DEG

FOR NEW BIL

Chief Amendments to Marriage Act Would Wait Upon B.C. Declaration

The Provincial Government's long-heralded amendments to the Marriage Act were introduced in the Legislature yesterday, with a section making their chief clauses subject to provincial prov subject to provincial proclamation, The bill was introduced by Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir, after a marriage committee had reviewed the subject for

a year.

The bill proposed stricter limitation of the right to conduct marriage ceremonies, publication of banns in advance of the ceremony, requirements for birth certificates. to be shown by those under twenty-one years of age; and "inspection" clauses subject to declaration by proclamation at the pleasure of the Administration.

Administration.

The "inspection" clauses appeared substantially in the same form as proposed by the C.C.F. opposition in the last two sessions, and rejected on both occasions from the Government side. They would require blood tests for social dis-eases, and certificates that contracting parties knew of the physical condition of their intending partners; with fees to physicians conducting the tests.

Residence requirements would be cut to three days.

cut to three days.

Minor changes are proposed in other parts of the bill, read a first time upon introduction at the afternoon sitting.

The Marriage Bill was referred to in estimates discussion at night, when Dr. Weir announced that it would be mainly a proclamation measure, its chief purpose, he said, would be "to act as a deterrent, and for education" referring to invase. for education," referring to inspec-tion clauses in the proclamation

Tour Comprehensive—Replying to or, J. D. Hunter in the Legislature Dr. J. D. Hunter in the Legislature this week, the Government stated the European tour this year of Dr. Allon Peebles, chairman of the Health Insurance Commission, had consumed ten weeks and cost \$1,500 to the Province. Investigating health insurance, Dr. Peebles had spent ewenty-seven days in the United States, twenty-one days in England, three days in Scotland, five days in Switzerland, eleven days in France, seven days in Czechoslovakia, six days in Demnark, and six days in Norway, touching many European capitals.

OF CONFLICT

Franchise Enabling Legislation May Be Subject to **Utilities Act**

Because of the possibility of con-flict with the Government's Public Utilities Act, consideration of the egislation sought by the municipalities of Greater Victoria to enable them to enter into a joint transportation franchise agreement was de-ferred by the private bills commit-tee of the Legislature yesterday afternoon, to enable the matter to be discussed with Premier T. D. Pat-tullo and Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Municipal Affairs, on Fri-

ay morning. H. S. Pringle, for the city of Victoria, presented the final draft of toria, presented the final draft of the proposed legislation, as ap-proved by the four municipalities, and urged that it should be passed at the present session of the Legisla-ture, as an amendment to the Mu-

AMENDMENT'S SCOPE

This amendment would give sower to municipalities to enter into an exclusive or limited trans-portation franchise for any term not exceeding twenty-one years, or to join with any other municipality in a franchise agreement; and to prescribe how and along what routes the service should operate, fix rates of fare, and prescribe other terms and conditions, including payment to or by the municipality in connection with a fran-

The amendment further provides that a by-law authorizing any such agreement should be subject to the ssent of the electors of each muni

Mr. Pringle stated that the city felt that it was of vital importance that the municipalities should have power to fix fares and prescribe conditions, but if the Public Util-ities Act became law, the proposed amendment would have to be subject to that act.

Public Documents—A suggestion that a custodian of public documents should be appointed was discussed by the printing committee of the Legislature yesterday, when public documents from the Departments of Public Works, Lands, Flaheries, Railways and the Attorney-General were

regived. The committee decided to plas the documents to the Provincial Archives department E E Winch, MP.P., stressed the need for greater speed in the preparation of reports of various Government departments.

LAND MEASURE CAUSES CLASH

Abrogation of Townsite Rights Protested in Legislature—Division Called

A bill to forfeit the rights of the Crown in townsite subdivisions by leaving discretion to the Province to forego a quarter interest in townsite lands opened to public settle-ment drew instantaneous objection Monday, in the Legislature. The bill was one offered by Hon. A. W. Gray.

Drawing attention to the provision, which he said he had found in one clause in routine amendments to the Lands Act, R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader of the Opposi-

tion, led an attack against that bill. Under its terms, he stated, the Province could forego rights which he meant millions to the treasury in the past and might do so again.

If, as suggested, the provision had een intended as a means of making a concession to private housing de-velopment outside Trail, a special bill could be brought in for that purpose without upsetting law that had stood on the books continuously since 1896, and which had proved a necessary protection to the people, Mr. Maitland declared.

DIVISION CALLED

A debate followed, in which Gov-ernment, Conservative and C.C.F. rement, Conservative and C.C.F.
members were all drawn in; the
Government, however, pressing the
bill forward to second reading. Mr.
Matitand forced a division on the
issue, the House dividing 28-14 on econd reading of the measure.

For second reading: Messrs. Pat-

tullo, Gray, Weir, Hart, MacDonald, Pearson, Wismer, MacPherson, As-selstine, Perry (Mrs.) Smith, Leary, Burns, Kenney, Putnam, Strachan, Forester, Connelly, Murray, Tupper, King, Crone, LeBourdais, Johnston, Braden, Bull, Henniger and Straith

Against second reading: Mes Maitland, Anscomb, Bruhn, Paton, Macintosh, Eyres, Finland, H. Winch, E. Winch, (Mrs.) Steeves, Uphill, Guthrie, Cameron, and Shepherd— 14. Messrs. Gillis and Hunter paired.

May Amend Statute—The Provincial Government was reported yesterday as preparing amendments to the Industrial Conciliation—and Arbitration Act, affecting the rights of collective bargaining. Decision, it was indicated, had been reached to amend the statute in response to the requests of labor groups not satisfied with the existing measure.

ADVANCES LAW

House Has Quiet Sitting in Afternoon on Routine **Bills and Motions**

With many senior members ab-sent on account of continued hearings before the public accounts com-mittee, the Legislature sat for an hour yesterday afternoon, on rou-tine bills and motions. The Public Utilities Bill stood over, by con-

Third readings were given to the Jubilee Hospital Bill, amendments to the Plant Protection Act, amendments to the Roman Catholic Arch bishop of Vancouver Incorporatio Act, and amendments to the

Act, and amendments to the Van-couver Incorporation Act. Second readings followed for amendments to the Marriage Act, amendments to the Public Schools Act, amendments to the Coal Mine Regulation Act, amendments to th Stock Brands Act, and amendment Stock Brands Act, and american to the Food Products Minimum Loss Act to tighten the statute pass last year in respect to wholesale sales to chain stores

NEW BILLS

Eleven new bills were introduced and read a first time, several being

and read a lirst time, several being offered by the Opposition.

New measures included bills to amend the University of British Columbia Act. Statute of Limiations Act, Contributory Negligence Act, Motor Vehicle Act, Mechanics Lier Act, all offered by the Crown; and, proposed virtually amendments to proposed privately amendments to the Mental Hospitals Act, the Lunacy Act, Female Minimum Wage Act. Other bills were amendments to the Court of Appeal Act, Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act, and the Vancouver Water Distric to be explained on second Act. eading.

Under the Motor Vehicle Bill actions against a car owner relating to accidents to passengers would be barred, and insurance companies re-lieved of such claims by indirection. Contributory negligence law is also to be varied.

The House adjourned at 4 p.m. until evening.

IN EVENING SITTING

At its evening sitting the Legisla-ture pressed on with one-page bills to amend existing statutes. The

to amend existing statutes. The Mortgagors and Purchasers Relief Act, a moratorium extension measure, was read a third time and enacted subject to assent.

Other third readings included bills to amend the Commodities Retail Sales Act. Collection Agents Licensing Act, Greater Vancouver Water District Act, Mechanics Lien Act and Food Products Minimum Loss Act.

Other measures were advanced a

Other measures were advanced a

BILLS ACCEPTED

Two Opposition bills were accepted by the Government, one with minor changes. The Administration accepted a bill from R. L. Maitland. K.O., Leader of the Opposition, amending the Married Women's Property Act, granting it second reading.

A similar course was taken with a bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act offered by Samuel Guthrie (C.O.F., Cowichan-Newcastle), providing for permissive in spection of the aftermath of mine futallities by representatives of

miners. The Govern sider, however, Steeves (C.C.F to extend minir tection to do fruit pickers, stating he was that the meas cable at prese variety of bills

statutes.

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ING ne Legisla--page bills utes. The sers Relief sion meastime and

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re accept-one with inistration Maitland.

Government refused to con-The Government refused to con-sider, however, a bill by Mrs. R. P. Steeves (C.C.F., North Vancouver) to extend minimum wage order pro-tection to domestic workers and fruit pickers, Hon. G. S. Pearson stating he was sympathetic, but that the measure and readt that the measure was not practicable at present.

Second readings followed for a variety of bills, with small changes in wording from the existing

Toll Bridge Charges Finally Withdrawn By Dr. Lyle Telford

Main Witnesses Offered Before Public Accounts Committee Testify Reasonable Prices Were Paid For British and Canadian Steel in Project

C HARGES by Dr. J. Lyle Telford that there had been an overpayment of in the neighborhood of \$300,000 on the price paid for structural steel on the Pattullo toll bridge collapsed before the Public Accounts Committee yesterday, as the committee, with leave from the House, spent the day on the issue, sitting in three consecutive periods. Dr. Telford finally withdrew the charges.

C. D. Hobbs, of Hobbs & Company, Vancouver, wire rope supplies, de-clined to identify as his the copy of letter sent to British agents serting that bridge companies in Canada were holding up the price of bridge steel. Mr. Hobbs pointed out hat the document was not an original, that it was unsigned and that it bore the initials of a stenographer ho had never been in his

J. C. Boyes, who drew plans for ne former Ladner Bridge at the the former Ladner Bridge at the request of the Terminal Engineering Company some years ago, testified under oath that in his opinion steel costs of \$201 a ton for steel in place on the Pattullo Bridge appeared reasonable. Mr. Boyes, who had been offered by Dr. Telford as a witness, said that Czechoslovakian steel was \$35 a ton cheaper than British steel, and Belgian steel \$30 a ton cheaper. The bridge contract, however, had called for Canadisar and British steel.

The heaving continued with Dr.

however, had called for Canadiser and British steel.

The hearing continued, with Dr. Telford seeking to introduce arguments as to sums paid to the consulting engineer, to the Fraser River Bridge Company, and others under the bridge statute, and arguing, finally, that the Government would have saved money if it had permitted prices to be called for steel in the international world's market, in competition with Skoda and Belgian bids.

Hon. F. M. MacPherson, E. M. Boyd and James A. Collins were examined in the atternoon, Mr. Collins telling of the inception of the project as a private, and later a public, undertaking. All denied irregularities on the contract.

Persisting, Dr. Telford said he wished to show that the project had been extravagant, in comparison with other bridges in Ganada. The committee held this irrelevant. At 6 p.m. the committee recessed for the second time to meet at 8 p.m. CHARGE WITHDRAWN

At the evening sitting of the committee, Dr. Telford withdraw the

At the evening sitting of ommittee, Dr. Telford withdrew harges that an overpayment ome \$300,000 had been made tructural steel used in the Pair

Hobbs to British agents, and since returned to this country. If the letter or its writer had been irre-sponsible, the charges in this respect

fell to the ground.

Pressed by the committee to make his withdrawal absolute, Dr. Telford

"I will just let this one drop. You have got me stopped now, but I am not through with the bridge. I will withdraw the charge, with respect to overpayment of \$60 a ton. But I am not through, don't worry."

The committee accepted the withdrawal, and went into camera to prepare its report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

T. Kenney, committee chaff-, reported from the public accounts committee later at the evening sitting of the House. He presented the committee's report, set-ting out the original charges made by Dr. Telford, and stating that these had been withdrawn by Dr. Telford. The report was unanimous.

The House adopted the report and closed the incident, after a brief but warm exchange between Dr. Telford and Government benches, in which Premier Pattulio announced the Government would not pay atten-tion to verbal insinuations in future but would demand written charges on the responsibility of a member, and in which Attorney-General Wismer classed Dr. Telford's re-flection on a witness before the committee as unfair.

Dr. Telford repeated his assertion that he was not finished with the Pattullo Bridge issue, though, he said, his information in this case had proved unsupported. The House passed on to other business.

MORNING HEARING

MORNING HEARING

The Pattullo Bridge inquiry resumed before the public accounts committee in the morning, with four witnesses heard on oath before the receas. Unexpectedly, the inquiry opened on a defence of the Government's position with respect to the contract, leaving the Telford charges that substantial overpayment had been made on the bridge steel unexplained. The morning was

nation by Dr. J. Lyle Telford.
M.P.P. Hon. F. M. MacPherson
and Attorney-General Wismer sat
through the hearing.

through the hearing.

Dr. Telford produced the letter on which he said his charges had heen based, describing it as one from a Mr. C. D. Hobbs to H. D. Lloyd, Warrington, England. He repeated his assertion that an overpayment of several hundred thousand dollars had been made on the bridge, in connection with the purchase of structural steel, and announced that he desired to call Premier Pattullo, Hon. A. W. Gray and Hon. John Hart before the inquiry ends.

WITNESSES PRESENT

A score of witnesses summoned to the hearing were present, with the exception of A. S. Gentles, an en-gineer connected with the Dominion gineer connected with the Dominian Bridge Company, who it was explained had gone to England in October and would not be available. The Dominion Bridge Company, through Col. Sherwood Lett, solicitor, offered to produce any employee and any document relative to the inquiry, if requested. Mr. Lett sought to make a prepared statement refuting the charges of overpayment, but Dr. Telford objected. The Hobbs-Lloyd letter was

The Hobbs-Lloyd letter was marked for identification but not

filed.

Getting down to questions, Dr. Telford asked who let the contract, who supplied the steel, where the steel was obtained, what was paid for the steel, what firms participated, who were consulting and supervising engineers on the contract, and what relationship existed between the contractors and the Fraser River Bridge Company or with the Government, Continuing, Dr. Telford said he would want to know about sub-contracts, tenders, plans and other matters. nlans and other matters

DOCUMENTS FILED

Replying, in part, Hon. F. M. MacPherson said that Major W. G. Swan had been consulting engineer for the Government, that tenders had been advertised, with plans and specifications on file with the Bridge Company at New nster. The tender accepted Westminster. Westminster. The tender accepted had been "for the bridge complete"; but that certain additional work on rearranged approaches had later been ordered, at costs on a unit basis. The contract with the Dominion Bridge Company, for \$2,723.101 had been acceptain of \$2,723.101 had been acceptained. minion Bridge Company, for \$2,-722,101, had been exclusive of co-ment and some other materials sup-plied to the contractor. The Do-minion Bridge Company built the whole bridge "from stem to stern," the Minister of Public Works stated, filing the tenders, contract and other material with the com-mittee.

Sherwood Lett, as solicitor for the company, was asked what price the firm had paid for the steel used in the bridge. He declined, on the ground that this information was confidential, and should not be expected to competitors. posed to competitors.

FARRICATED SOME STEEL

FABRICATED SOME STEEL
Col. John P. Mackenzie, general
manager of the Western Bridge
Company, a subsidiary of the Hamilton Bridge Company, Ont., was
sworn as a witness. He said his firm
had fabricated 1,861 tons of steel
supplied by the contractors. Some
of the steel had come from Dorman.
Long & Company, England; some
from Dominion Foundries & Steels,
of Hamilton, and possibly some
from the Algoma Steel Company.
His firm had agreed to fabricate
the steel at a fixed unit price. In

the Western Bridge Company's ten-der, which was unsuccessful, struc-tural steel had been quoted at \$1,-247,800. In his opinion, bridge steel cost from \$187 to \$204 a ton on the job, and had cost over \$200 a ton on the Pattullo Bridge work.

i Continuing. Col. Mackensie said that the Pattullo Bridge could only have been built in the West by one of two firms, his own or the Dominion Bridge Company, having fabricating plants. His firm's bid had been \$99,632 higher than its competitors on fabricated steel. The Dominion Bridge Company tender, accepted, had been \$2,722,101, and the Western Bridge Company tender \$2,854,094, or higher by \$131,982

OFFICIALS EXAMINED

OFFICIALS EXAMINED
Arthur Dixon, deputy minister of public works and chief engineer, was sworn as the next witness. To questions, Mr. Dixon said Major W G. Swan had drawn the bridge plans, that personally he had no knowledge of sub-contracts or prices on them; that the plans had been modified as to approaches after the contract had been the contract had been the contract had been the added work at the same unit prices; that a caisson had shifted on a freshet. work at the same unit prices; that a caisson had shifted on a freshet, and the Government had absorbed some of the extra cost in that connection. The price of steel installed on the Pattullo Bridge had been approximately \$201 a ton, Mr. Dixon said in conclusion.

A. L. Carruthers, chief bridge Works, was sworn as a witness. He said he had nothing to do with the said he had nothing to do with the drawing of the plans, though as-sociated with Major Swan in an ad-visory capacity. On the actual work he had only advised and recom-mended, in the same position as "a family doctor, while Major Swan was the specialist." Inspections had not been part of his official duties.

SUPERVISED PROJECT

Major W. G. Swan, consulting engineer employed by the Government, was sworn next. He paid tribute to Mr. Carruthers for advice and help in the project. According to his figures some 5,500 tons of steel had been used in the work, covered by a lump-sum contract of \$1,148,000, including field painting, or \$1,107,000 unpainted. This worked out at \$201 a ton for steel of all descriptions. In actual fact, 70 per cent of the steel used had come from the United Kingdom, and 30 per cent from Canahad come from the United Kim dom, and 30 per cent from Can dian mills. Much of the Old Cou try steel had come from Scotti mills, but all that was available sizes required had been bought

Canada.
Continuing, Major Swan said that Belgian steel could have been had for 15 per cent less, but that the specifications had called for Canadian steel where available, and British steel after that. Canadian mills did not make the larger size in rolled steel or plates. Only two firms could have bid under the specifications, and these two firms had bid.

had bld.

The contract had included a lump price for all steel, and unit basis prices for all other work, revisable as to actual quantities used Pier 4 had been driven five fee deeper than planned, after a freshed which carried out twenty feet of the river bottom, over a length of 600 feet. Reasonable allowances had been made to the contractors of that, Major Swan said, in conclusion.

Legislature Makes Progress on Changes In B.C. Legislation

Government Introduces Bill to Amend Gasoline Control Measure Retroactively-Motor Law And Divorce Appeals Also Considered

EALING with legislation in an amicable sitting, the House gave third reading and enactment subject to assent to seven measures; took four bills through second reading, and received two new bills, one by way of message from the Crown. Amendments to the Land Act, and to the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act, 1937, featured the period.

Third readings included amend-ments to the Coal Mines Regulation, Stock Brands, Department of Mines, Department of Trade, Statute of

Department of Trade, Scaule of Limitations, and Land Acts.

Second readings followed for amendments to the Contributory Negligence, Motor Vehicle, Court of Appeal, and Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Acts.

AMENDING GASOLINE CONTROL

Attorney-General Wismer intro-duced for first reading a messa; till to amend the Coal and Petroleum bill to amend the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act retisoac-tively; and R. L. Maitland, K.C., a bill to amend the Liquor Act. Outside of the House it was ex-plained that amendments to the Coal

and Petroleum Products Control Board Act were designed to rein-force the constitutionality of that sure, now in test litigation, by limiting Provincial direction to fairs within the province, by dealing separately with hard or liquid (el products on their own merits, and by various amendments designed to me present objection to the

OPPOSE LAND BILL

Conservatives renewed their drive against passage of amendments to the Land Act, under which the Lieutenant - Governor - in-Council is given discretionary authority to waive a quarter interest in townsites, once they are improved; and the bill went to third reading over strong Opposition objection.

the bill went to third reading over strong Opposition objection.

Mr. Maitland said the measure went too far, permitting the allenation of public interest in townsite areas which might become extremely valuable, and placing an administration in a position to trade with development corporations vithout specific recourse to the Legislature.

Defending the measure, Premier Patitullo said only discretionary authority was sought, and that this would be used wisely. At the new townsite outside Trail, he said, the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company had financed a private housing programme, had spent considerable sums on street and other improvements, and to take one-quarter of the subdivision now would be confiscatory.

the Opposition on companion amendments to the Motor Vehicle and Contributory Negligence Acts, and indicated these bills would be amended. The law at present holds a motor owner responsible for carried out of courtesy, including any form of damage that may come to them on the road. The amending bill would remove this liability on the owner, and on insurance com-panies concerned in motor policies. Mr. Maitland cited specific instances of where the removal would itself work injustices. Both bills may be

Mr. Wismer and Mr. Maitland of the control of the court of Appeal, and Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Acts. The bills would implement recent Federal law, granting a right cent recera law, granung a right, of appeal on divorce consistent within the limits of the Federal law and in reinforcement of it within Provincial jurisdiction. Divorce would not be made easier, but a right of appeal now open would be consolidated, they explained.

amended in committee

Other bills were of a routine nature. The House rose at 5 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. today.

Islands Residents Renew Objections To Redistribution

THOUGH the redistribution plan has been reported in the House and is now being prepared in bill form. North Saanich and Gulf Islands Saanich and Gulf Islands residents renewed strong pro-tests against the elimination of the historic Islands riding yesterday, in an interview with Premier Pattullo. Captain M. F. Macintosh, M.P.P., introduced the delegation, composed of residential and business groups from many parts of the riding.

District Road Votes Considered by House On Maintenance Work

Peace River Outlet Readvocated, Following Action By Monkman Pass Highway Association-Ordinary Road and Maintenance \$2,179,570

SITTING briefly as a committee of supply on estimates yesterday, the Legislature opened the annual debate on district road votes, before rising to report progress for the day. H. G. Perry (Lib., Fort George) renewed a plea for assistance to a Peace River-Coast outlet, citing voluntary labor done by the Monkman Pass Highway Association and asking for a grant of \$20,000 in that connection for a grant of \$20,000 in that connection.

The debate was adjourned from the Treasury benches.

The general vote under maintenance of roads, bridges, ferries and incidentals called for \$2,179,570. including \$986,500 on roads \$825,000 on bridges, \$250,000 on ferries, \$120,000 for snow removal and a like sum for equipment, \$60,000 for traffic operation and \$18,070 on wharves. District roads votes were detailed

DISTRICT ROAD	VOTES
Alberni-Nanaimo	\$37,500
Atlin	21,000
Burnaby	10,000
Cariboo	62,000
Chilliwack	30,000
Columbia	22,000
Comox	37,500
Cowichan-Newcastle	31,000
Cranbrook	32,000
Delta	25,000
Dewdney	36,000
Esquimalt	31,00
Fernie	25,00
Fort George	45,000
Grand Forks-Greenwood	
Islands	15,00
Kamloops	
Kaslo-Slocan	
Lillooet	
Mackenzie	

Nelson-Creston	45,000
New Westminster	1,500
North Okanagan	31,000
North Vancouver	4,500
Omineca	40,000
Peace River	25,000
Prince Rupert	15,000
Revelstoke	15,000
Rossland-Trail	15,000
Saanich	13,000
Salmon Arm	30,000
Similkameen	31,000
Skeena	29,000
South Okanagan	
Vancouver-Point Grey	5,000
Yale	
Total roads\$	986,500

WANTON CHARGES

Premier T. D. Pattullo is on sound ground in saying that wild and vague charges should not be made against the Government in the matter of public expenditures. He was alluding to statements made in the Legislature alleging overpayments on the construction of the Fraser River bridge, statements that have been withdrawn while an inquiry into them was in progress before the Public Accounts Committee. In future such charges must be made in writing if there is to be an investigation, not merely voiced in a gen-eralized way on the floor of the House.

The implication of such charges is to depreciate the public conception of Government. Mr. Pattullo has intimated this, for it must be remembered that public opinion is easily influenced, and it is, unfortunately, more often than not suspicious of the worst. The integrity of a Gov-ernment must be sustained against unreasonable assaults, that is assaults which have no ground and which cannot be proved. Where facts can and which cannot be proved. Where facts can be brought to bear on charges made against authority, the experience is that whoever is responsible for any malfeasance in office suffers. Without facts, it is only the exponent of wanton politics who is the aggressor. Mr. Pattulio said no less and no more than it was necessary for him to say in the matter of the charges made regarding the construction of the Fraser River

Contril

Debating

ment for th day, the and contr Highway, at the Uni bia; the Go A motion (C.C.F., No the House revive hea

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on a motion Conservative tion, asking record that maintenanc

A similar second moti ing greater of the Univ bis. Conside before adjo

(C.C.F., V accounts of Legislature payment inection we contract or gate route nittee he worked on that reaso made for House ado port, leaving investigation

Pensions at Sixty-Five on Contributory Basis Suggested in House

Debating motions before adjournent for the day at 11 p.m., Wednesday, the Legislature considered alth insurance, contributory old e pensions, Federal main and control of the Trans-Canada Highway, tuition and student fees at the University of British Columia; the Government adjourning the debates at most points.

A motion by Mrs. R. P. Steever (C.C.F., North Vancouver) to have the House set up a committee to revive health insurance was ruled nt of order.

The Government adjourned debate n a motion by R. W. Bruhn (Conservative, Salmon Arm) to urge on the Dominion reduction of old age pension limits to sixty-five years of d on contributory payments tarting at age twenty.

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

The Government adjourned debate in a motion by R. L. Maitland, K.C., conservative Leader of the Opposition, asking the House to go on econd that the Trans-Canada Highway should be taken over entirely by the Dominion, for completion and existences.

A similar course followed with econd motion by Mrs. Steeves, seek-ng greater control over the direction of the University of British Colum bia. Considerable discussion followe ia. Considerable discussion followed efore adjournment on the motion; courses in medicine, journalism, home economics and other changes being mooted in a general debate.

Charge Is Refuted — Settling an ssue raised by Harold E. Winch (C.C.F., Vancouver East), the public accounts committee reported in the Legislature yesterday that no overpayment had taken place in con-nection with a Government road contract on the Dutch Creek-Kings-gate route in the Interior. The com-mittee heard witnesses who had worked on the project, and decided that reasonable payment had been made for work performed. The House adopted the committee's re-port, leaving the committee free of investigations at present. entract on the Dutch Creek-Kings-

House Debate on Utilities Bill Is Halted by Storm

Lamp-Light and Then Daylight Leaves Legislature In Darkness During Committee Review of Key-Note Measure of Session—Bill Clauses Read By Torchlight Before Sitting Suspended

T took the worst storm of the Winter season to stop the British Columbia Legislature sitting yesterday. At 2:30 p.m. the House met to consider the Utilities Bill, including the regulation of power and light companies. At 3 p.m. the lights in the Assembly Chamber failed, and the House pressed on, reading bill sections by torchlight and what little daylight came through remote windows from storm-lashed skies. At 4 p.m. daylight failed, the House was in darkness, and Premier Pattullo suspended the sitting

In that period the House ratified twelve sections in the latter half of Part V of the Utilities Bill, deleted and stood two sections over was under further amendment from the Government benches in mind particulars. Specifically, Sections 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 were ratified, a few with small changes in wording; Section 41 was deleted, and subsections renumbered. and Sections 40 and 50 stood ove

PROTESTS RENEWED

Led by R. L. Maitland, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, Conservative benches renewed objections to specific sections in the bill. Powers specific sections in the bill. Powers to the proposed public utilities comto arbitrate differences b tween utilities and municipalities; to et up appraisal inquiries at the cos the utilities, subject to the utenant-Governor in Council to the final tribunal on questions of fact; to order power service ex-tensions; to control transmission rights of way on highways and in municipalities, were all protested. the measure substantially as drawn.

The chief debate arose over powers of the board to fix rates, order ap-praisals and deal with reserves and epreciation accounts of operating utilities. The Opposition made a stand on Section 48, Subsection 2, which stated, in part:

WORDING CHALLENGED

"The commission in making its appraisal or inquiry under this section may order that all costs and expenses of counsel, engineers, valuclerks, stenographers and assistants retained and em other assistants retained and em-ployed by the commission in and about the making of the appraisal and inquiry shall be paid by the public utility . . ."

Mr. Maitland contended, gave the commission power to set up appraisal inquiries with all the trappings of an Admiralty Court; to stappings of an Admirate Court, to sit for a year, if necessary, and assess the costs against the utility, which would have no appeal on questions of fact, and the commis-sion would be the arbiters of the

Defending the clause, Premier Pattullo said:

ISSUE DEBATED

"May I say that this section of e bill has been vised by the British olumbia Electric Railway Co., Ltd.,

Government, some of which were accepted and some not, but there was no objection to this section either by the B.C.E.R. or by any other utility."

Mr. Anscomb-It looks to me little like the case of the Jews in Germany; utilities are to be fattened

up, only to be plundered.

H. E. Winch—The remarks of the Premier are most illuminating. In the past we know that people have had to pay millions on the watered stock of some utilities. Will the bill used to secure a proper appraisal of values?

Mr. Wismer - Another section Mr. Wismer — Another section deals with the control over the issuance of securities. As to watered stock, you seannot undo anything that has been done in the past. The commission will have full access to the books, in making appraisals.

AFFECTING \$500,000

Mr. Maitland-Section 48 is a very vicious section so far as the smalle companies are concerned. I don't suppose it will affect larger com-panies like the B.C. Electric very much. Powers are to be given appoint a whole corps of count

appoint a whole corps of counsel, engineers, valuators and others to inquire on appraisals, with costs piling up.

Mr. Wismer—You cannot possibly find out what is a proper rate until you have an appraisal first.

Premier Pattullo—I venture to say that the honorable the Leader of the Opposition is wrong about it not affecting the B.C. Electric. I venture to say that it is going to affect them a half-million dollars.

Mr. Matitand—In the effect of the examination, the appraisal?

Premier Pattullo—Why, yes. I venture to suggest that it will cost them \$500,000.

Section 48 was ratified, Conserva-tive benches opposing the motion. Section 50 was objected to by Herbert Anscomb, who said that it would entail the setting up of whole new accounting systems at the direction of the commission. The action was stood over.

Daylight left the House at about he same moment, and Premier rattullo moved the suspension of

COMPOSITION OF BOARD

Resuming with light at \$15 p.m., the House returned to the Utilities Bill after some digressions. Premis-Patitulo announced that Dr. W. Carrothers would be chairman

\$100,000 in the next ten years, at the rate of \$10,000 a year. Two other commissioners have not yet been selected, but they may receive salaries between \$5,500 and \$7,500 per annum, or between \$55,000 and \$75,000 each for the ten-year period, the Premier intimated.

Though the bill provides for ten-year contracts and unlimited sal-aries, the Government explained that tenure of office would be dur-ing good behaviour, and that \$10,000

ing good behaviour, and that \$10,000 a year would be the top salary, that of the chairman. The Government pressed the measure forward over continued objection by the Opposi-tion, not to the principle of the bill, but to the proposed law as written.

ACTION TAKEN

Specifically, Sections 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 79, 80, 82 and 83 were ratified in committee; and Sections 51, 52, 54, 58, 68, 72, 77, 76 and 81 stood over for further review. Minor amendments were being advanced by the Government as the committee proceeded.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., complained the late arrival of a bill of such

the late arrival of a bill of such importance, coupled with fresh bills being brought down by message in the dying hours of the sessi Under such conditions there is little opportunity for careful rev of impending legislation, he said.

Section 51 was stood over when it was brought out that municipalities was brought out that municipalities could be assessed with the costs of continuing safety inspectors and supervisors to be named by the commission. Section 54 was stood over on the issue of unlimited sal-

Dealing with the fixing of rates, Premier Pattullo said:

MAY WAIT YEAR

"I venture to say that before any important rates are set, we will have another meeting of the Legislature. Let us get on with this now and make a start, and then we can amend it as experience dictates."

The committee pressed on, with R. H. Carson, deputy speaker, in the chair. Sections passed in swift tions. Section 58 was halted when it developed that the comprisers succession, over continued t developed that the commissi would only be required "to give su notice of the hearing as it thinks proper to such persons as it thinks

ection 71, giving the commis injunction powers, was ratified, and the following section, 72, vesting the commission with certain powers the commission with certain powers of the Supreme Court, was stood over. Section 77, stating the findings of the commission on questions of fact "shall be binding and conclusive upon all persons and in all courts," was stood over. The bill was pressed ahead, the committee reaching the end of Part VII before rising to report progress for the day.

Be Prorogued by Middle of Week

Middle of Week

Tour message bills reached
the floor of the Legislature
just before the House rose for
its sixth week-end recess, late
last evening. Measures to
legalize and regulate credit
unions, to extend a \$55,000
provincial guarantee to the
80 u th Westminster Diking
District, and to amend the
Mineral and Placer Mining
Acts were introduced from
Government benches, and received first reading. The
House rose at 10:50 p.m. until
2-45 p.m. on Monday. Proronation is talked of for Thursday.

Premier Says House To Put Courts Right On B.C. Fuel Control

Bolster Bill Amending Act Given Second Reading -Amendment Made Retroactive Saying Legislation Not Based on Macdonald Report

THE British Columbia Government's tilt with the courts over gasoline control flared into open defiance in the Leg-islature last evening, Premier Pattullo declaring the House supreme, and announcing the intention of the Adminis-"put the court right upon this issue."

The Premier spoke in defence of a bill to bolster up the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act by declaring retroactively that the act was not based on the Mac-donald Fuel Commission's report and that it was intra vires in every

"It is all very well to say we not consider the actions of the courts in this Lexislature. Of course we can. Where is the final authority, if not in the Lexislature? if not in the Legislature? Not-hstanding the fact the legislation is before the courts, surely this Legislature has the right to say what it intended. They admit—even counsel admit—that this act, per see, is intra vires. I say it is the duty of this Legislature to put the court right upon this issue, and that we have a perfect right to do it," Premier Pattullo declared.

OPPOSITION OBJECTS

The amending bill went through second reading without a division after a short debate in which the Opposition differed sharply from the Administration both in discuss ing the issue at all, and also in holding that the parent act had not been based on the Macdonald reort. Attorney-General Wismer in-roduced the measure.

Mr. Wismer discussed the genesis of the legislation at some length; went into arguments used by the Province in the suit of the oil companies against himself as Attorney? General; named Mr. Justice Manson; declared he was still of the same view, and appealed to the House to pass the retroactive measure, which bore directly on some of ure, which bore directly on some of the points at Issue in litigation now

the points at issue in litigation now bending.

"We were held to be bound by the Macdonald report, which I doubt if more than two Members of the Legislature had read when the act was passed last year, and on the allegasion that we were attempting to deal with oil companies in Callfornia. It was also held that we were attempting to interfere with trade and commerce. This Government, this Legislature, never had any such intentions. We were only seeking to deal with the price of coal, and the price of gasoline. The Court of Appeal upheld the Supreme Court injunction, so I thought it my duty to bring in this bill," said Mr. Wismer, as chief law officer of the Grown.

PROVISIONS ESTROACTIVE.

The substantive sections of the

report made or to be made by the Commissioner appointed by the Lieutenant -Governor - in - Council under the Public Inquiries Act' on twenty-ninth day of November, 1934; and in construing this act and in ascertaining its purpose, inten-tion, scope and effect no reference shall be made to any such reports; and the board shall regulate and control the coal and petroleum industries in their Provincial aspects only; and in fixing the price of any product or commodity in its Pro-vincial aspect and shall not fix the price of any product or commodity or of any industry for the purpose of affording protection or assistance to any other industry or commodity, and this act shall not apply to the importation or export from the Province of any product or com-

Led by R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, the Opposition protested the bill.

DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

"I must say that I regard it as very dangerous precedent, without a very dangerous precedent, withou going into the merits of the lawgoing into the merits of the law-suit. To introduce legislation to overcome a lawsuit, making the bill retroactive, is very bad precedent and bad practice. If the facts are there, the act of this Legislature will not wipe them out," Mr. Mait-land declared. Mr. Wismer—I am doing this as an extra precaution, and in order

an extra precation, and in order to save an unnecessary trip to the Privy Council.

Mr. Maitland—Well, I think you

will land there anyway; either you or somebody else. I suggest that the Government bring coal and petroleum under the Public Utilities Bill,

Municipal Committee Reports Favorably on Firemen's Act Amendment

Approval of a bill to make it com-pulsory rather than permissive for all municipalities with paid fire de-partments to operate them on the two-platoon system was reported to the Legislature yesterday afternoon by the standing committee on muni-cipal affairs.

additional firemen, thereby increasing the burden of the taxpayers.

The municipal committee considered the amendment in camera yesterday morning before making its report to the House. The House gave leave for the bill to proceed.

Government Files Taxation Changes Before Assembly

New 15 Per Cent Tax on Corporation Reserves Held Excessive, and Blanket Rate on Life Insurance Companies Intended in New Bill

ROMISED adjustment with life insurance companies, following conferences held in Toronto this year, and changes in the income tax to establish a tax of 15 per cent on ex-sive reserves were introduced in the British Columbia Legislature yesterday by Hon. John Hart, as a message bill from

COUNCILS MAY BE SUPERSEDED

Franchise Enabling Legislation Subject to Terms of **Public Utilities Act**

With the inclusion of a clause to make the transportation franchise enabling legislation, sought by the four municipalities of Greater Victoria, subject to the provisions of the Government's Public Utilities Act, the proposed amendment to the Municipal Act has the approval of Premier T. D. Pattullo and Hon. A. Wells Gray, it was announced by E. H. Bridgman, deputy minister of municipal affairs, in the municipal committee of the Legislature yesterday morning.

The question was raised as to

whether any by-law authorizing or adopting any franchise agreement should be made subject to approval by the Lieutenant - Governor - in-Council, as proposed in the draft amendment to the act.

PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC

G. H. Lawson, K.C., municipal counsel for Oak Bay, pointed out that if by any chance the Public Utilities Act were declared ultravires the condition that approval by order-in-council should be obtained would provide protection for the

which public.

Mr. Bridgman agreed with this view, remarking that the inclusion of the clause would not in any way invalidate the Public Utilities Act.

In reply to Atwell D. King, counsel for the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Mr. Lawson said that all the provisions of the proposed amendment to the Municipal Act would be superseded by the Public Utilities Act.

Following discussion in camera, the committee approved the amendment in the form in which it was drafted.

Following budget announces of no changes in taxation, the measure to amend the Income Tax Act came as a surprise

The new income tax, it is under-The new income tax, it is uncer-stood, will fall on undistributed profits of corporations held in re-serves, and will apply to "undis-tributed gains and profits which, in the opinion of the Minister (of Finance), are in excess of what is reasonably required for the conduct of its (the corporation's) business. An appeal to the Cabinet from the minister's ruling is provided.

FLAT RATE TAX

Life insurance companies are to be taxed 2% per cent on gross premiums, in lieu of all other taxes, including bonus taxes, imposed now on these companies. It is believed that the change, when explained, will implement an understanding reached between the life insurance companies and the treasury som nonths ago, when treasury off were at Toronto. The bill received

Hon. A. W. Jray introduced a bill to implement Federal law with respect to loans to municipalities for local improvements, already forecast. The bill however is reade cast. The bill, however, is retroactive to June 25, 1938, takes in "any public body" as well as municipalities. Under its terms the Government would have power to approve of loans to municipalities or other public bodies under the Federal law, with security to be established to the satisfaction of the Province. The bill was given one reading.

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ANCO hoped would so he could serious char Pattullo Bri Dr. Telford monwealth F Vancouver-Ea

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ISSU Dr. Telfor "It was w porarily wit garding the before the tee at Vict cause I co untrue, but serious let-of my mate "Now, aft

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advisemen

Telford Will Resign Seat to Test Bridge Charges in Election

Member of C.C.F. Party in Legislature Awaiting Decision of Constituency Organization-Alleges Irregularities in Building of Structure

ANCOUVER, Dec. 3 (9).—Dr. Lyle Telford said today he hoped to decide definitely within a few days whether he would resign his seat in the British Columbia Legislature so he could fight out, in a by-election campaign, "much more serious charges" in connection with construction of the new Pattullo Bridge over the Fraser River at New Westminster.

Dr. Telford is Co-operative Com-nonwealth Federation member for Vancouver-East,

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Earlier in the week Dr. Telford withdrew charges he had made in withdrew charges he had made in the Provincial Legislature that the Government had spent \$300,000 more than it needed to for steel used in building the bridge, opened to traffic last year.

The withdrawal was made before the Legislature's public accounts committee after Dr. Telford failed substantiate the charges by evi-

NO DECISION VET

The provincial executive of the C.C.F. must approve the resignation before it can take effect. Herbert Gargrave, provincial party secre tary, said Dr. Telford consulted with some members of the executive, but no decision would be announced until after officers of the constitu-ency party organization were con-

Dr. Telford said he withdrew the

Dr. renord said ne withdrew the charges in the committee "because of certain technicalities."

"But I am prepared to stake my future political career on pressing them," he said.

ISSUES STATEMENT

Dr. Telford issued this statement: "It was with regret that I tem-porarily withdrew my charges re-garding the Pattullo Bridge affair before the public accounts commit-tee at Victoria. I did so, not be-cause I considered these charges cause I considered these charges untrue, but because of certain technicalities which I could not at the moment overcome and because of a serious let-down on the part of one of my material witnesses.

"Now, after further investigation,

I am prepared to make much more serious and extensive charges in connection with the whole business and construction of the Pattullo

CONFIDENT OF CHARGE

"So confident am I of the truth of my charges, that I have already consulted representatives of my constituency requesting them to permit me voluntarily to resign my seat in the Legislature and run against a Government candidate in a by-election there, solely on the Pattudo Bridge question.

"This matter is at present under advisement by them and I hope for a definite decision within the next few days.

few days.

"The serious nature of this bridge scandal, which is a miniature repetition of the P.G.E, and Beauharnois scandals, warrants appointment of a royal commission to investigate it from beginning to end.

"Political patronage and graft are the curse of this province. These evils lower the efficiency, integrity and self-respect of practically every man on the job. They add translations."

ready overburdened taxpayers; in fact, to that of every citizen of the

"I am, therefore, forced to the conclusion that this bridge transaction, which is only a typical example of what is going on all the time, warrants serious consideration." tion on the part of every intelligent citizen, and that a determined ef-fort must be made to eradicate this social evil before we can hope to make much progress.

"For these reasons, I am exceed-ingly anxious to gain the permis-sion of my constituential representatives to resign my seat in the Leg-islature and contest a by-election on the bridge issue.

on the bridge issue.

"After all, the people are the final court of appeal, and upon their decision in this matter I am willing to stake my future political career."

Reductions in Land Settlement Arrears May Be Implemented

Scaling Down of Compound Interest Accumulations on Mortgage Loans and Agreements for Sale Anticipated in B.C. Legislation

LEGISLATION to scale down \$1,250,000 worth of arrears in principal and interest owed to the Land Settlement Board directly and also through the former Agricultural Credits Commission is expected to be introduced in the British Columbia Legislature this week, it was learned yesterday on reliable authority.

The amount of the reduction in outstanding payments by mortgagors and agreement holders under the board could not be ascertained; although, it is understood, compound interest is to be abolished retro-actively, and some concessions made in reappraisal of property values.

For several months past the Govent has been conducting special inquiry into the position of those who received loans under the Agricultural Credit Commission. later taken over by the Land Settle-ment Board, and into the position of those who bought board lands in of those who bought board lands in settlement areas upon agreements for sale. William Turnbull, special adviser to the Department of Lands, has been conducting the inquiry. His recommendations are understood now to have gone before the Cabinet, with the expectation a bill to amend the Land Settlement and Develop-ment Act will be introduced within the next few days.

ADVANCES \$5,134,768

In the public accounts for the calendar year ending December 31 last, the board pointed to \$127,058 worth of mortgages foreclosed; \$67.957 in agreements surrendered. and \$188,956 in principal outstanding on part of the agreements for sale. The same report told of \$5,134,768 in advances from the treasury for the purposes of the board under the various schemes

Exclusive of South Okanagan, reexclusive of south Okanagan, re-clamation and irrigation projects believed to be outside the scope of the revision at present, approxim-ately \$1,250,000 is said to be out-standing in arrests, largely as a result of accumulations of com-cound interest. Marting of part of pound interest. Writing off part of this sum is intended.

this sum is intended.

Entering the seventh and probably the final week of the session, the Legislature has yet to receive the redistribution bill, by way of amendments to the Constitution Act; the municipal superannuation bill, possibly as a separate measure uncon-nected with the provincial scheme; annual amendments to the Municannual amendments to the Municipal Act, containing some new added clauses concerning utilities and other matters; the Land Settlement Board measure, and whatever re-

mains undisclosed of the Govern-ment's legislative programme for

LIMITED TAX CHANGES

Changes in the Income Tax Act, it was unofficially explained yesterday, will be more confined than appeared will be more confined than appeared on the surface. The fifteen per cent on corporation reserves held excessive by the Treasury will apply principally to family holding companies, of which perhaps half a dozen cases exist in this province.

Changes in electoral law, where candidates' election deposits and a mail-card system of voting registra-tion were advocated, are to be stood over for a year; but the recarving of provincial ridings is to go ahead, with the bill now in course of preparation.

Among new bills entering the House on Friday evening, the Credit Unions Act turned out to be a proclamation measure, to commence only at the pleasure of the Lieuten-ant-Governor in Council, and amendments to Mineral and Placer Mining Acts are, in part, dated bills concerning changes to be applied in June next year.

BILL WILL PASS

The chief clauses in the Public Utilities Bill have, with few excepand that measure, when reprinted, is expected to pass the House on the strength of the Administration's majority, assisted possibly by the left-wing section of the Opposition. Conservatives are opposing the terms of the bill of the bill.

Though party whips speak of Thursday as the possible date of prorogation, adjournment sine die may be a little later in the week it he full legislative programme is advanced. The session began on October 26.

Note and Comment

By Sandham Graves

Horrors, unimaginable, happened to the Marble Clock on Friday. Picture Andromeda chained to a seaght rock by order of the angry gods, while the tide rose inch by inch to her very chin. Picture the shipwrecked mariner eating the last crumb of his last sea-biscuit, without a sail in sight. Picture the Marble Clock, with entreating arms pinioned at 3:14 p.m. precisely, while Parliament made law at 3:15, at 3:35, at 4:05 p.m. Oh! Horrors!

Never shall the Clock forget it. There sat Parliament in the full panoply of its majesty; learned, dignified and honorable. There beamed the Clock with high and marbled countenance; telling off the minutes, precisely sixty seconds apart. From 2:30 to 2:45 p.m. all was in the very best of order. The Government proposed. The Opposition opposed. The Chair kept order. The Pages sped with glasses of water. The Clock gave up its minutes lingeringly, lovingly; as one who bestowed the grace of history upon a great occasion.

The House opened the Light Bill at 2:55 p.m. by the Clock; and who should know better? Here was a great moment, passing solemnly into history. Here was reality. High up from the rafters hung six glittering chandeliers, epitomizing light, and life, and power. The Government proposed. The Opposition opposed. The Chair kept order. The Clock struck another posture with its arms apart, at 2:55 p.m., at 2:55 p.m., at 2:57 p.m., and so on to 3 p.m., when the lights, incontinently, blinked.

Yes, the lights blinked; went out for a moment in an unofficial recess; came back again as if they had forgotten something; left again in a hurry, without a trace of apology. The Clock stopped! Yes, it did; stopped with its arms upraised, its countenance aghast. Time, you see, was going on, and the Clock couldn't keep up with it. Horrors, the Clock was losing face; losing time. The angry god of light had struck it numb.

The lights came back again; but now the Clock was late. At 3:02 p.m. by independent timepleces it read 3:01 p.m.; sixty seconds late! At 3:10 p.m. by mere stem-winders, it said 3:09 p.m. The Chair said, shall the section pass? The Government said yes. The Opposition said no. So that section passed, in the light. Far outside, in a dim, remote world with no visible connection with this resplendent world, a southwest gale scrambled a hundred wires, and the lights went out again; winked in and winked out; blinked twice prodigiously, went out for good.

There in the dark sat the House, sat the Government, sat the Opposition, sat the Pages, sat sundry other persons, and the nonplussed Marble Clock. As for the Clock, it was out, cold. Not just a faint, not merely a relapse, not just sixty seconds behind with history; but inert, lifeless and cold; at 3:14 p.m., according to its stiffening arms, but at 3:15 p.m. by everybody else. Ohlecture now Andromeds with the salty waves lapping at her mouth. Picture the mariner, licking the last laint speck of sea-biscuit off his little fingers. Picture the Clock, with hands pressed together in mule, in

Pull up the blinds said the House. Fetch a flashlight said the Government. We know where there is a wee bit of a candle said the Opposition. This is mockery said an honorable Member from Fernie. Upwent the blinds, and in came a little daylight, like the grey ghost of the storm itself, murky and dispirited. I can almost see said the Chair. Take this torch said the Government. What about us said the Opposition? You can hear, can't you, said the Chair; but nobody thought of the Clock!

Shall the section pass, said the Chair. Yes, said the Government, No, said the Opposition. So that section passed. A spirit light floated serily in at the northwest portal; the noble Member for Fernie had found a pitlamp. The Light Bill shone in the pale golden beam of the flashlight. The Chair saw the Bill. The noble Member for Fernie saw the Bill. We can't see, said honorable Members. You can hear, can't you, said the Chair. Yes, honorable, learned and distinguished Members could hear. Hear, then, the next section; shall it pass? The Government said yes. The Opposition said no. Prostrated, the Clock said nothing. So that section passed.

Ten minutes passed in the stormlashed world outside. Time stayed still in the House. It was still 3:14 p.m. by the Clock. Ten more minutes rushed by outside, joining the legions of the Past. Still 3:14 p.m. walled the Clock. Sections were heard and recognized; agreed and amended; supported and opposed; as the House pressed on in the dark. Getting somewhere whispered the A.G. Getting nowhere said the L.O. Can't see said Grand Forks, or Golden, or was it Peace River? Well, shall we call it off said the P.M. Yes, said the House. Yes, said the Chair. So we called it off; at 4:05 p.m. by stem-winders; at 3:14 by the Marble Clock.

Fifty-one minutes lost out of history; think of it, calmly if you can. Fifteen sections of the Light Bill, heard in the dark; fifteen sections read by torchlight; fifty-one minutes forever lost to the Clock. Oh! Andromeda, better had the tide washed over your head! Oh! Sallor, sooner siould you have starved to death, toan to have this happen. To lose fifty-one minutes from the roll of the Ages! The House adjourned in the dark; leaving the Clock to its mortification, alone in the dark!

At 8:15 p.m. the lights were on again. At 8:15 p.m. the House was back again; and going into the Light Bill. At 8:15 p.m. the Clock said 8:15 p.m.—but it blushed while it said it, having skipped almost an hour!

EXTRAORDINARY LEGISLATION

Although obviously intended to, the Bill now before the Legislature, entitled "An Act to amend the 'Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act,'" will have no effect on any case before the Courts. It is a piece of legislation, designed, in the first place, to dissociate the main Act from any intention of implementing or carrying into effect the findings of the Commissioner who investigated coal and gasoline prices. This is, of course, an absurdity, as the Commissioner's report was a prelude to the Act, and it was upon its findings that the legislation is based.

The amending Act states that Section 41 of Chapter 8 of the main Act shall be retroactive and shall be construed as if originally contained in the "Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act, passed on the Tenth day of December, 1937, and shall be deemed always to have had effect from that date and shall affect legislation pending at the time of its enactment." Such legislation must be unprecedented, for the purpose appears to be an effort by an Attorney-General, through the Government and the Legislature of which he is a Member, to improve his position before the courts at the expense of his opponents. In effect, the Government seeks authority from the Legislature to step in and interfere with a matter already before the Courts after the highest Court in the Province has ruled that evidence concerning the relationship between the Act governing coal and petroleum products and the Commission which investigated these matters is admissible. There is the attempt, therefore, on the part of the Attorney-General to nullify the effect of the Court's ruling, and to shut out evidence that the Appeal Court has said is admissible.

The legislation is designed to infringe on the jurisdiction of the Courts and create a precedent of a character which does not seem to have a parallel in British law annals. It constitutes a dangerous precedent and one which should be combatted vigorously in the Legislature. The Government is attempting to arrogate a right which it could not consider for a moment giving to a private litigant. The Legislature is being asked to give aid to the Attorney-General in an action now before the Courts, a procedure which is contrary to all the ethics of justice.

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Legislature Clears Departmental Votes At Evening Sitting

Balance of Supply Bill Totaling \$29,766,592 Approved, After Review of Road Maintenance and Other Appropriations for Year 1939-40

VIRTUALLY completing a total supply bill of \$29,766,592, the British Columbia Legislature sat late last evening to clean up deferred votes in the Departments of Public Works, Attorney-General and elsewhere in the book of estimates.

The district road votes un vent their annual debate, with a c'ash between northern members as to the suggested route of a Peace River outlet, when there is to be a Peace River outlet. Proponents the Peace Pass route vied with the Monkman Pass adherents in a dis-cussion of the best route to the coast. Premier Pattullo capped the ion by stating that at pres-ritish Columbia had more ent British bread than butter to go on it, in so far as road expenditures were concerned

concerned.

Colin Cameron (C.C.F., Comox) appealed for the Sayward link on Vancouver Island, stating abanboned logging grades could be used there to provide most of the suggested connection with the highway system of the province. From nearly every riding there were appeals to complete roads commenced. peals to complete roads commence but not linked up.

PUBLIC WORKS

Estimates in the Department of Public Works called for \$3,259,750 in the coming year, compared with 3,069,614 in the year closing.

Changes included \$1,500 more for the portfolio; \$25,000 for a prelim-inary survey on the British Colum-bia-Alaska highway; \$20,000 additional for roads, bridges and ferries a total vote of \$2,179,570 net; \$115,000 more for repairs to buildings; \$23,000 more for administra-tion; \$23,000 more for maintenance of the Legislative Buildings and grounds; \$14,000 additional for office supplies; \$10,000 for furniture and equipment; \$5,500 more for power, light and water; and some small salary additions in the lower

Detailed, main votes included annual road, bridge and ferry main-tenance at \$2,179,570; repairs to provincial buildings, \$447,597; ad-ministration, \$331,592; maintenance of Legislative Buildings and grounds, \$188,770; maintenance at Govern-ment House, \$28,218; local highment House, \$28,218; local high-ways within municipalities, \$25,000; Alaska road survey, \$25,000; elec-trical energy inspection, \$19,022; minister's office, \$12,630; highway sign grants, \$2,350; and steam boller inspection, one dollar net, but \$35,854 gross.

Note and Comment

By Sandham Graves

On my desk this morning, brough by a little blue bird, was quite the best report of parliament that have read in a long time—of a par-liament of adults as seen by one of the serious young people who attend our schools. With only minor omisour schools. sions to avoid personalities, the report, in letter form, is presente here unchanged:

"I must tell you what Mummy and I did last night. It was great fun. We went down to the Parliament Buildings. Mummy asked Daddy to go with us, and all he said was that they were a bunch of (censored) and never did anythere are the said was that they were a bunch of (censored) and never did anythere are the said was that they were a bunch of (censored) and never did anythere are the said was t or (censored) and never did any-thing anyway; and Mother said he talked through his hat, and Daddy got red in the face and said he warn't. And oh, Aunt Sarah, it was fun. We went anysaid he wasn't. And oh, Aunt Sarah, it was fun. We went anyhow. My, those are long steps to the big door, and Mother said she wondered how fat politishums ever got to the top. We went in the door, and a man showed us how to go up in the elevator. A little fat, round man went up with us, too, and Mummy whispered that he was (a Member). He pressed the button for us, and said he only wisht that was all he had to do to make things move, and Mummy and he laughed. I don't see anything funny in that, do you, Aunt Sarah? Anyway, we got to the floor we wanted and went down a long hall. My, it was quiet, and I asked Mum if it was like this all the time, and she said yes, and chuckled a bit. Then we came to a door and Mother gave the man a ticket and (he) showed us to a seat, and we could look down and see men sitting at desks just like we have at school, only a lot bigger. They could look down and see then stiting at desks just like we have at
school, only a lot bigger. They
looked so funny. Some of the
desks had apples on them. We
couldn't have apples on our desks
at school, why should they?

asked Mummy and she said they
got hungry, sometimes. But they
didn't look like that. Most of
them had bald heards and were
fat. And oh, Aunt Sarah, there
was a man sitting right at the
end of the room, with a funny hat
on, just like some of the iunny
hats that Mum's friends wear
when they come to tea, He looked
so stern, just like Daddy looks
when he is going to use the hat
rush it I've been bad. He had
a bell which he rang two times,
and then he would bang it hard,
just like teacher, when some of school only a lot bigger. They

these men talked too much, and they did a whole lot. One man with his hair parted in the middle and hanging just over his eyes was getting red in the face and telling the little fat man we say in the elevator about some coal oil brought into the court. I asked Mum what it was and she said it was Petrolum, or something like that, and it had been taken to court. That was where Daddy was when the cop stopped him for speeding once when we went on a picinc. I asked Mummy why they took a can of oil to court on a picnic. I asked mulmiy who they took a can of oil to court and if it had done anything wrong, and she said don't by silly, it was the gas company, wonder if our garage man will be wonder if our garage man will be put into court? Do you think Son Aunt Sarah? Then the little fa man got up and we couldn't head him very well, and all the mes on his side banged their desks My, if we did that in school the teacher would bang our hands with a ruler, but this man didn't. And guess what I saw, Auntie? Two men cutting one of those Two men cutting one of those apples in half, and eating it right in the room! No one told them to go out or stop, and they kept on talking. And one man put his feet up on the desk. Oh, it was fun. We left just after that.

"Yours ever, Auntie,

So there you have a picture of low Parliament looks to a school how Parliament looks to a schoo child. It is only fair to add that as seen from above, all men appear little; and that men old enough to be in Parliament at all are apt to be at least of the be at least of the years of generous girth and ample discretion. You can see that the hero of the piece was the Member-in-the-Elevator who longed for an all-inclusive but who longed for an all-inclusive but-ton. Nor were the apple-eaters hungry; they were merely follow-ing the adage. You know it begins: an apple a day keeps — and so on. On the whole, the report is just and accurate; and shows how sharp are little eyes, both at home and abroad. I am distinctly great-ful to the little hung bird for the and abroad. I am distinctly greatful to the little blue bird, for the
best report of parliament I have
seen in a great long while. On the
whole, perhaps children should not
be taken to see a parliament; they
see too much! Conversely, maybe
Members in Parliament should be
taken once in a while to see a
chool. Lam sure they would be school. I am sure they would be e-fit; but they would never agree with Teacher about apples and degas. They would need a Royal Commis-sion to find the missing x and y; or an Act of Parliament to declare or an Act of Parliament to declare that the answer in the back of the book was suspended, and that the facts would be as the act stated them to be, retroactively to the end of the last fiscal year, but one. In any event, I am grateful to the little blue, bird. If we don't soon learn to laugh at ourselves we will ossify!

Final Section of Macdonald Fuel Report Received

THE third and final section of the report of the Macdonald Commission on coal and gasoline was placed in the hands of the British Columbia Government yesterday. The report was not referred to in the Legislature during the day.

UNIVERSITY TO BE AIDED

Government Taking Authority to Spend Up to \$350,-000 on U.B.C. Buildings

Authority for the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to spend up to \$350,000, under the Department of Public Works, in new buildings and rubine works, in ewe buildings and equipment at the University of British Columbia was introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. John Hart, by way of a bill to amend the B.C. Loan Act of 1936. The House proceeded with legisla-tion at its afternoon sitting.

tion at its afternoon sitting.

Introduced and also read a first time was the Municipal Superannuation Bill, laid before the House by Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir. Other new bills introduced from the Government side included amendments to the Game Act, Municipal Act, Municipal Elections Act, Village Municipalities Act, and the Venereal Diseases Suppression Act. Samuel iseases Suppression Act. Samuel cuthrie (C.C.F., Cowichan-New-astle) brought in a bill to amend Guthrie the Coroner's Act.

First readings followed all round; the Opposition complaining of a press of new legislation in the final week of the session.

TAXATION CHANGES

From the Treasury benches, Mr. Hart explained changes in the Income Tax Act, offered for second reading, but adjourned in debate. The Government proposed to apply the 15 per cent surtax to undisthe 15 per cent surrax to uncis-tributed profits held in the reserves of some six holding companies with-in the province, on the ground that, had the dividends been paid, share-holders would have been individu-ally liable for the impost. The gen-eral corporation tax would remain unchanced.

In respect to life insurance com panies, the Government proposed to raise the tax to 2% per cent or ss premiums, exempting bonu returned to policyholders, without affecting net revenue in any substantial particular, Mr. Hart said.

stanual particular, Mr. Hart Said.
R. I. Matiland, K.C., Conservative leader, adjourned debate before second reading on the Income Tax Bill, and also on the bill to legalize and control credit unions, a proclamation measure. Mrs. R. P. Steeves

tion measure. Mrs. R. P. Steeves spoke in favor of the credit union measure, urging the Government to go further and encourage the promotion of co-operative unions, pooling the savings of small investors.

Hon. A. W. Gray explained a bill to ratify a new Government guarantee of \$55,000 to the South Wastminster irrigation district, stating the money was required to retire existing loans and to finance replacement and new works. Second reading followed. reading followed.

MINING LAW

Second readings followed in turn for bills to amend the Mineral Act, and a companion measure to amend the Placer Mining Act, explained by Hon. W. J. Asselstine. The Minister of Mines said both bills would bring in the Government's plan to insure active development of mining leases, prevent blanket staking of ground by land speculators and improve the position of prospectors where genuine development was intended.

THIRD READINGS

Pressing on with bills at the evening sitting, the House gave third readings to the Fraser River bridge transfer measure, under which the former rail-and-road bridge, worth \$555,000 at its latest appraisal, will be transferred to the Dominion; to amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, removing accident liability in respect to casual car passengers; to companion amendments to the Contributory Negligence Act; and to tributory Negligence Act; and to annual changes in the Noxious Weeds Act.

Weeds Act.

Bills to provide a change in the method of election of the chancellor and senate at the University of British Columbia, and dealing with the rights of the faculty council; to apply Federal law giving a right of appeal to the Court of Appeal on British Columbia divorces; to permit municipalities to borrow 2 per cent Pederal money under the Province's rederal money under the Province's supervision and guarantee; and to guarantee a loan of \$55,000 for South Westminster were read and completed in committee, some with last-minute amendments.

SECOND READINGS

Second readings followed for the Credit Unions Act, a proclamation measure; the measure to authorize the Government to borrow and oply \$350,000 for buildings at the niversity of British Columbia under niversity of British Columbia under to Loan Act of 1936; and the civic followed superannuation measure followed before the House went into com-

efore the House went into nittee of supply on estimates. Conservatives fought the Fraser Bridge transfer measure stubbornly, but were outvoted. Premier Pattullo reiterated that the Province had been faced with the prospect, of spending \$1,000,000 for a lift-bian, or of handing the whole bridge over to the Dominion. The latter course had been decided upon, and the transfer would take place immediately. Meanwhile, the Province would renew its claim for some adequate compensation in that record ervatives fought the Fraser

quate compensation in that regard, naving once suggested \$1,000 from the Dominion as a cash settle-ment.

The Government resisted efforts to restrict the effect of the bill to amend the Motor Vehicle Act, and passed the law as presented.

Statement Acting group in the LegisE. Winch, M.P., statement Jest day the parliamentary lated itself with the Pattullo bridge would call on the live to summon an odiscuss questions of d leadership. The cifically that be and leadership. The specifically that it was ed with Dr. Lyle Telford at charges, nor in his t talk of making the at a by alestic.

NEW PENSION SCHEME FORCES DRASTIC CUT IN CIVIC ALLOWANCES

Second Reading Given Bill in Legislature Here Plan of Municipal Superannuation Is Short \$1,700,000 in Funds, and Breaking Down, Minister Tells House

SSERTING that funds in support of municipal pensions schemes were now \$1,700,000 short and that the whole A superannuation plan for civic employees was breaking down, Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir moved second reading of the Municipal Superannuations Bill in the Legislature after 10 o'clock last evening. Second reading followed a short, sharp debate on the measure introduced only a few hours before.

Dr. Weir explained the crux of the scheme, which cuts down existing pensions drastically, pools contribu-tions to the fund, exacts 7 per cent from employers, and 4 per cent from employees, and creates a board of trustees to administer the plan, under provincial supervision. new plan, Dr. Weir assured the House, was actuarially sound.

The Government will be responsible for the cost of administration only, and for the integrity of the funds, to be set up under the Province's care, in Dominion and Pro-vincial and Provincially-guaranteed securities. Had municipal employees e in with the Provincial scheme in 1934 their position would now be 20 to 25 per cent improved. They had elected to remain out, and as a equence the civic pension plan was on the verge of breaking down, and would do so if the bill were not passed, Dr. Weir continued.

MEANS HARDSHIPS

The new plan, continued the Pro The new plan, continued the Pro-vincial Secretary, meant hardships for those retired on relatively large pensions, now to be cut to a frac-tion of those sums, and hardships also for lesser paid employees, some of whom had been many years in municipal employment. The Gov-ernment had striven in an effort to

ernment had striven in an effort to see if minimum pensions could not be held at between \$50 and \$60, but found that impossible on a plan that would carry itself successfully. Municipal employees had agreed to the principle of the bill, he stated.

The new pensions will involve the payment of \$30 a month after twenty years' service, or \$360 a year, with \$1 per month for each year of service added after twenty years, and the right to purchase an annuity to eke out these sums. Employers will contribute 7 per cent, employers will contribute 8 per cent employers a per cent employers a per cent employers a per cent employers will contribute 8 per cent employers a per cent employers will contribute 9 per cent employers will employers will employers will employer

Continuing. Dr. Weir sald that figures in the bill would have to be accepted as they stood, or else the whole scheme would be thrown out of actuarial proportion. Municipalities would be given the right to ease

tion of the bill until the last week of the session. Ten years ago, said, the Legislature had been sured that the superannuation scheme was sound. When the civic scheme was amended, and 1 per cent added from cities to make up for non-contributing pensions, the same assurance had been given. Now the House was told the funds were short by \$1,700,000. What assurance, he asked, was there that the scheme as now to be amended was any sounder?

PLAN GUARANTEED

Dr. Weir replied that actuarial investigations had been conducted, and that the proposed plan could be guaranteed, but only on its precise guaranteed, but only on its precise figures. Government costs in connection with the scheme would be explained in committee stages; but he would remind the House that \$395,000 had been put in estimates again this year for the Crown costs for Provincial pensions and the administration of superannuation schemes generally.

The plan meant breaking contracts with pensioners and their families, and might involve the scaling down and might involve the scaling down of \$100 pensions to \$26 or \$27, Mr. Anscomb replied. If it were left to municipalities to increase the pensions out of their own funds, there would be few increases, and those not on a even basis. He expressed the hope the new board of trustees would not be political appointees, but people versed in the subject. Mr. Anscomb asked again what would be the costs of the scheme, all round. The Government reiterated that costs would be discussed in com-Government reiterated tha would be discussed in committee

VANCOUVER'S POSITION

VANCOUVER'S POSITION
Endorsing the principle of the
bill, Ald. Fred Crone (Ltb.-Vancourer) said that Vancouver had tried
to keep up its obligations to the
fund, but had been concerned for
two years a fight he way things were
going. Vancouver, he said, had gone
\$750,000 into the hole. The bill would
clear the decks of the old scheme,
eliminate pensions of \$250 and \$275
a month now being paid to past employees, and make the best of a bad
job all round. If the Government
proceeded under the Bankruptcy
Act, there would be nothing left to
hand out to the beneficiaries.

Mrs. R. P. Steeves (G.F.-North
Vancouver) havored the pool plan in
the bill, but urged the Government
to take other steps to protect minimum pensions. If the Covernment

had assumed other costs, inclu the cost of education, municipa would not be left, as now, to flou with new costs in a matter of

Municipalities had had their chance in 1934, Dr. Weir observed, moving second reading of the meas-ure. Second reading followed, without a division.

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Rail Co-Ordination Urged by Executive Of Labor Federation

Convention Told Prompt Action Necessary in Interests of Taxpayer and Railway Workers -Ownership Issue Discounted

ONTREAL, Dec. 5 (P).-Co-ordination of Canada's railways and the country's road and water transport to eliminate duplication, was urged today by the executive board of the Canadian Federation of Labor at the start of its four-day convention.

The recommendation was referred to the committee on reports for later discussion by delegates of the federation's 52,000 members.

"The insolvency of the railway systems necessitates prompt action, not only in the interest of the tax-payers in general but particularly in the interest of the railway workers," said the report, prepared by the seven executives of the federation. Two of the executives are railway

DISMAL ALTERNATIVE

The alternative to co-ordination so far as railway workers are di-rectly concerned, is the continuance and the extension of the present process of staff reduction, with part-time employment and gener

ally depressed wage standards for those who remain in railway service. "During the last seven years, more than 50,000 railwaymen have lost employment through piece-measures of co-operation. measures of co-operation.
These workers have received no
compensation whatever for the loss
of their jobs, whereas in the United
States and Great Britain railway co-ordination has been carried out with full provision for all the emwith full provision for all the em-ployees concerned. The whole bur-den of the depression in the in-dustry falls upon the lower-paid workers, the higher officials are ever affected

DELIBERATELY CONFUSED

"The (co-ordination) issue been deliberately confused in Can-ada by the question of ownership. Under the only method of complete ada by the question of ownersing. Under the only method of complete co-ordination that has been proposed, ownership would not be affected. Assurance has been given that adequate provision would be made for all present employees either by separation allowances to maintain any displaced workers while they were securing employment elsewhere, or by a reduction of the pensionable age. The board believes both these provisions should be insisted upon by the federation. "The board believes that the solution of the railway problem is imperative if Canada is to provide adequate protection for its citizens against the vicissitudes of our present economic system and at the same time escape national bank-ruptcy."

Government Pushes B. C. Utilities Bill Ahead in Committee

Penalties of Up to \$5,000 on Corporations, and \$1,000 on Mayors and Aldermen Written Into Measure-Year's Stay Is Rejected

\$5,000 on corporations, \$1,000 on mayors and aldermen in their personal capacities, and from \$20 to \$500 on other classes of offenders, the Public Utilities Bill ended its first committee stage yesterday in the British Columbia Legis-

Conservatives continued their drive against the severe wording of the law; C.C.F. members pledged their support to it; and the Gov-ernment pressed the bill ahead steadily in a three-hour sitting. At 6 p.m. the last section, No. 136, had been read, and nine-tenthe of the

been read, and inne-tentary of the thirty-seven-page measure ratified. The bulk of Parts 8, 9, 11 and 12 of the bill were reviewed in com-mittee; and Patr 10 stood over, dealing with reviews and appeals from rulings of the intended Public Utilities Commission.

ACTION TAKEN

Specifically, ratified sections included 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 100, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 124, 125, 126, 128, 129 130, 131, 132, 133, 135 and 136. Sections stood over included 91, 99, 101 to 111, inclusively; 121, 122, 123, 127 and 134.

Amending the four-ment changed

particular, the Government changed sections referable to the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Counthe Leutenan-Governor-m-Counti-cil, including under Section 134, the following sections: 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 32, 33, 39, 42, 47, 49, 87, 98 and 100; in each case the final authority resting with the Administration, and not with the intended utilities commission.

OPPOSE WORDING

OPPOSE WORDING

Conservatives made a determined stand against Section 96, providing authority for the entry, operation and seizure of public utilities defying the commission; and against specific and general penalty clauses in the whole bill. A stand was made also against Section 135, leaving blanket powers of regulation in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, subject to twenty days' notice in The British Columbia Gazette.

Gazette. Not even the former Section 98 of the Criminal Code went as far as did Section 98 in the bill, R. L. Maitland, K.C., observed. The section, he declared, gave the Administration the power of the "big stick" over public utilities, and was un-Canadian in its scope. Herbert Anscomb, Capt. M. F. Macintosh and L. H. Eyres joined their leader, objecting to the wording of the clause.

clause.

PROPOSES HOIST

R. W. Bruhn (Cons., Salmon Arm) proposed a year's hoist to the bill, after the House had passed upon the measure in draft form. H. G. Perry (Lib., Fort George) joined them, opposing blanket regulation clauses. The Government pressed ahead with the bill.

Penalties of from \$20 to \$1,000 for individuals, and from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for corporations drew spirited opposition. It was pointed out that members of city councils would become personally liable, for failure of members of city councils would become personally liable, for failure of members of city councils would become personally liable, for failure of members of city councils would become personally liable, for failure of members of city councils would become personally liable, for failure of the members of city councils would become personally liable, for failure of the members of city councils would become personally liable, for failure of the members of city councils would become the council liable of the members of city councils would be considered the council liable of the council liable of the members of city councils would be considered the council liable of the liable of th

ordered to by the control authority.

Penalties of \$50 renewable daily were protested by Mr. Perry, stating no commission should be given that power. The Government stood firm on the measure, withholding some sections for rewording, but declined. sections for rewording, but declin-ing to alter the intent and scope of the bill.

The committee reported progress, after a first review of the entire measure, with the exception of Part 10.

Legislature Makes Progress on Bills In Active Sitting

Order Paper Lightened Before Press of New Legislation Makes Early Prorogation Uncertain-Gasoline Bolster Bill Is Rewritten

FFORTS by the Provincial Government to patch up the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act, not, as Attorney-General Wismer explained, to secure a measure held to be valid, but to improve the Province's position in litigation, provided chief debate at the single sitting of the British Columbia Legislature yesterday. The amending bill was considered in committee, changed in all of its three sections, and laid over for reprinting, after progress had been reported for the day.

laid over for reprinting, after the day.

In a debate covering the same ground as before, the Government clashed with the Conservative Opposition as to the advisability of proceeding with the bolster bill. R. L. Matiland, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, proposed again that the Administration repeal the parent statute, and add coal and petroleum services under the control of the intended new Public Utilities Commission.

REPEAL REJECTED

REPEAL REJECTED

Mr. Maitland repeated his assertion that the original act had been based on the Macdonald report. Attorney-General Wismer insisted that it had not; and declared that repeal of the statute would do nothing to improve the Province's position, nor implement its desire to control gasoline prices in the interests of the public. Mr. Maitland proposed that the Government repeal the measure, and make a fresh start. The Administration, however, held firm in its decision, and reported progress on the muchamended hill.

The House made considerable progress on minor legislation. On measures already debated, third readings followed for bills to amend the University Act, Court of Appeal Act, Divorce Act; a measure respecting Federal loans and Provincial guarantees in aid of municipalities, the South Westminster guarantee bill, and amendments to the B.C. Loan Act, 1936, covering \$350,000 worth of new construction at the University of British Columbia.

PRINCIPLES APPROVED

condition readings followed for conditions and the following the following followed for conditions act, Village Municipalities Veneral Diseases Suppression Residence and Responsibility and Workmen's Compensation with explanations in some inces deferred.

ss was reported on the coal troleum bolster bill, and ents to the Mineral Act, and

eight, restricting the issuance of licences to conduct weddings, and providing penalties of up to \$100 and up to three months imprisonment for wilful infractions of the statute.

Under the Public Schools Act, completed in committee after amendments, it was explained that the intention was to provide free schooling to the end of the junior matriculation period; to increase fees paid to rural teachers in isolated sections where there are no schools; and to make new qualifications for the election of trustees. Some clauses in the hill are to lie fallow for a

MINING LAW

Amendments to the Mineral Act, of a minor nature, were ratified much as originally announced. They involve new rules for staking and leasing, requirement for and inspection of assessment work; the right to stake individually up to eight claims or 400 acres of ground; al-lowance of trail construction for the lowance of trail construction for the first three years toward assessment work; and technical changes in a bill designed to benefit prospectors first, and to insure actual development of properties where warranted.

A brief exchange took place changes in income taxation, Mr. Maitland declaring authority was being taken to impose a 15 per cent being taken to impose a 15 per cent tax on the reserves of hundreds of corporations, not restricted to hold-ing companies; and H. E. Winch (C.C.F., Vancouver East) inviting the Government to go further and examine all depreciation reserves derived from exploitation of natural resources. Defending the bill, Mr. Hart said that the authority would be used within reasonable bounds and not in the manner suggested Second reading followed.

POWERS OF ARREST

POWERS OF ARREST
Second reading followed without debate for Bill 76, a measure in which, for the control of social diseases, the Provincial Secretary is to be given powers of arrest without warrant, detention without court trial and imprisonment "at pleasure" upon the suspicion that individuals may have contracted or may have been exposed to transmittable disease within the meaning of the measure.

MEASURES REJECTED

Opposition bills were uniformly turned back from the Government

E. E. Winch, M.P.P., withdrew a measure applying habeas writs un-der the Lunacy Act; and a compan-ion bill dealing with mental hospi-tals. Mr. Winch also argued stoutly for a third bill to improve working conditions in general hospitals, by introduction of an eight-hour day, introduction of an eight-nour day, holidays and protection against the exploitation of student nurses. Com-mended for this measure, Mr. Winch was informed that the Government would secure any improvement found possible by means of regula-

Mr. Speaker Whittaker gave a ruling declaring a bill by H. E. Wing M.P.P., out of order, in con-

nection with proposed changes to the Woodmen's Lien Act.

A bill offered by the leader of the opposition to permit the commissioner of Provincial Police and city police chiefs free access to written orders in Government vendors orders in Government vendors' stores, for the suppression of bootlegging, was voted down on the as-surance of Attorney-General Wismer that these records were avail by regulation, if not by statute.

A total of 3,452,902 counter-slip orders had been handled by ven-dors' stores in 1937, making their examination in detail impossible, Mr. Wismer said. No complaints had been received with the present system, and every co-operation possible was being afforded the police by the Liquor Control Board and its agents, the Attorney - General declared, asking the House to kill the bill. The bill was killed before second reading

ond reading.

After introduction of a rush of
new bills, the House rose at 5:45
p.m., until 2:15 p.m. today, the order
for triple sittings being remitted in
view of complaints on the floor. At adjournment, prorogation appeared unlikely before the end of this week.

States Onus Is On Farmers to Take Initiative

Hon. Dr. K. C. MacDonaid, min-ister of Agriculture, declined to ap-point a committee of three mem-Hon. Dr. K. C. MacDonald, Minbers to enforce the Noxious W Act in North Saanich, when quested to do so by residents of that district before the agricultural committee of the Legislature.

An amendment to the act pro-vides that 60 per cent of the prop-erty owners of a district may unite to appoint a committee to enforce the act. Captain J. R. Wilson and Dr. J. H. Black, of North Saanich, told the minister and the committee, however, that it was not pos sible to make contact with 60 per cent of the property owners in their district, and asked that the minis-

ter should appoint a committee.
Dr. MacDonald's reply was that if the people of North Saanich had not the courage to avail themselves of the powers given, the department was not going to do it for them. The law was for the Province as a whole, he pointed out.

Captain Macgregor F. Captain Macgregor F. Macintosh (Con., Islands), pointed out that many residents of North Sagnich were owners of country homes, and were not interested in the eradication of noxious weeds.

Amending Hours' Law—Ame interest to the Hours of Work Act, introduced in the Legislature this week by Hon. G. S. Pearson, were said yesterday to deal with evasions of working hours prescribed by the Industrial Relations Board in respect to partnerships, co-operatives and possibly credit unions. The bill will be explained on second reading.

The final section of the report of the Macdonald Commission on coal and gasoline is in the hands of the Provincial Government. It is, however, only a part of an academic document, a thesis as it were, which has no relation to practical politics, inasmuch as the Government maintains it has had no bearing on the legislation appointing a fuel commission to control prices. The Legislature and the taxpayers might like to read the "peroration" of the report, especially the latter, as they paid over \$100,000 for a document which seems foredoomed to be pigeon-

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onald, Min-lined to aphree mem ous Weeds sidents of agricultural

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Revenue Act Changes Paving Way for B.C. Refunding in Future

Government Introduces Legislation to Broaden Revenue Act, Provide for Refinancing of Municipal Pensions, and to Reduce Land Loans

MENDMENTS to the British Columbia Revenue Act, de-A scribed as anticipatory to refunding; machinery whereby the Province may exchange present securities held in the municipal superannuation fund for new provincial bonders a fifty-year basis at 3½ per cent; a large-scale reduction for debtors and agreement holders under the Land Settlement Board; continuation of timber royalties unchanged for a year, with an increase at April 1 next of 2 cents an acre in the levy

on private lands for fire prevention; and amendments in the Vital Sta-tistics Act providing for registra-tion of birti, and deaths at sea featured new legislation introduced yesterday in the Legislature. First readings followed.

Hon. John Hart introduced re-funding and superannuation meas-ures. Changes in the Revenue Act, the Minister of Finance explained later, while technical in scope, would broaden existing refunding provisions in the Revenue Act, and give the Treasury greater flexibility in dealing with retirement and re-funding of existing debt.

TRANSFER OF SECURITIES

Under the Superannuation Fund ransfer Act, the Province proposes Transfer Act, the Province proposes to implement budgetary announcements in connection with recasting the municipal pension scheme. The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council will be empowered to authorize the issuance of new provincial debentures on a fifty-year term, bearing 3½ per cent interest, up to the amount of the moneys at the credit of the superannuation fund; the debentures, with cash, to be transferred to the proposed superannuation fund trustees, and the Province to take into general sinking funds in the fund. the fund

TO REDUCE CHARGES

Hon. A. W. Gray introduced amendments to the Land Settlement and Development Act, much as forecast. Under its terms the Land Settlement Board will be empowered to reduce to simple interest accumulations of interest charges, scale down principal sums, readjust amortizations, and write off beyond a fixed scale sums owing to the board in respect of all loans, agreements and contracts outstanding at January 1, 1939.

January 1, 1939.

The basis of computation provides that compound interest payable retroactively on loans from the date of these advances, and on agreements from the date of contract, will be reduced to what 6 per cent simple interest up to May 31, 1936, and 4½ per cent simple interest since that date would otherwise have totaled. Discretionary provision is made to apply interest payments to principal sums over a one-year period, where the new charges are met and maintained.

REAPPRAISALS

REAPPRAISALS

In initial valuations of agree-nents on land, allowances are to be nade by way of rebates of 5 per ent on the value of added build-ngs, 5 per cent on the cost of pro-iding irrigation, and 5 per cent of the cost of land clearing and grub-

the total amount of the principal and interest at present outstanding.

and interest at present outstanding.

The Lieutenant-Governor-inCouncil will be empowered to order a revaluation of properties still
under agreement for sale, and to
write off the difference between the
initial purchase price and the reappraised values, by crediting that
sum to the account of the agreement holder.

RAISE TIMBER LEVY

RAISE TIMBER LEVY

Mr. Gray also introduced amendments to the Forest Act, continuing timber royalties as at present for a further year; increasing at April 1 next from 4 cents swacre to 5 cents the levy on private timber lands for fire prevention purposes; and confirming fire prevention authority now in the hands of the British Columbia Forest Service.

Technical clauses in the bill remain to be explained.

New Bill "New Deal" Legislature Informed By Attorney-General

Public Utilities Measure Completed in Committee After Many Amendments-Government Withdraws Seven Sections; Pushes Balance Ahead

ESCRIBED by Attorney-General Wismer as the Gov-ment's "new deal" on utilities, the Public Utilities Bill was forced to completion in committee of the Legisla-yesterday, with printed, unprinted and at times oral

The Government called forty-four stood-over sections to complete the measure; deleting seven sections, ratifying twenty as amended, adding one section, and passing sixteen others as they at first stood. Th bill was ordered reprinted, and will stay in committee until it reappears in its latest form.

Specifically, the House ratified Sections 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 23, 24, 29, 37, 50, 51, 58, 107, 109, 110 and 123 as printed; changed and endorsed Sections 2, 3, 7, 15, 18, 33, 34, 54, 68, 78, 81, 91, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 108. after Section 123 in the first draft, and deleted Sections 5, 19, 40, 99, 103 121 and 122. Unprinted change

ould not be easily followed.

At the outset of the discussion,
R. L. Maitland, K.C., moved to add in coal and petroleum distribution as public utilities. Government benches turned back the amend-

CHANGES RATIFIED

A new definition of appraisal was entered. Section 3 was changed to exempt power companies supplying surplus power as a convenience to communities. Section 5, stating no utility should demand unreasonable rates, was struck out. In Section 15

H. G. Perry (Liberal, Fort George) H. G. Perry (Liberal, For George) asked the Government if the com-mission would be given powers to extend or renew railway charters without reference to the Legislature. Attorney-General Wismer said it

would not,

Section 19, requiring the filing of all contracts upon request by the commission, was deleted. In Sections 33 and 34, reference to "steam rallways" was struck out. Section 37, dealing with powers to the commission to order a power utility to make supply service within 100 yards of its transmission lines was three times amended, and finally ratified. Section 40, power to enforce agreements, was struck out on the explanation of Mr. Wismer that the clause might be ultra vires, as Mr. Maitland had previously said.

FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Section 51, with power by the

FOR MUNICIPALITIES
Section 51, with power by the commission to collect supervisors' salaries from municipal areas, was ratified, Mr. Wismer explaining that the commission would be a "quasi-judicial body" and should be left with discretion to determine the the facts and use its own judgment in the matter. The House agreed to the three-man board, with unstated salaries, to be engaged upon ten-year contracts, and these sections carried.

At Section 68, the C.C.F. Opposition won a point, the Government acceding to a request by Colin Cameron that the commission's annual report be presented to legislators

ninety days after it is filed with the Government at the end of each fiscal year, and rewording the meas-

ure accordingly.
Section 78, stating: "In determin-Section 78, stating: "In determin-ing any question of fact, the com-mission shall not be concluded by the finding, order or judgment of any court in any suit, prosecution, or proceeding involving the deter-mination of that fact, but the finding, order, or judgment shall, in proceedings before the commission, be prima facie evidence only,' ratified, over Conservative of

"HEARINGS" REINSTATED

In Section 81 the Government conceded that a hearing should be held before a revocation of suspension of any board order, and that notice of that hearing would be justifiable; amending the bill accordingly. Notice, in Section 91, was defined as notification at the last known address of parties con-

Premier Pattullo moved to delete Section 99, which had declared orders of the commission could be declared orders of the Supreme Court. Appeal rights upon fact by consent were written in for appeals consent were written in for appeals to the Supreme Court; and to the Appeal Court on points of law and of jurisdiction, upon notification, in reworded sections introduced yesterday. Section 121 and 122, giving the commission the right to make penalties, were struck out of the bill.

COUNCILS STILL LIABLE

COUNCILS STILL LIABLE

Mayors and aldermen are to remain personally liable for disobeying orders of the commission, with penalties of up to \$1,000 each upon conviction of that event. No one, said Mr. Wismer, would become liable unless they disobeyed the orders of the commission. The opposition objected, but the clause stood as drafted. Section 134, naming powers on which the Cabinet will be supreme, was ratified as amended. Resisting efforts to narrow the powers of the commission, the Government stood firm for the main sections of the bill as presented. Attorney-General Wismer declared at one point:

"We have got a new deal here

at one point:

"We have got a new deal here
now, and we are not covered by that
statute or by anything else. We are
going on to entirely new ground."

It was on that note the bill was
completed in committee, and progress reported, pending a reprint of
the whole measure.

Redistribution Bill Before Legislature As Prorogation Near

Collective Bargaining Change in Labor Statute, Miscellaneous Bills, and Supplementary Estimates Handled in Late Sitting Last Night

MENDMENTS to the Constitution Act redistributing A MENDMENTS to the Constitution Act redistributing forty-eight seats in forty-one ridings of the province were introduced in the Legislature shortly before midnight last evening by Premier Pattullo. The bill, cutting Victoria to three seats, adding Oak Bay as a separate riding including Gordon Head and Ten Mile Point, joining North Saanich to Saanich, adding The Islands to Nanaimo, and recreating Alberni as a West Coast riding, was read a first time. Considered by a select committee, the bill created little comment.

Mr. Maitland—So this is the Act

Mr. Maitland-So this is the Act of Acts, is it?

of Acts, is it?

Premier Pattullo—Well, we know
what we are going to do. There is
no need to say much about it.

First reading followed. First reading was given also to amendments
to the Industrial Conciliation and to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, introduced by Hon. G. S. Pearson. The bill has one operating section, making a minor change in respect to the right of trade unions to conduct collective bargaining; the precise effect of which has not yet been explained.

Prior to that, the House gave third reading to a bill making the sixtyhour week and the two-platoon system universal among paid fire de partments in the Province, including Oak Bay. Second readings followed for amendments to the Forest Act, Companies Act, and a measure con-cerning distribution of the estate of

The Companies Act, it was explained, amended an amendment of last year which left shareholders in British Columbia incorporated companies, with offices in the province but doing no business here, liable for succession duties. The amending bill will exempt them.

