273,574 was expended on pensions.

**More Spent on Education.**  
The total expenditure on education was \$2,076,344, as compared with \$2,237,374 of the previous year. This includes \$420,000 to the University of B. C. and per capita grants to schools, \$1,123,702, which is an increase of fifteen per cent over the figures of two years ago. In addition there was \$502,850 paid on account of teachers' salaries and \$372,125 on account of new school buildings, erection and repairs. These items show an increase of \$400,000 over those of two years ago and of about \$550,000 over the preceding year.

The cost of mental hospitals was \$443,204, an increase of about 40 per cent within two years. This, it is understood, is largely due to cases of this character developing among foreigners and to other mental cases which originated in the province. The cost of the civil service commission is given as \$11,241, which is over a hundred per cent increase on the figures for the year 1916-17. Due to the demand for good roads, the public works department shows an increase in road, street, bridges, and other works of \$221,000 over last year's figures.

## STATEMENT IS PRESENTED OF MONEYS EXPENDED ON PACIFIC GREAT EASTERN

(World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 19.—The following statement of moneys expended in connection with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway up to and including Sept. 30, 1921, was presented in the House yesterday by Hon. John Oliver, premier and minister of railways:

Loan Act 1916 (including interest to Sept. 30)	\$ 7,138,019.60
P. G. E. Note Guarantee Act (including interest to Sept. 30)	190,419.04
P. G. E. Note Payment Loan Act (including interest to Sept. 30)	5,262,338.37
P. G. E. Construction Loan Act 1920 (including interest to Sept. 30)	4,282,877.18
P. G. E. Construction Loan Act 1921 (including interest to June 30)	3,001,290.50
Interest paid by the government on 4 1/2 per cent guaranteed debenture stock	4,568,895.64
(No interest has been charged on these payments.)	
Guaranteed bonds outstanding	14,234,800.00
Capital stock paid up	40,000.00
	<b>\$38,652,703.03</b>

From the audited statement of accounts as at June 30, 1921, also presented by the premier at the same time, the balance sheet appears as follows:

Assets.	
Investment in road and equipment—	
Main line	\$86,375,110.72
Peace River	45,881.48
	<b>\$86,320,229.24</b>
Miscellaneous physical property—	
Real estate	544,955.62
Squamish hydro-electric and waterworks plant	129,515.82
Other	52,186.30
	<b>726,657.74</b>
<b>Current Assets—</b>	
Cash in hand of Minister of Finance, B. C.	\$ 293,204.02
Cash in bank and on hand	31,966.19
Agents' and conductors' balances	10,553.79
Miscellaneous accounts receivable	49,567.46
Material and supplies on hand	191,209.83
	<b>576,501.29</b>
Unexpired insurance	2,243.36
Discount on Funded Debt—	
On 4 1/2 per cent guaranteed debenture stock	\$ 913,804.83
On Province of B. C. loans	885,885.18
	<b>\$ 1,799,789.76</b>
Less proportion thereof applicable to period to June 30, 1921	390,547.46
	<b>909,242.30</b>
	<b>\$38,544,976.54</b>
Liabilities.	
Capital Stock—	
Issued	\$25,000,000.00
Less unpaid	24,900,000.00
	<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>
Guaranteed 4 1/2 Per Cent Debenture Stock—	
First mortgage stock, £3,452,102 1/2 s. 8d. at \$4.8666	\$16,800,000.00
Second mortgage stock, £890,420 8s. 4d. at \$4.8666	3,360,000.00
	<b>\$20,160,000.00</b>
Less pledged to government of province of British Columbia as security for loans—	
First mortgage stock	\$2,565,195.00
Second mortgage stock	3,360,000.00
	<b>5,925,195.00</b>
Interest accrued thereon to June 30, 1921	\$14,234,800.00
	<b>298,992.96</b>
	<b>14,523,397.86</b>
Province of British Columbia—	
Loans	\$17,380,487.65
Interest accrued thereon to June 30, 1921	1,198,950.25
	<b>\$18,579,437.90</b>
Interest on guaranteed debenture stock	\$4,275,550.19
Interest accrued thereon to June 30, 1921	635,575.35
	<b>4,911,125.54</b>
	<b>23,490,563.34</b>
Accounts Payable—	
Northern Construction Company, Limited	\$ 329,320.41
Audited vouchers	88,980.44
Payrolls	49,944.96
Reserve, Workmen's Compensation Board	17,769.59
	<b>486,015.34</b>
	<b>\$38,544,976.54</b>

# TOO MUCH POLITICS

**T**he rate enquiry now under way before the Railway Commission is touching upon only one of the stumbling blocks in the way of Vancouver's progress. There are others. One of the most serious is too much politics.

Vancouver as a steady crop raises too much political hell in proportion to its practical business production; too much dirty mud-slinging and too little decent co-operative development effort.

There is more politics to the square inch in this city and Victoria—more mean, petty, nasty, short-sighted, gutter politics than any other place in Canada. Nowhere is a man's good name so cheap a pawn in the political game; nowhere does the political thug and the blackmailer ply his low trade more openly; nowhere is the knife of attempted assassination wielded with more impunity. The proper conduct of public business is, with too many people, a little thing in comparison with the gratification of private spite.

The administration of British Columbia's public affairs is big business. Upon the shoulders of the Government rests the same burden as all big business is bearing—heavy expense demands, curtailed revenues, grave problems. The men in charge are entitled to the same consideration from the electors as the directors of a big company receive from their shareholders in hard times—fair criticism of their mistakes, but fair credit for their accomplishments and reasonable support in their efforts.

What do we find? What is the principal topic of man-to-man talk in this town today? Is it development? Or taxation? Or public works? Or immigration? Or anything else that tends toward better living conditions or more business? Not by a million miles! One petty item of administration of one department, distorted and falsified by discredited individuals whose motives have been fully exposed, individuals openly for hire to support or attack the Government, outweighs for the moment all the things that spell progress and prosperity for British Columbia.

The province has a noble heritage. In scope and potential wealth it is an empire such as Caesar never knew. It has opportunities vaster than even its most optimistic old-timers ever dreamed. But to realize upon those assets the people of British Columbia have got to get above this low political fog, where the frame-up fungus blooms and the hold-up thrives, and march along a definite path of progress.

## FARRIS REPLIES TO ATTACKS IN LEGISLATURE

Members of the House to Have Official Report of Libel Proceeding in This City

### FLAT DENIAL

Attorney-General's Emphatic Repudiation to Charges of Improper Expenditure

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 20.—Three official copies of the evidence in the Campbell versus Cromie case, one for each group in the House, are to be specially secured for the information of members. This was unanimously agreed to yesterday afternoon on the motion of the attorney-general.

Rising to a question of privilege, Hon. Mr. Farris stated that since the decision was given dismissing the case the Sun, which was the paper of defendant, had yesterday sent telegrams to members of the House as follows:

"Regarding published charges of misappropriation of \$67,500 of public moneys on Campbell warehouse deal and in view of finding of a judge and special jury last night regarding this matter please wire us this afternoon whether or not you are still a supporter of the Oliver cabinet. This request along with your answer or refusal to answer will be published in tomorrow morning's Sun for benefit of people who elected you to office, Sun."

The attorney-general, who said it was common knowledge that imputations were being made, stated that the suit arose over the purchase of a warehouse for the government liquor board. His name had been mentioned in connection with these proceedings and suggestions were being made. He did not admit that the verdict suggested any wrong-doing on his part. The chief defence made at the trial was that no libel had been directed against Campbell, the plaintiff in the action.

In view, however, of the publicity given to the matter and the undoubted desire of every member of the House to be in receipt of the fullest information as to the trial, he moved that the clerk of the House secure three copies of the transcriptions giving the fullest statements, one copy for each of the three groups in the House.

In reply to Mr. G. S. Hanes (North Vancouver) the Attorney-General said that the copies could probably be obtained within a week, and on the motion being put by the Speaker it was unanimously carried.

## DELTA FINEST SECTION OF B. C.

Mr. A. D. Paterson Tells Provincial Legislature About the District He Represents

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 20.—Mr. A. D. Paterson (Delta), who yesterday seconded the address, is a booster for his constituency. Mr. Paterson commenced by telling the House that he was safe in saying that he had the honor to represent the best district in the province. Audible good-natured comment merely urged the member to go one better, which he did by the further assertion that he also had the honor to represent the best class of citizens in the province. These beliefs having been uttered, Mr. Paterson proceeded to other matters.

After alluding to the positions of municipalities in his constituency, he stated he hoped the government would be able to see its way to give more assistance in reference to school problems. In many cases school accommodation, he said, was not sufficient, and this question was a vital one to his constituency.

He referred to the road policy established by this government, which he considered the soundest ever contemplated in the province. Roads had been mapped out and classified all through British Columbia and in the Pacific Highway they had one of the best concrete roads on the North American continent, a credit not only to the government, but to the municipality.

With regard to the Sumas Prairie reclamation, Mr. Paterson stated that for a year and a half he had opposed the project because of the expense, but Hon. Mr. Barrow had taken him all over the district and now he made the statement that it was sure worth while, that the policy being pursued was sound and that the district would be the most productive in the province. Moreover, he was entirely satisfied that all the work would be properly done.

In reference to the land settlement act, he mentioned cases he had known of men who went into the northern country, bought land, were settled and would, he believed, owing to the policy of the government—make good.

The debate was adjourned on motion of Mr. Fred Lister (Kaslo). The premier intimated that he hoped the debate would be carried through to finality without unnecessary delay.

## MANY QUESTIONS ARE PUT ON ORDER PAPER

Spirit of Curiosity Is Shown by Opposition

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 20.—Notices of motion for Friday's sitting of the legislature comprise a lengthy list. The opposition is again asking, through Mr. R. H. Pooley (Esquimalt), the number of motor cars now owned by the government and used by the officials and what has been the total cost of these cars to the province. Mr. Pooley will also ask the attorney-general whether a car was purchased for the use of the chairman of the game conservation board within the last twelve months, its name, price, date of purchase, whether it was damaged, if so, how and where, what repairs were done to it, what has become of the former car.

Mr. J. W. Jones (South Okanagan) is to ask the minister of public works seven questions concerning expenditure of money on roads and the minister of agriculture thirteen questions regarding the reclamation of Sumas Lake. Mr. G. S. Hanes (North Vancouver) wants to know from the minister of lands whether any timber contracts, licences or leases have been issued since 1916 without inserting a clause that no Chinese or Japanese shall be employed in connection therewith and if so, why.

Leave is sought to introduce the following bill: Mr. R. H. Neelands (South Vancouver), "An act to amend night employment of young persons act"; Mr. S. Guthrie (Newcastle), "An act to amend the night employment of women act"; Major Burda (Alberni), "An act to amend the hours of work act"; Mr. M. B. Jackson (The Islands), "An act to prohibit the erection of advertising hoardings"; Mr. G. S. Hanes (North Vancouver), "An act to amend the employment of children act"; and Mr. Thos. Uphill (Fernie), "An act to amend the Maternity Protection Act." Mr. W. K. Ealing (Rossland) will ask that all contracts between the P. G. E. Railway Company and the Northern Construction Company, for the completion of the railway to Prince George, be laid on the table.

The attorney-general is to ask leave to introduce the following bills: "An act to amend the weekly half-holiday act"; "An act to amend the real estate agents' licensing act"; and "An act to amend the court of appeal act."

## WANTS UNIFORM LIQUOR PRICES

Says Understanding on This Point Has Not Been Carried Out by Board

### TOO MUCH TAXATION

Opposition Members Offer Several Criticisms Regarding Conduct of Government

(World Special)  
 VICTORIA, Oct. 21.—Col. Fred Lister (Kaslo), speaking to the address at Thursday afternoon's session of the legislature, devoted most of his speech to a criticism of the land settlement board, especially in reference to Camp Lister, which was named after him. He also suggested that liquor should be sold at the same price when delivered by express as is paid direct at the store.

In respect to taxation, Col. Lister stated he believed that nearly everybody paid, directly or indirectly. Some, he said, were paying beyond their capacity and this condition, he hoped, the government would endeavor to amend. He did not envy the government its job, to legislate fairly and according to the capacity of the people to pay.

#### Not Able To Take Trip.

He was also pleased to see from the King's Speech that the government would not require any more money for the P. G. E. He would have liked to take the trip along the line with the other members of the legislature, but was prevented by a previously made appointment. In reference to the Trans-Pacific Highway, he was not aware just where it was going to be, but it was a thing very badly needed and would be a great asset to the province.

When the Liquor Act was in the making last session it was arranged, he said, that the price was to be the same all over the province. He considered that residents who did not live in the neighborhood of a store should be able to buy liquor as cheaply as those who did and he hoped this would be arranged.

Col. Lister said he wanted to congratulate the minister of lands, who seemed to have got the right idea of what was wanted in B. C., but he did not see how the minister was going to follow it up. The land settlement policy he considered to be "absolutely rotten," few of the promises having been kept. He doubted whether they were intended to be kept, for it was a hopeless proposition, but if the government could have accomplished things without spending a lot of money he believed it would have done so. Still, he blamed the government for the promises made to the men at Camp Lister.

The land settlement board, he said, finally refused to deal with the soldier settlement board. Every farm purchased was bought at the soldier settlement board valuation and the government should have known of this.

If there were likely to be a loss on soldier settlements, there was, he said, an excellent chance to get some of it back by selling land to private individuals. One cause of complaint was that no storekeeper, or garage keeper, unless he was a good Liberal, got any of the public money distributed in the riding. He hoped that in the future a fairer apportionment would be made.

#### Indulges in Light Banter.

Mr. R. H. Pooley (Esquimalt) devoted the greater part of his remarks to light banter at the expense of the minister of lands, and to criticism of moving pictures, the proposed appointment of a fire marshal and a few other matters. He suggested the advisability of the government advertising the scenic wonders of the province which, he was satisfied, would result in very great benefit to B. C.

As regards taxation, he thought the province was hide-bound with it, not only provincial but Dominion. He instanced the case of some fish cannery people who had to pay as much as fifteen taxes. "When you talk about taxing capital how would you get along in cases like that?" he asked.

Mr. Pooley said he supposed it was necessary to have increased taxes all round. If the proposed fire marshal was appointed he presumed it would be at about \$5000 a year and the job would go to a good government supporter. Perhaps, too, travelling expenses had to be found for Dr. A. R. Baker, of the game conservation board, which money Mr. Pooley did not consider well spent, as the board were taxed to pay for joy rides. Expenditures at Prince Rupert and for the change of the road rule also were commented on by the speaker, who suggested that possibly some money might be voted to Mr. Stuart Henderson for

Money, too, might be wanted, he said, for some of the ministers to go on joy rides to China and Japan. There was no doubt the minister of lands had enjoyed his trip to Sweden and Mr. Pooley hoped he had appreciated the Swedish baths he had been used to years ago.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo's trip, continued Mr. Pooley, was a waste of public funds and entirely unnecessary. Would the minister tell them what the government had done about going into the oil business and whether they had got oil. He referred also to the good time the government would have if there was no further session for fifteen months with no public accounts to be questioned.

Speaking of the round robin signed last session with regard to increasing the pay of ministers and members, Mr. Pooley remarked that at the same time the wages of men on public works were reduced by 75 cents a day. The government should have considered more fully what they were doing. He charged that this wage reduction had been effected secretly.

"What were the members doing, then, to sign the round robin?" queried the Premier. At this point, Dr. K. C. MacDonald (North Okanagan) was understood to interject "Don't be a plucker, presumably addressed to Mr. Pooley. "Encourage people to come here, but don't tax them to death. God has given us a magnificent birthright" he concluded.

#### Premier Resents Imputation.

Rising to a question of privilege Hon. John Oliver said he resented very strongly the imputation of the honorable member that the government had kept back any information on the matter of the 75 cents a day reduction. This brought up Mr. G. S. Hanes (North Vancouver), who mentioned that it was he who, last session, asked for additional information, which, however, he had never received.

## NOTICE OF MOTION ON LIQUOR INQUIRY

Mr. Bowser Accepts Procedure Suggested by the Speaker

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 21.—Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C., will this afternoon move a notice of motion with reference to his suggested enquiry into liquor dealings, in another form by adopting the second alternative mentioned by Mr. Speaker Manson.

This alternative is that the member can declare from his seat that he is credibly informed and believes that evidence that certain facts are true. This will be followed by a simple motion for a select committee, to consist of Messrs. Whiteside, Ramsay, and Bowser. The charges alleged will be the same as those already mentioned.

## SPEAKER RULES BOWSER MOTION NOT IN ORDER

Explains Method by Which Enquiry May Be Had Regarding Liquor Purchases

### RULE IS SET FORTH

Premier Oliver Expresses Opinion That Member Making Allegations Be Responsible

#### (World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 21.—The story in the Province of Wednesday, headed "Says Liquor Purchases Made From Political Friends," had a sequel toward the end of Thursday's sitting in the house, when Mr. Speaker Manson read a statement dealing with the subject.

As a matter of cold fact, the notice of motion of Mr. W. J. Bowser, to which the story referred, never came before the house at all and only after the adjournment of the house did it come to the attention of Mr. Speaker. The statement read by Mr. Speaker was as follows:

#### Statement by Mr. Speaker.

"Yesterday after the adjournment of the house, there came to my notice a proposed notice of motion in the name of the honorable the leader of the opposition. In view of its contents I felt it my duty to give it my most serious consideration as to its compliance with proper parliamentary practice.

"Only under special and serious circumstances do I think that I should withhold from the notice paper proposed notices, it being after all, the prerogative of the house in the last resort to pass upon proposed motions. But where the practice is being seriously contravened and opportunity does not offer to bring the matter to the attention of the house I feel it to be the duty of your speaker to withhold from the notice paper, notices of such a character.