CHARITIES TO BENEFIT

Attorney - General Wismer explained the Town estate measure under which accumulated property valued at some \$400,000 is to be disvalued at some \$400,000 is to be dis-tributed, by consent of the surviving heirs and of British Columbia chari-ties benefiting. Substantial sums will go from the estate to the Sal-vation Army, Christ Church Parish, Vancouver General Hospital, and the Alexandra Children's Home, all of Vancouver, in an arrangement said to avoid litigation over the residue

to avoid litigation over the residue of the estate.

Amendments to the Engineering Act, piloted by W. T. Straith, were held in committee on the objection that under the bill engineers would have to be engaged on all works of a certain class over \$5.000. Progress was reported on the measure. Amendments to the Marriage Act, pending upon proclamation in the main clauses, were completed in committee, Dr. J. J. Gillis declaring the bill would lead to a wave of companionate marriages in the province if implemented.

PASS FOLICE VOTES ince if implemented.
PASS POLICE VOTES

PASS FOLICE VOTES
fesuming at 8:30 pm., the House
nt into committee on supply,
sing miscellaneous votes left over
m earlier reviews. Retarded for
o weeks, an item of 888,079 for
e Provincial Police carried, after
and-table discussion on many

4, with testing stations at Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, and traveling units to serve the Interior. readvocated a speed limit of fifty miles an hour in rural urged members to study the proposal

In connection with New Haven, the new Borstal unit for first of-fenders formerly sent to Oakalla, Mr. Wismer announced that the Government planned to have the youths themselves construct cot-tages, to increase accommodation there sufficient for 100 immates. George M. Murray (Lib., Lillooet) proposed that each of the forty-eight members of the Legislature sponsor one boy, and find him em-ployment, an offer, he said he had already made on his own behalf.

CAR LICENCES

Members renewed their annual drive for a flat-rate licence on passenger cars, stating Provincial revenues would be increased thereby; the Government declined but the Government declined to accept the proposal. Capt. M. F. Macintosh (Cons., The Islands) made an appeal for rebates on car licences issued to motorists on Gulf Islands, substantially without privilege of using the provincial roads system as a whole.

Colin Cameron (C.C.F., Comox) renewed an attack on what he de-scribed as grave irregularities in connection with the conduct of one police officer at the recent troubles at Blubber Bay. One civilian, he declared, had, in his opinion, been convicted and sent to prison on "concocted testimony." Mr. Cameron offered to put material in the hands of the Crown concerning other actions by the same police officer.

officer.

Responding, Attorney-General
Wismer stated investigation has revealed nothing irregular, but that
an internal inquiry was proceeding.
Personally, Mr. Wismer said, he did
not believe that anyone would have not believe that anyone would have been unfairly used at an assize trial presided over by a leading jurist, known for his impartiality. If Mr. Cameron had fresh evidence to offer, there were proper channels through which such material could be offered, and a new trial if warranted sought.

POLICE ARE COMMENDED

Mr. Cameron joined the Attorney-General in stating that his remarks had not applied to the Provincial Police as a whole, recognised for their fairness and impartiality. The House, resuming on estimates, voted \$34,120 for the general office

vote of \$82,935 for the general office of the Department of Labor. te of \$82,935 for th

RELIEF COSTS

Discussing relief, Hon. G. S. Pear-Discussing releft, Aon. c. S. Pear-son said of \$66,000,000 spent on relief since 1929, up to March 31 last, \$28,000,000 had been spent on direct relief, and the balance on relief with a direct work return. The minister gave detailed figures to suggest ordinary road maintenance been incorrectly adjudged as

Supplementary estimates for the present year were presented at \$691,080, for the period to close on March 31 next year. This included \$236,875 additional under the Minister of Public Works: \$141.165 under the Attorney-General; \$155,98 the Provincial Secretary: under the Provincial secretary; \$80.310 under the Minister of Edu-cation; \$23,208 under Agriculture; \$25,488 under Finance; \$6,300 under Labor; \$7,250 under Mines; and \$5,500 under Trade

Final appropriations to close expenditures in the year ending March 31 last were presented at \$310,055. These included: Provincial Secretary, \$126,476; Attorney-General, \$94,477; Education, \$34,829; Public Works, \$17,636; and \$27,257 additional provided for

NEW BUILDINGS PROPOSED

The House pressed on to complete the balance of votes in the Public Works Department, including \$447,-597 for maintenance of public

buildings.

H. E. Winch urged the Government to extend the Legislative Buildings at Victoria; construct a new provincial block at Vancouver; and to renew wiring and electrical equipment in the Vancouver Court House and at Tranquille, stating money now expended in rentals for outside premises would cover sinking fund and interest on such a

rogramme.
Hon, F. M. MacPherson revealed that the Province is paying rentals on leases in the Marine Bullding and Hall Bullding at Vancouver; and on accommodation in the Bel-mont, Central, Weller and Domin-Bank blocks in Victoria the last-named lease to commence shortly in connection with offices of the Municipal Department

MAY BUY BUSES

Under supplementary votes, Mr. Maitland renewed his appeal to the Province to see that steel buses Province to see that steel buses were used in conveying children to school; warning of danger with wooden frames. Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir, responding, said school boards were being given the right to purchase their own buses this year. The Province will contribute \$55,000 year. The Province will contribute \$95,000 to such transportation in the present fiscal year, including a main vote of \$75,000, and supplementaries of \$22,000 now approved. Before the Province transferred

oyable persons to the municipalities, 1,100 cases were carried on the pooks of the Provincial Secretary's Department, it was brought out explaining a supplementary vote of \$95,000 for that purpose.

\$95,000 for that purpose.

A debate arose on the practice of up-country justices of the peace committing boys aged ten years to British Columbia industrial schools, and a departmental conference was pledged to cure that condition.

The House rose at 11:50 p.m. until 10:30 a.m. today, with prorogation expected by the end of this

Note and Comment

By Sandham Graves

This, written forty-eight hours in advance, brings us to polling day in the Victoria City elections. Use your vote, or forever after withhold

You should examine bills brought into a Legislature in its final sit-tings; you really should. Here is a bill to call relief "social assistance." That should change everything, but one suspects it won't.

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Here is a bill to amend taxation Here is a bill to amend taxation in a no-taxation-change budget; one to give a guarantee of \$55,000 to an area that asked for it; one to give civic employees' families pensions of \$30 a month; one to give widows of those killed in industry \$40 a month; one to provide for \$350,000 in new buildings at a semi-private institution.

Here is a bill to give to a Provincial Secretary complete powers of arrest without warrant, detention without trial, and powers of custody at pleasure, merely on the suspicion that a person may be suffering from or have been exposed to a form of social disease. A peculiar bill, that

By the time this appears most of these bills may have been made into law, along with about sixty other two-paragraph measures to amend laws that amended and so on. Perhaps if we took more time with the law at its making, the amendments would not

For instance, I can think of a bill that would save us a lot of trouble. I would call it the "Omnibus Bill" After a fancy preamble, and a definition to state that omnibus included everything, Section 2 of my mythical bill would read:

"Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any Act of this Legislature, or in the Acts of the Dominion, or in the Laws of Nature, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council is hereby authorized to do anything at any place at any time to any person as in their discretion may be deemed expedient."

Section 3 would read: "Notwitn-standing any law to the contrary anywhere contained in any statute, there shall be no appeal from the decisions of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council under Section 2 of the Omnibus Act, either on questions of fact or upon questions of law, or upon any questions whatsoever. No questions shall be asked."

Section 4 of the mythical bill would be bound to read: "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in law or in fact, the Omnibus Act shall take precedence over every other act, condition, time, place, thing or person whatsoever; and shall be intra vires at all times and in all places, retroactively to the date of the founding of this Province, and before that if necessary."

It is a little involved as the House

It is a little involved, as the Housat until I o'clock this morning, bu I think my mythical Qunibus Hi would cover everything. If it di not, it could always be amende until it did cover everything. Then of course, you could dispense with all other assures. You wouldnessed them. The mythical

The difficulty with my mythical Omnibus Bill, of course, is that no House would consent to pass it. There would be certain to be at least one member who would want to hold out on the Laws of Nature as if they mattered, forsooth!

Then, experience has shown, there would be at least two other members who would not agree to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council doing it. They would want to or assured that Parliament would remain supreme; which would mean, of course, that Parliament would have to sit continuously. Imagine

On the whole, perhaps it is better to make laws by the yard, and amend them by the square foot and cubic foot. Here, after fifty or so years of it, we have got well along the road towards all the powers of the mythical Omnibus powers of the mythical Omnibus Bill, without noticing it. The Omni-bus Bill would be too sudden, too drastic; it would do it all at once, leaving nothing to be done tomor-

tion lget; 5,000 le to pen-give istry for emi-

bill uble. Bill." defi-in-my

The present method is no doubt he wisest. Here we are wit. the wisest. Here we are wit. blanket powers of arrest, detention and custody upon suspicion of illhealth, with no outery—or prac-tically none. All we have to do now is to jettison habeas corpus pro-visions, and then we shall be there—or shall we? At 1:45 a.m. I or shall we wouldn't know!

New Civic Loans Must Be Voted On By Ratepayers Only

RESPONDING to questions by Herbert Anscomb (Cons., Victoria) in the Leg-islature this week, Hon. A. W. Gray explained that property, only could vote on civic loan projects to be ratiby the Province under the new law to implement the Federal Municipal Improve-Assistance Act, given third reading on Tuesday. The ruling will affect Victoria and other cities seeking Fed-eral loans under the plan.

HOUSE KILLS C.C.F. BIL

Measure to Apply Eight-Hour-Day Law in Hospitals Defeated

After a short, sharp debate, in which a united Opposition pressed the Government to apply the eight-hour-day law and other benefits for graduate and student nurses in hosgraduate and student hurses in nos-pitals, and in which the Government declared that was not feasible on account of finances, the Legislature killed an amending bill offered by E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby) yes-terday upon a division of twentynine to twelve. The Government undertook, however, to act on a hos-pitals survey now in their hands.

Voting for second reading of the measure, which would have amended the Hospitals Act, were the combined Conservatives and C.C.F. oppo sitions; and against the measure were the Administration and its supporters. Stories of student nurses rking for \$20 a month, on twelve-ur shifts, and at night under conditions leading to breakdowns in their health were cited in support of the measure, and refuted from the Government side, before the decisive vote was taken,

ENACTMENTS

Pressing on with other legislation, Pressing on with other regulation, the House gave third reading to amendments to the Public Schools Act; second readings to bills to amend the Revenue Act, Vital Statistics Act, Land Settlement and Development Act, Engineering Act, Fire Departments Two-Platon Act, and the exphants of securities. the exchange of securities sure in connection with municipal superannuations.

Amendments to the Forest Act Amendments to the Forest Act and the Legal Professions Act were adjourned on debate; the latter when it developed that the bill would have shut out real estate dealers in favor of solicitors in dealing with certain classes of deeds.

New bills included messages to amend the Companies Act, and a measure to facilitate distribution of the Henry Town estate. The House recessed at 6:07 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Civic Pension Plan Approved by House After Warm Debates

Government Explains Extent to Which Provincial Aid Can Be Given in Setting Up New Superannuation Scheme on Actuarial Basis

HE Municipal Superannuation Act was approved by the British Columbia Legislature yesterday, after completion in committee with further amendments. The Government reiterated their intention of setting up the fund under pension trustees on a guaranteed basis, by the exchange of provincial for present securities, and the contribution of whatever was immediately necessary to maintain and carry the fund within the terms of the new pensions scheme.

Drastic curtailment of existing pensions was regretted and the explanation made that there was no other course if the whole scheme was to be saved from collapse.

In debate on the measure, Harold E. Winch (C.C.F., Vancouver East) declared the Province, which had made the original contracts in the Legislature, was morally, if not financially, responsible for the scheme. He drew attention to what would be the plight of individuals on pensions to be scaled down, and urged the Government to consider to relieve those most affected by the changes.

PLAN IS DEFENDED

Repeating his explanation of the effect of the measure, Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir said that longer delay in adjusting the scheme upon an actu-arially sound basis would mean its collapse. Actuaries had explored every possible avenue in an effort to support higher pensions than proposed, but had been unable to recommend rates beyond those

The basis rate would be \$30 per month after twenty years of service, with \$1 per month in addition for each additional year of service. Municipalities could, from year to year, augment the lower pensions. year, augment the lower pensions out of their own funds. The Prov-ince was already accepting new financial responsibilities in connec-tion with the scheme, Dr. Weir said. Herbert Ansoomb (Conservative, Victoria) pointed out that the Prov-ince had increased pensions for widows under the Workmen's Com-pensation Act, some of whom, though non-resident in British Columbia. non-resident in British Columbia, would receive more than was availy able for widows of civic employees who had given years of faithful service. No widow should have been left with a pension less than \$50 a month, in any event. Even on the new basis Mr. Anscomb said he doubted if the scheme would hold up after the end of five years.

WARNING WAS GIVEN

WARNING WAS GIVEN
The figures had been computed,
and nothing now could be done, Dr.
Weir responded. To R. L. Maitland,
K.C., who asked when the Government was aware the former act was
unsound, Dr. Weir replied that four
years ago the municipalities had unsound, Dr. Weir replied that four years ago the municipalities had been directly warned of the situation, but had delayed doing anything constructive about it. The new scheme must stand by itself, irrespective of what the Provincial Treasury could bring about outside the terms of the bill.

bill.

George M. Murray (Liberal,
Lillooet) predicting that the arrangement would throw numbers of

persons on relief, suggested that cities, including Vancouver, give the pensioners lands on a tax-free basis

to assist them over their difficulties. To Dr. J. J. Gillis (Liberal, Yale). asking for provision for minimum and maximum pensions in the statute, the Government replied that that was not feasible. While statute, the Government replied that that was not feasible. While the larger pensions would be scaled down drastically, small pensions would be slightly increased in some instances, Dr. Weir said, citing pensions.

sions of \$7.50 to be increased to \$10, and other changes in proport

PROBLEM OUTLINED

Mr. Anscomb asked what would have been the cost to the Province of maintaining the former contracts on the old basis. Hon. John Hart on the old basis. Hon, John Hart replied it would require nearly \$3.-500,000 to continue the contracts. The condition was realized to be serious, and the Province would do what was possible to alleviate it.

The Province would assume \$18,000 per annum under the new plan, and per annum under the new plan, and would in addition set up \$3,500,000 in new bonds as an exchange against present securities in the fund, guar-anteeing the whole basis of the proposed scheme.

The Province, in addition, would bear an annual loss of the interest on \$1,700,000 that the funds were now short. It was hoped by the Government that the municipalities would be able to augment the lowe pensions; and he, for one, would willingly vote to do so as a citizen of Victoria, Mr. Hart said.

GUARANTEE ASSURED

Had the Province been obliged to advance sums now required to set up the new plan, it would have had to put up between \$300,000 and \$400,-000 this year. Such a course had been considered, but it was found that a guarantee would give the same result, at less outlay to the Province. The Province was pre-pared to put up that guarantee, and would do so, the Minister of Pinance stated.

Municipalities themselves had broken down the former scheme, Dr. Weir declared. Some municipalities had retired 16 per cent of their employees within four years, overtaxing the funds at the disposal of the scheme, particularly with respect to pensions on which no employee contribution had been made.

Governments had been party to the setting up of the funds, and had had the custody of them, H. E. Winch retorted. The Province had known the facts, yet had permitted the municipalities to overload the scheme. Suffering would be caused now through laxity, with a moral Municipalities

responsibility on the Province to assist in its alleviation, he stated.

URGES FURTHER AID

Vancouver) reminded the House that in 1921 the superannuation scheme as a whole had been permissive, but that in 1927 the Government of the day had made it obligatory upon a 75 ner cent vote of emissions. tory upon a 75 per cent vote of em-ployees concerned. Successive gov-ernments had been responsible for what had occurred. He asked would the Government consider giving assistance to the municipalities on a pro rata basis to tide them over the next few years?

from Government benches The House passed on in clause by clause consideration of the bill, inserting amendments to Sections 10 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 23, 27, 30, 32, 36, 42

To Leslie H. Eyres (Conservative, Chilliwack), who later renewed a request for Provincial assistance be-yond that already detailed, Premier Pattullo replied that there was no ther plan, short of the Province as numing the entire scheme. This, he said, could not be done.

The bill was given third reading

Note and Comment

By Sandham Graves

Have you met the Alphabet, the Legislative Alphabet? From alpha to omega it is a distinguished as-semblage, whose members are very much like human beings; though rom the public prints you might not always think so, and from the illustrations you would be nearly certain to be led astray. Meet, then, the Alphabet as it seems to this

A is for Anscomb—plain Herbert nscomb; who stands straight and

A is for Asselstine—Hon. William James Asselstine; the friend of the miner, with gold in his heart.

B is for Braden—Glen Everton Braden; from Peace River laden with good will and encouragement for people in gloom.

B is for Bryan—John Melvin Bryan; forthright debater when thips are on shoulders; with Ro-ands for Olivers, Mackenzie thrown

B is for Bull—Capt. Cecil R. Bull; you could trust him in china shops at war, in society, or any place else

B is for Burns-Richard R. Burns; a bright fiame from Rossland, burning to singe the traducers of fair, honored Trail.

B is for Bruhn—Rolf Wallgren Bruhn; a student of 'ologies, makes no apologies for changing his mind, as years change the marbles.

C is for Cameron—hard-hitting Colin; who knows a war when he sees one, in coming or retrospect; downright and forceful, a man among men.

O is for Carson—Robert H. Car-on; mellowed by sun in the city of kamloops, foster home of the sun-hine; deputy Speaker, he reads in the dark.

ashes while he was here in debate; silent, resourceful, kindly and wise.

C is for Crone—Alderman Fred Crone; whose speeches are prone to be brief and most pithy; Vancou-ver stalwart, still looking forward with vision and hope to gay brighter

D we lose out on-not having any; save the din in the corridors, the dust among papers, daylight and dark, as divisions proceed. E is for Eyres-Leslie H. Eyres;

war pilot, and fires at attacks on the air; reared in the Valley, looks wide at the world.

F is for Finland-Elmer V. Finland; another war pilot, who gets on the tail of an enemy motion and stays there through barrage, bombs and commotion 'til the fuss is all over, 'til the battle is won.

F is for Forester-John Howard Forester; silent this session, save as to fire departments, Vancouver and matters municipal; good hand in a

G is for Gillis-Dr. John Joseph Gillis; whose two words speak volumes in any man's language; mainstay of Merritt, frank in de-

G is for Gray—Hon. A. W. Gray; commutor extraordinary 't wixt Westminster-Victoria, at home in both places; calls flowers by their

G is for Guthrie-plain Samuel Guthrie; without peer for effectiveness when words have to be spoken; smiling and debonair, bears his torch with an air, battling Sam Guthrie.

H is for Hart—Hon, John Hart; who carries, like Sinba@ the bur-dens of finance and credit; who sits on the treasure chest, guarding your millions, chotgun in hand.

H is for Henniger—Ezra C. Henniger; free silver, more silver, all silver, to you; bane of the Doukho-

H is for Hunter—Dr. Joseph D. Hunter; M.D. and C.M. up now and at 'em with questions and answers to clear up the way; opponent generous, debater tenuous, liked on all

I is for ideas, ideals—baled by the bushel; shipped by the ton-loads, delivered in parliament in duplicate, friplicate; thank heaven we have them to pick from sometimes.

J is for Johnston—man mountain.
Johnston; Harry by birth, ample in
girth, with a smile that lights up
the Treasury benches when storms
blow out fuses; with big heart to
match. The cat got his tongue.

K is for Kenney—Edward T. Ken-ney; if you know a man who works narder, please send us his name; upplied plyers for Olaf to pull out a molar, supplies pinchers for every-one to pull fats out of fires.

K is for King-just Thomas King; monarch of Golden, King Cole of Columbia, as merry and bright as a cricket by day; old-fashioned and downright, liked in debate.

L is for Leary Copy and Leary; with medals he wan under fire in the field; with medals to come, as

Main Legislation Is Approved as Session Nears Prorogation

Supply Granted to the Crown in the Sum of \$29,-766,592—Legislative Programme Pressed in Three Sittings-Enactments Clearing List

OMPLETING the main acts of the session, the British Columbia Legislature gave third reading and enactment to its supply bill yesterday, ratifying the granting of supply to the Crown in the sum of \$29,765,592, of which \$28,765,457 is for the new fiscal year, \$691,766 for the current year and \$310,055 to close accounts in the year previous. With the exception of new bills still entering in three successive sittings, the Legislature virtually completed the major measures of the exception.

of the session.

The Public Utilities Act was approved after two further amendments, giving the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council authority to refer any matter to the Court of Appeal, where an appeal is brought under the original Section 105; and extending authority to deal with other matters by order-in-council.

The Government resisted a motion

The Government resisted a m seeking to make a minister re-sponsible for the operation of the statute, explaining that no department was expressly concerned, and that funds for the operation of the plan would be taken from general

TAX CHANGE EXPLAINED

On the Income Tax Act, Hon. John Hart explained that though holding companies were not ex-pressly named in the measure, it was the intention of the Treasury to deal only with a few family cor-porations which had eluded surta imposts by holding unwarranted reserves undistributed to their share-holders. No unfair use would be holders. No unfair use would made of the authority.

Attorney-General Wismer clashed with Herbert Anscomb (Conserva-tive, Victoria) over the bill, the Attorney - General declaring sub-stantive powers to tax undivided profits had existed since 1933; and Mr. Ansomb retorting that fresh powers were now being added, without any reference limiting their

CREDIT UNIONS SOON

With the assistance of Mrs. R. P. Steeves (C.C.F., North Vancouver) who proposed some amendments accepted in the measure, the Government put through the new Credit Unions Act providing for the incorporation of credit unions, their regulation, and their right to pool savings of small shareholders on a co-operative plan.

Savings of sman snaceholders on co-operative plan.

The bill was amended in twenty of its sixty-two sections, including Sections 2, 8, 10, 11, 18, 22, 24, 28, 27, 30, 33, 45, and two schedules at

the end.

It developed that no loan of more than \$100 may be made without security; that invested funds must be confined to Dominion and British Columbia direct or guaranteed bonds; that no form of commission may be given for the sale of shares that entrance fees may be charged; that the Securities Act will apply the unions; that not fewer than flu directors must be elected; the where interest is paid on net earnings, it will be limited to 6 pecent, by way of dividends to charcholders; that incorporation

bill was provision that, while the act will come into operation only by proclamation, such proclamation cannot be delayed beyond January 31, 1939. In the interval, the Government said, it would set up regulations dealing with the whole plan Mrs. Steeves was thanked for her assistance in launching the m

ENACTMENTS

Third readings followed for amendments to the Coal and Petroleum Control Board Act, Mineral Act, Game Act, Municipal Elections Act, Village Municipalities Act, Resi-dence and Responsibility Act, the superannuation fund transfer the superannuation fund transfer measure, Revenue Act, Marriage Act, Venereal Diseases Suppression Act and other measures before the House rose for its second recess of the day. Hon. Dr. Weir denied that undue rights were sought in the measure dealing with social diseases, stating

reports to the contrary had been responsible and incorrect. Dr. J. D. Hunter (Cons.-Victoria) commended the Minister on passage of the

DEBATE LABOR BILL

At the third sitting of the day, Government amendments to the In-dustrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act were both attacked and de-fended. The change was explained as one to recognize collective bargaining through trade unions their agents in existence prior to December 7, 1938.

December 7, 1938.

It was supported from the Government side and attacked by the C.C.F. opposition. Mr. Mattland took a neutral position, urging the Government to leave the parent statute unchanged for a further year, in which time to see how it worked out.

worked out.

A bitter drive against the ame ment was staged by Harold E. Wir Colin Cameron, E. E. Winch others from the C.C.F. bene charging that the Administration was siding with industrialists to a press the rights of workers.

The Administration declared amending bill had been caref considered and constituted and step forward for labor by recogni of the bargaining rights of uninow in existence.

Mr. Maitland made the point

ow in existence.

Mr. Mattland made the point he co-operation of capital and for the protection of services alshed to the public should be the faim of such legislation. At scalars, the parent statute show examined as to their source purpose, if that law were to be a legislated.

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a trades' union bill, while providir for the carrying out of their aims.

BILL COMPLETED

The labor bill was completed in committee, and progress reported after lengthy debate, in which the Government held to the amending

measure.

Third readings followed for the redistribution bill, the municipal superannuation measure, and almost for
the Public Utilities Act, which was the Public Utilities Act, which was stayed at the last moment on a minor adjustment affecting a companion bill still in committee stages. The utilities measure has been completed and will go to enactment today.

Third readings also followed for the comment of the Placer Mining,

Income Tax, Henry Town, Work-men's Compensation, Vital Statistics, Land Settlement and Development, Trades Licence, Married Women's Property, and the Motor Vehicles Acts. The Government follows: Acts. The Government followed the Motor Vehicles Act with two message bills to declare elimination of passenger liability would not be retro-active, and to remit motor licence fees on district school buses.

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Completed in committee with amendments were the Credit Unions Act, and two bills left in committee, including amendments to the Com-panies Act and Forest Act. Second reading was given amendments to the Sumas Diking, Land Surveyors, Water, and Insurance Acts.

DECLINE AMENDMENTS

The Government turned back proposed C.C.F. amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act which would have included tuberculosis and lung diseases, allowed contribu-tions in respect to dependent chil-dren up to eighteen years, included domestic servants as beneficiaries, brought in fishermen at sea, and gave new appeal to the courts for declarations of total incapacity after industrial accidents.

The check-off system of paying hospital bills and union dues, offered as a C.C.F. amendment to the Forest Act covering logging, was rejected as was a further amendment seeking stricter control over reversions of logged-off lands in a logged-off state. At midnight the stream of legislation dried up, and the House envisioned prorogation on Saturday.

Redistribution of **B.C.** Ridings Fixed On Plans Proposed

Amendments to Constitution Act Ratified in Legislature After Final Debate-Chief Effects Will Occur on Vancouver Island

EDISTRIBUTION of provincial ridings, by way of amendments to the Constitution Act, were approved yesterday by the Provincial Legislature; the bill passing second reading without a division after a full dress debate.

The chief changes from existing ridings after the next dissolution will be the reduction of Victoria to three seats, creation of Oak Bay and Alberni as separate ridings, the oining of North Saanich to Saan ich, the addition of the balance of The Islands to Nanaimo, and boundary changes in most of the emaining electoral districts.

Moving second reading of the re-distribution measure, Premier Pattullo said the Government's plan had been the result of several months' review by electoral officers, months review by electoral omeers, had been put before a non-partisan committee of the House, and that the bill, with some changes, was based on that plan. The previous regime had effected a redistribution without any reference to a committee of the House, the Premier de-

Opposing the bill, R. L. Maitland K.C., declared redistribution on this basis was an admission of weakness, and an effort to strengthen the administration after a loss of confidence by the people. The Islands riding, a separate entity for forty years, to be joined to Nanaimo without reason, and other changes had little to recommend them. The leader of the Opposition challenged the Pre-mier or any member of his party to stand against him in Point Grey at the next election. The Govern-ment's plan had been prepared prepared without reference to Opposition members, and presented to the committee in two pieces.

PROCEDURE CRITICIZED

"I hope this is the last piece of legislation of this kind that will ever appear in this House. Liberal and Conservative Governments of the past have brought about redis-tribution on different bases; but I tribution on different bases; but I hope in the future all Governments will realize that it is something that should be handled along judicial lines, as it once was in the days of Sir Richard McBride. I can say if I have anything to do with it, it shall be so handled.

"These sham affairs are wrong entirely. So far as I am concerned.

tirely. So far as I am concerned, there never will be another redis-tribution along these disgusting lines," Mr. Maitland declared.

Dr. Lyle Telford (C.C.F., Van-couver) said the plan was a gerry-mander. He reiterated Mr. Mait-land's challenge to the Premier to stand next time in Vancouver, place of an isolate riding like Prince Rupert. The redistribution proposed was a political manoeuvre, he concluded.

he concluded.

H. G. Perry (Lib., Fort George) defended the legislative committee from any suggestion of being party to a gerrymander, and cited instances where its Liberal members had voted against the Government plan. The committee had been perplexed by The Islands, and had decided to leave the final outcome of that riding to the House. Liberals

had opposed portions of the plan, and had opposed each other in free and open discussion before the committee at various points. Personally, he would have preferred to see a Royal Commission appointed for a judicial review of House rep-

SAYS BASIS WRONG

"I believe our basis of representa-tion is entirely wrong at present. It is on a territorial basis, where there is not a majority in the House repis not a majority in the House rep-resenting the people; but a major-ity based on areas. We have a Government that represents a min-ority of the people. I suggest is should be based on territorial, economic and cultural lines; with three votes to every voter along the following lines," Mr. Perry stated.

following lines," Mr. Perry stated.

The member for Fort George then outlined a plan for a House of thirty-five seats, sixteen of which would correspond with the territory of Federal ridings; two seats each for farmers as a whole, forestry, mining, fisheries, manufacturers mining, fisheries, manufacturers and wholesalers otherwise, finance and general business, retailers and servicing, transportation, profes-sions; one each for management and employees, representing capital and labor; and a Speaker to be chosen by the House. On this plan, each voter would vote once for his territory, once for his economic group, and once for his cultural associations, Mr. Perry explained.

Such a plan would insure demoand representative ment under even a multiple party system, and party control or control along almost Fascist lines would be impossible, Mr. Perry declared, in conclusion.

ENDORSES SUGGESTION

H. E. Winch (C.C.F., Vancouve H. E. Winch (C.C.F., Vancouver East) called the bill a gerrymander, and endorsed the suggestion of oc-cupational, territorial and popula-tion representation, C.C.F. members had not been consulted in the

had not been consulted in the preparation of the new basis, and could see little real reason for the changes now to be made.

E. T. Kenney (Lib., Skeena) chairman of the special committee of the House on the matter, declared that not even the Angel Gabriel could have satisfied members in connection with redistribution. The committee had been thortion. The committee had been thorough, and impartial; and there had been no gerrymandering in so far

as the committee was aware.

Thomas King (Lib., Columbia) recalled that his riding of Columbia had been eliminated by the previ-

ous Administration after it had los

Hon. G. S. Pearson, sitting for Nanaimo, favored the bill, stating he had himself recommended the recreation of Alberti, though no

the addition of The Islands to

Two wrongs did not make one right, R. W. Bruhn (Cons., Salmon Arm) observed. The Province was over-governed, and no effort was considered to reduce its swollen being made to reduce its swollen state. The Administration had talked of a minor revision; but major changes were now sponsored.
Victoria was entitled to its four members, and The Islands should remain separate. The committee of the House had done its best, with the committee or the the committee of the second to the second the second the second the second to the second the second

the proportunity open to it.

Thomas Uphill (Labor, Fernie) averred it was the defeated candidates that did all the work of government in his riding; with the effect of "two members for one dis-

RESTORATION OF ALBERNI

Colin Cameron (C.C.F., Comox)
favored the restoration of Alberni,
and reduction of Victoria to three
seats; but said he had not asked for
the addition of Wellington, South
Wellington and Extension to Comox
though such a change would though such a change would strengthen his support. The Islands, if changed, should have been added to Saanich. For the whole plan little reason had been shown, Mr. Cameron said.

Herbert Anscomb (Cons., Vic-toria), stating it was rumored that Hon. G. S. Pearson might be made a public utilities commissioner, sug-gested there was little apparent reason for the reshuffle of seats on Vancouver Island. The plan effected no reduction in the number of members, and as such made no contribution to reduction in the overburdening costs of government. Po-litically, said Mr. Anscomb tersely, it did not matter what the Admin-istration did, as it would be de-feated at the polls at the next elecon. Where, he asked finally, wa seat for the "member for th Yukon?

THE ISLANDS RIDING

Capt. M. F. Macintosh (Cons., The Islands), whose seat will be elided with that of Nanaimo at the next election, said The Islands would have made no outcry at the change if the House had been reduced to thirty or thirty-five mem pers and this sacrifice had become necessary. As it was, the plan had neither reason nor sense to com-mend it; and The Islands were to be linked to a riding with which they had no actual connection in fact. On the other hand, Salt-spring Island was intimately linked with Victoria and with Saanich; with 5,500 cars, 1,300 trucks, 700 buses and 32,370 passengers crossing

buses and 32,370 passengers crossing between the two points last year in 835 trips by the motor Terry.

A brief exchange took place between Capt. Macintosh and W. T. Stratth (Lib., Victoria), the latter supporting the bill, and reiterating that The Islands had its main business connections with Vancouver. Mr. Stratth defended plural memberships in cities, on the ground that only in that way could balance be preserved with rural areas represented in the House. Oak Bay he saw as identical with Victoria, in practical representation in this area.

C. S. Leary (Lib., Kasio-Slocan) supported the bill, recalling how Dr. L. E. Borden had been cut under the previous regime when Nelson, Columbia and Alberni had been eliminated.

Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir, for Point

eliminated.

Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir, for Point Grey, defended the measure. There had been no gerrymander in connection with that riding, and the Administration had had no need to resort to anything of the kind.

The bill was read a third time and enacted.

Captain M. F. Macintosh, whose seat will be eliminated by the act, went down fighting. As the measure was poised on the brink of enactment, he made a last plea to the Government to retain the historic Islands Ridding. Premier Pattullo rescued the Captain's motion, which had been ruled out of order, got it before the House, and voted against it, the House rejecting a resolution to refer the bill back to the select committee. Enactment followed.

Prorogation Is Expected On Saturday

Putting in a fourteen-hour day yesterday, the British Columbia Legislature arrived at 12:07 this morning at the point where the Government estimated one more day would clean its order paper, with prorogation expected on Saturday

Note and Comment

By Sandham Graves

L is for light-hearted, the queen feeling you get after arranging to spend \$29,677,000 of other folks'

L is for LeBourdais—Louis Le-Bourdais; extolling beef and hay, stuffed with good Cariboo vitamins; was reared on alfalfa. Invented beef

M is for MacDonald—Hon. Kenneth Cattanach MacDonald; with twin eyes bright as stars, twinkling at Earth or Mars (where there is no Privy Council).

M is for Macintosh — Captain Macgregor F. Macintosh; who flames fast, and carries weight in counsels of the state; whose seat will soon be called the late riding—The Islands.

M is for MacPherson-Hon, Frank Mitchell MacPherson; frank not by accident, he tells where the money went, and why, and how it was spent there.

M is for Maitland—Royal L. Maitland; Conservative Chieftain; King's Counsel, earned it too; now doing miracles for you to now doing miracles for you in rebuild-ing his party.

M is for Murray—George Matheson Murray; now here is a man of parts, versed in the printed arts; publicist, spokesman, columnist; is dead set against cow-gers.

P is for Paton—James Alexander Paton; laid out and planned Point Grey; may point his plans at stars one day, to bring them to order.

P is for Pattullo — Hon, "T. D."

P is for Pattulio — Hon. "T. D."
Pattullo, K.C. and LL.D.; believes
man can surely be just what he
makes himself, and has just about
proved it; House leader and popular, is often jocular when storms
blow their worst; has amile for
friend or foe, seising once won't let
go; ever fair with the Press.

P is for Pearson — Hon. George
Sharratt; cuts facts and wraps
them in neat, packaged bundles;
works gixteen hours a day, seldom
sees light 'o day; homesick, at times,
for seats now across the way and
stealing his thunder.

P is for Perry — Henry George Thomas Perry; Henry for fair play, George to save the day, Thomas for culture, and Perry the orator; versed in parliamentary lors, knows how to use the floor, would like to have him next door, a very good neighbor.

P is for Putnam — just plain Frank Putnam; but what a wealth of man find under his hat you can if you go seeking; in Nelson they tell he belongs to them there; in Creston they say that that is his lair; right welcome everywhere, is plain Frank Putnam.

R we have none of changed the curricular about social student any "R's."

S is for (Mrs.) Smith-M Douglas Smith; who taught mere menfolk how bills can go through

for pegged prices on food.

S is for (Mrs.) Steeves—Mrs.
Dorothy Gretchen Steeves; with
more brains than most of us; with
motions that fluster us, credit-

S is for Strachan—David William Strachan (it reads like its bracken but really is s-t-r-a-w-n); returned and renovated, dairy-wise, animated; expert on butter-fat.

S is for Straith—William Thoma S is for Stratth—William Thomas Straith; with holly for Christmas, and a hard job of work to do; may pull the pictures through—here's hoping he does!

hoping he does!

T is for Telford—James Lyle Telford; M.D. and C.M.; is now a candidate, so we will only state nothing can abate the heat of his ardor when out hunting Governments.

T is for Tupper-Charles He T is for Tupper—Charies Herbert Percy Tupper; rides on the P.G.E. and 'twist' you and me, it takes a whole train to carry a frame so gigantic and muscular; rides with a smile, mile after twisting mile, but straight as ramrod, inside and out.

U is for Uphill—Noble Tom Uphill; U is for Uphill—Noble Tom Uphill; his title is his brogue, he'll tell you many things, of oil on roads, or springs that gush from the side of a Government board.

W is for Weir—Hon. George Moh Weir; B.A. and M.A., D.Paed and more besides, honestly earned; cul-tured idealist, now turning realist; and more is the pity, for ideals are

W is for Whittaker—Hon. Norman W. Whittaker; Mr. Speaker to you. He sits there, and takes it all on the left ear, or right. Often he taps his bell, gives honored members—well, a reminder that order is order, you

W is for Winch—Daddy Ernest Winch; who searches all the world to find how bears are curled into cubic or square feet of legalized space; he planned part of the Mar-riage Act, stuck to his guns, and, with tact, watched it made law. W is for Winch-Daddy Ernest

W is for Winch-Harold Edward w is for wheth-maroid adward winch; true son of Daddy Winch, proud as punch of his parent. Im-proved debater, streamlined, but no hater of slow-moving clauses in voluminous bills.

W is for Wismer—Hon. Gordon S. W is for Wismer—Hon. Gordon S. Wismer; K.C. and A.G., and some day may be cowled judge on the bench. A glutton for making law, with fountain pen or simply by word of mouth; hunter, fisherman, sportsman, good-fellow-well-met.

X marks the spot where pension

Y is a nuisance; for we say aye nd never yes.

Z is a friend to both man and beast. Z is the sound that, whistling, emerges from sleepers in comic strips, church pews, and galleries where thred, supilip persons pore over bills. To por, with your bills, the House has prorogued; to pot with the Alphabet, we're off to bed.

Was Conservative Member Of Legislature for More Than Quarter Century

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SHODECWOR SHOP

TRAIL, Dec. 9 (P. — James H. Schofield, Conservative member of the British Columbia Legislature for Rossland-Trail riding for for Rossiand-Trail riding for twenty-six years, died at his home here today after a long illness. Mr. Schofield was born at Brockville, Ont., early in 1866.

He was elected Mayor of Trail in 1902, and served in that capacity for five years. He was elected to the Legislature as a Conservative for Old Trail riding in the general election of 1907, and was re-elected in 1909, 1912, 1916 and 1920.

SERVED UNTIL 1933

At the general election in 1924, he was elected for the new constitu-ency of Rossland-Trail, and served

until the 1933 general election. In 1907 he was grand master of Masons in British Columbia.

Mr. Schofield retired from active business in 1933 after operating his real estate and insurance business many years.

He is survived by his widow, a daughter, Letitia, and two sons, James P. and John L., all in Trail.

HOUSE MOURNS PASSING

By a standing vote the British Columbia Legislature expressed deep regret yesterday at the passing of James H. Schofield. Premier Pat-James H. Schofield, Premier Pat-tullo, R. L. Maitland, K.C., R. R. Burns, Thomas Uphill, and R. W. Bruhn spoke of the affection and esteem in which Mr. Schofield had been widely held. There remains to his memory the Schofield Highway, dedicated a few years ago in his honor.

Member or More entury

Legislature iding for at his hom illness.

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i two sons, all in Trail. PASSING

the British e passing of Premier Pat-K.C., R. R., , and R. W. affection and Schofield had re remains to eld Highway, s. ago in his

SWEEPSTAKES GIVEN APPROVAL OF HOUSE BEFORE PROROGAT

Legislature Goes on Record Formally Endorsing **Governmental Drawings for Hospital Purposes** -Seven Weeks' Session Ends With Traditional Battle of Sessional Papers

By SANDHAM GRAVES

IEUTENANT-GOVERNOR Eric W. Hamber prorogued the second session of the Nineteenth Legislature of the Province at 9 p.m. yesterday, after seven weeks of sittings mostly in double time. His Honor gave assent in the name of His Majesty to some seventy-five acts of the session, and thanked the House for granting supply to the Crown in the sum of \$29,766,592,

Released from their labors, forty-eight members joined in the customary battle of sessional papers, followed by spirited farewells in the

As its last outstanding action, the Legislature went formally on record as being in favor of Dominion and Provincial governmental sweepstakes in Canada, where one-quarter of the proceeds are set aside for hospital purposes. Moved by Thomas Uphill (Labor-Fernie), and seconded C. Henniger (Liberal-Grand Forks), the sweepstakes resolution

FAVOR SWEEPS

"Whereas there is more over ospitalization in British Columbia than anywhere else in the Dominion; and whereas hospitals through out the country are in urgent need of funds for various articles of equipment; therefore be it resolved that this Legislative Assembly go on record as being in favor of sweepstakes, conducted by either the Dominion or any Provincial Govern-ment, 25 per cent of the gross pro-ceeds of which shall be allocated to a fund to be set up for the purpose of building new hospitals, purchase of equipment for, and the general solvency of established hospitals."

otion was put twice to a surprised House, and passed on both

occasions.

"The world," Mr. Uphill had argued, "is a lottery. Here we are in Canada with \$20,000,000 going out country each year for sweep-tickets, and buying them of the country each year for sy

"The principle is sound," said Mr.

denniger, seconding the motion.

Mr. Speaker Whittaker intoned the question, putting it to the House.
"The 'ayes' have it," he announced.
Somebody challenged the ruling, and
the question was put again. The
'ayes' still had it; and the British Columbia Legislature had endorsed governmental sweepstakes for hosgovernmental pital purposes

ENACTMENTS

The House virtually cleaned its order paper of legislation in the morning sitting. Enactments followed for Public Utilities and Credit Union measures, and for amendments to Land Settlement, Forest, Companies, Industrial Conclisation, Sumas Dyking, Contagious Diseases (Animals), Land Surveyors, Insurance and Engineering Acts.

Premier Pattullo presented the third and final report of the Macdonald Fuel Commission, a voluminature of the Commission, a voluminature of the Commission, a voluminature of the Macdonald Fuel Commission of the Macdo

The House endorsed the paymen of a full sessional indemnity to Mrs.
Paul Smith, M.P.P., absent by
reason of attending a health conference at Ottawa in the interests Province, and swept on with legislation in final stages

LABOR MEASURE

On the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the C.C.F. moved to insert authority for "quicky strikes" and to remove the date beyond which formation of trade unions outside of local areas are not to be recognized. Hon, G. S. Pearson said he did not believe in strikes, and resisted other amendments. The Government's bill wa enacted as drawn.

On the Legal Professions Act, the House struck out wording which would have debarred real estate agents from dealing with certain classes of real estate and other property, and accepted the balance of the bill on the direct undertaking by Attorney-General Wismer that its new powers would not be mis-

ORIENTAL ISSUE

On motions, the House held a full dress debate on Oriental exclusion and limitation of fishery licences in allied resolutions presented by Captain M. F. Macintosh and R. W. Bruhn from the Conservative

side.

The debate following was upon non-partizan lines, the Government arguing that it would be unwise to interfere now with a delicate situation, and that no purpose could come from memoralizing Ottawa with complaints of inaction. Conservatives contended that the situation was being allowed to drift, and that Eastern Canada was not yet aware of the facts.

It was brought out in debate that

aware of the facts.

It was brought out in debate that second generation Orientals, now British subjects, had secured majority control of many lines of production in potatoes, hothouse products, vegetables and small fruits and were steadily gaining in the actual number of fishery licences held.

the Farmers' Advisory Board, in-cluding praise for the Administra-tion in the work-for-taxes plan. Premier Pattulio announced pro-rogation would be reached by night-

Resuming the Oriental immigra-tion debate at the afternoon sitting Conservatives pressed a division on the issue by way of an appeal from a ruling of the chair, which had held an amendment from the Govern-ment side was in order. The House divided 28 to 14 in support of the chair; Conservatives and the C.C.F. later voting in favor of the original motion, which was defeated. The motion had asked repeal of existing

The Government accepted a mo-ion from Dr. J. D. Hunter (Conservative, Victoria) calling for further Federal attention to the prevention of tuberculosis among Indians, and a motion to memorialize the Domin-ion on the subject carried unani-

A second division was reached when Conservatives challenged an-other ruling of the chair, holding a Government amendment to their motion for action to secure lower grain and mill feed rates on westand trains in order. The Hot divided 37 to 8 to sustain the chair, the C.C.F. siding with Government benches on the issue.

PARTY LINES SPLIT

PARTY LINES SPLIT
A third division cost the Administration momentarily two of its staunchest supporters, Dr. J. J. Gillis (Liberal, Yale) and H. G. Perry (Liberal, Fort George). H. E. Winch (C.C.F., Vancouver East) had moved to have the House declare that Federal law controlling the operation of the B.C. Telephone Company should be repealed, so that telephone services could come under Provincial utility law. The House rejected the motion on a show of hands, and Mr. Winch called for the division. The House divided 35 to division. The House divided 35 to 8 against the motion, Conservatives voting with the Administration, and Messrs. Gillis and Perry with the C.C.F

The House proceeded with the balance of some twenty miscellaneous motions, voting them down, to clear

Final enactments for last-minute measures passed without incident, including third readings for bills to amend the Water, Legal Profes-sions, Municipal Acts, and a re-opened and further amended bill to authorize Provincial control over civic loans under the Federal Municipal Improvements Assistance Act, only technically changed.

A short, sharp wrangle followed over action by the municipal com-mittee in inserting a localized form of health insurance under municipal of neath insurance under municipal direction at Matsqui, the Government demanding deletion of that provision, which was done. The House recessed at 6:05 p.m., until 8:30 p.m. Shortly before 9 p.m., His Honor came, and the session ended.

Honor came, and the session ended.
Good nature blossomed in the final periods of the day, with many friendly exchanges across the floor of the House. The Minister of Labor was heard congratuling the second member for Victoria, on his personality, but not upon his politics. The chief Liberal whip created roars when he inadvertently announced after devisions that a lady member had paired on the division with a mere member; both, as it happened, being then at opposite ends of the continent.

On each member's desk was a Christmas box of holly, as a gift from the fourth member for Victoria, whose seat will be eliminated in redistribution. The irrepressible member for Fernie was heard calling the Premier a "good fellow," and the House leader smiled gally in reply. The member for The Islands, whose seat is also to be eliminated provoked a roar with a chance allusion to professorial attitudes, and his own soldierly interpretation of that.

own soldierly interpretation of that.
"Ethnologically homogeneous" was
too much for the member for Salmon Arm, who can speak seven languages, and almost too much for the member in whose motion it appeared. Th House made him define the w

Relieved from the long strain, and the pressure of double and triple sittings, the House gave itself up after prorogation to the customary pattle of discarded sessional papers, ending the session in a time-he

Act was left to die, a lone orphan on the order paper.

B.C. Legislature Is Given Final Report Of Fuel Commission

Report Repeats Gasoline Can Be Sold for 18 Cents A Gallon If Distribution Unified—Recommends Public Control of Utility, and New Duties

ITH the explanation that the voluminous document had been received on Tuesday, but had not yet been read by himself, Premier Pattullo presented the third and final of the Macdonald fuel commission yesterday morning in the British Columbia Legislature. Contained in a volume eight inches thick, the report was filed with the Clerk of the House.

The report reiterated that "a reduction in the selling price of gasoline is the first step to save the line is the first step to save the Vancouver Island coal industry from extinction," and recommended regu-lation by a public body in the public interest. The report read, in part:

HIGHLIGHTS CITED

"At present a private body or company controlling the price of gaso-line, and consequently the price of heavy fuel oil, can virtually destroy

heavy tief oil, can virtually desiroly the British Columbia coal industry. "Regulation therefore by a public bed in the public bed in its (the coal industry's) interest, and in the public interest.

"A reduction in the selling price of gasoline is the first step to save the Vancouver Island coal industry from extinction."

British Columbia's processed fuel British Columbia's processed rues oil should be protected by a customs duty or dump duty on imported heavy fuel oil to enable it to be sold at an economic delivered price, the report said at another point.

COAL OPERATIONS

A large market has been lost to Vancouver Island coal because of its high cost of production and distri-bution. Establishment of central coal distributing depots, or some modification of that principle, is the only effective way in which the present that distribution charges for coal could compete effectively," the document said different with the coal could compete effectively," the ocument said, differing with the eclared capital structure of operat-

"We found no evidence of any practical scientific tests by anyone in the province which we could safely accept as weighing the position accept as weighing the merits of specific coals and fuel oils. This situation is in large part due to the lack of initiative of the coal com-panies themselves," Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald said at another point.

GASOLINE PRICES

GASOLINE PRICES
Full production costs of oil companies operating in British Columbia were not available to the commission from the British Columbia representatives of these companies, the report asserted. Gasoline could be sold at a fair profit at eighteen cents a gallon, if distribution were reorganized, and the multiplicity of service stations eliminated, it was reiterated.

With hundreds of pages of closely yped findings and data, the report will require some time to analyze, it has foreseen. No immediate com-ment was offered on its entry in the

Battle of Papers as Session Ends



Confusion worse confounded is the visitor's impression of the scene in the Legislative Chamber when members forget their cares of the previous weeks and throw the accumulation of sessional papers into the air and at one another immediately after prorogation of the Legislature. Above was the scene on Friday night after Hon. E. W. Hamber, Lieutenant-Governor, had dismissed the session.

REMEMBERED

B.C. Legislators Winding Up Personal Affairs After Long Session

Legislative whips were recognized yesterday as parliamentary groups broke up here after the long, hard session. Dr. J. Gillis, retiring chairman of the Liberal caucus, was given a handsome traveling bag, with an expression of gratitude for long and able service in that position.

and able service in that position.
Conservatives gave Capt. M. F.
Macintosh, M.P.P., their popular
whip, a large, engraved silver tray,
with the signatures of fellow members worked into a design on its
border.
Liberals presented Capt. C. S.
Leary, M.P.P., chief whip, with a
set of silver and cutlery; and Howard Forester, M.P.P., deputy whip,
a silver vase.

ard Forester, M.P.P., deputy whip, a silver vase. The C.C.P. group broke up early, members returning to their ridings soon after the House rose on Friday

evening. PLEASED WITH CITY

PLEASED WITH CITY
Golden sunshine in Victoria and
the presence of Government offices
here, will prolong the visit of several
up-country members for a few days
yet, it was learned.
One member, Glen E. Braden,
M.P.P., sitting for Peace River, will
have to travel to Edmonton and
through Alberta's northwest to get
ack to his home riding.
The Cabinet held a post-sessional
executive meeting yesterday, discussing routine affairs. No official ancouncement was made.

DEG

Cassidy Will Leave Service

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Welfare Director Going to Other Field, Dr. Weir Tells House

Dr. H. M. Cassidy, director of social welfare for the British Columbia government for the last few years, will shortly leave his position for another, with considerable increase in salary, Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary said in the Legislature last night when the \$5,500 vote for Dr.

Cassidy's salary was attacked by Samuel Guthrie, C.C.F., Cow-ichan-Newcastle.
"It was said, when we en-gaged him, that we had the best man in Canada," Dr. Weir said, "and we were complimented on securing his services. He has been offered another position, with considerable increase in sal-ary, and we shall not be able to hold him in the service much

longer."
Mr. Guthrie said that in his riding was an old couple forced to live on \$10 a month, and their

to live on \$10 a month, and their daughter, earning \$3 a week, was forced to contribute to the support of her parents.

"I feel this salary is far too much for this position," Mr. Guthrie said heatedly, "Some of it should go to others who are far more deserving."

more deserving."

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, noted the provincial health officer and many of the deputies were receiving less than the director, and he thought such a condition was hardly fair.

Mrs. Paul Smith, Liberal, Vancouver-Burrard, said the government had received full value in Dr. Cassidy's services.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F. North Vancouver, said Dr. Cassidy had done splendid work in a specialized field, but she was sorry to note the \$780 salary of a stenographer in his department would not be increased during the year.

\$4,200 Voted Ex-Agent-General

The Legislature last night passed without comment or debate the statutory annual allowance of \$3,200 to F. A. Pauline, former agent-general in London for British Columbia.

Mr. Pauline was agent-general at the time the Tolmie government took office in 1928. He retired later to make way for F. P. Burden, and the Legislature passed "an act to provide for the payment of an allowance to Frederick Arthur Pauline."

Changes Sought At University

House Debates Mrs. Steeves Motion For Reorganization

A complete reorganization of the University of British Colum-bia administration to make it "a real public institution instead of a semiprivate and independent unit," was urged in the Legis-lature last night by Mrs. D. G. Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, in a resolution deprecating the in-crease in fees at the university

this year.

She said there were many criticisms of the university, such as too much flunking of first and second year students, inadequacy of the summer school and lack of co-operation in the staff. There were also rumors about expansion in many value.

in many ways,
"The fact is conditions at the
university are unsatisfactory, and the present system of govern-ment for the institution does not seem to be best," she said. Dr. J. J. Gillis, Yale, said he heard

seem to be best," she said.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Yale, said he heard many complaints in the interior that costs at the university were too high for interior students. He said there was no question that only the moderately rich could educate their children there. He said it was a public institution and the public was entitled to information regarding it.

"Some people go so far as to say there should be a change in the head of the university," he said. "Certainly there is something not quite right."

George M. Murray, Liberal, Lillooet, said any reflection on the head of the university would bring him immediately to his feet. He said President Klinck was doing splendid work. Rich men of this province, he said, were not like rich men of other places and did not endow the university. He thought men who

were not like rich men of other places and did not endow the university. He thought men who made great fortunes in British Columbia should consider the possibility of perpetuating their names through endowment of the

possibility of perpetualing their names through endowment of the university.

C. S. Leary, Liberal, Kaslo-Slocan, said education nowadays was far too cheap and easy, and people did not appreciate it fully unless they paid for it.

L. E. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, believed it should be made possible for every boy and girl in the province to have university training. He said the U.B.C. was not much more than a "glorified high school for students of Vancouver," because the costs were too high for students from more distant places. He turged decentralization of the university.

Hon. G. M. Weir, Minister of Education, adjourned debate on the question.

Legislative Notes

Opposition Bills Are Accepted in House

The government accepted two pieces of Opposition legislation in the House last night and they

were passed.
Samuel Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, sponsored one of the bills, which will allow members of men's committees to accompany mine inspectors touring a mine after an unusual

cocurrence.

From R. L. Maitland, K.C.,
Conservative leader, AttorneyGeneral Wismer accepted a bill
giving married women equal
property rights when in partnership with their husbands.

Better Accommodation For Captive Animals

Ernest E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, withdrew in the Legisla-ture yesterday his bill which would enlarge pits for captive bears, but only after he had the assurance of Attorney-General Wismer that the game commis-sion would be empowered to make regulations to improve the quarters of all captive animals.

More Products Put In Loss Leader Act

Soap, soap products and lard will be included among products that cannot be used as loss leaders under Mrs. H. D. Smith's amendments to the Food Products Minimum Loss Act given second reading in the Legislature yesterday. The bill also prevents retailers circumventing the act by juggling invoice prices through wholesalers.

Blood Tests Will Not Ban Weddings in B.C.

Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, assured the Legislature yesterday that the new blood tests before marriage will not prevent couples from being wed. "But it makes each of the intending partners disclose his physical condition, so far as syphillis is concerned, to the other," the minister said.

Appeals to Court For Mental Cases

An avenue of release through the courts for patients in mental hospitals was sought by Ernest E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, with two bills introduced in the Leg-islature last night. Debate on the measures was adjourned by Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Sec-

retary.

He asked right of habeas corpus for mental patients or their relatives, right of appeal to the courts to determine sanity, and regular inspection of private mental hospitals.

Plea Is Made for **Domestic Servants**

Due to the disorganized nature of the work, and the lack of training and standards in the occupation, the time is not ripe to bring domestic servants under minimum wage laws, Hon. G. S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, declared in the Legislature last night as the government voted down a bill sponsored by Mrs. D. G. Steeves, C.C.F. North Vencouver, that

would have included them.

Mrs. Steeves made an earnest plea on behalf of better wage conditions for servants, and Mr. Pearson agreed with her, but said difficulties of making regulations when the conditions are the conditions. ations work were too great.

U.B.C. Procedure To Be Altered

A bill which changes the procedure for appointment of the chancellor and members of the staff of the University of British Columbia was passed last night by the Legislature. Hon. G. M. Weir, Minister of Education, said they were of a routine nature.

An amendment to the Public Schools Act introduced by Hon. G. M. Weir, Minister of Education, will assure children in B.C. 12 years of free school tultion, up to the age of 19 years. At present high school students over 18 have to pay a fee.

Wants Pensions At Sixty-five

Conservative Members Also Want Everyone to Contribute to Them

Old age pensions, to be paid contributors at the age of 65 or younger, were advocated in the Legislature last night by R. W. Bruhn, Macgregor Macintosh and Herbert Anscomb, Conservative members for Salmon Arm, The Islands and Victoria, respectively, in speaking to Mr. Bruhn's motion to this effect. Hon. George S. Pearson, Min-ister of Labor, adjourned the debate

Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, adjourned the debate.

"The problem of old age is becoming more important than the problem of unemployment." Mr. Bruhn said, adding that it was almost impossible nowadays for a person in the fiftles to secure a job.

person in the fifties to secure a job.

He said he could see no reason why proposed unemployment insurance and old age pensions couldn't be covered in one act.

Capt. Macintosh said "we must get away from the dole and give people something they have contributed to all their lives." He stressed that old age pensions should be contributory.

Mr. Anscomb said he was sure such problems as old age could be settled under the economic system under which Canada now operated. He foresaw the time when persons would have to quit active business at 55. Personally, he said, he was going to do that. He advocated a national fund for contributions to old age pensions. He said unemployment, health and old age should be dealt with on that basis.

"There would, of course, have to be contributions from industry which is today paying the entire bill for old age pensions," he said.

Across the Bay

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

BLACK HOLE

THE INMATES of the Black Hole of Calcutta had a certain melancholy advantage over the Public Accounts Committee of the British Columbia Legislature. They knew roughly why they were there and what it was all about. They were suffering for something they believed in.

In the packed, sweltering, poisonous little room where the Public Accounts Committee spent the morning, afternoon and evening of yesterday, no one really knew why he was present and there was nothing definite for anyone to believe in. You could only sit and take your choice of suffocating in this smokefilled, fetid air or fainting from very ex-haustion and bewilderment in the mass of irrelevant evidence in the thick, cho of innuendo, the hoarse clamor of human

And finally the whole dank and dismal comedy ended incredibly in anti-climax and flasco as Dr. Telford's graft charges concerning the Pattullo Bridge collapsed, with a faint hissing sound and a bad smell.

Never has the Legislature witnessed an end like this. Never has a committee waited in such expectation all day, thinking that, perhaps, after all this strange man may have something, some horrid revelation, some ac up his sleeve. Never has a politician made bold charges like this and utterly withdrawn them. Never has a Don Quixote charged so gayly at windmills and limped home without lance, helmet or trousers.

Wild, incredible, like a child's fairy tale, like a Walt Disney film, like the end of the Big Bad Wolf. Sad, in a way also, but no one seems to mourn—not the government, which is vindicated; not the Conservatives, who object to Socialism more than Liberalism; not even the C.C.F., which never backed Dr. Telford's charges, didn't know what they were and tried in vain to stop them.

STILL JOLLY

TO MEN OF SOFTER fibre this would b a crushing defeat. To parliamentarians of the old school it could mean nothing but resignation. But Telford is made of sterner resignation. But lettord is made of sterner stuff. This humiliation rolls off and leaves him a little dampened, perhaps, but still jovial, still threatening dire things, still warning the government of more horrors

Here in the black hole all yesterday is one of the most remarkable sights that the whirling world of local politics has ever offered—better fun than the movies, with no admission fee and no amusement tax, and more human drama in it, richer comedy, better acting. Besides, unlike the movies, it had the added attraction that no one, not even the authors and producers, can guess where the drama would end.

All day long in the black hole is the fierce play of man against man, strength against strength, the clamor of angry voices and fevered brains, the deafening babel of anguished tongues, the explosions and sudden allences, the total confusion, obfuscation and futility of men trying to find a needle in a haystack that is blowing away in the wind of their own making.

PLEASANT AFTERNOON

PLEASANT AFTERNOON

N THIS LITTLE room, paneled in ancient yellow maple and vague through the make and clamor, are crowded most of the chief figures of our British Columbia scene, huddled together on rickety folding chairs, gasping for air, listening, open-mouthed as if each were on trial for his life—come like onlookers at a hanging, to shudder with de-

Around the table sit the public accounts committee, the jury in this case; at the head Mr. Kenney, a tiny terrier of a man, able, flerce, who barks louder as the day grows older; facing him at the other end Dr. Tel-ford-Frotund, pink, broad-faced, his white mane of hair growing more disordered as he staggers deeper into the morass; across the table Mr. Maitland, carrot-hair askew, huge pipe puffing, enjoying himself hugely, not that he loves the government more, but Tel-ford less; young Mr. Winch, dark, brooding, foreseeing that his friend is sinking fast, but glad to know that he himself had nothing to do with this disaster; and all around bridge builders, engineers, contractors, unskilled in these arts of argument, looking with wild amazement at the processes of politics.

The case has not gone far before the bottom of Dr. Telford's case is clearly sagging, must soon fall out altogether. But he proeds, with a curious complacency, either unable to see what is happening to him, or refusing to face the fact of his own disaster, keeping up his courage by promising worse charges to come. Even when his own star witness, a competent engineer with a Scottish accent and a painted look, says the govern-ment paid a fair price on the bridge, Dr. Telford still keeps up the brave pretence, shifts his ground suddenly, but not very skilfully, says lamely that the steel would have been cheaper if bought in the world market, not in Canada or Britain.

THE KILL

NOW IS THE BOTTOM fallen out entirely. Liberal members, with shouts of victory, pounce upon the doctor. So he wants the government to buy steel in Czechoslovakia, does he, where it is \$35 a ton cheaper, and break down the wage standards of the honest Canadian working man. "Oh, no," cries Dr. Telford. He only wants bids called in the world market. "Same thing, same thing," world market. "Same thing, same thing,"
howl the Liberals, hot on the trail. "Oh, no,"
shouts Dr. Telford, but his words are
drowned in the fierce yelps of triumph.
The voices of Liberals have risen like fox
hounds scenting the kill. Dr. Telford is on

his feet shouting, with out-stretched hands, hard pressed, desperate, but still fighting. Mr. Kenny is thundering from the other end of the table and banging his gavel. The silent men, packed into the back hole, breath-ing hard, look on with wide eyes,

packed into the back hole, breathing hard, look on with wide eyes, open mouths.

Then into the melee dashes Mr. King of Golden, a single lank curl dangling between his eyes. He shakes his fist and cries out, with a lovely mixture of metaphor, that Dr. Telford is out on a limb and is trying to get on another tack. Equally mixed and frenzied is Mr. Straith, who says Dr. Telford is on a fishing expedition, trying to find somwhere to hang his hat. Everyone is mixed, frenzied, hoarse.

Shame on you, an estasy of scorn. You can't shout me down, shouts Dr. Telford. It's like a dog chasing its fale, growls Mr. Leary. Give 'emboxing gloves and let 'em fight, grunts Mr. Bruhn. The Doctor's star witness, the Scottish engineer, looks on with bewilderment, a plain man unused to the processes of politics. The black hole listena and swelters and marvels. At dinner time it is clear the bottom is quite out of Dr. Telford's case but perhaps he has something else? Perhaps he may yet produce some evidence Surely he has something after all this fanning of air and muddying of water?

Dr. Telford has pondered, seen the end and is withdrawing his charges, saying they were based on an irresponsible letter. The committee is shocked for a moment, numbed, and it bursts out with protests. All this day of agony and sweat and suffocation for nothing! Remains only to deplore it in the House, to give the Doctor a final spanking at the hands of the Premier and Mr. Wismer, and to forget the whole welrd chapter.

So ends a fantastic spectacle, a farce of the wilder, pre-war, custard-pie variety—unparalleled here, useful only as a warning to young parliamentarians, valuable as good, clean family entertainment. Be sure next time to bring

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ment. Be sure next time to bring the kiddies.

ALL-CANADIAN HIGHWAY URGED

It was rather sad that Canadians, wishing to travel from one place in Canada to another, should have to go through the United States, R. L. Maitland, Leader of the Opposition, said in the Legislature last night when speaking to his motion that the British Columbia House was of the conjunctive whole of the conthe opinion the whole of the con-struction and future maintenance of the Trans-Canada Highway be paid for by the Federal Go

ment.

He said a Trans-Canada Highway should be just as much a Canadian institution as a trans-Canada railway. A highway was necessary and proper, he said, and should be uniform in all details and acceptable to all kinds of people.

of people.

Unwarranted Charges

DR. LYLE TELFORD, LEADER OF THE Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in the Legislature, has had "his moment" with the Public Accounts Committee in con-nection with his charge that there had been an overpayment of something like \$300,000 on steel for the Pattullo Bridge at New West-minster. After one of his witnesses disminster. After one of his witnesses di-claimed any knowledge of what was expecte

minster. After one of his witnesses disclaimed any knowledge of what was expected to be an important plece of evidence, Dr. Telford, obviously realizing the filmsiness of his case, withdrew his charges. Such "buts" as he may have reserved to himself probably will be conveniently and quietly "liquidated" by his better judgment.

Despite the occasional, but usually unwarranted, suggestion that debate in the Legislature is ctrcumscribed by majority mechanics, the freedom which members of all parties enjoy—and make use of—in recording their opinions on almost every subject under the sun should not be interpreted as license for immuendo or charges arising out of nothing more substantial than a desire to try to make political capital. It is commonplace, of course, to argue that under our system of democratic government, our traditional parliamentary usage, it is the duty of every member of the Legislature to discharge his public duties in conformity with the customs and procedure for long identified with that system. And no government jealous of its own reputation or concerned about its own permanence is likely to abuse those rules.

C.C.F. Drops Steel Charge

Dr. Telford Censured For Not Checking Source of Information

Dr. J. Lyle Telford, C.C.F., Vancouver East, formally withdrew before the public accounts committee of the Legislature last night his charge that there was

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night his charge that there was an overpayment of several hundred thousand dollars for steel used in the Pattullo Bridge.
"It appears the letter on which I based my charges was irresponsible, so my whole case falls down," Dr. Telford told the committee that was investigating his charges.

mittee that was investigating his charge;

The document he referred to was purported to be a copy of a letter written by C. D. Hobbs, Vancouver business man, to an English firm, in which reference was made to possible overpayment of \$50 to \$60 a ton for the bridge steel.

Mr. Hobbs, who had testified before the committee earlier, said that his correspondence on the subject was four years ago and he could not vouch for the authenticity of the copy produced by Dr. Telford.

Dr. Telford said he got his

Dr. Telford.

Dr. Telford said he got his copies of the letter and other correspondence from the English

firm.
"I presumed Mr. Hobbs would have the originals on file," Dr. Telford said. "As they now appear to be irresponsible letters, my case drops down to the \$35."

Earlier in the day, in a heated discussion, it had been brought out that if steel for the bridge had been purchased in Czechoslovalia, instead of Canada and Britain as required by the contract. ain, as required by the contract, the government might have saved \$35 a ton.

"Then you withdraw your charge of \$60 overpayment," asked W. T. Straith, Liberal, Vic-

charge of \$60 overpayment," asked W. T. Straith, Liberal, Victoria.

"Yes, it reduces to the \$35," said Dr. Telford.

"But I'm not finisped with the bridge yet," he hadded. "I'm stopped on this and I've had my two speeches in the House, so I can't make any other charges there. But I've still got lots about the bridge."

Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, urged Dr. Telford to withdraw his remark about Mr. Hobbs being irresponsible and simply to say there was doubt about authenticity of the letter. "No, I can't do that, because I know it is a fair copy of the letter," Dr. Telford said.

Capt. C. R. Bull, Liberal, South Okanagan, said the reference to Mr. Hobbs was quite unfair.

Louis Le Bourdals, Liberal, Cariboo, said it was very regretable that Dr. Telford should have made the charge in the first place without checking up on his sources. The committee had had to go to the expense of bringing witnesses down, the House adjourned early so the committee could sit and a lot of unnecessary time and money wasted.

When the committee made its report to the House, members of the government and the Legislature censured Dr. Telford for making charges without sufficient foundation.

The report completely cleared the government and anyone else connected with the bridge, stating Dr. Telford had withdrawn his charge and not one bit of evidence had been brought out to support it.

Premier Pattullo deplored Dr. Telford's methods, saying the use of statements in the House that proved to be without foundation would do injustice to citizens, create distrust in government and was very regrettable. In future, he said, the government would ignore such charges unless they were made in writing.

Dr. Telford agreed that statements of the kind should be in writing, but added:

ments of the kind should be in writing, but added: "I can take this on the chin, I may have erred in my judg-ment this time, but I'll have more things to say."

ment this time, but I'll have more things to say."

This drew Attorney - General Wismer into the debate with stinging criticism of the member for making charges based "on a lletter from someone to someone else which wasn't even produced."

Even after withdrawing his charge, Dr. Telford came back and cast reflections on a solid decent business man in Vancouver (Mr. Hobbs), the Attorney-General safe

cent business man in Vancouver (Mr. Hobbs), the Attorney-General said.

"I think there should be a rule about this sort of thing in the House," he declared.

"And the member makes no apology," he added, "but says he intends to use the same policy in future."

Dr. Telford, he said, used the same sort of tactics in his allegation of forgery in the game department on a trap-line application. This matter had been investigated by two attorneysgeneral, two game commissions and the police, none of whom found there was anything to it. And Dr. Telford's whole charge was based on a document from a man he did not know.

Frank Putnam, Liberal, Nelson-Creston, and Capt. C. R. Bull, Liberal, South Okanagan, ended the argument by deprecating Dr. Telford's reference to Mr. Hobbs as being irresponsible.

At the afternoon sitting of the committee it came out that if

At the afternoon sitting of the committee it came out that it steel for the bridge had been purchased in Czechoslovakia instead of in Canada and Britain it might have been obtained for \$35 a ton cheaper. J. C. Boyes, a private bridge engineer, gave the committee this information.

Immediately Liberal members decried. Dr. Telford's statements and the inference the government should have gone outside the Empire to get the steel. For moments the whole inquiry was in confusion with members shouting backward and forward at Dr. Telford.

Mr. Boyes, who had figured on At the afternoon sitting of the

Telford.

Mr. Boyes, who had figured on the Ladner, Bridge project, said he could have got steel from the Skoda works in Czechoslovakia at \$35 a ton cheaper than the \$201 paid on the Pattullo Bridge.

"How much cheaper if you had bought it all in England?" asked Dr. Telford.

"I couldn't say offhand," said the witness.

"T couldn't say offhand," said the witness. "The witness has said that a fair price was paid for Canadian and British steel on the Pattulio Bridge, but he could have got it cheaper in Czechoslovakia," said Frank Putnam, Liberal, Nelson-Creston, "Would Dr. Telford sug-gest we should have bought if

"I say you should get the best price for materials on any struc-ture," replied Dr. Teiford. "You say then we should have got the steel in Czechoslovakia?"

—Mr. Putnam.

"No, I didn't say that."—Dr.
Telford. "I never mentioned Czechoslovakia."

"What other conclusion can one draw from your remarks?"—Mr. Putnam.

Putnam.
"I never mentioned Czechoslovakia. I simply said you should get world bids on a job of this kind,"—Dr. Telford. "Instead this contract was so limited that only two Canadlan companies could bid."
"I think Dr. Telford means that if open bids were called the Canadian companies would have to meet the world price."—Harold Winch.

"So you want us to lower Can-adian workmen's standards to those of Czechoslovakia?"—Mr.

Putnam.
"Let's stop now," interjected
W. T. Straith, Liberal, Victoria.
"We're, wasting time and there
hasn't been a fittle of evidence.

hasn't been a fittle of evidence about overpayment on the steel."
"Yes, we've gone a little afield, but only because the suggestion was made we might be trying to block something," said E. T. Ken-ney, chairman.
"Dr. Telford is now on a fish-

ing expedition trying to find something to hang his hat on be-cause he hasn't got anything in this charge," said Mr. Straith.

this charge," said Mr. Strath.

R. W. Bruhn, Salmon Arm, asked Dr. Telford if he was not satisfied with proving that Czechoslovakia steel could have been bought cheaper, but Dr. Telford insisted Mr. Boyes should make a detailed estimate of the steel on the bridge contract and report whether he thought it was reasonable.

He wanted Mr. Boyes to say whether he thought the government got its money's worth on the bridge job, but Mr. Kenney objected, pointing out the engineer would have to make a complete study of the specifications first.

Harold Winch suggested the committee adjourn until a tabu-lation could be made comparing Canadian, British and other world

Canadian, British and other world steel prices for the bridge.

Mr. Kenney insisted the committee get back to Dr. Telford's charge of overpayment.

"As far as anything shown here yet is concerned, there hasn't been one cent of overpayment on the contract which called for supplying Canadian and British steel," he said.

Thomas King, Columbia, the committee secretary, then again read the Telford charge, as it had been referred to the committee and added:

"Dr. Telford's out on a limb and he's trying to get away on a new tack to save himself. There's absolutely nothing to this whole thing."

This remark provoked shouting and waving of arms between Mr. King, Dr. Telford and other members of the committee, with Mr. Bruhn suggesting: "Why don't you get boxing gloves and go outside?"

go outside?"
Capt. C. S. Leary, Liberal,
Kaslo-Slocan, said Dr. Telford's
charges were not getting anywhere—like a dog chasing his
tail." He was prepared to wind
the whole inquiry up and make a
report to the House.

tive, leader, insisted that since numerous witnesses had been subpoensed, they should all be called to tell anything they knew about the bridge.

about the bridge.

The other witnesses of the afternoon were Hon, F. M. Mac-Pherson, Minister of Public Works; James Collins, head of the Fraser River Bridge Company, and C. D. Hobbs, Vancouver representative of a British wire sope company.

Committee Finds

No Overpayment
Misinterpretation on
Road Contract Fee
Investigated

The public accounts committee this morning found that there had been no overpayment to the General Construction Company, contractors on the Dutch Creek section of the Kingsgate-Radium Highway, as alleged in documents brought before the committee by Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East

Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East.

After hearing four witnesses, the committee decided that the, whole matter arose through a misunderstanding between the engineers as to how surface grading should be paid for in the contract. A sum of about \$3,000 was in dispute, and it was revealed the Dominion Government had held up its share of the cost because of the difference in opinion.

B. E. Burpee, resident engineer on the work; H. A. Hetherington, surveyor; E. S. Jones, district engineer, and H. M. Stevens, his assistant, and Arthur Dixon, chief engineer of the Public Works Department, appeared before the committee.

Their testimony showed that

committee.

Their testimony showed that the dispute arose on the job and was finally appealed to Mr. Dixon in Victoria, who made the ruling on which the payment was made. In its findings to the House the committee recommends that future contracts be written more clearly to avoid doubt. On the job in question it was the first time surface grading had been called for in such a manner and this gave rise to the difference.

HOUSE SPEEDS LEGISLATION

While the public accounts committee went alread with its fives. tigation into the cost of steel for the Pattulio Bridge, the Legislature sat for only an hour yesterdey afternoon and put through a few minor bills.

Vancouver charter amendments were passed as reported by the private bills committee. They include power to raise the trades ilcenses of the C.P.R. C.N.R. and B.C. Electric Railway from \$100 to \$1,500 a year, authority to pay a living allowance to Judge A. M. Harper for his work on the police commission, arrangments for a dvance poli and other routine changes.

changes.

A bill setting up an endowmen fund for the Jubilee Hospital is Victoria was passed.

Various other measures wentaken through different stage without much debate.

Try to Save Gas Price Law

Government Moves to Amend **Fuel Control Act**

The provincial government loved today to protect its gasoline price-fixing scheme from being ruled invalid when it goes before the Supreme Court for

hearing.

Amendments drafted for introduction in the Legislature within a day or two will state clearly the intention of the law.

They will deal particularly with points brought up in the recent appeal court hearing, chiefly stating that the fuel board shall not have power to protect one industry when it fixes prices for another. In the court it was claimed the gas price order was designed to protect the coal industry.

It will also state that the act is

It will also state that the act is not intended to interfere with op-erations of a company outside the

rovince. It is understood that when the at is understood that when the amendments are put through the fuel board may repeal its existing gas price order and recommend a new schedule under the changed act. This would enable the government to enforce the new gas price immediately if the new act is held valid.

Speaker's Decision avors Opposition

Resolution of E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, that the government be requested to formulate and put into effect a scientific policy for treatment of delin ency, having as its purpo the prevention and cure of crime the prevention and cure of crime, rather than the present policy of punishment and isolation of delinquents, was ruled out of order in the Legislature yesterday by Mr. Speaker Whittaker in a reserved decision.

He said he had found the resolution mandatory and dictating government policy.

A resolution of Mr. Winch asking that suitable and adequate facilities for special treatment, training and education of mentally defective children, was in order, the Speaker ruled.

ISLANDS PEOPLE LODGE PROTEST

A delegation of 30 residents from different parts of the Islands riding arrived in Victoria Pattullo against the new redistri-bution scheme which will elimin-ate the Islands as a separate

onstituency.

At an interview arranged by At an interview arranged by Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, member for the riding, they made two requests. First, that the Islands be retained as a separate riding; second, that if this is not possible the Islands be placed in Saanich riding instead of in Nanaimo, with which they have little connection.

REMARRIAGES TO BE PERMITTED

People who have been married in other parts of the world but have lost the records of their union will be able to have their marriages legalized in British Columbia under the amendments to the Marriage Act passed yesterday by the Legislature.

They will have to go through another ceremony in remarrying. Before the ceremony can be carried out they must show either that some informality existed in the former marriage, that they have lost all records of the union, or have divorced and want to remarry again.

SAVING SEEN ON INSURANCE RATES

fotorists should save from \$6 to \$8 on their insurance policies as a result of bills put through the House by Attorney-General Wismer exempting passenger hazard from contracts and providing that passengers injured in accidents cannot sue the driver for damages, the government said today. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1938

Fiasco in Leadership

THAS PERHAPS DAWNED UPON C.C.F. Leader Telford by this time that there is a decided difference between lecturing to an unseen public through the medium of the radio and serving as the head of a political party in the Legislature. After the ignominious collapse of his "steel charges" before the Public Accounts Com-mittee it was not unnatural that he should be called to account by his colleagues of the caucus. That, of course, is their own business. Quite probably the general public will learn at a later date something of what went on at that meeting.

It had been expected—in the light of what the people of British Columbia had listened to over the air for several months previously monwealth Federation in the Legislature Dr. Telford would quickly make a name for him-As it waited for his maiden speech more than a year ago, the House was figuratively on its toes, sufficient notice had been given in the newspapers to insure wellfilled galleries, and a general air of pleasurable anticipation prevailed. Dr. Telford spoke for two hours and ten minutes. On the following day we paid our respects to him here, complimented him on his sense of humor and the indefatigable labor he had expended on the collection of such a vast wealth of official and unofficial references from which he drew his inspiration. But we were constrained to admit that "the case he presented, except occasionally, lacked the force he might have put into his support of it had he confined himself to a discussion of fewer subjects instead of attempting to unload all his burden in one effort."

Twelve months afterward Dr. Telford betrays no sign of having profited by such experience as he should have gained at the session of the Legislature last year. It was none other than Mr. G. G. McGeer, M.P., at a Liberal meeting in Kamloops—a name conjure with in British Columbia's political history—during the election campaign of 1916 who said that if a public speaker could not make a point worth arguing about in 15 minutes he had better sit down and keep quiet until he had had time to think out something better. Dr. Telford relied mainly on es for his contribution to the debates of the last session. Good fortune saved him from serious mistakes. But the differ-ence between the 1937 and the 1938 session, as far as he is personally and politically con-cerned, is that his generalities of this year have been garnished by a major error.

There is no disposition on our part to derestimate the value of the C.C.F. party's contribution to the conduct of the contribution to the conduct of the public business of this province. In its ranks in the Legislature it has able and sincere men and an outstandingly capable woman. It may not be out of place to remind it, however, that it will the better serve the interests of the people of British Columbia—as well as its own—if its adherents shall profit by their der's failure to grasp the e parliamentary usage.

Safeguards in Notor Law Planned

position, that certain changes should be made to limit the exemption so that no injustices would be worked.

Mr. Maitland used the illustration of an office boy sent on a message and instructed to ride in someone's car. As the original draft of the government bill stood, the boy would have no claim if he was injured in an acclerit, he pointed out. Mr. Wismerters of that some safeguards

Across The Bay

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

BIG WIND

THE LEGISLATURE was obviously suffering yesterday from a spiritual hang-over. The Telford hurricane of Wednesday, already known in history as the Big Wind of 1938, had left everyone emotionally ex-hausted, washed out and limp. The House scarcely went through the motions of legis-

scarcely went through the motions of legislating.

Dr. Telford, for his part, bobbed up as merrily as if nothing had happened to him, as if he had escaped the Big Wind altogether. No outsider would have suspected that he was the chief castaway and now afloat in an open boat, far from the mother ship of the C.C.F.—floating no one knew where, gaily into seas unknown, most remarkable nautical sight of modern times.

But those still on board the good ship

But those still on board the good ship C.C.F. showed clearly on their faces the ravages of the Big Wind. It was a sad-looking crew, worried lest anyone should imagine Dr. Telford was still in the same boat with them. Everyone knew, of course, that he wasn't. No one doubted that the present separation would become wider, probably permanent.

After the Big Wind ordinary life seemed a sorry let-down, like coming back to work in the morning after a big party. Compared with the excitement of the public accounts committee, the proceedings of the House dealing with facts instead of emotions, were dealing with lacts instead of emotions, were dull indeed. No one could get very inter-ested in them. Everybody wanted to grab the afternoon papers and relive those glorious moments in the public accounts committee when the Pattullo Bridge charges came crashing down, amid screams human agony.

THE PREMIER IS SURPRISED

IN THIS PERIOD of hang-over and con-valescence the House worked listlessy for the most part on the Land Act, by which the government proposes to surrender, when it sees fit, its share of 25 per cent of the lots in new townsites. In this the Conservatives have seen a great principle. They are fighting the government's plan to the last ditch.

Premier Pattullo, who did not participate in the Big Wind, was still full of fight. When Premier Pattullo, who did not participate in the Big Wind, was still full of fight. When Mr. Maitland started hammering at the Land Act he grew a little impatient and hammered back. The Premier is showing an increasing impatience with those who keep doubting not the rectitude of this government, but the rectitude of all governments, of the principle of government itself.

Why, says the Premier, do people like Mr. Maitland always imagine that the government will invariably act against the public interest when it is just as easy to act for it? Is it not possible, if only to vary the monotony, that governments might do something right sometimes?

Why, says the Premier in an excess of generosity, he would even entrust a government headed by Mr. Maitland to exercise the functions proposed in the Land Act; but the implication is plain that he wouldn't trust Mr. Maitland's government much further, in any of the larger fields of policy.

Mr. Maitland and Mr. Bruhn continue to fight the act, Mr. Winch the younger makes a vigorous speech against it, Mr. Perry offers much wisdom, and in the end it is passed. No one is very deeply moved.

REAL STUFF

REAL STUFF

EVERYONE PRICKS up his ears, however, when Mr. MacPherson brings his road estimates in. Here, in a fashion unknown to city people, is the central stuff of provincial politics. In the interior, beyond the pavement, government is judged by the condition of the roads.

Though a government of angels sit in Victoria it will have no reputation in the far

places if the local road is rough. Elections places if the local road is rough. Elections are lost and won, men's careers are made and unmade by a few loads of gravel. The local road—not the budget, not the Rowell Commission, not the principles of Liberalism, Conservatism or Socialism—is the thing that the folks back home are thinking about.

As usual, Mr. MacPherson's distribution of the road maintenance money satisfies no enough to go adequately around. But every-one in this House knows, including the op-position, that Mr. MacPherson usually gets bout as much out of a dollar as anyone, except where local foremen let him down, as they sometimes do in the tortuous game of local politics. And when they do it is more injurious to the government politically than all the strength of the opposition combined. Into the pallid, abstract discussions of the

afternoon Mr. Perry suddenly introduced a feeling of reality, suddenly brought us down to earth and, as it were, spread before us the solid substance of life in British Columbia.

Far away from these marble halls, far from the Big Wind and the fusty smell of politics went Mr. Perry, over the Monkman Pass Road—that road built by local settlers with their own hands through the wilder ness, because they would not remain longer isolated in the north. An epic, Mr. Perry called it, and he skilfully painted a picture of the poor farmers of British Columbia loaning their own tools, working for no pay, to build a road that governments will not build, showing that the spirit of the pioneers is not dead.

With such a picture before him, Mr. Mac-Pherson could hardly fail to be moved by Mr. Perry's plea for money to finish the settlers' road. A bare 20 miles has yet to be built, and would have been built, said Mr. Perry, if the citizens of Vancouver had kept their promise to contribute \$15,000.

A few dollars only, pleads Mr. Perry, a few dollars to show that the epic of Monkman Pass is not forgotten in these marble halls, to show the settlers that we appreciate still the manual labors of the real British Columbians, while we are enjoying here all the luxuries of politics, paid by a grateful electorate.

Mr. MacPherson listened but

Mr. MacPherson listened, but spoke not. The epic ztill hangs in the balance.

REFORESTATION .

From North Vancouver Rev

From North Vancouver Review

The remarks of Captain McGregor McIntosh, M.P.P. for the Islands, in the session of the provincial Legislature, anent reforestation, voiced one kind of conservatism of which all parties can approve. He claimed that thousands of acres of logged-off areas should have been replanted instead of 161 as reported. Finland, he sad, set an example to the world in replanting last year 6,300 acres, and by insisting that timber should be cut in such a way that it will not destroy natural reforestation. He pointed out that forestry in British Columbia is a greater asset than mining, for forests will grow again if properly protected.

The great danger to natural reforestation is fire, which destroys seeds and top soil. The fire hazard caused by slash and rubbish left behind by careless big tree loggers is a misdemeanor which should be chekked by drastic legislation. Doubtless in this respect, too, we have something to learn from Finland. We are reminded of the recent visit of Mr. Filberg of the Comox Lumber Co. to Sweden to study the methods of a country which has learnt by scarcity and competition how best to prevent wastage by scientific prudence.

We have in this province one of the few

how test to province one of the few large stands of marketable timber. In a single year it produced \$30,000,000 in new revenue. But there is such a thing as killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

Townsite Plan **Meets Opposition**

But Premier Says Lands of No Value to Crown Today

Premier Pattullo told the Legis-lature yesterday he would not hesitate to scrap the whole of the provincial law which requires that a one-quarter interest in all, new townsites be vested in the crown.

He said this in reply to Con-servatives who protested a change servatives who protested a change in the Land Act which gives the cabinet power to waive the quarter interest when a company plots a townsite and puts in all the improvements. This is to help the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company's new hous-ing development near Trail.

The Premier said also he would favor the government turning back to municipalities like Prince Rupert and Prince George all the lots it now holds under the

when the land boom was on 30 years ago the quarter section meant something in revenue to the Treasury, he said, but nowadays the holding is a liability and simply embarrasses a municipality.

ity,
H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort
George, immediately invited the
Fremier to turn back to Prince
George the land it holds there,
but Mr. Pattullo said the act
would not permit this. The new
amendment applies only to fu-

amendment applies only to fu-ture townsites.
Capt. Macgregor Macintosh,
Conservative, the Islands, joined his leader, R. L. Maitland, K.C., in attacking the bill. He argued it was another case of partizan-ship control over business which must be fought against if demo-oratic institutions were to re-main.

EIRE DEPARTMENT PLAN APPROVED

Municipal Committee Favors Plan That Will Aid Oak Bay Firemen

Amendments to the Fire Departments Two Platoon Act, which will force all municipalities with organized fire depart ments to adopt the two-platoon system was given the approof the Legislature's munici committee this morning.