"In this case grave allegations were contained which I do not feel should be permitted to appear in the notice paper without the knowledge and approval of the House. I am, therefore, taking the earliest opportunity of bringing the matter to the attention of the House with an expression of my view. It is accepted without question that imputations of wrongdoing on the part of ministers of the crown or private members, or improper conduct or wrong motives cannot be made in debate. The proposed notice of motion not only imputes, but asserts in the preamble grave misconduct on the part of ministers. Very manifestly the House could not possibly agree to be motion which concludes with a request for a select committee to enquire into the truth of the allegations, but if the House were to do so it would in effect be agreeing to the preamble asserting that to be true which it proposes to enquire into. The proposed motion is, in my opinion, a contradiction and can not be permitted in the house.

On the other hand, the conduct of the government in its administration of liquor is subject to enquiry by this House. It is one of the privileges of the House that it should enquire, and the matter raised by the proposed motion is, I think, distinctly one of privilege and the end desired by the honorable member, namely an enquiry, may be fairly attained in either of two ways: (a) By a simple motion with reference for a select committee to enquire into certain matters, as was done in the case of the enquiry into the Kalkan Island Purchase. See into the Kalkan Island Purchase. See 1896, H. J. E. C. Page 39. (b) By the honorable member declaring from his seat that he is credibly informed and believes that he is able to prove by satisfactory evidence that certain facts are true, followed by a simple motion for a select committee as was done in what is commonly known as the McGreevy enquiry, in the Canadian House. See Journals H.C., Canada, 1881, Page 55, and as was also done in the Edgar-Caron case, 1893 H. J. Canada.

#### Allowed to Stand Over.

After Mr. Speaker had concluded his statement by saying that he thought the matter should be brought to the attention of the honorable members, Mr. W. J. Bowser suggested that the matter be allowed to stand over.

Hon. John Oliver stated that he understood the allegations of wrongdoing were of a very serious character, and when the member made such allegations he took upon himself the responsibility. The Premier added that he did not desire that the government should shrink an investigation, and therefore when any member of the House took upon himself the responsibility of assertions, it would not be the policy of the House to hamper any investigation. The Premier then moved the adjournment of the debate to 2:30 p.m. Friday.

As the matter now stands Mr. W. J. Bowser's position is that he may either move for a select committee to enquire, or declare that he is credibly informed and believes that he is able to prove that certain facts are true, followed by a simple motion for a select committee



# BIG INCREASE IN EXPORTS OF B. C. LUMBER

### Hon T. D. Pattullo Gives Figures to Legislature Showing Size of Shipments

## WOULD FINISH P. G. E.

### Height of Folly, Says Minister, Not to Get Line Into Prince George

(World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 22.—The great increase in the export of British Columbia lumber—rising from 49,964,000 feet in 1911 to 146,624,000 feet in 1920—were brought to the notice of the legislature at Friday afternoon's sitting by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, speaking to the address. Comparative figures show 56,700,000 feet in 1915, 83,000,000 in 1918, 108,000,000 in 1919, and 146,624,000 in 1920. The total sales to September 1, 1921, were 218,556,000 feet and the total shipments to same date, 208,778,000 feet.

The minister also gave details of the advantages of his campaign of education for securing orders in the foreign markets and in reference to the P. G. E. he stated that, although it was "the one fly in the ointment," he believed it would be the height of folly not to finish the line to Prince George.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo alluded to the manner in which the whole world had been affected by readjustment of condition. British Columbia had been similarly affected but he did not know of any other portion of the world better fitted to withstand the strain. The timber industry might be looked on as a barometer reflecting conditions generally.

#### Must Have Foreign Markets

A very considerable number of "mushroom" men had closed down and this was not to be regretted. The question now was what could the government do in the way of a stimulant to place the industry on a stable foundation. Before he became a timber expert he stated that the industry would never be stabilized until they secured the foreign markets. That statement he repeated today. With this idea he had advocated that the government undertake a campaign of education.

In Ontario they had a representative who was carrying on an educational programme, visiting the wood-users and architects with the result that many of these industries were using B. C. products. Recently he had gone on a visit to the Old Country, taking with him the lumber commissioner. He found that a campaign was as necessary there as in Ontario. He doubted whether they would be able to compete in the common varieties but they would be able to secure orders for timber for finishing purposes. He had visited industries and the lumber commissioner had given addresses to students on the value of B. C. timber products. Mr. J. A. Cunningham had also addressed them on B. C. salmon.

When the British government called for tenders on certain timber, Oregon pine, and not Douglas fir was mentioned. It might have been thought that the British authorities would be familiar with B. C. products and specified the fir. However, representations were made to the Admiralty and the result was that the order had been placed in B. C. This was an evidence that it was necessary to always be on the job.

The house would recall, said the minister, that during the war the government introduced the aeroplane spruce bill, which was passed. All services were largely discontinued to devote themselves to the production of the spruce and following this came the harvest. The timber men were feeling badly and approached the government. Then the British government called for a very large amount of railway ties and they might have thought that the order would naturally be secured for B. C.

"But the other side of the line were not after the business," said the minister, "and we made strenuous representations to the British government. As a result I secured an order from the British government for 70,000,000 feet. I had no authority to sign a contract with the British trade controller, so I got together the timber men of the province, told them I had secured the order and that they had to organize to fulfil it. The government gave me moral support in order

that the business might be carried out, the Associated Timber Exporters Association was formed in a few days and the matter went through to the entire satisfaction of everybody, the government not being called upon to spend a dollar."

#### Have No Trouble With Fires.

During his trip to Europe he had had occasion to visit Sweden, where they had practiced forestry for centuries. The country was dependent on this trade for the position it held and he had asked whether they had much trouble through forest fires. He was told they had none, because the people had so long been educated on the matter that they realized the necessity of fire protection. He did not believe it possible, on account of the expense, for B.C. to carry out the refinements they had in Sweden but they must go along the lines of conservation. The Swedish people knew exactly what the future output would be, but B.C. could not go as far as that.

Passing on to the question of land settlement the minister stated that the member for Kaslo had reflected on the policy of the land settlement board. He was not going to get into an argument with the member as he could safely leave that matter to be dealt with by the minister of agriculture, but he did say that the policy adopted by the board had been of the greatest benefit to the province. It had been an instrument which had resulted in hundreds of settlers coming in. Difficulties could be overcome, and there was nothing more important than to build up the country. The agitation against opening the gates too wide, but every man they got on the land meant more in the city. He was glad to see settlers going to the best men in the country had the view that they must get people into Canada. A policy could be evolved to secure the right kind of settlers for British Columbia. They might have some failures, but there was no reason they should not start.

Australian and New Zealand were looking for settlers and Great Britain was willing to advance money on the security of lands in the Dominions for the purpose of helping settlement overseas. Whether the Great Britain liked it or not they must have men who had money through a policy to get immigration of a high class, if they so desired.

The House would recall a measure introduced dealing with the question of irrigation in the dry belt. A number of companies fell down and were not successful. Action was, in consequence, taken and all the members of the House knew what was done. He did not believe anyone would question the beneficence of what had been done. Mr. Bowser had pooh-poohed it, but it was not only \$500,000, but \$1,400,000 which had been paid out under that fund. The work it had done had already returned it to the province, and he believed it would come back again. The work it had done was not only his own opinion, but was that of business men he knew.

#### Criticism of Agent-General.

There had been some criticism of the Agent-General's office in London. He saw the work done, the office was busy, and Mr. Wade was doing first class work for B. C. He did not think there was another man in the province who could so well secure high-class trade. If some of those who criticized saw Mr. Wade they would commend him. People came, too, from all parts of Canada to secure information, and he had been interviewed by men of serious intentions with regard to the prospects in B. C. Campbell River power is being developed, and he saw principals who were interested in business activities around Fort George. Capital was willing to come to B. C. under favorable conditions.

In regard to taxation proposals referred to in the speech for the benefit of municipalities, the minister said he had no doubt that the proposals of the minister of finance when submitted, would receive every favorable consideration of the House. He also noticed the reference to the P. G. E. There was no argument favorable to not completing the line, and he was satisfied that when it was completed the traffic would be much larger than was expected.

He did not propose to dwell on matters connected with his visit to France and Germany. His visit to Germany was purely incidental and in France he was looking towards the use of B. C. timber on the railways. On his return he found the same policy being pursued, rumors abounding such, for instance, as the government only going to last a few days longer. Honestly, he had got tired of the time wasted, session after session, on small town gossip, and it was time they should change their tactics.

He had been in public life for 25 years, and in his opinion the average politician was just about as honest as the average business man and had less opportunities of being dishonest. Last December the people of B. C. saw fit to express their confidence in the present government, and nothing had transpired to affect that judgment. (Applause.)

### Our Vital Need—Immigration.

BRITISH COLUMBIA has an area half as large again as Germany. It has more natural wealth of forest and mine and fisheries. It has a greater seaboard and kinder climatic conditions! Ergo, British Columbia is potentially capable of becoming a world state as wealthy and powerful as was Germany before the war madness seized her.

With these pre-requisites, what is it we lack to build British Columbia into a powerful and stable state? The obvious answer is "Population of the right kind." Capital, merely, is not enough. In the days before the war British Columbia suffered from having too much easy capital and too little of the right kind of men to use it. Huge sums went on silly inflations and on corner lot gambles, while \$25,000,000 was sent out of the province in one year to pay for foodstuffs which were capable of being grown within the province.

Adversity and a change of government have alleviated the intense situation which came to a crisis in 1916. Lands have been wrested back from speculators, settlement aided and encouraged. But still the demand exists for more white settlers upon lands adjacent to our markets.

Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Forests and Lands, on his return from Europe last week, announced his intention to carry on an aggressive policy of immigration in order to secure a continual flow of settlers for British Columbia. That is part of his remedy for unemployment. "Every man who is on the land creates employment for another man in the city," he says. This is sounder sense than the exhortation of the high protectionist to usher in prosperity by the simple device of having the poor consumer pay additional taxes or additional profits on his boots and clothes and food and other needs.

Men who are walking the city streets today are doing so because of two main causes of unemployment. One is the lack of sufficient white men upon the land to support the industries of the cities. The second is the excessive number of Mongolians employed in our basic industries.

The remedy for these conditions is to bring in white settlers to fill up our valleys and at the same time exclude further Oriental immigration. The Ottawa government has taken the Japanese under its own protecting wing by a special Act of 1913; it is also the author of restrictive measures against British immigration. But the time is ripe today for effort and agitation. A revision of both the pro-Japanese and the anti-British immigration policies is not too much to hope for. Premier Meighen may be insistent that "the tariff is the only issue" in the present election. In British Columbia, Premier Meighen will find that the immigration question is a vastly bigger question than the plea to further increase the fortunes of eastern manufacturers.

## SAYS MONEY WASTED IN BUILDING P. G. E.

VICTORIA, Oct. 22.—Charging

waste of public funds in the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and asserting that one-half of the amount so wasted would build the University of B. C., W. K. Ewing, Conservative member for Rossland, dealt at length in the legislature yesterday with the alleged sins of commission and omission by the government in its prosecution of that enterprise.

"The people of British Columbia must wake up, because this government has put the province on the financial rocks," declared the Rossland member. "Many of its sins are trivial in comparison with the outstanding fact that we are so much in debt that we must raise seventeen millions each year for fixed charges, including interest and sinking funds, administration and schools, before we can spend one cent on public works."

## UNIVERSITY REQUIRES HELP, DECLARES T. PEARSON, M.P.P.

Advises Provincial Government to "Stop, Look, Listen," Before Putting Into Effect Policy of Increased Taxation—  
More Important to Get Money for Education

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 22.—A strong plea for better accommodation for the university was contained in the speech on the address delivered in the legislature yesterday afternoon by Mr. T. Pearson (Richmond). He suggested getting some of the needed money by cutting amounts from various items in the public accounts. They could, he said, imagine the position of taxpayers who might utter the words, "Oh death, where is thy sting," when they found they were stung by the taxes. Before putting into effect the policy of taxation, the government should stop, look and listen, and if they did the latter they might hear criticism of extravagance. As to the university, the conditions were not at all satisfactory. In the overcrowded buildings classes tried hard to go on with their work, and students were decreasing because they were not satisfied with the accommodation. Many were going to finish their terms at Oregon, Fuelph and Montreal. One thousand students

were working to equip themselves for their terms at Oregon, Guelph and accommodation. Such conditions, he said, should not exist.

Was not the university of more importance to the province, he asked, than the rule of the road, which would cost practically \$400,000? He believed it was, and that the young people were more entitled to consideration than the rule of the road. He also believed that the university was of more importance than the new court house at Prince Rupert, which he considered might be left over until a later date. The same applied to the Sumas "swamp."

His only object in bringing forth these matters, explained Mr. Pearson, was to point out the need of supplying accommodation to the university. If they wanted the young people to carry on they must provide for their better education. He trusted that all the members would realize the responsibility, and, if possible, bring out a solution of the problem by curtailing many of the expenses which appeared to be unnecessary.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1921.

## MR. H. G. PERRY MAKES A ON GAME BOARD

Member for Prince George Accuses Chairman of Incompetence in His Duties

### TRAFFIC IN PELTS

Declares Regulations Regarding Beaver Have Been Disregarded by Officials

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 25.—The suspicion on the part of the people in the northern part of the country that the sale of beaver skins has been handled in an underhanded manner was a subject upon which Mr. H. G. Perry (Fort George) spoke at considerable length in the legislature yesterday afternoon. He accused Dr. A. R. Baker, chairman of the game conservation board, of utter incompetence and said that a man had come to him (Mr. Perry) and offered \$5,000 if he could have a permit twenty-four hours before anyone else got one.

People were up in arms at the way the beaver industry had been handled, said Mr. Perry. One million dollars worth of beaver fur, he had been informed, had been shipped out of Prince George last year, the pelts being worth \$25 a skin as against the \$1 or \$2 before the war broke out. The Game Board ordered a close season on beaver last year and everything went on all right, but this year everything seemed to go wrong with the beaver regulations, he stated.

The Indians had always looked upon the beaver as their heritage and that they had an unalienable right to kill it for food. They had always killed a few beaver and nobody had made any trouble about it. This year they had hidden, but did not try to sell them, but the white men came along to the Indian camps offering to buy them at \$1 or \$2, or just a glass of whiskey. They were shipped to Alberta to get the government stamp, without which they were worth nothing.

## PERRY SAYS HE MADE NO PERSONAL REFERENCE TO MR. FARRIS WHATEVER

(World Special.)

VICTORIA, Oct. 25.—"My attack was upon the Game Conservation Board and its actions," said Mr. H. G. Perry, (Fort George), when interrogated this morning by The World representative in reference to his speech of yesterday.

"My attack was with the object of securing better administration and re-establishing the credit of the Liberal party which is being discredited by the actions of certain officials of certain departments. I was referring specifically to the Game Conservation Board. I made no reference whatever to Hon. Mr. Farris personally," stated Mr. Perry, touching on a sensational report in a Vancouver morning paper.

### Should have enforced Order.

The game board heard of these conditions and took action. It made a close season and should have enforced it, which, the speaker claimed, it could have done by watching all the trains. It should also have notified the Indians that the government would pay the full market price—\$25 instead of \$1 or \$2—and then no "fur-legger" could have existed. The board's action appeared to have been a plot. Everybody considered, right or wrong, that it was a great scheme which was nipped in the bud.

Mr. Perry said he had wired the Attorney-General in July, and that the latter had replied that he had recommended the modification of the order to allow of re-selling. Mr. Perry found that men from Vancouver were going over the country buying beaver furs.

"Where did they get the money?" interposed a member.

"From Dr. Baker," replied Mr. Perry, who stated that Doctor Baker was a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, buying the skins and at the same time enforcing the law against it.

"Some men always seemed to be looking for skins in the wrong places," said Mr. Perry, instancing a case where a trunk was opened in a search for beaver skins and was found to contain the lingerie of a lady who, with her husband, was going to Vancouver for her honeymoon.

"A large number of skins were sent down to Vancouver before we got aware of it," continued the speaker, who added that people wondered and said bitter things at the way the beaver situation was being handled—underhandedly and suspiciously, they believed. Dr. Baker said that everybody was satisfied and that he had given them all permits. But, said Mr. Perry, the damage had been done.

"A man came to me and said, 'you can give out all the permits you like, but give me one twenty-four hours before you give it to anyone else and I'll give \$5,000,'" said Mr. Perry.

### Demands Dr. Baker's Resignation.

No sale of beaver skins had ever been held at Prince George. At the present time he had questions on the order paper asking what authority had been given to go into trade in the skins and whether the Game Conservation Board was superior to the government. "I accuse the chairman of the game conservation board of utter incompetence," declared the member, "and I think he should resign. Let it go at that."

Mr. Perry accused the board of having skins in possession and of breaking the law the board made. The Indians, he said, had been robbed and the fur traders had been denied the right to trade in the commodity. Mr. Perry said he was recommending that the board should be abolished, for it served no useful purpose and that a committee be formed to make regulations, which could be done at least as satisfactorily as those made by the board.

Mr. Perry referred to a matter which, he said, was being discussed in the corridors and in other places and he felt that these criticisms and rumors should be answered. They were, he stated, confined to certain officials who were administering certain departments. He considered that the Premier should tell them it was time they got out and made way for other men. He did not believe the people of the Province wanted a change in the government but he did believe they wanted to see some departmental changes and then the work of the Liberal party could be continued for the better government of the Province.

### Wants Gasoline Tax

Mr. Perry advocated a tax of one cent a gallon on gasoline, one cent a glass on beer, higher taxes on corporations and, in urging the completion of the P. G. E. through to Prince George, pointed out the advantages of the line for the carrying of grain and, very possibly, for that of oil when

the latter became a product of the northern country. While he was a supporter of the government, he still believed he owed a duty to his constituency and he asked members to bear in mind that he was speaking from both these angles.