The effect of the measure will be to reduce working hours for firemen in several localities.

At present the two-platoon sys-tem is enforced only in Victoria, Vancouver and New Westmin-

The committee was informed that most of the other towns have voluntarily adopted the system and reduced the working hours for firemen to near the 60-hour limit specified.

In a few, however, includir Dak Bay, firemen are works more than 100 hours a week, thembers were told. The ne mendment will force Oak Bay and others to reduce the hours are to the bay to

C.C.F. Not Linked To Telford Charges

Action to Discipline Member Indicated After Probe Collapse

Members of the C.C.F. Party in the Legislature have entirely dissociated themselves from Dr. J. Lyle Telford's charges about the Pattullo Bridge which collapsed Wednesday before the public accounts committee.

At a caucus of the party yes-terday afternoon the members plainly told Dr. Telford they were not backling him and did not think he should have brought the charges in the first place. Dr. Telford walked out of the caucus.

It was reported the House members of the C.C.F. were ask-ing the provincial executive of the party to take appropriate action in Dr. Telford's case. As the party to take appropriate action in Dr. Telford's case. As a group in the House they were taking no further action here, leaving the matter to the party

It was intimated that the incident may bring about an entirely new policy for the party. The C.C.F. has no official House leader, although its affairs are leader, authough its affairs are generally directed by Harold Winch, the chief whip. Arising out of Wednesday's incident a move developed today to name Mr. Winch as House leader so that there would be some control over the tactics of group members.

Transportation Bill Approved

Victoria and Municipalities May Take Joint Action Subject to P.U.A.

Greater Victoria's request for agislation to enable the city and the three surrounding municialities to join in granting a ransportation franchise was approved in camera this morning y the municipal committee of the Legislature, with the includent of a clause making it subject to the government's new fulfill Utilities Act, now before the House.

the proposed amendment to Municipal Act, giving this yer to Victoria, Oak Bay, nich and Esquimalt, has the Wells Gray, Minister of Loal Affairs, E. G. Bridg deputy minister of muni-affairs, told the committee.

VOTE \$165.000 OM ISLAND ROADS

strict Appropriations For Next Year Before Legislature

With the customary demand from all sides of the House for more and more roads, the Legislature yesterday voted the annual appropriation of \$2,179,570 for public works maintenance, unchanged from last year's vote.

Changed from last year's vote.

District road maintenance votes total \$386,500. For bridges the sum of \$625,000 is allocated, for ferries \$250,000, for wharves \$18,000, for snow removal \$120,000, for equipment \$120,000 and for traffic operation \$60,000.

Following are the district votes.

Following are the district votes for Vancouver Island: Alberni-Nanaimo, \$37,500; Comox, \$37,500; Cowichan-Newcastle, \$31,000; Ecquimalt, \$31,000; the Islands, \$15,000; Saanich, \$13,000; a total of \$165,000.

Asks Aid for Monkman Pass

H. G. T. Perry Says **Government Should Give Financial Assistance**

H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, urged the government in the Legislature yesterday to make a special appropriation to help the pioneers of the Monkman the pioneers Pass highway.

After describing the untiring efforts of the settlers who have doggedly built part of the road—an outlet to the Peace River—Mr. Perry suggested the House vote \$25,000, \$20,000 or even \$15,000 toward the project.

He said Vancouver people had promised \$15,000 toward the road but it had not been produced. Otherwise the road would not be through

through.

"Admittedly it's a poor road now, but it's passable as far as built. I plead with the government, if necessary, to provide the money," he said.

Mr. Perry made ivclear that in asking aid for the Monkman route he was not discarding support for the Turgeon route to the Peace River through Finlay Forks.

"The Peace River is a vast

"The Peace River is a vast country," he said, "and there will be more than one highway to it. I think the engineers will decide

I think the engineers will decide one day that the route by Finlay Forks is the best.

"But I ask now for an appropriation for these great men who have pushed the Monkman road ahead. They are not going to stop. They will give their time and labor to put it through. I think their efforts should be recognized by the government."

All parties, he said, had been talking about a Peace River outlet for years. Now was the chance to help:

Profits Tax To Be Levied

B.C. Government to Take 15 Per Cent On Excessive Reserves, Hart Declares

Amendment to the Income Tax Act which provides for the rax Act which provides for the taxing of undivided or undis-tributed profits of corporations was introduced in the Legisla-ture this afternoon by Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance.

It sets a rate of 15 per cent tax on excessive reserves not distributed by companies above what the government thinks are reasonable requirements.

The amending section brought in by Mr. Hart reads: "Where a corporation to which this section applies has an accumulation of undistributed gains and profits which in the opinion of the minister is in excess what is reasonably required the conduct of its business, the minister may, by notice in writ-ing, so inform the corporation stating the amount by which he considered the said accumulation exceeds such reasonable requirements, and if after the expiration of 30 days from the date of the notice the amount of the excess stated therein has not been distributed in the form of dividends to the shareholders of the corporation the ministre poration, the minister may direct that the corporation be assessed and taxed on the accumulation of undivided or undistributed gains and profits at the rate of 15 per centum on the amount of the and profits at the rate of 15 per centum on the amount of the excess stated in the notice, and the corporation shall be assessed and taxed accordingly." Safeguards are provided in Mr. Hart's bill against double taxation on the undistributed

taxation on the undistributed profits when they are finally dis-

It is also provided that cor porations disputing the minister's ruling may appeal to the provin

Another amendment to the Income Tax Act provides for the taxing of life insurance companies at the rate of 2% per cent on gross premiums.

This tax is in lieu of all other income taxes imposed on insurance companies.

Special Grants For Pensioners

> Councils Will Be Able To Make Up for Reductions From Own Funds

Municipal councils will be able, if they see fit, to grant extra allowances to persons whose pensions will be cut by the new funicipal Superannuation Act, shortly to be introduced in the Legislature.

This will apply only to those now in receipt of pensions and not to those persons who will be superannuated in future.

E. H. Bridgman, Deputy Min-ister of Municipal Affairs, made ister of Municipal Affairs, made this announcement to members of the Legislature municipal committee this morning. In camera, later, the committee approved the principle.

He said the department was preparing a clause to this effect in the new act.

Many persons now on municipal pensions in the province will have their pensions cut below half under the new act.

under the new act.

Strenuous objection to the clause which will enable councils to increase the pensions, as they see fit, and at no cost to the superannuation fund, was taken by several members of the committee.

W. T. Straith, Liberal, Victoria said such power would create a political football. He preferred to see a higher minimum scale set, below which no pension could fall. He instanced a woman

could fall. He instanced a woman and child on \$65 a month now, would be unable to live on less.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, was of the opinion such power would leave the way open for a great deal of lobbying. She said pensioners would have no certainty from year to year as a pension increased by one council would not necessarily be carried on by the next.

L. H. Eyres. Conservative.

next.

L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, said such power would be most dangerous. Pensioners. he said, would want to see back in office those who had increased their allowances.

Mr. Bridman explained the way would only be left open in the act for such action if a council felt inclined to increase the pension.

R. H. Carson, Liberal, Kam-loops, said there would be great danger if councils felt too gener-

\$18,000 PHONE BILL EXPECTED

Legislature Passes \$188,-770 Vote to Maintain Parliament Buildings

Maintenance of the Parliament Buildings and grounds will cost the taxpayers of the province \$23,720 more next year than last. ccording to the \$188,770 vote for this purpose passed by estimates committee of the Legislature yes-terday, when Department of Pub-lic Works estimates were under

discussion.

A whole army of workmen look after the stately pile that houses the seat of government and helps make Victoria's entrance one of the most imposing in the north-

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The salaries and expenses for the heating plant next year are estimated at \$15,310. In charge of the heating plant are an en-gineer, assistant engineer and

The mechanical staff consists of a foreman of works, head carpenter, chief electrician, plumber, painter and chauffeur.

There are 23 janitors, in addition to a chief janitor and a janitress. There are night and day foremen, three watchmen, an usher and an assistant usher. On the regular staff are a head gardener and an assistant gardener.

Furniture next year will cost \$25,000, an increase from \$15,000. Power, light and water will total \$16,000; repairs are estimated at \$33,080.

\$33,080.

The telephone bill that the province-pays for the Parliament Buildings is probably the highest in British Columbia. Next year it is estimated to cost \$18,000.

Across The Bay

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

LICHTS OUT

THE LIGHT of provincial politics, not very bright all day, sputtered out altogether e yesterday afternoon and plunged the Legislature into utter darkness; not in the figurative sense which Mr. Pattulio or Mr. Maitland might use, but literally, in dead arnest. The lights went out. And when Tom Uphill marched into the House like Lady Macbeth, bearing aloft a lighted candle, which he solemnly stood on his desk, the Premier decided to call off the show. The House

By a highly appropriate freak of the outheast gale which was lashing Victoria, the lights went out in the Legislature just as the House was debating the new public utility act, which is chiefly designed to control elec-tricity. Alas, winds and power lines are beyond the control of this Legislature and xactly at the moment when it was discussing the B.C. Electric Railway Company, the local lines of that organization snapped in the gale.

Among all the wild, legendary and ever-glorious scenes that this legislative chamber has witnessed in its time, this was perhaps unparalleled. Here was the House sitting in the dark of a late December afternoon with the Premier holding the public utility act up close to his nose to read it, Mr. Maitland squirming to catch the last rays of daylight, and Mr. Carson in the chair weilding an electric torch which he turned on the bill before him.

Dim in the twilight were the figures of our legislators, only the white plume of Mr. Hart's head plainly visible through the gloom. The galleries all around were utterly black and their occupants quite invisible, giving a certain ghostliness to the whole spectacle. It made you thing of British parlia-ments, long ago, sitting in the dim shadows of Westminster Hall.

BRAIN CHILD

BUT STILL the Premier struggled on, carrying that precious burden, the utili-ties act, his own brain child, through the gloom. Occasionally the lights flashed on for a moment or two and then off again, but such is our legislators' presence of mind that their speeches continued, without hesitation or interruption, light or dark. If, growls Mr. Uphill, they'd send for one of me bhoys, Mr. Speaker, the electricians, you understand, from Fernie, they'd fix us these lights. Mr. Pattullo pays no attention, strides on, brain child clutched to his bosom.

It's all very well, says Mr. Uphill, for these learned fellows in the government and the opposition, because they don't have to read the Utilities Act. They know it off by heart now. But I can't read it even with my specs that cost 20 bucks.

Mr. Wismer squelches this protest by pointing out that until the lights went out Mr. Uphill hadn't even bothered to come into the House to look at the utilities bill—only

the House to look at the utilities bill—only came in to protest that he couldn't look at it.

Finally Mr. Uphill, with a touch of his old clown's genius, goes out and comes back with his candle, solemnly plants it on his desk, where it shines like a good deed in a haughty world, and begins to read the utilities act with a sudden interest.

The Premier can't resist Mr. Uphill's joke. Reluctantly he puts his brain child away for the night, and Mr. Maitland agrees that one cannot apply one's mind in this atmosphere. Mr. Pattullo replies that he can apply his mind at any time to anything. Mr. Maitland agrees that the Premier has been in the dark so often and so long that he is probably used to it—a stab in the dark.

Before these pleasantries wound up the dismal day, the House had made good pro-gress on the utilities act, with earnest and fairl sendly discussion on both sides. The chief I t which emerged from the discussion was that the public utility companies not the government, are going to pay for the enormous cost of investigating them

selves.

Thus, for example, the B.C. Electric will probably have to pay around half a million dollars for its investigation, the Premier said. The company, of course, can charge its consumers for the expense. In the end the public will pay. On the other hand, there may be large compensation in lower willly rates. utility rates.

STOCKS AND REALITY

The other fact, emphasized again and again by Mr. Wismer, is that while the stock issue of any company cannot be altered, it will not be recognized for rate-fixing purposes. Just because a company, for example, has issued a million dollars worth of ample, has issued a million dollars worth or stock it will not be entitled to a profit on that amount. Instead, engineers and lawyers will find out how much the com-pany's plant is actually worth. If it is only worth half a million it will get profits on that, and it will be just too bad for the stockholders if they have been getting divi-dends on the whole million. dends on the whole million.

There was a good deal of rambling, but keen discussion on many details of the bill. At one point Mr. Maitland seemed to have fallen into a strange inconsistency, which, perhaps, he may explain later. His fight has always been against a public utility has always been against a public utility commission not independent of the government, not all-powerful and free of politicians. But here he was, deeply alarmed because the commission proposed by the government might be too powerful, might interfere too much with utility companies and harass them with unnecessary investigations. gations

Thinks Victoria Gets Too Much

Lillooet Member Says Capital 'Out in Middle of Pacific Ocean'

Because Victoria was the capital of the province the Public Utilities Commission headquarters should and would be here, Premier Pattullo said in the

ters should and would be here, Premier Pattullo said in the Legislature last night.

He believed all government departments should be together to facilitate work. If the seat of government was in Vancouver, the commission would have its headquarters there, naturally. "Victoria is the capital city, politically, but is it the capital industrially?" George Murray, Liberal, Lillooet, asked. "The headquarters should be at Kamloops or Lillooet or some other central point, not out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean." "This is the intelligent and cultural centre of the province, I will have my honorable friend know." Mr. Anscomb said.

Harold Winch said it was high time the government gave \$1,000.000 to the Minister of Public Works to extend the Parliament Buildings- so that all government offices could be together.

Business Men Say Bill Unfair

Amendment of Petroleum **Act Without Precedent** They Claim

Representatives of business interests opposed to the B.C. Government's gasoline price control measures today protested the amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act as introduced by At-torney-General Wismer and given second reading in the Legislature last night

last night.

They object to the government They object to the government "patching up" a weak spot in the law through this amendment while the issue is before the courts. Premier Pattullo, replying to this argument, took the position that ultimate authority lay with the Legislature, which had the undoubted right to say what it intended. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, although criticizing some aspects of it, said he would not oppose the bill.

of it, said he would not oppose the bill.

"The intended effect of the amendment of the act as brought down by the Attorney-General is not only to cure defects in the act but to over-rule the considered judgment of the Court of Appeal as to the admissibility of the Macdonald report," the business interests said in a statement. These defects in the act were pointed out by counsel for the oil companies during the course of arguments before Mr. Justice Manson in the Supreme Fourt and on the motion before the Court of Appeal to continue the injunction prohibiting the government from enforcing the gasoline price cuts. "In other words, the Attorney-General in an action to which he is a party is proposing legislation which, if effective, will not only operate for his benefit and to the detriment of his opponents, but which will nullify and defeat the considered judgment of the highest court of the province.

"It should be remembered that not only the highest court in the Dominion, the Supreme Court of Canada, but the highest court of the Empire, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, have both already ruled in the Alberta bank references case, that the legislative history of an act may be referred to in order to determine its validity. The British Columbia Court of Appeal, therefore, had the highest in authority on which to base their decision.

"There can be no hesitation in saving that the proposed amont." "The intended effect of th

cision.

"There can be no hesitation in saying that the proposed amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Act is without precedent in the legislative history of the British Empire. To our knowledge no Attorney-General in any part of the Empire has ever attempted to interfere in this manner with the courts with respect of matter before them for adjudication, or to nullify a considered judgment of the courts on a vital question as to the admissability of evidence.

Mining Law **Changes Down**

Original Proposals Modified in Government's Bill

Alterations in the British Co-lumbia mining laws, subject of discussion- between the govern ment and the mining fraternity for a year, reached the Legisla-ture last night in bills tabled by Hon. W. J. Asselstine, Minister of Mines. They are to become effec-tive until next June 1

Mines. They are to become effective until next June 1.

They include changes in the staking laws and requirements for assessment work on mineral claims, but drastic proposals originally put forward have been considerably modified.

Under the new measure a per-

on will be allowed to stake eight claims for himself within an area of 10 miles each year. Now he is limited to staking one for himself, but can act as agent for other people in staking extra claims. A discovery post is no longer

necessary.

A claim can only be grouped once a year instead of being regrouped several times as at

present.
Plans to change the provisions for assessment work have been abandoned and all the bill does is to insist that work recorded on a claim must be actual development operation and shall not include such things as traveling expenses for company directors.

such things as traveling expenses for company directors.

Before getting a crown grant a person must have an actual mineral deposit on at least one claim in a group of eight.

Another clause is designed to protect the security of title to claims. It provides that assessment work certificates can be disputed for only a year after they ment work certificates can be dis-puted for only a year after they are issued and the department has the right to inspect the property and check on the work reported as done.

MUNICIPAL LOANS TO BE SECURED

Province Sets Terms For Guarantee on Borrowing from Ottawa

The government's promised leg-islation to guarantee municipal loans under the Federal Municipal Improvements Assistance Act was brought down in the House yesterday by Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Municipal Affairs. It will help municipalities to get 2 per cent money for self-liquidat-

ing works.

In guaranteeing the loans the province takes power to enforce repayment by special land taxes in the areas concerned if a municipality falls down on its payment.

The government is also author-zed to appoint receivers for pro-ects in default and, if necessary, o take over control of municipali-ies by commissioner.

The bill is made retroactive to ast June 25 to cover several loans hat have already been tentatively oproved by the government.

Profits Tax Plugs Loopholes

Hits Holding Companies With Too Large Reserves

provincial government's new tax on excessive reserves and undistributed profits will cover, in the main, only a few large family corporations in the prov-ince, it was explained today fol-lowing the sudden introduction of the measure in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance.

Minister of Finance.

It applies only to companies in which the majority of the voting power or shares is in the hands of not more than five persons and relatives or nominees of any of those persons, or where control of the corporation is by any other means whatever in their hands. A relative is defined as a husband or wife speester or nusband or wife, ancestor ineal descendant, brother

Since it applies to only a few companies the treasury does not expect a very large extra revenue

expect a very large extra revenue from the new law. But it will prevent closely-controlled corporations from evading income tax by setting up large reserves. Briefly it will work as follows: Where a company is taking its profits and putting them into the bank instead of distributing them to its shareholders, the Minister of Finance will warn it that it reserves are excessive. The comreserves are excessive. The com-pany will then have 30 days in which to pay out the excessive reserves to its shareholders. If it fails to so do then it can keep the reserves, but must pay a tax of 15 per cent on them every

The company thus has the hoice of paying either the ordinary income tax or the new un-distributed profits tax on its re-

Mr. Hart declared the new

measure did not in any sense con-stitute an increase in taxation.

"We are seeking only," he said,
"to enforce the present income taxes of the province, by block-ing up a loophole through which a few wealthy people are evading

a few wealthy people are evading those taxes."

Mr. Hart explained that where a company makes a profit it has to pay income tax on it, even though it does not distribute the profits to the shareholders. But the law intends also that the shareholders shall nav a term the profits when they receive them. Some few companies, mostly holding companies formed for the purpose of evading taxes, simply pay taxes on their profits and then fail to distribute them to the shareholders, a small group of people who do not need the money but want to build up a large capital. The company does not escape the first income tax, but the shareholders escape the tax which other people have to pay.

Mr. Hart said that there had

Mr. Hart said that there had never been any difficulty between his department and business men over the amount of profits which might reasonably be held undistributed. Auditors of his department permit all companies, according to their needs, to set up the preserves and encourage them to be so. Since Mr. Hart resumed.

Dr. Telford Will **Resign His Seat Over Charges**

C.C.F. Member to Force By-election on Bridge Probe Issue

Has More Charges

VANCOUVER (CP)—Dr. Lyle Telford, Co-operative Common-wealth Federation member of the British Columbia Legislature, he British Columbia Legislature, said in an interview here today he intended to resign his Vancouver-East seat "to make much more serious and extensive charges in connection with the whole business and construction of the Pattullo Bridge," and to start the testing a bridge time.

whole business and construction of the Pattullo Bridge," and to right the issue in a by-election.

"I intend to resign," Dr. Telford said, adding that he had consulted his constituents. The provincial executive, of which Dr. Telford is a member, must also give its consent.

This week Dr. Telford witherew there is 300,000 more than it needed to for steel used in building the Pattullo Bridge over the Fraser River. He withdrew the charges when he failed to substantiate them with evidence before the provincial legislature's public accounts committee.

LABOR LAW TO STAY UNCHANGED

The government, it was learned today, has decided not to change the collective bargaining laws for labor this session.

Previously, labor leaders had been assured the law would be redrafted so that unions would be definitely recognized as bargaining agents for emplayees in disputes.

gaining agents for empleyees in disputes.

Difficulties in the way of drafting the wording of the new clause that would be suitable to all parties have arisen. It has been decided to let the law remain as it is now worded.

In the meantime, amendments sponsored by Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, which would grant unions bargaining rights and give workers the legal right of "quickie" strikes, will go before the House. They will not be accepted by the government, it is understood.

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May Bill Company For Appraisal

Technical Points in Utility Law Argued During Storm

The B.C. Electric Railway Company may be charged with a bill pany may be charged with a bill of close to \$500,000 for an appraisal of its properties at the direction of the new Public Utilities Commission, Premier Pattulio told the Legislature yesterday as the Utility Bill was pushed into up to committee. He explained that the cost would be taken into account when the rates were fixed.

Debating the bill in the dark

account when the rates were lixed.

Debating the bill in the dark when the lights of the Legislature were extinguished in the storm, the House argued many of the technical points on which the mew attility control plan will be based.

The bill provides that the commission, when it makes an apraisal of a utility's property, can assess the company for the cost.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservadve leader, said he thought this might hurt small utility company's although it might not affect the B.C. Electric.

"You don't think it will?" said he Premier. "It might affect ihem \$500,000 worth."

Mr. Maitland insisted there should be some check on the commission in assessing companies.

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mission in assessing companies

for the cost, by appeal to the tourt if necessary.

The government also made clear that rates under the new rear that the will be set to give companies a return on a fair ap-praisal of their physical assets and not on the face value of their

and not on the face value of their stock.

This came when Harold Winch, E.C.F., Vancouver East, said that according to editorials in the papers people were paying rates on millions of dollars of watered stock. He asked if the commission would put a proper valuation on stock.

Attorney-General Wismer said rates would be based on a fair appraisal of companies' properties and not on stock values. He pointed out the commission can also control future stock issues of companies.

pointed out the commission can also control future stock issues of companies.

Mr. Wismer said the control of stock issues did not affect the people generally, but only the stockholders in utility companies. Opposition members objected to tal clause, which empowers the commission to settle disputes between utility companies and musicialities. There is no appeal on these to the government.

Attorney-General Wismer said, in reply, that when all sections of the bill have been dealt with the House will consider which powers of the commission will be subject to cabinet approval. Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, objected to a clause giving the commission authority to order extensions of utility services. Such extensions, he said, might be unprofitable and the company would be without appeal.

Alderman Fred Crone, Liberal,

appeal.
Alderman Fred Crone, Liberal,
Vancouver Centre, said the power
was an excellent one, long awaited
by municipal authorities.
Mr. Anscomb asked why mem-

bers of the commission would be appointed for 10 years,
The Premier said that was

necessary, in order to get the proper men. He said Dr. W. A. Carrothers, who will be ap-pointed chairman, had to leave a position at the University of Brit-ish Columbia and he was entitled

Mr. Maitland wanted to know why the salaries couldn't be fixed. The Premier said if a maximum was set it would be

maximum was set it would be difficult to get below it. Mrs. Steeves said the Health Commission salaries had been fixed, and she couldn't under-stand why they were not in this

H. E. Winch said his party had no objection to high salaries, as long as the men were worth it. Employees of the commission, he felt, should be under the Civil Service Commission.

At one juncture in the discussion, Premier Pattullo said Mr. Maitland was putting up impos-

"He is in a pessimistic frame of mind," the Premier said. "This is not Monday morning; it is Fri-

is not Monday morning; it is riday afternoon."

Mr. Matitand said he was perfectly aware of the day.

Mr. Anscomb attacked the clause which said various companies could be compelled to change their accounting systems. He said such a condition was ludicature. dicrous.

Premier Pattullo said he was interested in every power cor-poration in the province and in

Credit Unions Bill Brought in

Credit unions in B.C. will be permitted to issue an unlimited number of shares of \$5 denomi-

The government introduced night permitting unions to oper

The purpose of the unions, cited in the bill, is to raise funds by subscriptions from members and to make loans to them.

and to make loans to them.

Loans can only go to members and only for a provident productive or merchandising purpose. A special committee will approve loans.

Rates of interest that can be charged are limited to a maximum of 1 per cent per month, exclusive of financing charges.

No security is required for

No security is required for loans less than \$100, but if security is asked a member's

Pass Laws by Candlelight

British Columbia Legislature Thrown in Darkness During Storm

The British Columbia Legis-lature yesterday literally worked in the gloaming, between daylight and dark.

At the height of the storm— 3.15 to be exact—the lights went out in the Parliament Buildings and the Legislative Chamber was plunged into darkness.

What natural light there was went down on the legislators, who were passing the Public Utilities Act, from the small windows high up in the galleries.

R. H. Carson chairman, hur-riedly called for a flashlight, which aided him to read the varisections of the bill.

Tom Uphill asked for adjournment, as he said he was ruining his eyes. Other members said they could see, and the work continued.

LIGHTS CANDLE

Mr. Uphill left the House and a few minutes later returned to his seat. He struck a match and lit a candle, and proceeded to read the bill by the dim, flickering

the bill by the dam,
light.

Before the House could have its
laugh, Premier Pattullo moved
adjournment. It was 4.05.

In the corridors without windows there was almost total darkness. Page boys scurried about
with flashlights. Members collided as they hurried about their
business. Utter darkness was
fast approaching and it was neces fast approaching and it was neces sary to get away from the build-ings before it would be im-possible to find the exits, in the maze of corridors and labyrinth-like passages and stairways, which confuse most people, even when the lights are on.

Civil servants were forced to quit work about 4.30. Only in the reporters' room did work con-

the reporters room did work con-tinue, with the news being pounded out with the aid of light from a dozen candles.

Once outside the Bulldings, everyone was amazed to find the lights in most other buildings in town burning, uninterrupted by

DYKES WILL BE REPAIRED

Dykes on the Fraser River between Port Mann and the Searle elevator will be renewed and repaired under legislation introduced in the House last night by Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of

Lands.

The bill provides for a refinancing of the South Westminster Dyking District by retiring the outstanding bonds, totaling \$36,500, and providing about \$18,000 for the repair work.

The work will include construction of one and a half miles of peat dyke, renewal of six wooden flood boxes and raising of three miles of dyke by one and a half feet.

Pauline Income **Debate in House**

Premier Says He Does Agree With Allowance. But Nothing Can Be Done

The \$4,200 annual retirement allowance to F. A. Pauline, former Agent-General in London fo British Columbia was debated on the floor of the House between Premier Pattullo and R. L. Maitland, K.C., Leader of the Opposi-tion, when the House was dis-cussing the salaries and the period of appointment for mem-bers of the Public Utilities Com-

"The government in which the "The government in which the Leader of the Opposition was minister without portfolio called in a special act of the Legislature to pay the honorable gentleman in question a very considerable salary, and he is now drawing that considerable salary, after only six years in office, and many people, including myself, do not agree," Premier Pattullo said.

said.

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, reminded the Premier the act could be repealed. He said legislation could be brought in by the government to cancel the act.

The Premier said that as a former administration had passed the act the "honorable and estimable gentleman in question" had hypothecated that saiary to certain companies. It wouldn't be fair for the present government to take it away, "I'm as certain of that as I'm standing here," he said.

The government of the day, because of the competence of the former agent general, was afraid to act otherwise, the Premier said, and the act was passed to meet a partizan exigency of the

time.

"Why don't you put Pauline back?" Mr. Maitland asked. "You will save \$4,200 a year. He'd go back for that if you asked him. "Would my honorable friend like to be the agent-general?" the Premier asked Mr. Maitland. "No," Mr. Maitland reniled. "T'm sure the Premier is saving that position for himself.

Harold E. Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, wanted to know if the Leader of the Opposition, when he was Premier, would appoint the present Premier to the position in London.

Bolster up Gas Price Act

Rights of Courts Are Debated in Legislature

The government's gas-pricefixing policy, halted by the
courts, was thrown into debate
in the Legislature last night when
Attorney-General Wismer put
through second reading his bill
attempting to establish validity of
the price-fixing law by declaring
its intention.

While Conservatives attacked
the measure as simply patching
up last session's hurried legislation that would probably hinder
rather than help the government's case in court, AttorneyGeneral Wismer insisted it be put
through, because courts, in their
decisions, are narrowing down
provincial rights.

Mr. Wismer told the House

Mr. Wismer told the House that the actual legality of the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Act was not doubted either by the court or by counsel, but Mr. Justice Manson's injunction holding up the new gas price was given largely on the ground that the act implemented Mr. Justice Macdonald's coal and oil report. Since this report covreport. Since this report cov-ered matters far afield from the province, the court stopped the act being carried out.

act being carried out.

"This is a very important matter," the Attorney-General said, "because of the various court decisions narrowing down provintal rights. In this case a report is being used as a reason. Why, we have thousands of reports in the archives dealing with as many subjects that may be covered by legislation."

READ BY ONLY A FEW

Mr. Wismer insisted that when

Mr. Wismer insisted that when the House passed the act last year it had no intention of implementing the Macdonald report, which at that time had been read by few of the members.

The new bill declares specifically the act is not intended to implement the report, nor does it seek to help one industry at the expense of another. These were the two main points argued in court.

ourt.

Mr. Wismer said this in no way
ast any reflections or aspersions
on the Macdonald report, which
n itself was a very valuable

L. Maitland, K.C., Conserva-R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, did not oppose passage of the bill, but he warned the Attorney-General it would probably be a hardship rather than a help in the government's fight to protect the validity of its price-fixing.

He criticized the retroactive nature of the amendment, and said that few legislatures would attempt to bolster a law up in this fashion when litigation was before the courts.

before the courts,
"I don't see how any act we
pass now can wipe out something
that is already done," he said.
"It's like passing an act declaring
a man alive after he's been
killed."

"This bill itself is the strongest rgument against the Attorney-eneral's own contention, namely, nat the Macdonald report was ot considered by the House when passed the first act."
"I didn't say I thought the mendment was essential," inter-

Mr. Maitland insisted the gov-

Mr. Maitland insisted the government had a clear way out by simply repealing the fuel act and pringing coal and petroleum products under the new Public Utility Bill. This, he said, would immediately remove the suggestion that control was based on the Macdonald report.

Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, supported the government fully on the amendment.

"It's coming to a peculiar state," he said, when the courts can rule against our Legislature merely because an act was based on a factual report. Any important step we take, especially when we are traveling new paths, must invariably be based on reports and investigations. That's only logical and sensible.

"If it isn't so it's high time this Legislature went into the whole matter and settled for good the

"It it isn't so it's nign time this Legislature went into the whole matter and settled for good the respective positions of the courts and the Legislature."

Mr. Winch warned the Attor-

ney-General to protect other pro-vincial laws in the same fashion.

ON ORIGINAL REPORT

Herbert Anscomb, Conserva-tive, Victoria, criticized the prin-ciple of the bill. To begin with, he said, everyone in the House knew the original act was based on the Macdonald report. If it was not, then the government had wasted its \$125,000 spent on the commission

He said the bill was unfair to He said the bill was unfair to business interests, who were tak-ing their case to courts and sud-denly finding the government bringing down legislation to wipe out their contentions.

out their contentions.

If the government persisted in this form of legislation especially its retroactive application, it would never encourage capital to the province, he argued.

"This is very bad legislation, and extremely unfair; it should not be passed," he said.

When Coat Medicagon Macin.

When Capt. MacGregor Macintosh, Conservative, The Islands, told the cabinet his party had warned them last year against their hurried bill, the Attorney-General insisted that the act in itself was all right and that all

itself was all right and that all needed fixing was its connection with the Macdonald report.

Premier Pattullo entered the debate at this stage to insist that the will of the Legislature, as expressed in its laws, should be the absolute rule of the country so long as it was within its own jurisdiction.

ENGLISH COURTS

ENGLISH COURTS

Decisions in English courts, held in high esteem the world over, always dealt with the wording of a statute as it was passed, and did not rafer back to some thing that happened before.

"You must assume the language used in a bill is the will of the House. You can't assume it means something else," he said. The Premier said the plain fact was that the people thought the price of gasoline too high. Through the legislature they decided they wanted to reduce it. That was their sole intention and they had no idea of affecting business in California or any where else outside the province. "They can talk about final authority resting with the courts."

with people. It is the people express their will through the Legislature the duty of the courts is simply to interpret what this will is, when expressed in a statute."

The people, he said, decided they wanted to reduce the price of gas. The courts said it could not be done because it was intended to interfere with trade and commerce. Then the House had the right to declare what its in-

tentions were.

"It is the duty of the House to pass this bill and put the courts right on that position," he de-

clared.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, said it was incredible the House should even have to pass the bill and doubted it would have the effect the Attorney-General hoped

"It's getting to the point where "It's getting to the point where the fuel commissioner, before he does anything, would have to swear an affidavit that he hadn't even read the Macdonald report,"

he said.

After Dr. K. C. MacDonald,
Minister of Agriculture, explained that similar amendments
to the Marketing Act had stood
up successfully in the Privy Council, the bill passed without division.

Few Covered By

But B.C. Measure Is New Weapon Against Undistributed Profits

While business leaders exwhile business leaders ex-pressed fears today that the gov-ernment's new attempt to plug a loophole in its surfax law meant a heavy new tax on business the government renewed its assur-ance that the levy would apply against comparatively few corpo-

It was explained the new levy is simply a weapon in the tax-ation law to prevent evasions of the surtax by closely-held companies that pile up unnecessarily large surpluses to avoid payment of the surtax.

It will also combat a plan adopted by some companies of turning their shares over to hold-ing companies to avoid distribu-tion of profits on which taxes are

For years the treasury has had For years the treasury has had power to force taxation of undivided gains, by the simple expedient of assuming that the profits have been distributed and taxing the shareholders accordingly. This law, however, can be circumvented by the holding company system, so in its proposed new law the government takes power to tax the undistributed profits at their source in the parent company.

the parent company.

It does not affect reserves for depreciation, bad debts and the like. The treasury already has control over these.

Fuel Out of Commodity Law

Dilemma of Two **Rulings Will Be** Removed

In a bill before the Legislature the government is removing from the Commodities Retail Sales Act all products covered by the Fuel Control Act and the Marketing

Control Act and the Marketing Act.

The commodities law provides, among other things, that a retailer cannot sell a standard product below the price in the construed that gasoline retailers were prevented by law from reducing the price of gasoline, as ordered by the government, unless the wholesalers said so.

Since the government fixed only the retail price of gasoline and did not actually order the wholesalers to reduce their prices retailers would be eaught between the two laws, one saying they must reduce, the other saying they could not sell below the price set by the manufacturers.

As the gas price law is now before the courts and will not be set the defore the amendment to the Commodities Act becomes law,

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Opposes Telford Resignation

C.C.F. Caucus Regards Clash on Bridge as Individual Issue

Resignation of Dr. Lyle Telford from the Legislature will be op-posed by members of the C.C.F., it was announced by Harold Winch, House leader, after a caucus of the party this after

noon.

The C.C.F. members looked on Dr. Telford's clash with the government on the Pattullo Bridge as an individual issue and had nothing to do with party policy.

Mr. Winch also announced that the members would request an early meeting of the executive of the C.C.F. party for the purpose of clarifying the relationship between the parliamentary, representatives and settling such matters as discipline and leadership.

ters as discipline and leadership.

VANCOUVER (CP)—Dr. Lyle
Telford, C.C.F. Legislature member for Vancouver East, went on
with plans today for resigning his
seat to pursue his Pattullo Bridge
charges after announcing his intention "to get out of the party"
if it failed to support his plans.
The white-haired medical politician, a candidate for Vancouver's
mayoralty in the forthcoming
civic elections, said Saturday he
"intended" resigning his seat.
C.C.F. party rules, however, make
it mandatory for one of its representatives to secure party permission before resigning from a legislature.

"I'll get out of the resty if I

islature.

"I'll get out of the party if I have to," Dr. Telford told a public meeting in the east end Moose Hall last night, "but I'm going to stay right with this issue and fight it to a standstill. But I know my party will give the right to resign and fight my seat again on it. Then I'll open up and make charges, and then watch the government scurry."

Notes of the Legislature

The public accounts committee this morning concluded its business for the session. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Opposition Leader, was supplied with detailed figures on forestry camp project accounts and the committee then decided to make the usual formal report to the House that all matters brought up had been investigated.

In its drive for prorogation be-fore the end of the week the House is expected to start morn-ing sittings tomorrow.

Across The Bay

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

DYING HOURS

THE DYING HOURS of this session started yesterday and, according to the old paradox, the House came to life with a start—a kind of fierce final spasm which inevitably precedes dissolution.

In the next four days the House will do as much work as it has done in the last four weeks. To the outsider it will look like a wild, inchoate process, a mad scramble for prorogation, but to the men in charge the job is quite simple. They are putting the pieces together, clearing the order paper, producing step by step that final master-piece, the legislative program of the session.

Mr. Wismer, whose job is to see that none of the pieces are left over when the scramble subsides next Friday, pushed ahead the cleaning process most of yesterday, and the House, which has no wish to spend another week-end in this salubrious climate, co-operated with him right loyally. By the end of the day Mr. Wismer could see daylight ahead and a clear road to Christmas.

First job of the afternoon was to launch

the new undistributed-profits tax, which had an unfortunate arrival into the world of an unfortunate arrival into the world of politics—what you might call a premature birth. It could have arrived peaceably enough if Mr. Hart had paved the way for it, caucused it and, perhaps let the business community know it was coming. But, thinking it was quite an obvious and necessary thing, he launched it without telling anyone and the outcry surprised him.

When Mr. Hart introduced his first financial child, the budget, he indicated that it would be his last for the present year. But here in the undistributed profits tax the House thought it saw a little brother—a very little one, to be sure, but, as Mr. Anscomb suggested, likely to grow into a big one after a while.

THE NEW DEAL

MR. HART DENIED any such possibility, insisted he was merely tightening up the present taxation machinery. When Mr. Ansomb suggested that the new legislation was Rooseveltian—this, apparently being the supreme expression of scorn—Mr. Pattullo was prompt to make his favorite reply. Mr. Roosevelt, said he, had taken office afte the government here had enunciated its policy. Mr. Roosevelt was not present to deny that he had got his ideas from Mr. Pattullo, but a couple of big-time writers from one of the largest American magazines, who were in the press gallery, got quite a kick out of the notion that perhaps the New Deal was born in British Columbia.

Mr. Anscomb agreed that Mr. Pattullo was leading Mr. Roosevelt—another expres-sion of high contempt—and leading him into the wilderness whence neither of them would return. Mr. Pattullo smiled tolerantly, perhaps thinking that he was in good company. It looked as if the undistributed-profits tax would go through without much trouble.

More laborious was the passage of the

public utility act, which is going through by inches. Mr. Maitland and Mr. Anscomb rose to a fine pitch of protest against the clause by which a public utility plant can be seized

by which a public utility plant can be seized if the owners fail to obey the orders of the public utility commission. Russian, Mr. Maitland called it, but Mr. Anscomb considered it German, a nice point of ethnology which didn't hold it up very long.

Mr. Winch seized the opportunity to inject a little Socialist propaganda, by declaring that the Public Utility Act, instead of going too far, didn't go far enough. It should enable the government, said he, to take over the public utilities altogether; but he was careful to say that the shareholders should be paid for their investment—a phrase which

showed that the C.C.F. group, rapidly com-ing of political age, knows that most British Columbians are still attached to the institution of private property.

ON THE LEFT

THE C.C.F. ACTUALLY was the only real news in the House, though it wasn't mentioned there at all. To look at the faces of the Socialist members you wouldn't sus-pect that they are now at a turning point in their lives, asserting themselves in their m their lives, asserting themselves in their party for the first time and rising to the full stature of elected men. That, in simple fact, is what all the talk about the C.C.F. and Dr.

This new thunder on the left is basically a determination by the C.C.F. group in the House, like any other group of elected men to suit itself and not under remote control from the party executive. And unless Dr. Telford is prepared to fall in with the group he will have to fall out with them perma-

No mention, of course, was made of this in the House. But before the proceedings opened Mr. Winch issued a statement, probably without parallel here, in which the House group openly repudiated Dr. Telford's recent bridge charges, and told him in so many words that he had better stop being silly and forget about resigning his seat.

With this statement those who have been

aying that the row between the Doctor and his colleagues was purely synthetic, wor his colleagues was purely synthetic, worked up by malicious outsiders, saw then that they had missed the boat entirely. Sympathizers with the C.C.F. movement, men who believe that a strong left-wing party is a good thing in a modern society, realized that the party must meet the present challenge. boldly, go through temporary agonies to emerge later, cured.

APPEALS BLOCKED **ON UTILITY RATES**

Government Drafts New Formula in Control Measure

No appeals beyond the govern-ment will be allowed on rates or other facts set by the new public utility board, it was learned today.

change the original appeal formula in the bill at present before the Legislature.

At first is

At first it was proposed that utility companies would be allowed to go to the appeal court on questions of law and jurisdicton, and might also take questions of fact to the courts if the commission or the government said so.

The latter plan, however, will be abandoned. Only appeals on matters of law and jurisdiction will be allowed.

The government takes the view that if appeals against rates or other facts are permitted the scheme will never get into operation. Utility companies would be able to take every order to court and thus stultify the measurement.

The Case of The C.C.F.

R. TELFORD WANTS TO RESIGN HIS seat in the Legislature and fight a by-election on the "bridge charges" and anything else he can think of to make a test vote interesting in his Vancouver constituency. But it is not as easy as that. No matter how much he may want to resign, how fervent may be his desire to train a great white light on what he believes to be the govern-ment's shortcomings, he must first of all be prepared to submit to discipline and obtain his instruction from the party's executive in Vancouver before he can have his way. In other words, he is not a free agent; he is the instrument of a body which determines the precise formula for all his actions as an elected representative of the people of British It will not be surprising, therefore, if the general public betrays its amaze-ment at this form of party control over the proponents of a social and economic state supposed to derive its strength and stability from a new type of individualism. Not until now, for example, has it been made clear that the C.C.F. octette in the House has been leaderless in the strict sense of the term. It has presumably been under long-range con-

How the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation deals with this working arrangement, of course, is its own affair. lic's immediate interest centres in what Dr. Telford wants to do or what his party's executive may permit him to do and yet re-tain the right to watch over his political activities as a member of the organization. His charges against the government crumpled badly under the inquiry of the Public Accounts Committee. He withdrew them be-cause he was totally unable to substantiate them. There was nothing else left for him to do. Since the flasco of a few days ago, however, he seems to have discovered som other grievances which he wants to air on the public platform, and has offered to resign his seat to give him a suitable oppor-tunity. But the nice little point to be settled is whether he can act as a free agent—as a Liberal or a Conservative member of the Legislature would be permitted to act—and ask his constituents for endorsement and fresh instructions, or whether his "ring-masters" will decide that the exigencies of all the circumstances do not warrant the per-mission for a test at this stage. Question: Will Dr. Telford be downed by the me-chanics of his own party?

Notes of the Legislature

Acts to amend the Mineral Act and the Placer Mining Act passed second reading in the Legislature yesterday.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, commended the Minister of Mines for a "most excellent piece of work," while R. L. Maitland, Leader of the Opposition, very much regretted these bills had been brought down in the week of prorogation.

It was I this morning when the Legislature adjourned after its most intensive work of the ses-sion. Premier Pattullo moved ad-journment until "2.15 this after-

No B.C. Mines Have Long Life

No mines known today would e in operation in 25 years, John F. Walker Deputy Minister of Mines, told the mining committee of the Legislature this morning.

"If we don't get more mining work done in the next 10 year than we have done in the past 1

years, we won't have much min-ing to do in 25 years," he said. In reply to a question, Mr. Walker said there was no mine in British Columbia he know now that would have a really long life.

Saanich Weeds Are Discussed

Minister of Agriculture Refuses to Name Committee to Control Them

Noxious weeds on farms and fields of North Saanich were discussed in the agriculture committee of the Legislature, which heard Capt. C. R. Wilson and Dr. J. H. Black of North Saanich and Hon. K. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, differ on the amendment to the Noxious Weeds Act yesterday morning.

The amendment says 60 per cent of the property owners of a district may get together and appoint a committee to enforce the

Capt. Wilson and Dr. Black said it would be impossible to contact 60 per cent of property owners in their district, and asked

owners in their district, and asked that the government set up a committee of three.

This, Dr. MacDonald said, he would not do.

"If the people of North Saanich haven't the courage to see the act is enforced, then this department is not going to do it," the minister said.
NEIGHBORHOOD

UNPLEASANTNESS

If individual complained about their neighbors to the police or the department, unpleasantness was caused, Capt. Wilson said.

He said the people of North aanich would like a committee, ensure impartial action. Such to ensure impartial action.

to ensure impartial action. Such a committee, he said, would act only in an advisory capacity.

"We can't make this law for Saanich alone; we're making it for the whole province," Dr. MacDonald said. "You're only looking at this from the standpoint of Saanich."

Saanich."

"They would like us to take the responsibility they haven't the courage to take," the minister said. "If the people of Saanich will come to us, or the police, we will see action is taken."

Capt. MacGregor MacIntosh, Conservative, the Islands, agreed it would be difficult to make 60 per cent of property owners in

it would be difficult to make 60 per cent of property owners in North Saanch sign for appointment of a committee. He pointed out many were owners of country homes and were not interested in control of noxious weeds. Frank Putnam, Liberal, Nelson-Creston, chairman of the committee, said it would be difficult to draw up an act satisfactory to all; it would suit one place and would be a detriment to another.

J. M. Munro, deputy minister.

other.

J. M. Munro, deputy minister;
Dr. W. R. Gunn, livestock commissioner; Cecil Tice, field crops
commissioner, and W. H. Robinson, provincial horticulturist, appeared before the committee.

Grant Sought for Monkman Road

A government grant toward construction of the Monkman Pass Highway linking the Peace River block was urged by a delegation which saw Hon. F. M. MacPherson, Minister of Public Works, this morning.

Works, this morning.

Frank Murphy, of Pouce
Coupe, and Art M. Smith, of
Wembley, Alta., composed the
delegation which was introduced
by H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort
George, who last week in the
Legislature made an earnest plea for government recognition of the work done by the road's

The delegation said they were cordially received and the minister promised to consider their representations.

MORE BENEFITS FOR WORKMEN

Larger benefits for injured workmen are guaranteed in the Workmen's Compensation Act under a bill brought down in the Legislature last night by Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor

George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor.

It raises from 62½ per cent to 66 2-3 per cent of a man's wages, the proportion he receives in compensation, increases widows' benefits from \$35 to \$40 a month, and increases the funeral allowance from \$100 to \$125.

Changes of this nature have been sought by labor groups for some time.

Government Can **Authorize Loans**

The property owners of Vic-toria will have to sanction, by three-fifths vote, the borrowing of money from the Dominion build a civic auditorium, Hon. A Wells Gray, Minister of Municipal Affairs, announced in the Legislature last night when a bill empowering the government guarantee the loans was passed.

The minister's statement was made in response to inquiries from Herbert Anscomb, Conser vative, Victoria, who insisted property owners should have the

sole right to vote on borrowing.

The bill makes 2 per cent money available for self-liquidating projects, and gives the government safeguards to collect if loan repayments are not made.

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Telford May Not Resign

C.C.F. Party May **Block Member's** By-election Plan

Opposition within the party ranks to the threatened resigna tion of Dr. J. Lyle Telford, C.C.F. member for Vancouver from his seat in the Legislature was believed today likely to halt

was believed today likely to halt him from the step.
Dr. Telford, who returned to Victoria today, was noncommittal.
"I have submitted to the executive a request that I be permitted to resign," he said. "As yet no decision has been made."
Dr. Telford Saturday announced he would seek permission to resign and force a by-election following collapse of his charges against the government on the Pattullo bridge contract.
Yesterday the C.C.F. House group formally announced its opposition to Dr. Telford's plan, pointing out that the bridge charges were an individual matter and had nothing to do with the party's policy, which would have to become involved in a by-election.
Out of the whole affair how.

out of the whole affair, how Out of the whole affair, how-ever, seemed likely to come a new formula in the C.C.F. party con-trol. The House group decided to ask a meeting with the provin-cial executive to clarify the rela-tionship between all parliament-ary representatives and the or-ganization, and to settle such matters as discipline and leader-ship.

ship.

Actually the C.C.F. has no official House leader who could discipline a member that refused party instructions, although Harold Winch, chief whip, usually directs affairs. It is forecast that he will be accorded the leadership after the House rises:

NEW BUILDINGS FOR UNIVERSITY

Government Takes Power to Allocate \$350,000 From Loans

Construction of new buildings at the University of British Columbia will be considered by the government as soon as the session of the Legislature is finished, Hon. John Hart, Mimister of Finance, announced in the house last night when his bill which gives the government power to borrow \$350,000 for the university was given second reading. The minister said the government had given some study to the representations regarding oven crowding at the institution.

At present it could not use its loan powers for the university and the bill will give it the authority.

nority. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Opposition R. L. Mainano, N. C., Opposition Leader, said the overcrowding conditions were sufficient to distract any of the students from their studies and urged the government to prompt action.

Car Insurance **Bill Passes**

Views Differ on Responsibility for **Passengers**

Acts to amend the Motor Vehicle and Contributory Negligence Acts passed third reading in the Legislature last night after a stormy debate. Drivers of motor cars will not now be liable for accidents to passengers not carried for hire.

"You can't be unjust to protect the insurance companies from people who have just claims," R. L. Maitland, Leader of the Opposition said. "In cases of hitch-hikers there may be a certain amount of justice, but the principle is entirely wrong."

Legislation should be passed for the greatest good for the greatest number, Hon. G. S. Wis-mer, Attorney-General, said.

"Who asked for this," R. W. Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm, asked the Attorney-General.

"Nobody asked for it, except this government, which is doing things all the time the former ad ministration did not do," Mr. Wismer replied.

mer replied.

"We're not trying to protect the insurance companies," he said.
"We're putting them out of this kind of business, we're saving motor car drivers \$6 a year in insurance. The Leader of the Opposition says it is only \$6 a year, but that means a lot to many people who drive cars."

Conservative members said in-surance companies would favor the changes, because instead of selling insurance for \$6 a year they would be able to sell larger premiums, to cover passengers. They instanced wives and chil-dren of automobile owners.

Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative, the Islands, and J. A. Paton, Conservative, Vancou-ver-Point Grey, wanted to know who had asked for the new ruling. They wanted to know if it v the insurance companies.

"They've asked for it; they're in favor of it," Mr. Wismer, replied, adding such laws extended all over Canada and the United

States.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F.,
North Vancouver, spoke in favor
of compulsory insurance, to cover
motor car accidents, for everyone.

"Those of us who ride in cars
not our own are going to be
penalized if we ride in a friend's
car without paying," said E. V.
Finland, Conservative, Esquimalt,
Capt. C. R. Bull, Liberal, South
Okanagan, said a great many people did not carry this type of insurance and were financially
crippled if an accident occurred
and they were liable.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale,
said it was unfair that the driver
of a car, who picked up a friend,
should be liable for damages.

Highway Plan To Be Pursued

Pattullo to Take Up Alaska Road Scheme After New Year

Premier Pattullo anounced in the Legislature last night he will go east soon after the New Year to discuss further the negotia-tions for the B.C.-Alaska-Yukon highway.

His statement came when the House debated a \$25,000 vote for a preliminary survey of the road

money, he said, simply for a reconnaisance and would not be spent until the nego-tiations had gone further.

The Premier said when he first discussed the matter with Prime Minister King, the Prime Minister suggested that as B.C. taking over the Yukon was considered he should see what progress could be made on the road plan.

He said he understood the United States government would contribute the money without in-terest for the road, but difficulties had arisen.

Since then he hoped the situa-ion had changed, although he ould not say now in what

Replying to Opposition criticism that the government should not consider any expenditure on the Alaska Road while other roads in the province needed building, he declared:

"This undertaking is not going to interfere in any way with any other road undertaking of this government."

Recalling the earlier negotia-tions on the Alaska Highway, the Premier referred to the "ardent desire" of the United States to see the road built, even to the extent of providing the money the Premier said it was only good nc'libor policy to let the United States have access to part of its territory.

He said he expected the Canadian commission, which is to work with a United States com-mission on the scheme, will be appointed almost immediately. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Con-servative leader, attacked the

servative leader, attacked the \$25,000 vote as unreasonable, unnecessary, extravagant and against the interests of every member of the House who had been demanding extra money for their own roads all evening. When a proper report on the scheme was made the expenditure might be justified. He warned the government against starting something that might become a spending epidemic.

After a brief further discussion

After a brief further discussion the vote passed at 12.30 a.m.

BAN FIREARMS IN VEHICLES

Shooting of Pheasants By Farmers Also Comes Under Control

Carrying of firearms in vehicle on highways or in boats, excep during the open game seasons will be prohibited under amend ments to the Game Act introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Attorney-General Wismer. Carry-ing of firearms with a loaded magazine in any vehicle at any time is also prohibited by the new

sections.

The bill also provides for the game commission to set up regulations under which wild birds and wild animals may be kept in captivity. This was brought in by the Attorney-General in response to the move by Ernest E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, seeking a law to compel adequate cages for captive bears in Stanley Park and Beacon Hill Park. and Beacon Hill Park.

other new clauses put addi-tional restrictions on farmers shooting game. They will now be required to get a permit to shoot pheasants that are damaging their crops. And only farmers with at least five acres of ground will be entitled to shoot game under special provisions for farmers. Previously it was two

The license fee for taxidermists and tanners is reduced from \$

The game commission, in a further clause, is empowered to set regulations governing the sale within the province of game fish caught by angling.

WEST COAST ROAD DEBATE IN HOUSE

Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative, the Islands, last night in the Legislature demanded that the government fulfill its pre-election promises that a road to the west coast of Vancouver Island would be built.

"We will," Hon. F. M. MacPherson, Minister of Public Works, said.

"We are going to complete that road as soon as we get the money," said Premier Pattullo.

"I demand that this road be completed."—Capt. Macintosh.

"What is my honorable friend going to do about it."—Premier Pattullo.

going to do about it."—Premier Pattullo.

"I am going to talk about it, that's what I'm going to do; I'm going to tell the people that this government made promises it had no intention of fulfilling."—Capt. Macintosh.

"I think this government was misleading the people and when a government misleads the people it deserves to lose the confidence of the people," the Islands member said.

Board Can Seize Plants

Government Indicates Changes in Appeal Powers in Utility Control Bill

Powers contained in the public utilities bill enabling the government to step in and seize utility companies that do not obey orders were attacked in the Legislature yesterday as "Russian legislation" and "German tactics."

Attorney General Wismer in sisted they were necessary or else the government would be started for the Privy Council on every order that was made, and every lawyer in the province would be engaged on one side or the other. The section conferring this power happens to be numbered 98

engaged on one side or the other. The section conferring this power happens to be numbered 98.

"It's just like the old Section 98 of the Criminal Code," said R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader. It's the most un-Canadian and offensive legislation I've seen, much after the Russian type."

The proper thing to do to enforce orders was to go to the courts and get a mandamus, he said, instead of wielding a big stick and cudgels.

The Attorney-General said similar authority was given in

all utility laws

"We've got to have power to enforce the orders of the utility board," he said. "It doesn't mean we're going to step in affd run the B.C. Electric or force them out of business. Why, if you didn't have this and the utilities decided not to concernte we'd. out of business. Why, if you didn't have this and the utilities decided not to co-operate we'd need a staff of 50 lawyers. Every time we made an order we'd be started for the Privy Council.

Mr. Wismer pointed out that if the government ever had to take over a utility the bill provided it must be run for the benefit of the shareholders as well as the good of the public.

"If we didn't have this in the bill we would never get the benefit of this legislation, and I doubt if our children would," he added.

ert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, said the fact the government needed such a big stick indicated it must be con-sidering some obnoxious mea-

"It's absurd," he said. "We're not in Germany, you know. There must be more reasonable means of enforcement. It's so amazing it's a wonder it is in trint."

mr.ht."

Mr. Wismer said he could not
understand why, when the utility
companies did not object to the
ection, the opposition should
uddenly become their protagon-

ists.
"I'm sick and tired of hearing the Attorney-General keep suggesting trips to the Privy Council and the approval of the utility companies when we raise objections to various sections," said Mr. Maitland. We're not interested in the utility companies, We're interested in good legislation.

on.
"I'm amazed at the suggestion he courts can't enforce our laws. he courts have got control over nyone who breaks the law or effes a government order."
Harold Winch, C.C.F. whip, aid his view was the section did of go far enough! He thought it

said such action would be unfair.

said such action would be unfair.

'I mean to lay down the basis on
which shareholders would be
paid out."

R. W. Bruhn, Conservative,
Salmon Arm, urged the government to lay the bill over untimembers could study it further,
but the Premier said this was no use because they would all prob-ably forget about it during the recess and be no further ahead

"That's a very unfair reflec-tion," said Mr. Maitland. "The Premier doesn't need to think he's the only one that studies the legislation."

L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chil-liwack, said the section savored of German action against Jewish

or German action against Jewish property.

Indication the government intends to revise the sections of the act dealing with appeals to the courts from the orders of the utility board were given when the Premier stood these over for future consideration.

Opposition members proceeded

Opposition members protested a section enforcing utility em-ployees to divulge information to the commission and making pen-alties against them for failing to

carry out orders.

Mr. Maitland said it should be specified as a wilful breach, but Mr. Wismer insisted the weaken the power of the section. The commission would not be unhe maintained.

"Who says they won't?" asked J. A. Paton, Conservative, Point

"Because it's going to be a ensible commission," retorted the

Attorney General.
H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, protested a clause giving the commission power to impose \$50 penalties for disobedience of its orders and the Attorney-General stood the clause over be-General stood the clause over be-cause, he said, it was intended to be referred to the courts.

'Mr. Maitland declared it a bad precedent to allow a board to im-compose penalties.

ose penalties.

Mr. Maitland declared it a bad precedent to allow a board to impose penalties.

Mr. Perry staged a strong campaign against a section which allows the government to make any other regulations not specifically covered by the bill, despite Mr. Wismer's explanation that this was a saving clause contained in most acts.

Mr. Perry said the clause gave the government legislative powers and quoted Lord Hewart, the English chief justice, as criticizing a similar practice in the British parliament.

Capt. MacGregor Macintosh, Conservative, the Islands, insisted that the clause mullified the entire argument on the bill in the House, since it allowed the government to legislate further on the subject if it wanted.

"If we carry on the traditions we have fought for we might as well start right here in this House," he said. "If we allow this thing to begin in minor parts of legislation it will soon go right to the head of affairs. We've got to retain all power within the Legislature.

Mr. Wismer closed the debate on the bill for the day by explaining that the clause allowed the government to deal only with matters "consistent with the interest of the act."

Municipal Bill In Final Draft

Victoria Powers Approved in Measure Before Legislature

Laws governing municipalities in British Columbia will be amended and widened under numerous headings by a bill to amend the Municipal Act introduced in the Legislature yester-day by Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Most of the clauses have been before the municipal committee and are expected to go through

and are expected to go through the House unopposed. Some of the major points are: For one year only municipal councils can supplement supercouncils can supplement super-annuation allowances to be granted under the new civic pen-sion scheme, owing to the cuts that will be imposed by the new

Power is given councils to govern the kinds of building that may be erected. Councils are given authority to

regulate taxi rates, regulate sight-seeing and see that insurance is carried.

Subject to the Public Utilities Act, councils are given power to grant exclusive transportation grant excusive transportation franchises or join with neighbor-ing municipalities in granting them, this being at the request of Victoria and its adjoining dis-

tricts.

Councils are given power to control objectionable noises.

Councils are empowered to tax for library services.

District municipalities are entitled to vote money for entertaining distinguished visitors and to pay traveling expenses, and to make grants to Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce.

Tax rates for general purposes are pegged at 35 mills on the

dollar. Matsqul district is given au-thority to enter a medical service scheme for its residents by tax-ing not more than \$12 a year on landowners and residents be-tween 21 and 60, subject to refer-endium.

endum.

Councils are given power, subject to government approval to enter agreements under the National Housing Act.

Enforce Treatment For Social Diseases

Wider powers to enforce treat-nent and isolation of persons uspected of having venereal dis-see is contained in a bill intro-uced in the Legislature yester-ay by Hon. G. M. Weir, Provin-tal Secretary. day by Hon. G. cial Secretary.

SOUGHT \$1,000,000 FOR OLD BRIDGE

Premier Reports to House On Transfer Of Fraser Span

The bill authorizing the transfer of the old Fraser River bridge to the Dominion Government passed third reading in the Legislature last night.

It was the government's plan to hand over the bridge to the government and collect any profit after operating expenses were paid, Premier Pattullo said.

R. L. Maitland, K.C. Leader of

paid, Premier Pattullo said.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, objected to the transfer. He said the bridge returned an income of \$50,000 to \$80,000 a year and this would grow with increased traffic.

The Premier said if British Columbia kept the bridge it might some day have to pay \$1,000,000 for a left span, should the Dominion Government bring in

minion Government bring

minion Government bring in regulations to that effect.
When he told Ottawa B.C. might scrap the bridge, the Dominion Government did not like the idea, the Premier said.
"I told Ottawa very plainly I saw no reason why British Columbia should supply a bridge for the Canadian National Railways," he said.

he said.
"I tried to get \$1,000,000 for the bridge; I thought I had it, but some little thing slipped up. But I'll not surrender the claim to the profits. We'll hold a moral claim, and if the Dominion Government does not put in a lift span, they must keep track of the income and expenditures and give us the profit."

MacGregor Macintosh, Conservative, The Islands, thought the Premier might tell Ottawa just as plainly about many of B.C.'s other problems.

as plainly about many other problems. Answering L. A. Shepherd C.C.F., Delta, the Premier said the transfer would take place

right away.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby thought the province was well right the old bridge, as it would be relieved of its liability.

Check Evasions Of Hours of Work

Fake partnerships or co-operatives, established to evade the Hours of Work law, will not be permitted in future under a bill introduced in the House by Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor.

Labor.

It gives the Board of Industrial Relations power to decide which person shall be considered an employer and which shall be employees and be subject to the eight-hour day.

Cases have been found where in small firms employees adopt a co-operative or partnership arrangement and class themselves all as employers who are thus not subject to hours of work regulations.

Civic Weir

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Civic Pension **Cut Is Fought**

Weir Hopes Something Can Be Done for Those Who Suffer

Opposition to the new Municipal Superannuation Act, whereby retired municipal employees will have their pensions drastically reduced was attacked by Conservative and C.C.F. members in the Legislature last night when the bill was in second reading.

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, said no contract

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, said no contract
should be violated. He said governments of this province had allowed the fund to go bankrupt.
There were many widows whose
incomes would be badly reduced,
he said, admitting it was quite
true their husbands had not, in cases, contributed a cent to

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be be bill on.

In ten years, he said, the Legis-In ten years, he said, the Legis-lature would again be wrestling with a similar problem. He wanted to know how much the new scheme would cost the pro-vince.

vince.

Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial
Secretary, who introduced the
bill, said the government was not
going to pay anything towards
the pensions, only the cost of administration.

ministration.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F.,
North Vancouver, said she would
like to see a minimum, below
which a pension could not fall.
She said the new act would be a
terrible hardship on many, particularly those in the low pension
class. Many of those persons
had dropped their insurance,
thinking they would receive pensions. Now they would find themselves in the relief class. She
said it was vicious not to set a
minimum.

minimum.
"There will be some very pathetic cases no doubt and I hope it will be possible to do something for them," Dr. Weir

said.

He added the way had been left open in the act for municipal councils to increase the pensions as they saw fit, from year to year, depending on circum-

stances.

Permanent employees of hospitals will be unable to get under pension schemes in the new bill.

The bill empowers the provincial secretary to place hospital employees under the scheme if they and the hospital boards ask for it.

The new pension schemes are

ask for it.

The new pension scheme, forecast for some months in discussion between officials and municipal employees, will go into effect next April 1.

It replaces the present pension plan, which is in financial difficulties, and the general effect is to scale down the size of pensions, altering the whole basis of the scheme.

altering the whole scheme.

The government will have to make a debenture issue of about 53,500,000, which it will turn over to the new fund. This will replace various investments in the old fund which the treasury will take over in exchange, so it does not actually involve an increase in the provincial debt.

Under the plan pensions will be worked out on two separate bases: First, a service pension of the provincial debt.

have worked for 20 years, all of which will be contributed by municipal councils at the rate of 7 per cent of their payrolls a year; second, a supplementary annuity made up from employees' contributions which may be 4 per cent of his salary or more.

Principles established by the new bill include: After 1942 an employee must be retired at the maximum rettring age; no one over 30, except executives, who is employed after the new plan can get under the scheme; retiring ages for women are fixed at from 55 to 60, for men from 60 to 65, and for firemen and policemen from 55 to 60. and for firem from 55 to 60.

After the plan starts a new em-ployee cannot get a pension un-less he has worked 20 years for a less he has worked 20 years for a city. Those already employed, if they are retired before completing 20 years' service, will have their \$360 service pensions reduced by the amount less than 20 years that they have worked.

Besides turning over its old bonds to the new pension fund, which will be handled by an international trustee heard, the 2004.

which will be handled by an in-dependent trustee board, the gov-ernment will also make loans to the cities, without interest, to build up the reserve fund to pay service pensions.

Money Lenders Draw Criticism

Discussion in House **During Discussion on** Credit Union Bill

"Money lenders have no heart or soul. There is nothing more vicious than the practice of usury in Vancouver today," R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, declared in the Legislature last night when the new B.C. bill authorizing the creation of credit unions was adopted.

"We of the legal profession."

"We of the legal profession know many cases of men being ruined by the loan racket that goes on day after day. Their wives come and tell us about it," he added.

wives come and tell us about it," he added.

"Often they are forced to sign false documents. I hope under the bill people will know there is easier credit available. And I hope it will bring about the prosecution of some of these people who make money by usury."

Attorney-General Wismer invited Mr. Maitland to supply him with any information he had about usury, and Mr. Maitland replied his own files were open to the department.

The modern habit of buying on the installment plan was called "pernicious" in the Legislature yesterday by Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, when the act creating credit unions was in second reading.

This act will enable a group of persons to subscribe to a fund from which any of their members may borrow at reasonable rates of interest.

"The small wage earner cannot possibly pay cash for many of the necessities of life," Mrs. Steeves Said. "You cannot blame them for buying on the installment plan. But the installment plan. But the installment plan. But the installment plan. But the installment buyers create debts for themselves that eventually ruin thembecause they must pay 20 or 30 per cent interest."

Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, Attorney-General, in moving second reading of his bill, said the act would allow various associations of people to practice thrift and raise funds without having to go to loan sharks. Such credit unions, he said, had been successful in Nova Scotia. They were found useful in times of illness and other emergencies. Their and other emergencies. Their principles, he said, were very

A CO-OPERATIVE

Mrs. Steeves said it was a measure advocated for a number of years by the C.C.F. She reminded the House a credit union was a co-operative and urged members to give some attention to that phase. "This province here"

to that phase.
"This province has lagged far
behind in co-operative legislation," she said. "It is very much
behind other provinces in this
regard."
Teachers, she said, often had to
borrow money to take suppore

borrow money to take summer courses prescribed, rightly so, by the Department of Education. "It is an opportunity for the

small man to use his savings pro-ductively," she said. "We some-times reproach the small wage earner for not being more thrifty. But how can a man or woman on \$50 to \$100 a month save any

thing?"
She criticized several clauses of the proposed act and said it was evident they were drawn up by people who had no knowledge of co-operatives.
She made a plea for education along co-operative lines, and thought the University of British

Columbia could follow the lines of St. Francis Xavier University of Nova Scotia in this regard.

ATTACK MADE ON **PROFITS TAX PLAN**

Anscomb Calls It Roose-veltian But Hart Says He Is Quibbling

Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, assured the Legislature yesterday that his new income tax amendment did not constitute tax amendment did not constitute an increase in taxation, but is simply a weapon by which the present surtax can be enforced and actually will affect only half a dozen companies.

The amendment enables the treasury to assess a special 15 per cent laws against undistri-

The amendment enables the treasury to assess a special 15 per cent levy against undistributed profits in companies where the voting shares are controlled by five persons or less.

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, insisted the bill had a Rooseveltian tinge to it and appeared to be the thin edge of the wedge for more taxation.

It was all right to have the government's assurance that it would not apply to this and that, but the bill did not say so, Mr. Anscomb claimed.

He criticized Mr. Hart for having promised there would be no taxation changes this session and then bringing down the bill.

"You're just quibbling on that" said Mr. Hart. "I've already said it is not an increase in taxation.

"Then why bring it in?" asked Mr. Anscomb.

"It's simply to help us enforce our law as it now is," said Mr. Hart.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, wanted to know if it would apply against the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, which, he said, had reserves larger than its

original capitalization, Mr. Hart assured him the Consolidated is already taxed in all its provincial

Second reading of the bill was held up when R. L. Mattland, K.C., opposition leader, adjourned the debate.

Want \$50,000,000 **Spent on Roads**

Works Minister **Totals Requests** From Members

The Department of Public Works has got requests for various roads in the province that would cost around \$50,000,000, Hon. F. M. MacPherson, Minister of Public Works, told the Legislature last night in course of the usual long debate on road estimates when members from all side of the House asked attention for their own particular highways.

highways.
"I don't intend to start any new roads or assume new obligations while we have a number of outwhile we have a number of outstanding projects still uncompleted," the minister added, as he announced he would not agree to a special grant for the Monkman Pass Road to the Peace River, which has been started by volunteer labor.

He also said that while local interests suggested a \$60,000 vote to complete the Hope-Princeton Highway, his engineers estimated the cost at \$1,685,000, including surfacing.

Mr. MacPherson detailed the following as road projects asked

Mr. MacPherson detailed the following as road projects asked of the government from various sources: Hope-Princeton, a road over the Cascades, the West Coast Road on Vancouver Island, Sproat Lake-Tofino Road, Golden-Yoho Road, Blue River Road along North Thompson, the northern transprovincial highway, relocation of the Cariboo Highway and the Garibaidi Park Road.

LeBourdais Serves Alfalfa Muffins

Altalta Muttins
Louis LeBourdais, Liberai member for Cariboo, put over his final publicity stunt of the session for Cariboo alfalfa today.

He persuaded the parliamentary restaurant to make some alfalfa muffins for all members to taste and benefit from the bios content, which, he says, contains vitamins.

Mr. LeBourdais explained that the alfalfa came from Whisky Creek and the flour from Soda Creek, both in the Cariboo.

BRIDGE HANDLED 1,771,383 CARS

Against an income of \$274,288 in the last 12 months the operating costs and financial charges against the Fattulio Bridge are approximately \$257,000 a year, Hon. F. M. MacPherson, Minister of Public Works, told the Legislature last night.

Mr. MacPherson said the traffic across the bridge in the year ending November 30 totaled 1,771,383 cars.

Across The Bay

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

NO TALK

HAVING LET THE Legislature talk beyond the rules, often beyond its mental powers, for five weeks, the government, in sudden grim silence, began to push along the business of the country yesterday in the last dash for prorogation and Christmas.

This process is well known, seasonal and inevitable. It has a remarkable effect in expediting the House, and business which would require hours in the lush early hours of the session goes through in a moment or two, with hardly a word. Everyone knows now that there is no use talking, except for the purpose of keeping the record clear for posterity (which won't bother to read it), and so no one talks much. Everyone wants to get on with the job and then to get home

At a time like this tempers are apt to grow short, and they would be superhuman if they didn't. Thus when the opposition kept hammering at his plans for solidifying the proposed reductions in gasoline prices, Mr. Wismer began to show a human annoy ance, not without a certain shrewdness

or some time he and Mr. Maitland had en arguing back and forth about the proper legal procedure for cutting gasoline prices, Mr. Maitland saying that they should be put under the new Public Utility Act to permit a new start, "sweet and clean"; Mr. Wismer insisting that this would delay a cut in gasoline prices for a couple of years.

gasoline prices for a couple of years.

Finally Mr. Wismer, suspecting that there may be some politics in all this talk of law, burst out with a blunt protest. Let the honorable members of the opposition, quoth he, say now, right out like men, whether they really want the price of gasoline cut or not! In other words, those who are not with us are against us in the fight to control the cost of motoring.

COURTROOM MANNERS

MR. MAITLAND, who had exhibited his best courtroom manner all day and quite floored the back benches with his legal learning, suspected that Mr. Wismer was attributing some ulterior motive to him. There

was no ulterior motive, said he, no politics.

Mr. Wismer, relapsing to the amenities of the Supreme Court, begged the House to understand that he had suggested nothing of

the sort. Of course not.

But, despite the impressive trappings of the court, the incident, Mr. Wismer's little studied indiscretion, could mean only one thing—the government intends to make an ining—the government intends to make an issue, if necessary, of its plan to cut gasoline prices and, after carrying it through the country if courts, will carry it through the country if

courts, will carry it through the country is necessary.

Meanwhile Mr. Wismer was prevented from discussing the thing very far as it is sub judice. He started to say that if the oil companies thought they were going to winbut stopped himself half way through a sentence, remembering he was a lawyer and his law was before the courts.

No wonder he is concerned about this thing. Mark that here is his chief legislative offspring, his own child, for which he must take responsibility before the courts and the country, which he will personally take to England to the Privy Council in the most important act of his legal career.

At any other time in the session there would have been hours of wrangling over the undisturbed profits tax. At this advanced season Mr. Maitland required only 10 minutes to tell the government what he thought about this program. He had to be careful, fourse, not to indicate that he favored that fourse is the season of the season of the season was a season that the season the season of the season was a season when the season was a season wa

government's way of approaching the prob-lem unsound—no appeals to the court, com-plete control by the government.

LOOKING AHEAD

CLEARLY FORESHADOWING what he will tell the country about the govern-ment after the House closes, Mr. Maitland protested against all this autocratic legislation, centralizing power in the executive, de-priving citizens of the right to appeal to the courts. This will be strong ammunition in the political fights of the future.

The trouble with Mr. Maitland, said the Premier, is that he doesn't know the true character of the executive which is taking these new powers. It was just because he knew it so well, Mr. Maitland reforted, that

feared such powers.
All this amused Mr. Winch very much. Here was one conservative party, called Liberal, moving just slightly to the left, accepting about 5 per cent of the socialist taxation program; and here was the other con-servative party objecting frantically even to this slight reform, saying it went too far. Actually, said he, it didn't go nearly far enough, and he quoted a lot of grisly figures to show how large corporations are piling up profits and evading taxation.

Neither Mr. Maitland nor Mr. Winch, pulling from either side, could budge the government. Its taxation plan went through with-

out change.

The strategy of waiting it out in silence continued the rest of the day, as bill after bill went through. Even when Mr. Maitland sought to open the Liquor Act, to provide a new weapon against bootleggers, only a few words from Mr. Wismer were needed to kill it on the spot.

And then, as the day ended, one witnessed another inevitable phenomenon of this sea-son, the sudden December cloudburst of legislation which always dampens and belogs the dying hours of the session. The government grinned, the opposition wore a we-knew-you'd-do-it look, for both parties have always done it, always condemned each er for doing it, always will do it.

No less than six bills came down in this single precipitation, and more will come yet. There are limits, however, to the patience of the House. When the Premier proposed to make it sit in the morning Mr. Maitland raised sudden clamor and Mr. Pattullo had to abandon the idea. If said he with a cold and Mr. Pattulio had to abandon the idea. If, said he, with a cold threat which sent terror down our collective spines, the House wants to sit next week, why of course, it is nothing to the government. Oh, nothing at all. At the moment the House has no intention of sitting next week, cloudburst or not.

Redistribution Bill Goes to House

The redistribution bill, printed in the form drafted after weeks of wrangling in the House's special committee, reaches the floor of the Legislature today.

DARGAINING RIGHTS BEFORE CABINET

Industrial and Labor Groups Discuss Proposed Changes

From two sides today the government received representations on the collective bargaining rights of labor unions.

Word that the government plans to introduce an amendment giving unions the right to act as bargaining agents for employees in disputes brought a delegation of industrialists from Van-

Representing logging, mining and manufacturing interests they urged the cabinet, at a special urged the cabinet, at a special interview, to leave the act unchanged. In its present form the act allows employees to choose, by majority vote, their bargaining agents.

W. B. Farris, K.C.; Col. C. E. Edgett and J. H. MacDonald headed the delegation. They told the cabinet that the act as now framed had kept industrial disputes to a minimum in the last year. But if it must be opened, they suggested, that recognition be given only to existing trades be given only to existing trades unions and not to any that would be formed in future.

Trades and Labor Council dele Trades and Labor Council delegates, on the other hand, urged members of the cabinet to redraft the bargaining clause to ensure unions the bargaining viable. sure rights.

Forest Fire Tax Raised

Government Takes More Control Against Fire in Woods

The government's bill increasing the forest protection tax from four to six cents an acre was introduced in the Legislature last night by Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Lands. The tax is on legging operations.

logging operations.

It also raises the government's contribution to the fire-fighting fund from \$440,000 to \$500,000 a

year.

Increases in timber royalties are postponed in the measure. The period for reinstatement of lapsed timber licenses is extended from one year to two years. A special penalty of \$10 a month is provided for the extra year.

Authority is given the government to fix royalties on minor forest products, including Christmas trees.

mas trees.

The hands of the forest branch to force owners and occupiers of land to fight forest fires is strengthened in another clause. Fire control is also widened in other sections, which allow the forest branch to cancel permits during seasons of extreme risk, and to bar prospectors from closed areas.

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Sees Gas Cut Coming

Wismer Thinks New Fuel Control Act Amendments Will Win Government's Case

"Do the members on the other side want the price of gas reduced or don't they? Let them say so. I could understand their arguments coming from the oil companies, but not from members of this House."

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bers of this House."

This was the challenge Attorney-General Wismer flung across the Legislature yesterday as he fought through his amendments to the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Act, which ne expects will make the act valid and forestall oil companies in their effort to block the government from cutting three cents a gallon off gasoline prices.

Conservatives, led by R. L.

Conservatives, led by R. L. Maitland, K.C., urged the Fuel Act be scrapped and coal and perfoleum products be brought under the new utility commission, but this the Attorney-General declined.

Mr. Maitland insisted the utility

Mr. Maitland insisted the utility commission would be the proper ribunal to handle the matter. "The oil companies would be as pleased as Punch if it allowed t," said Mr. Wismer. "They're pleased now," replied Mr. Maitland.

EAR'S DELAY

"They won't be pleased long, because if they think they're going to win-well, I won't disuss that now," continued Mr. Vismer. "The course you sugarous would simply give them a

Wismer. "The course you suggest would simply give them a chance to delay it another year.

"If I followed that course the public would not get a cut in the price of gas for two years at least."

"Our amendment simply declares our intention in passing
the Fuel Act.
"I think I am in a sound position. I have to take the responsibility for this, I am the
counsel in the case and I have
had other advice.
"I don't understand why you
would have us scrap the old act
and everything that has been
done under it.
"I think you are just putting
yourself in the position of being
able to say I told you so' if we
should lose the case.

should lose the case.

"But I can say now I firmly believe when the case comes up this bill will serve the purpose that is intended, and after the hearing there will be a material reduction in the price of gas."

GOING TO LONDON

Mr. Maitland disputed the Attorney-General's argument that inclusion of fuel under the utility bill would mean a further delay.

"You already have a delay of 18 months as a result of the chaotic condition arising from the manner in which this com-mission went ahead," he said.

"You're going to have more de-lay as the case starts on the way to London Town."

to London Town."

If fuel was in the utility bill quicker action would be possible, and it could not be argued the utility bill arose out of the Macdonald report on coal and oil, as was claimed on the Fuel Act, Mr. Maitland said.

L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, complained that pricecuting would put some people out of jobs.

Attorney-General.

"No, but put fuel in the utility bill," replied Mr. Eyres.

"That wouldn't alter the situa-

tion as far as jobs are concerned, said Mr. Wismer.

"But it would give these people a chance to be heard. They haven't any chance now," de-

haven't any chance now," de-clared Mr. Eyres.

Premier Pattullo said Mr. Eyres was probably referring to Eyres was probably referring to the fact no price spread had been fixed, and the Attorney-General immediately explained the government had not had a chance to deal with this because the courts had stopped it from making further orders.

Mr. Matitand ended debate on the bill for the day by insisting that he had no political motive in his suggestions but simply wanted to show the government a safe way to go ahead with its plan. The bill was not completed.

Says Pension Age Should Be Lowered

Frank LeRoy Addresses Old Age Pensioners' Organization

The liability to provide old age ensions and meet other social eeds should rest on the shoulders of those who had been more for tunate in life, Frank LeRoy told a meeting of the Old Age Pension ers' organization yesterday in the Eagles' Hall.

Attainment of these aims would only be accomplished by means of a strong organization with good leadership, Mr. LeRoy said. good leadersing, Mr. Levy Said. The speaker said the Eagles Lodge had taken up the fight for old age pensions in Canada in 1920. That organization had spent over \$500,000 for that cause alone, he said.

Pensions were first granted in Europe but the idea quickly spread, one of the best examples today being New Zealand, which had one of the best old age pension plans in the world. Nothing sion plans in the world. Nothing of value in regard to such a scheme could be attained unless pressure were exerted on the Legislature. He considered the present pension was inadequate, the average for British Columbia amounting to only \$18 a month. Mr. LeRoy advocated the pension was be reduced to 60 years and age be reduced to 60 years and that pensions should be increased to \$20

to \$30.

The first part of the meeting took the form of an installation ceremony when officers elected a month ago were installed under the chairmanship of George Hutchinson. Mrs. E. Wilkinson was appointed convener of social affairs for the organization.

Farmers To Be Relieved

Land Settlement Board Loans to be Adjusted in Bill Before House

Under a complicated formula placed before the Legislature by bill last night, the B.C. govern-ment proposes to relieve farmers of mounting charges on Land Settlement Board farms.

The amount of relief to be granted is not calculated in the bill, but overdue charges against the lands run something over \$1,000,000. The settlement board owes the provincial treasury over \$5,000,000.

The main provisions of the

measure are as follows:
In place of interest on overdue loans that has been compounded since depression years, the interest rate will be reduced retro-actively to 6 per cent up to May 31, 1936, and to 4½ per cent from there on.

Once a farmer has brought his Once a farmer has brought his interest payment up to date he will receive credit each year on the interest he pays towards wiping off his principal. Thus he will be able to start reducing the principal of his debt by simply reaving the interest. paying the interest.

Further relief will be given by owing farmers to claim part allowing farmers to claim part of the value of buildings, or other improvements they have made to their lands as a rebate against the principal of their debt.

Finally the Land Settlement Board is given power to reappraise the various properties and wipe out the difference from amounts owing.

Hart Prepares To Meet Big **Debt Maturities**

Minister Asks Powers To Handle Refinancing Of Big Issues

Three-year Plan

The groundwork for handling British Columbia's major financial problem, the maturity of some \$57,000,000 worth of its debt in the next three years, was laid by Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, in legislation tabled in the Legislature yesterday as an amendment to the Revenue Act.

Act.
Specifically, the amendment permits the minister to refinance his P.G.E. bonds when they mature. It also gives him the authority to refinance any maturing bonds, regardless of whether the full amount for them is in the sinking funds or not.

ing bonds, regardless of whitethes the full amount for them is in the sinking funds or not.

Thus, the finance minister will be given a free hand to tackle the problem of maturities. Previously he was given authority to handle the sinking funds as he sees fit. The new amendment completes the powers he needs to handle the situation.

While Mr. Hart has some \$37,000,000 in his sinking funds, which will increase before all the \$57,000,000 comes due, this will not be sufficient to meet all maturities. He will therefore have to go on the market to borrow money to meet some of the payments as they fall due.

A statement as to the finance minister's plans is expected when he moved second reading of the bill in the House.

Nert year the sum of \$8,300,000 in provincial bonds matures

Nert year the sum of \$8,300,000 in provincial bonds matures but he is understood to have already made his arrangements to deal with this. In 1940 the maturities total \$4,361,500.

His hig year comes in 1941

His big year comes in 1941 when \$24,000,000 falls due. Following, in 1942, the Pacific Great Eastern Railway stocks and bonds, totaling \$20,150,000, will mature.

Pleads in House For Poorer Class

R. L. Maitland, leader of the opposition, in the Legislature yesterday championed the cause of those persons who paid less than \$75 a year municipal taxes. The bill, amending the Public Schools Act and giving students an extra year in section provided

schools act and giving students an extra year in school provided their parents paid \$75 a year in taxes, was in second reading.

Mr. Maitland, said there were many people in Vancouver who did not pay that much, and as a result their children would not benefit by the extra year's schooling.

benefit by the extra year's schooling.

"You help the wealthy and shut out the poor," he said. "This is supposed to be extra education for all, not only one class."

H. E. Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, said he understood the change would cost Vancouver City from \$40.00 to \$27.000 a year.

change would cost Vancouver City from \$40,000 to \$75,000 a year in increased school costs.

"I couldn't say offhand how much it will cost," Hon. G. M. Weir, Minister of Education, said, "I don't think it will be very much; somewhere in the neighborhood of \$20,000 a year."

"You're helping the one class that doesn't need it," Mr. Maitland said as the bill passed,

Maitland Thinks Certainty Gone

Discourages Business, He Says; C.C.F. Wants More Tax on Industry

Conservatives told the government in the Legislature yesterday the amendment to the Income Tax Act, authorizing the collection of taxes from holding companies, was going too far and would throttle business.

The C.C.F. said the amendment did not go far enough and the government should extend the act to include all companies that were building up reserves to evade B.C.

taxation.
"We want industry in this "We want industry in this province to feel it has its rights and is free," said R. L. Maitland, leader of the opposition: "I agree it is a good thing to go after tax evaders, but why place everyone in that position. Why, there will be no feeling of certainty for hustness."

He objected to a clause in the ill which said right of appeal would be with the Lieut.-Governor-in-council. Such power he termed autocratic. Nothing could be more discouraging to invested

X EVADERS

"Why don't you limit your act to the holding companies who are evading taxtion?" he asked. "The time is coming when we are to know if the people are to be kept altogether from the right of appeal in cases like this."

H. E. Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, said many companies built up reserves for purposes of evading taxation, and he thought the government should go after such companies.

"It is strange the government

such companies.
"It is strange the government refuses to go after the money where the money is," he said. "We should use that money to alleviate the sufferings of those who are unemployed."

The wealth accumulated by those companies, Mr. Winch said, was accumulated on the basis that work of citizens on natural resources brought about that wealth. Such being the case, it was only fair and just the province should have a just return. ince should have a just return

"Surely the government has a right to tax excess profits," he

"We see the formation of hold-

"We see the formation of holding companies becoming incorporated under Dominion charter so as to escape the taxation of the provinces. They have built up reserves far in excess of their needs and far in excess of their total capitalization.

Mr. Winch instanced the Imperial Oil Company, which, he said, made profits in British Columbia, but because of a Dominion charter, could get around the laws of the provinces and build up a great undistributed reserve.

serve.

He said the principle of building up reserves for purposes of evading taxation should be stopped and the provincial and Dominion governments should do something about it.

Says Nurses in **B.C. Exploited**

Answering C.C.F. Criticism, Minister Says **Best Possible Being Done**

"In no other field are workers so ruthlessly exploited as in the hospitals, because the hospital authorities hold a club over the heads of their nurses-in-training," said Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, when speaking in the Legislature yesterday on the bill of E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, amending the Hospitals Act and giving better working conditions to nurses.

"The cheapest way to operate hospitals is being used, and the unfortunate young women who go into training are the victims," he said.

Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, in opposing the bill, admitted certain abuses did exist in some hospitals, but said the government was making definite progress in eliminating them. The bill, as suggested by the Burnaby member, would substantially increase hospital costs, the minister said.

tially increase hospital costs, the minister said.

"We will see what can be done," he said. "We are doing our utmost under present conditions. We are moving as rapidly for ward as we can."

Mr. Winch said he was surprised the government allowed young women to train in hospitals where there was obviously no training facilities. He said they were wasting their time. He protested against possible dismissal of a nurse just before graduation, without right of appeal, and asked for this right in his bill.

The Vancouver General Hospital, he said, had three and two-third beds to a graduate nurse; St. Paul's Hospital had six and a half beds; the Jubilee Hospital nine and four-fifth beds, and St. Joseph's Hospital leader of the

fifth beds.