As regarded the personal property tax, he believed it necessary that legislators should restrict municipalities to a certain mill rate and it ought to be optional on municipalities whether the tax be taken advantage of or not. He suggested amendments were necessary to give the government more control over municipal expenditures. Incidentally he believed the position of inspector of municipalities was merely waste of public money. He hoped the government would not wait till Christmas-time before handing over money to help municipalities, but do it at once, especially in regard to education.

"We shall be very pleased to receive a payment on account of the liquor profits," said Mr. Perry.

**Should Tax Luxuries.**

With regard to rumors that the present exemptions to the income tax would be abolished, he stated he did not believe these could come from the Liberal finance minister. He could understand them emanating from the member for Esquimalt but not from Hon. John Hart. Everyone knows that the fairest plan was to tax luxuries and he doubted that it was a luxury to be in receipt of \$1500 a year. "A man who receives \$1500 a year usually works harder than the man who receives \$15,000 a year," he said.

Manitoba had a much higher tax on corporations than this province and he would suggest that the minister increase the tax on corporations. They taxed autos higher in other provinces and one cent a gallon on gasoline might bring in considerable revenue, as would also, one cent a glass on beer. "I think it," the member did not say whether he referred to the beer or the tax—"would go down better than certain income taxes," said Mr. Perry, who suggested the creation of an expenses committee to find out how cuts could be made. He was not at all concerned with the increase in the public debt so long as the money went into stimulating production in the province.

In regard to the Trans-Pacific highway he hoped Hon. Dr. King would take into consideration the work being done in the province of Alberta, which had been trying to connect with the Jasper route, an arrangement which would result in making a great saving.

**Must Extend P. G. E.**

Touching on the matter of the bonds of Foley, Welsh & Stewart, he said it would have been very difficult, if not impossible, to force any individual to complete the road to Prince George. People of this province had invested nearly \$40,000,000 in the railway. If only connected with Quesnel what products could it bring? On the other hand it was linked up with Prince George it would be a very different matter.

Over fifty settlers had been put on the line between Quesnel and Prince George within the last two years, representing at least \$50,000 to the P. E. The road must expect to be losing for a certain time but it was a time for faith and optimism as regarded the railway and not for pessimism. They should examine the line so that they might get the long haul, local and return traffic, in connection with the E., D. & B. C. railway, which would not only tap coal areas, but would be the route by which grain would come down to the coast and also—when this industry became productive—the oil. The only way the road could become a financial success was by spending money on it and he hoped the premier would continue the negotiations with Alberta. If the line could not be pushed north, temporary arrangements could be made.

The oil proposition was a very worthy one. He was satisfied that the object of boring was good and was intended to show whether the area around Hudson's Hope could become an oil-bearing country. He believed that object was already achieved and that the country was an oil-bearing one. Whether oil could be produced in commercial quantities remained to be proved, but from the reports received and from the 2,000,000 feet of wet gas struck the district was very promising and he would suggest to Hon. Mr. Pattullo that this having been discovered, the area around Hudson's Hope should be thrown open for individual fillings. There would be a great rush, it would bring a large revenue to the province and would be a good thing for both it and the country.

The member stated that the government had permitted sawmill operators to get into government debt and he thought that an amendment should be made to the Forestry Act that claims for men's wages should come before the claim of the crown for timber.

**Praises Land Settlement Policy.**

Mr. Perry congratulated the minister of agriculture on his land settlement policy. There was no question in his mind, he said, that the opening up of the land settlement areas had been good, particularly in the northern areas. Since these areas had opened many men had settled and many areas had been put under cultivation. The Cariboo creameries, too, were helping farmers to get on their feet financially and was a great benefit both to the farmers and to the settlers.

Passing from commendation to criticism, Mr. Perry referred to the Vancouver district and the great need there for roads. He could not understand why funds had been cut.

The people of the north country were wondering why the government did not increase road expenditure so it could afford to pay \$150,000 for the purchase of the land.

"It was all very well for me, as a government member, to go around, but it takes some explaining to men in my country, for they are very intelligent men," said the speaker. "I would advise the minister to look towards the east and see the writing on the wall," he added. (Cheers) Mr. Perry also criticized the jail which, he said, was a disgrace to that part of the country.

Mr. S. Guthrie (Newcastle) moved the adjournment of the debate, after which the clerk of the house reported the receipt of four copies of the evidence taken in the Campbell versus Cromie case and asked for instructions as to their disposal.

"I move that the Labor party have one," said Mr. T. Uphill (Fernie). Mr. M. B. Jackson's bill to prohibit the erection of advertising hoardings was read a first time, following which adjournment of the house was moved by the premier.

**BAKER READY FOR FULLEST INVESTIGATION**

Game Board Head Replies to Attack From Floor of Legislature

**NOTHING TO HIDE**

Statement Attributed to Member Are Branded as Absolutely False

"If Perry has made statements attributed to him by The Vancouver Morning Sun, I brand them as false and demand an immediate investigation."

This is the wording of a telegram dispatched to Premier John Oliver by Dr. A. R. Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, upon his arrival in Vancouver this morning. The accusation by Mr. H. G. Perry (Fort George) of incompetence against Dr. Baker, and the allegation that there had been serious irregularities in the administration of the game laws as far as they affected beaver skins will be found in another column of this issue of The World.

Interviewed by a World representative this morning, Dr. Baker said: "Absolutely nothing has been done that is wrong and I do not stand the fullest legitimate criticism. I have no desire to remain in the position of chairman of the Game Conservation Board. It is an honorary position and without salary. But I do not intend to resign until the accusations made by the local morning paper and Mr. Perry have had the freest and fullest investigation."

**Illegal Purchases.**

Asked if he would outline the circumstances which had led up to the present position in relation to beaver pelts, Dr. Baker replied: "In the fall of 1920 the game conservation board made a series of investigations relative to beaver. We found that the Indians had been killing a quantity of beaver for food and that a certain number of pelts were being illegally bought by the pelts from Indians and inducing them to kill more so that they could buy them and illegally ship them out of the province."

"These operations were carried on quite extensively along the territory tributary to the Grand Trunk Pacific and the majority of the pelts went into Alberta and other provinces. We sent out special officers to investigate and try to stop this. As a result we made quite a number of confiscations of beaver pelts and also secured a number of convictions under the Game Act, but we found that they were shipping them in trunks, baggage, freight cars, mixed up with other freight, and by parcel post, in such a manner that it was almost impossible to check them up."

"As a result of the investigation I wrote the department at Victoria telling them of the emergency which had arisen and that we were unable entirely to cope with it and suggesting that some means might be devised whereby we could stop this illegal traffic in furs. I was called to Victoria, interviewed by the government and made the following recommendations:

**Makes Recommendations.**

"That an order-in-council should be passed making it legal for the Game Conservation Board, or government, to purchase these skins from the Indians in order that they might not be bought up by unscrupulous buyers and illegally shipped from the province, with a view to passing legislation at this session to make it a criminal offence for any person to be in possession of a beaver skin."

"The result was that an order-in-council was passed and permits were issued beginning about July 1, the first authorized agents of the game board beginning their work at Williams Lake in the Cariboo district under the supervision of a provincial police officer."

"The premier took the stand that any person holding a fur traders' license was entitled to a permit if he so desired and permits were issued to fur

dealers and other buyers applying for them. I made a personal trip from Prince George to Prince Rupert on the G. T. P. and all fur traders whom I interviewed in the whole of the district took permits—with one exception at Hazelton where a trader refused to take a license."

"There was absolutely no discrimination any kind," added Dr. Baker emphatically.

**All Have Chance**

Asked for further details, Dr. Baker said that there had been in the neighborhood of 2500 beaver pelts turned in by these permit holders and these had been on sale at Little Brothers Fur Sales Agency, the only fur sales agency in British Columbia, and that all fur traders had had an opportunity of grading these skins at the sales and bidding on same. As a result of these sales about \$32,000 had been turned into the treasury at Victoria, showing a net profit up to date of \$10,000, and they still had on hand between 500 and 600 skins that had been paid for and would be sold at Little Brothers' next fur sale. Moreover, reports to the department to date showed that there were between 400 and 500 pelts that had not reached the office on account of delays in shipment and transportation in the interior of the province.

**Revenue for B. C.**

"This means of handling the situation has, in a large measure stopped the illegal traffic," explained Dr. Baker, "and has given legitimate fur dealers an opportunity of purchasing beaver pelts. Besides which, it has produced a substantial revenue for the province."

The doctor stated that on a recent trip of investigation to Edmonton he found that even permit-holders who were buying from the government had tried to smuggle these pelts out of British Columbia. "As a result of my investigation 309 beaver pelts were seized on Thursday," he explained, "these being shipped from Burns Lake on the G. T. P. by a man holding a B. C. permit. Also as a result of my investigation, further arrests and prosecutions will take place, some of the fur traders in the north, even after having received the government contract from the Conservation Board, are still using fraudulent methods in order to take this fur out of the province."

**SETTLERS ARE NOT SATISFIED**

Member for Dewdney Tells About Situation Among the Farmers on Nicomen Island

**(World Special)**

VICTORIA, Oct. 25.—The debate on the address was resumed yesterday afternoon by Mr. J. A. Catherwood (Dewdney), who largely devoted his speech to the case of the Nicomen Island farmers. Mr. Catherwood was glad to see that the government had taken notice of the recommendations of the convention of the Union of B. C. Municipalities. He was also very pleased that no further amount would be required for the P. G. E. line. He was one of the party who made the trip, which had been of great educational value to him. As to the route of the provincial highway, he hoped it would not be one in which snow would handicap matters during a large part of the year.

The settlers at Nicomen Island were dissatisfied and in many cases were "broke." The crops of over a score of soldiers were ruined and some had abandoned their farms. The loss in 1920 and in 1921 had been about \$140,000. If the Sumas Prairie was worth from \$60 to \$100 an acre to reclaim, he thought Nicomen Island should be worth \$30 an acre, and this had not been done.

After explaining at length the position of the island, Mr. Catherwood said that the view taken by the provincial government was that the matter of an appropriation was one for the Dominion government, but that was not the view it had always held. On the other hand the Dominion government considered it was a matter for the provincial government, the Federal government looking after the river banks.

Mr. Catherwood, who said he had looked into the history of the subject, referred to the financial amounts, showing he contended that the government had spent money on the river dykes, which really meant giving protection to the river banks, a statement with which the Premier disagreed.

Mr. Catherwood stated two weeks ago two members of the government side of the House visited Nicomen Island and saw what had occurred. When they were leaving one woman said to them: "When you go back to Victoria do not forget the women and children on Nicomen Island." Mr. Catherwood felt it was incumbent upon him to secure a verdict for the farmers on the island, and would, therefore, add a recommendation to the effect that the government regretted the action of the government in not securing the banks against erosion by the rising of the river.

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# HANES SEEKS ABROGATION OF JAPANESE PACT

### Attorney-General Explains Position of Government on Anti-Oriental Regulations

## NEWCASTLE IS HEARD

### Socialist Member Asks for Information on Compensation Act Amendments

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—The subjects of a suggested request for termination of the Anglo-Japanese treaty and an amendment to the Immigration Act to totally restrict Asiatics from coming to B. C., coupled with his notice of motion regarding the non-observance of a clause in timber contracts as to no Asiatics being employed, was brought before the House yesterday afternoon by Mr. G. S. Hanes (North Vancouver).

In reference to the former matter, Mr. Speaker pointed out to the member that his notice of motion was for today and, therefore, he was premature, and in regard to the matter of the timber contract clause, the attorney-general interposed to explain that as the matter was before the courts, pending decision the clause could not be put in contracts.

After expressing opposition to the personal property tax, Mr. Hanes directed some remarks to the minister of lands, with reference to the exclusion clause not having been observed. Mr. Hanes said he thought it was the duty of the premier to dismiss the minister of lands. The minister, he stated, had committed the province to wrong action. This statement brought up Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, attorney-general, who quickly offered an explanation to clear up the matter.

### Was Under Misapprehension.

The member for North Vancouver, stated the attorney-general, was under a misapprehension. The order-in-council had been declared to be unconstitutional and the matter had been referred to the court of appeals, where it had been argued for three days. The court unanimously decided that the order-in-council was ultra vires. "We were not satisfied with that," stated Hon. Mr. Farris, "and we decided that the matter should be carried to the highest court in the land. That decision appeared in the press." The attorney-general went on to say that the case was now under reserved judgment and if the government lost, it would be carried to the privy council. The attorney-general further stated that, following the correspondence with the minister of justice, an undertaking had been given.

Mr. Hanes, after hearing the explanation, stated he quite approved of the steps taken. His remarks, however, had been addressed to the minister of lands and he wished to ask that gentleman if he had left the clause out.

Hon. T. D. Pattullo stated that it was left out under the old administration, and the member had been given an answer privately as to why the clause was not put in. He would be glad to give the same information to any other member privately.

Mr. Hanes felt that the public were entitled to know the full particulars. He did not consider the minister's answer sufficient, especially as he happened to know the real reason. The order-in-council of June 5, 1920, stated that the Oriental clause had been continually inserted by the government in timber contracts.

Continuing, the member for North Vancouver said that Hon. Mr. Pattullo wrote to the Japanese consul stating that the feeling of the people as to the non-admission of Asiatics had not changed and did not give way to the request of the Japanese minister at Tokio. The speaker suggested to Hon. Mr. Pattullo that if the Imperial authorities weighed in the matter the government should see that a clause be adopted in some other way. If not arranged he considered that legislation should be brought in to deal with it.

Reverting to his request to the Premier that the Minister of Lands should be dismissed the member said he still adhered to his opinion, although he mentioned "I think it would take considerable effort to make the minister from his present job."

The Attorney-General then further explained that this summer or autumn application was made by timber operators to the court for an injunction to restrain the attorney-general from inserting the clause until the question had been decided as to whether or not the clause was to be inserted.

Mr. Hanes stated that he thought the premier should take action and he further considered that the Lieut-Governor should ask the premier to explain the matter.

Hon. John Oliver quickly answered that it was improper to bring in the name of the Lieut-Governor. The Lieut-Governor was the decision of his responsible ministers, as he was bound to do. Mr. Speaker also explained to the member that the name of the Lieut-Governor and that of the Royal family could not be brought into debate.

### Supervision of Balance Sheets.

Mr. Hanes then proceeded to refer to the case of Grant, Whyte & Company and said he thought the government should have better supervision in regard to the filing of balance sheets "and that kind of thing." As to the P. G. E., he was ready to file a resolution for a full investigation and to see whether the members were prepared to fight against one of the most money-grabbing propositions ever made.

"Are you connecting me with any such proposition? If so, you had better not," put in the premier.

Mr. Hanes then proceeded to criticize the trip of the premier's party on the P. G. E. line and the fact that a C. P. K. diner had been requisitioned for the occasion. When he traveled on the line, he said, the coaches were leaking so badly that the people had to have umbrellas to keep them from getting wet. This humorous touch amused the house.

The further remarks of the speaker had reference to the proposed one-man cars of the B. C. E. R. Municipal councils, he said, did not wish the premier to give way to the company because of the added danger, he claimed, which would result. In connection with the Mothers' Pension Act he suggested that the act had worked very successfully wherever it had been administered in a proper manner. Mothers should not be refused on account of being out of work. If this were done all should be treated in the same way. In any case sufficient money should be found by the legislature.

### No Mention of Workers

The speech of Mr. S. Guthrie (Newcastle), was brief and critical. The Liberals, he said, had promised peace, retrenchment and reform, but there was no mention in the speech of the workers he represented. Last session they wanted reforms which would relieve the position of workers, but these were voted down.

Mr. Guthrie stated he had asked why the amendments to the Compensation Act had not been printed and he had discovered the reason. A delegation of leading union interested had urged the premier not to amend the act and the premier had promised them he would not do so until he had consulted them. Mr. Guthrie suggested a tax on coal lands as one way in which money could be raised.

Mr. Guthrie also criticized the appointment of a former Liberal candidate at Ladysmith to the position of liquor vendor, instead of a returned soldier being given the appointment, and in reference to the reduction in pay for road workers claimed that the legislature had nothing to do with this. The money paid to the B. C. E. R. over the rule of the road change was to be used because the company supplied campaign funds for the party, which could not provide funds for unemployment. He urged that something be done to alleviate the distress.

The debate was adjourned on the motion of Major R. F. Burde.

# FOUND CAMPS NOT TOO CLEAN

### Canon Hinchliffe Tells About His Trip of Investigation on Line of P. G. E.

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—Canon Hinchliffe (Victoria), in speaking on the address in reply to the King's Speech yesterday, gave an amusing and instructive account of his experiences as the "bohunk" workman while personally investigating conditions at the camps along the P. G. E. line. The men were well fed and were not worked hard, but the housing accommodation could be improved, he considered, and there should be better regulations as to the amounts the men paid for the things they bought.

In the investigations he had made he had gained the knowledge under his own name, by which he had been introduced to the time-keeper and to the cook. The only free meal he had was one which had been reported in the newspapers as having been given to him by the Premier. The true report of that would have been that Hon. John Oliver, with blunt and irresistible hospitality, forced him to eat his dinner, he said. On his investigation he sat and watched and went about his business, behaved himself and paid his bill before he left.

Reports had come that returned soldiers were discriminated against and given the meanest jobs. As far as he had seen there was no discrimination and he was proud to see that these men were taking the best jobs they could get and making the best they could of it. The reason that men who went from the cities did not stay was not because the food was bad, for it included beef of the best, apple pie, strawberry turnover, cake, ices, coffee and biscuits.

It was not because the work was hard. Some men came to him and said they "covered" with these slave-drivers, but there was no slave-driving and, except on the steel, there was no hard work. But when the time came for him to change his old clothes he found he was not the only inhabitant of them. He made them into a bundle and put it in the fire.

His opinion of the rumors that taxation exemption was to be taken off, and a tax of one per cent. was to be imposed was that, if laid on the worker, it would mean just half a loaf a day taken from his children and these men did not get too much now. He hoped the rumor was not correct, but if it was he would do his best to oppose the proposals.

Two important matters not mentioned in the speech were, he said, those of education and tuberculosis. In regard to the latter he had congratulated the government on taking over the sanitarium at Tranquille and the way it was being conducted. But the government could not fight the progress of tuberculosis in B.C. with the Tranquille sanitarium alone. Such a policy did not begin soon enough and did not go far enough.

# BURNABY WILL GET LONG PARK LEASE

### Municipality to Administer and Control Property

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—A bill to authorize a lease to the municipality of Burnaby of 180 acres, known as Central Park, and to set aside 80 acres as forest reserve for experimental purposes, was introduced in the legislature this afternoon by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands.

In 1891, lot 155, group 1, New Westminster District, was reserved and set aside as a park. Since then 80 acres of the original 320 acres have been subdivided and sold. Central Park contains 240 acres of the original 320 set aside in 1891.

From 1891 to 1910 private individuals and societies spent considerable money in clearing and making recreation grounds of a portion of the area, and in 1910 park commissioners were appointed. For several years after that the provincial government, through the public works department, expended approximately \$500 per year in making roads and improving the park grounds. No expenditure has been made by the department for a number of years and the park commissioners have had no funds for administration purposes, and were unable to get any assistance from the municipality of Burnaby or South Vancouver.

The municipality of Burnaby has agreed to take control of the park area and administer and improve it, the government granting them a 99-year lease at a nominal rental.

# WILL CLARIFY TITLES TO IRRIGATION LANDS

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—An amendment to the water act, was introduced in the legislature this afternoon by Hon. T. B. Pattullo, minister of lands. It deals with the lands comprised in the South Okanagan government irrigation project, and authorizes the issuance of crown grants for lands held under the project, in similar manner as crown grants are now issued under the land act.

The lands under the project vary at the present time in respect to title, and the litigation is to place them all on the same basis. This will save a great deal of confusion and trouble in issuing title to purchasers under the system.

# PROPOSED TAXATION IS DISCUSSED IN CAUCUS

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—It is understood that at a government caucus Tuesday night the personal property tax was discussed. Hon. Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith was not in favor of the proposals at the present time.

The premier in pointing out the need for money to be raised, invited suggestions which might help to meet the situation in a way generally satisfactory.

# LIQUOR REGULATIONS ASKED FOR IN HOUSE

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—Mr. R. H. Footy is asking for a return of the copies of all regulations made by the liquor control board under the provisions of the government liquor act, including all regulations proposed by the board but not approved by the Lieut-governor-in-council.

Col. Lister (Kaslo) will ask the attorney-general on Friday whether Americans purchasing permits and liquor from the government store pay for same in United States currency; if so, who makes the profit on the exchange and how much has been received from this source.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1921.

# PREMIER TELLS FACTS ABOUT NICOMEN DYKE

### Says Land Difficult to Protect and Settlers Should Not Be Located There

## LARGE AMOUNT SPENT

### Hon. John Oliver Reads Letters of Appreciation From Van- couver Board of Trade

(World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 26.—Unexpectedly yesterday afternoon, Hon. John Oliver got up and spoke on the dyking position at Nicomen Island. On Monday Mr. J. A. Catherwood, Conservative member for Dewdney, had asked that the House express disapproval of the action of the government. Exhaustively the premier dealt on the whole of the circumstances and was heartily applauded when he finished his explanatory speech at 5:45 p. m.

In the one and a half hours during which he spoke he referred to correspondence and quoted from reports of a most comprehensive character, and the personal touch, through the early part of his married life spent in the Delta, was an experience which added increased conviction to what he said.

Settlers should never have been on the Island, declared the Premier, because the lands were very difficult to protect. "You can find no case where this government has put settlers on land like Nicomen Island," he added, and blamed the member for Dewdney for not objecting to the settlement of the 22 returned men on the Island by the soldier settlement board. Where, too, he asked, had been the Federal representative?

Work Would Be Expensive.

The Provincial government, he explained, had spent about \$100,000 at Nicomen and proper protection of the lands would require \$500,000. The engineers of both governments had agreed upon these figures. If the Dominion government would first protect the river banks against erosion he offered, on behalf of the Provincial government, to spend dollar for dollar with Ottawa on the dyking work. They were willing to do this in spite of the fact that such work was the task of the Federal government.

Even the settlers would not wish the public money to be spent wastefully, said the Premier and to undertake such work would mean a pledge to carry out future work which might cost millions.

That the late Conservative government had refused to undertake the work was shown by letters read by the premier who wondered why an opposition member demanded from the Liberal government what the previous government was not prepared to do. In 1916 an appeal was made for rescue. Why were the settlers not relieved then?

Mr. Catherwood explained that the late government had agreed to construct roads which would serve as dykes, by raising the road level higher than the high-water mark of 1894. The Premier stated that that did not bring protection and held that Mr. Catherwood was attempting to build a false case against the government.

Hon. John Oliver strenuously resented the suggestion of Mr. G. S. Hanes (North Vancouver) that a letter had been written by him to Ottawa, mentioning that it might be expedient for Ottawa to authorize the work as an election was close at hand. If Mr. Hanes would produce such a letter he would, he said, donate \$50 to the Jubilee Hospital. Mr. Hanes said he had written asking for a copy of the letter.

Board Expressed Appreciation.

In connection with the recent activity of the Vancouver Board of Trade concerning the subject, the Premier read a letter from the secretary of the board expressing the board's appreciation of the clear statement given by the Premier. Hon. John Oliver said officials of the board were satisfied with the stand he had taken. Mr. Frank Carvell, who was then public works engineer, had estimated that the work would cost \$288,000 and yet it had been stated that the only cost to the provincial government would be \$100,000.

The Dewdney member, he mentioned, had not given him credit for the dredge he sent to the island to dredge a channel to carry away the water from the banks.

Mr. J. W. Jones (South Okanagan) here asked whether any election was pending at that time. The Premier, in reply stated that they had already been returned to office. Mr. W. Bowser, K.C., interposed that the election was on when the Premier wandered round the Island. That occasion, remarked the Premier, was not the first time that he had walked round it.

In answer to Mr. Catherwood's question as to whether he told the settlers of the danger from breaks, the Premier said he considered the question nonsensical and he would challenge the member to go back to his constituents and ask whether the policy of the government had not been right. People were not likely to approve actions which would cost millions, stated the Premier, who said he had repeatedly been attacked and felt strongly on the matter. That, concluded the Premier, must be his excuse for taking up so much of the time of the House. Adjournment of the debate on the resolution was made close upon 6 o'clock by Major R. J. Burda.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1921.

# UPPER COUNTRY IS HEARD FROM

### Mr. J. W. Jones of South Okanagan Deals With Several Charges in Legislature

## SAYS TAXES TOO HIGH

### Premier Oliver Denies Rumor of Having Been Called Into Conference by Bank

(World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—That Mr. J. W. Jones (South Okanagan), is "agen the government", was strongly emphasized during over two hours in the legislature yesterday afternoon, when, on the debate on the reply to the Speech, the member indulged in an exhaustive criticism of the government. Mr. Jones first referred to the need for a Sales of Shares Act, and expressed the hope that the government would do something in this direction.

In connection with the beaver charges made by the member for Fort George, the speaker asked whether Mr. M. B. Jackson (The Islands), who recently became a member of the Game Conservation Board, proposed to give any explanation.

The member for The Islands replied that all these things had happened before he became a member of the board. "I had nothing to do with the matter and know nothing at all about it," said Mr. Jackson.

Point of Order Banned.

Mr. Jones then commenced to speak of the Campbell versus Cromie libel action. The Premier interposed and said that it was going beyond the bounds of decency to refer to this matter, as the members had not yet had an opportunity to read the copy of the official evidence which had been secured.

Mr. W. J. Bowser held that any member was at liberty to discuss the matter. If not, then the legislature had better close.

Hon. John Oliver pointed out that they had rules of the House, one of which was to prevent unnecessary duplication, and he submitted that, under the rules a member could not discuss the same question on two different occasions.

Mr. Bowser replied that, as he understood the question, the House passed an unanimous resolution that the evidence be secured, not, in his opinion, to assist the House but to assist the government. He claimed that Mr. Jones had a right to speak.

Hon. John Oliver considered that the position was very clear and he was invoking the rules and procedure common in the British House of Commons.

"May I proceed?" asked Mr. Jones, who stated that he wanted to prove that Mr. Campbell was also the campaign secretary of the Liberal party. The Premier asked whether it was in order that a member should mention that Mr. Campbell not concede that Mr. Campbell was not.

Deputy-Speaker Pauline, who was in the chair, held that the point of order was well taken and considered that the member should keep away from anything on the order paper which was a motion in the name of the opposition.

Mr. Jones then emerged on taxation, giving details of the revenues of the province. It had increased from \$13 million to seventeen million dollars by taxation. Capital was not coming in and men were not going on the land because of the high taxes. The government, he said, had spent \$102,044,441 since it came into power.

Mr. Jones went on to say it seemed to him the time had come to call a halt and started to make a remark about the government, but he had been called into a conference in the Bank of Commerce.

Had No Conference with Bank.

"Never during the present year has the Bank of Commerce called me in to a conference," interposed the Premier. "If there has been any calling it has been done by myself and colleagues," he added.

Dealing with the need of good roads, and land settlement, he contended that the settlers were going to be a loss because the government had no definite policy. He went on to refer to extravagance in connection with land matters, which brought a quick correction from the Premier.

"Prompt steps will be taken to check extravagances, if they exist," said the Premier. "What information has the member given me and the minister of the department of any such evidence?" "I have pointed out that—" began Mr. Jones.

"When?" asked the Premier. Mr. Jones said he was pointing them out now. "I cannot trot up to the minister's office every day to make some little complaint," he added. What he wanted to say was that mothers' pensions were being reduced and some were being cut off. The speaker gave a case in point, in response to which the Premier asked him if he considered the government could pay pensions to widows of men who died out of the province. Hon. Mr. Farris supplemented this by stating that he had not felt justified in paying where the husbands died out of the province, but this matter was to receive consideration.

In conclusion Mr. Jones stated that unless economy was exercised in expenditure, the government would not be able to borrow much more money for the development of the province.

# INCOME TAXES SHOW INCREASE

### Province Is Getting More Than Was Expected From Some Sources of Revenue

(World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—Continuous improvement is shown in the collections from all sources in the financial statement for the six months made up by the comptroller-general and presented in the legislature yesterday by Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance. This account shows the revenues at the end of September, in place of the usual three-quarters of the fiscal year, and also the amount which has been expended out of the appropriations for the twelve months.

Receipts during the six months have aggregated \$9,522,222.18 in comparison with the estimated revenue of \$17,010,593.13 for the complete year. The increase in income tax is a striking one, the amount brought to account in six months being \$2,551,443.12 against the estimate for the whole year of \$2,000,000. The finance department claims this to be due to stricter collection and the system of auditing income tax returns.

From real property there was received \$774,759 for six months, out of an estimated \$1,050,000 for twelve months. Wild coal and timber lands, \$595,281 out of \$974,000, and from personal property \$550,000 out of \$699,000. The actual expenditure on current account was \$7,266,834.17 out of an estimate of \$10,975,538.83 for the year, and on capital account, chargeable to income, \$1,479,004.21 out of \$2,258,768.76. The total actual expenditure on all accounts was \$8,745,838.38 out of an estimated expenditure for the year of \$13,234,724.23. The capital expenditure out of income included \$144,786 for sinking funds and \$38,317 interest on P.G.E. bonds.

# MAJOR BURDE TOUCHES UPON MANY RUMORS

## Member for Alberni Is Surprised at Lack of Woman's Influence in Cabinet

# HEARS AXES GRINDING

## Thinks It Would Be Crime to Spend Any More Money on the P. G. E.

(World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—Major R. J. Burde (Alberni) characteristically jocular, resumed the debate on the address in reply to the speech yesterday afternoon. He touched on many rumors, criticized Hon. Mrs. Smith's election expenses and, incidentally, also those of Mr. James Ramsay, the fourth member for Vancouver. When he expressed wonderment at the lack of women's influence in the cabinet, Hon. Mrs. Smith took occasion to state that her attitude would compare favorably with that of the member for Alberni.

The case of the premier, stated Major Burde, called for sympathy in regard to the grinding of axes, the sharpening of stilettos and the tapping of hammers going on in the corridors and some other parts of the house. It reminded him of a part of the Baume road between Fozieres and Contalmaison where "one road was dangerous and the other unsafe." With people trying to take advantage, the speaker's sympathies entirely turned to the premier.

The member for Port George, had made demands, coupled with a threat of his resignation and the atmosphere was highly charged with a statement that there was another hold-up, in which they might almost discern the sign of a feminine touch. For himself, he could not excuse any member of the house who tried to take a personal advantage. From this the major went on to speak of a resolution recently passed by the Ministerial Association.

### Members Visiting Cabaret.

The association, he said, had referred to the fact that certain members of the house had visited a cabaret and an hotel in Victoria. He understood that there was a suggestion that this should not be made public but that private letters should be written calling attention to the matter. He wanted to say that the home and wife of the honorable premier even were not exempt from these attacks which reflections he roundly castigated.

Personally, proceeded the Major, he could go to a cabaret and find better company there and more people that he could trust than these people. His conduct was wide open. It was the custom, he said, to open the sessions each day with prayer, but he had never found them to have been of very great effect.

The newspapers, in connection with the "salary grab," had remarked that the members had kept silent. The newspapers and some of the agitators of Victoria had forgotten the matter long before members had intended to forget it. He resented the action of the Victoria members in criticising the action of members who lived elsewhere. To look after his big district properly \$2000 a year was quite necessary and he had to use "some of the good money I earn in my newspaper shop" to do it.

He was embarrassed at the salary increase of members while 75 cents a day out had been made in the wages of road workers and he had had difficulty in convincing some people that the latter was not due to the legislature. He was not going to hedge in the matter. If members had been asked whether they would rather stand \$400 a year reduction than reduce the pay of the workers he was sure the members would have agreed on the former alternative. The government, not the legislature, he said, was responsible.

Rumors abounded in the lobby that Hon. Mrs. Smith would not attend the caucus and that if she did not get a portfolio she would resign. While he was there to support Hon. John Oliver, he would not attend the caucus before adding any more to the cabinet. Other rumors stated the speaker, were that the premier did not intend to play any more long. Hon. Mr. Pattullo was going to resign and take over the cabinet, that the premier would not go to the caucus and that the speaker would be a member for Alberni.

**Finger-snapping is Undignified.**  
The Major then alluded to the absence of a bell for summoning the pages into the legislature. "Sound your fingers like a bell," he said, "and you are undignified."

Quickly transferring his remarks to the P. G. E. and the trip made by members of the House, "holding grasshoppers in one hand and wild honey in the other," he mentioned the warning which had been sent to him from Vancouver that some aliens were going to try to wreck the train. He did not get the warning until after they returned and evidently they had had a narrow escape.

There was no hint in the King's speech, he noticed, of doing anything in the way of legislation for the women of the province, and the speaker queried where was the influence of woman in the cabinet.

"My attitude will compare favorably with that of the member for Alberni," declared Hon. Mrs. Smith.

"If it does, you will put up your little white hand and vote for the measure which comes into effect in May next, and recede yourself," replied the member for Alberni, who went on to say that if the mothers' pension was mainly responsible in returning the government to power and Mrs. Smith's influence had counted, then Mrs. Smith was responsible for returning the government, which, he added, was more popular than now.

The speaker then referred to roads, and wanted to know whether the smiling Mayor Gale was using the government for the purpose of a political campaign. It appeared to him that it was pretty nearly time a halt was called on the City of Vancouver as far as legislation was concerned. The money for public works did not appear to be on hand and it should be provided.

Major Burde said he wanted to tell the minister of lands and the attorney-general that there were too many Orientals employed. If they could not prevent the employment of government work they could support his measure to be brought down in the House to amend the Immigration Act, by limiting these to eight hours. Hon. Mr. Pattullo, he said, would go abroad and advise the use of B. C. timber, but the speaker had observed that there were no B. C.-made cigars in the dining-room.

### Crime to Spend Another Penny.

Returning again to the subject of the P. G. E., the speaker stated that the wonder is that the blooming rails "hang on at all." He had accompanied the Premier, who had his coat off and showed them he had done the right thing with the line. The speaker believed there were many who thought it would be better that the railway be let go than be continued. His opinion was that it would be a crime to spend another penny on it.

Major Burde then turned his attention to the leader of the opposition. If the latter had stated, at the Delta by-election, that the government was in league with the underworld, he believed that the honorable member should be responsible for the world's opinion of the member from Vancouver should get up and repudiate them. The fourth member for Vancouver (Mr. Ramsay), who, he said, was reputed to be a very generous and even extravagant gentleman, had made a sworn declaration that his election expenses came to \$4510. The honorable gentleman said that the question was whether his election cost that amount. A further declaration, said the speaker, was also made by Hon. Mrs. Smith that the expenses of her election came to \$4510.

He was aware that every hotel-keeper, brewer and jitney-bar keeper made a boast that he had voted the whole thing. It might readily be that both the premier and Hon. Mrs. Smith might not know where the money came from. He considered it was their business to know and he thought some explanation should be forthcoming as to these sums of \$4510.