R. L. Maitland, leader of the opposition, adjourned the debate.

Blood Tests Are Debated

Maitland Objects to Doctor Disclosing Results Of Examination

Passage of the government's bill to enforce blood tests before marriage was temporarily held up in the Legislature yesterday, when objection was taken by some members to the proposed method of notifying couples of the tests for each other.

The bill, which is subject to proclamation by the government, provides that the intending bride and bridegroom must be notified of the results of each other's or the results of each other's tests. They are not banned from marriage if suffering from syphilis, but it is thought if one or the other has contracted the disease they would not marry.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, raised the question as to who should tell them. Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, said it would be the medical man, who made the tests.

"Surely you would allow an in-tending bride or groom to disclose the condition to the intending partner, not let the doctor do it?" said R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader.

The clause was stood over for

Dr. Weir assured the House that where couples intended to go through repeat marriage cere-monies because of informalities about their previous weddings they will not have to take the

A clause which reduces from eight to three days the period be-tween application for a marriage license and the actual ceremony was approved.

ANTI-BOOTLEG **BILL FAILS**

The government killed in the Legislature yesterday a bill advanced by R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, which would give police power to inspect all counter slips for purchases in liquor stores.

counter slips for purchases in liquor stores.

Mr. Maitland proposed it as a weapon against bootlegging, which he described as a vicious crime, often leading to more serious offences.

Attorney-General Wismer refused the amendment because he said liquor officials already gave police fullest information of this sort, and the examination of the 3,452,907 slips passing over liquor store counters each year was quite impracticable.

Notes of the Legislature

Increased benefits being granted under the Workmen's Compensation Act, in amendments endorsed by the Legistantial and the complete the second complete the comple lature, will cost employers an extra assessment of about \$150,000 per year, Hon. George S. Pear-son, Minister of Labor, sald.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, withdrew bills giv.ng the right of habeas corpus and trial by jury to people seeking release from mental institutions, following explanation by Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, of certain legal technicalities involved, and the minister's assurance that no person is confined ance that no person is confined in provincial homes for five min in provincial homes for five minutes longer than necessary. Legal
dangers were also seen by R. L.
Maitland, K.C., and Attorney
General Wismer, but Mr. Wismer
promised Mr. Winch full investigation of any cases he knew
of people who were sane being
confined. They lauded Mr.
Winch's intentions in the bills.

CERTIFICATES FOR **DIVORCE PLANNED**

People who get divorced in B.C. after this will be able to get government certificates showing they were divorced, to put with their marriage certificates and show that it is all over.

Provision for the new certificates is made in amendments to the Vital Statistics Act submitted to the Legislature by Hon. G. M.

cates is made in amendments to
the Vital Statistics Act submitted
to the Legislature by Hon. G. M.
Weir, Provincial Secretary. It is
necessary because proof of
divorce is needed before persons
can re-marry and this is sometimes hard to get.
Another amendment increases
the fee for searching into old
births, marriages and death
records from 25 to 50 cents.
Another change will prevent
busybodies from prying into
records of adopted and illegitmate
children. To protect the children,
information of this kind will
henceforth be given only to those
who have proper use to make of

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Across The Bay

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

OUT OF THE FOG

THE POLITICIANS argument and clamor about the real issues of our time cannot forever hide these issues from view. Some-how they always survive this onslaught of enlightenment and emerge from the fog of explanation at the most inconvenient mo-

Thus from the fever and the fret of these Thus from the fever and the fret of these dying hours in the legislature suddenly emerged yesterday, all clear and vivid, the facts of life in British Columbia. Then, as suddenly the fog closed in again, the politicians went on clarifying the real issues and they were lost once more, perhaps for

The fog broke unexpectedly during discussion of a C.C.F. bill to improve the working conditions of hospital nurses. It was the last place where you would expect to find any light on the real condition of this province and the real condition of the government, which was the same of the condition of the government. ernment's mind, but you must take it when it comes, in brief flashes, and be thankful.

Premier Pattullo had listened for an hour to the unhappy politicians talking about the condition of nurses—admittedly far from satisfactory—and he had grown a little tired of it. It is time, said he to himself, to get out of the fog, if only for a moment; time to warn these unskilled mariners where the ship of state is going.

So, little noted by the galleries and the benches, Mr. Pattullo suddenly burst out with a warning to the legislature and to the province, generally, to go slow in social reforms that cost money; not, he said, that we don't want Utopla, but we don't get there in a single moment and may stumble if we

NO RADICALISM

BRITISH COLUMBIA, in the picture painted by the Premier, is a little community on the western sea, trading with the world, meeting the competition of low wages in other nations and in other provinces. The goods it sells all over the un-protected world, in the end must pay for all social reforms, including the aid of nurses. So far those goods have paid for more social reforms than the goods of any other province, but they cannot be stretched out indefinitely so long as their price is governed by the world price.

So the Premier, who has been accur of a radicalism which he has never felt, warned the legislature to go slow, not to press too hard on the goods that go out into the world, not to kill the goose that lays the

The Premier's speech was brief and soon lost in the fog, but to those who could listen and understand it meant much; meant that the government, after the well-remembered enthusiasms of its youth, back in 1933, has swung sharply to the right, in the jargon of the economist, is pursuing definitely a middle-of-the-road policy.

middle-of-the-road policy.

This, of course, is no news to anyone who has been on the inside here from the beginning, and knows that the government was elected and must seek re-election by the ballots of the great mass of ordinary, homeowning British Columbians. But it is not often that the government makes this clear or, in fact, tells what is really in its mind concerning the basic issues of all.

Quickly lost in the fog, submerged in a hundred fathoms of oratory, was the Premier's statement. But one other thing became clear for a moment—British Columbia has not begun to solve the great basic question of medical care for its citizens. Everyone admitted that the hospitals are on a foundation of financial quicksand and must be rescued. No one knew how yet.

All knew, though, that health insurance must be the first step but no one was impolite enough to mention that sore subject. For another year the hospitals and the problem of medical care must wait. The middle of the road, boys, is the motto.

DEADLY EARNEST

IT WAS A DEADLY earnest House all day and night. Everybody knew we must waste no single moment if we were to get out of here by the week-end and nobody wants to come back next Monday. Legislaent through not fast, but without the least fillibuster. Even in these dying hours you could observe no unseemly haste and most of the major bills were closely exam-

ed, criticized clause by clause.

In this grim atmosphere of business there were few human outbursts—only a passing breeze between Mr. Wismer and his good friend Harry Perry. The man from the high north, who is one of the surviving tribunes of the people, made a characteristica vehement attack on a bill to extend the pov characteristically of lawyers, calling it something beyond the "decencies" of legal practice.

"decencies" of legal practice.

This, with somewhat synthetic indignation, Mr. Wismer considered an insult to him personally, but Mr. Perry's explanation that, in brief, he had been speaking in the Pickwickian sense, mollified the Attorney-General, who is always easily mollified and decent. What the converse with anyone

doesn't like to quarrel with anyone.

In the evening Mr. Cameron returned to another flashing attack on the handling of the Blubber Bay strike, accusing the police of concocting evidence against the strikers. Mr. Wismer replied that if Mr. Cameron had such facts in his possession. he should take them to the courts. With this challenge the brisk incident closed, with no one the wiser.

That often happens in estimates committee where the House remained for hours, talking of drivers' tests, speed limits, erime detection and other minutae of gov-eriment which are easier on the collective mind of the members than pub-

lic utilities and the larger issues of the session.

By midnight the order paper had shrunk considerably and there remained the clamorous question of redistribution, a few opposition resolutions, some minor bills—and the prospects of home, fireside and children at the week-end,

RELIEF TOTAL STILL RISING

An increase of 32 family heads and 19 single jobless was shown on the city relief rolls for No-vember in comparison with Octo-ber figures, according to a star-ment from the city relief office

The family units are still 86 below those of November, 1937, while the single total is exactly the same for the month in both

Four hundred and eighty-nine family units received aid in the city last month, against 457 in October and 575 in November,

In the single division the figures were 430 last month and in November, 1937, and 411 in October of this year.

Public works and forestry camp projects are not expected to reduce the number of the projects.

during the remainder of

Bargaining Bill Is Compromise

Labor Rights Clause To Be Redrafted **Again Next Year**

The new labor bargaining plan before the Legislature is a temporary compromise measure brought down to meet the wisher of trades unions, Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, announced as he sponsored second reading of the measure.

During the next year, Mr. Pearson, said, union leaders and the employers' council will get together to rewrite the clause again on a basis satisfactory to all.

Mr. Pearson frankly told the

Mr. Pearson frankly told the House he was bringing in the redraft clause against his better judgment and because he and the government felt that the views of the trades unions should be respected. He warmly defended the operation of the bargaining clause passed last year.

In effect the new bill grants the business agents of existing trades unions the right to act as bargaining agents in a dispute where most of the employees affected are union members.

most of the employees affected are union members.

Mr. Pearson's speech this morning launched what is expected to be a fierce fight on one of the province's major problems.

Harold Winch, C.C.F. whip, who is seeking to insert a stronger bargaining clause and rights of equickle strikes into the act ad-

quickle strikes into the act, ad-journed debate for the time being. The minister insisted that while The minister insisted that while the present bargaining clause makes employees a little more independent of trades unions it has actually helped labor and has not interfered seriously with unions. In some cases it has helped them to get working agreements. However, union leaders insisted a change be made and the government respected profition. sition.

The minister admitted that the bargaining clause had not stimu lated labor organization as it might, partly perhaps because some employers were opposed to organization and others feared it,

organization and others feared it, not without cause.

One of the reasons, he said, was because it was extremely difficult to write into any law a clause that could prevent an employer discriminating against an employee if he chose to do so.

"At the same time," he said, "I believe the act has helped the organization of labor, only in small groups, I admit, but it has. Harold Winch adjourned the debate.

No Change in Hospital Act

C.C.F. Measure Lost; Oppositions Vote **Against Government**

The Legislature yesterday voted 29 to 12 against amending the Hospitals Act to better working conditions of nurses, as proposed by E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby,

Liberals voted solidly against Conservatives and C.C.F. mem-bers in killing the bill on a divi-sion called by H. E. Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East.

Vancouver East.

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria; Dr. J. Lyle Telford, C.C.F., Vancouver East; Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie; Mrs. Paul Smith, Liberal, Vancouver Burrard, and M. J. Bryan, Liberal, Mackenzie, were out. Ithe House when the vote was taken.

when the vote was taken.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F.,
North Vancouver, said nurses today were in the same class as
domestic servants. In Dickens'
days, she said, store employees
slept under the counters; today,
nurses slept in bad quarters.

Mr. Anscomb said nurses in Victoria hospitals had better buildings than the hospitals proper.

BAD FOR PATIENTS

Mrs. Steeves said there may be some exceptions, but she had seen cubicles in which many nurses slept, giving them no chaince to get away from an atmosphere of disease and death and bad temper. Nurses, she said, performed most responsible work and it was not good for the patients to have tired nurses care for them.

Hon. George Pearson, Minister of Labor, said the nursing profession was subject to many abuses, and young nurses were asked to make many sacrifices. He said the great difficulty was in the financial basis of the hospitals. The whole financial structure of hospitals and medicine was faulty, he said.

The whole financial structure of hospitals and medicine was faulty, he said.

A complete change in the financial structure was needed, "but quite frankly I can't see how that can be done quickly."

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said the hospitals of B.C. were well run and the nurses well looked after. The bill would greatly increase the financial difficulties of the hospitals.

Harold Winch said that, in Victoria, graduate nurses were working on the staffs of the hospitals for \$20 a month because they could not find enough private work and the hospitals were taking advantage of that fact. Victoria nurses, he said, had told him they favored an eight-hour day.

"We are allowing nurses to be over-exploited," he said. "Nurses are subsidizing the hospitals by long hours and conditions of labor."

Premier Pattullo advised the House to defeat the bill and take

noor."

Premier Pattullo advised the ouse to defeat the bill and take advice of the Minister of Labrand the Provincial Secretary.

knows very grave difficulties are in the way.

"If you pass this bill you will place an undue and very difficult problem on the hospitals," he said. "We are reviewing the whole hospital situation."

Redistribution **Fight Centres on Islands Riding**

Macintosh and Straith in Hot Exchange in House

Gerrymander Charge

The main fight centred around the elimination of the Islands riding as the redistribution bill, realigning many of the provincial constituencies, was given second reading this morning in the Legis

Gerrymander charges were flung across the chamber and de-

nied by the government.

During debate hints were thrown out that Hon, George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, will run in the new Nanaimo and the Islands riding instead of going to Alberni, Capt. MacGregor Macinosh, now sitting for the Jelands tosh, now sitting for the Islands, will oppose Mr. Speaker Whittaker in Saanich, and Herbert Anscomb will contest the new Oak Bay seat.

Oak Bay seat,
"I hope this is the last piece of legislation of this kind," said R.
L. Maitland, Leader of the Opposition. "To me, of course, it is a great compliment, for every beaten government brings in a bill of this kind. When this government found in 1937 that the Conservative Party had developed real strength and a real foundation and that the government was losing, came the decision for this last tactic."

He said the whole bill was

He said the whole bill was "silly and nonsense and most laughable" and should be added to

"You can't beat me in the City of Vancouver and any one of you is invited to run against me," Mr. Mattland said.

CHALLENGES FLY

"Why don't you come up and run against me in Prince Ru-pert?" the Premier asked.

Mr. Maitland replied he pre-ferred to run in a large represent-ative riding where government appointments did not control the votes.

"But I invited you to run against me in Vancouver," Mr. Maitland said to the Premier, "I might do that," Mr. Pattullo

"I might do that," Mr. Pattullo replied.
Mr. Maitland said both Liberal and Conservative Governments in the past had brought in redistribution bills but he hoped it would soon be realized such matters should be handled along judicial lines.
"There will be no redistribution."

cial lines.

"There will be no redistribution in the future along these political, disgusting lines that break faith in government," he said.

Dr. J. Lyle Telford, C.C.F., Vancouver East called the bill a case of gerrymander.

"We know the effects of roads and bridges," he said referring to the bill a case of gerrymander.

bill was a political manoeuvre and the government was making a farce of democracy and destroy-ing faith in government. The government, he said, had delib-erately gone out and manipulated the ridings.

the ridings.

H. G. T. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, said he believed the basis of redistribution was entirely wrong. Because of three parties he said the government was representing a minority of the people. He thought redistri-bution should be handled by a Royal Commission. Representa-Royal Commission. Representa-tion, he said, should be based on territorial, economic and cultural basis. The Speaker of the House, he thought, should not be sub-jected to popular vote, but should be elected by the House from outside.

"You will have to get away from party control of government or you are going to have complete control along Fascist lines." Mr.

H. E. Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, said the government itself had given rise to suspicion of gerrymander through its method of handling redistribution. He said it was high time British Columbia took under advisement a complete revision of redistribu-

E. T. Kenney, Liberal, Skeena, E. T. Kenney, Liberal, Skeena, saw an economic necessity for redistribution. The Angel Gabriel, he said, could not bring in a bill of this nature that would meet with 100 per cent approval of the House. He resented Dr. Telford's remarks about a "siwash village."

WILL RUN IN NANAIMO

Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, said Alberni was entitled to its own seat in the House. He said the Tolmie administration had done Nanalmo out of a number of districts. He had no intention of leaving Nanaimo to run anywhere else, he said, even if it meant he would be defeated. defeated.

said, even II it meant he would be defeated.

"I asked Alberni be returned," he said. "I did not ask for inclusion of the Islands in Nanaimo riding. I feel very sorry for the apparent necessity of eliminating the Islands. I will take somewhat of a chance there, going into new territory."

R. W. Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm, insisted that all the gerrymander charges arose out of the submerging of the Islands. He claimed that the Victoria riding should be left at four seats and Sait Spring Island and adjacent islands be added to Saanich, if the change had to be made.

Thomas Unbul.

made.

Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, charged that the defeated Liberal candidate in his riding gave advice on hospital grants and drew the retort from Hon. G. M. Welr, Provincial Secretary, that "you were not attending to your business."

colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, supported the new Alberni riding plan but not at the expense of "taking the seat out of the pants of the Islands." He said Victoria should sacrifice the necessary seat. Four members for Victoria was unjustified on any grounds. He said the redrafting of the Comox seat helped him politically but he said the southern boundary, had been illogically placed, behad been illogically placed, because it took in parts that were

gested Mr. Pearson's equanimity about the change in Nanaima might be a forecast that he would join the new utility commission. The obvious answer to the heavy representation on the southern end of Vancouver Island, as compared with the north, was that 90,000 of the island's 110,000 people lived in the south.

"As a matter of fact," he continued, "people in Victoria don't care what you do because nothing on earth can stop a Conservative government being elected as soon as you go to the polls." He said there was absolutely no reason for redistribution unless it was to reduce the cost of government, which this did not.

reduce the cost of government which this did not.

Capt. MacGregor Macintosh, Conservative, the Islands, called the deletion of the Islands the most unprincipled thing he had er seen. "What about Columbia?" sald

"What about Columbia?" said Premier Pattullo.

'Tm not worried about what the Tolmie government did. I've got enough troubles of my own," said Capt. Macintosh.

If the size of the House were being reduced he would not mind, he said, but the people of the Islands resented the change.

He charged W. T. Straith, Liberal. Victoria, with completely

He charged W. T. Straith, Lib-eral, Victoria, with completely misrepresenting to the redistri-bution committee the position of the Islands.

"There was never a more rabid misstatement made," he said, re-ferring to Mr. Straith's remarks

misstatement made," he said, re-ferring to Mr, Straith's remarks that the Cy Peck was largely a tourist ferry and the main busi-ness of the islands was with Van-

Mr. Straith immediately denied misleading the committee. He told the history of the ferry, in-sisting that its biggest traffic was to handle tourists in the summer. The C.P.R. boat connection with the Islands was to Vancouver.

He justified four-member representation for Victoria by arguing that cities must have multiple seats to keep up the bal-ance in the House between urban and suburban ridings.

Traffic Questions Are Called Silly

The value of the 250 questions posed by Provincial Police traffic experts for testing motorists was questioned in the Legislature last night by Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative, The Islands. "No one could keep all these things in his head," he said. "Why don't you withdraw the questions?"

Attorney-General Wismer said

questions?"
Attorney-General Wismer said the driving tests will start soon at stations in Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster. Later traveling clinies will be arranged to test drivers in other parts of the province.

to test drivers in other parts of the province.

R. L. Maltland, K.C., called the test questions silly, and some of them nonsense and of no practical value.

value.
Attorney-General Wismer sal a driver could not learn too mus about his car. He said the object of the questions was not to people off the road, but to ecourage safe driving.
Mr. Macintosh said: "If your carry these examinations to the country of absurdity you will drive the said of the said of the said of the said."

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Should Centralize Government Offices

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ouver. -member The government should do something immediately to stop the continued spreading of government offices in Victoria and Vancouver, Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, said in the Legislature last night.

He suggested an addition to the Parliament Buildings in Victoria and a government building

in Vancouver.

Rental of offices will increase next year to \$49,186 from \$26,000 this year. Hon. F. M. MacPherson, Minister of Public Works, said all offices had been leased.

Mr. Winch pleaded for a new generating plant at Tranquille Sanitorium. The one there at present, he said, had been in continual operation for 13 years and inual operation for 13 years and present, he said, had been in con-tinual operation for 13 years, and as a result a serious situation would develop there that would cost a great deal more than \$20,000 to replace the present

plant.
E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, asked the Minister of Public Works to try and do something about enlargement of the Press

Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative, the Islands, asked for improvements to the mem-bers' cloak room in the Parliabers' cloak rooment Buildings.

Companionate Marriage May Be Increased

Compulsory medical examina-tion before marriage would lead to companionate marriage in British Columbia, Dr. J. J. Gillis,

British Columbia, Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said in the Legisla-ture last night. E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, said that would not be as immoral as diseased parents bringing chil-dren into the world.

dren into the world.

The act to amend the Marriage Act, making this examination compulsory, passed third reading in the House this morning.

Some argument came up last nigh. as to who should tell the contracting parties if one had the disease. Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, said it would be the duty of the doctor.

Exchange of Pulp Timber Allowed

Powell River Co. and the Pacific Mills Ltd., at Ocean Falls, will be permitted to use timber from each others limits under a Forest Act amending bill endorsed last night by the Legislature.

ture.

Premier Pattullo assured the House this would not allow them to take any more pulp timber than they now have under license. But, he explained, sometimes one company would be cutting timber it cannot use, but the other mill could. The bill will allow such a transfer. Up to now timber from a pulp license could only be shipped to the mill appurtenant to it.

Denied Courts On Utility Rates

Government Writes New Appeal Formula Into Massive Bill

British Columbia's public utility bill, 135 sections and some 12,000 words long, one of the most mass words long, one of the investment of the investment of legislation that has been before the Legislature in years, needs only a few finishing touches now before the House is ready to make

It law.

As the measure neared completion yesterday the government inserted an entirely new formula for allowing appeals against rulings of the utility commission.

There are two main principles see out in the new sections:

set out in the new sections:

Utility companies will be allowed to go to the appeal court on questions of law and jurisdiction

2. Companies will be barred from appealing to the courts against rates, service orders or against rates, service orders or other points of fact dealt with by the commission, but they can carry their case to the provincial cabinet, which will have power to

cabinet, which will have power to change orders of the commission.
Scores of minor changes were put into the bill as it was built up step by step. Many of them were to change phrases and wordings without altering important principles, and there was little debate. Premier Pattullo piloted the measure. measure.

The government dropped one clause that would have given the clause that would have given the commission power to impose certain penalties on companies. This had drawn strenuous criticism from the opposition, which maintained only the courts should be allowed to do this.

The government rejected the

allowed to do this.

The government rejected the Conservative plan to put coal and petroleum products under the utility commission.

Opposition members put up a strenuous fight against a clause which permits the commission to name inspectors of utilities and force municipalities to pay their salaries. Attorney-General Wismer said that this was a discretionary power and would not be used unless obviously needed.

Says Cities Welcome Control of Utilities

Control of Utilities

The public utilities bill will provide a weapon which municipal conciles have wanted a long time that it will enable government authority to find out details of utility businesses and thus set up a cound argument for changes in rates, Alderman Fred Crone, Libtonia, I. Vancouver Centre, declared in the Legislature yesterday.

It shoul, be heartily wricomed by councils of all municipalities that deal with utility companies he said. These councils, continually sinder prescure from residents to get changes in rates and service, had had little power because they could not examine a utility company's books and records. Thus they could not justify their claims for changes in service with detailed arguments.

Lawyers' Bill Is Under Fire

Gives Them Too Much Control. **Members Claim**

After a sharp clash in the Legislature yesterday between private members and Attorney-General Wismer, debate was stood over on a bill which would have made lawyers the only ones entitled to draw up legal deciving entitled to draw up legal docu-

ments for pay.

Mr. Wismer said the measure would stop the practice of ambu-lance-chasing, but H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, said it gave the lawyers much greater monopolistic powers than they needed and should have been referred to the private bills committee for full examination.

He suggested it was going be-yond the decencies of the legal profession to put such a bill in the House in the late days of the session. He claimed it would stop a justice of the peace or real estate man even getting a fee for estate man even getting a fee for drawing up an agreement of sale. Wherever any small business operated there would have to be a lawyer on hand to draw up documents, he claimed. The Attorney-General resented Mr. Perry's remarks and de-manded he withdraw them. They

mr. Perry's remarks and de-manded he withdraw them. They were an insult to the legal pro-fession, he said.

Mr. Perry said he meant no insult and would withdraw any-thing that cast reflections, but he wondered if the Attorney-General

wondered if the Attorney-General was "brow-beating the witness because he had a weak case."

Mrs. D. G. Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, said she smelled a rat because both the Attorney-General and R. L. Maitland, K.C., Opposition Leader, agreed on the bill. Second reading was held up when J. H. Forester, Liberal, Burrard, adjourned the debate.

Value Received From Relief Funds

British Columbia has received value for the millions it has spent

value for the millions it has spent on unemployment relief.

Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, told the Legislature last night that the government had demanded value for \$37,500,000 out of \$66,000,000 spent on relief since 1930.

For the other \$28,500,000, which went on direct relief "we have at least received the salvage of humanity which must have some value," he declared.

Mr. Pearson explained that many of the items classed as unemployment relief costs actually

employment relief costs actually went on road contracts for which full value was received, so that it was not right to say all relief money was wasted.

was not right to say all relief money was wasted.
Out of the \$37,500,000 spent on various projects \$16,500,000 was for roads, bridges and highways, \$12,900,000 for various works in municipalities who demanded a return from their relief recipient, \$3,000,000 for supervision and materials, \$3,700,000 for various winter forestry camps and tourist road development, \$750,000 for mining roads and \$500,000 for youth training camps.

NEW BARGAINING CLAUSE DRAFTED

Labor Rights Redrawn In Bill Before

The new bargaining clause for labor in British Columbia, brought down by the govern-ment at the insistence of trade union men, reached the Legisla-ture shortly before midnight last night

subject of many representa-tions to the cabinet and drafted only after a great deal of negotia-tion, the new clause gives estab-lished labor unions the right to act as bargaining agents. But it will not give future unions these rights these rights.

As introduced by Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, the amendment makes the bar-gaining rights charter read as

"It shall be lawful for em-ployees to bargain collectively with their employer and if the with their employer and if the majority of the employees are, on the seventh day of December. 1938, organized into a trade union to conduct such bargaining through the officers of such trade union, and if not on that date organized into a trade union to conduct such bargaining through representatives of employees duly elected by a majority vote of the employees affected, and any employer of employee refusing so to bargain shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$500 for each offence." ceeding \$500 for each offence."

UNUSUAL ESTATE TO BE DIVIDED

An unusual will, written in 1902 by Henry Town, who died two years later in Vancouver, will be cleaned up and an estate of over \$600,000 distributed in a bill introduced yesterday in the Legislature and given second reading.

When Mr. Town, who made a fortune in Australia, died, he left \$200,000, which has grown since then to \$600,000.

The money was originally left

\$200,000, which has grown since then to \$600,000.

The money was originally left to the children of two sisters with a small allowance to his widow. If there were no children it was to go to four charities in Vancouver, including the Vancouver General Hospital, the Salvation Army, Christ Church Parish and the Alexandra Children's Home.

As the sisters remained alive the money could not be distributed. The widow applied to the court in 1921 and her allowance was increased to \$200 a month.

Now an arrangement has been made between all the parties concerned, to be ratified by the Legislature. It will allocate the money in lump sums, \$250,000 to the widow and other survivors and the remainder among the charities.

Says Evidence **Was Perjured**

Colin Cameron Tells Legislature Men Innocently in Jail

Men sent to jail in recent days in connection with the strike riots at Blubber Bay last summer "have been committed on per-jured evidence, if newspaper accounts are correct," Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, said in the Legislature last night.

"One of those men now in jail was the innocent victim of a brutal attack after his arrest," he

"I presented the Attorney-Gen-eral with what I thought was suf-ficient evidence to warrant him making a thorough investigation into this matter."

Mr. Cameron protested the rebukes given him by fellow mem-bers of the Legislature when he first brought the subject up some

But for every stack and re bute I received in his House I received the thanks and commendation of members of the police force," he said.

Attorney-General Wismer said he could not understand how the

Comox member could say a man was convicted on concocted evi-dence when he had received trial before Mr. Justice Murphy and a jury. He resented the slur cast

before Mr. vesented the slur cast on the judge.

"If the honorable member has evidence to show this man is intocent he should produce it—he has given me no such evidence." Mr. Wismer said. "I will never be a party to an innocent man being the state of the said. party to an innocent man being placed in jail. I might remind my honorable friend the Premier said there wouldn't be a publi investigation into the police force, as it would ruin morale, but he didn't say there would be no internal investigation. didn't say there wor ternal investigation.

"It is never to late to right an injustice. If you have new evidence of that kind it should be brough, immediately to the attention of the Court of Appeal."

C.C.E.JURY PLAN S REJECTED

The Legislature yesterday retied a C.C.F. bill proposing that
least two men sitting on a
proner's jury on logging and
ining deaths should have at
ast three years' experience in
le industry concer.ed. Attorneyeneral Wismer rejected the proosal as upsetting the whole jury
stem. R. L. Maitland, K.C.
onservative leader, claimed the
nitre coroner's system in B.C.
as out of date and that the Caadian commission on uniform
prislation was now drafting a
lew one for consideration of all
revinces.

Borstal Home Proves Success

B.C. Plan of World-wide Interest, Attorney-General Reports

"Newhaven," the Borstal type home for first offenders at Burnaby was attracting the attention of interested people in many parts of the world and had turned out most satisfactory since Its inception a year ago, Hon.
Gordon S. Wismer, Attorney
General, said in the Legislature
last night.

The cost of establishing the home was being returned many times over. He said he was most anxious to proceed with the de-

"We've had practically 100 pc cent success with the boys we't taken from Oakalla," he sai he said This move to rehabilitate youth, in a manner never before at-tempted here, has attracted atten-

tion in many quarters."
Mr. Wismer said it was his intention to enlarge the quarters, by having the boys build small cottages for accommodation of 100 first offenders.

Frank Putnam, Liberal, Nelson-

Frank Putnam, Liberal, Nelson-Creston, asked the Attorney-General to place more trained specialists in criminal investigation work in the police force.

The Attorney-General said this matter was being attended to and "we're building up one of the finest criminal investigation departments in the west."

FIFTY-MILE LIMIT ON OPEN ROAD

Proposal Expected To Go Before Legislature Next Year

The government may ask the The government may ask the Legislature next year to impose a speed limit of 50 miles an hour on country roads, Attorney-General Wismer said in the House last night, inviting members to consider its effect.

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Captain MacGregor Macintosh, Conservative, The Islands, said a speed limit on the open high-ways was simply inviting people to break the law.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale said the only way to curb speed

ing was to put offenders in jail.
Alderman Fred Crone, Liberal,
Vancouver Centre, said the 30mile speed law started at the
beginning of this year was reducing accidents there and was observed by all but about 5 per

observed by all but about 5 per cent of drivers. He said experts agreed speed was responsible for 50 per cent of accidents.

L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, urged removal of speed limits past schools during school hours, which, he said, was the safest period. He suggested special signs be put out at schools at the times when children might be on the streets.

R. L. Maitland, leader of the Opposition, insisted the police enforce the 30-mile speed law.

"It's most unfair that a certain class of drivers, who observe

class of drivers, who observe this law, should be passed all the time by people who don't ob-serve the law, and something should be done about it," he

"Furthermore, I've never yet seen a man 'pinched' for passing another car on the wrong side,"

FIREMEN'S BILL **PASSES HOUSE**

Amendments to the Fire Départments Two Platoon Act, which 'ill force all organized fire brigades to adopt the two-platoon system, thus reducing working hours for firemen, were endorsed on second reading in the Legislature yesterday without debate. J. Howard Forester, Liberal, Burrard, explained that most departments had adopted the plan voluntarily but it would cause a few to alter their arrangements.

Claims Gas Price 'Loaded'

B.C. Uses Heavy Quantity of Fuel Oil, Says Commissioner

British Columbia, one of Canda's big coal producing provinces, is using an excessive amount of heavy fuel oil, more er capita than most parts of the world, Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald found in his final report for the coal and oil commission tabled in the Legislature this morning.

Mr. Justice Macdonald declared that B.C. in 1936 imported nore heavy fuel oil than the rest of Canada put together.

The report put before the House today was the third section of the commissioner's report, dealing with the relative economic values of coal and oil as fuels. The previous two sections, which recommended drastic cuts in the price of gasoline and coal, vere tabled last year.

In his conclusion, Mr. Justice facdonald says:

"The cost of production and distribution of coal have been found to be too high, with resulting uneconomic prices to consumers. The cost and production and distribution of heavy fuel oil as stated by oil companies, on the contrary, have been found to be too low, and not to reflect or too low, and not to reflect or represent the economic cost thereof; also with resulting uneconomic prices to consumers. The oil companies have been able to pursue this course by using a method of allocating costs whereunder the losses incurred in heavy fuel oil have been 'loaded' onto gasoline, thereby increasing its alleged cost of production."

Mr. Justice Macdonald finds that on a proper distribution and production basis coal could be used much more economically than fuel oil in many heating

In substance, he made the fol-lowing findings: B.C. coals are R.C. coals are suitable and con-ient fuel adaptable to modern efficient methods of con-

and efficient methods of consumption.

Under proper conditions of firing, coal is equal to a similarly designated fuel oil in boiler furnaces.

In stationary plants the same efficiency can be expected from coal and heavy fuel oil.

Coal is the logical and economic fuel in this province since fuel oil is not produced here.

Coal can be used with a substantial saving in building heating plants, such as office buildings, hotel, departmental stores and institutions. Tests already conducted prove this.

In stationary and industrial power plants coal can be used with substantial savings, whether pulverized or mechanically stoked.

protect.

Property qualified engineers should be employed to get the best results from coal.

Instead of coal being a decadent fuel, as some sources suggest, experience in Great Britain

and the United States shows it is one of the most fruitful fields for commercial research.

To British Columbia it is important that such scientific study hould be encouraged.

Diesel or furnace oil used in dwelling houses does not compete with automatically fired coal on today's

Vancouver Island coal has lost cost of production and distribu-tion. Alberta coal and sawdust burners are two big competitors.

Reduced charges to building eating plants should not be overcome by higher charges to domestic consumers of coal.

Automatic coal burning equipment would increase the market for pea and slack coal, but do-mestic consumers should be protected against an increase price of these coals.

BETTER DISTRIBUTION

Establishment of central coal distributing depots, or so modification of this principle, the only way the present high distribution charges could be reduced so coal could compete in building heating plants with heavy fuel oil if the latter were sold at economic

Houses and other buildings should be constructed to receive coal in bulk unsacked, and should be equipped with automatic coal stokers.

Architects, the report adds, give scant attention to coal possibilities in designing buildings.

"In railway operation in Brit-ish Columbia," the report says, "the use of coal and heavy fuel "the use of coal and heavy fuel oil is dict ted not by the merits of these fuels for locomotive use, but rather by their competitive prices. Heavy oil is purchased by the railways at prices much below the economic cost of production and economic delivered prices as found. prices as found.

"If heavy fuel ofl and coal were sold at economic delivered were sold at economic delivered prices the use of coal in railway locomotives should result in substantial annual savings. In 1936 44,057,660 gallons of heavy fuel oil were consumed in railway locomotives in British Columbia as compared with only 2,871,923 gallons in all the rest of Canada."

The report does not accept the railways' contention that oil must be used because of the mountainous character of the country and the danger of fire hazard. Governments would not object to coal in locomotives for this reason, but there would have to be patrols as in eastern Canada, where coal is used exclusively. clusively

USE IN RAILWAYS

The railways have not tested coal here, the commissioner says, and there is no reason to believe this fuel would not be successful.

successful.

On the other hand, "It is not possible to find in the evidence presented that coal as a fuel in logging operations is as safe as oil in respect to fire danger." But the report finds that coal is safely used in logging in Washington and on one part of Van-

couver Island. Exhaustive to should be made to settle question.

The report also urges tests of the use of coal in coastal steamers along lines tried in Britain with mechanical stokers.

Britain with mechanical stokers.
Oil companies, the report
says, show the cost of various
products in a way which does not
show the true cost of producing
heavy fuel oil. The Canadian
Collieries charged depreciation
"largely according to the discretion of the directors, and in addition large sums were withdrawn
from the company's depreciation
from the company's depreciation from the company's depreciation reserves and used for other pur-poses. We recast this method," says the report, "and treated the excessive depreciation charges as

This was done according to the practices of the best account-ing firms, the report says, and quotes authorities for the state-

"The excessive use of heavy fuel oil in B.C. indicates the exis-tence of a unique condition in this province," the report says. Although it is a great coal pro-Attnough it is a great coal producing province, more heavy fuel oil is consumed as a substitute for coal than in any other province; also in addition to the heavy fuel oil processes here more heavy fuel oil was imported into B.C. in 1936 than into all the rest of Canada. Despite our comparatively small solite into all the rest of Canada. Despite our comparatively small population British Columbia consumed in 1936 one-third of the heavy fuel oil used in Canada, seventeen and one-half times as much as the Irish Free State, nearly four times as much as New Zealand and Belgium respectively, nearly three times as much as the Dominion of South Africa, nearly one and a half Africa, nearly one and a half

times as much as the Dominion of Australia."

of Australia."

In the same year B.C. consumption was half as much heavy fuel oil as Italy, threetenths the consumption of France, Germany and Japan respectively, and the consumption of the United Kingdom.

All oil products should be tested and graded, the report urges.

"It is contrary to the economic welfare of the province that de-preciation reserves should be withdrawn from a company," the

Finds Gas Price Cut Necessary to Save Island Coal

Public Regulation to Protect Employees, Says Macdonald

Final Report

A reduction in the price of gaso-line is the first step to save the Vancouver Island coal industry from extinction, Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald declared in the final section of his coal and petroleum combission report tabled by the government in the Legislature this morning. Earlier parts of the commis-

Mr. Justice Mactionald finds, in brief, that heavy fuel oil is sold below cost and thus has established an enormous market for itself by underselling B.C. coal, which is produced and distributed at excessive cost. Gasoline, he says, is too high because it has to absorb the loss on fuel oil.

The commissioner says that in his earlier report recommending cuts in gas prices it was intended the reduction should come wholly from the oil companies, not from

from the oil companies, not from retailers. This, he thinks, should compel the companies to retire from the retail field.

"In order to preserve the coal mining industry . . . and to maintain the employment of some 1,600 mining employees, public regulation of the price of gasoline cannot be avoided," the report

For the benefit of those "For the benefit of those who have qualms about anything that savors of regulation of the price of gasoline, it should be said at once that the price of gasoline is fixed now. . . It has been done by the oil companies with no relation to reasonable cost of production and distribution, but based only on 'what the traffic will bear.'"

based only on 'what the traffic will bear.'"

He favors a customers' duty on imported heavy fuel so that it would have to sell at a fair price to compete with fuel oil processed in British Columbia. Otherwise the B.C. price may be dictated by California heavy fuel oil dumped into the province, and gasoline must continue to absorb the loss.

Mr. Justice Macdonald said that his analysis of the industries concerned only the part of the oil companies' business carried on in British Columbia, but because of the costing system of the integrated companies he had to explore many avenues to reach his conclusions. He said the British Columbia managers of the Impact of the Integrated companies and the British Columbia managers of the Impact of the Integrated companies and the British Columbia managers of the Impact of the Integrated companies and the British Columbia managers of the Impact of the Integrated companies are considered. Columbia managers of the Imperial, Shell, Union and Standard Oil Companies had little knowledgs of the actual cost of producing their products.

Turning to coal, the commissioner said if Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Ltd. insists on main-

(Dunsmuir) Ltd. insists on maintaining its present attitude of denying that any reduction can be made in mining costs "we are afraid its bona fides will be seriously brought into question."

He defended his earlier report finding coal costs too high and said the collieries, in a circulated document, had found only two errors in the thousands of figures and neither of them was material.

SESSION ENDS THIS EVENING

Prorogation of the Legislature is expected this evening. The House rushed through its order paper this morning and expected to have everything clear to receive the Lieutenant-Governor at 8.45 tonight, when he will give assent to the 73 bills passed during the session.

Across The Bay

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

BOILING POT

THIS IS THE TIME—the last, dying hours of the session, with the eyes of everyon on the clock-when the statute law of British Columbia may be said to melt into a kind of thick liquid flux just before it crystallizes, hard and brittle, for another year.

As the vast fluid substance of our legislation sputters and boils in these last hours, as clauses are slipped in and ladled out, alas clauses are supped in and ladied out, al-most anything may happen. If you don't watch it every moment, something entirely unexpected and embarrassing may crystal-lize out of the boiling and remain cold in the pot on the grey dawn after prorogation.

All yesterday Mr. Pattullo and Wismer watched the pot like trained metallurgists, watched it anxiously and long, never taking their eyes from it, making sure that nothing dangerous got in, making equally sure that many minor but essential ingredients got in. By today they were pretty sure that the whole mass would crystallize in the end as planned.

It is a bewildering business in the dying hours and no one but the Premier and his legal adviser attempt to keep track of it all. Every other member has some little thing that he wants to put into the pot or take out, and he lets the rest go. There were enough of these smaller matters to keep the House in fairly feverish activity from the middle of the morning to the middle of the night.

THE APT WORD

THE POT BOILED FIRST as the government stirred in its new redistribution bill, a measure which may be said to combine the diverse sciences of geography and politics in a remarkable fashion. The opposition con-ducted a short but stinging attack on the evil spirit of Gerrymander which they saw in the bill, and the government, with its eye on the clock, attempted no particular reply.

It was here, however, that Dr. Telford monstrated once more his uncanny genius for the wrong word when, to the joy of the Liberals and the blank-faced incredulity of his own party, he called the Premier's seat of Prince Rupert a "Siwash village." The Liberal benches, secretly delighted, muttered protests, knowing that if the Premier needed any help to defeat a C.C.F. candidate in his own riding here it was, served up on a

his own riding here it was, served up on a silver platter.

Harold Winch, loyally rushing in to sweep up the mess left by his associate, attempted to divert attention from it by pleading for the small cities of the province, urging their importance in the problems of redistribution. But the harm had been done.

Mr. Maitland wasn't much more discreet than Dr. Telford for, when he asked the Premier to run against him in Point Grey and the Premier asked him to run in Prince Rupert, Mr. Maitland retorted, in an unguarded moment, that he wanted to run in a big and important constituency, not in a small town where elections were won by patronage and political jobs.

It was a bad day for Prince Rupert; a good day for Liberal candidates there.

COOD SPEECHES

A GOOD DAY, also, for oratory and solid debate. Some of the best speeches of the session burst out suddenly in the dying hours—Mr. Pearson defending his labor arbitration act amendments, Mr. Winch attacking them, Mr. Wismer carrying the fight tack to the socialists.

class struggle, the strange wriggling, tor-tured process of our society trying to adjust itself to the machine age.

Vaguely our legislators realize that here they are up against something fundamental and historic. The House listens with a new gravity. Men speak with a new power.

Mr. Pearson, who has made few speeches of late, showed himself a master of argument and fact as he explained why the government had given labor a lot, though not quite as much as it wanted, in the new legislation.

Mr. Winch, his face dark with anger, de-livered a powerful speech denouncing the proposed law, denouncing the government for being the tool of employers, denouncing

the state of society.

Mr. Wismer, who has suddenly become the chief front-line fighter of the government, a single-man battalion of shock troops, spoke as an old friend of labor, asked it to be patient, to make progress by reasonable steps, not to disrupt industry which paid its wages. This speech showed him at his best, in a rough and tumble fight, and indicated the remarkably increased stature of the man

since he entered this cabinet.

Mr. Maitland was judicial, cautious, and on the fence. Stand the whole thing over for a year, said he. But, failing that, he supported Mr. Pearson, showing again, what has always been quite obvious, how close the oldline parties are on all fundamentals, how the real issue is always between them and the

In the end the new legislation, guarantee ing recognition to existing but not future unions, was passed with the clear under-standing that this was a temporary stop-gap only, that something better must be worked out in the next year. Everyone knew this was, and must be, only the beginning, for the questions broached here will still be the subct of battles in this Legislature a hundred years from now.

Wismer Defends Income Tax Act

Every Forward Action Taken By Government Misinterpreted, He Says

"Every forward step this government has made this session is being misinterpreted by someone." said Hon. Gordon S. Wismer. Attorney-General, in the Legislature when speaking on the amendment to the Income Tax Act which will give the government power to collect taxes from certain companies now evading

taxation.

"This act has not as its purpose confiscation of capital or an increase in taxation, but is only to enable us to collect taxes from a number of holding companies now evading taxation," he said. "It will prevent people forming holding companies outside the province in order to evade taxation."

ion."

Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, who introduced the bill, said not more than five or six companies would be affected by the new rule "and they can rest assured we will be fair to them."

"If holding companies have

LEAS MADE FOR

Domestic Servants Should Get Compensation Benefits, Mrs. Steeves Says

Resentment that domestic servants was the one class of labor cut off from any benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act was voiced in the Legislature last night by Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver.

She said domestic servants were subject to a great many cuts and bruises that often incapacitated them for long periods. Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, said very great difficulties lay in the way of bringing domestic servants under the act. To do so it would be necessary to go into private homes to make assessments and collections.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, asked that something be done to bring fishermen under the act. Mr. Pearson replied he had taken this matter up with the board and agreed the case of casual work-ers needed attention. He said he would give further consideration

would give further consideration to the request.

Samuel Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, asked something be done for those persons who were permanently disabled and then dismissed with a small monthly income and told to seek light work, which, he said, was impossible to find.

Mr. Pearson said this was a problem he would like to see solved.

solved.

solved.
"But there is a great tendency for one to try and appear more injured than one actually is," the minister said. "This is a great temptation, but I admit this is one of the weakest spots in the act."

SUPPLY VOTED IN LEGISLATURE

The Legislature voted its \$29,766,592 supply bill so fast in the final drive of business last night that it tripped over itself in procedure.

cedure.

As bill after bill was being pushed through their later stages without debate, Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, brought down the formal measure which authorizes him to spend his money. Before it had been prop-

erly introduced, Committee Chairman R. H. Carson was in his seat checking off the different sections. R. W. Bruhn, Conservative, called him to order, and he had to start the procedure all over again. The expenditures authorized in the bill are \$310,055 for over expenditures last year, \$691,080 for supplementaries this year, and the main budget of \$28,765,457 for next year.

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Labor Bargaining Bill Passes Trade Union Rights Warmly. Debated in the House

The status of organized labor n British Columbia, with paricular reference to the Commitee for Industrial Organization, was the subject of warm debate in the Legislature last night as he government was endorsed on ts amendment to the Industrial Disputes Conciliation and Arbi-Disputes Conciliation and Arbi-

C.C.F. members called the new collective bargaining clause a rick by the employers, while the government defended it as a easonable compromise, promis-ng a redrafting of the clause a

The bill gives agents of estabished unions the right to take ver bargaining for union em-oloyees involved in a dispute, so ong as they are in the majority. but it gives no recognition to unions organized in the future, although if the majority of emlithough it the majority of eni-loyees in a dispute support them, heir union can be the bargaining gents. Only unions now formed an insist that their agents are utomatically the bargaining gencies without a vote of the mployees

C.C.F. members charged it ould stop growth of labor move-nents, and especially the C.I.O., ecause recognition of future C.C.F. members

mions is not provided.
Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, assailed the amendment is making Mr. Pearson a tool of ne employers and striking a low at unionization.

Mr. Harold Winch said the gov-

rrment had done what Col. C. E. Edgett, Wendell Farris and J. H. MacDonald, "three of the greatest anti-unionists in western anada," had desired

Canada," had desired.

Col. Edgett, Mr. Winch said, was a man most bitter against organized labor, and he had continced the government of the necessity of bringing in the amendment, "which I know will not meet with the requests of organized labor in this province."

Premier Pattullo said Col. Edgett had said nothing to the rnment, and had no influ-whatever in the introduc-

ion of the amendment.

The delegation had interests a direct opposition to organized abor in the province, said Mr.

Winch.

The logging and waterfront iniustries of British Columbia he
aid were infamous in their antimion activities.

"The employing interests in
his province are very very
mart, and they have sure pulled
a fast one this time," Mr. Winch
aid. "This government has been
nade the tool of the employer inerests, to the detriment of the
workers of this province.

THREATS OF C.LO.

"There is no question the em-loyers see the threats of the C.I.O. and as far as possible they want to blockade that move. The rank and file of the trade unions crow nothing of the implications or potentialities of this amend-ment. The government has given the employers the right of protection against organized la-tor.

organization it should be given the same right in the future." Attorney-General Wismer de-clared the government knew it owed its election to the support of labor and felt it still had that

of labor and felt it still had that support.

"But we also represent all the people," he said, "and it is a very important thing that no steps should be taken that will disrupt our industry. We have to listen to the voice of industry as well as to the voice of labor. Surely there is nothing wrong in industrialists coming here to see us, We had previously listened to We had previously listened to representatives of labor. I had discussed this whole question for months with 'labor representatives. This amendment is not the suggestion of industry but was worked out of conferences with both parties.

"Moreover, it was understood "Moreover, it was understood when this amendment was drafted that during the coming year representatives of labor and representatives of employers would get together around a table and try to work out something satisfactory to all. This is not a final employers that it expresses the same of the satisfactory to all. satisfactory to all. This is not a final amendment, but it carries organized labor a long step for-ward. Why not wait for a year and have a round table conand have a round table con-ference? And remember you can-not have strikes and disruption of industry if you are going to

of industry if you are going to live under our present system.

"I have been fighting the cause of labor for 25 years, and Mr. Bengough and Mr. Morrison told me they were satisfied with this legislation for the present. Nothing was slipped over anyone.

"I am not going to attack the C.I.O. now and may never attack it, but I want to say that if this government does everything for labor without regard to the needs of industry pretty soon there will of industry pretty soon there will be no one to pay wages and I am confident that the great bulk of organized labor will support the stand of the government."

WANTS DELAY OF YEAR

R: L. Maitland, K.C., Conserva-tive leader, urged the government to stand the whole issue over for a year or two until the present act had been given a thorough test.

He said members, when they regarded what had happened in San Francisco, must consider not only the positions of capital and labor, but also the middle people, the general public.

but also the middle people, the general public.

Objections to the original bargaining clause were only from a certain type of people, not from the orthodox labor unions, he argued. He went on to cite how the Lemieux Act of the federal government, at first sharply criticized by labor men, had been accepted after 20 years until it was restricted by the Privy Council to federal jurisdiction.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, attacked the bill as discriminating between labor unions now established and those that might be organized in the future, It would, he maintained, leave bargaining in the hands of local committees, who might not be experienced in such matters, and separate them from the parent unions.

Mr. Cameron said he had definite information from District 18 of the United Mine Workers

of America that they were alterably opposed to the bill.

"Might I warn the Minister of abor," he said, "that if a situation arises such as in Estevan, Sask., some years ago, you can expect the same result if this amendment passes."

"It could not happen under our administration of this act," re-torted Mr. Pearson.

"That's not the point," said Mr. Cameron. "If it is going to discriminate against future unions it's so much waste paper."

He pointed out how the mine rs' union at Nanaimo re cently negotiated an amicable agreement with their employers.

"And the union that negotiated this was the terribly subversive C.I.O.," he added.

The labor department should work to get the same thing in the lumber industry, Mr. Cameron argued, but he believed the amendment would make every camp separate in negotiating its agreements.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, and J. M. Bryan, Liberal, Mackenzie were other speakers.

The bill was put into committee at the same sitting and developed a sharp cross fire between Mr. Pearson and Mr. Winch as to the value of the new bargaining

Mr. Pearson reiterated that he had not intended to recommend opening of the bill to the government this session, but that the view of trades unions had been

The minister said in the hope that industry and labor would grow to have some confidence in ach other, he was making every

effort to bring employers and employees together.

He said the problem had been discussed from both sides. He said the amendment was a comprom

Mr. Pearson said, had been badly damaged, almost destroyed, by various labor movements and he feared the same destructive lead-ership in British Columbia.

"We must recognize the necessity of prosperous industry," h

said.
Premier Pattullo said Col.
Edgett was a highly respectable
gentleman and very highly
thought of and added his government had always been friendly to

Premier Pattullo said Col. Edgett was a highly respectable gentleman and very highly thought of and added his government had always been friendly to

Silicosis Benefits To Be Discussed

To Be Discussed

The Workmen's Compensation Board and the Department of Labor will co-operate with the mining industry and go into the entire question of further benefits for sufferers of silicosis, Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, said in the Legislature last night in reply to a question from Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East.

"This matter must be gone into very carefully and I shall be glad to see if some basis of further improvement cannot be arranged, Mr. Pearson said.

New Appeal Clause Made

Government Controls Appeals Right Against Utility Rates

As a last-minute surprise in the long-drawn-out fight on public utility legislation, the government yesterday in the Legislature in erted a clause which gives utility

companies an avenue to the courts to fight rate orders, but only if the government allows it. This brought to an end one of the major points around which the utility battle had centred, and the bill went through third reading.

Twice during the bill's progres through committee the govern-ment changed its position on the appeal section.

ment changed its position on the appeal section.

In the first place it was going to allow factual appeals if the government or the commission thought it was right. Then it switched and decided to deny any access to the courts on matters of fact, only on matters of law, but would let companies go over the head of the commission to the cabinet. The final decision was to allow the government to say whether a factual appeal can be taken to the courts. Companies can go to the appeal court at any time on matters of law and jurisdiction.

time on matters of law and jurisdiction.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, made a final protest on the point, saying he would have preferred an appeal on all points as a matter of right, Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, made a gesture to kill the government's control over the commission, but mustered only the eight Conservative votes.

Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, made his last stand on insistence that the commission should be responsible to some particular minister, but Premier Pattullo undertook to answer all questions about the utility commission when they arise in the House in future.

Ban On Orientals Sought

Legislature Debates Penetration of Japanese and Chinese in B.C.

The B.C. Legislature may go on record as opposed to immigration of more Japanese and Chinese into Canada developed in the House this morning in a long de-bate on two resolutions dealing with the problem.

with the problem.
Finally, from the government side, came the proposal the House declare itself in favor of Oriental exclusion, and R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, adjourned debate on the issue to continue it this afternoon.
The debate started when R. W. Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon

The debate started when R. W. Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm, moved to censure the federal government for failing to reduce the number of Japanese fishing licenses. After explaining the number of licenses had been considerably reduced since 1921, Hon. George S. Pearson, Commissioner of Fisheries, prepared his motion, to approve

Commissioner of Fisheries, amended his motion to approve Ottawa's policy.

But the subject came up again when D. W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewdney, onened up debate on a resolution of Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative, the Macintosh, Conservative, the Islands, urging abrogation of the gentlemen's agreement with Japan which allows 150 immigrants a year into Canada.

Mr. Strachan, after discussing Mr. Strachan, after discussing Oriental penetration from several angles, moved to amend the motion and put the House on record as definitely opposed to Oriental immigration. Other members spoke on the issue before Mr. Maitland adjourned.

Premier Pathulo said the

Premier Pattullo said the Japanese were here, they had to live, they couldn't be driven here and there, they couldn't be expatriated and they would have to be dealt with sensibly.

There should be amicable relations between provincial and they are lattered to be the sensibly and the sensibly are lattered to be the sensible to be the sensi

There should be amicable relations between provincial and Dominion governments in this regard, he said, and to send to Ottawa a resolution urging cessation of all Japanese immigration, would be a vote of censure on the federal government. He said condemnatory resolutions should not be sent to Ottawa,

Pension Fund Is Now Sound

Opposition Members Ask Something Be Done **About Reduced Incomes**

For more than an hour vesterday the Legislature in committee debated the new Municipal Super annuation Act which, in many cases, will drastically reduce the

cases, will drastically reduce the pensions' now being received by retired municipal employees,
Harold E. Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, said the Legislature had a moral responsibility in the matter. He thought the government should be prepared to face also a financial responsibility to make the lot of the employees whose pensions would be cut a little more bearable.

"We've been delaying and delaying and delaying and delaying and delaying and we can't delay any longer, or there will be a complete collapse of this fund," Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, said, adding an actuary had explored the situation from every angle. He said the door had not been absolutely closed and municipal councils could, if they saw fit, increase the pensions at their own cost.

ACTUARIAL BASIS

"We found it necessary to get this fund on a sound actuarial basis," the minister said. "We have delayed three years too long and now we're going to salvage what is left. We have transformed an act that was unsound to one that is actuarially sound. Some pensions will be drastically cut and some small ones will be increased."

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, wanted to know how much the new law would cost the province. Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, replied the province was prepared to advance what was short in the reserve fund, without interest, at a cost next year of \$18,000. The principal would be returned in time. Mr. Anscomb said it was very obvious a lot of people now re-tired would not have retired had they known their pensions would be reduced. He said the govern-ment should assume some of the responsibility, particularly to the widows.

"Many of these people will not be in a position to save them-selves from the wreck," Dr. J. Lyle Telford, C.C.F., Vancouver East, said. "We gave them a pledge and now we're going to absolutely strangle them."

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F.,
North Vancouver, wondered what
ale of woe would be heard in
he House next year about the
eachers' superannuation fund,
she said people not responsible
were going to suffer the consequences. She objected to municiold councils being able to supplement the pensions. Pensioners

cils, she said, and it was ridiculous to think of them going year after year to ask for more money. Dr. Weir said there was a moral and legal responsibility on the muni-cipalities to see what had been done was rectified.

J. H. Forester, Liberal, Vancouver-Burrard, said he hoped Vancouver would make some increase in the mill rate to see that its municipal employees had reasonable all accessions. able allowances.

Mr. Hart said he was convinced no municipality in the province would not make an effort to inase allowances of retired em

As a taxpayer of Victoria I would support every effort of the council to supplement the pen-sions that will be cut," he said.

Little Fight on Redistribution

Redistribution of electoral ridings in British Columbia, which will eliminate the Islands, cut Victoria's seats in the House from four to three and give seats to Oak Bay and Alberni, passed that we have been seated as the seates of the seat third reading in the Legislature last night with a minimum of de-bate, following a two-hour argu-ment on second reading in the

morning.
The amendment of Capt. Mac-Gregor Macintosh, Conservative,

Gregor Macintosh, Conservative, the Islands, to refer certain sections to the special redistribution committee, in an effort to save the Islands, was defeated.

"It is the feeling of the people of the Islands that an injustice has been done," said Capt. Macintosh. "Let Alberni be represented, by all means, but not at the expense of the Islands. None of the people of my riding want

the expense of the Islands. None of the people of my riding want to go with Nanaimo."

"There go the Islands," chanted R. L. Maitland, Leader of the Opposition, as the bill passed.

No mention was made in the House of the original intention to transfer part of Vancouver East to Vancouver Point Grey, which C.C.F. and Conservative members of both constituencies vigorously opposed. The special committee voted against the proposed changes, several Liberals joining members of both oppositions.

tions.

Redistribution will give 10 seats in the Legislature to Vancouver Island, three in Victoria and one each in Nanalmo, Alberni, Saanich, Esquimait, Oak Bay, Cowichan-Newcastle and Comox. At present four Liberals, three Conservatives and two C.C.F. members represent Vancouver Island in the House.

Across The Bay

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

TO THE ACES

THE SECOND SESSION of the 19th Legislature of British Columbia belongs now to the ages. They are welcome to it.

Last night the session died, according to old custom, in disorder and merriment and was buried under a blizzard of old papers eaved into the air by the howling legislators. They are going home for the Christ holidays, like boys released from school and they have earned their rest.

The second session of the 19th Legisla. ture has gone down into history, where it will be little noted nor long remembered, but it had its points. In the development of our legislative structure in British Columbia, and in the development of figures who will remake that structure in the days ahead it was, comparatively speaking, an important session. Also, it was a peculiarly earnest and intelligent session, which fact taxpayer is expected to believe

This session was a test for three men. It was a test, first, for the new leader of the Conservative Party, Mr. Maitland, and it is the view of this reporter that he met it vell

He has some way to go yet, perhaps three years of testing before the public decides in 1941 whether he is big enough to be Premier of this province. But his start was well planned-quiet, even repressed and deadly serious. By the end of the session the old laughing, carefree, after-dinner Mr. Maitland was pronounced extinct, deliberately killed by the new, sober-sided, grim Mr. Maitland, who already feels the mantle of office and the hand of history eavy on his shoulder.

We rather miss the old Mr. Maitland. We rather miss also the rough riding, two-gun opposition leadership that e have had from such men as Me Pattullo, Pooley and Bowser. Mr. Maitland thinks his method of repression, leaning ackwards to be dignified, is best suited to these grave times, when electorates are too worried to be interested in party politics.

The smart kind of party politics thus is to appear to have none

Mr. Maitland's handling of himself and is group left nothing to be desired in dignity, argument and fairness. What he has not yet proved is that his policy differs in any fundamental from the policy of this government. He can claim that he is a etter administrator, more competent, more honest. But up to now he cannot claim to have found a better basic program or offered any new solution. Perhaps there isn't room for one within the narrow confines of provincial government

NEW FIGURE

THE SECOND MAN put to the test was Attorney-General Wismer. You couldn't count his first session last year, when he was too new at the job to take hold com-pletely. This was his first working session and he carried the main load of the govern-ment, as an Attorney-General must.

He carried it far more ably than his best friends dared to hope. This remarkable man came into the government with the reputation of being one of the best fellows in British Columbia, but with no serious thought of administration, no desire—so it was believed—for hard work or the cares of office. He has turned out to be one of the most useful cabinet ministers we have had here in years. ad here in years.

This session he settle

legislature program, fought a major legal case on the side and put through a public utility act, the most important law passed in recent times.

Also to the surprise of his friends, he came a first-rate debater, all the more effective because he wastes no time, speaks briefly, and has no bitterness in him to make future trouble for the government. And through it all he has retained his extraordinary capacity of making friends, of grinning his way boyishly out of any difficulty, of compelling everyone in this House to like him by his friendliness and his bursting joy of life.

Mr. Pattullo has no more useful lieutenant. If he stays in politics, which he says he won't, and keeps his nose to the grindstone this way, he may go far.

NEW LEADER

THE THIRD MAN on trial was young Mr. Winch. Events of this session singled him out beyond question as the strongest figure in the socialist movement in British Columbia. By his own will he was not called House leader, but he led the C.C.F. group all the way and led it with remarkable succ

Under his direction the socialists have d a most definite effect on the busine and legislation of this country. Even from the standpoint of capitalism this has prob ably been a good effect on the whole, for checks and balances are the very essence of our democratic system, the delicate machinery which keeps it on the tracks.

Also under Mr. Winch the group has survived a storm which might well have washed it up. Battening down its hatches, keeping a stiff upper lip, the C.C.F. group has come through the storm so far, somewhat battered, but in no real danger.

But it has yet to deal with the key problem of Dr. Telford and with the unound system which puts members of the House under the remote control of a party

junta. It is Mr. Winch who has raised this latter issue and fight it to a finish inside In the end he may well

fight it to a minsh inside the party. In the end he may well be the party leader.

These were the men tried and not found wanting in this session. The issues developed may, in the end, pfove more important in our politics. The main issue, of course, is the control of public utilities, on which the next provincial election campaign may well be fought. vell be fought.

well be fought.

This public utility act is only the beginning of it. Oceans of controversy, of investigation, regulation lie ahead before the consumer feels the effect of what was done here this week. But because the consumer must feel it directly in the end, this is the stuff of which politics are made, on which governments win or lose.

AH, THE PUBLIC

FINALLY, their performance here in the last seven weeks must have affected the standing must have affected the standing of the government, the Conservatives and Socialists in that inarticulate but sensitive organ, the public mind. What the public thought of it all, how it regarded the little incidents that seemed so important to us, whether it saw or remembered anything very definitely, we at the centre of events cannot know. Less than anyone, can we know the public mind, but the members of this Legislature will find out when they go home for Christmas. At the moment, perhaps, the old wish of A Merry Christmas has a rather hollow sound in their ears.

This much can be said—the public was earnestly served by all three parties in this House which are at least equal in intelligence and virtue to the average of the people outside. How well it was served time will show. But after saying fearful things about our politicians of all sides for years and year, and after seeing some other system work in Europe, this chronicler ventures the humble opinion at the session's end, that democracy, even in its smaller aspects here in British Columbia is the only system that would suit our breed, and that, with all its delay, clamor and exasperation, we'd better hang on to it. hang on to it.

Urge Reduction in **Pension Age Limit**

The resolution of E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, asking that special consideration be given to mental and physical handicaps of emoren, was amended in the Legislature yesterday by the Pro-vincial Secretary to say "that this House endorses the efforts of the government in this House endorses the efforts of the government in this regard and approves of the extension of service from time to time as funds become available for the purpose." The amendment carried.

A government amendment, in-troduced by Minister of Labor Pearson, urging the Dominion Government do something to re-duce the age limit of persons Government do something to reduce the age limit of persons eligible for old-age pensions carried in place of the resolution of R. W. Bruhn, Conservative, Salamon Arm, asking for a similar plea to Ottawa.

The resolution of L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliural, that the

The resolution of L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, that the House consider excessive freight rates on feed grains was defeated, the C.C.F. joining the Liberals in division.

A resolution by Dr. J. D. Hun-ter, Conservative, Victoria, urging continued attention to the prob-lem of tuberculosis among Indians was adopted after Dr. Hun-ter explained that last year the T.B. death rate among the whole population was 50.6 per 100,000, while among Indians it was 944.

Make Plans for City Forum Loan

If Victoria's Forum plan goes through, revenue from the project can be taken to repay the \$150,00 loan needed for the building.

This was the effect of a brief amendment to the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act brought in by Attorney-General Wisner in the dying moments of the s ssion.

Wismer explained this, and er technical amendment, een asked for by the Domin-overnment, which advances

Utility Bill Outstanding

House Members Spent Many Hours On Wide Piece of Legislation

With a broad program of leg-lation passed, headed by the With a broad program of leg-islation passed, headed by the government's powerful new pub-lic utilities control bill, British Columbia's nineteenth Legisla-ture ended its second session last

By far the outstanding law of he session was the utility bill.

the session was the utility bill.

Built up, torn down and rebuilt through many long hours of committee work, the finished product is in 132 sections containing some 12,000 words. Over a wide field it gives the government and a new three-man utility commission the authority to decide how much people shall pay for electric light, transportation, water, telephones and telegraph up to a point, and the kind of service they should have.

Out of this measure, and

Out of this measure, and changes in the Coal and Petroleum Act designed to bolster its validity, arose the two most significant issues of the session; first, the government's attitude toward business; second, the government's relation with the courts.

FEARS DISPELLED

Throughout the session business and industrial leaders have kept a watchful eye on proceedings, fearful the administration intended to take sweeping control over business. Finally the Premier went out of his way to dispal their fears and assure dispel their fears and assure them it meant no harm, wanted co-operation, and simply seeks to deal with a problem that has long needed attention.

needed attention.

The power of the courts to upset legislation and block the government's plans was forcibly brought home by the gasoline injunction which brought about Attorney-General Wismer's fuel act amendments that, he told the House, should win his case in the Supreme Court. With this experience in mind the government took the most elaborate steps to protect itself in the utilities law from being stopped by the courts. It wrote in a complicated formula setting out just how and when the act can be taken before the judiciary. Both the Premier and Attorney-General plainly implied they thought the courts too ready to block the intentions of the House.

re House,
For labor the government put hydrough two measures of considerable prominence.
Outstanding was the new definition of the bargaining rights of existing trade unions. Existing the existing trade unions with a second trade unions. In the existing trade unions the existing trade unions that the existing trade unions trade unions that the existing trade unions

ANCIAL POLIC

policy was not greatly changed during the session. Of major im-portance for the future, however, was a Revenue Act amendment which completes Finance Minwas a Revenue Act amendment which completes Finance Minister John Hart's authority to deal with the problem of refinancing some \$57,000,000 worth of maturities during the next four years. He was left pretty well with a free hand to meet this situation as it comes along. The finance minister's budget pegged current expenditure at the \$29,000,000 level.

current expenditure at the \$29,-000,000 level.

Mr. Hart's new plan to get at undistributed profits in family corporations went through, de-spite some opposition from busi-ness men, but on his assurance it is aimed only at a few holding

it is aimed only at a few holding companies.

Politically speaking, the redistribution bill provided some of the liveliest moments of the session, bringing the usual charges of gerrymander. In brief, it leaves the House the same size with 48 members, but restores the old Alberni riding, throws the Islands into Nanaimo, and takes Oak Bay from Victoria into a separate seat. into a separate seat.

into a separate seat.

The government took two steps in its campaign to suppressin its campaign to suppression teampaign to suppression teampaign to suppression to suppression the suppression in the suppression of the suppression in the suppression of the suppression of the suppression in the suppression of the supp

ity to make people take treatment for venereal diseases.

In the way of financial relief for farmers and real estate owners, problems still lingering from the depression, several measures were passed. Chiefly there was the power to write off hundreds of thousands of dollars on debts owed the Land Settlement Board, Dyking interest charges were massed up again. est charges were passed up again and the moratorium on mortgages was renewed for another year.

MUNICIPALITIES

MUNICIPALITIES

As usual there was a good deal of legislation dealing with municipalities. The municipal pension scheme was revamped to put the fund on a sound basis, but it left municipal employees with smaller pensions. Guarantees of cheap federal loans to cities for self-liquidating works were authorized, adoption of the two-platoon system for fire departments in all municipalities was approved, and a variety of amendments put into the general Municipal Actuand special Vancouver laws.

For the University of British Columbia the government took power to borrow \$350,000 to provide new buildings and amended silghtly the method of choosing the chancellor and senate.

Automobile drivers and their finsurance companies are relieved of liability for injuries to their passengers in accidents under another group of acts. Another gives legality to the establishment of credit unions.

The mines department was given additional powers to en-

properties, and the forest branch got wider authority to pursue its forest protection plans, including an increase in the tax on timbermen from 4 to 6 cents per acre. An important change in the Land Act empowers the government to waive its one-quarter interest in new townships.

House Favors Sweepstakes

Tom Uphill's Motion Carries; Would Give Aid to Hospitals

The British Columbia Legislature yesterday afternoon went on record as supporting sweep-stakes for the benefit of Canadian hospitals.

The House passed the resolu-tion of Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, asking that the Legis-lature "go on record as being in favor of sweepstakes, conducted by either the Dominion or any of the provincial governments, 25 per cent of the gross proceeds of which shall be allocated to a fund to be set up for the purpose of building new hospitals, purchase of equipment for, and the general solvency of, established hospitals."

Many times previously members of the House introduced resolutions asking for sweep-stakes, but always they had been defeated. Yesterday there, was little discussion on the subject and members voted orally in favor of the idea.

"In this country our children see their parents break the laws with impunity," said Mr. Uphill, in introducing his motion. "Because of this our children are losing respect for our laws. It is time we cut out the hypocrisy existing in Canada today.

"We are sending out thousands of dollars each year, and the hos-

"We are sending out thousands of dollars each year, and the hospitals of Dublin, Australia and the Philippine Islands are reaping the benefits. There are some of the best-equipped hospitals in the world. I can show where the Minister of Finance can bring in money by the millions. Any intelligent person can see the wisdom of this."

E. C. Henniger, Liberal, Grand Forks-Greenwood, in seconding

E. C. Henniger, Liberal, Grand Forks-Greenwood, in seconding the motion, said legalized sweep-stakes would place the hospitals of Canada on a high standard in

a few years. There wa There was some confusion when Mr. Speaker called for the question. He called it a second time and called the motion carried. The House then passed on hurriedly to other business.

Not to Control Telephone Firm

Conservatives and Liberals Vote Down

Harold E. Winch, C.C.F., Van-couver East, brought in a resolu-tion that the company should be brought under British Columbia jurisdiction.

On a division, which killed the resolution, H. G. T. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, and Dr. J. J. Gills, Liberal, Yale, joined the C.CF. members in voting in favor. Conservatives joined the Liberals to defeat the motion.

Mr. Winch, in introducing his resolution, said year by year the revenues of the B.C. Telephone Company had increased, that was almost a 100 per cent British Columbia company, controlled every telephone system in the province and everything it did. every telephone system in the province and everything it did had close connection with the province. Yet it was under control outside the province.

DOMINION CHARTER

"It is vitally essential for the people of this province that control of this company should be under the government of this province," he said. "Some smart lawyer looked far enough ahead to advise this company to get under Dominion charter. We find at the present time this company is absolutely out of control of this province. It should come under the Public Utilities Act."

Premier Pattullo said his government had enough to do at the present time. He said he was in sympathy with the resolution, but added, "our hands are well filled as it is without starting a scrap with the telephone company."

Herbert Anscomb, Conserva-

scrap with the telephone company."
Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, said he hoped Mr. Winch would soon realize that under the eapitalistic system "you have to make a profit." He said Mr. Winch was dealing with the Communistic view that the state should own everything.
R. L. Maitland, Leader of the Opposition, advised Mr. Winch to bring his complaints regarding telephone rates before the Railway Commission.
Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox,

way Commission.
Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, said it was difficult to understand how the B.C. Telephone Company, which was incorporated in 1893 at \$50,000, should be incorporated in 1926 at \$20,000,000.
"I don't think we need any further proof than this that this company should be brought under control," he said.

The Session

WO OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND far-reaching measures passed to the statute books of the province at the session of the Legislature which ended yesterday re the Public Utilities bill and the legisla on providing for pre-marital medical xamination. Both are of a progressive and ractical nature and both concern the gen-ral wellbeing of the public, one in the sentially material sense, and the other in he physical and mental sense.

In its comprehensive effect the Public Utilities measure has been designed to con-rol the disposition of saleable commodities, with their attendant services, which originate n the main in the province's natural reources. It is to remove or adjust certain onomic anomalies which have been allowed o grow up through lack of an equitable regard, under the present methods of dis-tribution, for the consumer. This does not ean that direction by the commission which the act authorizes will be of an inflexible or rigidly arbitrary nature. On the con-trary; it is intended to assure for producer consumer alike a fair return and fair ie. Its machinery rests on and is operated by a democratic principle. Its administration undoubtedly will reveal flaws, inequalities, and new anomalies. When Prime Minister Pattullo introduced the measure for consideration it was not labeled perfect. But any parts of the new legal structure which require adjustment and alteration can be attended to as circumstances may require. Like all progressive legislation, of course, its usefulness will be sured by the manner in which its spirit and intent shall be interpreted and applied. No real reforms, no matter in what sphere of human endeavor, can be effected without temporary inconvenience or apparent hard-ship. The measure in question deserves liberal co-operation by all concerned.

J. Gillis, C.C.F.

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need any that this ght under

Medical examination before marriage has long been advocated by Hon. George Weir, under whose jurisdiction comes the Provincial Department of Health, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that legislation is now available to give effect to its practical purpose. It is high time that society at large discarded the mock-modesty which belonged to the Victorian era and faced facts without mental or physical flinching. Time was, and not so very long ago, when tuberculosis used to be spoken of in whispers, when visible elementary precautionary measures taken in public caused eyes to be rolled and gasps of horror to escape from timid and ignorant souls. Then it dawned upon people that a victim of this dreaded malady-and it -could not fool is still an insidious disease himself into the belief he had not contracted it. He began to fight it in the open. tories are being recorded all along the line.
What applies to tuberculosis, moreover, applies to venereal disease. It, too, must be fought in the open—to preserve many of the present generation and to protect generations as yet unborn. This measure likewise deserves liberal co-operation by all concerned.

Some of the time of the session may have

been wasted. There is no need to complain about it. We can thank our lucky stars that about it. We can thank our lucky stars that we can say very much what we like without any danger of being a target for the bullets of those who would shape our lives according to a standard pattern. The Leader of the Opposition can upbraid the head of the government and embellish his complaints with all the verbal pyrotechnics he can command—and the head of the government is restricted to return the complainer. But mand—and the head of the government. But permitted to return the compliment. But they both remain good British Columbians and good friends.

nd good friends.

It is here permitted to say that Mr. Maitand, through his first session as Leader of
the Opposition, has acquitted himself adtirably. He combines a sense of humor
with a serious regard for the responsibilities

attaching to his important office. And he probably would not deny it too strenuouslif the government considers it has conclude ond session of the present Parliament with increased strength and prestige.

Opposition to Health Scheme

Doctors Oppose Matsqui's Plan, But Plebiscite Will Be Taken

Matsqui Municipality will be given permission to hold a plebiscite shortly to test public opinion regarding a health insurance scheme, despite vigorous opposition of a delegation from the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons that met the Legisla-'s municipal committee yes

The matter has finally to be ratified by the House.

The scheme, as outlined by Reeve Cruickshank of Matsqui, calls for payment of \$10 per year per family for medical services.

The committee, in camera, approved Matsqui's request on the understanding the scheme, if endorsed, received the approval of the College.

the College.

In the medical delegation were Dr. Gordon Kenning, president of the College; Dr. Thomas Mc-Pherson, Dr. Wallace Wilson, chairman of the economic committee of the Canadian Medical Association, and Dr. Cameron McEwen, chairman of the economic committee of the B.C. College.

WORK INCREASED

Dr. Wilson said when a scheme as proposed went into force the work of a doctor increased at once, because everyone started visiting the doctors. Tonsilecto-mies alone, he said, would swamp a doctor under such a scheme In a district like Matsqui, also was the very vital factor of mileage.

Reeve Cruickshank of Matsqui said two of the most capable doctors in British Columbia said they would enter into a health insurance scheme with Matsqui. Dr. Wilson said if outside doc-

tors were brought in the present doctor at Matsqui would be doctor at forced out.

forced out.

"We consider this to be a precedent," Dr. Wilson said. "It would lead to such a diversified numbers of forms of insurance it would be impossible to know where we stand. We are in favor of any scheme of insurance that will benefit the people of that district, but it must be a reason-able scheme. Haste must be able scheme. Haste avoided."

avoided."

He said the medical profession of British Columbia was not entirely out for dollars and cents.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, said there was necessarily an experimentation stage and she thought the reeve should be allowed to proceed with formation of his scheme. She said nothing could be actuarily sound when done for the first time.

"Why worry about the

"Why worry about the octors?" asked E. C. Henniger

Grand Forks-Greenwood, "There are lots of men just as good as the doctors working for \$10 a

month."

Reeve Cruickshank said he couldn't place a concrete form before the committee at the present time because he wan't sure of all details. He said such bodies as

details. He said such bodies as the Health Insurance commission had found it impossible to work out all details.

Dr. Kenning said that shortly a committee of doctors would discuss provincial health insurance with the officials of the commission, at the request of the Provincial Scoretary.

sion, at the request of the Pro-vincial Secretary.

W. T. Straith, Liberal, Victoria, said no municipality would agree to any health scheme "if it meant chasing the family doctor away."

Dr. Wilson said the profession was willing to co-operate to work out some satisfactory health insurance scheme.

STILL ILLEGAL

Harold Winch, C.C.F. whip, made a last minute attempt in the Legislature yesterday to widen the government's new collective bargaining formula for labor, but his two amendments met defeat.

"I am definitely against the strike," said Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, "although I know there have been times when it was necessary. But our legislation is designed to avoid it if possible."

He rejected Mr. Winch's plan to allow quickle strikes. The C.C.F. member's other proposal was to apply bargaining rights to all unions and not just to those now in existence which he called discrimination.

crimination.

DEG

Telford's Bridge Charges Crumble; Withdraws Them

House Probe Collapses When C. D. Hobbs Refuses to Acknowledge Letter

WITNESSES CLAIM PRICES FAIR

(By Dally Province Staff Correspondent.) VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Charges made by Dr. Lyle Telford (C.C.F., Vancouver East), of over-fayment of \$300,000 on the steel used in the construction of the Pattullo bridge, completely collapsed Wednesday, after a day-long investigation by the public accounts committee.

Points established before the doctor withdrew his charges

1. The cost price of \$201 per ton for steel in place was

fair. Canadian and British materials were given preference by the Legislature in authorizing the bridge. Contracts for work on the bridge had been regularly

awarded.
The Fraser River Bridge Company had unwillingly relinquished their charter right to the government.

Following the supper reces Dr. Telford, whose charge had been shredded by the afternoon been shredded by the afternoon sitting of the committee, said that in view of the failure of C. D. Hobbs of Vancouver to acknowledge a copy of a letter on which the allegation had been based, he was forced to withdraw his charge of \$60 a ton overpayment on steel.

He attacked the absent witness, saying that he was "irresponsible."

WITHDRAWAL ASKED.

MITHDRAWAL ASKED.

Members of the committee took exception to this attack, and Harold Winch, C.C.F., whip, vainly endeavored to obtain a retraction of the word from his colleague. Dr. Telford persis "As far as I am concerned, have to admit that the letter from Hobbs upon which I based my charge was written by an irresponsible man," he reiterated.

"I think that it is regrettable that Dr. Telford should make charges and bring all these witnesses here without checking up on the responsibility of statements," said Louis Lebourdais, member for Cariboo.

Witness after witness, including J. C. Boyes, an engineer called by Dr. Telford, stated that the price of \$201 a ton for Canadian steel in place on the bridge was a fair price.

Dr. Telford, after one of the

Dr. Telford, after one of the nost extraordinary sessions ever eld by the public accounts comheld by the public accounts com-mittee, changed the gravaman of his complaint to a declaration hat, had the steel for the bridge een purchased on the interna-ional market—particularly in Zecho-Slovakia—instead of in Zanada—a saving of \$35 per ton sould have been made. At the ame time he admitted that the Legislature, by the Fraser River ridge Act of 1935, had restricted the use of steel to that purchased This shifting of position on the part of Dr. Telford was received with an uproar. Half a dozen members of the committee sought to speak at the same time, while Chairman E. T. Kenney pounded the table with his gavel in an effort to restore order. At last some semblance of order was secured and Secretary Tom King was asked to read the reference to the committee from the Legislature.

to the common to the common to the charge was to the effect that there had been "on overpayment of \$300,000" on the steel used in the construction of the

used in the construction of the bridge.
When he concluded reading the minute, Mr. Kenney threw the record book down on the table and shouted, pointing at Dr.

record book down on the table and shouted, pointing at Dr. Telford:

"He's out on a limb, and now he's trying to get out on another tack by saying that the steel should not have been bought in our own country."

Dr. Telford shouted back, in an attempt to meet the mixed-meta-phorical charge of the member from Columbia. Pandemonium followed, but above the tumult of a dozen members all trying to talk at once, the voice of Mr. Kenney could be heard crying "Shame, shame!" as he stood at the head of the table, waving his arms wildly.

Hon. Frank M. MacPherson, minister of public works, was the first witness called to the stand by Dr. Telford when the committee reconvened Wednesday afternoon.

In answer to questions, the minister said that, by authority of the act of the Legislature, the Fraser River Bridge Company had been appointed agents for the government in the construction of the span. Tenders for the lactual work of building the bridge had been called for by

to him as minister. He had opened them in public, and the lowest tender, that of the Do-minion Bridge Company, had been accepted. Asked about the relationship of

Major W. G. Swan, consulting engineer, the minister said that he had been retained by the dene nau been retained by the de-partment, also in conformity with the wish of the Legislature, as consultant on the work. Dr. Telford brought out the

Dr. Telford brought out the point that, above the unit nrice upon which steel and other materials were computed, the government paid cost-plus commissions of 7½ per cent, and 5 per cent, to the Fraser Bridge Company and Major Swan.

The minister replied that such upon the arrangement massed by

was the arrangement passed by the Legislature as embodied in the agreement attached to the act of 1935. Cost plus was was con-fined to a sum of \$3,000,000.

fined to a sum of \$3,000,000.

When consideration of this was objected to by several committee members, R. L. Maitland, K.C., interposed that it did have a bearing, inasmuch as, if the bridge had cost less than \$3,000,000, it might be argued that the commission payments added to the costs of all portions of the structure. I take it that such is the theory that Dr. Falford is advancing.

I take it that such is the theory that Dr. Telford is advancing.
Dr. Telford—I am charging that there was collusion between the government and the bridge company on the price of steel.
W. T. Straith—That is a separate charge. If you wish to pursue it, you should make it in the proper place, and if the Legislature wishes us to deal with it we will be instructed to do so.
Dr. Telford—I will make it.

\$225,000 FOR CHARTER.

Turning his attention to the relationship between the Fraser River Bridge Co, and the government, Dr. Telford made another charge. "I am claiming that \$225,000 was paid for the charter of the Fraser River Bridge Co. to which it was not entitled. To me this is collusion."

Uproar followed, during which one Liberal member succeeded in raising his voice above that of his fellows to shout, "The government went to the country and was sustained since that agreement was entered into."

E. M. Boyd of the Northern

ment was entered into."

E. M. Boyd of the Northern Construction Company was called to be questioned on a subcontract on the bridge. Through him Dr. Telford sought to show that there was something peculiar about the manner of inviting tenders. The witness frankly explained that the manner in which his company had bid on the work. It was no different from any other contract. He presumed that any person qualified to do so could have had the same opportunity as his firm.

PRESENTS RECORD.

PRESENTS RECORD.

James A. Collins, president of the Fraser River Bridge Company, which acted for the government in the building of the span, was equally ready to answer any questions. He detailed, at length, to the expressed surprise of Dr. Telford, his experience as a bridge designer and contractor, concluding a long summary of his experience with the observation, "I think that such a record will compare favorably with that of any man in the West."

He explained that he had long had in mind the construction of a bridge over the Fraser River. At first he planned to try and get approval for the erection of a bridge over the Fraser to Lad.

he would go farther up the river.

In 1930 he had all arrangements completed to build across the stream at Port Mann. Approval was obtained for the bridge under the Navigable Waters Act, and financing was all arranged, when the depression stopped the work.

Later he had secured a charter from the Legislature for the construction of the bridge at New Westminster. This was in 1934.

The next year, much to his disappointment, Premier Pattullo had told him that he could not go ahead with the toll-bridge there, as he would make too much money out of the venture, and for that reason the government would do it.

\$2,000,000 PROJECT.

2,000,000 PROJECT.

Mr. Collins was emphatic in his declaration that he would much prefer to have continued on with his plans of building the bridge as a private venture. He estimated that over a twenty-year period he would have made a profit of \$2,000,000

"It was a sad day for me when the Premier said that the govern-ment was going to take over the work," he added.

work," he added.

In recompense for taking over his charter right, the government appointed the Fraser River Bridge Company to act as its agent, limiting payment to \$225,000. Included in this sum was payment for plans, data and expenses already

incurred.

Dr. Telford referred to Fraser River Bridge Company's paidup capitalization of \$305 at the time that the charter was given. Mr. Collins replied that the "\$305 company spent many thousands of dollars" in prepara

tory work. C. D. Hobbs, of Vancouver, wa called. It was on a purported copy of a letter written by him to H. D. Lloyd, a steel manufacturer of Warrington, England, that Dr. Telford had based his

Dr. Telford showed witness a copy of the letter, and asked him if it was written by him.

WOULD NOT ACCEPT IT.

The witness took time to read it carefully, and then said that he would not accept it. He ex-plained that the initials of the he would not accept it. He explained that the initials of the stenographer on the copy shown to him were not those of any stenographer in his employ. He would not, therefore, accept the letter shown to him as being authentic.

He pointed out that the copy did not bear his signature, nor did it evidence that any employe of his had typewritten it for him. The letter he was supposed to have written was four years ago, and he could not remember whether he had written it or not. Particularly would he be loathed to accept the latter as it contained figures. If there had been a mistake about the initials of the stenographer, there might well be other mistakes.

Dr. Telford—Well, you have your files?

Mr. Hobbs—That is the trouble. I have not. They are missing, and I would like to know where they have gone.

Dr. Telford later tried to get

Dr. Telford later tried to g the witness to identify copies cables. These he also refused accept without definite proof the they were such as he might ha

MIGHT HAV Mr. Hobbs might have but in the abso he would not

statements con which Dr. Tel To Mr. Mait plained furthe I may have like it."

The witness that he was in have a British resented, and was an officia ing of the bric steel man, bu trade, and did about steel in expert might seeking to int in England in being interest Collins' proje

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Dr. Telford you didn't wr Mr. Hobbsthat there is take, as to the tials, and the Therefore, I

Dr. Telford Collins and identify a nur were suppos from him to MAY READ,

Mr. Collins and then said ollection of rather acidly: inocuous. father, Dr. 1 to accept ther "Dr. Telfor and file them

and file them added.

J. C. Boyes was next cal He had once a bridge to Lacost \$2,100,000

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MIGHT HAVE WRITTEN.

Mr. Hobbs admitted that he might have written the letter, but in the absence of the original he would not admit the different

he would not admit the different statements contained in the copy which Dr. Telford produced. To Mr. Maitland the witness ex-plained further: "I have written many letters to Mr. Lloyd, but whether or not that is a true copy I am not prepared to admit. I may have written something like it."

The witness want on to available

like it."

The witness went on to explain that he was interested in trying to have a British firm which he represented, and of which Mr. Lloyd was an official, finance the building of the bridge. He was not a steel man, but in the wire-rope trade, and did not know anything about steel in the way that an expert might. He was purely seeking to interest his principals in England in the event of their being interested in financing Mr. being interested Collins' project. sted in financing Mr.

TO BELGIAN STEEL.

"I had nothing to do with the bridge, and made nothing out of it. I had sought to get an option for such time as my principals could, if they wished, make such for such time as my principals could, if they wished, make such arrangements as they desired. When I failed to do this, I dropped out of it and never thought anything more about it until I received a wire to come here," Mr. Hobbs explained.

When pressed as to what he might have meant if he had written such a letter, the witness said that any reference to steel at \$140 would have referred to Belgian steel.

Capt. C. R. Bull pointed out that by the legislation covering the building of the bridge in 1935, Canadian and British steel was specified.

was specified.

Mr. Straith—Do you acknowledge that you wrote this letter?

"No."

"No."
Dr. Telford—Do you say that you didn't write it?
Mr. Hobbs—No, I do not. I say that there is obviously one mistake, as to the stenographer's initials, and there may be others. Therefore, I will not accept it.
Dr. Telford then turned to Mr. Collins and asked if he would identify a number of memos that were supposed to have passed from him to Mr. Hobbs.

MAY READ, FILE THEM.

Mr. Collins looked them over, and then said that he had no recollection of them, but added, rather acidly: "They are entirely inocuous, and if they need a father, Dr. Telford, I'm willing to accept them."

"Dr. Telford may read them and file them, if he cares to," he added

and life them, if he cares to," he added.

J. C. Boyes, a bridge engineer, was next called by Dr. Telford. He had once prepared plans for a bridge to Ladner. It would have cost \$2,100,000 if it had been built. Asked about the price of steel, the witness replied that it was not fair to compare the "in place" steel on one structure with another, as local conditions of construction varied.

NOT TOO HIGH.

Asked about steel at \$140, the witness said that it would probably be unfabricated Belgian steel, which would have to be fabricated in Vancouver. It would be lower in price than British steel.

Questioned by Chairman Kenney, he stated that a price of \$210 for Canadian steel in place and painted, would not be too high.

Dr. Telford—If you were free to go out into the international market and buy steel, could you get it lower.

"I got a bid from the Skoda Works in Czecho-Slovakia \$35 a ton less than Canadian steel."

It was at this point that Dr. Telford sought to change the basis of his charge from that of "overpayment by \$300.000" of steel for the Pattullo bridge to a statement that the government. succi for the Fattullo bridge to a statement that the government, if it had not been in collusion with Canadian bridge concerns, could have purchased steel cheaper in the international market.
The Vancouver East member

next wanted to have Mr. Boyes examine the plans for the Pat-tullo bridge and state where and at what saving he could have bought steel outside of Canada for the structure. To this the witness demurred, telling his questioner he did not understand

questioner he did not understand what he was trying to discover.
Following the supper recess, the committee again met and Dr. Telford sought to excuse himself by putting the blame on Mr. Hobbs, whom he described as "an irresponsible man" who had written an "irresponsible letter."
To this, different members took exerction

To this, di

SENT BACK TO B. C.

Dr. Telford went into an ex-planation of how a man interested in building a bridge in British Columbia was in an office in London when a letter was received cancelling a bridge contract. It was as the result of this that he obtained the information, for the indignant steel people in London had sent the originals of Hobbs' correspondence back to British Columbia.

He could not do it this year in the House, as he had already made his two major speeches, he said.

MOVES TO CONTROL COMMODITY PRICES

Two New Amendments Are Explained.

Are Explained.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 1. — An amendment to the Commodities Retail Sales Act, introduced in the Legislature yesterday, will have the effect of removing from the jurisdiction of the act all vegetables and fruits, oil products and coal.

The reason is that, in the case of fruit and vegetables, they come under the price-fixing control of the Natural Products Marketing Act; and in the case of petroleum products and coal, under the Coal and Petroleum Products Act.

Wholesalers will have no voice in setting the retail prices of these commodities. That right is in the hands of the boards.

Amendments to the Food Products Minimum Loss Act make it impossible, by any series of transactions between wholesaler and retailer, to "fix" wholesale costs, and thus cut retail prices below a fair minimum.

Telford Silent As Legislators Denounce Him

Dally Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Pale and
tight-lipped, Dr. Lyle Telford,
C. C. F. member for Vancouver
East, sat quietly while the
House on Wednesday night
adopted a unanimous report
which found no foundation for
his charges of graft in connection with building of the Pattullo bridge.
Telford's tactics were con-

Telford's tactics were con-demned by Premier T. D. Pat-tullo, Attorney-General Gordon Wismer, Frank Putnam, Nel-son-Creston, and Capt. C. R. Bull, South Okanagan.

It was a dramatic interlude It was a drarratic interlude in a dull evening of minor business. Outside the Chamber the investigating committee finished its work after the House began its evening sitting.

Later, E. T. Kenney, Skeena, nairman of the committee, rose to present his report.

It found that "no evidence of at found that "no evidence of over-payment having been produced, Dr. Telford requested permission to withdraw his charges, and, on resolution, this was unanimously agreed by the committee."

The Preprint and that the

was unanimously agreed by the committee."

The Premier said that the member for Vancouver East had made charges which might well have rocked the House to its very foundations. He had made charges which might have ruined reputations.

If members of the House made irresponsible charges, the government gave notice that it would not take notice unless such charges were sustained in writing, on the responsibility of the accuser as a member of the House.

House.

Dr. Telford agreed that such charges should be in writing, that they should be responsible. He realized the seriousness of the charge he had made. He felt that he was making it on the word of a responsible business man. He would do the same thing again. same thing again.

ADMITS ERROR

He admitted that he had erred

He admitted that he had erred in this case.

He referred once more to his charge that there had been forgery in connection with a trapping license.

This brought Hon. Gordon Wismer to his feet. He said that the honorable member had charged the government with paying \$300,000 out of public funds and had not produced one tittle of evidence to support his charge.

Now, in order to coper himself, he made the charge that a decent business man of Vancouver was an "irresponsible per-

what can happen to the character of any man in this country if these sort of charges are made and listened to?" asked Mr. Wismer.

The member made such a charge, it was proved unwarranted, and then he offered a feeble explanation.

As to the charge of forgery in connection with a trapping license. The matter had been investigated by two preceding

attorneys-general and two game commissioners and was found without foundation. The papers were in his office for inspec-

Frank Putnam added a word of protest to the injustice done to a witness, Hobbs, by Dr. Tel-ford. He said that the letter ford. He said that the letter said to have been written by Hobbs was one which might have been written by any busi-ness man in confidential com-munication with his associates. He resented such unfair treat-

Capt. Bull fully endorsed the protest of Mr. Putnam.

C.C.F. HOLDS CAUCUS ON TELFORD CHARGES

No Decision Announced After Conference.

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—C.C.F. members met in caucus at 2 p.m. today and discussed the collapse and withdrawal of Dr. Lyle Tel-

and withdrawal of Dr. Lyle Telford's charges in connection with the building of the Fraser River Bridge at New Westminster.
Dr. Telford left the meeting about ten minutes before other members of the C.C.F. house group emerged. In the meanime, it was understood that no decision had been reached regarding a statement of the C.C.F. position in the House. It was indicated, however, that the "subject is not yet closed," and will be canvassed at a future caucus.

caucus.

Herbert Gargrave, secretary of the C.C.F., declares disciplinary action against members of the party, whether members of the Legislature or not, can only be taken by the provincial executive. He said the executive had not been consulted before Dr. Telford made his charges.

Mr. Gargrave added that the provincial executive would not entertain any proposal of taking disciplinary action against Dr. Telford just because he had not proved his charges.

Election Act Change

Hoisted for Session

Daily Province Staff Corresponden

VICTORIA, Dec. 1—With th Daily Province Staff Corresponder
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—With the exception of two minor change in the boundaries between Skers and Ominece, and between Rosland-Trail and Nelson-Cresto the redistribution committed agreed to report to the Legislaure the decisions it had prevently reached respecting ne electoral boundaries.

These include the elimination of The Islands riddings and the setting up of new constituencing of The Islands riddings and the setting up of new constituencing and vancouver East of Stituencies.

The committee also unarmously decided to recomment that amendments to the Electivact be laid over until next assion to permit of further study the plan.

LEGISLATORS IN PROBE

Politicians Do Green Table Ballet To Dr. Telford Theme

By TORCHY ANDERSON.

(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Perhaps you may remember that ballet of sardonic theme—the green table.

Then you saw diplomats dancing their endless dance to the tune of gathering trouble.

We had a green table of our own in these Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, the big table around which a committee of the House tried to find out if Dr. Lyle Telford had ground on which to charge an overpayment of \$300,000 for steel used in the Pattullo bridge.

The politicians did their dance around our green table, parrying and prancing, feinting and thrusting until one began to wonder if it were not a game, with the prize something to talk about at the next election—any kind of election, anywhere.

The dance ended with Dr. Telford doing a flop. Even the best friend of this astute politician could wish him nothing better than a soft landing. He ascended in a balloon filled with hot charges; he came down with a dull sickening thud, but still articulate.

He was articulate on two points.

He was articulate on two points.

"I'm not through, don't worry," quoth the probing politician.

Then, to explain his failure in this flight into the stratoin this flight into the strato-sphere of government con-tracts, he placed the blame on Mr. Hobbs. Mr. Hobbs was sup-posed to have written a letter to England, in the course of private business, in which he made some remarks about an agreed price among Canadian bridge-builders for steel.

Dr. Telford thinks Mr. Hobbs of Vancouver is an "irrespons-ible" fellow. Dr. Telford did not, produce originals of the Hobbs correspondence and Mr. Hobbs was doubtful if the copies, on which the whole charge was which the whole charge based, were true copies of what

w. T. STRAITH

Mr. Hobbs was not present in the committee-room when
Dr. Telford began his back-paddling. The last straw at which
Dr. Telford made a grab was that
the government might have purchased Czecho-Slovakian or Belgian
steel and saved money. The contract
specified Canadian or British steel.

W. T. STRAITH

You may read to your heart's content in other columns.

There you will find account of all the hints, aspersions, boasts, indignant protest and leering inference.

Let's take a look at the men who were sitting around our

The chairman, E. T. Kenney, whose home is Terrace and politics, as you may have guessed, Liberal, sits at the end of the table.

politics, as you may have guessed, Liberal, sits at the end of the table.

He has a sharp, dark face under an almost bald pate. He is acid-voiced and truculent. Ready at any instant to proclaim the limits of the investigation; he is in continuous clash with Dr. Telford.

At his elbow sits Tom King, an earnest Liberal from Golden. Mr. King is secretary of the committee and a pretty serious fellow when he holds forth the Bible to a witness and extracts the oath.

Mr. King wears an old-fashioned cow-lick of hair over his forehead, and writes furiously in his book when a witness declares his name, address and writness GIVES NAME. side of the green table sits R. L. Maitland, his curved pipe puffing away. Mr. Maitland is in somewhat of a neutral position. If there is anything crooked in the bridge deal he would like to know about it.

On the other hand, if the charges are so much political inflation he is equally anxious that this should be proved.

He is impatient at the continual halts and delays, the extended arguments as to procedure. Occasionally he interjects a judical suggestion as to the proper consideration of material submitted.

His Conservative colleague, Bruhn of Salmon Arm, puffs

Mr. Straith, who is important as a Liberal in good old Victoria, watches the interests of his side like a terrier at a rat hole. He is on his feet in an instant, and as the saying goes, lights objecting. On the sidelines sits HON. FRANK MACPHERSON HON SIDELINES.

Pherson takes little part. His evidence is chiefly on the point that payments made were not authorized by him, but by Legislature.

Another sideliner is Hon. Gordon Wismer, attorney general. Mr. Wismer is in his usual unworried, expansive mood. His only interjection is an occasional suggestion that a witness be allowed to answer a question in the face of a barrage of comment by Dr. Telford.

At the opposite end of the green table sits Dr. Telford. be-

ment by Dr. Telford.

At the opposite end of the green table sits Dr. Telford, beside him Harold Winch, both C. C. F. and both bouund to make the best of anything against the government.

Two extremes are these C. C. F. members, mentally and physically. The doctor, his bushy grey hair a defiant mop, his sleek, fat body filling all of the chair, fusses with his papers and is alternately suave, voluable, confident, bombastic.

Mr. Winch, a lean, dark man, is silently studious of contrasts and tenders. Occasionally he comes to the rescue with a suggestion. But he stuck by his colleague in the dark hour of withdrawal and tried to make the best of a forlorn hope.

Contrast the man sitting in the witness chair, Ismes A.

Contrast the man siting in the witness chair, James A. Collins. Mr. Collins is big, ruddy and smiling. He has built bridges all over the country and knows more about politics than a lot of people who have started later in the game.

Mr. Collins learned his A B C's in the rough game of early

Alberta politics when such giants as Arthur Sifton and Charlie

Cross were powers in the

LEARNED IN BOUGH GAME

LIFE TO SET THE SIFTON ARTHUR SIFTON AND THE SIFTON ARTHUR SIFTON ARTHU

Alberta politics when such a Cross were powers land. If anybody though GAME land, If anybody though they were going to go him excited in the witner with the collins told a cross were powers.

chair they reckoned without their witness. Mr. Collins told all, with a readiness that seemed to embarass Dr. Telford. He waited not for detailed questions. He poured out a wealth of information about his bridges, other bridges, bridges built and yet unbuilt. Dr. Telford said he wanted to know about Mr. Collins, and Mr. Collins said, "That's just fine," and proceeded to fill the air with Collins' doing from the time he walked across his first bridges.

When he got all through there wasn't must left for Dr. Tel-ford to ask. Mr. Collins was still beaming and Dr. Telford was still promising, in a lesser key, that he still had a trick in the bag.

You may go a long way in th umdrum of the Legislature to find a more dramatic momer than that which came in the House when the committee its report on the investigation.

its report on the investigation.
Dr. Telford, markedly pale, heard the reading of the report which dropped his bridge charges in the ash can.
There was a dignified chiding from the Premier, a more pointed spanking from Attorney-General Wismer.

PROMISES TO CONTINUE SEARCH FOR SCANDAL.

The doctor rose to promise a continuance of his search for

Two private members said what they thought about Da. Telford's treatment of an absent innocent

witness.
The House went on with its

business.

One thing is clear, whether or not the Pattullo bridge was built honestly to its very last rivet, the government has emerged with a new first-line of defense. They can, as the Premier proclaimed, pay no attention to verbal, unbacked charges.

Committee Vindicates Road Work Payments

Noad Work I ayments
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Public a
counts committee, after conside
ing the contract on Dutch Cree
section of the Radium-Kingsgat
Highway, decided in a session I
camera, to report to the Legisl
ture that there was no overpa
ment to the General Constructio

Islands M Vote Red

VICTORIA from The Is today. From Mayne and the delegation to Pattullo. The against eliminariding in the set-up.

It was a government its mind as t

Premier after

Old Resid At New

NEW WES

Mrs. David
Colby street,
tity for tw
Tuesday nigh



Islands Men Protest Vote Redistribution

Vote Redistribution
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—The road from The Islands led to Victoria today. From Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne and the lesser isles came a delegation to see Premier T. D. Pattullo. They came to protest against elimination of The Islands riding in the new redistribution set-up.

set-up.

It was a forlorn hope: The government has already made up its mind as to redistribution. The Islands must go. They met the Premier after lunch today.

Old Resident Dies At New Westminster

NEW WESTMINSTER, Dec.
Mrs. David Bremer, 71, of
olby street, a resident of
ty for twenty-six years, of
uesday night in St. Mary's F

Burnaby Won't Get Highway Repair Aid

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—No government grant will be given to Burnaby to assist that municipality in repairing highways from which tracks of the B.C. Electric Railway will be removed, in order to prepare the roads for

bus traffic.

Hon. A. Wells Gray, minister of lands, said that no such grant was in contemplation, when E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby), asked for information on the subject.

B. C. Fair Exhibit

May Cost \$75,000
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—The sur of \$50,000 voiced last year for Brish Columbia's exhibit at the St. Francisco Fair will be exceede Hon. W. J. Asselstine, minister trade and industry, admitted I answer to a question by R. I Maitland, K.C., when departmental estimates were under consideration.

The minister said that economic trade in the said trade

sideration.

The minister said that \$9600 had been spent for a space 60 by 40 feet, and this amount, with costs of preparing the exhibit for the province and maintaining it for ten months, would exceed the original estimate. He could not say by how much, but hoped to ell within \$75

The P.G.E. for Example

PREMIER Pattullo proposes to exempt the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, that poor-orphan-growing-old of our party politics for twenty years, from the control of the public utilities board which the Legislature is setting up. The attitude of the Premier here makes a perfect commentary upon the essential uselessness of the thing he intends to make, if it is left to him, of the regulation of public utilities in British Columbia.

Mr. Pattullo is ex-officio president of the P.G.E., and the government is running the P.G.E. (twice a week, by the way) already. So, argues Mr. Pattullo, why have a board, government appointed and government controlled, to regulate the P.G.E. when the government, under another name, is regulating it now?

It is a question which answers itself, perfect answer to a question that should not arise. For the poor unfortunate P.G.E., as everybody knows, has been cursed from its birth by party politics and party politicians.

The P.G.E. has never known any sort of control except the sort that it is getting now, beginning and likely to end in the wilderness, in politics as in physical situation, eating its head off in debt and destitute of hope as long as party politics has it in its keeping.

And if by the courtesy of formal description the poor old P.G.E. may still be described as a public utility at all, surely it is of all the public utilities of British Columbia the one that might have something to hope (having suffered the worst all its life) from the control of a nonpolitical board, freed as much as possible from the influence and interference of party politics and party politicians.

Premier Pattullo keeps on repeating his shibboleth of obscurantism in this business: that ultimately the responsibility of government under the British system must include the responsibility for every phase and attribute of government. It is trueand, in the essentials of this business, it just means nothing at all.

For the justification and the necessary reason for a non-political governing body of any sort, set up by legislative enactment, free of immediate government interference and answerable in the final resort to the same Legislature from which the government derives its own authority, is precisely that it is likely to function better on those terms. It is a question of governmental machinery, granted—but the non-political board is a better machine than the other.

If the present government insists upon having, and having no other, the sort of public utilities commission it is now setting up, then truly there is no sense in putting the P.G.E. under it. But the real answer is that there is no sense in the sort of commission that the government is now setting up.

Bill to Amend City Incorporation Act Gets Third Reading

FIXES POWERS OF LICENSING

Vancouver Can Now Enter Into Housing Act Agreements.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—While a special committee on public accounts were struggling Wednes day afternoon with the charges made by Dr. J. L. Telford that there had been \$300,000 overpayment for steel in the Pattullo bridge, Premier Pattullo sug-gested that the House deal with non-contentious matters.

As a consequence, the Legis-ature threshed through four lature threshed through four third readings, including the bill to amend the Vancouver Incorporation Act. The chief features of the bill are the licensing powers granted to the city; powers for the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to fix transportation and living expenses for tation and living expenses for judges, to be paid by the city; the right to hold advance polls; and the right to enter into agreeand the right to enter into agree-ment with the Dominion of Can-ada in respect to the main-tenance or construction of roads and sewers on Granville Island. Vancouver is also authorized to enter into agreements under the terms of the National Hous-

TIGHT PLANT DISEASE.

Amendments to the Plant Pro-tection Act, which gives the province power to take action it sees fit to fight plant disease on private property, was given third reading.

private property, was given third reading.

The amendments to the Provincial Royal "bilee Hospital Act, creating an adowment fund, was also given third reading.

Third reading was given the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vancouver Incorporation Act, giving borrowing power.

The bill to amend the Marriage Act was given second reading. It provides for compulsory examination to discover whether either party is suffering from syphilis.

"It does not stop anyone marrying," Attorney-General Gordon Wismer explained. "But the physical condition of each must be disclosed to the other."

Second reading was given to the amendments in the Public School Act, the Food Products Minimum Loss Act and the Stock Brands Act.

Mrs. Helen Smith explained that in the food Products bill prevented artificial reduction of invoice prices which govern the retailers' sale price cuts.

The amendments to the Game Act, seeking better quarters for hears in capitivity, was withdrawn by E. E. Winch, C.C.F. Burnaby, when Mr. Wismer undertook to miroduce amendments which yould give the Game Commission power to deal with the mat-

the Greater Vancouver Water District Act amendments, clarifying the position in connection with debentures; the amendments to the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act and Court of Appeal Act, which bring B. C. legislation regarding divorce appeals into line with the federal statutes.

B. C. to Spend \$60,000 Prospecting for Oil

Victoria, Dec. 1.—An expenditure of \$60,000 in the mines department estimates will be used to make further geological examinations for oil in the Peace River district, Hon. W. J. Asselstine told the Legislature on Wednesday. "If results are satisfactory they may be followed by a geophysical survey of favorable localities."

Propose Amendment To U.B.C. Elections

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Elections of chancellor and senate of the University of British Columbia will be conducted according to new rules, according to amend-ments before the Legislature.

Voting papers, in such form as may be prescribed by the senate, will be placed in the hands of the will be placed in the hands of the registrar for distribution. At least fourteen weeks prior to the date fixed for election of the chancellor and senate, the registrar shall send a copy of the register to each member of the convocation.

In case a poll is necessary it will be taken by the registrar, and voting papers opened in the presence of not fewer than two scrutineers.

URGES COMPLETION OF NATIONAL ROAD

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTO TIA, Dec. I.—Construction and maintenance of the transcanada Highway was just as essential to the realization of Canadian nationalism as a transcontinental railway. Such was the opinion of R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, in moving that the Dominion be asked to complete and maintain such a coast-to-coast thoroughfare.

fare.

Mr. Maitland declared that it was a shame to consider that in order to drive across this great Dominion it was necessary to traverse portions of the United States

States.

R. W. Bruhn, in seconding the resolution, told of the splendid work done on the Big Bend Highway by the Dominion, but said that other sections of the road that would connect with it, between Revelstoke and the Coast were not uniform. He felt that the people of Canada generally were faverable to the proposal to have the highway considered as a national undertaking.

Forecasts Old Age Pensions At 55 or 60

Daily Province Staff Corresponden VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Old age pensions will be payable shortly at 55 or 60, declared Rolph Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm, when he spoke to his resolution in the Legislature,

Arm, when he spoke to ms resolution in the Legislature, urging a declaration of policy upon the government with respect to introduction of a contributory pension system.

"I'm not complaining against the present Old Age Pension Board, but changes are necessary. For instance, there should be a 65-year age limit instead of 70, and the act should be on a contributory basis," he said.

"The pension age will have to be reduced soon to 55 or 60, and the only way to make it permanently workable is to put it on a contributory basis.

"This is a more important problem than unemployment."

Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative, The Islands, pointed out that men must realize they got out of life only what they paid for; and, with respect to pensions, they must pay in cash when they are young, or in sacrifice of self-respect when they are old.

U.B.C. GOVERNORS

-Mrs. Dorothy Steeves

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Advocating formation of a committee of the whole House to study the requirements and expansion of the University of British Columbia, Mrs. Dorothy Steeves complained of lack of information given to the public by the governors of the institution.

the public by the governors of the Institution.

High praise was given to the contributions made to the development of the University through the initiative of the students in past years. Reticence of the governors as to the business of this public institution was not such as tended to establish a popular understanding of the problems of the University.

She suggested that senior matriculation be confined to high

on the University; that summer schools, thus lessening the burden schools be expanded, and that fees and expenses for teachers attending be lessened, and that the faculty be asked to co-operate in reorganization of the University.

in Feergan, ity.

J. A. Paton, Conservative, clared that fees now in effect on the were among the highest in Co ada, and every effort should made to reduce University co.

THIRTEEN BILLS ARE ADVANCED

Women's Minimum Wage Act Amendment Is Thrown Out.

ally Province Staff Correspondent. VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—The Legislature advanced thirteen bills by one or more stages during last night's sitting of the House. The sixteenth measure died at second reading. It was Mrs. Dorothy Steeves' amendment to the Female Minimum Wage Act.

Mrs. Steeves urged protection for domestic servants who were now being exploited. There should be equality of treatment for this class of worker. Better wages would produce more skill, she

G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, explained qualification standards were lacking and training facili-ties also. He would like to see the board of industrial relations fix wages for domestic servants, but at this stage it was impossible

ADJOURNS DEBATE.

Dr. G. M. Weir, provincial secretary, adjourned the debate on two bills introduced by E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, the first amending the Mental Hospitals Act, the second the Lunacy Act.

Mr. Winch wanted to see closer inspection of private mental in-stitutions and the examination of inmates as to their condition. He

inmates as to their condition. He urged the creation of a commission on lunacy which could examine all patients.
Ontario's asylums contained 1011 persons whose mental condition justifies their release, he said, and the same condition undoubtedly existed in B. C.

Under the Lunacy Act, he com-plained, there was no habeas corpus provision.

pus provision.

The House skimmed through pages of proposed legislation, giving second reading to bills amending the Commodities Retail Sales Act, Mortgagers and Purchasers Relief Act, Collection Agents Licensing Act, which also got third reading, and the Greater Vancouver Water District Act, which got third reading.

GETS SECOND READING.

The Statute of Limitations Act

The Statute of Limitations Act amendments are to keep alive farm debts during such time as action for recovery is forbidden. Second reading was given.

The Contributory Negligence Act and Motor Vehicles Act amendments got second reading, Attorney-General Wismer explaining that no longer, under their terms, would a motor car driver be liable for damages suffered by passengers in an accident unless he or his vehicle was on hire.

dent unless he or all on hire.

The Mechanics Lien Act amendment went through second and third reading. The University of British Columbia Act amendment got second reading, and the bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act. Amendments to the Food Products Minimum Loss Act were given third reading.

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The Legisn bills by uring last louse. The at second Dorothy o the Fe-

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Member for Salmon Arm

By FRANCIS ALDHAM.

WHEN Greta Garbo, the Swedish actress, first came to the North American continent, she chatted on shipboard with a chance acquaintance, a big, ungainly, sad-eyed Swede who looked like a lumberjack and talked like a politician, He was both

More than twenty years before, he had emigrated, as Garbo was doing, from small-town, Scandinavian, middle-class surroundings to make his way in the newe orld. He told her of his success in Canadian business life and politics and he was very confident of further success in the years to come. The man was Rolf Wallgren Bruhn, member of the British Columbia Legislature from Salmon Arm. Within the year he was a member of the Provincial Government.

It is years since Rolf Bruhn worked in the woods, but he still in appearance per-sonifies the man of toil. His broad, clumsy shoulders seem to be ever adjusting a burden; his mournful face (scarred in a serious accident) wears a brooding look which no smile can dissipate. Inwardly he is a keen-minded, cheerful soul, with

a taste for small talk and light gossip.

The aura which surrounds the successful immigrant boy clings about the man from Sicamous. Seven years after his father had emigrated to Canada, young Bruhn came to British Columbia from his native Gothenburg. That was in 1897 and he was 19. He was schooled to hard work and he turned his capable hands to any-

Old-timers can remember Rolf Bruhn carrying on his back for miles a sack of potatoes which he would sell in the camps and villages. By slow degrees he rose to be a boss lumberman and a contractor, He joined the lodges and went in for municipal and provincial politics, He has represented Salmon Arm in the Legislafor nearly fifteen years.

In the Tolmie Government, from 1928 to 1933, Bruhn held cabinet rank, first as president of the executive council and then as minister of public works. A few years ago he changed his label to Independent. Now he is back in the Conservative camp and he sits, these days, in the place of seniority, next to the leader of the op-

There is nothing spectacular about his oratory. He speaks in blunt, homely language, to the point. His best contributions

oratory. He speaks in blunt, homely language, to the point. His best contributions to debate are the pointed interjections with which he can identify himself with anything on the tapis. Out of the sequential memory which is one of his assets as a politician, Bruhn can disturb and irritate an opponent with one unfinished sentence, spoken without rising to his feet, as it he were thinking aloud. He has a stubborn and unyleiding mind.

His intensely practical business soul measures everything with the yardstick of utility and he has no patience with either friend or foe who would stop to pick flowers by the way. He knows just when and for how long a member has launched into a flood of mere oratory. At such moments Bruhn will slip out of the chamber, pace the corridors moodily for a while and return to his seat just in time to catch the man out in a mis-statement of statistics.

Bruhn has carried over to his three-score years the habit of challenge which was a necessary part of everyday life in his arduous youth. In politics he wears a chip on his shoulder and the easy give and take of House manners does not comessaily to him. He has fought life every each of the way and the love of a context

Conservation and Politics

HERE is an instructive, but not exactly difference of opinion between the Premier of British Columbia and the chief forester of British Columbia upon the amount and value of forest conservation now going forward under government auspices.

The Premier says, and he chooses the Legislature as the appropriate place for saying it, that he is "sick and tired" of the people who say we are not doing enough to ensure the future of our forest wealth. Evidently the Premier includes his own chief forester among such people. He says that the chief forester is "exciting public interest" and "trying to increase appro-priations by propaganda."

Mr. Pattullo appeals to his fellow members of the Legislature not to unsettle the public mind on this question. But how can the public mind, as far as it is a serious and public-spirited mind, fail to be unsettled, when it discovers that the two men, of all men in British Columbia who should be agreed upon purpose and policy in this business, are in fact utterly at loggerheads?

The people of British Columbia are not going to be satisfied with Mr. Pattullo's assumption that all is well with the future of our forest heritage and economy under the best of all possible governments. They are much more likely to assume, for their part, that a chief forester knows more about forestry than a chief politician.

They are likely to believe that the chief forester who has the courage to risk the displeasure of the chief politician, in the name of conservation, has the better cause and the better conscience. They will hold it as praiseworthy, not blameworthy, in him that he is "trying to excite public in-terest and to increase appropriations by propaganda," the propaganda of conservation being rather more respectable than the propaganda of party and office.

Winch Says Party Will Back Doctor

"The C. C. F. caucus has no intention of repudiating Dr. Telford. It intends to stand right behind him," Harold Winch, M.L.A., party whip in the Legislature, told Herbert Gargrave, party secretary, by telephone from Victoria today.

from Victoria today.

He explained the caucus met to "tighten up our parliamentary rules," but that all members were united in supporting Dr. Telford. It had not communicated with the provincial executive in Vancouver, he added.

W. W. Lefeaux, provincial president, made it equally clear the executive consemplates no censure action.

"There is no matter of party policy involved," he said. "There is no reason for taking official action. I do not intend to do anything and I do not expect that it will be even brought before the executive."

C.C.F. PONDERS TELFORD CASE

M.L.A.'s Meet Again-Executive Takes No Action.

By TORCHY ANDERSON

By Dally Province Staff Corresponde VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Member of the C. C. F. group in the House continued to consider the situ tion which has arisen throug the collapse of graft charge made by Dr. Telford. Their objection lies in the fa-that no member of their grou is supposed to make charge without conferring with the others.

Ultimate action in regard
Dr. Telford's standing in t
party will be left to the prov
cial executive.

VICTORIA ENJOYS LULL

Legislators Rush Housework With View To Getting Home

With House Linen All Washed Members Turn Attention to Utilities Board Personnel.

By TORCHY ANDERSON.

(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)
VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—We had a lull after the storm in the
Legislature on Thursday. With all the dirty linen washed and hung out to dry, the House went quietly along with its housework and began to view with great hope the possibility of getting away home by this time next week.

When things get dull enough you can always find somebody

who is willing to speculate on the personnel of the new utilities

First you start with Dr. W. A. Carrothers, who will be chair-

man. There are two more jobs to fill.

Premier Pattullo may or may not have made up his mind about the other commissioners, but in the speculation handicap which goes on eternally in the lobbies you hear mentioned the names of Major J. C. MacDonald, comptroller of water rights,

and Col. Eric Pepler, deputy attorney-general. These two would represent engineering and the law, both important of such a commission.

Another starter in probability stakes is Harry Perry, able, outspoken Liberal

from Fort George.

But the appointment, as the Premier would say, is in the lap of the gods.

We began the day with another session around the big green table in the public ac-counts committee room. The session was a striking contrast to that which disturbed our

peace on Wednesday.

It was about a road at
Dutch Creek, about which
young Mr. Harold Winch produced some documents. Mr. Winch, unlike his colleague, Dr. Telford, did not make any wild

The committee got down to business, investigated and found that the whole thing was a misunderstanding. Everybody, including District Engineer

DR. W. A. CABROTHERS.

COMMITTEE FINDS IT

ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING.

Jones, was exonerated of all

blame and everybody went

back to their cnores feeling

We talked about booms on Thursday. We went back to the booms of pre-war days. You may remember that lot you bought after looking at a highly-colored hand-painted picture of upand-coming Sucker Heights.

The government proposes to amend the Land Act. As it stands now if you begin development of a townsite the government has a right to one-quarter of the land so set aside.

The amendment would allow the government to transfer this land back to the development agency in cases where it is evident that the company is doing a real job of improvement. Premier Pattullo hinted at a new policy in this connection when he suggested that he would like to see such land transferred back to the municipality. Mr. Perry of Fort George, thought this was a good idea.

Conservatives wanted the government to be careful. They said that there had been booms before and would be booms again. They did not want too much of their give-away by order-incouncil.

Santa Claus walked into the House on Thursday with a bag l of roads, bridges, ferries and wharves. In plainer words, the House began debating a little item of a and a quarter million under public works department

erected rail guards; he thought Burnaby deserved wire guards, just like a lot of other ridings.

Had there been no other justification for a debate a subject the fact that it gave Barry Perry a chance to e the boys of the Monkman Pass was enough.

You have heard the tale of the Monkman Pass before, but I

will bear repeating, especially as Harry Perry tells it.

He had one suggestion to make: That the government British Columbia should m

SUGGESTS GOVERNMENT an appropriation — perhap MAKE APPROPRIATION. \$15,000 or \$20,000—to bring the

highway near Hansard. The men of the Monkman are the highway near Hansard. The men of the Monkman are kind of ploneers who don't wait for the government to do something; they go out and do it for themselves.

These, says Mr. Perry, are men of quality.

The Fort George member has not given up his belief that the ultimate highway from British Columbia to the Peace is via

Findlay Forks, the so-called Turgeon route. There are m resources in that territory which make this imperative.

The item was stood over as the House rose, so perhaps to men of the Monkman have a hope of Mr. Perry's suggest appropriation.

Victoria Man Placed \$2,000,000 Insurance

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.-A. H. Cox, Victoria, placed the \$2,000,000 fire insurance on the Parliament Buildings at a rate of .27 per cent., Capt. MacGregor Macin-tosh, Islands, was informed by the minister of public works, in answer to a question asked Thurs-

Two-Platoon Plan Approved By House

(Special to The Daily Province.)
VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—The Legislature's municipal committee today approved amendments to the Fire Departments' Two Platon

Act.
These will force on all municipalities, with organized fire departments, the adoption of the two-platon system, which means the employment of additional firemen in order to reduce the working hours of the men.

Province Planning to Expend \$2,200,000 on Public Works

Nearly Million for Highways; Monkman Pass Route Ignored; City's Share Is Very Small.

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Public works programme in British VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Public works programme in British Columbia for next year, as presented to the Legislature by Hon. Frank M. MacPherson, contemplates expenditure of \$2,179,570 on account o naintenance of highways, bridges, wharves, ferries, snow removal and traffic operation, as well as upkeep of equipment.

Of this amount \$986,500 is for road construction and maintenance. H. G. Perry suggested a \$20,000 grant for the Monkman Pass highway, but no action was taken on his proposal.

THE REPORT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF T		C-618115-2-22
Details of the district highway	And the second second second second	Bell Ma
votes were presented as follows:	North Okanagan	31,000
Electoral District Allocated 1939-40	North Vancouver	4,500
	Omineca	40,000
Alberni - Nanaimo\$ 37,000	(4) (2) (2) (3) (3) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4	CONTROL OF THE
Atlin 21,000	Peace River	25,000
Burnaby 10,000	Prince Rupert	15,000
Cariboo 62,000	Revelstoke	15,000
Chilliwack 30,000		15,000
Columbia 22,000	Saanich	13,000
Comox 37,500		30,000
Cowichan - Newcastle 31,000		31,000
Cranbrook 32,000		29,000
Delta 25,000		31,000
Dewdney 36,000		5,000
	Yale	25,000
Fernie 25,000		SANCTON OF
	Total roads\$	
Grand Forks - Greenwood 37,500		
Islands 15,000		
Kamloops 37,500	Wharves	
Kaslo-Slocan 44,000		
Lillooet		120,000
Mackenzie 19,000	Traffic operation	60,000
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Residentia Trail ToA

By Daily Provin was given in Thursday by that considerate to transferen

ment of prov to municipalit The indicat arose during on an amend which would ernment, upor to reconvey

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B.C. Government May Transfer Provincial

Townsite Lots to Municipalities

PREMIER GIVES NOTICE OF PLAN

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31,000 4,500 40,000 25,000 15,000 15,000 13,000 30,000 31,000

Residential Section Trail Gives Rise To Amendment.

By Dally Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Intimation was given in the Legislature Thursday by Premier Pattullo that consideration would be given to transference by the govern-ment of provincial townsite lots

to transference by the government of provincial townsite lots to municipalities.

The indication of future policy arose during a heated discussion on an amendment to the Land Act which would permit of the government, upon certain conditions, to reconvey to townsite owners the government's 25 per cent. of the lots.

The particular case that gave rise to the bill was a subdivision development by the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company, at Warfield, as a suburb of Trail. Under existing legislation in laying out this much-needed addition to the residential facilities of the locality, 25 per cent of the lots must go to the government. This would result, it was explained, in increasing costs for development services on those living there.

HITS BLANKET POWER.

HITS BLANKET POWER.

HITS BLANKET POWER.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, attacked the principle of permitting the cabinet to exercise a blanket power of disposing in this manner with all townsites. He did not oppose the proposal in this particular instance. Each community where it was desired to reconvey the government interest, should be the subject of special legislation.

"Ipersonally would not mind seeing this 'hand-me-dawn' provision scrapped," declared Premier Patullo who described the legislation that had been passed in the days of great real estate activity. It was then thought necessary to have the province participate in the unearned increment of speculative values.

WILL FIGHT IT.

WILL FIGHT IT.

WILL FIGHT IT.

"I am opposed to this bill," declared Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative member for the Islands. "I am going to fight against the partisan control permitted in this, as I will fight to the last against similar powers in the public utilities bill, the control of coal and oil, and other legislation that gives the cabinet further powers."

H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, declared that he was very interested in the suggestion made by the Premier to the effect that consideration would be given to the transference of the government's interest in townsites.

This would continue the interest.

Ites.

This would continue the interest of the people in the unearned increment on land. He was sure

Islands Riding Vocal

Islands Riding Vocal

Sir: It is a strange thing (or is it?) that our Provincial Government does not investigate conditions before raising such a question as that of practically wiping out The Islands constituency by joining it on to that of Nanaimo, which would snow us under.

We have been in existence as a separate constituency for a great number of years and being a collection of islands, have conditions different to those of any other portion of the province.

Despite the utterly erroneous statement that we have interests identical with Nanaimo, the fact remains that we have absolutely nothing in common with it. For all we have to do with it might be removed to the North Pole tomorrow without affecting us. Some suggest that the reason for the proposed submerging of our vote by annexation to it—is because we dared to elect a Conservative. Surely such a pettifogging idea would never be entertained by any statesman

elect a Conservative. Surely such a pettifogging idea would never be entertained by any statesman or assembly of such!

And yet, how about health insurance? How many thousands are we paying officials to run this? What has it done and where is it? What are we paying out our good money for? How many friends other than special ones of the government has the Fruit Marketing Act, or the other branches of this restrictive legislation?

These are but two out of many

These are but two out of many instances of interference with our

instances of interresence.

Ilberties.

Under Magna Carta our liberties should be protected, yet how many of these liberties do we possess today! Shall we have to rechristen our province Little Germany? Let us all, irrespective of party, waken up and pull together ere it is too late.

W. J. L. HAMILTON.

Winch Presents Plea Of Liberal Group In Burnaby

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.-E. E. Wineh, C. C. F., Burnaby, said he was speaking for the Liberal Association of that district in the Legislature yesterday, when he suggested to the minister of public works that an annual contribution be made by the Provincial Government to as-sure the satisfactory clearing of the channel in the Coquitlam River.

Heretofore, said Mr. Winch, the government only made contributions once every five or ten years.

"I want to tell the minister that the Liberal Association of my district considers we should have more consideration."

CLAIM NEW MEASURE UNIQUE IN EMPIRE

Aims to Combat Court Rulings, Says Lawyers.

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—That
the government amendments to
the Coal and Petroleum Products Act constitute something
not attempted by any other
Legislature in Canada or the
Empire is the comment of legal
observers in the capital.
Those who have studied the
amendments introduced in

amendments introduced in the House on Thursday declare that the government is trying

Make valid legislation already before the courts for decision.

decision.

2. Attempt to legislate out evidence which a high court has already determined admis-

Further details of the Coal and Petroleum Products Act are reported on page 21.

Lebourdais Plans Alfalfa Banquet For M.L.A.'s

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—There is no sinister suggestion in the fact that Louis Lebourdais plans to invite his fellow members of the Legislature to eat hay with him.

Carlho's representative who

nay with him.

Cariboo's representative, who maintains that his large district can only be described in superlatives, told the House earlier in the session that Cariboo alfalfa could provide the ultimate in food values for either man or beast.

in food values for either man or beast.

Mr. Lebourdais intends to provide proof. He has had prepared for him a quantity of alfalfa flour, put up in small packets. These he will distribute early next week to the members, accompanied by minute directions as to the proper methods of using it as a condiment or in household cookery.

But to make sure that they get a real taste of the superior food "flavored by Cariboo sunshine," he is arranging a banquet in the legislative restaurant to which members will be invited.

OPPOSITION BACKS **NEW DIVORCE LAW**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—"It may be that people think the amendments to the act makes divorce easier," observed R. L. Maitland, leader of the opposition, when he spoke in the Legislature yesterday at second reading of amendments to the Divorce and Marrimonial Causes Act. "But that assumption would be wrong," he added.

added.

Mr. Maitland explained that from 1858 until now parties to divorce proceedings had no right of appeal from the British Colum-

of appeal from the barrens
of appeal from the barrens
is courts.

All sorts of unhappiness resulted as a consequence of
mothers being deprived of their
children, and such things; and
there was no recourse to a higher

WILL TIGHTEN NEW FUEL ACT

Amendments Expected To Help Province's Legal Position.

By Dally Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Amendwith the coal and Petroleum Products Act, by which the government seeks to strengthen its legal position in dealing with the industry, were introduced in the House by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer on Thursday.

The amendment will clarify the government's position in not interfering with outside provincial activities of any company. It will also meet expressed objections that the bill is aimed to protect other industries—specifically the coal industry.

It shall be laid down definitely that in fixing the price of one commodity the board shall not consider the relation of any other industry or commodity. The amended legislation shall be retroactive.

It will also be made clear that the legislation is not implementing the MacDonald report on fuel. nents to the Coal and Petroleum

HINT MORE CHANGES IN NEGLIGENCE LAW

Plan More Protection for Car Drivers.

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Attorney-General Gordon Wismer under-took to consider in committee of the whole House further amendments to the Contributory Negli-gence Act offered by R. L. Mait-land, leader of the opposition, during the debate prior to second reading of government amend-ments today.

The attorney-general explained

amendments offered safeguarded a motor car owner against litigation brought by non-paying passengers

against intigation brought by noise paying passengers.

Mr. Maitland said he could see dangers there. There might be collusion, he said, under the old act. But in cases of gross and wilful negligence, passengers, should be protected.

It was Mr. King and not Mr. Kenney who shouted about Dr. Telford: "He's out on a limb, and now he's trying to get out on another tack by saying that the steel should not have been bought in our own country."

"It Wasn't Me," Complains Kenney

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Chairman E. T. Kenney, of the public accounts committee, is indignant. Mr. Kenney, who is precise in his language and utterances and takes exception to a typographical error is a report in The Daily Province that ascribed to him statements made by Tom King, secretary of the committee, during the hearing of the charges made by Dr. Lyle Telford.

Complete Text of Bill Taxing Undistributed Profits

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—(CP)—Text of the Income Tax amendment by which it is proposed to levy on undis-

1. This act may be cited as the "Income Tax Act Amend-

ment Act, 1938."

2. Section 2 of the "Income Tax Act," being chapter 280 of the "Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1936," is amended by inserting after the definition of "dividends" the following definition:

"Earned includes derived, received, or accorded.
3. Said chapter 280 is amended by inserting the following

as Section 22A:

"22A. (1) Where a corporation to which this section applies has an accumulation of undivided or undistributed gains and profits which, in the opinion of the minister, is in excess of what is ister, is in excess of what is reasonably required for the conduct of its business, the minister may, by notice in writing, so inform the corporation, stating the amount by which he considers the said accumulation exceeds such reasonable requirements; and if, after the expiration of thirty days from the date of the notice, the amount of the excess stated amount of the excess stated therein has not been distributed in the form of dividends to the shareholders of the corporation and the minister may direct that the corporation be assessed and taxed on the accumulation of un-divided or undistributed gains and profits at the rate of 15 per centum on the amount of the excess stated in the notice, and the corporation shall be assessed and taxed accordingly; and the commissioner shall give notice of the assessment to the corporation assessed, fixing a date on which the tax shall be payable.

EVERY CORPORATION.

"(2) The amount of any un-divided or undistributed gains and profits of a corporation in respect of which a tax has been assessed

of which a tax has been assessed and paid pursuant to this section shall, when aubsequently distributed, be deemed not to form a part of the total income of any person entitled thereto for the purposes of the preceding section of this act.

"3. This section shall apply to every corporation in which the majority of the voting power or shares is in the hands of not more than five persons and relatives or nominees of any of those persons or where control of the corporation is by any other means whatever in their hands.

"For the purpose of this subsection:

"The expression relative means a husband or wife, ancestor or lineal descendant, brother or

"The expression nominee means a person who may be re-quired to exercise his voting power on the directions of, or holds shares directly or indirectly on behalf of another person;

be deemed to be a single person.

"An appeal from any decision
by the minister under this section may be taken to the lieution may be taken to the lieutenant-governor-in-council, who, after hearing the parties interested, may confirm or amend the decision of the minister, and the decision of the lieutenant-governor-in-council shall be final."

4. Section 31 of said chapter 280 is amended by striking out the word "repeal" in the second line of subsection (2), and substituting therefore the word "appeal."

TAX ON INSURANCE.

5. Section 32 of said chapter 280 is amended by inserting after the word "companies," where it first occurs in the second line of subsection (1), the words "other than life insurance companies,

6. Said chapter 280 is amended by inserting the following as sec-

by inserting the following as sec-tion 32a:
"32A. (1) Every corporation carrying on the business of life insurance in the province shall, in lieu of all tax otherwise im-posed by this act, be assessed and taxed annually under this section at the rate of two and three-quarters of one per centum on the gross amount of premi-ums, excluding considerations ums, excluding considerations for annuities, received from pol-leyholders resident in the provfor annuities, received from policyholders resident in the province, less premiums returned and the cash value of dividends paid or credited to policyholders; provided, however, that in the case of amounts paid by it for reinsurance to another corporation only shall be assessed and taxed thereon; and the tax shall be paid by the corporation to the commissioner not later than one month after the last day of the month in which the notice of assessment is given, and if not paid within the time so limited the corporation shall pay interest on the amount of the tax in default at the rate of eight per centum per annum from the expiration of that time to the date of payment. "(2). Every corporation to which this section applies shall annually, without any notice or demand, make and file with the commissioner on or before the last day of March in each year a return in the form and containing the information prescribed by the commissioner. The provisions of subsection (2) of section 3 and sections 10 and 15 to 20 shalls mutatis mutandis, apply in respect of the assessment and taxation of corporations to which this section applies.

B.C. TO LEV PROFITS TA

Undistributed Balances of Companies Liable to Assessment.

By TORCHY ANDERSON Daily Province Staff Corresponder

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.-Hoarde surplus funds of British olu corporations are to be raided by the provincial tax gatherer.

Unannounced and unexpe a bill was introduced in the House on Friday afternoon which will amend the Income Tax Act to

provide:

Tax of 15 per cent. on "undivided and undistributed gains and profits" in excess of that which, in the opinion of the minister of finance, is reasonable for business requirements. In lieu of other taxation under the present act, to assess life insurance companies with a tax of 2% per cent. on the gross amount of premiums. This excludes considerations received for annuities from policy-holders.

APPEAL PROVIDED.

APPEAL PROVIDED.

While it is not anticipated that the new provisions will bring greatly increased revenue, the bill marks a departure in taxation policy by the government. Immediately the bill was introduced, members began to whisper that it was another indication of the government's leaning toward President Roosevelt's New Deal. Such taxation of hoarded surpluses was one of the features of the policy of the New Deal party in United States.

Earlier in the session, C.C.F.

Earlier in the session, C.C.F. members asked why the government had not gone after such funds and the finance minister smiled and told them they must have been reading his mail. It was not then anticipated, however, that he would act during the present session.

ever, that he would act during
the present session.
Appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council is allowed by
firms subject to the surplus
profits tax. After notification by
the minister, they are given
thirty days in which to distribute
surplus profits. After that the
tax becomes effective.

Bill Would Guarantee Dyking Debentures

By Daily Province Staff Corresponden VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—The Legis lature is being asked to give a absolute guarantee to the amount of \$55,000 of the debentures of the South Westminster Dyking District: A bill to this effect was introduced on Friday by Hon, A. Wells Gray, minister of

The money is to retire exist debentures and carry on n sary works for the district.

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CONSIDE

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LEGISLATORS BUFFETTED

Gale Whips Capt. Vancouver, Puts Parliament's Lights Out

Mr. Tom Uphill Plays Torchbearer After Being Snubbed for Complaining of Darkness

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
(Daily Province Staft Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Captain Vancouver, whose gilded figure stands atop the dome of the Parliament Buildings had a rough time on Friday afternoon. The gale which whistled around the good captain knocked that august assemblage, the British Columbia Legislature, right out of business.

The lights went out.

Even a statesman can't work in utter darkness, so it was necessary to adjourn when the last fading light of day faded from the chamber.

Candles were at a pre-mium and when a supply was found there was a shortage of empty bottles in which to put

"un-

c.C.F.

empty bottles in which to put the candles. Even the darkest corner of the press room was searched for prized bottles. Outside the gale howled, and inside the legislators plod-ded ahead with their Utilities Act.

Mr. Attorney-General's bill to amend the Coal and Petro-leum Products Act, already the centre of the stage in a legal fight, produced some lively pas-sages during an evening which saw lights restored and every-thing back to normal

say lights restored and everything back to normal.

Mr. Maitland gave it a legal once-over and told the attorney-general that he might as well see a man killed by a motor car and then come in and pass legislation which would say that he was not dead.

Young Mr. Winch, on the other hand, gave grave commendation to the "A.G." for his amendment, and added that it was about time something was done TIME SOMETHING WAS about the state of affairs when the DONE, SAYS MR. WINCH. courts could rule against the will of the Legislature because the legislation was based on a report. The Premier said that "we (the Legislature) have a right to say what we mean."

As the House sat in the afternoon lat-comers continued to bring in reports of the wild scene outside. It was like Mark Twain's description of a western windstorm. They reported fences were going by on the wings of the wind, trees were toppling and strong men could lean on the air for support.

But the House worked on in the dim light that filtered through dusty ceiling windows.

Young Mr. Winch thought that it was a very bad thing to be considering this (Utility)) Bill in the dark—it might have a bad effect on the public. Mr.

CONSIDERING UTILITY

BILL IN DARK DEPLORED. Anscomb suggested he might do something about the lights. Mr.

Maitland found it hard to apply his mind in "this atmosphere" of darkness. Prime Minister Pattullo said his mind worked equally well in light or dark.

Then Mr. Uphill, who had been snubbed for his complaint about the lack of light, carried in a candle.

That seemed to settle the matter. The House adjourned until evening with a hope that the lights would be on.

They were.

All is not happy in the C.C.F. household.
Superficially the nose dive of Dr. Telford while out gunning for the government on graft charges has been forgotten. But it rankles in the party and the six members who had to watch the debacle of their lone wolf colleague have had their heads close together.

Meanwhile the explosive doctor is away for the week-end and tempers have a chance to cool. Nobody will say anything officially but indignation of the EXPLOSIVE DOCTOR

C.C.F. House group is too genuine AWAY FOE WEEK-END. to be invisible.

Whatever the outcome the breach that existed between the doctor and his seatmates has widened. That mighty document, the Utilities Act with its 136 sections, was the job of the day. The House was in a serious mood and each clause of the bill received its due attention.

That section which gives the commission right to make appraisal of a utility and charge the cost of same back to the sub-

DOUBTS THAT ACT WILL REALLY CONTROL UTILITIES.

ject, brought forth protest and commendation. Mr. Maitland was suspicious that it might work a grave

hardiship on smaller utilities. Mr. Winch, the younger, was not worrying so much about the utilities. What he wanted to know was: Will the act really control utilities?

Prime Minister Pattullo suggested that B. C. utilities were so confident in the government they did not want to even look at

There might have been just a hint of a smile on the face of Wendell B. Farris, K.C., at this remark. Mr. Farris is keeping an eye on things for the chief utilities of British Columbia.

when some future historian begins to write of this session he will no doubt mention the day of the big wind. Like the famous winter of the blue snow it will become a tradition.

snow it will become a tradition.

But even with nature on a rampage our legislators must have their bit of a joke. The new public utilities commissioners are to be appointed for ten years, depending, of course, on "good behavior." Somebody asked the attorney-general to give a definition of "good behavior."

"It's the way the attorney.

"It's the way the attorney-general acts," chirped Mr. Wismer.
"When?" asked Mr. Maitland.
Then they went back to the grim tussle with the many legal
tentacles of the bill.

The House is ready for the grand stampede which is a characteristic of what they always hope is the "last week."

When they trotted home for the week-end on Friday night members were confident they would finish their business by Thursday of next week.

Thursday of next week.

There is still important legislation before the House and it is going to mean work morning, afternoon and night.

There is nostalgia in the legislators for the family fireside and the chatter of the little woman.

Merchant members cast an anxious eye toward Christmas

It will be six weeks on Tuesday since the wheels of this legislative factory began grinding out more acts for the lawyers to argue about.

Have You Had Alfalfa Today? LeBourdais' Newest Slogan

Cariboo Member Propounds Brand New Salad To Accompany Meats He Has Safely Graded.

FARMERS whose cash revenues are often pretty slim, may draw some comfort from the prospect held out by Louis LeBourdais, M.L.A. for the Cariboo and father of the Beef Grading Act, that they may keep body and soul together by feeding yout of the cattle's alfalfa pile.

Louis does not envisage such a primitive condition, but it works round in that direction,

He quotes chapter and verse to how what men like Dr. Lash-Miler of the University of Toronto, Prof. Sadler and Prof. David. Laird of the University of British Columbia have done in proving the hitherto unrecognized merits of alfalfa not only as a food for animals but, under proper pro-cessing, also for humans.

As an ingredient of baby food, he says, it is rated high in the leading medical research institutions of the world.

What it does in toning up such inferior fry as racehorses, cows, foxes, mink and chickens is just beyond credibility—like a snoottul of rum with the difference that the effect is permanent, claims the Cariboo member.

B. C.'s PRODUCTION.

Malnutrition has been over-ome among the natives of sev-ral parts of Africa, where they ave been encouraged to use the ender green shoots of alfalfa as we use spinach, he contends. In some parts of the United tates, he explains, bunches of cash-cut alfalfa are sold as a

salad ingredient, while in sections of Cariboo and no doubt in other parts of Canada, it is used in soups, similar to parsley, and occasionally mixed with wheatlets. In fact, he says, the possibilities of alfalfa are unlimited. Going into statistics, Mr. Le Bourdais shows British Columbia's present alfalfa acreage is slightly above 50,000 acres; and while the acreage has increased 25 per cent. during the past eight years, there are many thousands of acres suitable for the production of this most versatile of all farm crops.

That Would Be Something

THERE is not very much that can be said on one side of the affair of Dr. Telford and his charges about the Pattullo bridge contracts, and what can be said on the other has been said by all the friends of the government, with a smugess of conscious rectitude which only fails to be amusing in the numerous instances where it succeeds in being rather nauseating hypocrisy.

It is very well to say, as one highlyeynical commentator puts it, that it was all better fun than the movies and almost equal to the grand humor of throwing custard pies-but there still remain a few disturbing questions. Dr. Telford has failed in what he undertook to do, and he must be left to take the consequences. But something much more important than anything about Dr. Telford falls to be said.

It is to be said, and it ought to be said until a respectable answer is forthcoming, that the sequel and anticlimax of Dr. Telford's failure may be any number of things, amusing or melancholy, but one thing it s not. It very certainly is not a general ail delivery and certificate of reformed character for the system of government contracts.

What is the general belief about these contracts? It is generally believed that there is a regular and accepted custom of rakeoff from the public funds which go to pay for contracted public works, for the benefit of the party organization of the party in office. In a word, campaign funds.

You will get no public admission of the distence of this system from any politician, in office or out. And you will get no public denial. What you will get, in public (because in private you will get the whole category of disclosure of a base and corrupting traffic, whispered behind the hand) is just a silence, and what has all the color and circumstance of a conspiracy of silence.

You can't put your finger on anything re, you will find. Nobody will manfully avow this system in the broad light of day, tell you what is the item of party funds in the cost of public works by contract, tell you who pays the money to whom and what it is really for and what it buys and what it sells. The probability is that very few men, even in the inner ounsels of a political party, know. Cabinet ministers and even prime ministers ave even been known to boast that they did not know-meaning that they took good care not to know.

It would be a fine thing if somebody It would be a fine thing if somebody in office, in Canada now, in British Columbia now, would get up and say in public, on his responsibility as a paid servant of the people and his honor as a man, that he did know about the accusation of rakeoffs in government contracts for the benefit of party funds—and that he knew that it was not true.

It would be a fine thing now, for mee, when they have done with kill. Telford with their mouths and but

ody in the Pattullo government could get up and say, with the necessary evidence to prove what he said, that the four millions paid by the people of British Columbia for the Pattullo bridge has not ncluded one cent of rakeoff for the secret funds of any political party.

That would be more interesting than any movie indeed.

Appraisal Would Cost C. Electric \$500,000

Wide Powers of Com-

MISSION.

By Daily Province Staff Corresp VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Appraisal of the property value of the B.C. Electric Railway Co. by the Public Utilities Board will cost the company \$500,000.

Credit for such an expenditure will be allowed to the company in determination of light and power rates by the commission.

power rates by the commission.
The commission is not limited
as to the number of appraisals it
may make within any given time.
The foregoing facts were made
known to the Legislature Friday afternoon when the Public
Utilities Bill was under consideration, by Premier Pattulio.

FIGHTS PASSAGE

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conserve tive leader, vigorously opposed the passage of section 48 which authorized the commission to-beappointed to make appraisals at will, at the cost of public utilities. He said that he had no brief for the B.C. Electric, but the work involved would be a tremendous

He recalled that Premier Pat-tullo had previously opposed a public utilities act, as suggested

public utilities act, as suggested by the Conservatives, on the ground that it would cost \$1,000,000 to obtain information.

The Premier replied that it would be a costly operation, and the B.C. Electric Co. would have to pay out \$500,000. The company has carefully considered it, and while objecting to some provisions, has not voiced protest against this particular section.

"I am concerned about the smaller companies and the public," declared Mr. Maitland, "The costs that may be put on a small company by this section might be high enough to put them out of business."

CALLS IT "VICIOUS."

CALLS IT "VICTOUS."

Continuing his attack, Mr. Maitiand said that the section was "victous." There was no limit whatever on the expenses that could be piled up by lawyers accountants, engineers and cierical staff.

"It it took two years and the enormous amount of money that it did to evolve the Macdonald report on coal and petroleum.

Premier Pattullo—And lawyers

too.

Mr. Maitland—Yes, and nowadays one lawyer is not enough for a commission, there must be at least two. Similarly it now takes two lawyers to prosecute for the crown at the Vancouver assizes, when previously one was sufficient.

Misman

sufficient.

Attorney-General Wismer joined in that members of the bar approved of the additional lawyer at the assizes.

"I never heard of it. It has never been before the Bar Association, and I have been an official of that body for some time," retorted Mr. Maitland.

APPEAL ALLOWED.

Returning to his attack on the ction of the bill before the House, Mr. Maitland pointed out

House, Mr. Maitland pointed out that there was no appeal from the charges that the Utilities Board might assess a utility as costs for an appraisal.

The attorney-general pointed out that appeal could be made to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. He asked if the Conservative leader suggested that the costs should be borne by the province.

Mr. Maitland did not think that the cabinet was the proper body

Mr. Maitland did not think that the cabinet was the proper body to which appeal should be made. It was a case of the man and the master. The cabinet was the master and the real administrative body of the Utilities Act.

Conservative members followed their leader in assaulting the proposal. Then the lights in the Legislative Assembly went out and

islative Assembly went out and the fight went on for a time in the dark.

APPEAL TO COURT.

In considering other sections of the bill, J. A. Paton, Conservative, Point Grey, registered protest against the measure of control by the cabinet that was contem-plated. Municipalities would, he saw, become absolutely at the power of the government insofar as their relations with utilities were concerned.

were concerned.

"Would you have appeal to the courts?" asked the attorney-gen-

"Yes, I would," responded the ember for Vancouver Point

member
Grey.
Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria—As far as this bill
is concerned utilities are in the
same relationship to this government as the Jews are to Hitler
in Germany. The government is
leads to smash them and their ge them for it. m Uphill, Fer

Amendme Price C New By TORC

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Hon. Gord the purpose was simply ment's inten price-fixing. that it was debate mat debate mat which were tion, but in t

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Government's Plan to Avoid Gasoline Appeal Attacked

SAYS IT WII CAUSE TROUBLE

Amendment Would Place Price Control Under New Commission.

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
ally Province Staff Correspondent,
VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—By amending the Coal and Petroleum Act

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ilities to the ing the Coal and Petroleum Act
Attorney-General Wismer may
reap more trouble than advantage in the opinion of R. L. Mattland, Conservative leader.
Speaking to the amending bill
in the Legislature on Friday
night Mr. Maitland, who announced that he would not vote
against the bill, took the general
stand that the amending bill
was a matter of doubtful practice.

tice.
By placing control of gasoline prices in the hands of the Public Utilities Commission, which is to be appointed shortly, the Government of B. C. would escape from the legal impasse in which it now finds itself, declared Mr. Maitland.
Incidentally, the expense of a separate commission for the administration of the Coal and Petroleum Act would be removed.

INTENDED TO CLARIFY.

Hon. Gordon Wismer explained the purpose of the amendment was simply to clarify the government's intention in the matter of price-fixing. He realized, he said, that it was not good practice to debate matters in the House which were the subject of litigation, but in this case it was necessary.

which were the subject of litigation, but in this case it was necessary.

The Macdonald report on the
petroleum products distribution
system in B.C., he went on, had
suggested that the price of gasoline wasy-higher than it should
be and the profits from it made it
possible for oil companies to sell
fuel oil at low cost in competition with B.C. coal.

It was argued during the hearing on the injunction to restrain
price cuts that the government
had the Macdonald report in
mind when it was legislating for
price-fixing, and, for that resson, the Coal and Petroleum Act
was unconstitutional, since the
report had dealt with the operations of a California company
operating in B.C.

Mr. Wismer said an amendment was necessary to show beyond question that the only thing
the Legislature had in mind when
it passed the Coal and Petroleum
Act was the setting of a fair price
for B.C. gasoline consumers.

Mr. Matiland asked if Mr. Justice Manson, in granting the injunction against the province,
definitely connected the Macdonald report with the price-fixing
legislation.

Mr. Wismer replied that this
appeared to be the basis of his

egislation.

Mr. Wismer replied that this appeared to be the basis of his lecision in granting the injunction, and the assumption that B.C. was stepping outside the province when it attempted to control these prices.

outside the province. It was suggested we aimed at fixing oil prices in relation to coal prices. That is not the case," Mr. Wis-

That is not the case," Mr. Wismer added.
"I consequently felt it my duty to bring in this amendment to the act declaring our intentions. The act does not implement or carry into effect any report. Neither does the amendment," the attorney-general explained.
"This is price-fixing only in a provincial aspect. I had not thought this explanation necessary before the litigation was commenced.

OF NO EFFECT.

"I cast no aspersions on the Macdonald report. But I do say it did not affect the Legislature in its action regarding the Coal and Petroleum Act."

Mr. Maitland said if the Macdonald report was and

donald report were correct and the people of B. C. were being ex-ploited by oil companies, the Legislature had every right to put a stop to it. While he thought the retroactive nature of the amendment was bad practice, he

amendment was had practice, he would not oppose it. He could not see that any act of the Legislature passed at this time could wipe out what had been done in the past, and few governments would attempt to bolster legislation in this fashion when litigation was proceeding. 'As soon as you pass this bill yourself deny—namely, that the government had the Macdonald report in mind when it legislated to control gasoline prices," Mr. Maitland warned. "This is a precautionary measure which may save us a trip

ure which may save us a trip to the Privy Council," Mr. Wis-mer interposed.

NOT NECESSARY.

NOT NECESSARY.

Mr. Maitland said it was not a necessary measure. There was another and a safer way out. If it were proved or argued that the Coal and Petroleum Act is tied up in any way with the Macdonald report, the government could simply place coal and petroleum products under the Public Utilities Commission and scrap the old act.

ties Commission.

It E. Winch, C. C. F., Vancouver East, said it was a peculiar situation where courts could rule against legislation because it was based on the report of a commissioner.

Any important legislative step

Any important legislative step was invariably preceded by some sort of investigation, with a commission and reports. It was essential to plan with a sound background of information for legislation.

lation.

It was time, he said, the court's and the Legislature's relationship was determined.

He did not agree with Mr. Maitland's suggestion that the amendment was bad practice. Anything done for the benefit of the people was good practice.

WHY BESTRICT IT?

Mr. Winch regretted the at-torney-general had not taken steps to protect other provincial laws in the same way as he pro-posed to do in this instance. All legislation might be challenged on the same basis that that in

"And we are restricting ourselves here to one act," he pointed out. "In years to come there may be other challenges."

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, thought it was recognized that the legislation respecting coal and petroleum was based on the Macdonald report. If it were not so, what had been the use of the commission, which cost \$125,000, he queried. It was the retroactive feature of the bill to which he objected. How could business men and capitalists be expected to try to develop the country if they have a fear of legislation wiping out

capitalists be expected to try to develop the country if they have a fear of legislation wiping out their contentions in court? Mr. Anscomb asked.

Magregor Macintosh, Conservative, Islands, insisted that continuity of policy was vital in the House. If every new party wishes to go against precedent it would bring chaos. "We know the rules of the game," he said. "You can't change them for each occasion." The impression was going abroad that the power of the courts was in jeopardy.

The Conservative party had not opposed the Coal and Petroleum Act, but it had predicted it would be attacked because it was too hurried. The same applied in the case of the amendment. If legislation had not been rushed through, but had been carefully considered, the courts would not be burdened as they are.

ABSOLUTE RULE

The will of the Legislature, declared Premier T. D. Pattullo,

clared Premier T. D. Pattullo, must be absolute. The Legislature should "absolutely and unqualifiedly rule," he said.

The United Kingdom courts, whose decisions were admittedly examples for the world, always based judgments on the wording of a statute, which expressed the intention of a government.

"All this Legislature tried to do was to express the will of the people regarding the gasoline tax," he declared. "This House is the final authority rests with the people. The courts, of course, will interpret the meaning of the statute, and the will of the people."

The courts held that the act intended to interfere with trade and commerce.

"It is the duty of this House to

and commerce.
"It is the duty of this House to

"It is the duty of this House to pass this amendment and put the position clear for the courts. That is all. Everyone admits the act is sound and intra vires. But because the report of a commission refers to things outside the province's jurisdiction and is believed to have influenced the government, there is all this litigation. We are trying to put the courts right on this matter," the Premier said.

BASED ON REPORT.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, believed it was obvious the act was based on the Macdonald report. It was incredible that it should be necessary to pass the proposed amendment. It should not be necessary. It was not possible to wipe out by the amendment, the fact that the Legislature did pass the statute relating to coal and petroleum products with the Macdonald report in mind.

e bill was given second re

WISMER PLANS **CREDIT UNIONS**

Nova Scotia Legislation Is Used As Basis in New Measure.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 3.— Credit unions are to be authorized in British Columbia by a bill intro duced in the Legislature Friday evening by Attorney-General Gor-don S. Wismer.

don S. Wismer.

Based largely on legislation in force in Nova Scotia, the bill sets up machinery for the guidance and conduct of credit groups throughout the province. Features of the measure include:

The purpose of the legislation is for raising of funds by subscription of members, "and such other means as this act provides," and of making loans to members.

FIVE-DOLLAR SHARES.

The capital of a credit union shall consist of an unlimited number of five-dollar shares. The lisbility of a member shall be limited to the unpaid amount owing on his shares. A cerdit union may make loans only to its members and only for a provident, productive, or merchadising purpose.

a provident, productive, or mer-chadising purpose.

Loans are to be supervised by a credit committee.

The rate of interest on a loan shall not exceed 1 per cent monthly, inclusive of all charges for making the loan, and shall be payable only on the unpaid bal-

ance.

Investments are limited, apart from loans to members, to real estate for a place in which to conduct business; bank deposits, bonds of the British Government, Canadian Government or of the provinces, and in other credit unions.

unions.

Membership is limited to persons having a common bond of occupation or association, or from a community in a certain neigh-

tomanding in a certain neighborhood.

The government will appoint an impector to inspect the operations of credit unions and exercise some measure of superintendence over them. Already in the province there are numerous groups who have formed themselves into unions and have been carrying on with some degree of success, but with no legal standing. The measure now before the House will give them proper status, as well as encourage the formation of other organization of similar purpose, it is stated.

B.C. Will Abolish "Blanket Staking"

PROSPECTORS GET A'BREAK'

Amendments to Mining Law Announced by Asselstine.

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.-While permitting a prospector, for himself and as agent, to stake up to eight claims in any one area, provision are included in amendments to the Mineral Act now before the Legislature to prevent "blanket staking." The amendments go into effect June 1, 1939.

The purpose of Hon. W. J. Asselstine, minister of mines, is to give legitimate prospectors opportunity to stake in newly-discovered fields. Existing legislation placed no limits to the num-ber of claims that could be staked as agent by one man; thus an area could be "blanketed."

DISCOVERY POSTS OUT.

Other changes include the doing away with the "discovery post" on a claim. It will only be sary to put in Numbers 1

necessary to put in Numbers 1 and 2 posts. These will carry metal tags.

The insistence that any claim to have done assessment work on a property prior to the issuance of a certificate of work to another occupant of the ground must be made within a year is an important provision. It is to prevent actions being brought—except within the year—where a property had developed potentialities, asserting interest through prior assessment operations. Unprior assessment operations. Under the new legislation, therefore, allegations of falsity if affidavits filled for current work must be made within the year.

LAPSED CLAIMS.

Persons allowing claims to Japse will not be permitted to re-stake the same property until it has been unoccupied for a year.

Changes in definitions include the deletion of "rock in place" and the substitution of "mineral

deposit."
Changes will also be made in the Placer Mining Act to bring that measure into conformity with the Mineral Act.

with the Mineral Act.

Of more far-reaching effect on the mining industry, it is expected, will be changes in regulations in respect to handling of reverted crown granted mining properties that have reverted to the crown. Previously these have gone on a special list of sale properties, which could be leased for two years for exploration prior to purchase. It is intended to throw such claims, numbering approximately 2000, open for restaking.

Telford Offers To Resign Seat On Bridge Issue

Consults His Riding Before Making **New Charges**

C.C.F. CONFERS

Dr. Lyle Telford, M.L.A., an nounced today that he is pre pared to resign his seat in the Legislature in order to "make much more serious and extensive charges in connection with the

charges in connection with the whole business and construction of the Pattullo Bridge" and to fight the issue in a by-election.

He served notice that he will demand a royal commission to investigate all phases of the bridge construction, which, he says "is a miniature repetition of the P. G. E. and Beauharniois scandals."

He will first consult his con stituents and get their consent to resign, he said. The provincial ex-ecutive of the C.C.F., of which Dr. Telford is a member, must also give its consent.

CONSULTS PARTY.

CONSULTS PARTY.

Herbert Gargrave, secretary of the party, said Dr. Telford had consulted informally with some members of the executive, but no decision will be announced until officers of the constituency have been consulted.

Dr. Telford said he withdrew his Pattullo bridge charges in the Legislature only temporarily, "because of certain technicalities." "But I am prepared to stake my future political career on pressing them," he added.

"It was with regret that I tem porarily withdrew my charges regarding the Pattullo bridge affair before the public accounts committee at Victoria. I did so, not because I considered these charges untrue, but because of certain technicalities which I could not at the moment oversome and because of a serious letdown on the part of one of my material witnesses.

"Now, after further investigation, I am prepared to make much more serious and extensive charges in connection with the whole business and construction of the Pattullo bridge."

of the Pattullo bridge.

"So confident am I of the truth of my charges, that I have all-ready consulted representatives of my constituency requesting them to permit me voluntarily to resign my seat in the Legislature and run against a government candidate in a by-eyection there, solely on the Pattullo bridge

next few days.

"The serious nature of this bridge scandal, which is a mini-ature repetition of the P. G. E. and Beauharnois scandals, warrants appointment of a royal commission to investigate it from beginning to end.

"Political patronage and graft are the curse of this province.

"Political parronage and grait are the curse of this province. These evils lower the efficiency, integrity and self-respect of prac-tically every man on the job. They add tremendously to the burden of the already overburdened tax-payers; in fact, to that of every

payers; in fact, to that of every citizen of the province.
"I am, therefore, forced to the conclusion that this bridge transaction, which is only a typical example of what is going on all the time, warrants serious consideration on the part of every intelligent citizen, and that a determined effort must be made to eradicate this social evil before we can hope to make much progress.

FINAL COURT.

"For these reasons, I am ex-ceedingly anxious to gain the perceedingly anxious to gain the per-mission of my constituential rep-resentatives to resign my seat in the Legislature and contest a by-election on the bridge issue. "After all, the people are the final court of appeal, and upon their decision in this matter I am willing to stake my future po-

willing to stake my future po-litical career."

PRINCE GEORGE HAS 103,000 FARM ACRES

victoria, Dec. 3.—(CP)—A soil survey party which investigated 125,000 acres in the Prince George area, has reported to the British olumbia Government that 103,000 acres constituted good though undeveloped agricultural land.

Provision for waters would be required in some areas, they said, but this difficulty might be overcome by use of cisterns to hold the winter runoff.

Government circles indicated the soil survey, carried out by C. C. Kelley and R. H. Spilsbury along the line of the Canadian National Railway, may be followed by an economic survey, mentioned recently by Hon. W. J. Asselstine, minister of mines.

Both surveys are believed here to be in close relation to the government's settlement plans, advanced before the Rowell Commission and later in conversations at Ottawa. VICTORIA, Dec. 3.-(CP)-A

C.C.F. to Pick House Leader After Session

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Immedi-ately after the C. C. F. mem-bers of the Legislature have "seen their constituents," following conclusion of the pres-ent session, they will meet the executive of the party in Van-couver and select a House leader, it is authoritatively

couver and select a House leader, it is authoritatively stated here.

Among members there appears to be little doubt as to who will be named.

They say it will' be Harold E. Winch, Vancouver East's member, and present whip of the group.

E. E. Winch, Burnaby's veteran, for thirty years a leader eran.

eran, for thirty years a leader in labor and Socialist affairs, might have been the party's choice had he been willing to accept a nomination. But he will not.

accept a nomination. But he will not.

The C. C. F. group in the House has avoided appointment of a chief in the past, in spite of warning from the party executive that unless they decided among themselves, the execu-tive would probably take the matter into its own hands.

Developments at the present session—particularly the situa-tion arising from Dr. Lyle Telford's charges in connection with the Pattullo bridge con-tracts—have caused members to reconsider the question. All agree that one is necessary

Croft Settlement Scheme Studied By Government

VICTORIA. — Legislators VICTORIA. — Legislators of British Columbia will shortly study in detail the twenty-eight-page report to the British House of Commons of Sir Henry Page Croft, who toured central areas of British Columbia last summer for the purpose of surveying lands for the proposed settlement of 10,000 British families—about 30,000 persons in all.

of 10,000 British families—about 30,000 persons in all.

A few days ago a cable was despatched from the Parliament Buildings to London asking for 100 copies of the report.

Text of the report that has come to the government indicates a large measure of enthusiasm for the scheme on the part of Sir Henry and his associates. With regard to settlement of Britishers in Canada the report says:

"We were struck with the fact that whilst failures are much advertised, success is rarely alluded to."

B. C. BUS

Believe It Wil Number o

IT'S "SUR

(Text of New B British Columb

terests, taken by John Hart's ann day of a propose tributed corporat day took steps to the government i move that may

ing effects on inc There is still c fusion over inter provincial financ amendments an provincial finance trade organizatio of the opinion to tax will have an application and will be the excep-eral rule.

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The bill says t apply "to every which the major power or shares of not more than relatives or non those persons, of the corporation means whatever

Members of the mittees of the cial, mining an reaus of the Bo meet on Monda cuss implication new legislation. The executive Manufacturers

division, will m ning for the sai "One's first r come Tax Ame surprise," decla vie, chairman turers Associa turers Associa:
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FEAR NEW TAX WILL IMPEDE B. C. BUSINESS

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IT'S "SURPRISE"

(Text of New Bill on Page 8).

British Columbia business in-British Columbia business in-terests, taken by surprise by Hon John Hart's announcement Fri-day of a proposed tax on undis-tributed corporation profits, to-day took steps to learn how far the government intends to go in a move that may have far-reach-ing effects on industry.

There is still considerable con-fusion over interpretation of the

There is still considerable con-fusion over interpretation of the amendments announced by the provincial finance minister. Some trade organization officials are of the opinion that the profits tax will have an extremely wide application and that exemptions will be the exception to the general rule.

others, pointing to the section of the bill specifying the type of corporations to which the amendment applies, believe that in the final analysis only a few companies will be directly affected.

WHAT RILL SAYS.

WHAT BILL SAYS.

The bill says that the tax shall apply "to every corporation in which the majority of the voting power or shares is in the hands of not more than five persons and relatives or nominees of any of those persons, or where control of the corporation is by any other means whatever in their hands."

Members of the executive committees of the insurance, financial, mining and real estate bureaus of the Board of Trade will meet on Monday morning to dis-

meet on Monday morning to dis-cuss implications of the proposed new legislation.

new legislation.

The executive of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, B.C. division, will meet Monday evening for the same purpose.

"One's first reaction to the Income Tax Amendments is one of surprise," declared Alex McKelvie, chairman of the Manufacturers Association, this morning. vie, chairman or the Manutage turers Association, this morning, "When, he introduced the budget Mr. Hart stated that 'no changes are contemplated in the tax structure of the province until such time as definite conclusions have been arrived at, pursuant to the investigation and findings by, the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations."

"The taxing provisions of the act hitherto in effect gave the minister power to tax undistributed profits in the hands of a corporation where in his opinion such profits or reserves were not being distributed in order to evade taxation.

"As I read the new act, such corporations will be given the option of paying out to shareholders undistributed profits, but if this distribution is not made, the minister may levy a 15 per cent. tax on any part of the surplus in the hands of the company. turers Association, this morning.

of the new act," continued Mr. McKelvie, "it seems to be aimed chiefly at holding companies or personal corporations, it is bound

to apply also to a considerable number of industries in the province, the control of which is in the hands of a limited number

in the hands of a limited number of persons.

"The limit is set by the new act at five persons, but while that number might easily have over 50 per cent. of the stock of a company, the balance of the stock might be widely distributed, so that it would appear that many other companies besides personal or family corporations would be affected by the new tax."

Representatives of mining and other industries claimed that the proposed taxation of undistributed gains might seriously retard new development.

tributed gains might seriously re-tard new development.

"Taxation of undistributed profits was tried out under the Roosevelt New Deal and it proved a failure," commented A. E. Jukes, former president of the Vancouver Stock Exchange and sident of several mining com-

Business and industry found "Business and industry found that taxation of undistributed profits discouraged expansion," said Mr. Jukes. "The natural reaction of corporations was to pay out excessive dividends to escape taxation, at the same time depleting their treasury of funds required for normal development."

B. C. to Guarantee Municipal Loans

By Dally Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 3—The province will guarantee municipal borrowings from the Dominion on a 2 per cent. basis for self-diquidating works. This was the subject matter of the "Municipal Im-

provements Assistance Act" bill which was introduced into the Legislature on Friday by Hon. A. Wells Gray, minister of municipal affairs.

In guaranteeing the loans of the municipalities, the govern-ment protects itself against loss. Provisions in the measure in-clude:

Municipalities may without the necessity of securing consent of the ratepayers, on ap-proval of the loan by the govern-ment;

ment;
Loans shall be secured by a "first mortgage or hypothec or other charge" covering the work;
In addition to the mortgage on the self-liouidating work, the loan shall "be binding on the municipality."

In the Legislature

HON, JOHN HART

New Tax Will Not Affect Ordinary Firms, Says Finance Minister.

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Nov. 5.—Ordinary business will not be affected in any way by the amendments to the Income Tax Act introduced by Hon. John Hart, minister of finance last week

finance last week.

Mr. Hart makes it clear that it is not his policy to pull down business reserves. On the other hand, he says his department has en-couraged building up reserves.

The amendment hits at a few

holding companies which, he claims, now avoid surtax by piling up undivided profits.

up unavided profits.

He declares emphatically that it has no relation to the undivided profit tax in United States.

Ordinary companies and corporations in B. C. won't even know the new tax provisions exist, he declares.

INSURANCE TAXATION.

Here's an example of the hold-ing companies it will reach. A small group, say four or five, own and control a big business. Out of it they take large salaries and expenses. They find themselves with surplus profits which, be-cause not distributed as dividends,

cause not distributed as dividends, are not taxable.

These surpluses they throw into an incorporated holding company, where surplus undivided profits acculate. Under the amendment, the minister of finance has the techt to a the company after a right to tax the company, after a warning period of thirty days. The new method taxation of life

Insurance companies is something that has been in effect in most other provinces, and is said to have been done at the request of the companies.

Opposes Morning House Sittings

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA.—R. W. Bruhn, Con-servative, Salmon Arm, protested when Capt. Sid Leary, govern-ment whip, announced at public accounts committee meeting that

ment whip, announced at public accounts committee meeeting that morning sittings would commence tomorrow in the Legislature. It was unfair to opposition members, Mr. Bruhn pointed out. "How can we properly digest the heavy legislation that may be brought down, if we are called upon to sit in the chamber morning, afternoon and night?" he demanded.

There was no answer.

'Non-Committal"

VICTORIA.—Frank Murphy of Pouce Coupe and Arthur Smith of Wembley today told Hon. Frank MacPherson about the Monkman Pass trail. The delegates were introduced to the minister of public works by Harry Perry, M.L.A., Prince George, who made an eloquent plea in their behalf before the House recently.

A "cordial" reception was the way the men from the Monkman described their reception by Mr. MacPherson, but, they added, "non-committal."

FARMERS RAP WEED POLICY

Macdonald In Clash With Saanich Delegates.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 5.— Demand-ing that the government take re-sponsibility for enforcing protec-tive action under the Noxious Weeds Act, belligerent repre-sentatives of North Saanich farmers appeared before the agri-culture committee of the Legis-

culture committee of the Legislature today.

They insisted that the act, awaiting enforcement at this session, should contain a clause making appointment of a committee of farmers a matter for the department of agriculture.

Dr. K. C. MacDonald, minister of agriculture, bluntly informed the delegates that the department would do no such thing.

VOTE IMPOSSIBLE.

Power was provided under the act for 60 per cent. of the farmers of any district to elect a committee which would enforce control of noxious weeds.

Capt. C. R. Wilson asserted that it was impossible to get 60 per cent. of farmers to vote on any such measure. They would not bother, he said.

Since the law said that noxious weeds should be controlled, it was up to the department to see they were.

was up to the department to see they were.

If the people of Saanich have not got the courage to set up such a committee or go to the police, the department is not going to do anything," said Dr. Macdonald.

"The department is sliding out."

Macdonald.

"The department is sliding out of its responsibility," Captain Wilson charged.

"Then, get into organized territory and you'll solve the situation," Dr. Macdonald advised.

NO DICTATORSHIPS.

NO DICTATORSHIPS.

"That's just side-tracking the issue," said Captain Wilson.

"The department is not going to set up any dictatorship," the minister insisted.

"That's not what we ask. We only want an advisory committee. I'll bet that if the minister were to consult the department officials in this committee they would agree with me," Captain Wilson challenged.

"If they did agree they wouldn't hold their jobs long," MacDonald replied.

Captain Wilson took this as a threat. "My opinion of this department has certainly gone down," he added.

STREET CORNERS

By Torchy Anderson

7ICTORIA, Dec. 5.-We were sitting in a darkened mem-Toronta, Dec. 5.—we were sitting in a darkered included bers' room the other day watching on a flickering screen a quick-changing panorama of many-colored alpine meadows, distant blue mountains with crowns of fresh FRESH AIR. snow. We could almost believe we were breath-

ing the fresh tang of the mountain air instead of the musty atmosphere which prevails in the badly-ventilated

halls of this ancient pile. They were showing members a pic-ture of the magnificent country that lies adjacent to the Hope-

ture of the magnificent country that lies adjacent to the HopePrinceton road—or, rather, the road which is still mostly hope.

After you look at a picture like that it is easy to understand why the men who know the country are ever pressing
forward to the goal of a highway which would join
LURE. Princeton and the Okanagan with the Fraser River at

Hope. The picture was taken on The Three Brothers game reserve. Here in park-like country the big mule deer wander into the view-finder of the photographer, the grouse send the sound of their proud drumming echoing into the hills, smaller birds dart through the trees like flashes of color in the

It's a country of scattered bluffs of evergreens, mountain tarns that lie like pools of paint in tiny hollows, where the wild-flowers dance to the tune of the breeze on every hillside.

As I wandered away from the pictured beauty of this spot I ran into Charile Tupper, member for Similkameen and ardent advocate of the Hope-Princeton road. Mr. Tupper knows and loves this country with some-thing that surpasses economic advantages which ADVOCATE.

would accrue from completion of the parily-built highway.

Over the surveyed route of the highway it is some eighty-

eight miles from Hope to Princeton. From the Hope end abo ten miles has been built and there is a rough road for some distance farther. From Princeton there is a road to Allison Summit, a distance of fifty miles that can be covered comfortably in an hour and three-quarters.

Mr. Tupper has driven over most of the route, holidayed in

the country it taps. He knows its beautiful heavily-timbered valleys and the parses from which you get a SHORT CUT. breath-taking view of the mountains of the Coast Range. He thinks the most important thing about the projected roac is its easy grades and safe location. There are none of the heart-stopping heights of the Fraser Canyon, nor the dizzy overhangs of the Thompson.

It will lead to the famous pools of the Skagit, where the big trout already attract those who are willing to take to horseback

or use their own two feet.

From Princeton to Vancouver over the Merritt route it is 380 miles, via the shortest United States route, 425 miles. Via the Hope road it would be 250 miles. They think its completion would mean a drive of seven hours from Penticton to Vancouver. and five from Princeton.

and five from Princeton.

+ + + +

The government says it has not enough money to finish the Hope-Princeton road. Those who have steadfast faith in the route and never ceased to hope for its completion, MONEY. look optimistically to Ottawa. Their prayer is that Big Brother will make a generous donation some day toward the cost of the project.

Charlie Tupper will tell you that 31,000 Canadian cars cleared through the port at Osoyoos last year, nearly all of them going to or from Vancouver. Those cars would have gone direct via Hope had there been a good highway completed over the surveyed route.

On the Lower Similkameen, where they have been left without railway service, the new road would offer direct connection with the big Vancouver market.

From much of the Okanagan the traffic would find an outlet coastward by the same route. It would be a vital link between the coast and the southern interior.

No one has yet said anything officially about its military significance. From this angle it would be highly important in event of hostilities on this coast.

Charlie Tupper proves his claim that the road would be a good business investment for British Columbia by telling about the rich mining developments in the Similkameen, BUSINESS. Its timber, fruit and cattle. He tells of the big loss in revenue through thousands of Canadian cars journeying coastward via United States.

He hopes it will not be too long before the people of this province and thousands of visitors may know the glory of the magnificent skyline that lies southward along the international boundary. The glaciers run to numbers that tax a casual count. Mount Baker stands like a mighty, snow-decked beacon.

The valleys lie soft shadowed by pine and spruce. Rivers

And if Charlie Tupper keeps on getting himself elections day he will be driving over the Allison summit and do the slope toward the Fraser, through the cedar, fir and he lock, and finally turning toward Vancouver where the moment stands on the banks of the Fraser to mark the found

TELFORD SEEKS ROYAL ENOUIRY

Direct Collusion Charged Between Government And Company.