Concluding, Major Burde held that it was "up to the premier to make some more for clearing the atmosphere."

# PROVINCE BORROWS AT 5.61 PER CENT.

## Twenty Firms Bid for British Columbia's Loan

(World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—Financial firms from coast to coast, tendered to the number of twenty in the bidding for the province's latest loan, seven bids being opened by Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, yesterday, for the purchase of \$2,000,000 twenty-year 6 per cent. bonds.

The highest bid, and the one accepted, was put in by the Dominion Securities Corporation, Ltd., Toronto. This was 104.85, the cost of the money to the province being thus 5.61 per cent. The other lenders were:

A. E. Ames & Co., Toronto; Halsey Stuart & Co., Chicago, and Bankers' Trust Company, New York, 104.81; Wood, Gundy & Co., Toronto, and Blyth, Witter & Co., Seattle, 104.87; Miller & Co., New York, and Brandon, Gordon & Waddell, New York, 104.027; Guaranty Co. of New York; Carstens & Backer, Inc., Seattle; B. A. Bond Corporation, Ltd., Victoria, and the Seattle National Bank, Seattle, 103.561; Lee, Higginson & Co., Chicago; Wells-Dickey Co., Minneapolis, and A. S. Lewis & Co., Ltd., Toronto, 103.513; G. A. Stinson & Co., Toronto; Cyrus Pierce Co., Seattle; A. B. Leitch Co., New York; Bank of America, San Francisco, and Bond and Goodwin and Tolkan, Inc., Seattle, 103.323.

## Mr. Bowser's Record.

FOR the sixth time Mr. W. J. Bowser will perform and the legislature will today endure the eruption of language somewhat vituperative, not a little illogical, and altogether wearisome which has come to be expected from him as a matter of course when the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne gives him the floor and the right to discourse at large each succeeding session.

Today's contribution to the series will differ in no important respect from its predecessors. Mr. Bowser looks upon the works of the government and can see nothing of which to approve. He looks upon the men who are engaged in the administration of the affairs of the province and, lo, there is none that is good among them, no not one. They are all the most miserable of political sinners and there is no health in them.

No government is beyond criticism. No government is perfect. But is Mr. Bowser altogether qualified for the position of censor? Is the public yet prepared to allow him to emerge from the white sheet with which it garbed him five years ago or to drop the candle that was placed in his hands a second time but last December?

Has the Dominion Trust Company affair been quite forgotten? Is the most careless student of local current history oblivious to the fact that the financial difficulties which are the principal text of his charges are of the making of Mr. W. J. Bowser and none other?

Is it not a matter of common knowledge that moneys which ought to have been retained in the public treasury went into private pockets when the Kitlano Reserve was purchased and that it was an administration in which Mr. Bowser was a dominating figure that was responsible for the transaction?

Does not everybody know that after years of unexampled prosperity, after commanding revenues which produced enormous surpluses again and again the Bowser government retired leaving an empty treasury, a province in debt and confronted with appalling obligations?

In the circumstances, in all the circumstances, these diatribes from Mr. Bowser, leave a nasty taste in one's mouth. But if to the general public they are nauseating in view of Mr. Bowser's own public record, if complaints of "machine government" come with an ill grace from the very political genius who perfected the finest political machine this province or Canada ever saw, they are debilitating to the members of his party.

Year after year the Conservatives of British Columbia look towards Victoria as the House assembles, and year after year they piously hope and pray that the great "Napoleon" of the party will live up to the traditions of the name given him by both friend and foe. And year after year they are disappointed.

## LEGISLATURE APPOINTS STANDING COMMITTEES

(World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—Standing committees of the House were yesterday afternoon appointed as follows:

Private bills and standing orders—Messrs. Jackson, Whiteside, Anderson, Clearhue, Ramsay, Duncan, Hinchliffe, Catherwood and Pearson.

Public accounts—Messrs. Buckham, I. A. Mackenzie, K. C. Macdonald, Pauline, Kergin, Sutherland, Jackson, Neelands, Pooley, Jones, Bowser and W. A. McKenzie.

Agriculture—Messrs. K. C. Macdonald, Yorston, Anderson, Paterson, Perry, Henniger, Buckham, Menzies, Duncan, A. McDonald, Jones, Lister, Hunter and Catherwood.

Mining—Messrs. Yorston, Buckham, Kergin, Henniger, Sutherland, Anderson, Menzies, Guthrie, A. McDonald, Hunter, Esling and Schofield.

Municipal matters—Messrs. Whiteside, Paterson, Ramsay, Perry, Jackson, Pauline, Clearhue, I. A. Mackenzie, Hanes, Burde, Uphill, Schofield, Hinchliffe, Pearson and McRae.

Printing—Messrs. Pauline, Clearhue, Menzies, Hinchliffe and Jones.

Railways—Messrs. Perry, Yorston, Kergin, Buckham, Esling, Catherwood and Lister.

# VEILED ATTACKS FLATLY REFUTED IN HOT SESSION

Provincial Library  
1 April 22 PM

## Attorney-General Denounces Indefinite Accusations Imported From Columns of "Vancouver Morning Liar" by Leader of Opposition

(World's Special)

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 28.—Going far afield, and, in the words of the attorney-general, bringing charges which would not stand examination, Mr. W. J. Bowser levelled a veiled attack on Hon. J. W. DeB. Farris in the legislature yesterday under the cloak of his resolution to secure a select committee to enquire into matters connected with the administration of the liquor control board. Specific charges were conspicuous by their entire absence, except, perhaps, that nine Vancouver men, whom he named, profited out of the sale of liquor.

Mr. Bowser amplified his general charges by including the names of prominent Vancouver citizens, by alleging that monetary considerations passed in exchange for permits to operate bonded liquor warehouses, that thefts of stock were due to the incompetence of the liquor board and that it was stated "on the street" in Vancouver that Mayor Gale allowed the beer clubs to be wide open in order to win votes at the coming elections.

Challenged by the attorney-general to make any direct accusation against him, Mr. Bowser said he would not accept the challenge, but if he could not make the charge go it would be he who would suffer.

Mr. Bowser also took refuge in the statement that, if he made any remark with reference to any member of the House, nobody knew to whom he was referring.

The attorney-general was quite candidly hotly indignant when he arose to reply to the insinuations and declared that, whether Mr. Bowser proved the charges or not, he had done great harm to the characters of many men, while still assuming no responsibility. It was the express intention of Mr. Farris to have an adjournment following Mr. Bowser's "explosion," but spurred on by indignation, he replied to many matters brought up before resuming his seat to continue his speech, after an opportunity to look into the statements of the leader of the opposition, this afternoon.

The remarks of the attorney-general in reference to the Sun were hard hits, straight from the shoulder, as may be seen from the following:

"The Morning Liar of Vancouver, the so-called Sun newspaper."

"The names of Vancouver men will be shown in black and stinking type in the Sun tomorrow."

"Word has gone forth from the Sun that it was going to concentrate on getting me turned down. I am not afraid to face any allegation."

"Mr. Cromie called at my office and in reference to a third party used the expression 'Friendship be damned.' Since that time I have never spoken to that dirty blackmailer from that day to this."

In reference to the Campbell vs. Cromie case, the attorney-general said that the closing sentence of the judge was to tell the jury, by inference, that they ought to dismiss the case because there was no libel against Mr. Campbell.

Mr. W. J. Bowser, in his resolution asking for the appointment of a special committee to inquire into charges made by him relating to the administration of the liquor act, said he would be as brief as was consistent with the importance of the matter, not only in the legislature, but in the country.

Referring to the prohibition legislation introduced in October, 1917, under the same attorney-general who now occupied the position, the speaker went on to refer to "assassins" which had returned the result of which had been that an official had served a sentence at New Westminster. The Moderation Act came into force last June, but already failures were to be heard on every corner of misadministration having taken place. He felt it was due to him as leader of the opposition to move for the appointment of a special committee of investigation. His first charge had reference to the government being generally expected to sell nothing but the best of liquor, and at the very cheapest prices consistent with a fair profit. His second was in connection with the purchase of the Campbell warehouse. He was not going into the matter of personal quarrels and as to the price of the warehouse, that was a matter into which the committee could go into detail in considering whether it was a proper extreme price when so many owners were not only anxious, but willing to sell at decreased prices.

It would have been thought that the government would not have given this extravagant figure to a political supporter, the greater part of which had been admitted to have been spent on the purchase of The Vancouver World.

Considered Purchase Illegal

Mr. Bowser said he considered the purchase entirely illegal and held that no warehouse should have been bought before the new liquor act went into force. The Interpretation Act showing that the lieutenant-governor-in-council would first have to proclaim the act law. It was on this ground that he contended that the purchase, which was "a blot on our political history," would not have occurred, for the people never expected to spend \$150,000 on such a deal.

In regard to negotiations which, he said, had been going on a long time between Mr. Campbell and the attorney-general, Mr. Bowser quoted from a letter written by Mr. Campbell to the attorney-general dated January 13, which stated that Frank L. Murdoch, Ltd., considered the sum of \$1920 to be a fair rental value per month on a five-year lease, which was 4 cents per square foot of 48,000 feet.

Mr. Bowser said that apparently other letters had been enclosed and he asked what reason there was for contemplating a hitch. Mr. Campbell appeared to be going to the east at once in order to get money to buy the World and the speaker thought that

the attorney-general should have taken the members of the legislature into his confidence and secured their endorsement of the payment, seeing that the letter was sent before the legislative session was called. He said the government were silent as the grave and the members could not hope to learn of the expenditure before the public accounts came out.

Recommended by Deputy

Mr. A. M. Johnson, the deputy attorney-general, stated Mr. Bowser, advised the attorney-general that the Campbell warehouse was the only six-storied one in Vancouver, and that Mr. Campbell was prepared to give a five-year lease to the government for \$14,000 a year. The memo also showed, the speaker said, a recommendation to the attorney-general to rent the warehouse at that figure, mentioning that the rentals for five years would reach \$84,000, and that Mr. Campbell would give a five-year option at \$150,000.

Mr. Johnson, said Mr. Bowser, also recommended the deal, but he failed to see what Mr. Johnson had to do with the matter. No votes were in the estimates for the purchase, although the House was in session all the time the negotiations were going on and the only other way was by special warrant. He was the author of the law concerning these warrants, which provided for special warrants in cases of unforeseen emergency, which, he said, was hardly the case with the Campbell warehouse.

He wondered how the \$150,000 paid went from the treasury to Mr. Campbell. There was, he said, a government cheque for \$150,000 to Mr. Johnson in April, which was exchanged for other cheques by the Vancouver government agent. He had too much respect for the comptroller-general to think he would sign a cheque for \$150,000 without authority, and he queried what pressure was used. They might take it that the matter was never before the treasury board. Some body had sent it without the legislature knowing anything about it.

He suggested this was done in order to allow Mr. Campbell to receive the amount before the Premier returned from Ontario. When the latter returned he could find that it was no use locking the door after the horse had gone from the stable. The speaker claimed he had shown there was something to investigate in connection with the payment.

Passing on to his next charge that the government had leased unnecessarily premises, Mr. Bowser said that

In addition to the Pither and Lelzer warehouse, the government had magnificent premises in the Belmont Block and also a warehouse in Johnson street. No doubt the committee would come to the conclusion that a most extravagant course had been pursued. He was also informed there were premises in New Westminster and in other parts of the province.

Alleges Other Extravagances

With reference to his alleged extravagance in the purchase of plant, fixtures and furnishings the speaker said this followed on the same lines as the licence warehouse and he did not propose to go into the matter. With regard to the charge of unjustified extravagance and incompetency and the employment of men convicted and suspected of infractions of the liquor and other laws, he said they had only to read the newspapers to see of this extravagance and incompetency. The stock loss in Vancouver and at Grand Forks, likewise at Ashcroft, was the result of incompetency and perhaps worse and this matter should be looked into by the committee.

"Many of the men employed had police records. I am in a position to prove that," stated the speaker, who said that it lay with the government to see that only a high class of citizens should be employed in the work. Instead, what did they find? Bootleggers and blind-pleggers.

"Name them," urged Hon. Mr. Farris. "When the committee is appointed I will give the names and also certified copies of the convictions from the police," said Mr. Bowser, adding that the curiosity of the attorney-general would then be satisfied.

With reference to the statement that the government neglected to take large quantities of liquor out of bond Mr. Bowser remarked that the government might say that they had no opportunity to know that an extra duty was to be imposed. No information, he said, was given out from the department at Ottawa but people had to use their own judgment as to what the minister of finance was likely to do.

Repeal Luxury Tax

It was given out, he said, that the luxury tax was to be repealed. Then people who came to the conclusion that the minister of finance would naturally look to see were to inflict this extra duty. As a result, people who were in the liquor business assumed that the first infliction of the tax would be the liquor and withdrew what they had in bond, except the attorney-general. He wondered whether the latter was asleep at the switch, for the result was that the province had suffered materially over the lack of business judgment of the attorney-general and those under him. They heard that he proposed to sue the Ottawa authorities, but that was poor consolation.

Concerning his charges of questionable practices in regard to liquor purchases from political friends, he made the statement to show that the purchasing of liquor was done through a "ring." Men must be a party to the political ring or they could not sell liquor to the Liquor Board, he said. People who wished to purchase certain brands of Scotch, found they were not procurable. Distillers had agents, he said, but the liquor board was stocked up with cheap and inferior brands and liquor was purchased at lower price and sold at a higher rate in order to make a larger profit.

In this connection he mentioned the names of Mr. C. C. Delbridge, Mr. H. J. Molachy, Mr. James Conroy, Mr. J. P. Dougherty, and Mr. W. T. McArthur. When the government came into office, he went on a plank in their platform was to present that the police commission should be elected by the people. The Attorney-General defeated a resolution from the opposition side of the House, with the result that the city of Vancouver was controlled by the Attorney-General and stood alone from the rest of the province.

The leader of the opposition then went on to mention the name of Mr. Gordon Wismer, a man who, he said, was well known to the people of Vancouver and who, at the by-elections, had spent nights and days carrying the politics sack into the legislature. Mr. Charles Campbell was also a member of the political ring to which he had referred. His final names were those of Mr. Wendell Farris, a brother of the attorney-general, and Mr. J. H. Falconer, of the Liquor Board, who had also been making profits out of the sale of liquor, he stated.

**Charles Abuse of Permits.**  
Next, Mr. Bowser dealt with that part of his motion alleging that abuses were permitted in the use of permits and the amount of liquor purchased. No matter what the nature called for, the government, stated the speaker, wanted to sell a large quantity of liquor. In regard to beer, he stated he knew of the case of a man who received twenty barrels of beer and the only members of the family were his wife and himself. He was a close political friend of the premier.

"Why does the member couple my name?" asked Hon. John Oliver, adding that the object of Mr. Bowser was to connect his name with someone who had been abusing privileges in buying beer.

"If a man travels in bad company he must suffer," said Mr. Bowser, upon which Mr. T. Uphill (Fernie) asked was not a man entitled to buy twenty barrels of beer?

"That matter can be decided by the committee," was Mr. Bowser's only reply. He then went on to allude to the charge in connection with the loss of liquor from the Hastings Street premises of the board. He contended that all the men might have been guilty, but there should have been a proper investigation, and that investigation had not been held. The men were government officials against whom the government had no evidence and they had been told they could not be reinstated. If the men were guilty they should be punished, if not a reflection of this kind should not be passed on the men and their committees.

Dealing with the next charge, that no permits to operate bonded liquor warehouses could be obtained without the consent of the attorney-general, the speaker said that the members must see the reason for this. They wanted the attorney-general to pass on the person making the application and these consents, claimed Mr. Bowser, were obtained after an exchange of monetary considerations. This, he said, affected one or more of the members of the legislature.

The Attorney-General arose. "This," he said, "requires explanation. Do I understand you to say that money was paid to me?"

"The language is there to speak for itself," replied Mr. Bowser.

"As a member of the legislature I ask that the member make it clear whether there is an accusation or that there is none," demanded the attorney-general, adding that he challenged Mr. Bowser to make a statement. In his indignation Hon. Mr. Farris banged loudly on the desk in front of him.

"I am not accepting the challenge," replied Mr. Bowser, "but if I cannot make that charge go it will be I who will suffer."

**Says Easy to Join Clubs.**

In connection with the next item of the charges Mr. Bowser stated that any person in Vancouver could join a club by paying ten cents. Following the incorporation in June of clubs to sell liquor Mr. W. P. Brougham incorporated twenty-six clubs under the Companies Act, and Capt. Ian McKenzie five.

"My information," declared the leader of the opposition, "is that they are running wide open today, and it is stated on the street that this has been done by Mayor Gale in order to win votes at the coming election."

Mr. Bowser went on to claim that it was the duty of the attorney-general to advise the government that the permits of these clubs should be cancelled. He had heard that some of the gentlemen who incorporated clubs received very large fees for the services rendered. The department of the minister of justice had been brought into disrepute. In South Vancouver things had happened of which the attorney-general should have knowledge, contended the speaker, who next proceeded to state that Mr. Buckworth, manager of the P. G. E. showed very great activity in influencing railway employees to engage in political ends.

The proper course to adopt, he held, was to have this public business investigated by a select committee of the house. They were here to carry on the public business of the province, and when charges were made the members should be willing to give their time and ability to get to the bottom of the charges. He referred to the investigation which took place into the Columbia & Western Railway Company.

"Ask the man who made the charges in reference to that company," interrupted Hon. John Oliver. "I did not sell liquor," Mr. Bowser stated to the

"I don't want a royal commission," he added, going on to mention the names of the committee he had chosen. These were Mr. Whiteside, who was a supporter of the government; Mr. Ramsay, acceptable as a member from the Delta; Mr. Hanes, as the member for North Vancouver; Mr. Clearhue, as representing Victoria, with Evans and himself.