Direct collusion between the Pattullo government and the Dominion Bridge Company in regard to construction of the Pat tullo Bridge, was charged by Dr.
Lyle Telford, M.L.A., in addressing a packed meeting Sunday
night in Moose Hall.

In a fiery attack on alleged government graft and corruption, punctuated by frequent applause, Dr. Telford:

1—Reiterated his charge of gross over-payment for steel used in construction of the bridge;

2.—Declared he is now in possession of authentic documents confirming information he was precluded from using as sworn evidence at the enquiry at Viotoria, owing to pledges given his informants:

3—On the ground that his charges had been thrown out only because of a "technicality," demanded a royal commission, including the services of experts; to investigate them.

4—Repeated his offer to resign his seat if his constituency committee agrees, and fight a by-election on the issue.

CONTINUES ATTACK.

Dr. Telford combined his con-

Dr. Telford combined his contract with the confident prediction he would be elected Vancouver's next mayor.

Regarding the first issue he declared that should he secure a royal commission to investigate the contract, its findings will be sufficient to "wreck" the government.

ment.

If elected mayor, he will proceed to put into practice principles of public ownership, especially as regards public utilities—electrical power, telephones, etc.—and certain commodities such as milk and bread. The chief officials of the Vancouver police department would, he implied, be fixed if he is elected to office. fired if he is elected to office.

Among the documents was letter purportedly signed by C. D. Hobbs of C. D. Hobbs & Co. Hobbs of C. D. Hobbs & Co. Ltd., Vancouver, to a British steel firm, in which the price of \$140 per ton for steel was mentioned, followed by the advice that the "various" steel companies in Canada had established a price of \$190 to \$200 a ton, and that it would be unwise to disturb this arrangement, especially as the government would have to pass on the price.
"At the enquiry they caught me on a technicality when Mr. Hobbs said he had lost his files and couldn't say if \$140 a ton was the price mentioned." It

"If I had wanted to 'welsh' on a friend of mine I could have got him to swear that this was an exact copy of the original letter. But I had given my sworn pledge

HAS TWO WITNESSES.

"As a result of not welshing I have two witnesses who are willing to go on the stand, as they have more confidence now than they had."

Reviewing the lengthy negotiations leading up to the final award of the bridge contract, Dr. Telford declared that Major W. G. Swan had acted as consulting engineer for the successive companies involved and in

Dr. 1elford declared that Major W. G. Swan had acted as consulting engineer for the successive companies involved, and in his capacity as consulting engineer for the New Westminster Harbor Board had Lassed on plans approved by him as engineer for the bridge.

He stated that Premier Pattullo had "engineered" the bill which permitted the company to construct the bridge, that the government had agreed to give the company \$225,000 for the charter held by the Fraser River Bridge Co., and charged that there was collusion between government and company. ernment and company.

CITES OTHER CONTRACTS.

"This sort of thing has got to be stopped," he declared. "It is one of the most disgraceful of

be stopped," he declared. "It is one of the most disgraceful of government contracts, akin to the P.G.E., to the Bren gun and the Beauharnois cntracts."

He quoted with approval from an editorial touching the question which appeared in Saturday's Daily Province.

"Speaking of newspapers," he said, "I take off my hat to The Province. As it pointed out, not one person in the government at Victoria dares to get up and say there was no graft in the building of the bridge."

As candidate for mayor, Dr. Telford declared that "when" he was elected, all bids on contracts would have to be made in the open.

open.

He promised to deal with unemployment "efficiently and humanely." It was impossible to "pull down the taxes overnight," he said; the "system" would have to be taken over gradually.

He criticized the "tinsel," "hypocrisy" and "ballyhoo" which he asserted is gathering about the visit of the King and Queen to Canada next summer. Stating

visit of the King and Queen to Canada next summer. Stating that Their Majesties would prefer "a simple visit," he said they were deserving of respect. "That respect I would give," he added. He criticized finally the present allegedly dangerous method of storing gasoline in tanks in the city, and the higher officials on the police force.

"When I go in as mayor, they can get ready to go out," he declared in reference to the latter.

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The Latest Example

NOTHING could better illustrate the muddle and mischief which the Pattullo government is making of the administration of British Columbia than its latest "dying hours" attempt to bolster the hasty legislation of last session by which it assumes the right and authority to lower the price of gasoline in British Columbia.

The government has introduced an extraordinary amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act. and the purpose of it is-only it is the unavowed purpose-to shut off the oil companies from their recourse to the courts.

The amendment, retroactive in its application, says that the act was not intended to carry out the recommendations of the enquiry by royal commission conducted two or three years ago by Mr. Justice Macdonald. It says that the act was not intended to regulate the import and export of fuel oil into or from the province. And it says that the act does not intend by the price regulation of one commodity the actual regulation of the price of another commodity.

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The peculiar animus of this amendment is that it seeks to stultify the litigation now pending in the courts, by which the oil companies seek a declaration that the Legislature does not possess the constitutional power to authorize the government to fix the price of gasoline.

If the government can get this amendment passed, and if it can get it sustained in the courts-which is extremely doubtful-then, in the most amazing and unheard-of fashion, it can ride roughshod over the processes of legal justice-it can slam the doors of the courtroom in the faces of its opponents after they have been admitte to the courthouse. For it is precisely upon the subject matter of the amendment to the act that the oil companies have based an important part of

And this, by the way, is a foretaste and example of what the Pattullo government intends in the regulation of public utilities, and this is the sort of thing, highhanded, arbitrary, that may be expected if the government is permitted by the Legislature to go ahead with its scheme of sham regulation by sham commission.

Our B. C. Stipendiaries

THE House at Victoria, struggling with lesser affairs and greater, has got round to the case of the stipendiary magistrates of British Columbia. It appears very strongly that their case is not what it should be in good public policy.

For it appears that this province is the place where a stipendiary magistrate is not that at all, in the sense that he is not paid for his services by stipend or salary. He is paid on the very different and very dubious system of collecting his own fee in court, and generally from the defendant in the case who has been found guilty as charged.

The obvious objection to this system is implicitly recognized by Attorney-General Wismer, who says he has been considering whether it may not be possible to set up a plan by which a number of stipendiary magistrates will travel, holding police court on circuit, and will be paid a defined salary, as city magistrates are now paid.

There is no suggestion here of any scandalous condition of miscarriage of justice by reason of an anomalous system. But it certainly is anomalous, to say the least, that any dispenser of justice, high or low, should be compelled, by the legal definition of his service, to derive his living from the imposts which he himself decrees in the process of justice.

The logical statement of the evil here is that the stipendiary is obliged to live by finding the defendant guilty. It says much for the saving grace of human nature, by which men are commonly better than their own institutions, that there has arisen no scandal in this matter.

The attorney-general has very prop-erly admitted that there is a prima facie case for reform here, and reform of some sort there should be.

GAS SALES EXEMPT FROM RETAIL ACT

Manufacturers' Price Can Be Cut.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—An amend-ment to the "Commodities Retail Sales Act" before the Legislature has an important bearing on the dispute between the oil and gas-oline companies and the govern-

oline companies and the government.

The bill would exempt both the
Coal and Petroleum Control
Board Act and the Natural Products Marketing Act from the operations of the Commodities Retail Sales Act.

Under the Retail Act the
method of setting the retail sales
price of commodities other than
foodstuffs was defined. It was an
offense for a retailer to sell any
commodity below the price established by the producer or manufacturer. This meant that gasoline retailers could continue to
sell at the prices set by the producing companies and ignore the
instructions of the Coal and Pe-

MEMBERS OF C.C.F. **OPPOSE BY-ELECTION**

Caucus Regard Telford Action "Individual."

By TORCHY ANDERSON Daily Province Staff Corresponde

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.-The C.C.F. group in the House is opposed to any be-election in Vancouver East, with the Pattullo bridge charges of Dr. Lyle Telford as

charges of Dr. Lyle Telford as the main issue, and regard the action taken by Dr. Telford as wholly "individual."

Part of the group takes the stand that the whole incident is aside from the main goal of their political effort—a social revolution when and if the people are ready for it. Meantime, whether the government is honest or not, it is not the right kind of a government in their view.

Others pay more attention to the immediate political scene. They see some reason for a resignation and believe it their duty to hunt out immediate scandal if necessary. They see logic in the course suggested by Dr. Telford.

ESTATE TO AID CITY HOSPITAL

Late Henry Town Left \$400,000 to Four Institutions.

By Daily Province Staff Corresponde

By Dally Province Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—Before the
present session of the Legislature
finishes, a bill will be introduced
to wind up the Town estate, under
which Vancouver General Hospital, Salvation Army, Christ
Church and Alexander Orphanage
will benefit considerably.

It is possible that, at present
values, the General Hospital may
benefit to the extent of \$100,000.
Henry Town died in 1904, leaving a considerable estate, most of
which was Vancouver real estate.
The four charities named were to
benefit: General Hospital one
quarter, Orphanage one eighth,
Christ Church one eighth, Salvation Army one half.
It is believed that some \$400,000
remains to be divided among the
four.
All parties are said to have

remains to be divided among the four.

All parties are said to have agreed, including representatives of the family.

The whole estate is said to have had a value of \$750,000.

FROM THE PRESS GALLERY

Premier's Speech on Alaska Highway Optimistic at Least

Not as Definite as Might Be Expected But Certainly Paved With Good Intentions.

By TORCHY ANDERSON.

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.-If Hon. Frank MacPherson were miraculous enough a minister of public works to supply a fourcurve-banked highway leading straight to paradise, were he able to deck it with string-pearl rail guards and pave it with gold-some honorable member would kick because it did not go through his favorite bank of clouds.

Mr. MacPherson is not budgeting for any such highways but

Mr. MacPherson is not budgeting for any such highways but the ordinary private member can always find enough in his extensive estimates to bring on the urge of oratory. As a matter of fact public works estimates are the most interesting in the House. They take you places. One moment you are beside the mirror surface of the Shuswap, next among the spruce and pine of the Monkman Pass. You get fascinating glimpses that lies beyond the last hot dog stand, where British Columbia still looks as she did before we began to mess about with her.

But it was not some fanciful gold-paved highway of Mr. MacPherson's that held the interest of the House on an item in the estimates which did not get its place in the light until the marble clock had crept around to almost 1 a.m.

It was Mr. Pattullo's Alaska highway. You might almost call it the highway of good intention and broad sweeping

Mr. Pattullo made a brief speech which, like all such statements, made up in optimism what it lacked in certainty.

Mr. Maitland declared strenuously that after listening to road wants from all over British Columbia all evening this highway project seemed "extravagant, unnecessary, unreasonable."

The Premier got almost embarrassing support from Mr. Uphill of Fernie. Mr. Uphill had letters and maps and produced both like rabbits from a hat. His main arguments seemed to corelate the position of Fernie as a main junction point between Mexico and Alaska.



PREMIER PATTULIO-Tells about Alaska Highway.

"And, Mr., it is well behind the mountains, away from the panese." Even the Premier seemed to think Mr. Uphill was being too kind. As the member for Fernie began to get himself in a large map of North America Mr. Pattullo suggeted that perhaps the Hon, Member had made his point. The in Member agreed and decided it was his bedtime.

Mark Connelly, from Omineca, was all for building British dumbia roads for British Columbians, there being an inference at the Monkman Pass road was pretty much for Albertans.

Colin Cameron said the people he was speaking for had not been promised a road for one hundred years. They had been waiting only twenty-five but he still thought the government ought to do something with that states miles of "horrible road" that you have to pass to get to Sayward, north of Campbell

River.

Mr. Cameron did not think he was asking very much—nothing like a major million dollar highway, just a road end, Mr. Chairman.

When Colin Cameron, up-and-coming C.C.F. delegate from Comox, finds it necessary, or possible to congratulate Hon.

"Bill" Asselstine, minister of mines, for doing "an excellent piece of work"— that's news. It's not news because Mr. Cameron is a carping fellow, but because he is the sort of conscientious student of public affairs whose backing makes a compliment

good.

Anyway Colin told Bill that he had done a good job in amending the Mining Act and everybody seemed glad that Bill was on his way to make it tough for gentlemen who tried to hold mining claims as speculative real estate.

Boiled down to its essentials, the policy of Mr. Asselstine seems to be that mining claims are to be worked, not held with a hope of sale.

Favorite indoor and outdoor occupation in Victoria and Vancouver: Telling Dr. Telford he should, shouldn't, should resign his seat in the House.

The collapse of the municipal pensions scheme was just the inevitable conse quence of a long term of the process of open-your-mouths-and-shut-your-eyes.

Revenue on Pattullo Bridge \$275,000 in the First Year

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—In the first full year of operation of the Pattullo bridge, 1,171,383 cars crossed the span, returning in revenue \$274,288, Hon. Frank M. MacPherson, minister of public works told the Legislature early this morning. Operation and maintenance cost \$55,883.

Asked by Hon. R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, as to interest and sinking fund charges, the minister stated that these could not be computed accurately, as the financing had not been completed.

"If, however, it is in a

"If, however, it is in a 4 per cent. basis, then interest and sinking fund charges will approximate \$257,000," he said.

After referring to many of the major projects that had been proposed, Mr. MacPherson made it clear that he would not embark

tt clear that he would not embark upon any new undertaking until the programme now under way had been completed.

This announcement of policy puts a damper for the time being upon the hopes of advocates of such undertakings as the Prince Rupert highway, the Peace River outlet, the west coast road, the Campbell River-Sayward connection and the highway from the Cariboo to Bella Coola.

Defending the letting of highway contracts, the minister said:
"You can't build the kind of roada people want nowadays with wheelbarrows, so we let contracts to people who have the equipment. This saves us spending money for equipment."

M.L.A.'s Eat Alfalfa From Whisky and Soda Creeks

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—(CP)—
Louis Lebourdais (Lib.-Cariboo), put over his final publicity
stunt of the session for Cariboo
alfalfa today.

He persuaded the parliamentary restaurant to make some
alfalfa muffins for all members
to taste and benefit from the
vitamins.

Mr. Lebourdais explained
that the alfalfa came from
Whisky Creek, and the flour
from Soda Creek, both in the
Cariboo. This made the muffins
a complete Cariboo delicacy
from Whisky and Soda creeks.

Pattullo Hoist

Conservativ Wide Powe To the Ca

By Daily Province Staf VICTORIA, Dec tion as important a bill, which the Hous sufficient opportuni should be held ove next session, opposi snould be held over next session, opposideclared, during the the bill in commit House yesterday. But Premier T would not hear of Hottest came the section 98 of the b

section 98 of the b This section gives Commission powe such persons as are enforce its ord "forcibly or othe upon, seize and to of the whole or am movable or imm erty of any public. The section gives commission to hol and offices and r ment of the utility have been carried of

"If you are goin, Russian legislation the limit," suggest land, leader of the and seize the dire ployees at the sam Attorney-General mer asked what would suggest in nowers.

powers.

"Carry on in way," Mr. Maithback. "Don't givstick. This isn't (lation."

Premier Pattulk will pass it and t Canadian.

NEED FIFTY TH

Mr. Wismer—Tr guarding measure suggests we use or and that we shoul power to go fart going to the Privy time. We'd need lawyers. We wout the time when the commission would Herbert Anscom Victorir—It is pret instead of fifty want fifty thugs legislation. The laughs. That's ab done this session, be some other sys than the hiring of don't need the sort they have in Germ Harold E. Winc couver East, said not go far enougive the commis-take over owner-utility companies,

Pattullo Ignores Opposition Plea to Hoist Utilities Bill to Next Session

BITTER DEBATE ON SECTION 98

Conservatives Attack Wide Power Given To the Cabinet.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Legisla-tion as important as the utilities bill, which the House had not had sufficient opportunity to study, should be held over until the

sufficient opportunity to study, should be held over until the next session, opposition members declared, during the debate on the bill in committee of the House yesterday.

But Premier T. D. Pattullo would not hear of it.

Hottest came the debate when section 98 of the bill was read. This section gives the Utilities Commission power to employ such persons as are necessary to enforce its orders, and to "forcibly or otherwise enter upon, seize and take possession of the whole or any part of the movable or immovable property of any public utility."

The section gives power to the commission to hold documents and offices and retain management of the utility until its orders have been carried out.

SMACKS OF RUSSIA.

MACKS OF RUSSIA.

"If you are going to have real Russian legislation, why not go the limit," suggested R. L. Maitland, leader of the opposition, "and seize the directors and employees at the same time?"

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer asked what Mr. Maitland would suggest in place of these

"Carry on in the ordinary way." Mr. Maitland snapped back. "Don't give them a big stick. This isn't Canadian legislation."

Premier Pattullo—This House will pass it and then it will be Canadian.

NEED FIFTY THUGS.

Canadian.

NEED FIFTY THUGS.

Mr. Wismer—This is only a guarding measure. My friend suggests we use ordinary methods and that we should not have the power to go farther. We'd be going to the Privy Council all the time. We'd need a staff of fifty lawyers. We wouldn't live to see the time when the orders of the commission would be carried out. Herbert Ansoomb, Conservative, the commission would be carried out. Herbert Ansoomb, Conservative, the standard of fifty lawyers you'll want fifty thugs to enforce this legislation. The hon. minister laughs. That's about all he has done this session. There should be some other system in Canada than the hiring of thugs. We don't need the sort of government they have in Germany.

Harold E. Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, said the section did not go far enough. It should give the commission power to take over ownership of public utility companies, not just temporary control. Valuation could be decided after the companies were taken into government.

Macgregor Macintosh, Con-servative, Islands, said it was agreed that such an act was needed, but it was inevitable opinions as to the power to be granted would differ. A correct solution to the problem was essential and only with time was it possible to arrive at it. "Hold it up for another year," he ad-vised.

PERRY RAPS ACT.

PERRY RAPS ACT.
Under section 112, a mayor, reeve and members of a municipal council may be held personally responsible for failure of a municipality to comply with rulings of the Utilities Commission. This led to an attack on the principle of personal liability by H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort George.

George.

The liability should be put on the corporation and not on the individual members of a council, he insisted. A mayor or reeve might wish to conform with the

might wish to conform with the commission's ruling, but be over-ridden by his council. Despite this, he could be called into court and fined. It was unfair.

Hon. Mr. Wismer—All that has got to be shown is that reasonable effort was made to comply with the board's rulings.

J. A. Paton, Conservative, Vancouver-Point Grey—It is hard enough now to get good men to run for office, but with such a liability facing them it will be worse.

worse.

In considering other penalty clauses, exception was taken by H. E. Winch to provision for punishment by fine of an employee for failure to divulge information required by the board. "If he does not do it he will be fined \$50 and if he obeys the board he may be fired," he commented.

Premier Pattullo—The court will take note of the situation.

Mr. Paton—The court means the cabinet!

Mr. Perry came out definitely

Mr. Paron—the
the cabinet!
Mr. Perry came out definitely
in opposition to giving the Public
Utilities Commission the power
to be judge and prosecutor at the
same time. He said that under
section 121 the board made regulations and was then empowere to impose fines for infringement of them.

Mr. Maitland—Does the attor-Mr. Maitland—Does the attorney-general know of any statute in any other place wherein a commission has power to make regulations and then impose fines for violations of its own rules?

Mr. Perry—We have the Legal Professions Act, and more recently the hairdressers were given power to legislate and punish by imposing penalties.

DEFENDS PROFESSION.

Mr. Maitland—The legal profession only has power to disbar.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby—It's too bad they don't use it

It's too bad they don't use it oftener.

This aroused Mr. Maitland to a defense of his profession, which he declared to be operating on a high plane. He invited the Burnaby member if he had any justified complaint against any lawyer to bring it before the Bar Association, where it would be investigated.

Hon. G. M. Weir rushed to the defense of the government, say-

ing that the British cabinet was taking even greater powers. He instanced the Health Act in the United Kingdom.

Shouted Macgregor Mackintosh—If we are going to maintain British traditions, then you can't have this sort of thing. It's just this type of legislation, starting in minor bodies like this Legislature, that will eventually crack our democracy clear to the top. I say give the Legislature back its power.

ANSCOMB HITS **NEW TAX MOVE**

Hart Claims Only Half A Dozen Companies To Be Affected.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 6 .- "This is the thin edge of the wedge of greater taxation," charged Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Vic toria, when Finance Minister John Hart explained his bill amending the Income Tax Act at second reading in the Legislature

yesterday.
"If there is any section of the community deserving consideration at the hands of the government, it should be the insurance companies and the people who are taking out insurance," he went on. "It used to be that insurance premiums were exempted from income tax. But that's been whittled down, too."

FEW AFFECTED.

Mr. Hart had explained that the

Mr. Hart had explained that the intention of the amendment was to prevent holding companies defeating the object of the Surtax Act. It would be possible to tax holding companies, if profits were not divided, at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.

"Then holding companies could declare profits and the shareholders would pay the tax on them. If the companies fail to move, we can tax them 15 per cent. in lieu of the revenue we should ordinarily get from the tax on the shareholders' profits. I assure the House this is the only effect of the bill. It in no way interferes with industry," Mr. Hart stated.

The amendment would affect to more than half a dozen com-

Mr. Hart stated.

The amendment would affect no more than half a dozen companies in B. C., he added.

In cases of bonuscs paid by insurance companies which were applied to the reduction of premiums, said Mr. Hart, the position was safeguarded. Companies would be taxed 2% per cent. on the net amount of premiums. This was in line with legislation in other provinces, he said.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, asked if the \$24,000,000 of reserves in the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Corporation would

be taxed under the act. He wanted to know why these reserves were not assessed.

Mr. Hart explained that the company was under Dominion charter and beyond the control of

R. L. Maitland adjourned the debate, indicating a further attack on this bill.

B. C. TO TAKE OVER PENSION FUND SHORTLY

Hart Plans to Transfer \$3,500,000 to the Capital Account.

WHOLE SECURED

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 6.— Finance Minister John Hart proposes immediately to enact legislation to take over full responsibility for the B. C. superannuation fund. It will involve the transfer of some \$3,500,000 from current liabilities into capital liabilities, and out of assets an equivalent sum

out of assets an equivalent s will go into the sinking fund.

PUT IN DEBENTURES.

The new bill, in other words, empowers the minister of finance to transfer superannuation funds to the trustee to be appointed under the amended Superannuation Act, or he may, at his discretion, substitute provincial debentures for the whole or any

bentures for the whole or any part of the fund.

The Lieutenant-Governor-incouncil can authorize sale to the superannuation fund to an amount not exceeding money at the credit of the fund.

OUT OF REVENUES

Securities issued under this act, and interest, will be charged against and paid out of consolidated revenue, and interest will not exceed 3½ per cent.

The finance minister is empowered to transfer to sinking funds securities held by the superannuation fund to an amount equal to the par value of any debentures which may be issued in support of the fund.

Thus, certain securities held in the superannuation fund which have depreciated will be guaranteed by the province, and the whole fund secured.

(Earlier details of the superannuation fund situation appear on page 7.)

Wide Powers Given

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Powers to detain persons suspected to be infected with venereal disease, or with having been exposed to it, are contained in amendments to the Venereal Diseases Suppression Act, introduced into the Legislature yesterday.

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6.—(CP)— (Lib.-Cari-al publicity or Cariboo parliament-nake some I members t from the

explained ame from the flour oth in the the muffins o delicacy da creeks.



Says Monkman Pass Shows Need for Road Commission

(By Daily Province Staff Correspon

VICTORIA, Dec. 6,—Liberal members who quarrelled over whether the government should assist the volunteer workers on the Monkman Pass Highway provided the House with the finest argument for a highway commission yet provided in the Legislature, declared Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative.

Liberal platform and Conservative had both promised the Peace River an outlet to the Coast for eighteen years and still there was nothing done, F. G. T. Perry (Liberal, Fort George), declared.

E. T. Skeens, Liberal Skeens

Fort George), declared.

E. T. Skeena, Liberal, Skeena, admitted that he would support the Conservative request for a highway commission if that were the only means whereby the situation could be controlled. He said there was nothing to stop any group starting a volunteer roadbuilding job and then asking government help, and if one was helped, all should be.

Residents of Peace River are poles apart on the question of road connection with the rest of the province. This was evidenced Monday afternoon when G. E. Braden, Liberal representative for

the district, advocated the Peace River outlet. Delegates from the Peace Rive country who have been backing

Legislature Speeds Up as End in Sight

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Work of the session was accelerated tremendously yesterday as legislators strove to remove obstacles remaining in the way of prorogation Saturday.

Besides considering the Public Utilities Bill in committee of the whole, giving third reading to six measures, second reading to two and first reading to eleven.

Liberal members were called to caucus early in the afternoon and C. C. F. members met to discuss the threat of Dr. Lyle Telford to resign his seat.

From his hospital bed J. M. Bryan, Liberal, Mackenzie, came to caucus. He went back to hospital and the House went back to work.

pital and the House went back to work.

At the night session the amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act got third reading. These remove from the private driver the responsibility for paying damages to non-paying passengers. A complementary bill, amending the Contributory Negligence Act also got third reading.

An amendment to the Court of Appeal Act, and another to the Matrimonial Causes Act, bringing B. C. people the right of appeal in divorce cases, got third reading. The authorization for the transfer of the old Fraser River Bridge got third reading, togther with the B. C. University Act and the South Westminster Dyking Act, which allows for refinancing and improvements in that district's dykes. The Noxious Weeds Act amendments also passed third reading.

that district's dykes. The Noxious Weeds Act amendments also passed third reading.
At night the Act respecting Credit Unions and the Income Tax amendments got second reading.
First readings were given to amendments to the following acts: B. C. Loan Act, Superannuation Act, Game Act, Coroner Act, Municipal Act, Municipal Elections Act, Village Municipalities Act, Venereal Diseases Act, Residence and Responsibility Act, Mineral Act and Placer Mining Act during the afternoon.

B.C. WILL NOT GIVE UP BRIDGE RIGHTS

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Answing a stubborn attack on the atto authorize the transfer of told Fraser River bridge, whi was given third reading in the Legislature last night, Premier D. Pattullo told the House to province is not surrendering rights and that it still has moral claim for payment again Ottawa.

B. C. BUS New Right

"Why Highe

HERE are T. D. Pa of Trade, and Canadian Ma Utilities Bill.

The view Premier tode economy."
"It is our that the leg within the la which in its ir reaching effer province, shou known to the time to permit the governme the governme all interested p in respect to which legislati upon the cons payer. "We feel th

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"It is our "It is our of to the Board or sioners after competent explic hearings, should be a findings into findings being by the Liet council.

"More ade reference to

Pattullo Turns Down Petition from Vancouver Business Men for Utilities Act Changes

B. C. BUSINESS CLAIMS:

New Utilities Bill Refuses Right of Appeal to Courts

"Why Deny That Which Is One of the Highest Principles of Democratic Government."

HERE are excerpts from the letter sent jointly to Premier T. D. Pattullo by John Whittle, president of the Board of Trade, and Alex McKelvie, chairman of the B. C. division Canadian Manufacturers' Association, on the proposed Public Utilities Bill.

The views expressed in the letter were declared by the Premier today to be "not in the interests of sound public economy."

economy."
"It is our considered opinion that the legislation introduced within the last two weeks and which in its implications has far-reaching effects upon the entire province, should have been made known to the public in ample time to permit of the receipt by the government of the views of all interested parties, particularly in respect to the direct effect which legislation of this type has upon the consumer and the tax-payer.

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"We feel that, in line with the practice in effect in other provinces as well as in other countries, the proposed Public Utilities Commission should be responsible only to the Legislature.

sponsible only to the Legislature.

"It is noted that the commission is to be comprised of three men instead of a one-man board, as had been forecast. With this we are entirely in accord.

"We feel, however, that in view of the very important duties which will face the commission and the necessarily wide powers which they will wield, together with the influence which they will be capable of exercising over the operations of industries already established in this province, as well as over future investments in British Columbia, that the board should be composed of three men of outstanding ability, having the necessary technical knowledge to deal fairly and impartially with the matters which will come before them.

"It is our opinion that similar

"It is our opinion that similar to the Board of Railway Commissioners after investigation by competent experts and after public hearings, the commission should be able to place their findings into effect without such findings being subject to review by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-

council.

"More adequate provision for reference to the courts, both as respect to law and fact, should be incorporated in the pending legislation.

legislation.
"It is our understanding that it is the intention to provide for an application to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal in place of as as present contained in the bill, to a judge of the Court of Appeal. It is our interpretation that if an appeal to the commission on questions other than jurisdiction or law is refused, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-council

Governor - in - council refusing leave to appeal, then we under-stand there is no recourse to the courts. This is a distinct depar-ture and in our opinion not a commendable one, in view of the practice which is followed else-where under similar legislation.

"Aside from the well-estab-lished principle that the courts should not be denied to any per-son or any company who feels that they have just cause for ap-peal thereto, it is our opinion that there will be a greater confidence in the proper application of this pending legislation if adequate provision is made for appeal to the courts without incum-brance or restriction.

to the courts without incumbrance or restriction.

"Business has on the whole the utmost confidence in the courts. Surely the government feels this also. So why deny to any person of corporation, as a right, something which is regarded as one of the highest principles of democratic government? Certainly as section 103 of the present bill stands, it is going to be difficult, if not impossible, for an appellant to reach the courts on a point of fact."

Dr. Walker Deplores Lethargy In Mining

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—"Unless we get more mining work done in the next ten years than we have in the past ten we will have few mines in the future. There is hardly a mine now operating that will be in production in twenty-five years," declared Dr. John Walker, deputy minister of mines, before the legislative mines committee this morning.

The deputy minister was speaking on the necessity of encouraging the expansion of the mining industry by bringing new properties to the point of production. To this end amendments of the Mineral Act were designed, he pointed out in explaining the proposed changes to the committee. have in the past ten we will

Pattullo Declares U.S. Ready To Pay for Alaska Highway

(By Dally Province Staff Correspondent.)
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—"This is merely a preliminary expenditure, a sort of reconnoissance," Premier T. D. Pattullo declared when the Alaska Highway survey vote of \$25,000 came up for discussion in the Legislature shortly after midnight. The vote was passed after brief debate.

after midnight. The vote was passed after brief debate.

The Premier was answering a criticism by R. L. Maitland, opposition leader, who attacked the vote on the grounds that other work was more vital to the needs of the province.

"We have been told tonight," said Mr. Maitland, "that roads are needed everywhere. We have heard all evening of the needs of the localities of this province which require roads for their continued progress.

"Not a single member was satisfied with what he has got in the way of a vote for highways. But now we have this vote of \$25,000 for a survey of the Alaska Highway.

"What it means no one knows—except that it is probably the beginning of a spending spree."

WILL PROVIDE FUNDS.

WILL PROVIDE FUNDS.

The premier said that the United States Government had indicated "an ardent desire" to see an Alaska highway built.

"In effect, they said, 'Here, we want this road built,' and offered us the money. Surely we were expected to play the part of a good nelgibor.

"I discussed the matter with the Rt. Hon. Mackenzle King and he said, 'You are going to take over the Yukon; see what you can do.' "I went to Washington. The Washington government said it would contribute the money for this enterprise without B.C. spending a cent for it.

"I expect to go East after the beginning of the new year, and nothing will be spent until negotiations are further advanced."

Tom Uphill, Fernie member, strongly supported the vote for the survey, but insisted that the road, when built, should pass up through Eastern British Colum-

bia.

Capt. Macgregor Macintosh,
The Islands, opposed the spending
of the money. If United States
wanted the road they should finance the survey, he maintained.

R.W. Bruhn Pleads For New Bridge

P Of New Bridge

By Daily Province Staf Correspondent
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Strong argument was advanced by R. W.
Bruhn, Conservative member for
Salmon Arm, for construction of a
bridge to replace the privatelyoperated ferry at Sicamous.

Mr. Bruhn declared that the
volume of traffic was greater
than even the minister of public
works believed. The ferry was
on the route of the Trans-Canada
Highway, and while there was
another road that might be utiltized the way by Sicamous was
eleven miles shorter on the way
to the Coast.

MORE COMPENSATION FOR B. C. WORKERS

Pearson Introduces New Amendments to Act.

By TORCHY ANDERSON
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Increased
compensation for workmen and
allowances for widows are provided in amendments to Workmen's Compensation Act introduced to the Legislature by Hon.
George Pearson, minister of
labor.
Proportion of the compensation of the compensation and the compensation act introduced to the Legislature by Hon.
George Pearson, minister of

labor.

Proportion of wages to be paid in compensation has been raised from 62½ per cent. to 66 2-3 per cent., as promised earlier in the

Another promised increase is advance of allowance for widows from \$35 to \$40 per month and total family allowance from \$65 to \$70 per month. Funeral benefits are increased from \$100 to \$125.

EXECUTIVE TO STUI DR. TELFORD'S OFFER

Offer of Dr. Lyle Telfore M.L.A., to resign his seat in th Legislature will be considered at the regular meeting of the provincial executive of the party on December 15, Herbert Gargrave, C. C. F. secretary, said today. The conference will be attended by C. C. F. members of the Legislature.

He indicated it will be several days before any decision is announced. On Monday C.C.F. ML.A.'s recommended against Dr. Telford's resignation in a letter to the executive.

Mr. Gargrave emphasized there is no question of the executive "disciplining" the doctor. He said there was no principle of party policy involved.

Satisfaction with the situation was expressed by Dr. Telford late Monday night, before he returned to Victoria after addressing a meeting here. Legislature will be considered at

IN THE LEGISLATURE

There's Not Even Half Loaf For Some Pensioners in B.C.

Shortage of \$1,700,000 In Fund Makes Drastic Cuts Only Cure, Says Dr. Weir.

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—"It is pathetic—I might say almost cruel—for those who are drawing large municipal pensions, and who will have to accept, not half a loaf, but one-third or even 'one-quarter of a loaf," said Hon. G. M. Weir, provincial secretary, as he moved second reading of the Municipal Employees' Superannuation Act on Monday night. The provincial secretary was obviously moved and deeply sympathetic to the unfortunate pensioners as he unfolded the unhappy story of the collapse of the scheme upon which so many former employees of municipalities, especially in Vancouver and Victoria, were dependent.

Pensions have to be slashed to

Pensions have to be slashed to fractional proportions; widows and fatherless children must face serious curtailment of their meagre incomes-or receive nothing at all, the House was told.

It was a sober and sad Legis-lature that listened to Dr. Weir explain the measure which had been introduced earlier in the beer day.

INCREASE IN 1929.

He told how there was a shortage of \$1,700,000 in the funds, and how the reserves set up for future payments were almost gone Those who were contributing to the superannuation fund today saw their money being used to maintain the pensions already granted, leaving nothing for themselves when their time for retirement came. It was a desperate situation.

One of the reasons of the tion funds was an increase of nearly 50 per cent. in pensions schedules made in 1929. To put the scheme on a sound actuarial basis at that time pensions should have been decreased, Dr. Weir

He related how, in 1934, when t was realized that the Civil Servis was realized that the CIVII Servi-ice super-annuation fund was not on a sound basis, it was intended to reorganize the municipal em-ployees fund as well. Had it been done the municipal employees

ployees' fund as well. Had it been done the municipal employees would now be in a 25 per cent. better situation, he explained. Representatives of the municipal employees at that time came to the government and asked that action be delayed. They employed an actuary of their own.

"After two years' effort to to arrive at a sound actuarial basis, they threw up their hands" the provincial secretary explained.

FEATURES OF BILL.

- Some features of the bill are:

 1. Every allowance now in force
 under Parts 2 and 3 of the
 existing act shall cease on April 1
 next, when the new act is to come
 into force.

basis, computed actuarily; while retirement annuities will be "equal in amount to one half of the subsisting superannuation or other allowance so granted in respect of that person."

- 5. Employees will contribute 4 per cent. and employers will contribute 7 per cent. on the aggregate payroll of those covered by the act.
- 6. No future employee who enters into the municipal service over the age of 30 will come under the act.
- 7. Except in the case of policemen and firemen, who retire at 55 years, a minimum of 60 and a maximum of 65 years for retiring ages are being fixed.

"PATHETIC" SITUATION.

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, said that it was most unfortunate that the government had withheld this setremely im-

portant piece of legislation until the last week of the session. "This system should have been stopped when it was first dis-covered that it was not sound,"

covered that it was not sound," he declared.
"It is pathetic that old servants of municipalities are going on the rack. No contract should be broken. Just think, widows with pensions of, say, \$75 to \$90 will be cut to about \$25 or \$30. Something should be done for these

CRONE'S VIEW.

CRONE'S VIEW.

Fred Crone, Liberal, Vancouver Centre, told of the struggles of the municipal employees and of the Vancouver City Council to avoid the serious step that was now necessary.

"Men getting from \$50 to \$200 particularly will suffer," he added. "They will feel that their contracts have been broken. But they must face the fact that if bankruptcy came they would get nothing."

nothing."
Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F.,
North Vancouver, said that people
who were comfortable on their
pensions would now be reduced
almost to the status of relief

After further discussion the bill was read a second time.

Taxing Undistributed Profits

PROFITS are usually a measure of ability to pay, and so are regarded as a proper target for the tax collector. But the tax collector has not, in the past, had the privilege of touching all profits. In conservative financing it is the custom to set up reserves for depreciation, for expansion, for emergency or for some other purpose, and these reserves, built from undistributed profits, have enjoyed certain immunities because of the uses for which they were intended.

It was considered in the public interest that businesses should be stable and secure and progressive. So profits plowed back into enterprises escaped the taxation levied on profits that were distributed. The expectation was that these reinvested profits would yield new profits which could be So the public would gain from stability and progress and would suffer no

Now comes the Provincial Government with legislation to levy a tax of 15 per cent. on undistributed profits which are in excess of the amount the minister of finance deems reasonable.

If profits that should be taxed are being concealed in reserves for the purpose of evading taxation, they shold of course be hunted out and taxed. But there are legitimate and proper ways of doing this, and the course the government at Victoria is following is neither legitimate nor proper. On the contrary, it is both indecent and unsafe.

There are two things wrong with this legislation.

If it was intended to bring down a new tax, the tax should have been announced in the budget speech, and business concerns should have been given an opportunity to examine the bill and make representations with respect to it. Instead, this taxation amendment is sprung on the business community within a few days of the closing of the session. There is no opportunity for anyone who will be touched by the new tax to study it fully. There will be no opportunity even for the Legislature to give the bill proper attention.

The second defect in the bill is that it places too much power in the hands of the government. It is the minister of finance who is to say what is a reasonable amount for a corporation to hold in reserve. It is to the lieutenant-governor-in-council that appeal lies if a corporation is not satisfied with the minister's ruling. The government is thus given full power to discipline any corporation that does not play up to the requirements of the party in power.

To put it more bluntly, this tax amendment gives the government a weapon with which it can, if it will, hold up every corporation doing business in the province and compel it to make contributions to the party funds. It is not certain, of course, that the government will use this weapon. But why should the weapon and the temptation to use it be placed in the gov-

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Village F For Relie By Daily Prov VICTORI will not be care of the until their \$7500, is a amendment cipalities Act minister of Other clas

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Denies Party Organizer Gave Road Programme Information

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Charles Reid, well-known provincial organizer, is reported to have told the people of Agassiz that the government was going to start work on the projected highway from that point to Haig.

But when R. L. Maitland brought the matter to the attention of the government on Monday night, Hon. Frank Machandary in the state of public works.

Pherson, minister of public works, said there was no truth in the statement.

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Mr. Maitland attacked that way of doing business-having government road policy announced by the party organizer before the ninister had made a statement.

The Premier said that Mr. Reid as an estimable man—one repected by all parties,

"You're all getting jittery about this thing," taunted Mr. Maitland. "I knew you would."

Later in the public works estimates debate, David Strachan, Liberal, Dewdney, said that he did not think the news item which prompted the debate was "authentic."

B. C. PLANNING NO NEW ROADS

It is also argued that one companies most likely to be affected are those which use their undistributed profits to acquire and develop new assets and thus perpetuate their operations.

The beard points out that up.

The board points out that un-distributed profits represent funds which have paid income taxes to the Provincial and Fed-

eral governments when earned, and that a further tax of 15 per cent. would be an unfair addi-

It is also argued that undis-tributed profits may be repre-sented by corporate assets other than cash so that a tax might entall severe hardship, and that the prinicple of a discretionary rather than an arbitrary tax is likely to disturb confidence of present and prospective invectors.

present and prospective investors in B. C.

Won't Undertake Hope-Princeton Work He Explains.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 6-It would cost \$1,700,000 to complete a firstclass highway over the Hope Princeton road and government is not undertaking that or any of the other numerous highway schemes presented until it has finished some of its present road

jobs.

Such was the statement of Hon. Frank MacPherson to the House at midnight Monday as he rose after listening to a barrage of talk of and for roads in every corner of the province. They had been discussing a public works vote of more than \$2,000,000 for roads, bridges and ferries.

"We don't want to assume any more obligations until we have finished what we have on hand," said the minister.

WANTS A POLICY.

Charles Tupper (Liberal Simil-kameen), said, previously, that it was about time the Government of British Columbia decided what it proposed to do in the case of people who get tired waiting for highways, and begin building their own.

highways, and begin building their own.

They have been doing it in the Okanagan, up in the Monkman-Pass and the latest is the Hope-Princeton Highway Association.

Mr. Tupper drew attention to this new make-your-own road effort on Monday night and thought the government better formulate a policy toward all such schemes.

BILL TO STAND DESPITE PLEAS

Board of Trade, C.M.A "Not In Interests of Sound Economy."

Premier T. D. Pattullo has flatly rejected the representations of the Vancouver Board of Trade and the B. C. division Canadian Manufacturers' Associa tion regarding the Public Utilities Bill now before the Legisla

The two business organiza-tions, in a letter jointly prepared and sent to the Premier Monday, had urged that the Utilities Board be responsible only to the Legis-lature and that adequate provision be made for appeals from the commission's rulings to the court rather than have the final decisions rest with the cabinet. "In my view, your respect."

decisions rest with the cabinet.
"In my view, your representations are not in the interests of
sound public economy and will
not, therefore, be embodied in the
Public Utilities Bill." Premier
Pattullo stated in a letter received
this morning by John Whittle,
president of the Board of Trade,
and Alex McKelvie, chairman of
the C. M. A.

SPURNS INTERVIEW.

The Premier writes that he doe ot think anything would gained by an interview along the lines of the suggestions advanced by the two business organization here. In any event, he adds, it would be difficult to arrange an appointment because the Legis-ture is nearing the end of the

session.

In their letter to the Premier, the Board of Trade and Manufacturers' Association emphasized the importance of right to appeal as "one of the highest principles of democratic government."

The organizations also urged that the suggested amendments to the bill were in the interests of uniformity in Canadian legislation.

or uniformly in Canadian legislation.

In the letter the organizations deplored the lack of opportunity given for a thorough study of the proposed legislation by those interests most directly concerned. The letter refers to the bill's apparent refusal of recourse to the courts in the event of the courts in the event of the cabinet refusing leave to appeal. "This is a distinct departure," the letter states, "and in our opinion not a commendable one, in view of the practice which is followed elsewhere under similar legislation.

"It is our opinion," the letter

followed elsewhere under similar legislation.

"It is our opinion," the letter goes on, "that there will be greater confidence in the proper application of this pending legislation if adequate provision is made for appeal to the courts without incumbrance or restriction.

"Business has, on the whole, the utmost confidence in the courts. Surely the government feels this also. So why deny to any person or corporation, as a right, something which is regarded as one of the highest principles of democratic government?"

Asks Consideration of Road From Vancouver to Lillooet

(By Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—A \$10,000,000 highway from Vancouver to Lillooet, opening a virgin country greater in extent than the lower Fraser Valley, was visualized in the House by George Murray, Liberal, Lillooet.

"Of the total cost, \$6,000,000 has already been spent in construction of the First Narrows bridge," Mr. Murray said.

"This bridge leads into a blind end at present. A road via Howe Sound and Garibaldi Park to Lillooet will bring new traffic into Vancouver from an entirely new area." traffic into Vancouver from an entirely new area.

Discussing financing of the pro-posed new highway, Mr. Murray said the Dominion Government stands ready and willing to finance such needed highway projects if the Province of British Columbia will provide plans and specifications. cifications

Of the federal members from

British Columbia whom he expects to support the Lillooet Highway project, Murray named Hon. Ian Mackenzie, M.P., Vancouver Centre; Tom Reid, M.P., New Westminster; G. G. McGeer, K.C., M.P., Vancouver-Burrard, and J. Gray Turgeon, M.P., Cariboo.

Village Responsibility For Relief Outlined

By Daily Province Staff Correspo VICTORIA, Dec. 6. - Village will not be responsible for the care of the poor and indigents until their tax levies aggregate \$7500, is a provision contained in

amendment to the Village Municipalities Act submitted to the Leg-islature by Hon. A. Wells Gray, minister of municipal affairs.

Other clauses in the bill permit villages to assist airports to the xtent of \$200; extends taxation powers to include assessment on oles, cables and wires of telephone, telegraph, electric light or phole, relegiant, electric light of power lines to the same amount as permitted to smaller muni-cipalities, and allows water com-pany mains to be assessed.

NEW TAXATION PLAN ASSAILED

Board of Trade Finds Defects In Profits Levy Proposal.

Cevy Proposal.

Opposition to the passing of legislation, recently announced by Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, providing for the taxation of undistributed profits, is expressed in a resolution adopted by a joint meeting of the executives of the insurance, financial, real estate and mining bureaus of the Vancouver Board of Trade.

The meeting's reasons for taking exception to the proposed measure are stated in a letter sent last night to Mr. Hart.

The Board of Trade executives contend that shareholders of companies are best qualified and alone justified in deciding as to the disposition of profits, and that the proposed tax would drive capital from British Columbia.



Credit Unions

C all the bills brought before the Legislature this year—and there are some scores of them—none is likely to prove more useful to the average citizen of British Columbia than the one which provides for credit unions. The credit union does for the small borrower what the mutual insurance company does for the man who wishes to establish an estate against a rainy day. Only it is organized on smaller and more intimate lines.

The Credit Union Act provides for the organization of groups whose members will be able to help one another by making loans at reasonable rates of interest. A credit group will not need a staff such as a bank must maintain, nor will it have to investigate borrowers and endorsers as a bank does, for its members will be in more or less intimate touch with one another. Not taking the risks a loan shark does and not being conscienceless like him, it will not require high rates of interest. So it will be in a position to serve its members when they need service.

will be in a position to serve its members when they need service.

The credit union is a sensible, promising field for co-operation. Numerous such groups have been operating on an extra-legal basis. Now they are to get legal status.

More Something for Nothing

THE Legislature has passed a vote for \$25,000 to be spent on a preliminary survey of the proposed Alaska Highway. It has done this—with a little opposition grumbling here and there—almost entirely on the expansive promises of Premier Pattullo, who says this is something for British Columbia and who lightheartedly whistles away all the very serious implications of permitting a foreign power to build a military highway for its own purposes through Canadian territory.

It is sufficient for Mr. Pattullo now—although it was a very different kettle of fish when this idea was the late Dr. Tolmie's a few years ago—that the United States Government wants this road and is willing to pay for it. He says the United States will lend us the money to build the road and will not charge us interest. He says we must be good neighbors.

Well, we had better begin by being good neighbors to ourselves. Let us try to see this proposal objectively for a moment, and not lull ourselves to sleep with Mr. Pattullo's happy little bedtime stories. Let us ask ourselves what this thing would be the other way round. Can you imagine the United States letting Canada build a road for Canadian purposes through United States territory?

You can't imagine any such thing, of course. Mr. Pattullo may say he can imagine it, but that is what is wrong with Mr. Pattullo. In any other place than the Land of Never-Never, we ought to know perfectly well that we can't let the United States build a military road for itself through our country and still expect to maintain our own Canadian sovereignty in our own domain.

Of course we need roads badly enough in British Columbia: goodness knows we need them everywhere. But if there is one particular road that we could very well postpone until we had a few more of the roads necessary to our proper development as a community, it is precisely this extravagant project of a road through the wilderness north of sixty.

But Mr. Pattullo sees in this cry of "Alaska Highway," as he has seen in the cry of "Work and Wages" and the cry of "Public Utility Commission," and the cry of "No Public Utility Commission," a good rousing election promise. Here is the prospect of a spending spree and something for nothing and manna dropping from heaven on enough hungry constituencies to keep the vote sweet for the grand old party. And that, as he has sufficiently demonstrated, is enough for Mr. Pattullo.

The dying hours in the Legislature strongly suggest that the legislative life is not much worth living anyhow.

Just as a little unromantic reminder: Under our political system, Dr. Telford's seat in the Legislature is at present in the exclusive disposition of Dr. Telford. IN THE

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IN THE PRESS GALLERY

Alfalfa Muffins Sedative For Victoria Legislators

But Wismer and Maitland Break Peace With Debate On How To Save Time On Lawsuits

By TORCHY ANDERSON.

(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

7ICTORIA, Dec. 7.—It may have been the sedative effect of Mons. Lebourdais' alfalfa muffins (this man from the Cariboo, a most persistent publicist, had them served for lunch) that brought comparative peace and sweet agreement to the House on Tuesday afternoon.

The sweetness as noted was strictly comparative, and the effect of muffins a la Lebourdais did not temper the steel of Mr. Maitland's criticism of the government's march toward legislative Utopia.

The press gallery tasted and tested the alfalfa muffins. Being rude, undiplomatic fellows, they voted said muffins as: Tasting like rubber, sandy sawdust, a mixture of epsom salts nd cornmeal. One experienced fellow said they tasted just like

The page boy announced that members were all eating

alfalfa and, "Gee, sir, they've started to moo."
Mr. Lebourdais is such a plugger for his native products
there is a general prayer that his vast open spaces will become
interested in the production of potable alcohol in some not too

We dread another session of Lebourdais if he happens to get on with the promotion of his famous epsom salts deposits.

When two such eminent counsel as Attorney-General Wismer and Mr. Maitland begin to argue how the country may save time on lawsuits—to say nothing of legal fees—one feels that the time has come to sit back and listen to this jovial battle

we did that on Tuesday afternoon when discussion started on Mr. Wismer's little amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Products Act. This legislation is described by some of OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY. Mr. Wismer's closest legal pals as not so much locking the door after the horse is stolen, but, rather, burning down the barn before the theft, and they trying to collect insurance on horse and barn.

Mr. Maitland can not see much sense in the government's trying to patch its legal fences after the hunt had started and the field was sweeping across its fertile legislative pastures.

They would save time, he argued, if they threw coal and petroleum in as a utility, and made it part of the Utilities Act. He advocated a "straight, new, sweet and clean" act.

But Mr. Wismer, who is still in fine fettle after six weeks of his hardest work as attorney-general, could not agree with the honorable opposition leader. All he could see as a result of such suggestion was another year of present high gasoline

Mr. Wismer let slip what he thought was going to be the result of the present litigation, but his legal sense of decorum came to his rescue as he toppled on the verge of sub-understand Each Other. Both hon, gentlemen retired from the combat with mutual assurances that they quite understood each other's remarks in the "right spirit." Thus we maintained the traditions of legal cricket.

Mr. Maitland had a busy afternoon. He had things to say

tions of legal cricket.

Mr. Maitland had a busy afternoon. He had things to say about Mr. Hart's act which is designed to smite the undivided profits of the rich. Mr. Maitland is heartly in agreement with this principle. He finds it hard enough to pay his income tax and it irks him to think of anybody being able to avoid same.

But, said the careful opposition leader, the wording of Mr. Hart's bill left it open for unfair persecution of quite innocent business firms. There was no protection at all for innocent fellows who had no intention of cheating the tax collector of his just pound of flesh.

Mr. Harold Winch, on the other hand, could not agree with

Mr. Harold Winch, on the other hand, could not agree with anything but the expressed principle. He wanted the minister of finance to arm his tax collectors with more deadly weapons. He would hunt down and root out all hidden reserves of all kinds.

Mr. Maitland, too, protested the appeal to the "Lieutenant-vernor-in-Council" (the cabinet)). Premier Pattullo broke his silence for the first time during the afternoon to remark that per-tans his silence. haps Mr. Maitland did not under-

cil. Mr. Maitiand assured the Premier that he understood it all too well; that's why he was talking.

Before the House rose on Tuesday, six weeks since the session began, there was the usual showers of new bills. They come that way each evening as the session draws toward its close.

Opposition members murmured and Mr. Maitland spoke out loud when the Premier moved that the House sit on Wednesday morning. He thought that members deserved more time in which to study this cataract of bills, and was against going to work first thing in the morning.

Premier Pattullo, who deplores a rush of last minute legislation, explained that many of these bills represented crystalization of views expressed on both sides of the House during the

Mr. Maitland—as we mentioned, a busy fellow on Tuesday—falled to get his amendment to the Liquor Act past second reading, and in this again he exchanged courtesies with Attorney-General Wismer. Mr. Wismer to walk into vendor's stores and find out how much of this and that they have been selling to a person or persons reasonably suspected of bootlegging.

It is done by regulation: Mr. Maitland wanted it done by

It is done by regulation; Mr. Maitland wanted it done by

Mr. Maitland's contribution to the language was the vo-

cation of "blind pigging."

Mr. Wismer's title of information was that 70,000 counter slips pass over the counter of one Vancouver liquor store in a month.

When you look down from the press gallery as we do day after day, it suddenly dawns on you that the news centres around a little group of a little group of name

There you see ranks of good, intelligent members who do not figure more than once or twice in the news reports of a session.

DISPLAY THEIR TALENTS of the Legislature, most of them in COMMITTEE ROOMS.

serious. They display their talents in the hidden corners of committee rooms, in their quiet, sensible suggestions to ministers.

They are no great shucks at oratory but they do a good, solid job of work. Here are some of them: Eyres of Chilliwack, Shepherd of Delta, Guthrie of Cowichan-Newcastle, Johnston of Revelstoke, Braden of Peace River, Henniger of Grand Forks-Greenwood, Crone of Vancouver-Centre, Putnam of Nelson-Creston, Kenney of Skeena, Leary of Kaslo-Slocan, Forester of Vancouver-Burrard, Connelly of Omineca.

They may not be the orchids of oratory but they do their stint of spinning and toiling.

LAND SETTLEMENT DEBTS TO BE EASED

Bill Will Cut Interest Rate On Arrears.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Relief is to be given to borrowers and pur-chasers of land from the Land Settlement Board who are in

Arrears on their payments.

An amendment to the Land
Settlement and Development Act.
was presented to the Legslature
Tuesday afternoon by Hon. A.
Wells Gray, minister of lands,
under which it is proposed to reduce delinquent charges to 6 per
cent. up to May 31, 1936, and 4½
per cent. thereafter.

It is also intended to encourage

It is also intended to encourage the purchaser on agreement of sale to acquire title to the land he occupies, by crediting pay-ments of annual interest once these have been brought up to

Thus if current interest is paid before December 31, credit will be given on the principal. Similarly credit will be given to farmers for the development of a permanent nature done on the land.

Pre-marriage Test Law Held Up in House

VICTORIA. Dec. VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Although there is no objection to amendments to the Marriage Act which require pre-marriage blood tests for syphilis, the question of notification of both parties of the results caused the Legislature to pause yesterday. Ultimately the bill was held up for further consideration.

was held the proflutner consideration.

Dr. G. M. Weir, provincial secretary, explained that the period between application for a marriage license and its granting would not be three days instead of eight.

He said that in cases of persons desiring to remarry the blood tests would be necessary. Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, brought up the question of responsibility for informing intending marriage partners of the results of the blood tests to which both were subjected.

Dr. Weir thought that should be left to the discretion of the examiner and to the desires of both parties. In any event, syphilis was no legal bar to

Measures In Quick Time Legislature Passes Several

HOUSE SPEEDS **WORK ON BILLS**

Compensation Act Change Will Cost Industry \$150,000 Yearly.

by Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Cost of Increased benefits to be paid under amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act will be \$150,000 a year to B. C. industry, G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, announced in the Legislature yesterday at second reading of the bill.

Besides increasing wage com-

day at second reading of the bill.
Besides increasing wage compensations to injured workers from 62½ to 66%, the amendments add to provisions for care of dependents of those killed.

Those in the flying industry, whose business takes them into other provinces, will be "covered" as they were not previously, and

as they were not previously, and have full claims recognized, Mr.

HILS ARE READ.

The House was listless after the previous day's eight-hour sit-ting, and five non-contentious bills get third reading in as many

minutes.

They were amendments to the B. C. University Act, dealing with senate elections; Court of Appeal and Divorce and Matrimonial Causes amendments, bringing hem into line with federal divorce egislation; the South Westminter Dyking Act, which allows relimancing and improvements; and the act regarding loans under the funicipal Improvements Assistance Act.

Bills given second reading and the second reading

ills given second reading were nendments to the Coal and troleum Products Control serd Act, the Taxation Act, Resi-me and Responsibility Act, and orkmen's Compensation Act.

Municipal Councils Now Allowed to Entertain

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Under Municipal Act amendments presented to the House Tuesday district municipalities are entitled to vote money for entertaining distinguished visitors and to pay travelling expenses, and to make grants to boards of trade and chambers of commerce.

boards of commerce.

Tax rates for general purposes are pegged at 35 mills on the dollar.

Metrict is given au-

e dollar.

Matsqui district is given auority to enter a medical serve scheme for its residents by
ying not more than \$12 a
ar on landowners and resints between 21 and 60, subnt to referendum.

EFFECT OF NEW

Says Eighty Per Cent. Of B.C. Companies Will Be Hit.

By Daily Province Staff Corresp VICTORIA, Dec. 7.-Warning was given by R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, that the changes proposed in the Taxation Act would deter capital from investing in British Columbia.

The Conservative leader was speaking on the second reading of amendments introduced by Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, Tuesday afternoon. It is proposed in the amending bill to permit imposition of super-taxes upon reserves of companies having five or less shareholders.

The minister of finance, in in-troducing the bill at a previous sitting, has stated that the object was to tax holding companies which were formed for the pur-pose of evading higher taxation rates.

"There is not a single reference in this bill to holding companies," commented Mr. Maitland. Already, under existing legislation, there is the right for the finance department to investigate company reserves.

HUGE EFFECT.

"Let me tell the minister that as this measure is drafted it will affect 80 per cent. of all companies in this province, for I would say that at least that number are operated by five or less persons. Another objection is in the matter of appeal—again it is to the Lieutenant-Governor-incouncil."

Premier Pattullo - You don't

Premier Pattulio — You don't know this executive council. Mr. Maitland—I do, and that is why I am fighting against appeal in this, and other legislation, to the cabinet instead of to the

the cabinet instead of to the courts.

H. E. Winch supported the principle of the amendment. He complained that the government flad only adopted 5 per cent. of the principle which his party had been advocating, the higher taxation of those who had money.

He said that one large Canadian ofl company had a reserve of undivided profits of \$81,000,000. He thought that the attorney-general should endeavor to devise a method of taxing that company for the proportion of those on the reserves created in this province.

Superannuation Schemes

A NEW superannuation act touching the pensions of municipal employees is before the Legislature. The fund is in a mess, short \$1,700,000. The new legislation is designed to place superannuation on a sound basis, but unhappily, under the changes to be made, numbers of people are likely to suffer, and most of those who will suffer are both helpless and innocent of wrong-doing.

For these sufferers the government should surely do something. The superannuation scheme which is being replaced was unsound. That much has become plain. It may be the government was not a guarantor of the scheme. But it at least handled the funds, and it permitted the scheme to run along on an unsound basis. So it has at least a moral responsibility.

It is important that superannuation be placed on a sound basis. The government has a moral responsibility to see that this is done. But the question of good faith enters also. Many of those now drawing pensions were pushed out of their jobs on the understanding that they would be taken care of. The obligation implied in the understanding remains, even though part of the fund is gone.

Other public employees, like civil servants and teachers, who have superannuation schemes, would be well advised to take warning from what has happened in the case of the municipal employees, and look to the basis of their plan. It is nothing short of a tragedy for a man or woman to depend upon a retiring allowance and then to discover, when it is too late, that there is no allowance or that it is only a fraction of what was expected.

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VICTORIA V Conserva Products Co **Utilities Act**

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fixing by the exchange of difficulties of The debate the second reament to the Corpoducts Conwith the consthe Legislatures in the constant of measure, in the the statute w question in the ing bill seeks ng bill seeks etence of the REPORT COL

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harged that the leave to the Coroducts Act's argely due to which it had be

PROBE OF HOSPITAL CONDITIONS URGED

By Dally Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Charging that B. C. hospitals in the main are staffed by nurses-in-training, E. E. Winch, C. C. F., Burnaby, demanded government investigation of a situation which he considered dangerous.

Where there is one graduate nurse for every three beds in the Vancouver General Hospital, he said, there is only one for every six at St. Paul's, Vancouver; for every nine at the Royal Jubilee, Victoria, and for every ten at Cranbrook.

Cranbrook.

"The department permits nurses in training to be employed in B. C. hospitals where they obviously can not possibly qualify as graduate nurses," Mr. Winch

Handling of Maturity Problem Behind It.

P.G.E. REFINANCING

NEW BILL PERMITS

VICTORIA, Dec. 7 .- (CP)-VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—(CP)—Groundwork for handling British Columbia's major financial problem, maturity of about \$57,000,000 worth of its debt in the next three years, was laid by Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, in a bill tabled in the Provincial Legislature as an amendment to the Revenue Act.

Legislature as an amendment to the Revenue Act.

Specifically, the amendment permits the minister to refinance Pacific Great Eastern Railway bonds when they mature. It also gives him authority to refinance any maturing bonds, regardless of whether the tull amount for them is in the sinking funds.

Previously the minister was

funds.
Previously the minister given authority to handle sink funds as he sees fit.
While Mr. Hart has \$37,000 in his sinking funds, this is sufficient to meet all maturil The province will probably he borrow to meet some

vernment Rejects Plan to Move to Curtail Bootlegging rge Utility and Fuel Acts Here Defeated in Legislature

Maitland Believes Combining Bills Would Eliminate Delay

Coal, Petroleum Products Board Could Be Administered as Utility, He Tells House.

(By Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Suggestion by R. L. Maitland, K.C.,
Conservative leader, that the Coal and Petroleum
Products Control Board Act be merged with the Public
Utilities Act and be administered as a utility was rejected by
the government Tuesday afternoon after a heated debate.

Cross-floor argument between Mr. Maitland and Hon.
Gordon Wismer, attorney-general, skirted around the injunction proceedings taken by oil companies to restrain price
fixing by the government commission: developed into an

fixing by the government commission; developed into an exchange of legal opinions, and touched upon administrative

exchange of legal opinions, and difficulties of the control board. The debate was incidental to the second reading of an amendment to the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act. With the constitutional right of the Legislature to enact the measure, in the manner in which the statute was passed, under question in the courts, the amending bill seeks to validate the actions of the board by confining them within the legislative competence of the province. etence of the province.

REPORT COLORS IT.

The attorney-general said that the attack made on the parent act in the courts was not by reason of the right of the province to enact legislation of such a char-acter, but that it had been colored by the Macdonald report. If the the Macdonald report. If the ontrol of coal and oil companies as put under the administration was put under the administration of a Public Utilities Board it would lead to endless delays, fur-ther injunctions and the holding up of the purposes of effecting cheaper gasoline prices for many

cheaper gasoline prices for many months.

Mr. Maitland said that he could not see the force of such an argu-

not see the force of such an argument.

"If you have a Public Utilities. Act in which you have confidence, what is to interfere with t?" he demanded. The court action had arisen out of the manner in which the board had gone about administering the act. Deay had been created already.

"And I don't know how much onger enforcement of the act will be delayed while the case yoes on its way to London Town," he added. By combining the two measures under the Public Utilities Act, delay would be lessened and administration of the legislation could be hastened.

Continuing, Mr. Maitland harged that the confusion and harged that the confusion and helay to the Coal and Petroleum roducts Act's operation had been argely due to the manner in which it had been enacted. He recalled that it had been thrown not the Legislature during the ying hours of last session. It had been hastily drawn and illigested."

The attorney-general sarcas-

sted."

e attorney-general sarcasily suggested that the coal
oil people would like the arent that Mr. Maitland was

eral suggested, had brought for ward the suggestion of placing coal and oil under the control of the Public Utilities Board simply for the purpose of saying "I told you so," in the event of the court decision going against the govern-

Mr. Maitland later in the debate took exception to the personal references of the attorney-gen-eral. He declared that his pur-

eral. He declared that his purpose was simply to advance constructive suggestions.

The attorney-general hastily explained that he had no intention of being personal, and intended no reflection on the Conservative leader.

J. A. Paton, Conservative, Vancouver-Point Grey—The whole trouble that you are encountering

couver-Point Grey—The whole trouble that you are encountering results from legislation being brought into this House and rammed down our throats whether we like it or not. That is what was done last year. And now the attorney-general finds he has an act that is too hot to hold.

hold.

Mr. Wismer—If my friends opposite do not want to see the price of gasoline reduced let them say so.

Mr. Paton—That is not the point at issue at all. It is the statute that I am discussing, and the hasty manner in which legislation is passed. lation is passed.

After some further discussion the bill was read a second time.

Left-hand Drive Law For Pedestrians Suggested

By Dally Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—One for all, and all for one, and hoping to get new road-safety legisla-tion, four members of British Columbia's Legislature marched to interview Hon. Frank Mac-Pherson, minister of public works today.

Pherson, minister of public works, today.

"What we want," explained Frank Putnam, Nelson-Creston's Liberal, "is a left-hand rule of the road for pedestrians."

E. T. Kenney, of Skeena, Capt. C. R. Bull, of South Okanagan, and Egra Henninger of all controls of the control of

Conservative Leader Wants City Police To Have Access to Liquor Store Records.

(By Daily Province Staff Correspondent CBy Dally Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—An attempt to simplify the task of Police in tracking down bootleggers, particularly in the city of Vancouver, by amending the Liquor Act, was frustrated in the Legislature yesterday.

R. L. Maitland, leader of the opposition, who expressed a contempt for the operator of the "blind pig" and said police should have access to liquor store records of sale at any time, moved the amendment.

"Some people seem to think a withdraw the bill."

"Some people seem to think-bootlegging should be winked at and overlooked. But it is a crime and has led to major crimes—

and has led to major crimes—
even murder.

"United States records show
that that type of criminal known
as a racketeer graduated from
the bootlegging classes.

"We have been warned to 'go
slow' about opening up the
Liquor Act, But in this case I
can't see any objection," Mr.
Maitland added.

WOULD END ALIBIS.

"It is said there is power of regulation under the act. But I want this in the statutes, so there is no alibi," he added.

there is no alibi," he added.

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer saw no reason to open the act in this instance. In Vancouver the act was enforced strictly, with the collaboration of his department. He had discussed the situation with the Vancouver Police Commission, and thet body. lice Commission and that body had never mentioned the neces-sity of such a regulation. More-over, the Liquor Control Board

over, the Liquor Control Board for years had given police all the collaboration they required. "Vendors already have orders to give this information to any police officer," Mr. Wismer said, "if there is any ground for suspicion that the law is being broken.

"There are 70,000 counter-slips in a single store in one month of business. The total counter-slips in a year in Vancouver is 3,452, 907. How could their perusal help a police officer?" asked the attorney-general.

WITHOUT DIVISION.

No policeman would suggest that there was not the fullest co-operation from the Liquor Con-trol Board's officials. "If there is not close co-operation, and it were drawn to my attention, there soon would be," Mr. Wis-mer added.

e bill was lost without a di-

vision.

E. E. Winch, C. C. F., Burnaby, withdrew two bills, amendments to the Mental Hospitals Act and the Lunacy Act.

Paferry to the first of them.

to the Mental Hospitals Act and the Lunacy Act.

Referring to the first of them, Dr. G. M. Weir observed he did not believe the author had had any hope they would be passed. All the improvements in the amendment could be covered by regulations.

H. E. Winch, C. C. F., Vancouver East, asked what the government intended to do about the regulating of the situation of which Mr. Winch sr. complained. They wanted inspection of all hospitals at any time; and examinations when they were demanded by any patient.

Dr. Weir said they would do what they could, and Mr. Winch

withdrew the bill.

He also withdrew the amendments to the Lunacy Act on receiving the same undertaking from Dr. Weir that regulations would be revised as far as was practicable.

In the Legislature

BILL TO COST **CITY \$50,000**

Education Act Changes Extend Age of Free Education to 19.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 7. — Vancouver's School Board must expect a \$50,000 annual loss of revenue when amendments to the Public

School acts go into effect in 1940.

H. E. Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver
East, says it might even be more
than that.

Officials of the education department won't commit themselves

selves.

Amendments providing free education for pupils up to 19 will be passed at this session. Providing the 19-year-olds have not passed grade XII., or have not been at school for twelve years, they will not be required to pay tuition fees as at present. The age limit for free tuition is now 18

Several hundred students Vancouver's schools are affects ASKS PROVINCE TO PAY.

ASKS PROVINCE TO PAY.

Mr. Winch will ask the proving to bear the cost of their instruction. He says the Vancouve School Board can ill afford it.

Public School Act amendment also provide higher remuneration for teachers in the rural areas where schools can not be organized. Hundred per cent. increase from \$2 to \$4 per month per pupil will go into effect with the passage of the bill.

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Redistribution, most discussed subject of government legislation during the present session, is expected to hold centre stage during the last few days of the sittings which may end this week.

The bill, following lines of the special committee's report, is expected in the House this after moon or Thursday. It is expected that a brisk protest will be made by both Conservatives and C. F.

FIGHTS CHANG

Employers, Employees Oppose Arbitration Act Proposal.

By Daily Province Staff Corresp By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Fear that any revision of the collective bargaining powers of labor may complicate the relations of workers and employers in B.C. brought a representative delegation of industry to Victoria today to meet the exhibit

Wendell B. Farris, K.C., put the se before the cabinet in private

Industrialists fear that any opening of the Industrial Disputes and Arbitration Act may take bargaining powers out of the hands of established trade

AME ARGUMENT.

SAME ARGUMENT.

In effect, the delegation is supporting the representations made to the cabinet two weeks ago by a deputation from the Trades and Labor Council.

The Trades and Labor Council pressed upon the government at that time the necessity of allowing recognized union officials to speak for the men in industrial disputes. They strongly opposed the election of workers' representatives as spokesmen.

The fear is that power will get out of the hands of the organized unions and possibly into the hands of extremist elements where disputes between labor and employers are concerned.

Plan to Refund Guaranteed Loans

VICTORIA. — Refunding of F.G.E. securities which come due in 1942 is provided for in an unendment to the Revenue Act, stroduced by Hon. John Hart, er of finance, on Tuesday.

Present powers do not apply to ies, such as those of the govern-ment's railway. The amendment further authorizes refunding of other issues, whether or not sinking fund has been provided.

The Opposition Could

THE House is sitting morning, noon and night at Victoria, three sittings to the weary and hectic day. Now, after six weeks of talk about anything and every-thing, there is a spate of new bills and a confusion of cooks to the cooking of halfbaked legislation. The more the House changes in any other way, the more it is still the same in this. The spectacle of the "dying hours" of the Legislature is not edifying.

There is no respectable argument in favor of this system, and everybody knows that it is wrong. Anything from sixty to a hundred different bills are practically disposed of by this system in the last ten days or so of a seven or eight-week session. They can not possibly be considered, first, second and third readings and all the detail of consideration in committee of the whole, in the time available under this system. The fruits of it is a great deal of hasty legislation, unworkable legislation and legislation that the people would be very much better without on any terms at all.

It is not necessary to believe that the government is wholly responsible for this stupid and wholly indefensible system, but certainly it offers temptations to governments that should not be thrown in their way. Because no government is immune to the natural temptation to regard the Legislature as no more than a necessary evil, something to be tolerated while it must be and sent home to its families as soon as possible after it has voted the necessary supply.

And it comes natural and easy to governments under this system to put the effectual pressure on the members and rush them through the dying hours. The first fine rapture of the conscientious member is exhausted in six weeks of pointing with pride and viewing with alarm. It is hard to recapture it for the grim purpose of the last two weeks, when nobody but a minister or two knows what is really intended by a great many rather hazy provisions of a great many bills, and when the generally not very wealthy member begins to find the expenses of sessional attendance are not leaving much for the Christmas stockings of the loved one

The opposition grumbles and Mr. Rolf Bruhn of Salmon Arm protests once more that it is not fair. But the opposition is not helpless, and it is up to them to do more than grumble. They know what they can do. They can obstruct.

They can say to the government that they will not any longer aid and abet this vicious process of rushing undigested legislation through the dying hours. They can say that either these bills are to be properly considered or they will be held up by every device which the rules of order permit.

And if one of these fall sessions were held up until after Christmas on these grounds, even if the opposition had to punish itself in the process, it would be a mighty good thing for the future credit of the parliamentary system in this province.

Sympathy goes to the legislator who says that Louis Lebourdais' alfalfa muffins are just alfalfa to him.

The session at Victoria, like some other internal-combustion engines, backfires a bit before it conks out.

There is good sense in the suggestion that the rule of the road should be lefthand for pedestrians on motor highways. Pedestrians and motorists are both better off with the pedestrian looking towards the oncoming motor car

MEN TO BLAME HON. G. S. PEARSON

Claims Unions Refused To Accept Award Of the Board.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—The work ers or their advisers and not the Pacific Lime Company were to blame for the strike at Blubber Bay last summer, Hon. G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, de-Pearson, minister of labor, de-clared today at the first morning session of the Legislature. He was asking second reading

of an amendment to the Indus-trial Conciliation and Arbitration Act which gives unions existing at December of this year power at December of this year power to arbitrate with employers on behalf of employees in all dis-putes when such unions contain the majority of workers in the trade affected.

BLAMES UNION.

BLAMES UNION.

"We have had few serious labor disturbances in B. C. The worst was at Blubber Bay. But that strike never need to have come about, if labor had taken the advice of the Arbitration Board and left the baby on the doorstep of the labor department. But the trade union people wanted to take the matter into its own hands," said Mr. Pearson.

"The Arbitration Board's award was given unanimously and the company accepted it. I could have forced the company to re-employ the men. But the men would not accept the award," he declared.

"The trade union papers unfairly blamed the company for the strike," Mr. Pearson added.

The real problem at Blubber Bay was the big Oriental section of employees, the minister said. Of the 128 persons employed by the company eighty were Orientals.

READY FOR COMPROMISE.

BEADY FOR COMPROMISE.

READY FOR COMPROMISE.

Although he had felt it unwise to open the present bill, which had only been in operation twelve months, he had been agreeable to a compromise. The amendment offered was that compromise. Trade unions organized in B. C. in December, 1938, then would have the full right to use their special officers for bargaining when a majority of the workers concerned were organized in the union, he said. The aim of the act was to give both employers and employees

Provincial By C.C. Wisme

By Daily Provin

ing that he evidence" of evidence" of officer had re viction and im at the Vancou Cameron, C. the Legislature had appealed Gordon Wism

"We have ap to investigate area where the is employed, cess," he said. "One of tho

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He explained pers of the Ho bers of the Hc criticizing him had taken, the officer had con him how her s rupted by the sa whom his charg "I have beer House. But fo have had the co thanks of memi cial police force

cial police force are grateful fo clean up this sit

"An officer c on which at le man went to jai the victim of after his arrest. the attorney gen the attorney-ger consider suffic cause investigat ticular police of

"CONCOCTED

Attorney-Gene exception to som of Mr. Cameron. "He has said victed before a j concocted evided duty to give his the defense col Wismer. Wismer.

Mr. Justice Mur cept concocted

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"This is a ver to say a man ha on concocted evishould be forther."

ASKS WITHDR.

M.L.A. Says Perjured Evidence Won Convictions Here

POLICE PROBE

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Provincial Officer Blamed By C.C.F. Member-Wismer Objects.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 8. — Asserting that he believed "perjured evidence" of a provincial police officer had resulted in the conviction and imprisonment of men at the Vancouver Assizes, Colin Cameron, C. C. F., Comox, told the Legislature last night that he had appealed to Attorney-General VICTORIA, Dec. 8. - Assert had appealed to Attorney-General Gordon Wismer for an investiga-

"We have appealed to the police to investigate in the particular area where the officer I mention

area where the officer I mention is employed, but without success," he said.
"One of those affidavits came from a prominent business man at Powell River. He considered law enforcement in that area leaves much to be desired."

SON "CORRUPTED."

He explained that, when mem-bers of the House were actually criticizing him for the stand he

criticizing him for the stand he had taken, the mother of a police officer had come to him to tell him how her son had been corrupted by the same officer against whom his charges had been made. "I have been rebuked in this House. But for every rebuke I have had the commendations and thanks of members of the provincial police force. They, at least, are grateful for my efforts to clean up this situation," Mr. Cameron asserted.

clean up this situation, and eron asserted.

"An officer concocted evidence on which at least one innocent man went to jail. That man was the victim of a brutal assault after his arrest. I have presented the attorney-general with what I consider sufficient evidence to cause investigation of this particular police officer."

"CONCOCTED EVIDENCE."

Attorney-General Wismer took exception to some of the remarks of Mr. Cameron.

"He has said a man was convicted before a judge and jury on concocted evidence. It was his duty to give his own evidence to the defense counsel," said Mr. Wismer.

"A man with the reputation of Mr. Justice Murphy does not ac-cept concocted evidence," he

added.

"This is a very serious charge
to say a man has been convicted
on concocted evidence. Evidence
should be forthcoming to prove

he Premier would not have a lic investigation of charges

morale of the force. But that does

not mean there will not be an internal investigation.
"I can assure my friend there will be the fullest investigation," he explained

he explained.
"I wish my he explained.
"I wish my friend would withdraw the charge of concocted evidence, however."
Mr. Cameron said he thought,
from newspaper reports, the

from newspaper reports, the police evidence must have been

false.

Mr. Wismer—If you've got sufficient evidence there can always be an appeal. That's a privilege everyone has."

WARM DEBATE ON LEGAL ACT

Attorney-General Under Fire By Member of His Own Party.

VICTORIA, Dec. 8 .- "The attorney-general has gone beyond the bounds of decency of the legal profession," charged H. G. T. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, who attacked the government's introduction of a bill amending the Legal Professions Act, only three or four days before proro-gation.
"The Engineering Pill torney-general has gone beyond

gation.

"The Engineering Bill was put before the private bills committee at the attorney-general's suggestion," said Mr. Perry, "and there was no reason why the bill affecting the legal profession should not have had similar consideration."

CHARGE MONOPOLY.

CHARGE MONOPOLY.

The amendments, he said, prevented any but a barrister or solicitor drawing up documents relating to real or personal property, so that a real estate man could not even draw up an agreement of sale.

"It is just the same as the monopoly given to notaries public in the Notaries Act." he said.

There were many places where there were no lawyers within 200 miles, yet if someone wanted to 'buy a shack" or transfer a bit of property they had to travel to a lawyer and pay him a fee for the work. "It's silly," said Mr. Perry.

the work. "It's smy,
Perry.

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer strongly resented the suggestion of Mr. Perry; he said that
he had "offended the decency of
the legal profession."

"That is not only an insult to
me but to the entire legal profession. I think that remark should
be withdrawn."

Mr. Perry said he meant no
offense to the attorney-general.

"If I did say anything to annoy hum. I withdraw it," he
added.

Telford Charges Premier's Home Is 'Siwash Town

Offers to Resign His Seat and Fight By-election on Bridge Issue

EXECUTIVE TO SETTLE "CRISIS" By TORCHY ANDERSON. (Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Dr. Lyle Telford, C. C. F. member for Vancouver East, announced his "personal" desire to resign from the Legislature.

He made the statement during the course of the debate on amendments to the Constitution Act this morning.

on amendments to the Constitute Referring to the challenge of R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, to Premier Pattullo, to run against him in Point Grey, Dr. Telford declared that there was no need for Mr. Maitland to open his seat to test the popularity of the government.

"As far as I am personally concerned there will be a change in my riding, and I welcome any leader of the government to run against me," he declared.

ITLL BE DIFFERENT.

The Premier would find that unning in Vancouver where running in Vancouver where there is a large population "is dif-ferent from running in a Siwash

ferent from running in a Siwash town where the electors can be influenced by government expenditures," Dr. Telford declared.
"Do you mean Prince Rupert to be a Siwash town?" demanded G. M. Murray, Liberal of Lillooet.
"Yes," responded Dr. Telford.
"I saw a good many Siwashes when I was there."
The Premier did not offer to come the strength of the challenges to

The Premier did not offer to accept either of the challenges to contest a Vancouver riding.

Provincial Executive Will Settle Status

The provincial executive of the C. C. F. will decide the relationships between C. C. F. members of the Legislature if they can not settle differences of opinion among themselves.

This statement was issued

among themselves.
This statement was issued today as an official pronouncement on policy by the executive in an entorial in the Federationist, C. C. F. newspaper.
Pointing out that there "is some confusion in the minds of the public" as a result of the collapse of Dr. Lyle Telford's charges in connection with the Pattulio connection with the Pattulio bridge, the editorial states:

NOT CONSIDERED.

"There is no matter of C. C. F. policy involved and the question of repudiating Dr. Telford as the result of the incident has not even been considered by the executive

of repudiating Dr. Tellora as the result of the incident has not even been considered by the executive committee."

"It is quite probable that, as a result of this incident, the question will be raised by our members in the Legislature as to the relationships between the members of the group and as to how their various activities shall be governed in the event of differences of opinion among them. This is a matter on which, if the members of the Legislature themelves can not settle, the execu-

M'VETY CRITICIZED FOR 'HARSH' WRITING

Dally Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Criticism
of a circular written by J. H. MoVety, superintendent of employment agencies in Vancouver, was
voiced in the Legislature by H. E.
Winch, C. C. F. whip.
Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, voiced his regret
regarding a part of the circular.
Mr. Winch was appealing for a
better understanding on the question of relief between government departments and municipalities. He made reference to
the circular, which he did not
read. It was harsh, he said, and
tended to cause friction.
"I agree that there was an unjustifiable preface to the information in the body of the circular prepared by the superintendent of the employment agency
in Vancouver," said the minister.
Mr. Winch complained that in
some cases the department of
labor, in, dealing with the question of relief, had over-ruled
municipalities, and even the
Legislature itself. This had been
particularly so in the matter of
residence and municipal responsibility.

Boys at New Haven Will Build Cottages

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Boys at th New Haven (Borstal) institution New Haven (Borstal) institution will build cottages and improve the place so that all deserving youths who run foul of the law will have a chance to rehabilitate themselves, declared Attorney, General Gordon Wismer, during discussion of estimates of his department, last night in the Legislature.

Answering questions from E. E. Winch, G. C. F., Burnaby, the attorney-general said the expriment at New Haven had proved practically 100 per cent, successful.

FROM THE PRESS GALLERY

House Doubtful Even Though Wismer and Maitland Agree

(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

Victorial, Dec. 8.—Mr. Maitiand and Mr. Wismer finally got together. The leader of the opposition does not often agree with the attorney-general; it's his job to be searching and vigilant about the acts and sayings of his hon friend the

vigilant about the acts and sayings of his non. Friend the minister.

But these two legal lights agreed about that breed in their own profession which gets the unlovely name of "ambulance chasers." Mr. Wismer has an NOTHING PERSONAL, YOU make things tough for legal gentlemen who respond to ambulance calls like old fire horses to fire alarms.

Mr. Wismer called it a "nefarious practice" and Mr. Maitland talked grimly of "champerty" and promised relentless pursuit by the Bar Association.

But the bill amending the Legal Profession Act get a rough ride from other parts of the House. Mrs. Steeves "smelled a rat," Harold Winch was doubtful, Harry Perry was indignant.

Mr. Wismer thought Mr. Perry had insulted him and did his best to screw his good-humored face into aggrieved sorrow.

Nothing personal meant, Mr. Perry explained, and Mr. Wismer seemed to feel much better about it all.

The House nearly got down to showing its operation during the discussion of Winch the elder's hospital bill. It was about working hours for nurses.

Everybody thought about the time they were last in hospital. Macgregor Macintosh of the Islands, estimated that he had spent two and a half years in hospitals since the war and he knew his nurses—at least their hours.

He chided Mrs. Steeves for

He chided Mrs. Steeves for bringing the matter of domes-tic servants into the discussion. Their qualifications were not to be compared with those of

nurses.

"Bet you couldn't be one," piped the lady member.

"If you'd spent as many hours in the kitchen as I have you'd know something about it," retorted the captain.

Mrs. Steeves blushed becoming acknowledgment of the retort.

retort.

Sam Guthrie, mentioning the utilities commissioners and their probable salaries as compared to the amount involved in giving nurses shorter hours, remarked of the former:

"You would think we were about to hire supermen instead of three very ordinary Liberals!"

But Sam's best effort could not save the bill from the ash can.

Like a plumber and his helper, Premier Pattulio and Mr. Wismer went about the continued business of patching up their Utilities Act.

There were "ands" to be changed for "buts." bits to be tacked on and corners to be rounded out. They gouged out great chunks and mortised in strengthening joints, stopped leaks and made vents for proper legal ventilation.

They pegged and they plugged and occasionally seemed just a little puzzled over which bit went where. And the opposition enjoyed the business hugely. A thoroughly dusty business, for all their changes and amendments do not alter the spirit of the bill, which means that the commission will be firmly tied to the apron strings of the cabinet.

Estimates again brought forward the usual homely expressions of opinion on a number of subjects. Mr. Colin Cameron had a chance to touch up the attorney-general on the subject attorney-general on the subject attorney-general on the subject of Blubber Bay trials. Dr. Gillis of Yale complained that country boys do not have a chance to join the provincial police. Mr. Crone of Vancouver Centre thought the thirty-mile speed limit was a fine, commendable thing; Mr. Maitland thought so too but he complained that it was not well enough enforced in Vancouver.

Speaker, meant more stallions. He blushed to say it. Mr. Lebourdals, still blushing, went on to say that he thought there should be more assistance in the matter of rams, boars and bulls.

Future of Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, in the British Columbia Government has been a source of increasing speculation since the beginning of the week.

Mr. Pearson is among those suggested as a member of the new Utilities Commission, but rumor has it that his colleagues are unwilling to see him leave the cabinet.

Mr. Pearson's accomplishments in labor legislation and relief administration give him a strong position. His relations with labor on one MAKES CABINET HEADACHES hand and employers on the BUT THEY WOULD KEEP HIM. other make him a political power which can not be disregarded by a government with a weather eye on its political standing.

standing.

Mr. Pearson's well-known independence of thought and outspoken opinion is said to have caused more than one cabinet

spoken opinion is said to have caused more than one cannot headache during the present session.

There has been gossip about the possibility of Charles Tupper, a union railroader who now represents Similkameen, being made a utility commissioner as a gesture toward organized labor. He has also been suggested as successor to Mr. Pearson in event of that minister going to the commission.

Government Refuses to Slacken Cabinet Control In Utilities Bill

BARS APPEALS TO THE COURTS

Only Matters of Law Can Be Referred To Judges.

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—The gov.

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—The government has eliminated all appeal to the courts on fact in its new Public Utilities Act.

While there is still appeal allowed on questions of law, the only appeal left on fact (justice of rates set by the commission) is to the lieutenant-governor-incouncil (the cabinet).

This was confirmed on Wednesday afternoon when the House in committee waded through the remainder of the 136 sections in this heavy bill.

mainder of the 136 sections in this heavy bill.

There were a number of minor changes in the act, but the prin-ciple of cabinet control, enunci-ated and defended by members of the government, remains domi-nant.

"MERGER" FAILS.

The attempt of R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, to have coal and petroleum products declared a public utility and brought under the act failed.

the act failed.

The granting of leave to appeal and the costs of application are at the discretion of the appeal judge. When Attorney-General Wismer announced that Section 103 of the bill, which allowed appeal on any question not of jurisdiction or of law, Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative of The Islands, objected.

"We all agree the principle of the bill is sound. But when it denies access to the courts, when the commission becomes a servan of the cabinet and is responsible only to the cabinet and he only

STRUCK OUT.
Section 121, giving the commis-

section 121, giving the commission power to impose penalties not exceeding \$50, was struck out. H. E. Winch, C. C. F., Vancouver East, opposed the power given to the commission to appoint inspectors for municipalities in which public utilities operated, with the municipalities responsible for their salaries and expenses.

penses.
"The act does not say such inspectors must be appointed," he said. The power was discre-

CRONE'S PRAISE.

CRONE'S PRAISE.

Premier Pattullo agreed to accept an amendment from Colin Cameron, C. C. F., Comox, which will require the commission's reports and applications to be filed with all members of the Legislature within ninety days.

Ald. Fred Crone of Vancouver and member for the central constituency of the metropolis, found something good to say for the act which no one else on the government side of the House had offered.

He arose, apropos of no particular clause, to announce most definitely that the bill was a Godsend to harassed municipal councils. Every time an election rolled round, he said, local utilities were the football which candidates kicked about to the delight of the electors. The bill would remove public utilities from the realm of municipal politics, and that of itself was "a mighty good thing," he said.

"Sob S

VICTORIA V nurses so couver East, bill to amend The bill was Among of nurses. Its

There exists can not be alk Mr. Winch jun entire public burden of the the nurses."

G. S. Pearson admitted the r has come and problem should But it must be a tom. The hospi on a false fin minister asserts

PREMIER IRK

"I don't thin who have spoke case of nurses all very well to tures. I'm tire stuff. It's of Premier Pattull

"There is a la returns in the cosaid the Pren members who h the government getting money

getting money reforms.

"The hospital ceiving the eart of the governm the hospitals n We have been a British Columb social legislatio province in C province in C push it too far." Mrs. Dorothy North Vancouve

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Dr. J. J. Gi did not agree He thought nur well looked afte were run by and if anything there would ha from that quart "If we impossible day principle day principle o

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Bill Giving Better Conditions To Nurses Defeated in House

Two Winches Plead for Eight-hour Day; "Sob Stuff," Says Premier Pattullo.

(By Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—British Columbia is exploiting its nurses so that its hospitals can be over-subsidized, declared. H. E. Winch, lean-faced C. C. F. reformer of Vancouver East, when he rushed to the defense of his father's bill to amend the Hospitals Act in the Legislature yesterday. The bill was defeated on division, 12 to 29, on second reading. Among other things, the bill sought eight-hour days for nurses. It's sponsor was E. E. Winch, C. C. F., Burnaby.

"There exists a condition which can not be allowed to continue.' Mr. Winch junior insisted. "The entire public schould bear the burden of the hospitals, not just

G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, admitted the nursing profession was subject to abuses. "The time has come and passed when the problem should be taken in hand. But it must be attacked at the bottom. The hospital system is built on a false financial basis," the minister asserted.

PREMIER TRKED.

"I don't think hon, gentlemen who have spoken have helped the case of nurses very much. It is all very well to draw direful, pictures. I'm tired of all this sobstuff. It's often exaggerated." Premier Pattullo accused.

"There is a law of diminishing returns in the collection of taxes, said the Premier replying to

said the Premier, replying to members who had suggested that the government had the means of getting money to institute social

reforms.

"The hospital situation is receiving the earnest consideration of the government. We know the hospitals need more money. We have been moving further in British Columbia in the field of social legislation than any other province in Canada—but don't push it too far."

push it too far."

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C. C. F.,
North Vancouver, was bitter. She
maintained nurses were treated
worse than domestic servants, worse than domestic servants, slept at the scene of their labors. and in the worst quarters that

could be found for them.

day principle on hospital nurses the principle on hospital nurses it will mean a great burden on the institutions," he said. "The B. C. Hospital Association keeps its eye on these matters and it haan't even been consulted about this bill. I think it would oppose the bill. In fact, I'm sure it would."

upon to "fill in" in Victoria hospitals and were placed on what was called a "staff basis" at wages of \$20 monthly. Conditions of work, their hours and their outlook as to the future caused a reaction very harmfu-to the nurses and to their patients Very often it resulted in their nervous and physical breakdown.

New Marriage Act To Cause Trouble Says Gillis

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Amendments to the Marriage Act, which make necessary compulsory medical examinations, are going to cause a lot of trouble, in the opinion of Dr. J. J. Gillis (Liberal, Yale).

"It will lead to a lot of companionate marriage," declared the Yale member.

"What's the matter with that?" asked Herbert Anscomb. "It will lead to a lot of immorality," continued Dr. Gillis. E. H. Winch, who sponsored the Act, said it would prevent immorality.

"Transmitting disease to innocent offspring is not morality," countered Mr. Winch.

The bill was reported from committies with minor amend.

ity," countered Mr. Winch.
The bill was reported from committee with minor amendments.

Steel Buses Urged For School Children

vaily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Steel buse for the carrying of all B. C. school children were strengly recommended by R. L. Maitland, opposition leader, speaking on estimates in the Legislature.

estimates in the Legislature.

"I warned the provincial secretary last year, and I warn him again this year that the government should act before it is too late. Some day there will be a terrible accident, and the wooden body of these buses will shatter under the strain," Mr. Maitland said.

Dr. G M Weir explained that although the matter did not come under his department, a recom-mendation had been made that steel body buses be purchased in

City "Slickers" Not So Good

fixed, said Attorney-General Gordon Wismer, speaking in the Legislature on his estimates last night. It would probably cut down the accident toll in the province. limits in the country ought to be

province.
R. R. Burns, Liberal, Rossland-Trail, declared that in the in-terior most of the accidents were caused by "city slickers" and "prairie chickens," who disregarded the rules of the road and

clung close to the inner side of the road when rounding corners. L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chil-liwack, thought that on Kings-way the school areas should be open for traffic faster than fif-teen miles per hour while schools are in session. are in session

Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative, the Islands, wanted street cars to carry stop lights.

R. L. MAITLAND DARES PREMIER

Challenges Him to Test Personal Election In Vancouver.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Bitter denunciation of the government's Redistribution Bill by opposition members featured the second reading of amendments to the Constitution Act this morning. Premier Pattullo personally introduced the measure, and against him the criticisms of Conservative members was directed.

rected.
R. L. Maifland, K.C., Conservative leader, challenged the Premier to run against him in any
seat in Vancouver, and particularly in Vancouver-Point Grey.
"It would mean the exit of the
Premier," he declared.

SARCASTIC THRUST.

SARCASTIC THRUST.

"II men have bridges and other works named after them, they should also have legislation of this character bearing their names," was a sarcastic thrust of the Conservative leader.

Mr. Maitland described the elimination of the Islands as a "gerrymander," and hoped that the day when Elbridge Gerry's tactics are followed in this province by all governments will be discarded with this bill.

"I commit myself to one proposition," asserted Mr. Maitland. "It is that as far as I am concerned there will be no more distribution acts along these disgusting lines."

Dr. Lyle Telford, C.C.F., Vancouver East, strongly supported Mr. Maitland's protest. He declared that the whole purpose of the amendment of the Constsitution Act was political.

BASIS ALL WEONG.

BASIS ALL WEONG.

H. G. T. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, insisted the basis of re-nistribution was entirely wrong, and the result was a government lectually representing a minority of the people. He then outlined

his own electoral system, on a different basis from the present

one.

H. E. Winch, C. C. F., Vancouver East, admitted Mr. Perry had stolen his party's thunder and agreed the complete revision of the electoral system was re-

quired.

"The government in following such procedure as it has in this bill leaves itself open to suspicion, if not the charge of gerrymandering," said Mr. Winch.

G. M. Phillips, registrar of voters in Vancouver, who drew the redistribution plan, conferred with none but Liberal members during his tour of the province, Mr. Winch claimed.

E. T. Kenney, Liberal Skeens.

Mr. Winch claimed.

E. T. Kenney, Liberal, Skeena, strongly resented an earlier suggestion of Dr. Telford's that Prince Rupert being "only a Siwash village," was readily won over to support of Liberals. He did not think there was any foundation for the claim that a gerrymander had been perpetrated.

trated.

Tom King, Liberal, Columbia, said that the Conservatives who had sat in the House during the gerrymander of the former government should hang their heads "and hide in the corridors" when any suggestion of such a practice was made against the present administration.

G. S. Pearson, minister of labor.

administration.

G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, and representative of Nanaimo, into whose riding the Conservative islands have been switched, said the move did him no good. If anything it made his position a little less secure.

He did not want the islands, for his constituency was unwieldy anyway. The northern two-thirds of Vancouver Island was represented by only two men, he

represented by only two men, he added, and the southern third by eight. That was not satisfac-tory. But in any event, he said, he had used no influence in se-

he had used no influence in securing the islands as an addition to his riding, though he would be proud to represent them.

Rolf Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm, though he agreed with Mr. Maitland that a judicial commission should sit on redistribution. But he did not think a deliberate gerrymander had been intended. The select committee had been sincere. He did object to the elimination of the islands riding, and if they had to go, they should have been joined to Saanich, he asserted.

Winch Urges Building Of B. C. Office Here

Of B. C. Office Here
VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—"Apart
from the Parliament Buildings in
Victoria the government does not
carry fire insurance on a single
one of its buildings, as far as I'm
aware," declared H. E. Winch,
C. C. F., Vancouver-East, speaking in the closing stages of the
debate on estimates.
On the Vancouver Courthouse,
for instance, no fire insurance
was carried whatever, he said.
Mr. Winch urged that a public
works block be constructed in
Vancouver.

works block be constructed in Vancouver.

"Thousands are being spent yearly on rentals here for gov-ernment offices," he declared.

"The amount would be sufficient to meet sinking fund and interest on a sufficient sum to erect a building belonging to the prov-ince."

Electoral Utopia Is Pictured

H. G. Perry Details System of Triple Votes In Territorial, Cultural, Economic Divisions.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Admittedly utopian, a system of electoral representation for British Columbia, based on triple votes for each voter in territorial, economic and cultural divisions was suggested to the House by H. G. T. Perry (Liberal, Fort

H. G. T. Perry (Liberal, Ford George).

Mr. Perry said that it must be recognized that the present government represented a majority of territorial units, but not a majority of the people. With three parties in prospect a continuation of such condition might be expected for some might be expected for some

years.

Mr. Perry's own system for "real representation" is based on a House of thirty-four members elected from sixteen elec-

bers elected from sixteen electoral divisions, with a Speaker
elected by the House from outside its number. Members of
the House would elect premier
and cabinet ministers.

For territorial basis there
would be one member for each
division, as in the federal House
—Total sixteen.

In the economic division there
would be two members for each
of the following economic
groups (one for management,
one for employees): Farmers of
the province as a whole, forsetry, mining, fishery, manufacturers and wholesalers,
finance and insurance, retailers
and servicing, transport—Total
sixteen.

For cultural groups such as professions, medicine, law, teachers, etc., two members elected at large.

ADMITS CITY FIRM DENIED RIGHT TO BID

Pearson Says Contractors Were Not Given Plans.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Pursuing VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Pursuing his investigation of the manner in which public contracts are let, R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, obtained from Hon. G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, information that Baynes & Horie, Vancouver contractors, were refused opportunity of tendering upon the construction of the Tuberculosis Hospital in Vancouver.

Mr. Maitland earlier in the ses-sion had told how this pioneer contracting organization had been denied plans of different works for the purpose of bidding on

NEW BATTLE LOOMS ON REDISTRIBUTION

Contentious Legislation Is Tabled In House.

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.
VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Amendments to the Constitution Act—one of the most contentious pieces of legislation of the session—implementing the recommendations of the redistribution committee, came into the Legislature at midnight Wednesday.
The chief features of the bill, which will extend the fight of opposition members in the committee rooms to the floor of the House. are:

House, are:

1-Elimination of The Islands

riding and absorption of the major portion of the former constituency into Nanaimo.

2—The partition of Victoria City, and setting up of Oak Bay, with a slice of Saanich, as a leparate riding from Victoria.

3—Inclusion of the North Saanich section of the former Victoria.

section of the former Islands riding with Saanich. The main feature of the bill,

apart from the contentious clauses, is the setting up of a separate riding of Alberni. Other changes in constituency boun-daries have roused no alterca-

In the Legislature

SOME RELIEF **GIVES RETURN**

Half of B.C.'s 66 Million Expense Fruitful, Pearson Says.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Out of a total of \$66,345,192 expended by the province on account of relief, from April 1, 1930, to March 31, from April 1, 1930, to March 31, 1938, some return had been received for \$37,551,289 of that amount, Hon. Geo. S. Pearson, minister of labor, told the Legislature on Wednesday night.

The minister was replying to statements that there had been no return received by the province for the expenditures made on account of relief.

"It is true that there has been

"It is true that there has been no return received, or asked for, for \$28,793,902—that is in the way of actual work—if human salvage is not regarded as being a worth while work," he said; "but for the larger portion of our expenditures there have been returns." "It is true that there has been

BIG DIRECT RELIEF.

He went on to explain that administration costs had amounted to only 1.79 per cent., or \$1,191,923 for the eight years; while public health had cost an approximate equal amount, \$1,168,591.

Direct relief, including aid to municipalities in meeting their relief costs, totalled \$26,433,387, or 39.85 per cent of the entire relief bill.

bill.

Many charges listed as relief shoulr really be accounted as public works, he declared. Included in this category were provincial roads, bridges, highways and similar construction undertakings, amounting to \$16,523,055 or 24.91 per cent.

Similarly \$12,915,778 advanced to the municipalities had been expended in public improvements, such as roads, sewers, waterworks and other beneficial works. Winter projects, including forestry camps, public works, flood damage and control, tourist camp and road developments and similar works, accounted for \$3,778,042.

Mining trails, roads and forest

\$3,778,042

Mining tralls, roads and forest patrols cost \$776,709; youth training in forestry and mining, recreational activities and occupational classes stood at \$440,049 and assistance to agricultural development \$73,485.

In presenting the detailed figures, Hon Mr. Pearson said that he was carrying out a promise made earlier in the session to give an accounting.

FROM

Mrs. S Danc

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FROM THE PRESS GALLERY

Mrs. Steeves and Hon. Gordon Dance to Credit Union Tune

There's Hurly-Burly Act On Legislature Programme, Too-And Some Bitterness.

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
(Dally Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—When the Legislature sits for a morning, afternoon, night and part of the next morning a man should unload himself of certain very wise, penetrating political observations which would lead to the conclusion that he was not only behind the scenes, but, perhaps, a union scene shifter.

Your observer must admit at the outset that he held only a seat in the gallery, with no entree to the stage door and the weird goings-on in that penumbra of back-stage where cues are given and acts arranged.

Out front, in the opinion of this gallery-ite, the most touching act of the day was the sweet minuet of Mrs. Dorothy Steeves and the agile Hon. Gordon Wismer, attorney-general.

They danced to the tune of the Credit Unions Act. What a charming spectacle it made. Mrs. Steeves leading with a step, the attorney-general following in time. Then again, the "A.G." leading and Mrs. Steeves tripping to his measure. And all the time both as polite and full of old world courtesy as a book of etiquette.

Occasionally the lady advanced a little farther, politically, of course, than her honorable partner; but he did not let that break the rhythm of the dance. One hesitates to go further with the theme. It was one of those little beauties that men snatch in a life of turmoil. After all, it's the art of the thing that counts.

One hates to turn from the measure of such political grace to the hurly-burly of industrial disputes and its blubbermbay implications and more bitter still, the redistribution legislation.

Earlier in the day Hon. Mr. Pearson exlained why the government had seen fit to open the Industrial Conciliation and Arbritration Act.

Young Mr. Winch came back in the evening to make one of his best speeches in the present session.

session.

Mr. Winch was full of fire but it was a highly concentrated, well trained, logical fire.

Mr. Winch said that the government had been made the tool of the employers, that Mr.

e employers, that Mr. on had been duped in the of the

Pearson had been duped in the same way.

He beat his points in with an earnest emphasis and direction of aim. Never during the present session has the young man from Vancouver East been at better speaking pitch.

Mr. Winch told the government they had been the victim of "a fast one."

Earlier Mr. Pearson, speaking in his usual strain of reason-

in his usual strain of reason-able persuasion had blamed the employees at Blubber Bay for the formidable feud which

the formidable feud which eventually developed.

Mr. Anscomb was objective. He wanted to know when and how the row could be settled. The minister said the government had done everything it could do. He even offered to could mr. Anscomb as an arbitrator.

The burly member from Victoria expressed willingness and the could do. He even offered to could do. He even offered to could do.

The government had two brave challenges to battle when the Redistribution Bill had its first baptism of fire for the day. Mr. Maitland told them to do what they liked with his Point Grey riding and invited Premier Pattullo to come over there and run against him. He TWO CHALLENGES HURLED the Premier, which is a pretty grim thing to say to a man who sits opposite backed by a majority of sixteen. The Premier and his colleagues were fairly overwhelmed with invitations. Dr. Telford said he was "personally"—and that qualification means something so long as you cling to the C.C.F. executive-willing to resign his seat. He, too, would like some government member to come over and joust with him.

Mr. Straith, whose Liberal friends squeezed him in as third member for Victoria, was taken to task in no velvet-lined manner by Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, the tall soldier man who

still represents The Islands, but whose riding has been treated with a heavy dose of political vanishing cream.

Had the language been less parliamentary you couldn't say what the Macintosh might have called the Straight.

On the subject of redistribution there is an interesting story going the rounds of these legislative corridors. It is, as we say, just one of those things that one hears about two ash cans up alley. The soldiers had a name for it.

It appears, so this story goes, that the original intent of the government was to wipe out the riding of Salmon Arm and chuck it into Kamloops.

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They favored continued isolation of his case in his present riding. So Salmon Arm remained a riding and the Kamloops chiefs of the Liberal party sleep in their teepees less, at least

In government circles the city of Prince Rupert is the place of the prophet for that is the riding of their chief, Premier Pattullo. Imagine their shocked indignation when Dr. Lyle Telford referred to it as a "Siwash village." Now a Siwash village is a nice tourist attraction, but it's not the sort of thing to say about a city where there are a lot of votes.

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tosh's motion to refer the whole question back to the redistribu-tion committee was rejected. Chairman R. H. Carson ruled that a committee of the whole House could not make reference of any matter to any other committee. Captain Macintosh and Her-

Captain Macintosh and Herbert Anscomb protested. Premier Pattullo waived the rules and ordered a vote to be taken. It was, and, without a recorded division, the amendment was negatived. "Bang, goes The Islands!" exclaimed A. P. Paton, Conservative, Point Grey—and the bitterest fight of the session was over.

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Electoral Utopia Is Pictured

H. G. Perry Details System of Triple Votes In Territorial, Cultural, Economic Divisions.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Admittedly utopian, a system of electoral representation for British Columbia, based on triple votes for each voter in territorial, economic and cultural divisions as suggested to the House by G. T. Perry (Liberal, Fort

George).

Mr. Perry said that it must be recognized that the present government represented a majority of territorial units, but not a majority of the people. With three parties in prospect a continuation of such condition might be expected for some veers.

years.
Mr. Perry's own system for
"real representation" is based
on a House of thirty-four members elected from sixteen elec-

bers elected from sixteen electoral divisions, with a Speaker
elected by the House from outside its number. Members of
the House would elect premier
and cabinet ministers.

For territorial basis there
would be one member for each
division, as in the federal House
—Total sixteen.

In the economic division there
would be two members for each
of the following economic
groups (one for management,
one for employees): Farmers of
the province as a whole, forestry, mining, fishery, manufacturers and wholesalers,
finance and insurance, retailers
and servicing, transport—Total
sixteen.

For cultural groups such as professions, medicine, law, teachers, etc., two members elected at large.

ADMITS CITY FIRM DENIED RIGHT TO BID

Pearson Says Contractors Were Not Given Plans.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Pursuing his investigation of the manner in which public contracts are let, R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, obtained from Hon. G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, information that Baynes & Horie, Vancouver contractors, were refused opportunity of tendering upon the construction of the Tuberculosis Hospital in Vancouver.

Mr. Maitland earlier in the ses-sion had told how this pioneer contracting organization had been denied plans of different works for the purpose of bidding on

NEW BATTLE LOOMS ON REDISTRIBUTION

Contentious Legislation Is Tabled In House.

Daily Province Staff Correspondent. VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Amend-ments to the Constitution Act— one of the most contentious pieces of legislation of the ses-

pieces of legislation of the ses-sion—implementing the recom-mendations of the redistribution committee, came into the Legis-lature at midnight Wednesday. The chief features of the bill, which will extend the fight of opposition members in the com-mittee rooms to the floor of the House, are:

1-Elimination of The Islands

1—Elimination of The Islands riding and absorption of the major portion of the former constituency into Nanaime.

2—The partition of Victoria City, and setting up of Oak Bay, with a slice of Saanich, as a eparate riding from Victoria.

3—Inclusion of the North Saanich

section of the former Islands riding with Saanich.

The main feature of the bill. apart from the contentious clauses, is the setting up of a separate riding of Alberni. Other changes in constituency beun-daries have roused no altercaIn the Legislature

SOME RELIEF **GIVES RETURN**

Half of B.C.'s 66 Million Expense Fruitful, Pearson Says.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Out of a total of \$66,345,192 expended by the province on account of relief, the province on account of relief, from April 1, 1930, to March 31. 1938, some return had been received for \$37,551,289 of that amount, Hon. Geo. S. Pearson, minister of labor, told the Legislature on Wednesday night.

The minister was replying to statements that there had been no return received by the province for the expenditures made on account of relief.

"It is true that there has been no return received, or asked for,

"It is true that there has been no return received, or asked for, for \$28,793,902—that is in the way of actual work—if human salvage is not regarded as being a worth while work," he said; "but for the larger portion of our expenditures there have been returne."

RIG DIRECT RELIEF.

He went on to explain that administration costs had amounted to only 1.79 per cent, or \$1,191,923 for the eight years; while public health had cost an approximate equal amount, \$1,168,591.

Direct relief, including aid to municipalities in meeting their relief costs, totalled \$26,433,387, or 39.85 per cent of the entire relief bill.

Many charges listed as relief Many charges listed as relier shoulr really be accounted as public works, he declared. Included in this category were provincial roads, bridges, highways and similar construction undertakings, amounting to \$16,523,055 or 24.91 per cent.

KEPT HIS PROMISE

Similarly \$12,915,778 advanced to the municipalities had been expended in public improvements, such as roads, sewers, waterworks and other beneficial works. Winter projects, including forestry camps, public works, flood damage and control, tourist camp and road developments and similar works, accounted for \$3,778,042.

Mining trails, made and forest

\$3,778,042.

Mining tralls, roads and forest patrols cost \$776,709: youth training in forestry and mining, recreational activities and occupational classes stood at \$440,049 and assistance to agricultural development \$73,485.

In presenting the detailed figures, Hon Mr. Pearson said that he was carrying out a promise

he was carrying out a promise made earlier in the session to give an accounting.

FROM

Mrs. S Dance

> Prog VICTOR

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FROM THE PRESS GALLERY

Mrs. Steeves and Hon. Gordon Dance to Credit Union Tune

There's Hurly-Burly Act On Legislature Programme, Too-And Some Bitterness.

By TORCHY ANDERSON.

(Dally Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—When the Legislature sits for a morning, afternoon, night and part of the next morning a man should unload himself of certain very wise, penetrating political observations which would lead to the conclusion that he was not only behind the scenes, but, perhaps, a union scene shifter.

Your observer must admit at the outset that he held only a seat in the gallery, with no entree to the stage door and the weird goings-on in that penumbra of back-stage where cues are given and acts arranged.

weird goings-on in that penumbra of back-stage where cues are given and acts arranged.

Out front, in the opinion of this gallery-ite, the most touching act of the day was the sweet minuet of Mrs. Dorothy Steeves and the agile Hon. Gordon Wismer, attorney-general.

They danced to the tune of the Credit Unions Act. What a charming spectacle it made. Mrs. Steeves leading with a step, the attorney-general following in time. Then again, the "A.-G." leading and Mrs. Steeves tripping to his measure. And all the time both as polite and full of old world courtesy as a book of etiquette.

Occasionally the lady advanced a little farther, politically, of course, than her honorable partner; but he did not let that break the rhythm of the dance. One hesitates to go further with the theme. It was one of those little beauties that men snatch in a life of turmoil. After all, it's the art of the thing that counts.

One hates to turn from the measure of such political grace to the hurly-burly of industrial disputes and its blubbermbay implications and more bitter still, the redistribution legislation.

Earlier in the day Hon. Mr. Pearson exlained why the government had seen fit to open the Industrial Conciliation and Arbritration Act.

Young Mr. Winch care had.

Young Mr. Winch came back in the evening to make one of his best speeches in the present session.

session.

Mr. Winch was full of fire but it was a highly concentrated, well trained, logical fire.

Mr. Winch said that the government had been made the tool of the employers, that Mr. Pearson had been duped in the

Pearson had been duped in the same way.

He beat his points in with an earnest emphasis and direction of aim. Never during the present session has the young man from Vancouver East been at better speaking pitch.

Mr. Winch told the government they had been the victim of "a fast one."

Earlier Mr. Pearson, speaking in his usual strain of reasonable persuasion had blamed the employees at Blubber Bay for

able persuasion had blamed the employees at Blubber Bay for the formidable feud which eventually developed.

Mr. Anscomb was objective. He wanted to know when and how the row could be settled. The minister said the government had done everything it

HAROD WINCH ment had done everything it could do. He even offered to appoint Mr. Anscomb as an arbitrator.

The burly member from Victoria expressed willingness

The government had two brave challenges to battle when the Redistribution Bill had its first baptism of fire for the day. Mr. Maitland told them to do what they liked with his Point Grey riding and invited Premier Pattullo to come over there and run against him. He TWO CHALLENGES HURLED said that would be "exit" for AT PREMIER PATTULLO. the Premier, which is a prefity grim thing to say to a man who sits opposite backed by a majority of sixteen. The Premier and his colleagues were fairly overwhelmed with invitations. Dr. Telford said he was "personally"—and that qualification means something so long as you cling to the C.C.F. executive—willing to resign his seat. He, too, would like some government member to come over and joust with him.

Mr. Straith, whose Liberal friends squeezed him in as third member for Victoria, was taken to task in no velvet-lined manner by Capt, Macgregor Macintosh, the tall soldier man who

still represents The Islands, but whose riding has been treated with a heavy dose of political vanishing cream.

Had the language been less parliamentary you couldn't say what the Macintosh might have called the Straight.

On the subject of redistribution there is an interesting story going the rounds of these legislative corridors. It is, as we say, just one of those things that one hears about two ash cans up the alley. The soldiers had a name for it.

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Macdonald Report Declares Uncontrolled Oil Can Destroy Coal Industry in B. C.

Price Regulation by Public Body Held Highly Desirable

Interests of Province Demand Fuel Oil, Coal Be Put On Equal Footing, Says Commissioner.

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—(CP)—At present a private body or V company controlling the price of gasoline, and consequently the price of heavy fuel oil, can virtually destroy the British Columbia coal industry, according to the third section of the Macdonald report on coal and petroleum industries of

the province.

"Regulation, therefore, by a public body is highly desirable in its (coal industry's) interest and in the public in-

ests," the report says.

It states that in the oil industry heavy fuel oil costs have been "loaded" onto gasoline to enable lower prices to large consumers of heavy fuel oil.

"So likewise in the distribution of coal the domestic and smaller consumers have been saddled with higher distribution charges, to enable lower delivered prices to the large building heating plants. If the argument applies against oil it must apply also against coal."

coal."

But the commissioner says "this report on the whole is tavorable to coal only because the facts warrant it."

"With abundant coal resources it is in the economic interests of this province to take every legitimate step to encourage its use and to place it on a footing of equality with heavy fuel oll."

MACDONALD NAMED.

Mr. Justic M. A. Macdonald of he British Columbia appeal court was appointed by the Provincial Jovennment in 1934 to investigate he two industries. The first two sections of his report were tabled in the Legislature last autumn. The final section was tabled today.

The final section was tabled today. The present section correlates the findings of the other two, and lists the commissioner's findings in regard to the comparative values of coal and petroleum products in their economic uses and in relation to public welfare.

Mr. Justice Macdonald finds that coal mined in British Columbia is adaptable to modern and efficient methods of use and consumption.

efficient methods of use and con-sumption.

He answers the suggestion put forth by the Bullding Owners and Managers' Association of Vancou-ver that coal is outmoded with this statement:

"Instead of coal being a deca-dent fuel, . . . the experience in Great Britain, the United States and elsewhere shows that it pre-sents one of the most fruitful fields for commercial research."

WARNS OF COSTS.

However, the commissioner warns that "reduction in the cost of mining coal on Vancouver Island has to be faced if coal is to maintain its place as a competitive fuel.

"A large market has been lost a Vancouver Island coal because if its high cost of production and istribution."

"I British Columbia coals are a suitable and convenient fuel; "2. In general, about the same efficiency may be expected from either coal or heavy fuel oil provided design and operating conditions are equally suitable.

"3. If coal and heavy fuel oil both are sold at economic delivered prices, coal should have a decided advantage over heavy fuel oil; reductions in mining costs on Vancouver Island, and elimination of top heavy coal distribution charges are essential conditions to support this conclusion."

DEFINES PRICES.

DEFINES PRICES.

Mr. Justice Macdonald defines "economic delivered prices" as being based upon reasonable production, marketing and distribution costs, with allowance for reasonable profit on necessary containers from the profit of the profit

reasonable profit on necessary capitalization.

He finds that his three conclusions have "No value to the coal-mining industry or the consumer, so long as their effect is defeated by competitive prices which bear no relation to the cost of production and distribution of either coal or heavy fuel oil."

He finds that oil companies

He finds that oil companies have "exploited" the consumer's tendency to buy the cheapest fuel by selling heavy fuel oil in competition with coal "at prices much below cost of production."

below cost of production."

"To illustrate, in November, 1935 (When gasoline price in Vancouver was 29 cents a gallon) the Vancouver motorist in every ten gallons of gasoline purchased paid \$1.10 in excess of the fair retail price; this \$1.10 excess price paid by nearly 100,000 British Columbia motorists did not show as oil company net profit, because it was 'shifted back' to make up (among other similar losses) some \$1,400,000 losses incurred in heavy fuel oil sales below cost to the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways.

PLACES CONTROL.

PLACES CONTROL.

"In this province the oil com-panies who control the price of gasoline, control also not only the price of heavy fuel oil but have the coal-mining industry virtually

wants, all the oil companies have to do is to lower fuel oil to a price which coal can not meet and then recoup themselves for any losses therefrom by charging motorists and other gasoline users a higher price for gasoline."

Mr. Justice Macdonald claims the "death warrant of the Van-couver Island coal mining industry has been signed" if a view-point should be generally accepted that the price of gasoline is a matter for sole determination by the oil companies without super vision by government or legis

lature.

He advocates establishment of central coal distributing depots, "or some modification of that principle" as the only effective way in which the preesnt high distribution charges can be reduced to a point where coal can compete effectively in building heating plants with heavy fuel oil.

MAKES SAME CHARGE.

The commissioner also levels at Canadian Collieries (Dunsmur) Limited, Vancouver Island's largest operators, the same charge of selling below cost that he applies to oil companies.

"Canadian Collieries defended these conditions on the ground it was forced to sell railways and industry below cost in order to compete with heavy fuel oil also selling below cost," he says.

"It will be obvious that if Canadian Collieries has a good compalaint against the oil companies for selling heavy fuel oil below cost, then for the same reason the domestic coal consumer must have an equally good complaint against Canadian Collieries for selling below cost to railways and industry."

The commissioner finds that "a reduction in the selling price of

seeing below cost to railways and industry."

The commissioner finds that "a reduction in the selling price of gasoline is the first step to save Vancouver Island coal industry from extinction." If the price of gasoline is reduced to the extent it should be, then heavy fuel oil would be compelled to carry its own fair load of cost, and compete with coal on a fair comparative basis.

In the first section of his report, Mr. Justice Macdonald found the retail gasoline price in Vancouver should have been not more than 18 cents per gallon, based on 1934 and 1935 conditions. This would have been a reduction of 11 cents

have been a reduction of 11 cents per gallon.

This price would only be an economic one if the "multiplicity

economic one if the "multiplicity and duplication" of gasoline service stations was eliminated. Until this was done, 23 cents per gallon would be a fair price.

The commissioner said that "in view of the propaganda now being circulated by oil companies, it is emphasized that the reduction to 23 cents per gallon was not contemplated to interfere with service stations as they then and now exist. We made it plainto quote from the petroleum report:

"Naturally we realized the multiplicity of and duplication of service stations could not be eliminated 'over night,' that it would take a reasonable time to do so. Therefore we found that the reduction to 23 cents should take place immediately and in due course further reductions should follow, until the oil companies had disappeared from the wholesale and retail fields and normal business competition had wnoiesale and retail fields and normal business competition had adjusted the number of garages and bona fide independent ser-vice stations needed in any com-

WEIR TO SPEED **INSURANCE ACT**

Doctors Name Committee To Confer With Him On Details.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA.-Dr. G. M. Weir, provincial secretary, proposes to conferences immediately after the present session of the Legislature, with a view to working out a province-wide health in-

This announcement was ma This announcement was made in municipal committee of the Legislature today by Dr. Gordon Kenning, Victoria, during hearing of an application of Reeve G. A. Cruickshanks or Matsqui for permissive legislation for a plebiscite on a municipal health insurance plan.

COMMITTEE NAMED.

Later Dr. Kenning, represent-ing the College of Physicians and Surgeons, announced that a com-mittee had been named to discuss with the provincial secretary and his advisers details for the pro-vision of medical care under the

The College hopes, he added, at discussions will commence that discussions will commence immediately. "This has been my hope," Dr. G. M. Weir told The Daily Prov-

ince.

The committee decided to compromise, however, and will allow Matsqui to hold a plebiscite.

But any health insurance scheme worked out by the municipality with any doctors must have the approval of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.

Says Coa

VICTORIA, Highlights of of the Macd British Colum petroleum ind fore the Prov

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Furnace of household he be sold in "It has gain the household because of to foal in pres of price and to automatic "Heavy fur two direct tax per barrel p the 8 per centax, while cotax.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FUEL PROBE FINDINGS

Says Coal Industry Can Be Destroyed, Virtually, By a Body Setting Price

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—(CP)— Highlights of the third section of the Macdonald report on British Columbia's coal and petroleum industries, tabled be-fore the Provincial Legislature today:

"At present a private body or company controlling the price of gasoline, and consequently the price of heavy fuel oil, can virtually destroy the British Columbia coal industry."

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Regulation, therefore, by a public body is highly desirable in its (the coal industry's) interest and in the public interest."

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"British Columbia processed "British Columbia processed fuel oil must be protected by a customs or dump duty on imported heavy fuel oil to enable it to be sold at an economic delivered price."

"A large market has been lost to Vancouver Island coal because of its high cost of production and distribution."

"Establishment of central coal distributing denots or

coal distributing depots, or some modification of that principle, is the only effective way in which the present high distribution charges for coal can be reduced to a point where coal could compete effectively."

British Columbia coals are a suitable and convenient fuel adaptable to modern and effi-cient methods of use and con-sumption."

"Instead of coal being a de-cadent fuel . . the experience in Great Britain, the United States and elsewhere shows that it presents one of the most fruit-ful fields for commercial re-

"This report on the whole is favorable to coal only because the facts warrant it."

"Losses incurred (by the oil companies) in heavy fuel oil have been loaded on to gasoline, thereby increasing its alleged costs of production."

"In the distribution of coal the domestic and smaller con-sumers have been saddled with higher distribution charges, to enable lower delivered prices to the large building heating plants."

Furnace oil used mainly in household heating appears to be sold in fair competition. "It has gained a foothold in the household market largely because of the backwardness of coal in presenting advantages of price and convenience due to automatic firing."

"Heavy fuel oil now bears two direct taxes—the 17% cents per barrel provincial tax and the 8 per cent. Dominion sales tax, while coal has no direct tax.

to larger building heating plants to larger building heating plants at economic delivered prices, and coal will not, we see no justification for penalizing heavy fuel oil by the continuance of those direct taxes."

"We found no evidence of any

practical scientific tests by any-one in the province which we accept as weighing could safely the merits of specific coals and

the merits of specific coals and fuel oils. "This situation is in large part due to the lack of initiative of the coal companies them-

"Production, marketing and distribution costs of Imperial Oil, Shell Oil, Union Oil and Standard Oil were not available in British Columbia. The British Columbia managers of these companies had little knowledge of costs."

"The enquiry concerned that next of the business of the oil companies carried on in British Columbia. Because, bound of the control of the co companies carried on in British Columbia. Because, however, of the costing system followed by integrated oil companies it was necessary to explore many avenues to reach conclusions in respect to costs of production and distribution in this province."

"As crude oil is not produced in British Columbia, coal is the logical and economic fuel to be used in this province, whenever it is at all suitable for use."

"We find . that in building heating plants, such as office buildings, hotels, department stores, institutions and such like, coal can be used with a substantial annual saving."

"In stationary and industrial power plants we find that sub-stantial saving can be effected in the use of coal, whether pulverized or mechanically stoked."

"About the same efficiency may be expected from either coal or heavy fuel oil in sta-tionary plants."

"If heavy fuel oil and coal were sold at economic delivered prices, the use of coal in rail-way locomotives should result in substantial annual savings."

Pensions Changes Do Not Affect Teachers

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—The present amendments to municipal pensions legislation now before the Legislature do not apply to school teachers, whose pensions scheme comes under a separate

act.

Therefore the general scaling down of municipal pensions does not apply to teachers. The teachers' fund is now under scrutiny and it is likely that any adjustments which may be necessary will be subject of legislation at the next session of the House.





FIGURES IN PROBE—Mr. Justice Macdonald, royal commissioner who probed the fuel industry in B. C., is shown at the right. At the left is Dr. W. A. Carrothers, chairman of the Fuel Products Board, which will function under legislation passed at this session of the House.

B. C. PREPARED ON GAS ISSUE

Third Edition of Probe Report Tabled In Legislature.

By TORCHY ANDERSON Daily Province Staff Corresponde

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—The British Columbia Government has a lawsuit on its hands with the pe-

industry.

It has been said in court that their legislation which was aimed to reduce the price of gasoline is based on a report made by Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald last veer.

year.

Hon. Gordon Wismer, attorneygeneral, has argued that the Macdonald report should not be considered as the essential basis of
the legislation now sub judice.

THIRD EDITION.

Today, with the prorogation of the House only hours away, the government tabled a third edition of the Macdonald report—a brief of two bulky volumes which each measures four inches thick on heavy mimeograph paper. (See details on page 32 and 33.)

details on page 32 and 33.)

The government alone knows exactly why the report, which has been in its hands four days, was tabled. But the inference is that if the courts insist on considering the original Macdonald report as pertinent to the present litigation the attorney-general will insist that it be considered in its entirety. The report is now complete.

INDUSTRY CRITICIZED.

Mr. Justice Macdonald, while making the statement that the present control of fuel oil can destroy the British Columbia coal industry, does not spare the coal industry, does not spare the coal industry itself. Coal producers are criticized for their high cost of production and distribution and lack of modern and efficient methods of use and consumption. The first two reports were on coal and gasoline. The present report co-relates them. It is charged that losses incurred by the oil companies on fuel oil have been loaded on gasoline, which the government is now fighting to bring to a reduced price level.

On the other hand, the report charges that the domestic coal consumer has been saddled with the load of enabling the coal producers to sell their product to large heating plants.

It finds that fuel oil has gained its hold through the backwardness of the coal producers in presenting more convenient forms of handling their fuel.

The commissioner admits inability to get at the production, marketing and distribution cost of oil owing to facts and figures not available in British Columbia. It is hard to see how legislators, now in the threes of finishing their work, can digest and discuss the present report before prorogation.

Oil Firms Have Cut Price Of Gas 2 Cents Since 1935

"This finding of course intended that the reduction should be absorbed wholly by the oil companies and not that a proportion of it should be passed on to the service station dealer. This should be a secretiling influence on the be a compelling influence on the oil companies to retire from the retail field."

retail field."
Oil companies voluntarily reduced the price from 29 to 27 cents since 1935. The British Columbia Coal and Petroleum Board, appointed after the first two sections of the Macdonald report were tabled, has since ordered an additional reduction ranging from 3 cents in Vancouver to 6 cents in other sections of the province.

of the province.
(Putting into effect of the order is restrained by an injunction restrained by an injunction nding determination in the urts of validity of the Provin-

courts of validity of the Provincial Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act. The gasoline prices mentioned all include a seven-cent government tax). "In order to preserve the coal mining industry... and to maintain the employment of some 1600 mining employees, public regulation of the price of gasoline can not be avoided," the commissioner says.

missioner says.

He comments it has been asserted that great loss will occur if gasoline prices are

reduced.
"There will be a reduction in revenue from gasoline sales. As often pointed out heavy fuel oil is sold in this province below cost. FACT ADMITTED.

"That fact has been found by his commission, supported by he Tariff Board, and finally, if any further proof is needed, admitted by the Imperial Oil Limited, through its representatives in a statement given to the British Columbia) Economic Council

(British Columbia) Economic Council.

"All companies now operating refineries in British Columbia (Imperial, Union and Shell—no reference here to Standard as it came into British Columbia later) sold to the people in 1934 a grand total of 30,631,387 gallons of gasoline and 166,320,707 gallons of heavy fuel oil (Including intercompany sales of the latter). "In view of the fact that on the whole they sold and dealt with over five times as much heavy fuel oil as gasoline, the former regardless of cost," the reader may estimate what adjustment in prices would absorb any diminuation of revenue consequent upon a reduction in gasoline prices.

"The foregoing statement is

ne prices.

'The foregoing statement is ased on 1934 figures. There is no cason to assume that this general relation has not been virually maintained in subsequent

PRICE "FIXED NOW."

"For the benefit of those who we qualms about anything that wors of regulation of the price gasoline, it should be said at cee that the price of gasoline is seen ow. It has been done the oil companies with no retion to reasonable cost of protection and distribution, but

chiefly due to the excessive num-ber of dealers and the top-heavy system of distribution. Calling in

system of distribution.

He says Canadian Collieries' method of charging depreciation was the cause of fluctuations in production costs from year to

year.

"That depreciation may be charged by the dictates of expediency in other coal mines in Canada as well as Canadian Colleries is not proof that it is a correct method; but rather evidence that these mines in 2 backward in their are ing systems," the commissioner says he

The commissioner says he favors a "customs duty on imported heavy fuel oil high enough to enable it to be sold at economic delivered prices." In 1935, heavy fuel oil delivered direct to coastal points from outside the province had an advantage over British Columbia processed fuel oil not compensated for by the existing customs duty of 17½ cents a

barrel.

Unless the additional duty is put on, he claims, "the price of British Columbia heavy fuel oil to large users may be dictated by California heavy fuel oil dumped into this province at prices which can not be competed with, either by British Columbia fuel oil or by

coal."

"The lower the price at which British Columbia processed fuel oil sells in order to compete with California heavy fuel oil, the greater the heavy fuel oil losses to be absorbed by British Columbia processed gasoline," he comments.

The commissioner says high costs of Vancouver Island coal have enabled Alberta coal to make "substantial inroads" in the Vancouver market, and thousands of sawdust burners have also reduced Vancouver Island coal consummittee. consumption.

FIRST STEP SUGGESTED.

"One of the first steps essential to regaining these markets is reduction in direct mining costs, which should approximate one dollar per short ton."

While heavy fuel oil competes unfairly with coal because it is sold below cost furnace oil used mainly in household heating appears "to be sold in fair competition."

"It has gained a footbold in the

pears "to be sold in fair competition."

"It has gained a foothold in the household market largely because of the backwardness of coal in presenting advantages of price and convenience due to automatic firing," the commissioner states. "Heavy fuel oil now bears two direct taxes—the 17½ cents per barrel provincial tax and the 8 per cent. Dominion sales tax — while coal has no direct tax, not even the sales tax.

"In the circumstances, therefore, if heavy fuel oil will sell to larger building heating plants at economic delivered prices and coal will not, we see no justification for penalizing heavy fuel oil by the continuance of those direct taxes."

Believes Engines Should Use Coal Instead of Oil for Fuel

causes—multiplicity of and du-plication of coal dealers and the present system of delivering coal in sacks.

"Until these two causes are removed we do not see how eco-nomic coal delivered prices can be attained. It is true a reduction to \$8.10 per short ton can be made immediately, with progressive reductions, as these two causes are gradually eliminated, coupled with reduction in cost of

production.

"... Coal, gasoline and heavy fuel oil are products of such common and necessary daily use that they should be stripped of all economic waste to assure the lowest reasonable price to the public."

SAVING HELD POSSIBLE.

The commissioner finds that in building heating plants such as in office buildings and hotels, and in stationary and industrial power plants, substantial savings can be effected through use of coal instead of heavy fuel oil. If heavy fuel oil and coal are sold at economic delivered prices, a saving will be made in use of coal in railway locomotives.

coal in railway locomotives.

The commissioner said it should not be accepted as a final and settled fact that coal can not and settled fact that coal can not be safely used in logging operations in British Columbia. An open mind should be maintained and exhaustive tests made to settle the question. Coal appears to be safely used in logging operations in the State of Washington and on one part of Yan. ington and on one part of Vancouver Island.

Coal could be used to advantage in some types of coastal ships and deepsea vessels.

in some types of coastal ships and deepsea vessels.

Revising the present coal distribution setup by setting up of central coal distributing depots would "not only result in lower prices to the consumer," but it would also "enable coal to compete with heavy fuel oil in large markets, that without it will be beyond its reach."

"It would result, too, in more production; more work for miners and more labor in actual distribution to the consumer."

Commissioner Macdonald says he was "disturbed" by the fact that domestic and industrial consumers of fuel "discarded coal for fuel oil either without tests or any adequate investigation into the question of suitability, cost and use or by enlisting the aid of combustion engineers.

"We found no evidence of any practical scientific tests by anyone in the province which we could safely accept as weighing the merits of specific coals and fuel oils.

"The situation is in large part due to the lack of initiative of the coal companies themselves."

Dealing with use of coal in building heating plants, Mr.

Justice Macdonald says that in no instance was evidence presented that heating with furnace or diesel oil was more economical than with automatically fire coal. "All the evidence was to the contrary," he says.

He finds that in July, 1905.

imported heavy fuel oil and \$1.8550 based on British Columbia refinery production.

At the same time he finds the economic delivered price of Vancouver Island coal was \$4.8079 at the wharf in Vancouver, or delivered to consumers in Vancouver \$5.8079.

REFERS TO TESTS.

He refers to tests on the relative

He refers to tests on the relative merits of heavy fuel oil and coal in heating two hotels in Chicago, made by the Commercial Testing and Engineering Company.

Taking into account differences in heavy fuel oil and coal used in Chicago and those used in British Columbia, the commissioner finds that in similar tests some first of the cost of fuel oil would here, the cost of fuel oil would be considerably higher than Nanaimo coal to do the same

The saving by using Nanaimo coal would be \$1.4818 for each ton needed. If Comox coal were used, the saving would be even

greater.

If heavy fuel oil were sold at economic delivered prices, Nan-aimo coal could still compete on even terms, even though it were sold at \$7.59 per short ton, which is \$1.48 above its economic delivered price as calculated by the

ered price as calculated by the commission.

Comox coal could compete at \$8.10 per short ton, or \$1.99 above its economic delivered price.

"It will be apparent," the commissioner says, "that if Vancouver Island coal does not wish deliberately to make heavy fuel oil a present of a market involving a substantial part of 34.87 per cent. of its production (the domestic trade requirements) not only must the cost of mining be reduced at least 85 cents per ton out retail distribution charges must be lowered very consider-

nut retail distribution charges must be lowered very considerably below \$2.25 per short ton (which in itself is 75 cents below the present "leased yard spread" and \$1.25 below the ordinary "dealer's" spread.)

The report quotes figures which Mr. Justice Macdonald says "prove beyond doubt that coal is a much more economic fuel than heavy fuel oil" for all industrial power plants where delivery may be made direct from mine or refinery to plant.

Consumption of British Columbia coal in railway locomotives

Consumption of British Columbia coal in railway locomotives dropped by 62.3 per cent. between 1928 and 1936, the commissioner says. Meantime use of fuel oil has increased until in 1936 44, 057,660 gallons was used in the Pacific Coast province, compared with only 2,879,923 gallons in all the rest of Canada.

EVIDENCE HELD GOSSIP.

The commissioner declares ! was unable to determine from witnesses why coal is used as principal locomotive fuel in the rest of Canada and not in British Columbia.

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He continue "In each c pplied Britis omic delivered heavy fuel oil, the advantage to a substantia FIRE HAZAR

There was ence present sion in regard caused in for coal-burning lo Macdonald say be in the ecor the province a companies to u tion would be officials or the poet commission. port commiss "If, at some

province, the r vert to coal fu the board wor scribe special tically all the n

tically all the m fuel oil is now ". . The sprevall where eastern Canad areas."

However, t says that inso erations are cont, on the e coal may be u appreciable risi fires.

to remove, i amounts to vi the use of coal tions. "Insofar as

coastal steamshif coal and hea sold at economic there is no rea that the advant siderably in fav stoked coal," continues,

Credit Uni Changes A

By Daily Province VICTORIA.

ing a spreading unions in the stion British Co Dorothy Steever an amendment wanted powers the Credit Unio But Attorne

Mrs. Steeves ments, and Mr. her for her pracure "But there witme to alter the credit unions a in operation for

and no less than 'roundhouse gossip'-hearsay evidence of what nen and engine crews think."

He continues:

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"In each case to which we applied British Columbia economic delivered prices of coal and heavy fuel oil, it was found that the advantage rested with coal to a substantial degree."

FIRE HAZARD FACTOR.

There was considerable evidence presented to the commission in regard to the fire hazard caused in forested regions by coal-burning locomotives, but Mr. Macdonald says that if it should be in the economic interests of the province and of the railway companies to use coal, "no objection would be raised by forestry officials or the board of transport commissioners."

"If, at some future date in this province, the railways should reed in forested regions

"If, at some future date in this province, the railways should revert to coal fuel in place of oil, the board would, however, prescribe special patrols on practically all the mileage upon which fuel oil is now used.

"... The same requirements prevail where coal is used in eastern Canada in comparable areas."

However, the commissioner

However, the commissioner says that insofar as logging operations are concerned he would not, on the evidence, find that coal may be used without some appreciable risk of starting forest fires.

WOULD REMOVE BAN

He recommends scientific tests to remove, if possible, "what amounts to virtually a ban" on the use of coal in logging opera-

the use of coar in logs.

"Insofar as British Columbia coastal steamships are concerned, if coal and heavy fuel sils were sold at economic delivered prices, there is no reasonable doubt but that the advantage would be considerably in favor of mechanically stoked coal," thee ommissioner continues.

Credit Union Act Changes Approved

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—Envisioning a spreading fabric of credit unions in the form of a federation British Columbia-wide, Mrs. Dorothy Steeves sought to mother an amendment through the Legislature yesterday afternoon. She

wanted powers of federation in the Credit Union Act.

But Attorney-General Gordon Wismer would not play step ather.

Mrs. Steeves had many amend-ments, and Mr. Wismer thanked her for her practical suggestiona "But there will be plenty of time to alter the act respecting credit unions after it has been in operation for a year."

Drastic Reduction in Service Stations Suggested in Report

Have Admitted Unnecessary Duplication. Commissioner Declares Oil Companies

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—(CP)—Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald, Victoria, Dec. 9.—(CP)—Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald, in the third section of his report on the coal and petroleum industries, tabled in the British Columbia Legislature today, said that during his commission's hearing no one contended that service stations should not be drastically reduced in number. He continued:

duced in number. He continued:

"The Imperial Oil, the Shell Oil, the Standard Oil and the Union Oil all conceded there are far too many service stations and unnecessary duplication, and admitted they had no

'If more support were needed reference might be made to Nova Scotia legislation, whereunder the Scotia legislation, whereunder the number of gasoline pumps was reduced from 4000 to 2000. L. C. McClosky, vice-president of Imperial Oil Ltd., expressed his approval of the Nova Scotia legislation before the Tariff Board; A. E. Halverson, Imperial Oil director in charge of sales, also agreed with the need of some agency to compel reduction in the number of pumps and bulk stations. of pumps and bulk static

CITIES SEEK REDUCTION.

"The city of Vancouver, the city of Victoria, and the cities of Kelowna, Vernon and Princeton identified themselves with the efforts to bring about a reduction."

"At the annual convention of e Union of British Columbia Municipalities in September, 1935, a resolution was passed unanimously to request the Legislature to grant powers to the cities and municipalities to regulate the number of gasoline service stations are repulsation was realization as a realization was realization as a realization was realization as a realization as a realization was realization as a realization as a realization was realization as a realization tions; an application was made to the Legislature in March, 1936, the Legislature in March, 1936, but it was reported that the municipal committee of the Legislature felt that no action should be taken until the coal and petroleum report was received.

ceived.

"The Garagemen's Association of British Columbia, claiming to represent some 408 service station dealers throughout the province, asserted that the retail gasoline outlets on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland exceed requirements by 50 per cent.; the automotive section of the Retail Merchants' Association, claiming to speak for 250 service station dealers, asserted:

HOLDS PUBLIC PAYS.

HOLDS PUBLIC PAYS.

"The motoring public could be adequately and efficiently served if one-third less stations were operating. The consuming public undoubtedly pay for this unnecessary added overhead."

"We examined seventy-nine representative service station dealers; fourteen in Vancouver, five in Victoria and sixty in Fernie, Cranbrook, Nelson, Trail, Penticton, Kelowoa, Vernon, Kamloops, Merritt, Princeton and Nanaimo, and they supported substantial reductions in the number of service stations.

"We were more than surprised therefore to see an advertise-

"We were more than surprised therefore to see an advertise ment in the Victoria and Vancouver newspapers entitled 'Service Stations and Your Town,' inserted not by the service station dealers, but by the oil companies to lead the public to believe that there were not too many service stations; and this after both oil

co, service station dealers as the contrary on oath before as commission.

PROPAGANDA CHARGED.

"In this advertisement it is sought to place service stations in the same category as grocery in the same category as grocery stores; this again is misleading particularly after the very full findings thereon in the Petroleum Report whereon we showed, based on the sworn evidence of officials of the oil companies who are now spreading propaganda to contradict the very evidence their high officials gave to this commission under oath, that:

"(1) The oil companies had some \$5,000,000 investedin gaso-

"(1) The oil companies had some \$5,000,000 investedin gaso-line service stations in this prov-

ince.

"(2) The oil companies owned, held, or controlled under 100 per cent. agreement 93 per cent. of the service stations and gasoline actions and gasoline actions and gasoline actions.

sales outlets in the province.

"(3) Mr. G. R. Matthws, speaking for 250 service station dealers in all parts of the province, is
quoted at Page 69 Petroleum Re

port: "The retailer has nothing to say about the retail price of gasoline; that price is set for his customers and he has nothing to say about it. That is why the merchandis-ing of gasoline is so different to the other commodities."

NO COMPARISON.

"There is, of course, no comparison between service station dealers and retail grocery stores or other bona fide retail business. It was doubted that out of 361 service stations in Greater Vancouver there were more than nine which could be classed as incompared of the ellegenerates. dependent of the oil companies.
The service stations in this prov-The service stations in this province are to a large extent 'tied houses' by means of the '100 per cent. agreement' which compels the service station dealer to sell at the prices dictated by the oil companies, and in effect to carry on as if he were their salaried employee. If he refused to enter into a 100 per cent. agreement, the policy of the oil companies is to penalize him by allowing him one cent less 'spread' on his gasoline sales.

to penalize him by allowing him one cent less 'spread' on his gasoline sales.

"The petroleum report findings have been printed and available to the public for some time. To those who do not wish to be misled by propaganda we would recommend perusal thereof, as the evidence is cited there upon which the findings are made."

In another section of the re-port Mr. Justice Macdonald re-ferred to "idle" property held by

Imperial Oil Ltd.

"We found in Volume I," he says, "that gasoline can be sold at a fair profit at 18 cents a gallon, or if the public want to tolerate the present system of retail distribution designed to maintain prices and prevent competition, it can be sold for 23 cents. I refer to this further factionly recently discovered as a cents. I refer to this further fact, only recently discovered as a result of information furnished by Mr. C. C. Labrie. I instructed A. W. Fisher, barrister of this city, to investigate through the land registry office, etc., the statement made by the former that Imperial Oil Ltd., owned a lot of property in Vancouver and vicinity upon which no service stations were erected, pursuant, in my opinion, to the policy of maintaining prices and preventing competition.

"It was disclosed by this investigation that (with one access

competition.

"It was disclosed by this investigation that (with one exception) corner lots in Vancouver and vicinity amounting, according to transfer values, to nearly a quarter of a million dollars were purchased in a period of four years (1927-1931).

AVOIDS DELAYING

"I have not delayed the report by making inquiries in other parts of the province. This is enough, if more is needed to disclose the method followed. While I do not recall a specific question in respect to advance purchases of real estate by the companies, certainly the information was not volunteered: a full statement of these purchases, together with transfer values and assessments before and after purchase; also certificates will be found in Appendix 51.

AMENDMENT AIMED AT B.C. TAX-EVADERS

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—Last-minute amendment to the Income Tax Bill before the Legislature, introduced by Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, prevents the setting up of holding companies outside the jurisdiction of the province, to which excess profits can be sent for the purpose of evading super-taxes.

sent for the purpose or evacuing super-taxes.

The minister explained that the intention was to not only see to it that higher rates of taxation were collected from holding companies in British Columbia, but to collect from such even if they organized holding companies in other provinces.

holding companies in other provinces.

Hon. G. S. Wismer, attorney-general, took issue with critics of the amendment to the Income Tax Act. He said that there was no intention of the government interfering with concerns that were operating without intention of evading taxation. There were, however, several groups in the province who had organized holding companies for the express purpose of evading payment of super-taxes. It was idle to say that the legislation before the House would drive capital from the country.

The drastic provisions of the Taxation Act passed in 1933 were not being interfered with at all. There had not been a single appeal from the 1933 imposts on company reserves. Those who were willing to pay taxes on a fair and equitable basis had no reason to fear.

Pro-Consul from Victoria

By FRANCIS ALDHAM.

ROMAN praetor in modern dress, a A pro-consul whose broad shoulders would carry well the mantle of a Caesar. Herbert Anscomb, a member in the British Columbia Legislature for the City of Victoria, seems ever at outs with his surroundings. An able man and tireless, his active participation in the business of the House is tinged with the flush of disdain. He is a tallish man, of generous figure, with a leonine head and a strong, old-featured face which rarely relaxes into good humor. The frequent and barb shafts of his mordant wit are provocative of uneasiness rather than laughter.

Anscomb is wont to interject into another member's speech a question which is framed in courtly and meticulous politeness. He will ask it in a voice which is plangent with irony and full of innuendo. He will utter in a few, well-chosen vords a challenge to some statement of fact, spoken with breath-taking swiftness before Mr. Speaker has time to frown. By this means, Anscomb has been known to take the ground from under a cabinet minister who started out with an explanation quite sure of himself.

Then the member for Victoria will laugh soundlessly into the little desk where he sits alone, at the top end of the Opposition benches, nearest to The Chair.

Mr. Anscomb-there are few who call him "Herbert"—is a business-man, entirely devoid of sentiment. He entered the Legislature in 1933, nominally as an independent. Actually he has always been a Conservative of the old school, an exp ent of government by a ruling class, without innovations. In this attitude he is sincere and stubbornly consistent. Before he entered provincial politics, Anscomb had already achieved distinction in busiess and chartered accounting. He had been reeve of Oak Bay municipality and mayor of the city of Victoria.

He was a strong contender, at the convention this year, for the leadership of the Conservative party. When his party comes to power in British Columbia, it seems a foregone conclusion that Anscomb will be its minister of finance.

He has a swift, unhesitating flow of speech, an instinct for the right word and well-rounded diction. He can cite facts and figures without the book, but he rarely descends to unvarnished statistics. His speeches are seasoned with a deadly wit, but his effectiveness as an orator is marred by a tendency to "talk down" to his hearers. His challenging speeches

His platform manner is almost imperlal. The irreverent have dubbed him Duce," but one can not imagine Anscomb Duce," but one can not imagine Anscombone of a black shirt movement. He belongs to the solid Victorian age and he sees in peaceful commerce a means to affluence and well-being. He was born in Kent (England) 46 years ago. He has lived in Canada since he was mine, but he is still very much the Englishman' of a generation ago, an opponent to change and social experiment.

Anscomb is one of those "sleek-headed men, and such as sleep o' nights" that Caeser of old would fain have had about him.

A Thoroughly Bad Law

IN British Columbia hereafter, if you are the guest passenger of a motorist in his car, and if you are injured in a traffic accident in that capacity, you will have no recourse at law for damages against him or the insurance company which stands in his place in such contingencies. The Legislature has just decreed that that very objectionable state of affairs shall be written into the statute law of this province.

Apparently this thing has been jammed through the House in the dying hours, against the protests of the opposition and despite the hesitations of many government supporters, by the government, solely on the insistence of the insurance companies. And apparently Attorney-General Wismer, who has an excellent record otherwise in all this department of his activities, has badly slipped up here.

There is not a thing in the world that can be argued in favor of this law except the dubious argument that it might protect an insurance company from an occasional and very infrequent claim of fraudulent collusion between a motorist and his passenger. But it is not good enough to excuse a law which penalizes 99 per cent. of the community to allege that it may possibly be some sort of a protection to somebody in the hundredth case.

For this law is bound to work as a hardship to too many people. It deprives of a proper protection, first of all, the person who asks or accepts the hospitality of a lift by motor car. It can not be considered either as any proper protection to the responsible motorist, who makes it a part of his responsibility as the owner and operator of a dangerous machine in the public thoroughfare to carry insurance against the contingency that he may injure anybody at all in the course of that operation.

In sum, this law does not contribute to the general protection of the public from the perils incident to modern motor traffic, and it runs directly counter to the proper principle here, which is that there should be the greatest possible insurance of everybody against injury or damage sustained in motor traffic.

The insurance companies have been badly advised in asking for this unconscionable law. What they are doing by these tactics is to hasten the coming of the very thing that they are mistakenly opposing, namely, compulsory all-in insurance of all motor cars, and very likely the comingbecause of their failure to provide the protection which it is their business to supply—of state insurance as well.

PENSION FUND AID IS SOUGHT

All Parties Are Anxious To Help, But No One Knows How.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—All parties in the Legislature were anxious to help the municipal pensioners whose allowances are to be cut drastically in order to place the municipal superannuation fund on a sound basis, but no one could figure out how it should be done.

For more than an hour Thurs day afternoon the members wres tled with the problem, as the dif-ferent clauses were studied. Hon. George M. Weir, Provin-

cal secretary, warned against any attempt to amend the sections of the act. It was destined to be actuarily sound, he said, and he feared that tampering with it now might endanger the fund in the

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

Hon. John Hart explained that the government will stand behind the re-established fund, making direct grants, and advancing money without interest until the whole scheme was well under way. The cost to the treasury next year would approximate something between \$350,000 and whole \$400,000.

ministers expres hope that in addition to the new pension schedules that will be es-tablished by the act that munici-palities may see their way pos-sible to give special assistance to cases where the need is great. Several members urged that

Several members urge several memoers urged that the government confer with mu-nicipalities and pensioners during the next year to see if some amelioration for those who were drastically reduced in their pensions could not be given

BLAMES MUNICIPALITIES.

The provincial secretary said that the collapse of the municipal superannuation scheme was rgely due to the municip

In order to make positions for others employees had been super-annuated wholesale.

In four years, he said, 16 per cent. of the municipal workers covered by the act had been re-

covered by the act had been re-tired. No pension scheme, even if it had been sound at the outset, could stand such a burden.

One result, he said, was that while higher pensions would be drastically reduced, in a few cases with small pensions of eight or nine dollars would be increased.

creased.

In answer to a question by Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, Mr. Hart said that it the fund was wound up now it would require \$7,500,000 to meet all liabilities in the way of reserves and return of contributions, while the assets would be approximately \$3,500,000.

Last-mi Made o APPEAL R ARE AMEN

Conservatives Satisfied V Minor Ga

By Daily Province Staff VICTORIA, Dec. 9 given to the cabinet appeal on fact from the Public Utilities Co the Court of Appeal. a last-minute amen Public Utilities Bil into the Legislature T. D. Pattullo yes

When Premier I made this explanation land, leader of the rose to say that he jecting. "There is

HITS INTERFERE

He would sooner clause allowing ap tions of fact direct without it being po cabinet to interfere

As it is, the cal sider an appeal and courts at any stag hear the appeal ar ment if it wishes, fuse to allow app

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Mr. Maitland, he we further.

The bill still per on questions of lav

tion direct to the c Herbert Anscon tive, Victoria, foug "The cabinet keeps say whether there right to appeal on The right should out permission.

TILL "POLITICS "Thus power ren

the hands of the ge say it should be of entirely," said Mr. "We don't know

nissioners are go hope they will be who know their that there won't b for government c as far as possible sion will be divor-tics."

Mr. Anscomb the government contributed in the contr

Last-minute Concession Made on Utility Bill

APPEAL RIGHTS ARE AMENDED

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Conservatives Are Not Satisfied With Minor Gain.

y Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—Power is given to the cabinet to refer any appeal on fact from a ruling of the Public Utilities Commission to the Court of Appeal, according to a last-minute amendment to the Public Utilities Bill introduced into the Legislature by Premier T. D. Pattullo yesterday after-

When Premier Pattullo had made this explanation, R. L. Mait-land, leader of the opposition, land, leader of the opposition, rose to say that he was not ob-jecting. "There is no use," he added.

HITS INTERFERENCE.

He would sooner have seen a clause allowing appeal on ques tions of fact direct to the court, without it being possible for the cabinet to interfere, he declared.

As it is, the cabinet can con sider an appeal and refer it to the courts at any stage. But it can hear the appeal and give judg-ment if it wishes, and can re-fuse to allow appeal from its

fuse to allow appeal from its finding.
Under the circumstances, said Mr. Maitland, he would not argue further.

further.

The bill still permits of appeal on questions of law and jurisdiction direct to the courts.

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, fought to the end. "The cabinet keeps the right to say whether there shall be a right to appeal on fact or not. The right should be there without permission. out permission.

STILL "POLITICS."

"Thus power remains purely in the hands of the government. We say it should be out of politics entirely," said Mr. Anscomb.

"We don't know who the co dissioners are going to be. We missioners are going to be. We hope they will be business men who know their business and that there won't be any necessity for government control, so that as far as possible the commission will be divorced from polities."

Mr. Anscomb then moved that government control of the appeals to the commission should be surrendered, and that the offendin clause be struck out.

On a vote only the Conservative eight raised their hands. The C. C. F. group voted with the government.

The bill was reported as amended, and awaits third reading.

WINCH LOSES UNION RECOGNITION FIGHT

Fails In Two Attempts To Change Wording.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—Efforts by E. Winch, C.C.F. whip, to eliminate clauses in the Industrial Disputes Conciliation Act regard ing recognition of unions now in existence in British Columbia, failed this morning.

failed this morning.

Mr. Winch proffered two amendments in the committee stage. One would delete the restriction upon recognition of unions, while the other would change the whole principle of the parent act, by allowing "quickle" tribles Both amendments were

parent act, by allowing "quickie" strikes. Both amendments were refused by the government and were defeated by the committee.

Mr. Winch said that he wished to make it perfectly clear that he favored the government bill recognizing unions as factors in negotiating with employers, but he objected to discrimination between those now organized and any that might be organized in future.

COST OF PATTULLO BRIDGE \$3,999,276

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—Cost of the Pattullo bridge was just under \$4,000,000.

While capital cost amounted to

While capital cost amounted to \$3,999,276, the annual charge has not been computed, owing to the fact that permanent financing has not been done.

Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, gave the information to the Legislature in answer to questions by E. E. Winch.

Hon. K. C. MacDonald could not tell the Legislature, in answer to questions by L. H. Eyres, Chilliwack, whether the coast vegetable marketing board has had an independent audit made of its affairs in the past two years.

House Completes Main Session Work

Miam Session Work
VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—(CP)—
Completing the main acts of the
session, the British Columbia
Legislature gave third reading
and enactment to its Supply Bill,
ratifying the granting of supply
to the crown for \$29,768,592.

Of this \$28,765,457 is for the
new fiscal year, \$691,766 for the
current year, and \$310,055 to close
accounts in the year previous.

PROBE LIMITED TO PROVINCE

Oil Company Costing System Leads Far Afield.

VICTORIA, Dec. 9. - (CP)-Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald said today in a report tabled be fore the British Columbia Legislature that his investigation into coal and petroleum industries concerned "that part of the busi-ness of the oil companies carried on in British Columbia."

Mr. Justice Macdonald was ap-pointed by the Legislature in 1934 to investigate the industries. The first two sections of his re-port were tabled at the last ses-

He said that while he was only interested in British Columbia activities of the petroleum industry, yet the costing system followed by integrated oil com-panies made it necessary to "explore many avenues to reach conclusions in respect to costs of production and distribution in this province."

In this connection, Mr. Justice Macdonald said, "production, marketing and distribution costs of Imperial Oil, Shell Oil, Union Oil and Standard Oil were not available in British Columbia."
"The British Columbia managers of these companies had little knowledge of costs."

MISCONCEPTIONS. He continued:

He continued:

"The ramifications of the petroleum industry apparently give
rise to misconception as to the
method of approach in determining whether or not petroleum
products manufactured in this
movince are sold at reasonable province are sold at reasonable prices. I refer in this connection prices. I refer in this connection to a public statement, typical of others, in October, 1938. It reads

"One of the problems of price fixing is obvious in connection with the petroleum industry. The product to be regulated in price is to be extracted from raw materials of necessarily foreign origin. How could these primary costs be determined by an authority within this province." "One of the problems of price

ILLUSTRATES CASE.

"It can best be answered with an illustration. Let us assume cheese factories are located in this province, and the only place the companies could secure their raw material, viz., milk from the State of Washington (cr u de comes from California, Peru, etc.) In other words, visualize a condition where no milk at all is produced in this province. Let us assume that not only cheese but butter, buttermilk and whey were manufactured or processed in British Columbia from the imported raw material (milk). The task is to find if the prices of these products to the consumer in British Columbia are just and reasonable.

The starting point would be

essonable.

The starting point would be he laid down cost of imported nilk at the cheese factory door. From that point we would find the of manufacture, wholesale

distribution together with all necessary elements in respect to plant equipment, depreciation, etc. If these companies had other cheese factories all over the world we would not of course investi-gate prices to consumers else-

PIPE LINE TRUCKS.

PIPE LINE TRUCKS.

The illustration might be carried further to elucidate another aspect. Let us assume that the companies doing business in this province and in other provinces and countries processing imported milk, owned the dairy herds in Washington in addition to the factories in British Columbia; also owned pipe-lines or a fleet of trucks to transport the milk from the dairies to Seattle. "Let us further assume that this integrated company owned tank steamers to transport its milk from Seattle to the factory or factories on Burrard Inlet; also that they owned and controlled directly or indirectly all distribution facilities in this province.

province.

"If we were asked to find whether or not these companies with world-wide operations in respect to its British Columbia respect to its British Columbia business only, was selling butter and cheese both manufactured in this province from an imported raw material (milk) at a fair price, we would again start with the laid down cost of milk at the cheese factory door unperturbed by the question as to how it got there, or the financial or other interest with the manufacture of the manufacture o history prior thereto or the mag-nitude of the business outside this province.

"Ramifications of the com-panies' activities do not add to or subtract from the price of the raw material in the form of milk required for that part of its busi-

"There is no need, therefore, for confusion of thought in approaching the problem."

Legislature Pays Tribute to Pioneer

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—(CP)—The British Columbia Legislature stood in silent tribute to James H. Schofield, for twenty-six years member of the Legislature, who died in Trail this morning.

Premier Pattullo moved a vote of condolence to his wife and family.

or condolence to his wife and family.

"Mr. Schofield," he said, "was liked by all. He was one of the most popular men in the House and that popularity was attested to by his constant election."

Winch Charges Government Is 'Tool' of B.C. Employers

Alleges That Industry "Dictated" New Industrial Arbitration Legislation.

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—The government is being made the tool of employing interests of B. C. to the detriment of the workers of the province, by passing an amendment to the Industrial Arbitration and Conciliation Act, which abrogates the rights of unions organized after December 7, 1938.

This, and other grave charges, formed the core of a bludgeoning attack delivered last night by H. E. Wineh, C. C. F., Vancouver East, in the Legislature.

Mr. Winch adjourned the debate during the morning session on second reading of this bill so that he could inform the Trades and Labor Council in Vancouver that he considered the proposed amendment "potentially very dangerous" to the interests of labor, since it might abrogate labor; sights and principles, he told the rights and principles, he told the

He got a reply to the effect that the council had agreed to the amendment "because it was preferable to the present status of bona fide unions," he added.

DICTATED BY EMPLOYERS.

"This amendment was intro-duced at the dictates of the employers of this province, especially those which have steadfastly fought against labor's right organization and collective arbitration," charged the C. C. F.

whip. "The minister of labor knows that the onus for what has taken place at Blubber Bay does not rest on the employees, but on the company," he declared, answering Hon. G. S. Pearson's declaration of the morning that the morning the morn tion of the morning that the men and not the employers were to blame for the strike at the Pacific Lime Co. plant.

There was only one section of

There was only one section of the arbitration board's award at Blubber Bay to which the men objected, Mr. Winch went on. And although he had urged them to accept it, they were afraid.

The minister of labor, he insisted, was aware of the fact that the men objected to this one finding and sent Judge MacIntosh to arbitrate further. It was agreed that the objectionable section should be removed, but at this point the company refused to atpoint the company refused to at-tempt to work out a plan of rein-statement for the nine discharged

statement for the nine discharged workers.

Then he turned to the amendment in the Industrial Arbitration and Concillation Act. Nowhere in the act, he said, though it was a labor measure, was it laid down that unions should represent employees in arbitration. Labor wanted an amendment so that employers would have to recognize unions and deal with their officers in any dispute.

Then, he charged a deputation of employers came to Victoria—headed by Colonel C. E. Edgett, J. H. MacDonald and Wendell B. Farris, K.C.—to urge the government to retain the labor laws as they had been in the past.

"It is most strange we should see an amendment accepted from a delegation whose tideas are in opposition to labor's objects in this province, and whose members are bitterly opposed to collective bargaining," declared Mr. "Col. Edgett is the greatest

Premier T. D. Pattullo inter-

"Is it necessary to bring in the names of individuals? There was a man there at the meeting with the executive council who had a black moustache. But he had no special influence," the Premier said.

TOOL OF EMPLOYERS.

"May I say," continued Mr. Winch, "that the minister of labor only accepted this amendment because he is the minister, not because he favored it. He is being made the tool of the employing interests of this province."

He came, then, to the crux of his objection to the amendment.

"The amendment is so worded that it gives recognition by employers to organized labor, to unions which were in existence up to December 7 of this year, but not those organized after that date.

"This, I gather, was the point ressed by the employers' dele-

Why? Because the waterfront why? Because the waterfrom and logging industry are determined the workers shall not have the right of organization. And if they are organized they won't have to deal with them," he as-

serted.
Unions organized in the lumber camps and elsewhere after December of 1938 could not treat with the companies under the with the companies amended act.

with the companies under the amended act.
Attorney-General G. S. Wismer declared that the C. C. F. whip was laboring under a misapprehension. Labor for some time have been asking for a change so that officials of unions could have status as such in disputes. The government had discussed the subject fully with labor.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F. Comox, said he had communicated with the officials of District 18, United Mine Workers of America, and had to inform the House that they were definitely opposed to the amendment, and particularly setting the date for recognition of unions.

of unions.

"They also warn the minister of labor that if through the operation of this amendment it so happens that their officials are prevented from negotiating, then the government may expect a strike situation similar to that botaltning in Estevan, Saskatchewan," the Comox member said.

Premier Patitulio said that he wished to take exception to references made by the C.C.F. whip to except the companion of the companion of

Mr. Winch said that he did not intend to make any personal reflections on Col. Edgett. He did not wish to be construed as having done so.

COAL COMPANY **BRIEF RAPPED**

Denial That Mining Costs Can Be Reduced Is Questioned.

VICTORIA, Dec. 9. - (CP)-Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald said in a report prepared for the British Columbia Government today that if Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Limited insists upon maintaining its present attitude of denying that any reductions can be made in mining costs, "we are afraid its bona fides will be seriously brought into question.'

The statement was contained in the statement was contained in the third section of Mr. Justice Macdonald's report on British Columbia coal and petroleum industries. He was replying to criticism of a previous section of his report, "contained in a document prepared and circulated by Canadian Collieries."
"This brief of Canadian

"This brief of Canadian Collieries seeks to establish its own exactitude on the one hand and the unreliable character of the coal report on the other by the constant use of epithets," Mr. Justice Macdonald said.

FIND TWO ERRORS.

"Among the thousands figures and scores of tables found therein, thoroughly combed for errors, they have discovered only two, neither of them material."

The coal company brief objects to findings of the coal report on four grounds, Mr. Justice Macdonald said:

donald said:

1. That \$11,000,000 was a reasonable price for the assets acquired in 1910 by Canadian Collieries and that in effect when the capital structure of the comthe capital structure of the company was recognized ten years later the figure of \$13,640,812 was fair and reasonable; and for that reason the capitalization of \$5,000,000 as found in the coal report was not justified.

2. That the method of depreciation accepted in the coal report can not be applied on Vancouver Island.

3. That in ascertaining profit position, momies paid in bond interest and for bond redemption should NOT be treated as profit.

4. That a reduction of 70 cents to \$1 per short ton can not be made in the cost of mining coal at Comox.

HOLDS TO CONCLUSION.

"We do not find the company's reply disturbs any conclusion reached in the coal report," the commissioner said. "In fact, analysis of the objections adds weight to the conclusions attacked."

The commissioner said the promoters of Canadian Collieries borrowed \$8.000.000 at 5 per cent. In

estimated to last for six or seven hundred years, but which by no reasonable estimate could begin to be developed for at least forty years in the future. "To carry out this speculative, programme required interest

programme required interest charges of \$400,000 a year, which must be met out of the producing assets purchased for \$2,000,000. assets purchased for \$2,000,000. Sinking fund requirements even over forty years would require another \$200,000 a year approximately to be provided from the

mately to be provided from the same source.

"The result is a substantial increase in the cost and price of coal, accompanied with financial disaster to English investors who were unwise enough to invest their money in a scheme of this fantastic character.

FINDS CASE CONVINCING

"It would be difficult to find another example so convincing on its facts in support of the findings made in the coal report."

The commissioner said that if the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company dealt with its reserves in the same way, then that company's capitalization would be about \$144,000,000.

The commissioner said that in

The commissioner said that in view of the great weight of authority cited in the coal report, "we do not understand Cana-"we do not understand dian Collieries questioning dian Collieries questioning

"We would expect that if it was intended to question a method supported by the leading authorities, that Canadian Collieries would have produced some recog-nized authority to support its objection. It did not do so, how-

TECHNICAL ARGUMENTS

The commissioner presented echnical arguments to uphold his finding in regard to profit position

position.

Then he proceeded that Canadian Collieries "have not substantiated their objection to the coal report finding that mining costs can be reduced."

"Even if a reduction of ten cents a ton only were effected, it would mean a saving of \$58,864 a year, based on 1936 production available for sale of 588,642 short tons," he said.

Commenting further upon Van-

Commenting further upon Van-couver Island mines, Macdonald

"When visiting the Crow's Nest "When visiting the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company coal properties we were struck with its much lower mining costs. . . . o explanation thereof was given by Canadian Colleries except the general statement concerning the greater difficulties of mining on Vancouver Island; this only increased the problem of cost comparison. We felt in the course of preparing the coal report that it was imperative to call in some competent person to advise us thereon.

EXPERT ENGAGED.

EXPERT ENGAGED.

"We were able to obtain the services of George Watkin Evans, well-known consulting mining engineer. Mr. Evans had been called in by Canadian Collieries early in 1932 to examine Nanaimo No. 1 and the Comox Field. Furthermore, he was called by Canadian Colleries as its witness before the commission in October, 1935. We ascertained he had been a member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers for many years, and had taken a prominent part on more than one occasion in its coal discussions and had been corrected.

operators in the and Canada.

"In addition to edge of Vancou fields, he had per of the Crow's Ne coal fields in A ton, Utah, Wyom vania. We fou sessed knowled mines in the Stat mines in the State which could b reasonably comp "Here obviou

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1937, in respons
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"The Honoral
A. Macdonald, Courthouse, Vic
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physical condition mines with re Roslyn mines Washington, I a that if the Come thoroughly m labor saving eq labor feature mechanization, reduction in uncosts could be of the opinion of the opinion ciency could be surface operation reduction in co

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equivalent to the during the pa Comox.

"To bring in duction in cost about two yea gramme has be at the Roslyn of Washington was first outlinemployees we later saw the and accepted now and have fayears been cofullest extent.

"This progr. cations in acc. ditions, is applications, is applications, is applications, in according to the complete the complete

operators in the United States and Canada.

"In addition to personal knowledge of Vancouver Island coal fields, he had personal knowledge of the Crow's Nest coal fields and coal fields in Alberta, Washington, Utah, Wyoming and Pennsylvania. We found also he possessed knowledge of operating mines in the State of Washington which could be described as reasonably comparable to Comox. "Here obviously was a man equipped with unusual knowledge and experience; also we reasoned here was a man undoubtedly acceptable to Canadian Collieries, as they had employed him in an impartant consulting canadian

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here was a man undoubtedly acceptable to Canadian Collieries, as they had employed him in an important consulting capacity some years before and had shown their confidence in him thereafter by calling him as a witness in this enquiry. in this enquiry.

ASK FOR COMPARISON.

"We asked Mr. Evans to report upon the efficiency of mining operations at Comox as compared to Crow's Nest and also in relation to a reasonably comparable mine in the State of Washington. The result is found at pages 244-6 and 258 of the coal report. We quote his letter of the 9th July,

quote his letter of the 9th July, 1937, in response to our request:
"Victoria, B.C., July 9, 1937.
"The Honorable Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald, Court of Appeal, Courthouse, Victoria, B. C.
"Dear Mr. Justice Macdonald:

"Dear Mr. Justice Macdonald:
—After carefully studying the
underground operations at the
Comox Mines and comparing the
physical conditions of the Comox
mines with reference to the
Roslyn mines in the State of
Washington, I am of the opinion
that if the Comox properties were
thoroughly modernized with
labor-saving equipment and the
labor feature co-ordinated with
mechanization, that a definite
reduction in underground mining
costs could be made. I am also
of the opinion that greater efficiency could be injected into the
surface operations and a further
reduction in costs made at that
point.

"I am reasonably costain that

point.
"I am reasonably certain that "I am reasonably certain that if mechanization of the best type had been installed and co-operation established between the men and the management in handling this equipment that a reduction in over-all costs, underground and surface, could now be made of from 70 cents to one dollar per short ton on a tonnage basis equivalent to the tonnages mined during the past two years at Comox.

equivalent to the tomages mined during the past two years at Comox.

"To bring into effect this reduction in cost would now require about two years. Such a programme has been put into effect at the Roslyn fields in the State of Washington. When the plan was first outlined at Roslyn the employees were skeptical, but later saw the advantages thereof and accepted the plan, and are now and have for the past several years been co-operating to the fullest extent.

"This programme with modifications in accord with local conditions, is applicable to all British Columbia mines. The Comox and Roslyn fields were chosen because mining conditions are reasonably comparable. — Yours truly. George Watkins Evans."

HOUSE MOVES FOR EXCLUSION OF ORIENTALS

Strachan's Resolution Passes Without Vote In Legislature.

END AGREEMENT

vince Staff Corre By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—The government has moved an amendment to the Conservative resolution demanding abrogation of the gentlemen's agreement with Japan, and urges that the B.C. Legislature go on record as being opposed to immigration of any Japanese or Chinese into B. C.

The amendment was introduced

The amendment was introduced by D. W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewdney, during this morning's session.

No vote was taken, R. L. Maitland, leader of the opposition, having adjourned the debate.

WHITES OUSTED.

"It is impossible for a Japanese to become a full-fledged citizen of Canada," said Mr. Strachan.
He went on to say that in the Fraser Valley Japanese farmers have ousted the white grower from many particularized fields such as rhubarb growing and small fruits.
L. H. Evres. Conservative. Chil-

small fruits,
L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chil-llwack, warmly defended the ori-ginal resolution.
The House debated a resolution of Rolf Bruhn, Conservative, Sal-mon Arm, expressing regret that the Dominion Government had

the Dominion Government had not seen fit to carry out recommendations of the royal commission of 1922 to protect white fishermen against the encroachment of the Japanese.

Captain McIntosh declared that fishing licenses are taken out by Canadian-born Japanese but that they acted as "dummies" for other Japanese nationals, he said, was the impression abroad among white fishermen.

BULL WOULD OBEY.

BULL WOULD OBEY.

"If our fate is left in the hands of the people of eastern Canada, it will be a sarry one. We shall have to make our own representations to Ottawa," he declared. Capt. C. R. Bull, Liberal, South Okanagan, said Canada should abide by the gentlemen's agreement. Canada should not do anything to antagonize Japan, he said, lest it suffer unpleasant consequences.

"People are apt to do silly things, lacking fear," he said.

Premier Pattullo objected to sending a resolution down to Ottawa which was no less than a vote of censure.

"How can be amicably negotiate with Ottawa if we pass this sort of thing," he asked, referring to the original resolution.

"The Oriental position is difficult. But they are here and they have got to live. We must handle the problem sensibly," he advised.

Oriental fishing licenses are on the decline in British Columbia, declared Hon. G. S. Pearson, com-missioner of fisheries, when he took issue with Tom Reid, M.P. for Westminster, who stated in the House of Commons that they were on the increase.

This House Will Pass It

THERE was an illuminating passage the other day in the Legislature between Premier Pattullo and Mr. Maitland, leader of the Conservative opposition. It was an aside, almost an inadvertence, but nevertheless the disclosure of a state of mind. It was no less than a glimpse into the muddled mind of provincialism in Canada, of which Premier Pattullo could claim with great justice-although he will disavow the honor-to be one of the most distinguished exponents. This it was:

Mr. Maitland was objecting (on general principles and also particularly on the way that the government was rushing important legislation through the House in the last hectic days of the session) to the arbitrary powers conferred on the government in the Public Utilities Bill. He said it was not legislation that was in accordance with the tradition of Canadianism. He said it was "not Canadian legislation." And then came the Premier:

ЫС

"This House will pass it," said Mr. Pattullo, "and then it will be Canadian."

It is a strange thing, but Mr. Pattullo has given every evidence that he really believes the fantastic fable which is comprehended in this momentary flash and fling of cross-floor debate. This is the essential pretension of provincialism in our contemporary Canadian politics and public life.

This is the state of mind which maintains the absurd anomaly and superstition that there can be nine little nations within the nation of Canada. This is the expression of the vested interests of provincialism and political disunity in Canada which prevents the ideal of Canada a nation.

"This House will pass it," says Mr. Pattullo, "and then it will be Canadian." But as a matter of fact and record, of course, if it is like a great deal more of the ill-conceived and rushed-through legislation of the Pattullo government in the last few years, it will not even, so far from being Canadian, succeed in being British Columbian, and it will remain dead lumber in our statute books, moribund, inoperative, an object lesson of futility to everybody but its inveterate authors.

But this is the true theory of provincialism, momentarily exposed in its logical absurdity, in the verbal indiscretion of a politician in debate. It is the theory which holds that 800,000 people in British Columbia can say in their mock sovereign parliament (controlled incidentally by a minority party) what is to be the law of the nation of eleven million Canadians.

"This House will pass it and then it will be Canadian!" This House will pass it and then it will lie hopeless and helpless in the statutes, like Health Insurance. Or

Dr. Lyle Telford Explains

Sir: A few days ago, I incidentally mentioned in the Legislative Assembly that I had every reason for believing that there was an overcharge of \$300,000 in connection with the steel used for the Pattullo Bridge.

To my astonishment, there was all but an earthquake, and I was given newspaper space which, had it been paid for, would have taxed the resources of even the Non-Partisan League.

Non-Partisan League.

May I now be permitted to draw to the attention of your readers, a statement made by Brigadier-General Clark in connection with the Pattullo Bridge. You will find a report of this is The Daily Province of May 22, 1937. "No greater disgrace exists in the history of the province in the history of the province." in the history of the province than the financing of the Pattullo Bridge. . . . The Pattullo Bridge could have been built for \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 less than it is costing."

Now I said \$300,000. General Clark's figure is very much higher but not being a mayoral candi-date his statement received little notice at the time. He was not denounced by the press. He was not even court-martialled. He

notice at the time. He was not denounced by the press. He was not even court-martialled. He is still living, and honors have been heaped upon him—including the Order of the Non-Partisan, recently bestowed by Mayor Miller.

Had not one of my witnesses suddenlly suffered from an unfortunate lapse of memory (perhaps I should diagnose it as political amnesia), I would not have disappointed my friends, as they say I did. However, my real friends understand the situation. J. LYLE TELFORD.