"Why didn't you put a labor man on?" snarled Major Murda. Mr. Bowser said he had no objection, but he didn't want to make the committee too unrepresentative.

He also wanted to bear in mind that the majority should be composed from the government side. If a labor member was moved from the House he would give it his due consideration as he wished to get to the bottom of the matter. Mr. Bowser then resumed his seat.

Mr. Speaker alluded to the remark made by the member as to financial gain resulting from the issue of licences which remark, he said, seemed to him to be going too far.

Mr. Bowser insisted he had not intended to bring in anything personal. If the committee did as he expected it would bring evidence home to one or more members of the legislature. He would retract nothing, nor did he know of any authority which could force him to name any member of the legislature.

Hon. John Oliver stated he believed authority existed under which no member might accuse any member of wrongdoing unless prepared to give the names. The only reason for an investigation by the House was that there had been some wrongdoing, otherwise there would be no necessity for an inquiry.

Mr. Bowser said that if he made any statement with reference to any innocent member of the house nobody knew to whom he was referring, and if they were all as innocent as he was, they could all walk away that night quite unconcerned.

**Attorney-General Makes Reply.**

Mr. Bowser's insinuation against himself, declared Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, attorney-general, had continued from the time of the Prohibition Act to the time of the Liquor Act. He was not on his feet to oppose any investigation, to which the legislature and people were entitled in this matter, and he would give them his assurance that there had been many things mentioned that afternoon on which he would insist on an investigation. At the same time the leader of the opposition had gone far afield and had made charges which would not bear examination.

He proposed to move for adjournment in order to give himself opportunity to make some investigation of the charges.

Speaking with heat and great indignation the attorney-general declared that by what Mr. Bowser had said great harm had been done to the characters of men, whether he proved the charges or not. Yet Mr. Bowser assumed no responsibility.

In reference to the names of Vancouver men, the attorney-general pointed out that these would be shown in black and slinking type in the Sun tomorrow.

**Not Afraid of It.**

Mr. Bowser had suggested there had been something crooked done by these men, which was the kind of insidious attack which had been closing in around himself.

"I am not unimpaired that remarks of that kind of stuff," said the attorney-general, "have been going around the province for the last four years. Some of it stinks. I have had to meet it from the leader of the opposition and from the Morning Star newspaper—the so-called Sun newspaper."

"Word has gone forth from the Sun that it was going to concentrate on affairs which were turned down. I am not afraid to face any allegations. I had looked forward to the subject being brought out by Mr. Bowser and for him to launch an attack on me."

The attorney-general paused and looked across at the leader of the opposition.

"Mr. Bowser has not—except on the general suggestion of incompetence," went on Mr. Farris, "been able to put anything against myself, but notwithstanding that Mr. Bowser's speech was conceived, concocted and delivered with the object of imputing wrongdoing on my part."

"I may be accused of being heated and that might be true. I am heated and I am heated to such an extent that I am going to fight. No newspaper in Vancouver, in conjunction with Mr. Bowser, is going to destroy my reputation."

Still roused to a pitch of keen indignation, the attorney-general told of an occasion when Mr. Cromie, proprietor of The Sun, had called at his office and, in reference to a third party, had used the expression "friendship."

"Since that time," declared the attorney-general hotly, "I have never that day to this."

Hon. Mr. Farris then alluded to the fact that the purchasing agent of the liquor board was appointed on the suggestion of Mr. Bowser, and then asked why Mr. Bowser had picked out the name of prominent citizens, including that of his brother.

"What is there in political life," he asked, "that a man should have to receive this sort of thing, ensure it and go through public life with this kind of poisonous stuff levelled at him?" Mr. Bowser's associates had said he had "pulled down" money

referring to a book on his desk, the attorney-general stated he had a list of liquor purchases made by Mr. Patterson and so far as the government were concerned every purchase had been made by Mr. Patterson. The purchasing agent came in, he had discussed with Mr. Patterson the advisability of dealing with distillers and cutting out the agents.

"In August," continued Mr. Farris, "the purchasing agent wrote to asking for quotations and if they were prepared to ship orders and on what conditions. The replies precluded absolutely any direct trade. All replied that these must go through the agent."

Reading through the lengthy list, Hon. Mr. Farris showed that practically none were able to deal directly with the authorized agents. He also gave the name of the brands of whiskey purchased, including nearly all the reputable names. Dishonest transactions had been alleged, but 90 per cent. of the agencies representing the liquors he had mentioned had no political support at all.

**Refers to Warehouse Matter.**

As far as the warehouse matter was concerned he felt no obligation to go into that matter. There had been a trial conducted in the court, out of which he had hoped that Mr. Bowser would not want to make political capital. But now he hoped that Mr. Bowser would take that case and make it a charge.

"I think we can assume," stated Mr. Farris, "that with Mr. Cromie and Mr. Bowser, with Mr. Joseph Martin, Mr. Cromie's counsel, associated, if there had been anything to be dug up it would have been unearthed."

"I should be very sorry," added the attorney-general, "to trust my reputation to the judicial disposition of the leader of the opposition."

"With these things in mind I prefer to have matters roughed out on the floor of this house. Mr. Cromie's counsel moved for the dismissal of the case on the basis that there was no charge against Mr. Campbell. I say that the closing sentences of the judge were to tell the jury, by inference, that they ought to dismiss the case because there was no libel alleged against Mr. Campbell."

"There is no reason members of the house should accept the verdict, but they should accept the evidence," stated Hon. Mr. Farris. "I am not afraid to have my case brought before the members of the house."

The allegations of the leader of the opposition, declared Hon. Mr. Farris, would spread broadcast over the province. Mr. Bowser had talked about the price paid for liquor. It might surprise members to know that the Ottawa government was taking more profit out of every bottle of liquor than was the province. Quebec and British Columbia were paying the taxes for Canada. They should bear in mind that all the profits received by the provincial government was spent in the province.

In reference to Mr. Bowser's remarks concerning the liquor interests who cleared liquor before the extra Dominion tax came into force, the attorney-general suggested that there must be a good line of communication between Ottawa and the people who took their liquor stocks out of bond.

What was it, he asked, that Mr. Bowser proposed to prove? He had challenged the leader of the opposition to name any single instance of wrongdoing against himself or any member of the House. The suggestion of Mr. Bowser was that there was something rotten about the department of the attorney-general.

Hon. Mr. Farris then resumed his seat, and will, as he proposed, continue his remarks today, after having some opportunity to investigate the statements made by the leader of the opposition.

**MUNICIPAL ACTS TO BE CONSIDERED**

(World Special)  
VICTORIA, Oct. 28.—The municipal committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. David Whiteside (New Westminster) held its first meeting this morning and decided to meet every morning with the exception of Saturday.

Taxation will be discussed and it is proposed to go through the municipal act and make suggestions and amendments. It is also suggested that a joint meeting with the private bills and standing orders committee be held to discuss the Vancouver bill.

Mr. Fred Anderson (Kamloops) has given notice of motion for Monday to ask Hon. Dr. J. H. King, minister of public works, whether the government has considered the possible abandonment of the P. G. E. railway from Squamish to Clinton, and the consequent use of a portion of the railway grade for highway purposes.

Mr. Anderson also enquires, in regard to the four proposed routes for a road between the coast and the interior, as part of a trans-provincial highway, what time was spent and the cost of the survey on the ground, the distance to be constructed and reconstruction on each route, maximum elevation of each summit, estimated cost of construction, nature of maintenance, national benefits, and the period during which the route will be open each year.



## CARRIES WAR INTO CAMP OF ENEMY

Member for Grand Forks Points Out That Leader of Opposition, Who Now Brings Charges, Was Himself Responsible for P. G. E. Financial Muddle

(World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 28.—Mr. E. C. Henniger (Grand Forks) in speaking this afternoon on the debate on the address in reply to the speech, eulogized the aid given the lumber industry and hoped this market extension policy would extend to mining agriculture and fishery. He also urged irrigation in the dry areas, instancing the success in the Yakima and Okanagan Valleys.

Mr. Henniger expressed his surprise that the leader of the opposition should now try to blacken the character of the present administration over the P. G. E. seeing that it was the Conservative government who originated the line. "I wish particularly," said the member for Grand Forks, "to compliment the minister of lands for his brilliant exposition of the aid this government is lending the lumber industry. It is evident that the market extension policy inaugurated will prove of lasting benefit to the province. I trust, however, that the timber trade will prove to be not the only one so favored, but that the mining, agricultural and fishing industries will, owing to the success of the trade policy described by the minister, also find themselves more prosperous by the adoption of a similar policy of market extension. Direct help of such character is of greater use than direct financial aid, inasmuch as it supplements private enterprise without causing industry to lean too strongly upon government help, to the detriment of both."

### Unemployment General

The unemployment at present rife throughout British Columbia is to be deplored, but throughout the world a similar condition prevails, due to the operation of economic laws. During the past year commodities have fallen greatly in price, and thus the purchasing power of the producers of commodities has seriously declined. The lessening of this purchasing power has thrown out of employment workers in the secondary industries. The restoring of their purchasing power to the mass of people is the only remedy and no legislation can possibly effect an improvement. The readjustment of supply and demand will prove the only way out.

"The increase of the public debt gives no occasion for alarm," continued Mr. Henniger, "but the unfortunate heritage by this administration of that 'horrible mistake' known as the Pacific Great Eastern, leaves no alternative but to pledge the provincial credit for its completion. I feel that this House is greatly relieved to find that no further demands are to be made upon its finances this session on account of that railroad."

"Conceived in iniquity it was the crowning achievement of the most glaring corrupt government that ever faunted their political rottenness against the spirit of free institutions. Judge of my surprise to find the leading figure in that government is now in the most sordid manner trying to blacken the character of this administration."

"I note we are to have amendments to the liquor act. I see by press reports that the poor working man must have his glass of beer. The rich breweries and a certain class of hotel men always want to camouflage their easy way of making money by saying the poor working man wants his glass of beer. There is nothing to that kind of stuff," said the speaker. "Last winter it was the poor returned man had to have his glass of beer. We don't want a nation of beer drinkers. I have seen samples of the human race from Europe who were beer drinkers. It is a vice we do not want to encourage in this country."

## MEMBER PLEADS FOR SETTLERS

Suggests Lumber Be Made Cheaper and Interest Payments Deferred

VICTORIA, Oct. 28.—Pleading the case of the returned soldier settlers at Melville, near Courtnay, in his own district, Rev. Thomas Menzies, Independent member for Comox, continued the debate in the house yesterday. He urged that the Land Settlement Board should show consideration to the soldier settlers by reducing the seven per cent. interest charged by the Provincial board to the five per cent. collected by the federal authorities, and that cheaper lumber should be provided for the settlers.

Mr. E. C. Henniger, Liberal member for Grand Forks adjourned the debate. Mr. Menzies said the returned soldier settlers were in a serious plight by reason of their inability to meet the payments for their land, buildings and stock. The 14,000 acres contained in the settlement had been purchased by the government at \$5 per acre, but 9000 acres of this total was found to be totally unfit for cultivation. The 5000 acres had been subdivided into farms of fifty to sixty acres, with the exception of a section in the centre, which had been allotted for the purpose of housing the main population and the construction of stores, post office and schools.

The situation is a serious one, declared Mr. Menzies. The fall of 1920 had proved disastrous from a crop standpoint, while the returns this year were not any too satisfactory. The farmers had stock which was purchased when the market was high and while they were optimistic of the future. A solution, he thought, would be to defer the first payment of interest for at least five years. Unless this was done the men would lose their all and the farms would revert to the government.

## Premier Oliver Not Too Proud to Fix Own Car

(World Special)

VICTORIA, Oct. 27.—This morning Hon. John Oliver was not down working in his office by 9 o'clock sharp. Such an unusual event caused his secretary to phone to the premier's house to ask if he had been detained by extra active deputations, who had tried to catch him at breakfast. Nothing of the kind, however, had happened, and nothing was wrong. The premier did not himself answer the phone because something had gone wrong with his car, and he was at that time underneath it in the garage making the necessary repairs. Soon afterwards he was busy as usual in his office.

# HOUSE WANTS DEFINITE CHARGES NOT INNUENDO

Mr. Bowser's Motion for Fishing Excursion in Regard to Liquor Board Is Defeated

VOTE WAS 24 TO 18

Hon. Mr. Farris and Premier Oliver Denounce Bowser's Tactics

(World Special)

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 29.—Holding that the Bowser resolution contained no specific charges, but only a mass of insinuation, premier Oliver last night moved an amendment that Mr. Bowser's resolution for a select committee to inquire into the Liquor Board be struck out and instead that Mr. Bowser and his seconder, Mr. J. W. Jones (South Okanagan), be requested to set forth specific charges before the appointment of a select committee is named. This was carried on a division by 24 to 18.

The vote was as follows:

For the amendment—Sloan, Farris, Oliver, King, Sutherland, Anderson, K. C. McDonald, Yorston, Patterson, Ramsay, Kenninger, Kerigan, Ian MacKenzie, Pauline, Buckham, Whiteside, Barrow, Hart, Patullo, MacLean, Menzies, Clearhue, Jackson, Perry.—24.

Against the amendment—Hanes, Neelands, Guthrie, Uphill, McRae, Catherwood, Pearson, A. McDonald, Essling, Schofield, Pooley, Bowser, Jones, W. A. MacKenzie, Lister, Hunter, Burde, Duncan.—18.

Unless the leader of the opposition is prepared to bring these charges the special committee asked for will not, therefore, be made. Labor and other independent members, with the exception of Mr. T. Menzies, (Comox), supported the Conservatives and the division caused great interest in the galleries.

"That is something that appeals to my sense of fair play and I think it will also appeal to the minds of the members of this House," were the words of Hon. John Oliver, after moving the amendment.

A Notable Sitting.

This sequel to the reputation by Hon. Mr. Farris of the aspirations cast upon him by Mr. Bowser in the afternoon session of the house, came at the first evening sitting of the legislature. In point of notable importance this night sitting is likely to stand out by itself. The honor of members of the government had been impugned and the premier promptly called for action. Mr. Bowser's boomerang came back to the thrower.

The house had adjourned at six to meet again at eight. On re-assembling, Hon. John Oliver spoke for nearly two hours, his resolution being the climax to a fair-minded politician's presentation of the case of a man of tried and trusted integrity fighting for his honor against unscrupulous odds.

Speaking after moving his amendment, Premier Oliver said that the many reports of wrong-doing must be cleared up by an investigation, and if the leader of the opposition would not adopt the will of the house as set forth in the terms of the amendment, then some other member would be found to undertake that duty.

Mr. Bowser asked the premier if he was to understand that some member of the government would have the audacity to make a charge against the attorney-general.

## POLITICAL POISON GAS

BEHIND the shield of parliamentary privilege and under a smoke screen of safely indefinite innuendo, the leader of the provincial opposition—himself once swept from office by an avalanche of unearthed scandal—has launched a poison gas attack in the direction of the government, hoping for a favorable wind to besmirch some of its members or some of its friends. He has declined the challenge to make a definite charge against any minister or member of the legislature.

This kind of politics is not new, but custom makes it none the less discreditable to the practitioners and none the less a menace to the public interest. Such methods, tending to undermine public trust in all government, form the chief incentive of most of the bolshevism and I. W. W. delusions that plague the people today. Such methods, blackguarding public servants for political ends, tend to keep out of public life the kind of men it needs the most and to make the word "politics" a stink in the nostrils of decent folk.

The average public man is more honest than his critic. How many politicians in your knowledge have made money out of politics. Sir John A. Macdonald died a poor man. So did Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Sir Richard McBride died poor. So did Premer H. C. Brewster. Meighen, King and Fielding are all poor men. The fact that Mr. Bowser himself has managed to get rich is only one of the few exceptions that prove the general rule.

But the dirty and hypocritical way party controversy is conducted in this province in particular would give the impression to the man on the street that politicians rolled and revelled in stolen wealth, instead of, as is the general fact, getting far less profit from their work than they could earn in private life, and infinitely more abuse.

The leader of the opposition in this province deliberately sets himself to confirm this suspicion of the honesty of public life, and not by square charges which can be squarely met, but after the poison gas fashion, trusting that if enough is scattered some may stick. He should be compelled to formulate definite accusation that opportunity may be given for just enquiry, where men assailed can offer fair defence.

### Galleries Crowded

From 4.30 until after 6 o'clock Mr. Farris held the close attention of the members and that of the keenly interested crowd which filled the galleries to capacity as he dissected, explained, and refuted the insinuations made by Mr. Bowser, leader of the opposition, concerning the operations of the Government Liquor Board.

At the close of his speech the attorney-general stated that an attempt had been made to drive him from office and he was entitled to demand an investigation. He was in the hands both of the legislature and his constituency and was prepared to meet any charge of dishonesty that might be made.

"And I demand that it be made," added the attorney-general, who stated that the man who would have to fight would have to do not with shadowy air but with things of substance. Cheers and the banging of members' desks followed the closing remarks of the attorney-general. It was upon the adjournment of the afternoon session and it was some time before Hon. Mr. Farris could get out of the legislature chamber owing to the congratulatory handshakes showered upon him by the members.

### "Indefinite Innuendoes"

In opening, the attorney-general referred with satisfaction to the fact that the indefinite innuendoes and general statements put by Mr. Bowser on the order paper had developed into some direct accusations. He had nothing to fear and was prepared at all times to meet the situation.

In regard to Mr. Bowser's statement that permits to operate bonded liquor warehouses were obtained "after the exchange of monetary considerations" and that this affected one or more members of the legislature, the attorney-general had challenged the leader of the opposition to stand up and make an assertion that the money had been exchanged in the sense referred to.

Mr. Bowser's reply had been that if he could not make the charges as it would be he who would suffer. What did the leader of the opposition care who suffered in the meantime?

position, showing beyond doubt that the four places designated by Mr. Bowser did not belong to political friends, but to friends of the Opposition. Three of these were at Victoria and the other at Nanaimo. All belonged to people whose political sympathies were on the other side, and the reason for the rental of these premises was on account of their being cheaper.

### Price Paid Was Fair.

The matter of the purchase of the Campbell Warehouse occupied a large portion of the attorney-general's speech. He held that the board had power to provide for the purchase of warehouse property under the act and full authority to deal with the question. He freely admitted that the warehouse was purchased from a supporter of the government, but this was done on the advice of competent honest men, and the price paid could not be said to be higher than fair and honorable men had said was a fair one.

In giving full details of the whiskey purchased, which amounted to a total of nearly 75,000 cases, the attorney-general mentioned that the amount paid to the Dominion government in liquor taxes amounted to some \$2,000,000, all of which had been taken out of B. C. Mr. Bowser's statement that "you must be one of the ring or you can't do business" he branded as one that could not be more cowardly in its method of insinuation.

### Mr. Farris' Speech.

Hon. Mr. Farris spoke as follows: The discussion of the statements made by the leader of the opposition was adjourned on my motion. Having had further opportunity to consider the statements made by the leader of the opposition, having had an opportunity to assemble these statements in order as he gave them, having also had an opportunity to assemble some of the facts, which I think honorable members of this House are entitled to, I will attempt, possibly at the expense of a few moments repetition to give, in continuation of what I said yesterday, a resume of what I may term a reply by way of explanation.

I said yesterday, and as I have given more consideration to this question, I think I can repeat with renewed emphasis, that I felt a relief when I found a list of allegations, indefinite as they may be, put upon the order paper by the leader of the opposition, because I looked forward to seeing these things general as they were in his resolutions and in

had asked for specific allegations, which I believed when made would give an opportunity to clear the air of what he himself terms the rumors that have been circulated round.

I said yesterday, and I reiterate with regret this afternoon, that notwithstanding my friend the leader of the opposition has shot his bolt, he has left the honorable members of this Legislature, and has left myself where he started in, with simply renewed insinuations and generalities and failure to come forward with any definite courageous statements such as could be met in the same way as they were made. I have had experience before with honorable members of this Legislature, and I have had experience before the electors of this country in my own city which I represent along with the member of the opposition—our constituents in Vancouver—and I have found them always ready to respond to a sense of fair play, and I am prepared to put myself all times on trial before them, always relying upon that spirit of fair play, and that the public of this country and the honorable members of this House think that the method adopted by the leader of the opposition will appeal to that sense of fair play. I have very grave doubts. I have nothing to fear, nothing to conceal and am prepared at all times to meet the situation with the confidence of my position and in the sense of fair play.

**Goes Over Statements.**

Now, I am going over as shortly as I can consistent with my obligations to the members of this House and to myself, the statements made by the leader of the Opposition.

The first statement the hon. gentleman deals with is that of the warehouse deal, so called, and I have this resolution:

That the Government purchased from a close political supporter of the Government, without any justification, certain premises known as the Campbell warehouse, in the city of Vancouver; and that the official value of the premises as fixed by the city assessor was \$55,000; and that the Government, not only without any justification or legislative authority, but illegally paid the sum of \$150,000 for the purchase of the said premises.

The first allegation, which is made is that the warehouse was purchased from a close political supporter of the Government. I see no reason why that should not be admitted. So far as Mr. Campbell is concerned I have always known him to be a Liberal and an active supporter of the Liberal party and this Government, so that charge may be accepted as admitted.

The next allegation, that the government without justification illegally paid the sum of \$150,000 for the purchase of the said premises—that, as a matter of opinion on the facts upon which this opinion is based I am prepared to discuss at any time or at any place.

The assessed value of the property was \$55,000—I have not checked that up, but I will assume for the time being that that statement is also correct. Why does my honorable friend bring that in? There is not a member of this legislature who is not well aware that the assessed value of any property does not pretend to have any application to the real value, and why does he spread this upon the minutes, when he must know that the assessed values of city assessments bear no resemblance whatever to the actual values and in no case are substantial evidence? That the government illegally paid \$150,000—that must in its essence be a legal question and one for lawyers to decide. Why should he bring that in? Why should this be a proper question to be considered by that committee?

As I analyze the charges which the honorable gentleman makes in connection with this warehouse deal they are three—two that he makes and one that he does not make, but of which he attempted to leave the impression upon the mind of the house. First, he makes a charge of paying too high a price; secondly, that that there was not sufficient authority to justify the transaction; and the third, which he does not make, but he attempts by suggestion by inference, by the juxtaposition of different facts to make the suggestion that the transaction was corruptly and wrongfully made.

**Makes Again to Price.**

As far as the question of the price being too high is concerned, I mentioned that yesterday and I might refer to it again. I have before me the evidence taken on the trial, the trial where Mr. Cromie, the editor of the Sun, assisted by his counsel, Mr. Joseph Martin, left no stone unturned to present every scintilla of evidence, and where men were called to justify the insinuation that the price was too high. Other men were called, just as reputable, just as competent, and I would suggest, with less political bias, to testify that the price was a fair one.

You have the evidence of Col. Ryan of the City of Vancouver, a contractor, a man known, I presume to a pretty large percentage of the hon. members of this House. You have the evidence he given in this case, going into it carefully, and it is all in the evidence, and subject to cross-examination as he was, he pledges his oath as to what the replacement value of that property would be and as to the value of the land.

You have other reputable contractors, with equally good standing and experience as those called in opposition to the evidence given by the plaintiff in this action; you have a real estate man in Vancouver pledges his oath, you have Mr. Wagoner, described as a Conservative in that city—but I am not holding that against him—connected with a prominent firm here, as reputable as any man in that line, who testifies his testimony in

this matter, supplementing a written opinion he furnished the government as to the rental value; and you have the head of the Warehousemen's Association in this city, I think possibly in the province, who have no idle statement, but the sworn opinion of this man with reference to this purchase by the government of this warehouse, that it was cheap and would refer you to the evidence of these different witnesses. I say that the weight of these witnesses is in favor of the allegations that the price paid for this property was not in excess of its true value.

My hon. friend did not come to this Legislature and say he has discovered something now. He has never suggested for one minute that he has been keeping something up his sleeve that Cromie and his counsel did not know. Therefore, I say that there cannot be anything more alleged on this phase of the question but the simple proper fact that the Government had the advice of competent experienced men, that that advice has been supported by substantial witnesses, testified in a Court under the cross-examination of Mr. Martin, and that this price, the price the Government paid, cannot be said to be higher than what competent men believe to be a fair amount to pay for that property.

**Corruption Is Not Charged.**

Then I say that there is a charge which was not made and which my hon. friend should have made if he proposed to pursue the line of argument he did yesterday, and that was the charge that the government had corruptly and unlawfully purchased this property. When I say he makes the suggestion, he does not come out and make the charge, he brings forward a letter—"My Dear Wallace"—I can see the hon. gentleman almost smacking his lips as he rolled out this phrase—something sinister about that. But Mr. Charles Campbell, whom I have known for a number of years, could not Mr. Charles Campbell in a private letter, address me as "My Dear Wallace"? He says—the leader of the opposition—"Why this letter says, I hope there will be no hitch," and he suggests that Charlie Campbell was going east to make arrangements for the purchase of The World newspaper and did not want any hitch.

Now that letter was written in January last year, and if there was anything sinister in a man trying to sell his property, if there was anything sinister in him suggesting that he hoped there would be no hitch, what was it? That was the charge I stated yesterday, and I state now and I am prepared to repeat that statement on any occasion where it is necessary, that I did not buy that property, that I did not buy that property, that Mr. Campbell so testified at the trial, that I turned him down and said, No, that we would not buy that property, or tie the hands of the Liquor Control Board—I did not say purchase, because there was no suggestion of purchase at that time. The only suggestion in his letter termed "My dear Wallace" was the only suggestion was for the leasing of this property, and the evidence will show that the first suggestion of purchase was the stipulation by the then deputy attorney-general, now the member of the liquor control board, that if the government took over the property they should have an obligation on the part of Campbell, that if the government wanted to buy this property they could do so, and that he should therefore give them an option to that effect.

The facts are that there was no suggestion of purchase of The World newspaper, there never was any such suggestion. Mr. John Nelson was the proprietor of The World newspaper and there was no suggestion of that kind. I am here to tell my honorable friend that he did not produce from Mr. John Nelson or from anybody else one suggestion that will bear out this statement that Campbell went east on negotiations in connection with the newspaper. Oh, but my honorable friend says, why Archie Johnson, the deputy attorney-general, wrote a letter in March and I think that letter, as you will listen to it, bears out the suggestion that there was something wrong.

The facts are, and they were sworn to by Mr. Campbell and in the evidence of Mr. Johnson, that after Campbell returned from the East, and after I had told Mr. Campbell that I did not think it was wise policy for this government to enter into the lease of these premises or any other premises until such time as the Liquor Control Board had control of the matter, the Deputy Attorney-General met me in the Lobby and said did I realize that there were car-loads of liquor coming out to him in anticipation of the Liquor Act coming into force and that they were absolutely without accommodation to take care of it, and I then said to Mr. Johnson that I knew they had at that time under the old regime, arranged and carried out by Col. Slater, a gentleman who managed the Liquor Board with complete satisfaction and who left taking with him the sincere regret of all the members of the government, that under his administration of that department he held leases at that time of the entire floor in the Campbell building and that lease had still two years to run and was at a substantially higher rate per floor space than was afterwards arranged by the Deputy Attorney-General for the taking over of the balance, and the new rentals entered into included not only the balance of the floor space, but the entire floor that was at that time under rental from Mr. Campbell by Col. Slater.

**Information Always Available.**

And although that transaction was only public insofar as the officials were concerned, that information was always available to my hon. friend in the Public Accounts Committee, and there was never the least suggestion or criticism because of the rentals being paid for the entire floor of that warehouse at a higher rate by some considerable amount than was paid under the arrangement made by the deputy attorney-general.

Now these are the facts, I stated to Mr. Johnson in the Lobby, and he phoned for Campbell and made the entire arrangement as to the leasing of these premises. And why should he not do so? Why should the leader of the Opposition try to throw

some question of doubt because the deputy attorney-general handled it? He was charged out the administration of that department. I do not, in my position as head of the department, claim that I am occupied in all the details of the innumerable questions that have to be dealt with in the complicated department of the Attorney-General which I have on my hands, and I may state in corroboration of what the Deputy Attorney-General said, that he himself made the arrangement entirely without suggestion, and I believe he said, that he had had negotiations with Col. Slater, had had previous negotiations, and was in a general way conversant with the whole matter.

Campbell and Johnston came to my office and Johnston stated what he proposed, asked for my signature of that lease and pointed out that he had made the provision that he insisted on coming in, that there should be an option to purchase, after that lease we signed, and secured at the earliest possible date storing space in that warehouse.

The leader of the opposition says Johnston says this was the only six-storey warehouse in Vancouver. If so, that was clearly a misstatement. No doubt if the context were taken into consideration he was making representations as to about how many possible warehouses there might be in Vancouver, and the only question the government might be concerned about was the available warehouses, and I have no reason from my knowledge of the deputy attorney-general's mind, no reason from any evidence that I have read—I have not the least shadow of doubt but that he was honest in his statement when he wrote it over his own signature, as he did in that letter.

**Purchase Not Contemplated.**

The leader of the Opposition said he did not tell the legislature about this proposal to purchase. I said that there was no purchase contemplated at that time, and there was no intention of anybody to make the purchase at that time, but only to put in that clause making the Liquor Control Board able to purchase if they so wished. And there was no occasion to come to this legislature and have some act passed on the strength of that Liquor Control Board having an option to purchase. I fall to see the necessity. So far as the purchase of this warehouse was concerned, that was a detail of administration, just as a detail of administration, and the only way it would come up would be for the scrutiny and examination of the Private Bills Committee, when these matters regularly come up before that committee.

My hon. friend suggests something else to give color to that charge, which he does not make. He says that the deputy attorney-general, the newly appointed head of the Liquor Control Board, goes over to Vancouver with a cheque for \$150,000 and exchanges cheques in some mysterious way with the Government agent and it is split up in three ways, there must be something corrupt about that.

The hon. leader must know, if he turns up Mr. Johnston's evidence and the evidence of Mr. Mahoney, who equally was a witness at the trial, so that it is useless for the leader of the opposition to plead ignorance of what Mr. Mahoney said in that letter. Mr. Johnston's honesty of the allegations made by these inferences and see whether or not these inferences are in accordance with the facts.

What are the facts? Campbell had the cheque in his pocket. He had a certain amount of money coming to him, the mortgagee had a certain amount of money coming to him, and somebody else, I think taxes was the third amount of money which had to be paid out. Any lawyer in this House will corroborate what I say. Theoretically when you pay the vendor of the property the full amount you require him to clear the property. Practically, what a lawyer does is to see that out of the purchase money sufficient amounts are diverted to pay off the encumbrances, which is all done in one transaction.

**Why Cheque Was Divided.**

"What does the deputy-attorney-general say and what does Mr. Mahoney say? The deputy-attorney-general says Mr. Mahoney was the government agent looking after the government personally. I had the cheque for \$150,000, I am going to see that that money is directed in the first place so that every charge against this property will be removed. I don't want to pay out a second account in this bank, so I suggest to you that I give you a cheque for \$150,000 and you make a cheque immediately for the amount coming to the mortgagee and for the taxes. And that was done, and that evidence appears in the transcript of which my honorable friend the leader of the opposition has a copy in his possession.

"I ask you, was any man who knows these facts justified in coming to this legislature and attempting to create the impression attempted to be created by the honorable leader of the opposition yesterday afternoon, and I invite conclusions as to whether or not there was an attempt made to deceive the honorable members when the facts were as simply above-board and straightforward as any business transaction could possibly be.

The next charge my hon. friend comes forward and makes bold and openly is: That the government illegally paid the sum of \$100,000 for the purchase of these premises. I don't know how to expect the committee to deal with it. The Liquor Control Act passed last Session provides by Section 98 (c) for the erection, acquisition or leasing of the name of the government of premises, for the purpose of warehousing or storing liquor. Surely, Mr. Speaker, the



attorney-general of this province, well versed in judicial procedure; this man who would make himself one of the judges comes forward with this suggestion:

He says: "I hope to bring home to Mr. Falconer, a member of the liquor control board, that he too has been making a profit out of the sale of liquor to the board." I will not attempt to add words of condemnation, for they would only weaken the condemnation of the words themselves. I submit that a public official, one who is himself an ex-attorney-general and ex-premier of this province, who comes before this assembly and makes such statements, should not be a judge in the matter.

**Question of Bonded Warehouses.**

I do not know just how to approach this question of the bonded warehouses. The leader of the opposition says, "I am prepared to prove that these consents have been given by the attorney-general after the exchange of monetary consideration and that the evidence affects one or more members of this legislature who participated in the profits." I invited my honorable friend to stand up and make the assertion that money had been exchanged in which I had profited to the extent of a five-cent piece. I am accepting no challenge," said Mr. Bowser. "If I cannot make that charge good it is I who will suffer." But who suffers meanwhile? "Nobody who is innocent," says Mr. Bowser. Now watch. In the Hastings Street store somebody stole liquor. All the employees are dismissed.

"The leader of the opposition says: 'That the government, claiming that they have lost a large quantity of liquor from the Hastings Street liquor store, Vancouver, have, without proper investigation, dismissed the whole staff, thereby casting a reflection and doing injustice to possibly a great many innocent employees.' Here his heart bleeds for those innocent men over there, but he sneers at the idea of the innocent suffering from the imputations he casts. 'I have got here a Vancouver newspaper dated Dec. 3, 1919. I used that paper and the remarks it contained on the floor of this house. In the challenge of the leader of the opposition one time before. The charges made then by Mr. Bowser are pretty nearly the same as those made now. He says, 'There are a great many people, prosecuted and convicted in Vancouver during the past few months, and not one of them but is walking the streets today.' Was there no charge of selling a bottle of whiskey and sentenced to six months. We left his in jail two months. The other two were Vancouver cases, one a man and the other a woman. In the woman's case I have a certificate from the doctor stating that she was unable to stand the sentence, corroborated by Mr. McKay, the city and endorsed by Mr. McKay, the city prosecutor, who was at one time president of the Conservative Association of that city. The other pardon was granted on the written request, signed by Police Magistrate South and Police Magistrate Shaw and others. These are the only three that have been pardoned since under the prohibition act or under the liquor control act in the last year.

"What does my honorable friend refer to by 'men walking the streets?' He knew what happened.

**Refer to Vancouver Clubs.**

Then there are the clubs. My honorable friend had all the particulars of these convictions in Vancouver in the police court under Mr. McKay. Make no mistake, I am casting no reflection on Mr. McKay. He acted fairly on as far as I know. Those men were sentenced to jail. Judge Cayley held that the special section of the act provided for a fine only and quashed the six months' sentence. Any men walking the streets are doing so because of the decision of Judge Cayley. The leader of the opposition made pretty much the same allegations in his famous speech in 1919, and they have a very familiar sound. I answered those allegations a day or two afterwards in the province. I am going to read my answer to those allegations. I never got from him on the platform, or in this legislature another remark on the subject.

"Any men walking the streets are doing so because they appealed their case and succeeded in a higher court case and their convictions quashed." In getting their convictions quashed, Mr. Bowser is careful not to allege anything wrong, but he leaves the implication. He expects to be able to show you that practically every man sent to jail has been pardoned by the Attorney-General's advice. I answer that Mr. Bowser can prove no such thing. I have a full record of these sentences in the last two years. There were 19 sent out of these 13 have been pardoned, and as many more applications for pardons have been refused. Two were old people, over 70 years of age and in ill health. Two were returned soldiers.

About the clubs, I do not intend to trespass upon the time of the House to go into that. I have answered the question as to why these men are walking the streets in Vancouver. It was because of the decision of Judge Cayley. In another case the sentence was quashed by Judge Murphy.

**Willing To Meet Criticism.**

We have not the serious problem on our hands as the months go by as we had in the beginning. We are now in a position to bring in any amendments to the Liquor Control Act as may seem the wiser. I repeat in regard to these imputations that have been made that

as far as my administration is concerned, I have made no pretense of having super-ability. I do not claim to have made no mistakes. We have made many of them. Probably there are many things in regard to the administration which the Legislature and the public have every right to severely criticize. As far as I am concerned I am perfectly willing to take the blame for the mistakes we make, and to bear the full measure of that criticism.

As far as the other charges that have been made are concerned, charges of dishonesty against myself or against my subordinates for whom I am responsible, I have the right to demand, and I believe the members of this Legislature and the people of this province will demand, a full investigation, and I am before my constituents in Vancouver, and I am entitled to demand, and I do demand, a full investigation, and I am in the hands of this Legislature, and I am before my constituents in Vancouver, and I say, as far as I am concerned, I am prepared to meet any charge of dishonesty that may be made, and I demand the protection of British traditions of fair play and playing the game. I have the right to know what I am fighting, and not to beat the air and darkness, but to have the substance, so that I may either meet the charge or go down under the weight of the attack. With this I conclude my reply to the Honorable the Leader of the Opposition.

**Premier Speaks Strongly**

The feature of last night's proceedings was the lengthy attack the premier made against the proprietor of The Vancouver Sun and Mr. R. T. Elliott, K.C., both of whom he says he has been working in collusion against the government, and against Mr. Bowser. So strong did his attack on the opposition leader become that Mr. Speaker had to call him to order for the language used.

The premier accused Messrs. Cromie and Elliott of attempting to block the Daily Varden legislation, and charged the latter had aided Messrs. Foley, Welch and Stewart, former P. G. E. interests, in an endeavor to obtain an unjust settlement with the government, and with later seeking to get away with railway equipment which rightfully belonged to the province. He accused Mr. Bowser with joining forces with these two gentlemen. He declared Mr. Cromie to have been guilty of blackmailing tactics to secure the abolition of the government printing department and have government printing done by private firms; that later he had attempted to obtain \$10,000 for a publication printed from his office, that failing this he reduced his price to \$5,000 and not receiving that amount, he had, the premier declared, commenced his attacks upon the government.

The premier declared Mr. Cromie to be using his paper for purposes of blackmail, and he told of alleged efforts by that gentleman to have the government coerce a paper company to which he (Mr. Cromie) owed money. The rules of the house, declared the premier, would not permit him to say what he had said to Cromie on one occasion, when the latter had forced himself into the premier's room.

**Crusade of Calumny**

Premier Oliver told how, when he was in Toronto, he had heard reports of wrong-doing out here and the crusade of calumny started by The Sun had been assisted by Mr. Bowser and by papers supporting him. "This province has been affected by a miasma of wrong-doing which cannot but have a prejudicial effect upon it," declared the premier, who turned to the allegation by Mr. Bowser that through the failure of the province to clear its liquor from the bonded warehouses before the American federal tax on liquor came into effect, large sums of money had been lost. He held that Mr. Bowser had admitted that the federal minister of finance had endeavored to keep these proposed new levies secret, and yet Mr. Bowser had also admitted that liquor dealers throughout the country had such advance information that they had saved \$169,000.

Premier Oliver took umbrage at Mr. Bowser's statement that a political friend of his (the premier) had bought twenty barrels of beer at one time. He declared he knew nothing of it, but he knew that the allegation had been made with the intent of casting a reflection upon himself.

"And yet the leader of the Opposition besmirches me in the eyes of the public by his insinuation that this man, who has no regard for the reputation of any man, is the man who is coming here in the position of prosecutor and makes these charges, and also wants to be judge of the guilt of the people he accuses. I believe there is in the minds of members of this House a sense of the fitness of things. I do not believe there is a person in this province who would wish to place himself in the position of informant, prosecutor and judge."

Mr. Bowser said he never made such a statement. What he said was, that, as ordinary shrewd business men they anticipated such taxes would be levied. Premier Oliver maintained Mr. Bowser had stated that Ottawa had lost that amount. That was an indictment of his friends at Ottawa, he held.

Agreeing with Mr. Bowser that the liquor business peculiarly lends itself to wrong-doing, Premier Oliver stated that before the act came into force he had had conversations with many people, who stated they had stocks on hand or in transit on which heavy loss would be incurred unless the government took them off their hands. At first he had no objection to that course, but when he saw the possibility of wrong-doing he told the purchasing agent to be careful in the purchase of stocks to see that not a tinge of scandal should arise. He had that official's assurance that so far as he could prevent it, no one had received a single dollar in connection with any of those purchases.

The premier referred to a cheque declared to be insinuation against the integrity of the comptroller-general, that that official had yielded to pressure from the government to sign the \$150,000 cheque, and to allegations against the government agent at Vancouver and against the former commissioner of South Vancouver, and against the general manager of the P. G. E. Railway. He held that Mr. Bowser was insinuating that certain men in Vancouver were engaged in a grafting proposition. He recalled that years ago similar tactics had been adopted by the opposition leader on the eve of a federal campaign.

Mr. Bowser rose to a point of order, holding that what he had said years ago, or his political reputation had nothing to do with the specific resolution he had placed on the order paper and which was before the House. Mr. Speaker held that Mr. Bowser's point was well taken, that when a specific resolution was before the House there could only be reference made to it alone.

Premier Oliver respected Mr. Speaker's ruling, but he declared that before the debates of the session were over he would refer to the matter again.

Mr. Bowser—Why not come down to modern times?  
Premier Oliver—Oh, yes, I understand my friend's desire to sidestep.

Continuing the premier stated that the people of the province would have the impression that all those persons against whom the opposition leader's insinuations were directed were actually charged with wrong doing, and yet "you will not find a single charge against these men."

The premier declared that Mr. Bowser's allegation that large sums were received as profit by some one or more members of the legislature through consents granted by the attorney-general for permits for a bonded liquor warehouse was of a piece with the rest of the insinuations.

**Demands Specific Charges.**  
"I hold no brief for the attorney-general," he declared, "but I appeal to this House that it should give full justice to every man, that in the charges laid there shall be no ambiguity, and that plain language shall be used, and he predicted that after the inquiry was through the opposition leader would say that he had made no such charges and, he held, Mr. Bowser could rightly say so, because under the language he had used in framing his resolution it was impossible to say what was charged.

If the request for an inquiry was granted as asked for and the committee was to go into all the implications and insinuations, it would never get through. He would not burk an inquiry, but he held that there must be definite charges, and with this idea in mind he would move the amendment to permit the opposition leader making a direct charge. It might result in a refusal of the leader of the opposition and the seconder of the motion to submit such charges and the dropping of such an inquiry.

"If the mover and seconder will not comply and refuse to prefer specific charges, then I want to say that this should not end the inquiry," declared the premier. "This House should continue it, so that justice may be done."

Then followed a legal argument entered into by both sides of the House. Mr. Bowser contending for an amendment to a motion for a select committee should be given at least two days' notice on the order paper. To this the premier replied that the matter was one of privilege and that as it affected the honor of members of the House it should be put forthwith.

To this Mr. Speaker Manson concurred, pointing to Rule 55 of the House rules, that on matters of privilege an amendment should have precedence over all other matters.

Mr. David Whiteside stated that he presumed Mr. Bowser was acting in good faith in putting charges forward. On behalf of himself, he stated that the rumors of scandal had almost made political life intolerable. Was the opposition leader prepared to go before a court of justice with such charges? It was a fair position to adopt the practice of the courts. If Mr. Bowser did not accept this amendment and prefer the charge asked for, Mr. Whiteside claimed that in justice to the legislature and to the people of the province he ought to stand up in the House and withdraw his statement.

**MR. HANES FAVORS MOTION.**

Mr. George Hanes, North Vancouver, thought the motion contained enough specific charges to go through with it. He had in view a similar inquiry when no definite allegations were made and none could be made except a suspicion of general wrong-doing. Yet it had developed into a serious affair. The amendment might be in order, he averred, but the members had been hurried and he was not sure that it would mean a full and searching inquiry. The resolution of the leader of the opposition covered sufficient ground to warrant an investigation. He was not satisfied and therefore would vote against the amendment.

Mr. Bowser claimed that he could have asked for a select committee and then have preferred charges to that committee. It was most noticeable how it had been rushed by the government. The premier, he considered, was rather in a hurry to go through with it without giving it the courtesy of placing it on the order paper. He recalled that in 1906 on a motion by J. A. McDonald and J. H. King (present minister of public works), there had been a demand for a select committee with no definite charges preferred. And he recalled to the premier that in this instance the mover had included himself on the committee. In the Kater Island inquiry, not a single statement of a charge was brought against a minister, yet it later developed into a charge against a minister.

"The people of the country will know tomorrow morning," he stated, "that you are going to burk charges involving the greatest scandal of the day. The P. G. E. inquiry was formed to drive me out of office. The Kitano reserve inquiry was another example. Were there charges against me? But you again attempted to drive me out of public life. I have made charges. The air is full of rumors. I am the one who will suffer if I cannot prove them and perhaps drive myself out of public life. Upon you the responsibility rests."

Mr. M. E. Jackson—After what he has just said, does the leader of the opposition intend to make a charge against the attorney-general?

Mr. Bowser—I have never yet nor do I intend now to answer such silly questions.

**Should Accept Responsibility.**

Mr. Jackson contended that the opposition leader had taken advantage of the House. There had been a cloud of suspicion aroused about the attorney-general and by all the rules of the game and chivalry the opposition leader should accept the responsibility. In cold cynicism, Mr. Bowser had excelled himself, declared Mr. Jackson. "If we go back to the days of chivalry he would either have to make good or retract or he would get a gauntlet in his face."

Major Burde objected to the belligerent attitude of the member for the Islands and the member for Alberni received some support from his side of the house.

Continuing, Mr. Jackson said that he was very much disturbed over the Campbell warehouse deal. It was too disconcerting to himself and to the people to allow it to drop, but there had been nothing advanced by the opposition leader to indicate any wrong doing.

The situation became more complicated when Mr. Kenneth Duncan moved the adjournment of the debate on a vote being taken, the motion was defeated by 24 to 18. Hon. Mrs. Smith and Dr. Rose had paired and Canon Hinchliffe absent. Asked by Mr. Jackson whether he wanted to continue the debate, Mr. Duncan stated that he was in no position to do so.

Major Burde took an opposition view and stated that the government had endeavored to rush the matter. The people were not concerned with the value of real estate in Victoria and Vancouver. They were sick and tired of "this sort of thing."

Mr. R. H. Pooley declared there had been heard a great amount of words from the Premier. His mind was taken back to those days when the present leader of the Opposition had been besmirched by the Liberals, but he had never squealed. Mr. Pooley stated that when the Liberals in previous years had asked of the former government investigations they had always got convinced the government, in burking the inquiry, was making a great mistake.

Mr. F. A. Pauline declared that when the House knew what the charges were then it would know how to proceed. The people wanted to see present House methods changed and were tired of the bickering and innuendo.

## MAIDEN SPEECH BY YALE MEMBER

After Free Criticism John McRae Thanks Premier—Makes Plea for Widows' Pensions

### ONE-MAN CARS OPPOSED

Member for South Vancouver Considers They Cause Larger Percentage of Accidents

(World Special.)

VICTORIA, Oct. 29.—Opposition to the one-man cars was expressed in the legislature yesterday afternoon by Mr. R. H. Neelands (South Vancouver), who said this was not an appropriate time to introduce the innovation. He read extracts all of which indicated that these cars induced a larger percentage of accidents.

The speaker regretted there was no reference made to the question of unemployment in the Speech. Unemployment, he said, caused men rapidly to lose morale and become not only unemployed but unemployable. He hoped some provision would be made in the estimate to afford relief.

#### Makes Maiden Speech

Mr. John McRae (Yale) recognized that the public works department was spending money to great advantage, but appropriations in his constituency were not what he considered they should be. In regard to the increasing debt of the province he assured the premier that if an election was held tomorrow "you would be the only Liberal returned to the house." More laughter also followed his declaration in reference to the P. G. E. that "no one could go over the road and form an intelligent opinion with a bunch of Grits."

Mr. McRae made a strong plea for widows' pensions and assistance to the blind. In finishing his maiden speech the member expressed his appreciation of the premier, whose kindness to him, he said, he should never forget.

#### Plea for Mining District.

Mr. T. Uphill (Fernie) considered the payments to men who were temporarily disabled under the Compensation Act were inadequate and contended that to any unemployment was no worse here than elsewhere was no excuse. He also referred to the need for added prevention and precaution in connection with mine rescue work. In his district there had a mountain of coal which people came to see from all parts of the United States but had not a good road to get to it.

He had heard of the proposed one per cent tax on all earnings and asked whether it was necessary to resort to such drastic action. No taxes, in his opinion, should be put on anyone only in excess of what it cost them to live.

#### Fernie Settlement Area.

The total acreage in the Fernie Settlement area purchased by the government amounts to 1182.51 acres, the minister of agriculture informed Mr. T. Uphill. Additional information given is that 1182.54 acres have been sold to settlers; \$24,479 had been spent on improvement; \$24,735 had been invested by the government in the area; 21 lots—1182.54 acres—have been sold; the amount realized from the sale is \$3064 cash payments, less \$4208 rebates to returned B. C. soldiers, and 20 settlers have located on the area.

Among the questions on the order paper for Tuesday next are two from Mr. A. M. Paterson (Delta). The first is an invitation to the premier to furnish information regarding a suggested proposition from the Sun Publishing company to publish "British Columbia in 1918," its nature, and the manner of its reception by the leader of the government. The second question is addressed to Mr. J. A. Catharwood, Conservative member for Dewdney, asking whether that gentleman had ever acted as valuator for the Soldier Settlement Board, and if so, with regard to certain recommendations he is said to have made while acting in that capacity.

## ANOTHER SUN FAKE EXPOSED

Capt. Ian Mackenzie Hands Out Crushing Reply to Attempt to Besmirch His Name

### DID NOT TAKE FEE

Sum of \$1500 Turned Over to G. W. V. A. Relief Fund in April

The Sun this morning prints a statement to the effect that the law firm of Capt. Ian Mackenzie charged a fee of \$3000 for getting official sanction from the attorney-general for the establishment of a bonded liquor warehouse.

The following correspondence, dated over six months ago, proves the lie. As the correspondence shows, Capt. Mackenzie knew nothing of the transaction until after it was completed and then returned his share of the fee on the ground that as a member of the legislature he should not profit from any business done with the government.

The R. T. Colquhoun, who figures in the deal and who failed to cash Capt. Mackenzie's cheque, is a relative by marriage of the publisher of the Sun. The correspondence follows:

April 18th, 1921

R. T. Colquhoun, Esq.

404 Hornby St., Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir: Upon returning to the office today after an absence of ten weeks at Victoria attending the session, I find that my firm did some legal work for you by way of making application to the proper departments of the Provincial and Federal Governments for a bonded warehouse in your name.

Although I understand the firm gave the best part of a week entirely to this work I consider the fee charged in excess of the ordinary legal fee. I find that half this fee was deposited to my credit in the Bank of Montreal. In order that there may be no question at all about the propriety of this matter, and no suggestion of the exercise of influence on my part in any capacity as a member of the Provincial House, I enclose herewith my cheque for Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1500), being the amount placed to my credit. I have further caused to be executed an agreement between myself and my firm to the effect that I shall not be entitled, in whole or in part, to any fees accruing to the firm either directly or indirectly from government sources.

Trusting you will understand my motives in writing this letter, I remain, Yours very truly,

(Signed) IAN MACKENZIE

May 21st, 1921.

R. T. Colquhoun, Esq., 404 Hornby St., Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir: Adverting to my letter addressed to you under date of April 18, 1921, and enclosing my personal cheque for \$1500.00, I find from my bank that this cheque has not yet been cashed.

I would therefore ask you to cash this cheque by noon today or return same to me, in which latter case I shall hand it over to the G. W. V. A. relief fund. Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) IAN MACKENZIE

Vancouver, B.C., May 21, 1921.

Provincial President,

G. W. V. A.

405 Credit Foncier Bldg.

Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir and Comrade:— Upon my return to office duties after the recent session, I find that my firm had done certain legal work which involved making application to the Provincial and Federal governments. I found that half the fee charged was deposited to my credit.

Immediately on discovering this, in order to remove the slightest suggestion of influence on my part, I returned my portion of the fee charged in full. I find on reference to my bank that this cheque has not yet been cashed. I am therefore forwarding this amount to you as provincial president of the G. W. V. A. (my personal cheque for \$1,500 enclosed) with the request that this sum be used by the present or incoming provincial command for carrying on relief work among our comrades and their dependents or for any other charitable work amongst returned men.

Yours fraternally,

(Sgd.) IAN MACKENZIE

(The receipt of this cheque has been acknowledged.)

## BOWSER SPEAKING IN LEGISLATURE TODAY

(World Special.)

VICTORIA, Oct. 31.—Mr. W. J. Bowser, leader of the opposition, will be the principal and possibly the only speaker at the session of the legislature this afternoon, as he is expected to take up a variety of matters. He is speaking on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It is likely that Hon. E. D. Barrow, minister of education will speak tomorrow.