Old Jim Schofield Goes Home

NEWS of the death of James H. Schofield of Trail will be received with sincere regret in all parts of British Columbia. He was not of the first generation of pioneers, but he belonged in the pioneer tradition and deserved the title. And in his own homely and modest fashion he was one of our elder statesmen.

It is not yet six years since they said goodbye to him in the Legislature at Victoria and many of them there now will remember him with a real affection. He had been coming there, first from Rossland and after from Rossland-Trail, for twenty-six years and he was "Father of the House."

The memory of that leave-taking then is his proper obituary now. It was the end of the last session of the Tolmie gov-ernment, and "Old Jim Schofield" had announced that for him it was the last of all.

He was everybody's friend, the man who seldom made a speech and was an influence for good in the Legislature be-cause of his character, because he was honest and friendly and kind. And now it is the last goodbye for him: a good neighbor and citizen of ours who goes in honor to his long home.

This Is What The House Accomplished

y Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—When the econd session of the nineteenth Legislature of British Columbia as prorogued last night, the Lieutenant-Governor gave assent to seventy bills.

The session closed on the third day of its seventh week. More important accomplish-ments included:

Setting up a public utilities

Redistribution of electoral

ridings to recreate Alberni and wipe out The Islands. Made possible establish-ment of credit unions. Drastically scaled down municipal pensions under a revised setup.

COMPROMISE AMENDMENT.

Made a compromise amendment to Industrial Concilia-tion and Arbitration Act.

Important amendments to the Mineral Act, which gov-erns B. C. mining. Provided compulsory medi-cal examination before mar-

riage.
Relieved automobile owners of passenger hazard.

Amended Coal and Petro-

leum Products Act, under which reduction in gasoline price was ordered.

Amended the Legal Profes-ions Act, putting in teeth to curb ambulance chasers.

PROFITS TAX.

Provided a weapon to tax idden undivided profits. Provided for issue of di-

vorce certificates.

Made it possible to ban prospectors from woods in time of serious fire hazard.

Adjusted debts under the land settlement scheme.

Tightened up provisions of Venereal Diseases Suppres-sion Act.

sion Act.

Provided for a loan of \$350,000 to build a preventive health institute at University of British Columbia.

Amended the Game Act to give better housing for animals in captivity.

Voted supply of approximately \$30,000,000.

Extended the age of free tuition in public schools.

SPAN TRANSFERRED.

Transferred the old Fraser River bridge at New West-minster to the Dominion Gov-ernment.

Gave government authority or refund millions of P. G. E. nd other securities. Went on record as favor-ing government sweepstakes

or record as in government sweep or hospitals.

The Legislature thre we private bills which we amended the Liquid They thumbed mendments to the H ct and the request on the right iminate in issue of light.

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ANOTHER PROROGATION.

Dead Legislators Watch Live Ones Leave As Session Ends

By TORCHY ANDERSON.

(By Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—With a mixture of pomp and hilarity

another session of the Builde Columnia. another session of the British Columbia Legislature slipped into history. On Friday night the Lieut-Governor went through the traditional ceremony that makes the bills over which

In the House has wrangled for six weeks, the law of the land.

In the picture gallery vestibule of the House the whiskered faces of political glants, long dead, looked down on the laughing members homeward bound, satisfied that they had done their part in guiding British Columbia along another lap of its his-

Perhaps in their wisdom these shadowy giants may have smiled in disdain at the result of the last six weeks of talk. Per-

smile in disdain at the result of the haps their smile may have been kinder when they remembered historic prorogations and their subsequent

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You may find something symbolic in the fact that the Legislature ended its labors in a shower of waste paper.
Your sardonic observer will remark that it was a fitting index to its labors.

"But, at the close of our labors," there was a good deal more than waste paper in some of those bills.

Under one of them at least, British Columbia in-dustries will face a new future, others have a more direct effect on the everyday life of the individual.

Machinery of government

under democracy is not exactly speedy. It is a process

T. A. UPHILL
of experiment. It has its checks and its stops. But, somehow

In an afternoon when resolutions were bobbing up from their long sleep on the order paper, and the government, in most cases, was amending and passing them along to quiet old age—it

The Legislature suddenly awakened to the fact that it was in favor or sweepstakes for hospitals conducted either by Provincial or Dominion Government.

It was the big moment of the session for Mr. Uphill of Fernie, who is the knight in shining armor in the battle against sham. Mr. Uphill had a resolution in favor of sweepstakes and it awakened from its long slumber. There was some confusion when the motion was put and when the question was asked a second time the Speaker declared the motion carried.

Mr. Uphill, not realizing his victory, was about to demand a division (thus recording the vote) when his old friend Hon. Gordon Wismer advised him to shut up—his FAHLS TO REALIZE motion had carried. Had the hon. HE'S WON VICTORY members been in the spot where they had to declare themselves for record, who knows what might have happened to Mr. Uphill's motion?

who knows what might have happened to Mr. Uphill's motion?

When the shouting dies and the kings depart there is one man who will have time for a long-earned breathing spell. He is Charlie Banfield, the King's printer.

Mr. Banfield is a genial soul who has never yet been caught rattled. He has one of the most worrying jobs of the session. His is the duty to print bills, orders of the day and votes and proceedings—and keep them humming along in pace with the House. Toward the end of the session the pace is fairly hot. But it can't stump Charlie Banfield.

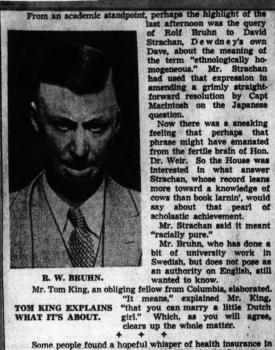
During the session just closed he has turned out from his fine government printing plant 1000 pages of bills, 500 pages of orders for the day and perhaps half that number of votes and proceedings. The total output is about 25 per cent. more than last year.

proceedings. The total output is also year.

Two of the bills handled during the session ran to nearly forty pages—Utilities Act and Redistribution. He got the copy for the Redistribution Bill at 11 a.m., and four hours later had it in the hands

of the legal department for ehecking.

Mr. Banfield explains it all by saying that he has some great craftsmen in his print shop.



Now there was a sneaking feeling that perhaps that phrase might have emanated

from the fertile brain of Hon. Dr. Weir. So the House was interested in what answer

Some people found a hopeful whisper of health insurance in the guarded statement of Hon. G. M. Weir, in the last minute debate which developed over the government's decision not to give legislative sanction to the proposed establishment of a health insurance scheme in Matsqui.

The minister thought that it would do no harm to leave the matter for a year in view of pending negotiations on "certain others matters." There is the hint that is the hope.

The C. C. F. members declared that the government was not allowing the authority to stay in the amendments to the Municipal Bill because "the Premier had put his foot down."

They said the committees were "under the thumb of the Premier." Anyway, whichever he used—thumb or foot—the Premier maintained his stand, and Matsqui was left without authority for its scheme. The last song has been sung, the last bill torn up and the corridors echo vacant and dead.

scheme. The last song has been the corridors echo vacant and dea + + + +

In the chamber, janitors clean up the mess.

A few last members gather their papers in their party

In the old oak pressroom the clattering typewriters are still,

clattering typewriters are still, the floor a litter of battered carbon paper, newsprint and foolscap.

The telephones that have rung so insistently during these last six weeks are quiet.

The statute books are a little fatter, the dust of history has begun to settle on the doings of the second session of the nine-teenth Legislature.

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—The Government of British Columbia will urge upon the Dominion Government that greater care be taken to check tuberculosis among Indian wards of the Federal Government in the province.

The Legislature decided upon this course when it passed, with a single dissenting vote, a resolution of Dr. J. D. Hunter, Conservative, Victoria, asking for better control of the tubercular situa-tion among natives.

PATTULLO MOTION **LAUDS GOVERNMENT**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—Liberals and C.C.F. members praised the government for its efforts to reduce freight rates on grain and mill feed for poultry men, when they voted down a resolution of L. H. Eyres, Conservative of Chillery 10.

they voted down a resolution of L. H. Eyres, Conservative of Chilliwack.

Mr. Eyres asked the Legislature to urge upon the government that consideration be given to applying to the Dominion to have the rates on feed grain and mill-feed reduced.

Premier Pattullo moved an amendment commending the work already done by the government along this line and expressed the conviction that it was the duty of every public body to seek lower freight rates.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, raised a point of order. He suggested that the amendment was not in order, as it did not affect the subject matter of the main resolution. If the government wished to praise itself, he sarcastically suggested, it could do so in a separate motion.

The Speaker ruled that the remember's amendment was ac-

The Speaker ruled that the Premier's amendment was acceptable. The House was divided at the request of Mr. Maitand, and the chair was sustained by a solid Liberal and C.C.F. vote, of 37 to 8.

Members Stage Hilarious Paper Fight as Session Becomes History

Political Enmity Forgotten As Long, Trying Sittings End

Nineteenth Legislature to Be Marked By Important Laws Which It Passed.

By TORCHY ANDERSON.

(By Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor nodded his assent to a list of V nodded his assent to a list of seventy-one acts, and bowing deeply stepped down from the dias to follow the sergeantat-arms and his escort from the chamber; as the door closed behind him the traditional shower of paper flew across the

The second session of the nineteenth Legislature was brought to a close, shortly before 9 o'clock Friday night.

As the paper fight developed groups of members started singing, and political enemies, but personal friends, shouted gleefully across the House at each other. Party feeling is forgotten when the Legislature pro-

For seven long weeks party and political differences had flared and subsided, only to flame again with another contentious bill: now it was all over, and for five minutes of hilarious re-action from the strain and storm of wrangling the grave and se-date, the merry and the vivacious gave way to the exuberance of the occasion.

LONG, TRYING SESSION.

LONG, TRYING SESSION.

It was a long and trying session, was this second session of the nineteenth Legislature of the Province of British Columbia. Seventy bills of more or less importance were passed, and a number presented by private members fell by the wayside.

This session will go down in history as that which saw the rebirth of control of public utilities. In 1919 a utilities board was set up, but after a year or two

rebirth of control of public utilities. In 1919 a utilities board was
set up, but after a year or two
it was repealed.

Another measure that caused
bitter dissension between parties
was the Redistribution Act that
eliminated the Islands, one of the
oldest constituencies in British
Columbia; reduced Victoria city,
once the dominant political centre
in the province, to the status of
one of Vancouver's ridings with
three members, and set up a
new district for the West Coast.
But perhaps the outstanding
feature of the entire session was
the fight carried through to the
very end from opening day by
opposition benches under direction of R. L. Maitland, the new
Conservative leader, against
growing control of provincial
activities by the cabinet.

WOULD REDUCE PENSIONS AGE

Change From 70 to 65 Is Urged on Federal Government.

(Special to The Daily Province.) VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—The British Columbia Government will deliver to Ottawa a resolution passed in the dying stages of the ession yesterday recommending the reduction of the age for old age pensioners as soon as possible.

age pensioners as soon as possible.

G. M. Weir, provincial secretary, told the House the government was sympathetic to the suggestion of Rolf Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm, that the pension age be reduced from 70 to 65 years. But he would not let the Conservative resolution stand and moved an amendment.

"An honest-to-God pension plan is the greatest need of the country," Mr. Bruhn declared. "But I am satisfied with the amendment. I withdraw my resolution."

FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED.

Dr. Weir also amended a reso-lution of E. E. Winch, C. C. F., Burnaby, in connection with the investigation of British Colum-bia schools to discover the per-centage of underprivileged chil-dren attending.

centage of underprivileged children attending.

Dr. Weir said he appreciated the situation and that the government has investigation in hand.

Dr. Weir amended Mrs. Dorothy Steeves' resolution, which, in effect, asked the government to force reduction of British Columbia University fees.

The provincial secretary said he would have liked to see fees reduced to \$100 a year, rather than increased from \$150 to \$175, but that he refused to dictate solicy to the University.

HOUSE FAVORS B. C. SWEEPS

Tom Uphill Surprised As His Resolution Is Carried.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—Government-conducted sweepstakes for hospitals were endorsed by the Legislature on Friday afternoon. The most surprised man in the House when Mr. Speaker announced that the resolution had carried was its father, Tom Uphill, Fernie's perpetual Labor member. So confused at the result was he that he called loudly for a division, which might have reversed his success if the members had been forced to go on record.

record.
"But you have won, why do you want a division?" asked Attorney-General Gordon S. Wis-

PATTULLO LAUGHS.

"Have I—then glory be—it's fine then, and thank you," shouted the now-beaming Mr. Uphill, who promptly rushed out and bought a whole book of sweepstake tickets for a church raffle that an Up Country member was sell-

Premier Pattullo laughed loudly

Premier Pattullo laughed loudly at the outcome and the confusion of his old-time friend and political rival; for next to the Premier, Tom Uphill is the senior member of the Legislature.

It was an eloquent appeal that the veteran Labor man made, and one of the best speeches he has made in the House. He covered the ground so completely that Ezra Henniger, Grand Forks' Liberal representative, who seconded the resolution, gently reproached him for having so completely covered the ground as to leave him nothing to say.

THEY ALL BUY.

THEY ALL BUY.

THEY ALL BUY.

"If you, Mr. Speaker, were to search through the pockets of every member in this House," suggested Mr. Uphill, "you would find a sweepstake ticket in the pocket of nearly everyone."

The Speaker shuddered at the idea, and Mr. Uphill proceeded:

"Why not drop all this hypocrisy and help out our hospitals by making it lawful to buy them. We are keeping hospitals in Dublin, Australia and the Philippines—why not drop pretense and help our own?" he demanded.

Confusion resulted when the motion was put, and Mr. Uphill called for a division, Mr. Speaker again called for the "ayes" and "nays," and declared the resolution to have carried, Mr. Uphill, who is more familiar with having his motions defeated, contonued to call for excepted me.

Telephone Control Bill Is Defeated

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—A resolution in the name of H. E. Winch, C. C. F., Vancouver East, asking that the Provincial Legislature

that the Provincial Legislature urge upon Ottawa the repeal of the act placing the B. C. Telephone Company under federal jurisdiction, was defeated on division by 35 to 8 yesterday.

Two Liberal members, H. G. Perry and Dr. J. J. Gillis, voted with the C. C. F. The Conservatives voted with the government.

Mr. Winch complained that as the company was a public utility it should come under the British Columbia Public Utilities Act, and to do this it was necessary to repeal the statute giving it federal charter.

Oriental Exclusion

Endorsed by House

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—The long-drawn debate on the Conserva-tive resolution urging the abro-gation of the Canadian-Japanese gentlemen's agreement ended yesterday with a division of the Legislature upholding Mr. Speaker Whittaker's ruling that a Liberal amendment was in

D. W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewd D. W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewd. ney, carried the government's colors when he moved that in place of the recommendation of abrogation of the agreement, the federal administration be approached with a view to ending both Chinese and Japanese immigration into B. C.

Purchase-by-Tender Motion Is Defeated

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative member for The Islands, failed to get the Legislature to agree that all supplies for relief camps, forestry training camps and similar organizations should be purchased by tender. He moved to that effect. His resolution was amended by a motion offered by Hon. G. S. Pearson, minister of labor.

Mr. Pearson's amendment called for the purchase of supplies in the best possible manner and, where possible, by tender if in the best interests of the province and of the public service

Says National Road Is Dominion Problem

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—Killing a VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—Killing a Conservative resolution to the effect that the B. C. Government forward to Ottawa a demand that the Trans-Canada Highway be maintained by the National Government throughout Canada and that all future construction be paid for by the federal authorities. Premier T. D. Pattullo brought an amendment into the Legislature yesterday afternoon. The amendment, which carried, expressed the view that national

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True, most members do not un-derstand it all and some pay no attention. But a core of abler men on both sides are on guard hour after hour, watching lest some unworthy material enter the new structure of law. It is an expert's job. No mere cottage or wooden shed is this

Public Utilities Act. It is a massive structure of 134 roomy sections, with ample space for mistakes, for trouble to the invisible oublic yonder, for injury to your ocketbook.

Every section and sub-section, every clause and phrase, must be cunningly fitted together, dove-tailed, made part of the whole if halled, made part of the whole in the entire structure is to with-stand the dirty weather sure to lie ahead, the winds of litigation, the storms of administration, the hocks of politics.

Team Work Evident

The master mason is the premier, but he has skilled assistants in Mr. Wismer and Mr. Maitland, who work together on the details of the project as loyally as if they were both supporting the government, as if Mr. Maitland hadn't already predicted for the structure final collapse and ruin from the shocks of politics. Mr. Perry, another experienced workman, lends a useful hand now and then, and Mr. Winch, a younger craftsman, but a promising one, is helpful also.

In the more intricate work of The master mason is the pre-

In the more intricate work of construction, in the complicated legal joints and inlays, Lawyers Wismer and Maitland confer at lengths, as if they were on the same payroll, working for the same boss, and when Lawyer Maitland says he doesn't think Maitland says he doesn't think that either he, himself, or Mr. Wismer understand some parts of the plans and blueprints, Lawyer Wismer is inclined to agree, will study them further. In such atmosphere you can build

will study them further. In such an atmosphere you can build rapidly and strongly.

But a bare foundation had been laid by a whole afternoon of work, and nothing of importance came out of the preliminary labor except the plain intimation that the government would like to control telephone services, now under the Railway Commission, along with other public utilities. There are still days of work ahead before the public utility act is ready for unveiling.

The only other work of the afternoon was the introduction of the government's new Marriage Act amendments, which represent another little triumph

resent another little triumph the elder Mr. Winch. Four

represent another little triumph for the elder Mr. Winch. Four years ago he advocated compulsory medical examinations for marrying couples, was turned down, and now finds his idea adopted. Ideas are more important than men in politics. You never know, once they have been launched, when they will bob up again.

In the evening the House got, on to estimates, in the usual family spirit compon to such an occasion. In this atmosphere Mr. Winch the elder can object to civil servants signing reports "Your humble and obedient servant," and Mr. Pattullo can suggest that they be signed "G. to to he,", an abbreviation which seemed to please him very much, but escaped most of the House.

It is the kind of evening, the House being strictly en famille, when the premier can take time

off and perambulate among the back benches, sitting down to gos back benches, sitting down to gos-sip for a few minutes with his humbler followers, who are a lit-tle overawed. He even visits Mr. Mattland and sits for a time in his old seat among the front benches of opposition, where he made the best speeches of his life. He and Mr. Maitland talk together for some time and seem to enjoy it.

to enjoy it.

It is the kind of evening when the House finds time to consider the minutiae of government, the the minutiae of government, the tiny details that go to make up the whole complicated web of our British Columbia civilization. The quality of coffee and tea in government institutions is earn-estly debated. Members want to know what kind of beef lunatics, and criminals are getting at their

Mr. Winch the elder discusses Mr. Winch the elder discusses at length, and with distressing detail, the condition of beds in the old men's home in Kamloops ("the blankets are washed once a year, Mr. Speaker") and Mrs. Steeves, a housewife herself, argues about the sheets and the cooking, and Dr. Weir joins in earnest discussion of food and bedding.

earnest discussion of food and bedding.

On the whole Dr. Weir's esti-mates go through without trou-ble and Mr. Bruhn expresses the general opposition attitude when he says the provincial secretary's department is without rolling. department is without politics and splendidly administered. There is especial praise for his deputy, P. D. Walker, known as the perfect type of civil servant. By bed time Dr. Weir has been voted most of the money he needs and most of His Majesty's supply has been approved. It looks like prorogation next week.

Un-Democratic Protests

Tory critics of the Government's Public Utilities Bill are obviously hard put for objections to array against it. It is a measure that has been desired by all parties and all shades of public opinion for some time.

It is ludicrous, then, even, perhaps, a bit pitiful, to find journalistic critics dragging out the old bogey of "government control" in a silly and fruitless effort to discredit this legislation.

To put it briefly, these carping writers say that the Public Utilities Bill is a sinister document because it establishes a utilities commission which is responsible to the Legislature and therefore the people. They complain bitterly that this commission should be a "quasi-judicial" body beyond the reach of any authority except that of the courts and then only on points of law.

It is amazing that supposedly intelligent people should advance such an argument in a democratic country. For if this proposed divorce of executive and administrative functions from legislative control is not oure Fascism, then there is no such thing as Pascism at all.

Wouldn't British Columbia's business be n a fine state of insecurity and uncertainty f it was left to the questionable mercy of a poard that was not indirectly answerable to the electors of this province?

And what would become of our boasted Democracy if the only function of governnent was to set up various boards of control and then turn them loose to do as they pleased?

There is an unwholesome flavor of Fascism and fascist thinking in these protests that cannot be palatable to the free citizens of British Columbia.

Pearson May Be Named To Public Utility Board

Minister of Labor Said To Be Willing to **Accept Post**

By Sun Staff Reporter

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.— As the
Government approaches the appointment of a public utility commission—the most important
appointments in recent years—
the name of Hon. G. S. Pearson,
Minister of Labor, is most
prominent among those mentioned for membership.

No politician, Mr. Pearson is
said to be willing to retire from

No politician, Mr. Pearson is said to be willing to retire from politics and accept post for which he is equipped by wide experience in business and a record of administrative success in the Government probably unsurpassed in the history of provincial politics. His appointment is urged because he would be acceptable to business men as a business man and to labor because he has been the champion of the working people in the Legislature and the Government.

If he were appointed it would necessitate a bye-election in his constituency of Nanaimo.

New Position?



HON. G. S. PEARSON

The commission will consist of three men, headed my Dr. W. A. Carrothers. For the third post, it is believed the Government will seek an engineer since engineer-ing questions enter largely into Public Utility Control.

C.C.F. Party Moves To Repudiate Telford Over Bridge Charges

Caucus Called on Investigation Fiasco: Members Want Harold Winch as Leader and Stricter Party Discipline

(See Collapse of Telford Charge on Pages 2 and 3)

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—The Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation moved today to repudiate Dr. Lyle Telford, following the humiliating collapse and withdrawal of his graft charges against the government in connection with the

Pattullo Bridge Wednesday night.

A caucus of C.C.F. house members was called for this afternoon to consider what formal action should be taken to show the public that the party organization had nothing to do with the Telford charges, in fact tried to halt them and sincerely regrets them.

The Vancouver Sun learned today that members of the Socialist group will move in the caucus to appoint Harold Winch house leader and, under him, to put the group under some reasonable party discipline.

Essential for Party

This, Socialist members say, is essential if the party is be saved from other fiascos like the Pattullo Bridge charges.

Some Socialists, angered beyond words by Dr. Telford's almost incredible debacle, wish to go further and make a formal statement in the legislature this afternoon, repudiating him. It is possible such a statement may be made dur-

The caucus is expected to declare formally that no C.C.F. member shall make charges in the house without submitting them to the party. Unless some such rule is made in the C.C.F. as in other parties, the whole group will be in danger

c.c.F. as in other parties, the whole group will be in danger of disintegration.

Colin Cameron, who has been mentioned for the C.C.F. leadership, made it clear that he will insist on some reasonable party responsibility, and he is prepared to nominate Mr. Winch as house leader, thus indicating that he has no ambitions in that direction himself.

"We had absolutely nothing to do with these charges,"
Mr. Cameron said, "everyone knows that now, and we sincerely regret them."

Sam Guthrie, a life-long labor man and Socialist, agreed that the whole affair was not of the Socialist group's

Telford May Quit Party

Mr. Winch, apparently slated for the house leadership, declined to discuss the issue.

As the Socialists prepared to go into caucus, politicians who knew what was under way, waited eagerly to see the result of this extraordinary situation. Some thought that in the end Dr. Telford, rather than submit to party discipline, may retire from the C.C.F. altogether.

This would not worry most of the Socialist members. They fear that if he is defeated in the mayoralty election in Vancouver it will damage the party, whereas if he is elected, his difficulties of administration in the mayor's chair may be still more embarrassing.

'I'm Not Worrying

disproved.

"I'm not worrying," Dr. Telford said today. "Nothing like that ever worries me."

But it is probable he did not know that the other C.C.F. members were getting ready to recollect him.

Some of them would read Dr. Telford out of the party altogether, but it is not likely the caucus will go that far. However, if it goes as far as seems likely, this may cause Dr. Telford himself to retire from the party in disgust.

The Pattullo Bridge fiasco arose as a result of the loose discipline in the C.C.F. group or rather the lack of any discipline so far as Dr. Telford was concerned. Harold Winch, House whip and its outstanding figure, pleaded with Dr. Telford weeks ago not to go ahead with loosely-drawn bridge charges, foresee-ing that they were without foun-dation and were bound to col-

But under the present arrange ments of the party, neither Mr. Winch nor anyone else has any Winch nor anyone else has any power to request a member to reveal his plans to his colleagues. Dr. Telford declined to discuss the matter with the other Socialists and insisted on going ahead. Even then they feared he was without any evidence to support his charges. port his charge

May Be Leader



HAROLD WINCH, M.L.A.

Mental Hospital Bills

Mental Hospital Bills
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—An avenue of release through the courts
for patients in mental hospitals
was sought by Ernest E. Winch,
C.C.F., with two bills introduced
Wednesday night.

He asked right of habeas corpus for mental patients or their
relatives, right of appeal to the
courts to determine sanity, and
regular inspection of private
mental hospitals.

Gov't Closes Locahales in Oil, Coal Law

New Amendments Prepared To Balk Court Suit

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—The provincial government moved today
to prevent the success of oil
companies suit against the Coal
and Petroleum Act. As already
foreshadowed in The Vancouver
Sun the government will ask the
House to declare that the act
does not apply to any operation
outside of provincial control.

The amendment will say the

outside of provincial control.

The amendment will say also that the Coal and Petroleum Board may not consider in fixing the price of one product the effect of this price in protecting the interests of any other product.

These clauses are designed to meet points raised against the act in the courts in the litigation now under way.

now under way.
The amendment The amendment will specifi-cally declare that the Macdonald report shall not be construed by the board or in the courts as hav-ing any relation to the board's orders.

orders.

These new clauses will be retroactive and cover the present gasoline orders of the board.

It is understood today that
the Coal and Petroleum Board,
to be absolutely safe, might repeal its present gasoline orders
and issue new ones under the
amended act. This is under consideration officially now.

Pensions at 65

VICTORIA.—Pensions for all at 65, from a government fund toward which wage earners would contribute, were urged in the legislature Wednesday by R. H. Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm, sponsoring a resolution to this effect this effect.

this effect.

Captain MacGregor Macintosh
and Herbert Anscomb supported
Mr. Bruhn before Hon. George S.
Pearson, adjourned debate.

U.B.C. Changes

VICTORIA, Dec. 1. — A bill which changes the procedure for appointment of the chancellor and members of the staff of the University of British Colum-bla was passed Wednesday by the Legislature. Hon. G. M. Weir, said they were of a routine

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tee g "the The ferred from busin in wh price ment. Mr. writin have of the co was a

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Telford Bridge Steel Charge Collapses

Telford Bridge Quiz Collapses; He Withdraws

Accusations Dramatically Dropped After House Committee Demands **Proof**; Hobbs Repudiates Letter

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Unable to prove anything, Dr. Lyle
Telford last night withdrew his graft charges against the
Provincial Government concerning the cost of steel in the

His withdrawal came suddenly without warning and made members of the Legislature's Public Accounts Committee gasp with amazement, after they had spent the whole day listening to him as he tried vainly to support his allegations. "It appears," Dr. Telford confessed to the committee, "the letter on which I based my charges was written by an irresponsible man, so my whole case falls down."

The document to which he're-The document to which he re-ferred purported to be a letter from C. D. Hobbs, Vancouver business man, to an English firm, in which it was suggested that steel could be bought below the price finally paid by the Govern-ment.

Mr. Hobbs would not admit writing the letter, said he might have done so, but doubted that the copy produced by Dr. Telford

"IRRESPONSIBLE"

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"I presumed," Dr. Telford admitted, "that Mr. Hobbs would have the originals on file. As they now appears to be letters written by an irresponsible man my case drops down to the \$35."

He was referring to evidence that if the steel had been pur-chased in Czecho-Slovakia, instead of in Canada and Britain, as required by the bridge contract, the Government could have saved \$35

"Then you withdraw your charge of a \$60 overpayment?" demanded W. T. Straith, Victoria Liberal.

"Yes, it reduces to the \$35," said Dr. Telford.
"But I'm not finished with the bridge yet," he added. "I'm stopped on this and I've had my two speeches in the House so I. can't make any other charges there. But I've still got lots about the bridge."

REMARK UNFAIR

REMARK UNFAIR

Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, urged Dr. Telford to withdraw his remark about Mr. Hobbs being irresponsible and simply to say there was doubt about authenticity of the letter. "No I can't do that because I know it is a fair copy of the letter." Dr. Telford said.

Capt. C. R. Bull, Liberal, South Okanagan, said the reference to Mr. Hobbs was not

present to answer Dr. Telford's reflection on him.

SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT

Louis Le Bourdais, Liberal, Cariboo, said it was very re-grettable that Dr. Telford should ave made the charge in the first clace without checking up on his

This amazing anti-climax fol-lowed such a day as the Legis-lature has seldom known.

From half-past nine in the morning until dinner time the

Public Accounts Committee had wrangled, listened, shouted while Dr. Telford, shifting his ground Dr. Teiford, shifting his ground from his original charges, tried to draw the investigation into new fields and finally alleged not wrong-doingr, but only that the government could have bought steel cheaper in Czecho Slovakia than in Canada or Britain.

WILL HE RESIGN?

With this sudden shift from the original allegations, it was pretty clear that Dr. Telford's ase was falling to pieces, but at the dinner hour adjournment he had made no sign that he was ready to admit defeat.

At that time he was preparing to have an independent engineer investigate the cost of the bridge steel and predicting that the in-quiry would go on perhaps for

Apparently he thought it over at dinner and came back in the evening, without the least ad-vance warning, to say he would withdraw his allegations.

In such cases it is the custom in all British parliaments for a member to resign his seat and run again, seeking vindication at the polls.

the polls.

Whether Dr. Telford would do so was not indicated.

All day the committee examined Dr. Telford's witnesses, all

"T'LL MAKE THE CHARGE"

In the afternoon Hon. F. M. MacPherson, Minister of Public Works, was the first witness

that the \$225,000 paid to the Fraser River Bridge Company for its original bridge franchise should be charged to the cost of

This, Mr. MacPherson and the committee flatly denied, assert-ing this payment was a separate

Dr. Telford insisted that as the payment in question was computed as 7½ per cent of the total cost of the bridge it should be chargeable to the steel and so should be five per cent paid to Major W. G. Swan, government consulting engineer.

This meant, he argued, that the ost of steel had been raised by

Again Mr. MacPherson denied this theory as did members of the committee.

They asserted the committee was concerned only with charges regarding the price of steel.

This did not satisfy Dr. Tel-ford, who said the \$225,000 must be charged to the steel and added:
"It seems to me the government
was in collusion with the Fraser River Bridge Company in order to retain its charter. I'll make this charge."

Chairman Kenney said if Dr.
Telford would make such a
charge in the Legislature the
committee would investigate it,
if the House so instructed.

NO QUESTION THERE

Mr. Kenney and other members pointed out that the payment to the Fraser River Bridge Company had been authorized by the Legislature by statute and there was no question about it.

Dr. Telford said the government need not have made the

Dr. Telford said the government need not have made the payment to the company at all.

Other companies, which held charters for bridges across the river, had not been compensated

in any way. ANYBODY COULD TENDER

The next witness called was E. M. Boyd, secretary of the Northern Construction Company, one of the sub-contractors on the bridge project, who said no public tenders had been called for sub-contractors by the main contractors, but several firms had bid. Dr. Telford said he would produce evidence to prove that some companies had been unable in tender or average scattering.

tender or even secure plans on the sub-contracts. Anyone was allowed to tender, Mr. Boyd declared.

NEVER BUILT" BRIDGES

When Dr. Telford started to ask about the Northern Construction Company's old franchise for a bridge at Ladner, which was never built, Mr. Kenney ruled that entirely out of order, having nothing to do with the Telford charges.

charges.

Dr. Telford said he was trying to find out the cost of steel in other bridges, but Mr. Kenney ruled that the committee was no naterested in bridges which has

James A. Collins, president of the Fraser River Bridge Com-pany, was called next.

GOV'T WAS WISE

He told of his wide experience in bridge building all over Western Canada.

He said the Fraser River Bridge Company had been granted a franchise for a bridge cross the Fraser in 1927.

across the Fraser in 1927.

The company had been ready to go ahead with construction, but the government, thinking the company would make too much money on the bridge, very wisely decided to build the span itself. It then paid the company \$225,000 for the surrender of its charter. Dr. Telford asked Mr. Collins if the government knew how

Dr. Telford asked Mr. Collins if the government knew how much his company had spent in preparing to build a bridge.

Mr. Collins said the government, so far as he knew, did not have this information, but he pointed out that the \$225,000 was not merely to repay out-of-pocket expenses, but to compensate it for loss of a valuable franchise. "It was a very small settlement," Mr. Collins declared. "It was one of the unhappiest days of my life when the Premier told me it would be improvident for us to build the bridge."

"I think the franchise was

"I think the franchise was worth \$1,500,000 or \$2,000,000," Mr. Collins added. "We would have made that on the operation of the bridge on the present tolls in 20 years."

HOBBS IS CALLED

Mr. Hobbs, who called himself a "wire rope man," was on the stand for an hour.

He was brought into the enquiry when Dr. Telford read a copy of a letter, allegedly signed by Mr. Hobbs and sent to a firm to England. in England.

In England.

This letter, on which Dr. Telford based his charges, suggested that \$140 to ton would be a reasonable price for steel, but that Canadian bridge companies were setting a price of \$200.

The copy of the letter was laid before Mr. Hobbs and he said, "7 have absolutely no knowledge of

have absolutely no knowledge

HIS FILES MISSING

Mr. Kenney ruled the letter out because Mr. Hobbs had repudi-ated it, but finally, after long ar-gument, Dr. Telford was allowed to question Mr. Hobbs, who said he might have written the letter, but did not remember it.

He said he was not interested in the bridge controversy in the least.

He had tried to get an option for his company in England for construction of the bridge in the early days of the project but hav-ing falled, had dropped the whol

matter,

He could not imagine how th copy of an alleged letter from him had reached Dr. Telford.

His files, he said, were missin and in some confusion as he ha just moved his residence.

He repeated that he wished hence where the letter had compared to the confusion of the could not be confused to the could not be confused to the could not be confused to the could not be compared to the coul

NOT PROPER INITIALS

Under lengthy cross-exam tion by Dr. Telford, Mr. Ho admitted that he might-have

ten the letter, though he could

not remember it.

But he noted that the initials of the stenographer on it were unfamiliar to him and not those

of his stenographer.

Dr. Telford interjected that he would secure from cable companies cables sent by Mr. Hobbs to his principals in England re-lating to the bridge.

Mr. Hobbs repeated that the

letter might be a copy of some-thing he had written but "that

thing he had written but "that it is a true copy I gravely doubt." He thought that as the initials of the stenographer had been altered, the figure of \$140 for steel might also have been

"How did Dr. Telford get the letter?" R. W. Bruhn demanded. "Did he go to your files and swipe it?"

"You'll find your files in order so far as I am concerned," said Dr. Telford.

Dr. Telford.
"I hope so," retorted Mr.
Hobbs." At the moment they're ot there.

Where do you think he got asked Mr.. Bruhn.

it?" asked Mr. Bruhn.
"How I would like to know!"
sighed Mr. Hobbs.
Dr. Telford read the letter allegedly written by Mr. Hobbs, stressing the key paragraph, on which he based his charges. This said that "the bridge com-

rnis said that the bridge or panies have established a price around \$190 to \$200 per ton for steel bridge work throughout construction and it would be very unwise to disturb this price.... It would place the Dominion. unwise to disturb this price....
It would place the Dominion,
Hamilton and other bridge companies in a very unpleasant position which they would naturally
resent if prices say of \$140 per
ton were placed on steel. It is
liable to create a profit of \$50
to \$60 per ton."

When asked again and again
whether he wrote the letter, Mr.
Hobbs replied: "I think you know
a lot more about it, Dr. Telford,
than I do!"

PRICES ALTERED TOO?

Questioned further, Mr. Hobbs said the stenographer's initials on the letter were not familiar to him and possibly the steel prices

and possibly the steel prices quoted had also been changed. He emphasized he was a "wire rope man" not a steel man. "In other words," said R. W. Bruhn, "you didn't know what you were talking about."

Dr. Telford produced a series of letters purporting to be be

Dr. Telford produced a series of letters purporting to be between Mr. Hobbs and Mr. Collins. Mr. Kenney ruled that there must be "no more fooling around between Canada and England and Belgium," and that Dr. Telford must stick to his charges. Mr. Hobbs finally agreed with Mr. Maitland that he probably wrote the letter which had been questioned, but he thought some of it might have been altered.

PRICE NOT TOO HIGH

J. C. Boyes, bridge engineer, who designed the Ladner bridge, which was not built, testified that steel costs varied in different bridges. He thought a price of \$140 would be for Belgian steel, unfabricated.

He believed a fair price for British steel would be about 8 to 10 cents a pound, depending on local factures.

was \$40 to \$50 too high, as suggested by Dr. Telford, Mr. Boyes said "No." He did not think the

said "No." He did not think the price too high.

Dr. Telford suggested then that if the steel had been bought in the open world market the price would have been cheaper.

Committee members protested that this had nothing to do with that this had nothing to do with the Telford charges because the contractors had been bound by their contract to buy Canadian and British steel. The charge, and British steel. The charge, said Mr. Kenney, was that \$300, 000 had been over-paid within the terms of the contract, forbidding the use of foreign steel.

When Dr. Telford asked if the

committee wanted to stop nis questions, Thomas King retort-ed: "How you'd like to go on the radio and say we stopped you!"

"FISHING EXPEDITION"

When Dr. Telford proposed to let Mr. Boyes go over the bridge plans and estimate the proper price of steel, William Straith bjected.

"He has got no evidence yet,"
Mr. Straith said. "Now he wants
to go on a fishing expedition and
find something to hang his hat

Other members said Dr. Telford, not the government, should pay Mr. Boyes and Dr. Telford retorted warmly that he was not

retorted warmly that he was not going to this expense himself.

After further wrangling Dr. Telford asked Mr. Boyes if he thought the price of \$201 paid for steel on the Pattullo Bridge was reasonable, and whether the government got value for its money.

money.

Mr. Kenney said this was a ridiculous question to ask an engineer offhand and Mr. Boyes said he could not answer without

going over the plans.
"It boils down to what ste could have been bought for," M Winch interjected.

"In the international market," Dr. Telford added.

NOT THE CHARGE

"That's not the charge!" Mr. Kenney retorted. "The charge was an overpayment of \$300,000."

This plunged the committee into prolonged disorder, with Dr. Telford and Mr. Kenney both shouting at once and other mem-

bers trying to speak.

"That's not the charge!" Mr.
Kenney persisted.

"Yes it is\$" cried Dr. Telford
from the other end of the table.

"HE'S OUT ON A LIMB"

Jumping to his feet and shak-ing his fist, Thomas King shouted: "He's out on a limb shouted: "He's out on a limb and trying to get another tack saying we bought steel in the wrong country when we bought it in our own country!"

Dr. Telford tried to make himself heard above the clamor.

"I said I have a letter and I said according to this letter, which I read that there has been an over-payment of approximately \$60 a ton ..."

"Shame on you! Shame on you!" shouted Mr. King hotly.

LIKE THE NICKEL ENQUIRY"

"You can't shriek me out of this," Dr. Telford shrieked back. "It's like the B. C. Nickel en-quiry!" yelled Mr. King. "Not one word I said there could be contradicted," Dr. Tel-ford retorted. "Get some hooing glayers and let

"According to the letter there was an over-payment," Dr. Tel-ford shouted. "They could have gone into the world market . . ." His voice was drowned in the

clamor.

"It's like a dog chasing his tail," growled C. S. Leary.

Then the committee went sto dinner and, on returning, learned from Dr. Telford that he had withdrawn his charges.

B. C. to Legalize Repeat Weddings

By Sun Staff Reporter VICTORIA, Dec. 1. — Wedder couples who want to go through the marriage ceremony again for some reason or another to legalize their status will be permitted to do so under the new Marriage Ac

Up to the present time re-marriages have not been permit-ted by law.

The Cost of Irresponsibility

There is a weakness in our legislative system that is expensive to the taxpayer. And the ignominious and even pitiful collapse of Dr. Telford's Pattullo Bridge charges in the Legislature exemplifies it.

This weakness is the right of every member to get to his feet and demand a public probe into every transaction into which his suspicious mind reads some questionable meaning.

Knowing his background of firm conviction that every form of government which is not socialistic is crooked, we do not question Dr. Telford's sincerity in initiating these specious charges. But everyone must question his good faith in permitting the expensive enquiry to go on while he himself had the evidence in his pocket that his allegations were based upon irresponsible blather.

The Pattullo Government was extraordinarily magnanimous in offering to investigate charges which it must have known were utterly ridiculous. Perhaps its magnanimity was a contributing factor to the farce. But the Premier has been scrupulous in avoiding even the appearance of evil.

However, his statement in the House last night suggests a remedy for these irresponsible maunderings. Hereafter, he said flatly, the Legislature will only investigate charges that are made in writing.

We consider this to be a very moderate proposal. In our opinion, a Legislature or Parliament should only consider opposition charges when they appear in the form of a complete brief, outlining the nature of the evidence to be submitted and supported by affidavits and sworn statements.

a c fi c Bhi na a penhola muthaga hoo tro

Human nature being what it is, it is only to be expected that in every work of any magnitude, sombody may pinch off the odd five dollar bill. Everybody admits such practices to be reprehensible. But is it either economical or conducive to a higher public morality to spend hundreds and perhaps thousands of dollars to track down the petty thievery that, 99 chances out of 100, the principals in the contract know absolutely nothing about?

Dr. Telford has stirred up a costly little tempest in a teapot. He has not increased his reputation for administrative sagacity by so doing. And we believe the better-informed members of his party would be the first to admit that fact.

Committee Spends Day In Victoria's Black Hole

By BRUCE HUTCHISON
The Vancouver Sun's Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Nov. 30.—The inmates of the Black Hole of Calcutta had a certain melancholy advantage over the public accounts committee of the British Columbia Legislature. knew

They knew oughly why they were there and what it was all about. They were suffering for something they believed in.

In the packed, sweltering, poisonous little room where the

poisonous little room where the public accounts public accounts committee spent the morning, afternoon and evening of Wed-nesday, no one really knew why he was e was present

nothing definite for anyone to be-lieve in. You could only sit and take your choice of wife. take your choice of suffocating in this smoke-filled, fetid air or fainting from very exhaustion and bewilderment in the mass of thick, choking fog of inuendo, the hoarse clamor of irrelevant evidence in the human than the control of the dence, in the human throats,

Anti-Climax and Fiasco

And finally the whole dank and dismal comedy ended incredibly in anti-climax and fiasco as Dr. Telford's graft charges concerning the Pattullo Bridge collapsed, with a faint hissing sound and an evil smell.

Never has the legislature witsed an end like this. Never has nessed an end like this. Never has a committee waited in such ex-pectation all day, thinking that, perhaps, after all, this strange man may have something, some horrid revelation, some ace up his sleeve. Never has a politician made bold charges like this and utterly withdrawn them. Never has a Don Quixote charged so gaily at windmills and limped home without lance, helmet or

home without lance, helmet or trousers.
Wild, incredible, like a child's fairy tale, like a Wait Disney film, like the end of the Big Bad Wolf. Sad, in a way also, but no one seems to mourn—not the government, which is vindicated; not the Conservatives, who object to Socialism more than Liberalism; not even the C.C.F. which never backed Dr. Telford's charges, didn't know what they were and tried in vain to stop them.
To men of softer fibre this

them.

To men of softer fibre this would be a crushing defeat. To parliamentarians of the old school it could mean nothing but resignation. But Telford is made of different clay. All this rolls off and leaves him a little dampened, perhaps.

threatening dire things, still warning the government of more horrors to come. Here in the black hole all Wed-

Here in the black hole all Wednesday is one of the most remark-able sights that the whirling world of local politics has been offered—better fun than the movies, with no admission fee and no amusement tax, and more human drama in it, richer com-edy, better acting. Besides, un-like the movies, it has the added attraction that no one, not even the authors and producers, can guess where the drama would end or why it was started.

Deafening Babel

All day long in the black hole is the fierce play of man against strength against strength the clamor of angry voices and

the clamor of angry voices and fevered brains, the deafening Babel of anguished tongues, the explosions and sudden silences, the total confusion, obfuscation and futility of men trying to find a needle in a haystack that is blowing away in the wind of their own making.

In this little room, paneled in ancient yellow maple and vague through the smoke and clamor, are crowded most of the chief figures of our British Columbia scene, huddled together on rick ety folding chairs, gasping for air, listening, open-mouthed as if each were on trial for his life—come like onlookers at a hanging, to shudder with delight at unimagined horrors and ghastly revelations. Doomed also, to disappointment.

unimagined horrors and ghastly revelations. Doomed also, to disappointment.

Around the table sit the Public Accounts Committee, the jury in this case; at the head Mr. Kenney, a tiny terrier of a man, able, fierce, who barks louder as the day grows older; facing him at the other end Dr. Telford — rotund, pink, broad-faced, his white mane of hair growing more disordered as he staggers deepe into the morass; across the table Mr. Maitland, carrot hair askew, huge pipe puffing, enjoying himself hugely, not that he loves the government more but Telford less; young Mr. Winch, dark, brooding, seeing that his friend is sinking fast, but glad to know that he himself had nothing to do with this disaster; and all around, bridge builders, engineers, contractors, unskilled in these arts of argument, looking with wild amazement at the processes of politics.

unskilled in these arts of argument, looking with wild amazement at the processes of politics. The case has not gone far before the bottom of Dr. Telford's case is clearly sagging, must soon fall out altogether. But he proceeds, with a curious complacency, either unable to see what is happening to him, or refusing to face the fact of his own disaster, keeping up his courage by promising worse charges to come.

Even when his own star wit-Even when his own star wit-ness, a competent engineer with a Scottish accent and a pained look, says the government paid a fair price on the bridge, Dr. Telford still keeps up the brave pretense,

still keeps up the brave pretense, shifts his ground suddenly, but not very skilfully, says lamely that the steel would have been cheaper if bought in the world market, not in Canada or Britain.

Now is the bottom fallen out entirely. Liberal members, with shouts of victory, pounce upon the doctor. So he wants the government to buy steel in Czechoslovakia, does he, where it is \$35 a ton cheaper, and break down the wage standards of the

Oh, no, cries Dr. Telford. He only wants bids called in the world market. Same thing, same thing, how the Liberals, hot on the trail. Oh no, shouts Dr. Telford, but his words are drowned in the fierce yelps of triumph. The voices of Liberals have risen like fox hounds, scenting the kill. Dr. Telford is on his feet shouting, with outstretched hands, hard pressed, desperate, but still fighting. Mr. Kenney is thundering from the other end of the table and banging his gavel. The silent men, packed in the black hole, breathing hard, look on with wide eyes, open mouths. Then into the melee dashes Mr. King of Golden, a single lank curl dangling between his eyes. He shakes his fist and cries out, with a lovely mixture of meta-

with a lovely mixture of meta-phor, that Dr. Telford is out on a limb and is trying to get on an-other tack. Equally mixed and frenzied is Mr. Straith, who says Dr. Telford is on a fishing expedition, trying to find somewhere to hang his hat. Everyone is mixed, frenzied, hoarse.

is mixed, iferaled, hoarse.

"Shame on you, shame on you, shame on you," howls Mr. King in an ecstasy of scorn. "You can't shout me down," shouts Dr. Telford. "It's like a dog chasing its snout me down, should be reford. "It's like a dog chasing its tail," growls Mr. Leary. "Give em boxing gloves and let 'em fight," grunts Mr. Bruhn. The Doctor's star witness, the Scottish engineer, looks on with bewilder. ment, a plain man unused to the

processes of politics. The black hole listens and swelters and marvels.

marvels.
At dinner time it is clear that the bottom is quite out of Dr. Telford's case, perhaps he has something else? Perhaps he may yet produce some evidence? Surely he has something after all this fanning of air and muddying of water?

water?
When the committee comes back from dinner, eager for the worst, Dr. Telford stands up. Perhaps it is coming at last. But no. Dr. Telford has pondered, has realized his defeat and now is withdrawing his charges, saying they were based on an irrespon-

sible letter. The committee is sible letter. The committee is shocked for a moment, numbed and then bursts out with protests. All this day of agony and sweat and suffocation for nothing! Remains only to deplore it in the House, to give the doctor a final spanking, not too hard, at the hands of the premier and Mr. Wismer, and to forget the whole weird chapter.

So ends a fantastic spectacle, a farce of the wilder pre-war, custard-ple variety—unparalleled here, useful only as a warning to young parliamentarians, valuable

young parliamentarians, valuable as good, clean family entertain-ment. Be sure next time to bring the kiddies.

Dr. Telford Censured in House Debate

Members Condemn Course In Bridge Charges

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Members of the government and the Leg-islature Wednesday night cen sured Dr. J. Lyle Telford, C.C.F., Vancouver East, for making graft charges without sufficient foundation for them.

PREMIER'S CRITICISM

PREMIER'S CRITICISM

When the public accounts committee submitted to the House its report on investigation of his bridge steel charges, completely clearing the government and anyone else connected with the bridge, and stating Dr. Telford had withdrawn his charge, Premier Pattullo deplored Dr. Telford's whole method.

The use of statements in the House that prove to be without foundation would do injustice to citizens, create distrust in government and is very regrettable, he said. In future the government will ignore such charges unless they are made in writing.

Dr. Telford agreed that statements of the kind should be in writing, but added:

"I can take this on the chin. I may have erred in my judgment this time, but I'll have more to

may have erred in my judgment this time, but I'll have more to

say."

This drew Attorney General
Wismer into the debate with
stinging criticism of the member
for making charges based "on a
letter from someone to someone
else which wasn't even produced."

SHOULD BE RULE

Even after withdrawing his charge, Dr. Telford came back and cast reflections on a solid, decent business man in Vancouver (Mr. C. D. Hobbs), the Attorney-General said.

"I think there should be a rule about this sort of thing in the House," he declared.

"And the member makes no

"And the member makes no apology," he added, "but says he intends to use the same policy in future."

in future."

Dr. Telford, he said, used the same sort of tactics in his allegations of forgery in the game department on a trap-line application. This matter had been tinvestigated by two attorneysgeneral, two game commissions and the police, none of whom found there was anything to it. And Dr. Telford's whole charge was based on a document from a man he did not know.

Frank Putnam, Liberal, Nelson-Creston, and Capt. C. R. Bull, Liberal, South Okanagan, ended the argument by deprecating Dr. Telford's reference to Mr. Hobbs as being irreponsible.

ponsible.
The committee's report was adopted.

After all this talk of 30-hour weeks, a rather medieval atmosphere is created by the actionney-General's statement in the Legislature that 60 hours per week is "long enough" for Oak Bay's firemen.

Soap As Loss Leader VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Soap, soap products and lard will be included among products that cannot be used as loss leaders under Mrs. Paul Smith's amendments to the Food Products Minimum Loss Act given second reading in the Legislature Wednesday. The bill also prevents retailers circumventing the act by juggling invoice prices through wholesalers.

Minimum Pay Law For Domestics Loses

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Due to the disorganized nature of the work, and the lack of training and standards in the occupation, the time is not ripe to bring domestic servants under minimum wage laws, Hon. G. S. Pearson, told the Legislature Wednesday as the government voted down a bill sponsored by Mrs. D. G. Steeves, C.C.F., that would have included them. Mrs. Steeves Mrs. Steeves
Pearson agreed with her but said
difficulties of making regulations
work was too great.

City Charter **Changes Pass**

By Sun Staff Reporter VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—While the public accounts committee went ahead with its investigation into the cost of steel for the Pattullo Bridge, the Legislature sat for only an hour Wednesday after-noon and put through a few minor bills.

Vancouver charter amendments Vancouver charter amendments were passed as reported by the private bills committee. They include power to raise the trades licenses of the C.P.R., C.N.R. and

ectric Railway from \$100 in 1500 a year, authority to pay ying allowance to Judge A. M. per for his work on the police mission, arrangements for an ance poll and other routine

Telford Walks Out of C.C.F. Caucus In Anger Against Party Discipline

Future Socialist Program at Stake As Result of Probe Fiasco

By Sun Staff Reporter VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Dr. Lyle Telford bolted in anger from the C.C.F. caucus here Thursday and his whole future in the Socialist party is in complete

doubt today.

Today Socialist members of the House requested the provincial executive of their party to take under consideration the collapse and withdrawal of Dr. Telford's bridge charges and to take appropriate action.

PROBE REPUDIATED

Whether Dr. Telford will be disciplined now depends on the

The whole Socialist group in The whole Socialist group in the House has disassociated itself from the fiasco of his bridge charges and he is now regarded as being out of the caucus, at least for the present. But whether he will remain in the party no one knows.

the party no one knows

ALL FOR DISCIPLINE

Meanwhile to make sure that there is no recurrence of the bridge debacle the Socialists will insist in future that all members insist in future that all members of their group, as of any politi-cal group must consult their as-sociates before launching charges in the House or taking other action likely to embarrass the party as a whole.

Dr. Telford does not accept

any such discipline.

He has left the caucus rather than surrender his independence.

RALLY IN VANCOUVER

Today no member of the Social-ist group would discuss the pres-ent imbroglio, but it quickly be-came apparent that Dr. Telford, having left here Thursday night, is moving in Vancouver to rally around him his followers in the party as a whole against the criti-cism of his fellow members in the

He is reportedly strong in the party organization even though his recent actions have been re-pudiated by the House members.

SHOWDOWN" CERTAIN

"SHOWDOWN" CERTAIN

One thing is certain—there will be a showdown in the party soon on its future in the Legislature. It will seek in one way or another to prevent another major blunder like the Telford charges, which would not have been brought forward if the group acted as a group instead of permitting any member to go off at a tangent.

mitting any member to go off at a tangent.

The strong move to elect Harold Winch as House leader will probably succeed in the end.

Final decision on this point has been defered, however, until the provincial executive has been con-

RAISES IMPORTANT ISSUE

The issue posed by the Tell asco is something far more

bers of the Legislature are to act independently on their own judg-ment with general guidance from independently on their own judg-ment with general guidance from theeir party, like other members, or are to accept instructions from the Central party organization.

OTHER M.L.A.'S "FREE"

In no other party could such a situation as the present one in the

C.C.F. develop.

Members of the Legislature in other parties never consult their party except at infrequent conventions and in the present circumstances would take action themselves to discipline a member who broke with his group.

The Socialist members are in the unhany position of having to

the unhappy position of having to consult an executive but this will

NAME PARTY LEADER TOO

Out of the present mess Social-ists hope will come new modus operandi, some system of leader-ship which will enable the party and its House representatives to function without the danger of sudden splits and blunders by members operating indepen-dently.

members operating independently.

It is expected the party will not only elect a House leader shortly but before the year is out will appoint a party leader as well to end the present situation in which Dr. Telford is operating within the party as a roving independent movement of nis own.

For the present after Dr. Telford's bolt from caucus the C.C.F. members have decided to leave the situation alone until the provincial executive has been con-

vincial executive has been sulted.

But this doesn't mean they will

But this doesn't mean they will allow the present situation to remain for long.

Meanwhile if Vancouver people think that Dr. Telford is crestfallen over the collapse and withdrawal of his bridge charges they are entirely mistaken.

MIGHT TRY AGAIN

Dr. Telford is going ahead with is work as member of the

House quite happily.

"I can take all this on the chin all right. I' mnot worrying," he

To Socialist newspapers Dr. Telford said he intended to get more evidence and renew his bridge charges at the next session of the legislature.

The government, as already announced, will probe no more charges unless they are put into

writing. It is not taking Dr. Telford seriously.

Dr. Lyle Telford's charges against the government in con-nection with the Pattullo Bridge are no concern of the C.C.F. as a party, today declared W. W. Lefeaux, provincial president of the C.C.F. Lefeaux,

"There is no question of party policy involved in them," he said; "they were not party mat-ters but individual matters, for which Dr. Telford is individually

Herbert Gargrave, provincial secretary of the C. C. F., denied reports that the C. C. F. group in the legislature will repudiate Dr.

Telford.

"I have talked by long-distance telephone with Harold Winch to day, and he tells me such reports are unwarranted," Gargrave said. "What he did say, however, was that the C.C.F. grave said. "What he did say, however, was that the C. C. F. caucus will tighten up its own rules to exercise a greater con-trol over members in the House." Gargrave said Winch said noth

him concerning a report ing to from Victoria that the caucus will set forth its views on the Telford incident in a communication to the provincial executive

House Votes \$2 Millions For Highways

Public Works Estimates Unchanged From 1937

By Sun Saff Leporter VICTORIA, Olive 2.—With the customary demand from all sides of the House for more and more roads, the Legislature Thursday voted the annual appropriation of \$2,179.570 for pubworks maintenance, changed from last year's vote.

District road maintenance otes total \$986,500. For bridges ne sum of \$625,000 is allocated, or ferries \$250,000, for wharves \$18,070, for snow removal \$120,000, for equipment \$120,000 and for traffic operation \$60,000.

Following are the separate

votes by districts:	
Alberni-Nanaimo	\$37,500
Atlin	21,000
Burnaby	10,000
Cariboo	62,000
Chilliwack	30,000
Columbia	22,000
Comox	37,500
Cowichan-Newcastle	31,000
Cranbrook	32,000
Delta	25,000
Dewdney	36,000
Esquimalt	31,000
Fernie	25,000
Fort George	45,000
Grand Forks - Greenwood	37,500
Islands	15,000
Kamloops	37,500
Kaslo-Slocan	44,000
Lillooet	37,500
Mackenzie	19,000
Nelson-Creston	45,000
New Westminster	1,500
North Okanagan	31,000
North Vancouver	40,000
Omineca Peace River	25,000
Prince Rupert	15,000
Revelstoke	15,000
Rossland-Trail	15,000
Saanich	13,000
Salmon Arm	30,000
Similkameen	31,000
Skeena	29,000
South Okanagan	31,000
Vancouver-Point Grev	5.000
area dille Gies se	05.000

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Two More Amendments

Hon, Dr. Weir is to be commended for ntroducing an amendment to the Marriage Act which will compel all prospective brides and bridegrooms to undergo blood tests for venereal disease.

Since, however, the union of two young people is something more than an experiment in eugenics, it is our opinion that the tempermental as well as the zoological factor should be considered in our marriage law.

A minister who undertakes the responsibility of marrying a man and woman should have in mind, as a matter of conscience, the suitability and compatibility involved in the Marriage Act which we believe would add to the durability of matrimony in this province:

1. That any marriage contracted by British Columbia people outside of British Columbia will only be considered valid within this province if the standards and requirements of British Columbia's laws in this respect are fully observed.

2. That any couple married by a "strange" minister beyond the confines of the community in which they have been domiciled must first produce a letter or certificate from a minister or some other responsible person in their own community identifying them as fit and proper persons to be united in marriage.

These two amendments, we believe, I tend towards the mitigation of the envorce evil which is growing so rapidly in British Columbia.

Dr. Telford's more tactful friends have cided not to ask him to drop in for a little bridge in the near future.

Ready to Scrap Township Plan

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By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Premier
Pattullo told the Legislature
Thursday he would not hesitate
to scrap the whole of the provincial law which requires that
one-quarter interest in all new
townsites be vested in the

townsites be vested in the Crown.

He said this in reply to Conservatives who protested a change in the Land Act which gives the cabinet power to waive the quarter interest when a company plots a townsite and puts in all the improvements.

The Premier said also he would favor the government turning back to municipalities like Prince Rupert and Prince George all the lots it now holds under the scheme.

When the land boom was on 30 years ago the quarter section meant something in revenue to the treasury, he said, but nowadays the holding is a liability and simply embarrasses a municipality.

Road Federal Charge

VICTORIA. — It was rather ad that Canadians, wishing to travel from one place in Canada to another, should have to go through the United States, R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, said in the legislature when urging the House to go on record that construction and future maintenance of the Trans-Can-ada Highway should be paid for by the federal government.

No Labor Act Change At Present Session

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—The Provincial Government has decided
not to open the Labor Arbitration
Act at this session. While Harold
Winch is moving to amend it, his
proposals will be voted down. The
Government had intended to revise some sections but after conferring with Labor leaders decided to leave it alone.

House Hears Plea for Monkman Highway

Appropriation Perry Asks Gov't for \$15,000 to Aid Pioneers

Fort George Member Describes Untiring Efforts Of Settlers Building Highway

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, urged the government in the Legislature Thursday to make a special appropriation to help the pioneers of the Monkman Pass highway.

UNTIRING EFFORTS

After describing the untiring efforts of the settlers who hav doggedly built part of the roadan outlet to the Peace River-Mr. Perry suggested the Hous vote \$25,000, \$20,000 or even \$15,000 toward the project.

\$15,000 toward the project.

He said Vancouver people had promised \$15,000 toward the road but it had not been produced. Otherwise the road would not be through.

"Admittedly it's a poor road now, but it's passable as far as built. I plead with the government, if necessary, to provide the money," he said.

Mr. Perry made it clear that in asking aid for the Monkman route he was not discarding support for the Turgeon route to the Peace River through Finlay Forks.

VAST COUNTRY

"The Peace River is a vast country," he said, "and there will be more than one highway to it. I think the engineers will decide one day that the route by Finlay Forks is the best."

Amendments Due On Car Liability

No Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Amendments were promised Thursday
by Attorney-Geheral Wismer to
the government's bills removing
liability from an automobile
driver for injuries to a passenser.

He accepted the suggestion of R. L. Maitland, K.C., leader of the Opposition, that certain changes should be made to limit the exemption.

the exemption.

Mr. Maitland used the illustration of an office boy sent on a message and instructed to ride in someone's car. As the original draft of the government bill stood the boy would have no claim if he was injured in an accident, he pointed out. Mr. Wismer agreed that some safeguards were necessary and will draft the necessary amendments.

Bear Bill Withdrawn

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—Ernest E. Vinch, C.C.F., Burnaby, withdrew als bill which would enlarge pits or captive bears, but only after

he had the assurance of Attor-ney General Wismer that the game commission would be em-powered to make regulations to improve the quarters of all cap-

Opposition Bills Pass

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—The government accepted two pieces of Opposition legislation Wednesday. Samuel Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, sponsored a bill, which will allow members of men's committees to accompany whose inspectors touring a mine

men's committees to accompany mines inspectors touring a mine after an unusual occurence. From R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, Attorney General Wismer accepted a bill giving married women equal property rights when in partner. property rights when in partn ship with their husbands.

Eloquent Plea for Monkman Pass Road

By BRUCE HUTCHISON
he Vancouver Sun's Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—The ViCTORIA, Dec. 2.—The Legislature was obviously suffering Thursday from a spiritual hangover. The Tel-ford hurricane of Wednesday, already known in history as the Big Wind of 1938, had left everyone emotionally ex-hausted, washed out and limp. The House scarcely limp. The House scarcely went through the motions of



went through the motions of legislating.

Dr. Telford, for his part, bobbed up as merrily as if nothing had nappened to him, as if he had escaped the "Big Wind" altogetner. No outsider would have suspected that ne was the chief cast-away a nd now afloat in an open boat, far from the mother ship of the C.C. F.—floating no one knew where, gayly into seas unknown, most remarkable nautical sight of

remarkable nautical sight of modern times.
But those still on board the good ship C.C.F. showed clearly on their faces the ravages of the Big Wind. It was a sad looking crew, worried lest anyone should imagine Dr. Telford was still in the same boat with them. Everyone knew, or course, that he wasn't. No one doubted that the present separation would become wider, perhaps permanent.

Premier Fights Back

After the Big Wind, ordinary its seemed a sorry let-down, like oming back to work in the morning after a big party. Compared with the excitements of the Public Accounts Committee, the proceedings of the House dealing with facts instead of emotions, were dull indeed. No one could et very interested in them. In the counts Committee when the sternoon papers and re-live those lorious moments in the Public counts Committee when the attullo Bridge charge came rashing down, amid screams of aman agony.

In this period of hang-over and onvalescence the House worked stlessly, for the most part, on a Land Act, by which the government proposes to surrender, ent it sees fit, its share of 25 count of the lots in new townies. In this the Conservatives we seen a great principle. They fighting the government's an to the last ditch.

Fremier Pattulio, who did not articipate in the Big Wind, was in full of fight. When Mr. Attand started hammering at the Land Act, he grew a little im-

doubting, not the rectifude of this government, but the rectifude of all governments, of the principle of government itself.

Not Much Further

Why, says the premier, do people like Mr. Maitland always imagine that the government will invariably act against the public interest when it is just as easy to act for it? Is it not pos-

easy to act for it? Is it not possible, if only to vary the monotony, that governments might do something right sometimes?

Why, says the premier in an excess of generosity, he would even entrust a government headed by Mr. Maitland to exercise the functions proposed in the Land Act, but the implication is plain that he wouldn't trust Mr. Maitland's government much further in any of the larger fields of policy.

Mr. Maitland and Mr. Bruhn continue to fight the act; Mr. Winch the younger makes a vigorous speech against it; Mr.
Perry offers much wisdom, and
in the end it is passed. No one
is very deeply moved.

is very deeply moved.

Everyone pricks up his ears, however, when Mr. MacPherson brings his road estimates in. Here, in a fashion unknown to city people, is the central stuff of provincial politics. In the in-terior, beyond the pavement, gov-ernment is judged by the condi-

tion of the roads.

Though a government of angels sit in Victoria it will have

angels sit in Victoria it will have no reputation in the far places if the local road is rough. Elections are lost and won, men's careers are made and unmade, by a few loads of gravel. The local road, not the budget, not the Rowell commission, not the principles of Liberalism, conservatism or Socialism, is the thing that the folks back home are talking about.

As usual, Mr. MacPherson's distribution of the road maintenance money satisfies no one. It never can because there is never enough to go adequately around.

enough to go adequately around.
But everyone in this House
knows, including the opposition,
that Mr. MacPherson usually gets about as much out of a dollar as anyone, except where local foreman let him down, as

dollar as anyone, except where local foreman let him down, as they sometimes do in the tortuous game of local politics. And when they do, it is more injurious to the government politically than all the strength of the opposition combined.

Into the pallid abstract discussions of the afternoon, Mr. Perry suddenly introduced a feeling of reality, suddenly brought us down to earth and, as it were, spread before us the solid substance of life in British Columbia.

Far away from these marble halls, far from the Big Wind and the fusty smell of politics went Mr. Perry, over the Monkman Pass road—that road built by local settlers with their own hands through the wilderness, because they would not remain longer isolated in the North.

An epic Mr. Perry called it, and skilfully he painted a picture of the poor farmers of British Columbia loaning their own tools, working for no pay, to build a road that governments will not build, showing that the spirit of the ploneers is not dead.

With such a picture before him, Mr. MacPhepson could hard to the poor farmery of the ploneers is not dead.

have been built, said Mr. Perry, if the citizens of Vancouver had kept their promise to contribute \$15,000.

A few dollars only, pleads Mr. Perry, a few dollars to show that the epic of Monkman Pass is not the epic of Monkman Pass is not forgotten in these marble halls, to show the settlers that we appreciate still the manual labors of the real British Columbians, while we are enjoying here all the luxuries of politics, paid by a grateful electorate.

Mr. MacPherson listened but spoke not. The epic still hangs in the balance.

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Profits Tax Aimed at Some Family Corporations

B.C. Law Designed for **Undistributed Funds**

Wider Application of Income Tax Proposed by Surprise Measure in B. C. House

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—In a new undistributed profit tax, the Provincial Government is forging a strong weapon against British Columbia family corporations that evade income tax by placing back their profits into excessive

The undistributed profits tax plan burst upon the legislature Friday without the least advance warning to members or to business men. In brief, it will work in this way:

Where a company owned by a few people is taking its profits and putting them into the bank instead of distributing them to its shareholders, the Minister of Finance will warn it that its recovered to the state of the state o marn to its snareholders, the minister of railance wan it that its reserves are excessive. The company will then have 30 days in which to pay out the excessive reserves to its shareholders. If it fails to do so, then it can keep the reserves, but must pay a tax of 15 per cent on them

SPECIFIC COMPANIES

In this way no company is prevented from piling up any amount in its reserves, but if it does so it must pay taxes on the sum which the minister of finance considers

As soon as the company starts to distribute its excess reserves, of course, these distributed profits become taxable under income tax. In other words, the company must pay its full income tax on the new undistributed profits tax. The law is aimed not at the

general business community of British Columbia, but at a small group of corporations only, which have been putting back profits into reserves simply with the in-tention to escape paying income tax on them.

A few companies will be affected by the new tax. It applies only to companies "in which the majority of the voting power or shares is in the hands of not more than five persons and relatives or nominees of any of those persons, or where control of the corporation is by any other means whatever in their hands."

A relative is defined as as a "husband or wife, ancestor or lineal descendant, brother or sister."

HART'S EXPLANATION

Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, who introduced the new income tax amendments, declared

income tax amendments, declared they did not in any sense constitute an increase in taxation.

"We are seeking only," he said, "to enforce the present income taxes of the province, by blocking up a loophole through which a few wealthy people are evading those taxes."

Mr. Hart explained that where a company makes a profit, it has to pay income tax on it, even though it does not distribute the profit to the shareholders. But the law intends also that the hareholders shall pay a tax on the profits when they receive them.

the purpose of evading taxes, simply pay taxes on their profits and then fail to distribute them to the shareholders, a small group of people who do not need the money but who wish to build up a large capital. The company does not escape the first income tax, but the shareholders escape the tax which other people have

to pay.

Mr. Hart said that there had never been any difficulty be-tween his department and business men over the amount of profits which might reasonably be held undisturbed. Auditors of his department permit all according to their of his department permits companies, according to their needs, to set up reserves and encourage them to do so. Since Mr. Hart resumed office in 1933 there has been no appeal to him from the decisions of his auditors

IN OTHER PROVINCES

IN OTHER PROVINCES

The federal government and most other provinces have tackled the undistributed profits problem, government officials here state. British Columbia is merely bringing itself abreast of the policies of other provinces. It has not moved before because there was no problem of undistributed profits requiring attention. Lately, however, government investigators have reported the accumulation of unreasonable reserves in a few companies and they need legislation to make these sterilized profits taxable. profits taxable.

profits taxable.

The new act gives the minister of finance a wide power in determining what is an excess profit. To him is left the determination of what constitutes a reasonable reserve and what is really an attempt to escape income taxation, but his decisions may be appealed to the government.

The minister's powers are set out in this key clause in the Income Tax Act, which covers the operations of the new tax plan:

which this section applies has an accumulation of undivided or undistributed gains and profits which, in the opinion of the minister, is in excess of what is reasonably required for the conduct of its business, the Minister may, by notice in writing, so inform the corporation, stating the amount by which he considers the said tion, stating the amount by which he considers the said accumulation exceeds such reanable requirements; and if, ter the expiration of thirty days from the date of the

notice, the amount of the ex-cess stated therein has not been distributed in the form of dividends to the shareholders of the corporation the minister may direct that the corporation be assessed and taxed on the accumulation of undivided or undistributed gains and profits at the rate of 15 per cent on the amount of the excess stated in the profice and the corporation. in the notice, and the corpora-tion shall be assessed and taxed accordingly; and the tion shall be assessed and taxed accordingly; and the commissioner shall give a notice of the assessment to the corporation assessment to the corporation assessed, fixing date on which the tax shall be payable."

much revenue the new bill will mean to the government has not been estimated definitely. Whatever revenue is collected under the new act will come from a very few tax-evaders.

In another amendment to the Income Tax Act the government proposes to alter the taxation of proposes to atter the taxation of life insurance companies. They are now taxed on the total amount of their premiums. To put taxation on a scientific basis, now recognized throughout America, the government will except annuity payments from taxes, and also bonuses and divisions and the college to be deep whom the college to be deep whom the college to be deep whom the college to taxes, and also bonuses and dividends paid to policy holders, who use them to pay their premiums in part. To avoid any drop in revenue, however, the government will increase its tax on premiums from 2½ to 2½ per cost. Insurance companies urged cent. Insurance companies urged these changes.

Fraser River Dykes Will Be Renewed

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Dyves on the Fraser River between Port Mann and the Searle elevator will be renewed and repaired

will be renewed and repaired under legislation introduced in the House Friday night by Hon.

A. Wells Gray.

The bill provides for a refinancing of the South Westminster Dyking District by retiring the outstanding bonds, totaling \$36,500, and providing about \$18,000 for the repair work.

The work will include construction of one and a half miles of peat dyke, renewal of six wooden flood boxes and raising of three miles of dyke by one and a half feet.

Mining Law Changes in B. C. House

Actual Staking Regulations Remain Unchanged; **Protect Titles**

Special to The Vancouver Sun VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Changes in British Columbia's mining laws boiled down after a year of dis-cussion between the Government cussion between the Government and mining men finally went be-fore the Legislature Friday in bills introduced by Hon. W. J. As-selstine, Minister of Mines. They are to go into effect next June 1. The main points left in the bills

- 1. A person will be allowed to stake eight claims for himself within an area of ten miles (now he can stake only one for himself and others as agent for other people).
- A claim can only be grouped once a year, instead of being regrouped several times as
- Actual staking regulations remain unchanged except that a discovery post is no longer necessity.
- 4. Assessment ssessment work require-ents are left alone except that ments are lett alone except that the Government now specifies what work may be classified as assessment work; that is, it must be actual development
- 5. An attempt is made to prote An attempt is made to protect titles of mining properties by providing that certificates of of work can only be questioned within one year after they are issued and the Minister of Mines can order that assessment work affidavits can be checked by inspection.
- 6. A person must have an actual mineral deposit on at least one claim in a group of eight be-fore he can get a Crown grant. The new protection for work certificates is designed to prevent such suits as that in which the sensational Privateer Mine at Zeballos had to surrender a sizable share of its stock to indisizable share of its stock to incover widuals who questioned assessment work said to have been done several years previously. Now such a claim would have to be made within a year.

Legislature Will Prorogue Friday

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—The Leg-islature lost about two hours of working time when the storm blew the lights out Friday, but party whips are confident all business can be handled in time for prorogation next Friday.

Utility Act May Mean \$500,000 Bill for B.C.E.R.

Companies Will Be Made To Pay for 'Appraisals'

Rates to Be Based on Value of Physical Assets Without Regard to Face Value of Stock

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—The B. C. Electric Railway Company may be charged with a bill of close to \$500,000 for an appraisal of its properties at the direction of the new Public Utilities Commission, Paremier Pattullo told the Legislature Friday, as the Utility Bill was pushed through committee. He explained that this cost would be taken into account when rates are fixed.

Debating the bill in the dark then the lights of the Legislature were extinguished in a storm, the House argued many of the technical points on which the new utility control plan will be based. \$500,000 WORTH

The bill provides that the com-mission when it makes an ap-praisal of a utility's property can assess the company for the

Cost.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, said he thought this might hurt small utility companies although it might not affect the B. C. Electric much.

ies although it might not affect the B. C. Electric much.
"You don't think it will?" said the Premier. "It might affect them \$500,000 worth."

Mr. Maitland insisted there should be some check on the commission in assessing companies for the cost, by appeal to the courts if necessary.

The government also made clear that rates under the new control scheme will be set to give

control scheme will be set to give companies a return on a fair ap-praisal of their physical assets and not on the face value of their stock.

This came when Harold Winch, This came when Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, said that according to editorials in the papers people were paying rates on milions of dollars of watered stock.

He asked if the commission would put a proper estimate on

Attorney-General Wismer said the would be based on a fair poraisal of companies' propers and not on stock values. He pointed out the commission of also control future stock isses of companies.

Mr. Wismer said the control of once issues did not affect the spile generally but only the cockholders in utility companies. Opposition members objected clause which empowers the ministion to settle disputes between utility companies and multipudities.

is no appeal on the

Frament.
General Wismer said,
hat when all sections
have been dealt with
will consider which

authority to order extensions of utility services.

Such extensions, he said, might be unprofitable and the company would be without

Alderman Fred Crone, Liberal, Vancouver Centre, said the pro-posal was excellent and had been long awaited by municipal authorities.

Ghostly Scene as Lights Failed In House

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

he Vancouver Sun's Staff Reporter VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—The light of provincial politics, not very bright all day, sputtered out altogether late Friday afternoon and plunged the legislature into utter darkness; not in the figurative sense which Mr. Pattullo or Mr. Maitland might use in attacking one another, but literally, in dead earnest.

The lights went out. And when The lights went out. And when Tom Uphill marched into the House like Lady Macbeth, bearing aloft a lighted candle, which he solemnly stood on his desk, the Premier decided to call off the

call

The House

freak of th southeaest gal which was last ing Victoria, the lights went of in the Legisla

act, which is designed chiefly to control electricity. Alas, winds and power lines are beyond the control of this Legislature and exactly at the moment when it was discussing the B.C. Electric Railway Company, the local lines of that organization snapped in the gale.

Among all the wild, legendary and ever-glorious scenes that the legislative chamber has wit-nessed in its time, this was per-haps unparalleled. Here was the haps unparalleled. haps unparalleled. Here was the House, sitting in the dark of a late December afternoon, with the Premier holding the Public Utility Act up close to his nose to read it, Mr. Maitland squirming to catch the last rays of dayingth, Mr. Carson in the chair wielding an electric torch which he turned upon the bill before him.

Queer Scene

Dim in the twilight were the figures of our legislators, only the white plume of Mr. Hart head discernible through the head discernible through the gloom. The galleries all around were utterly black and their oc-cupants quite invisible, giving a certain ghostliness to the whole spectacle. It made you think of British parliaments, long ago, sitting in the dim shadows of Westminster Hall.

But still the Premier strug-gled on, carrying that precious burden, the utilities act, his own brain child, through the gloom, Occasionally the lights flashed on for a moment or two and then off again, but such is our legislators' presence of mind legislators' presence of mind that their speeches continued without hesitation or interrup-

tion, light or dark.

If, growls, Mr. Uphill, they'd send for one of me bhoys, Mr. Speaker, the electricians, you Speaker, the electricians, you understand, from Fernie, they'd fix up these here lights. Mr. Pattullo pays no attention, strides on, brain child clutched

to his bosom.

It's all very well, says It's all very well, says Mr. Uphill, for these learned fellows in the government and the opposition, because they don't have to read the utilities act. They know it off by heart now. But I can't read it even with my spectacles that cost twenty bucks, says Mr. Uphill.

Mr. Wismer squelches this protest by pointing out that until the lights went out Mr. Uphill hadn't even bothered to come into the House to look at the utilities bill—only came in to protest that he couldn't look at it.

Stah is the Dark

Finally Mr. Uphill, with a touch of his old clown's genius, goes out and comes back with his candle, solemnly plants it on his desk, where it shines like a good deed in a naughty world, and begins to read the utilities act with a sudden interest.

Mr. Maitland agrees that the promier has been in the dark so often and so long that he is probably used to it.—A stab in the dark.

Before these pleasantries wound up the dismal day, the House had made good progress on the utilities act, with earnest and fairly friendly discussion on both sides. The chief fact which emerged from the discussion was that public utility companies, not the government, are going to pay for the enormous cost of investigating themselves.

Thus, for example, the B.C.

gating themselves.

Thus, for example, the B.C. Electric will probably have to pay around half a million dollars for its investigation, the premier said. The company, of course, can charge its consumers for this expense. In the end the public will pay. On the other hand, there may be compensation in lower utility rates.

The other fact, emphasized

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lower utility rates.

The other fact, emphasized again and again by Mr. Wismer, is that while the stock issue of any company cannot be altered, it will not be recognized for rate-fixing purposes. Just because a company, for example, has issued a million dollars' worth of stock it will not be entitled to a profit it will not be entitled to a profit on that amount.

will find out how much the co pany's plant is actually worth. If it is only worth half a million it will get profits on that, and it will be just too bad for the stockholders if they have been getting dividends on the whole million.

dividends on the whole million.

There was a good deal of rambling, but keen discussion on many details of the bill. At one point Mr. Maitland seemed to have fallen into a strange inconsistency, which, perhaps, he may explain later. His fight has always been against a public utility commission not independent of the government, not all-powerful and free of politicians. But here he was, deeply alarmed because the commission proposed by the government might be too powerful, might interfere too much with utility companies and harass them with unnecessary investigations.

The electric lights.

The electric lights went on a The electric lights went on at the night sitting and simultaneously the legal lights burst into a sudden incandescent glow. From the Government side glowed Attorney-General Wismer with his bill designed to buttress the Coal and Petroleum Act, now headed for the Privy Council, and from the Opposition benches from the Opposition benches glowed Mr. Maitland, who thought it was very bad practise to patch up an act once it was disputed in the courts—like de claring next day that a man killed

by a street car was not dead.

But probably knowing that if he did so he would be suspected of favoring the oil companies, Mr Maitland would not vote against the Government's buttressing act

the Government's buttressing act
More interesting in the lon
run was a passing reference of
Mr. Wismer's, which cast a lon
shadow of eyents before it. Th
courts, said Mr. Wismer, are whi
tling away at our laws so mue
that Provincial rights are bein
swept away. Highly significan
this, because the Rowel Commis
sion may raise the whole problet
of provincial rights in more ag
gravated form than ever.

C.C.F. House Members Show Their Authority

Definite Revolt Against Control by Party Junta; Telford Incident Induces Reorganization of Party's Internal Management

By BRUCE HUTCHISON
The Vancouver Sun's Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—The fierce internal party row
which followed Dr. Lyle Telford's withdrawal of his graft allegations against the government over the Pattullo Bridge means definitely that the C.C.F. members of the Legislature are not coming back here again for another session ham-strung by outside party controls.

They are determined that there must be a showdown to prevent a recurrence of the Telford flasco and to show the world that they can act always as free agents.

AN OUTSIDE BODY

The present incident showed, with a sudden vivid light, how, in their case, the ordinary freedom of elected men in a British parliament is dangerously restricted.

They felt unable to take any final action concerning Dr. Telford, though he was a member of their caucus.

of their caucus.

There was no leader to discipline him, no way of officially repudiating his charges.

Instead, the House members had to refer the whole question to the party executive in Vancouver—an outside body not elected by the public, but exercising a definite measure of control over C.C.F. ite measure of control over C.C.F. members' activities.

This does not mean that the executive tells the members how vote in the House.

It certainly didn't authorize a debacle like the bridge charges. But it puts the control of the members as a group,, in their work as a party, as representa-tives of the C.C.F. under the

revecutive.

It does not permit them anything like the freedom of action enjoyed by Liberals and Conservatives.

ALWAYS A MEMBER

ALWAYS A MEMBER

In the Liberal and Conservative party control always is with the elected men, never with the outsiders, whom the public doesn't know.

The leader is always a member of the Legislature.

When the party is in office the small group which dominates it belongs to the cabinet.

All the party policy is made by the elected men, who rarely consult the party in convention and then in most general terms.

And after a convention has been held, there is nothing to prevent an elected man voting against the conclusions of the convention. Frequently governments do not carry out the wishes of the convention.

As for the party executive, elected by the local associations, it has little influence over the government or any of the elected men.

It has no power to discipline

Nothing of importance is re-ferred to it.

If there is trouble among the

elected men in the older parties, no one ever thinks of consulting the executive. The party leaders, the elected men themselves, de-cide what should be done.

A LITTLE JUNTA

A LITTLE JUNTA

If a row like that which is now facing the C.C.F. broke out in the Liberal Party, for example, if one of the Liberal members of the House involved the party in a fiasco, Premier Pattullo would deal with him—and quickly, and would have the Liberal elected Liberals deal with him.

If necessary the offending Liberal could be read out of the party right on the floor of the House.

But the C.C.F. House members are unable to do anything of the

They must refer the question to the executive in Vancouver, a little junta which has no respon-sibility to the public and is large-ly unknown to it.

It is this undemocratic principle which has been thrown into highlight by the Telford affair and has made the elected C.C.F. men restive. They will not come back here without a new deal and without a leader. As everyone without a leader. As everyone realizes, what the C.C.F. must first have, if it is to get anywhere, is a leader—not merely a House leader—but a complete leader, who would form a government if the party were elected, and this leader must be a member of the House. ber of the House

IF PARTY BACKS HIM

Every student among the C.C.F. party knows that the person and position of a Prime Minister is so important—controlling as it does the dissolution of the government and the whole legislature—that the public has the right to know before an election the leader of any party, so that it may know who is going to be premier if it is elected to office. Dr. Telford walked out of the C.C.F. caucus, but may return. Anyway, he is in the party, and it is in the party that his strength lies,

If the party should back him against the House members, a grave breach would follow.

Peace makers may be able to smooth the difficulty over by disciplining Dr. Telford, inducing him to agree to work with the caucus, instead of working independently. He will have to agree to this arrangement before he is pendently. He will have to agree to this arrangement before he is re-admitted to the caucus, since it has decided definitely that all members must consult with the group as a whole before making charges or taking any other action liable to involve the group. The C.C.F. executive will have to agree to this or force the revolt of the House members.

ALL FOR THE BEST

While all this has created very trying situation for the C.C.F., Socialist leaders think it is all for the best, that the party will emerge from its difficulty stronger in its organization than

At all costs, they realize, the party had to disassociate itself party had to disassociate itself from Dr. Telford's bridge charges, and if, as a further result, the party procedure is reorganized to put the elected members in a proper position, all the present trouble, they think, will have been well worth while.

Clearly, if it waste

been well worth while.

Clearly, if it wants to gain the support of British Columbians who are wedded to the democratic process, it will have to make its elected men supreme, remove them from the suspicion of outside junta influences.

Credit Unions Bill Launched In Legislature

Maximum Interest Rates Set At 1 Per Cent Monthly

By Sun Staff Reporter VICTORIA, Dec. 3. — Credit unions in B. C. will be permitted to issue an unlimited number of

shares of \$5 denomination. The government introduced a bill in the Legislature Friday night permitting unions to oper-

The purpose of the unions, cited in the bill, is to raise funds by subscriptions from members and to make loans to them.

Loans can only go to members and only for a provident, produc-tive or merchandising purpose, A special committee will approve loans.

Interest chargeable is limited to a maximum of 1 per cent per month, exclusive of financing

charges.

No security is required for loans less than \$100, but if security is asked, a member's note can be accepted.

Will Telford Resign, Then Run Again?

A new and bold move by Dr. Lyle Telford, stormy petrel of the C.C.F. legislative caucus, to seek personal vindication from his constituents of Van-couver East, was foreshadow-ed today in discussions in high C.C.F. circles

The move, it is reported, may involve his speedy resignation as M.L.A. for the riding which placed him at top of the poll in the elections of June 1, 1937,

rith nearly 12,000 votes.

In the by-election to follow,
Dr. Telford would stake his political future in a contest with all comers, it is said.

CHALLENGE TO CRITICS

Developments over the week-end probably will determine how far Dr. Telford will go. According to one story today he will consult his constituents

he will consult his constituents and the party executive, and, if they are agreeable to his course, his resignation will follow and his hat will be in the ring to challenge not only the Pattullo government, against whom he made his ill-fated bridge graft charges, but critics within his own party, not excluding Harold Winch, M.L.A., who was his running-mate in Vancouver East last year and trailed him by a matter of only 400 votes.

NO WORD FROM CAUCUS

The doctor is in the city this reek-end conducting his own

week-end conducting his own negotiations.

He consulted with the local officials of the party and club leaders today and laid his cards frankly upon the table.

Party leaders in Vancouver

say they have not yet received any communication on the Tel-ford incident from the C.C.F. caucus in Victoria, and they in-cline to the opinion there will

Mr. Speaker **Despotic Power**

Sir,—The public of B. C. are indebted to your paper for the illuminating report of the dog fight in the legislature, which fairly indicates the partizan and truculent attitude of Mr. Speaker.

Has it come to such a pass that Members of the Legislature have to hold clandestine meetings in the Speaker's chambers before they can succeed in bringing resolutions or motions before the House, or secure his gracious leave to put questions relative to matters of public interest or business on the Order Paper?

All manner of men have filled our Speaker's chair, many of them crude and unsophisticated, but having withal an underlying fairness and determination to be impartial, with due regard for the great responsibility of their position.

position.

It is a sad travesty on the tradition of this high office when a
man learned in the law should
crawl into the Speaker's chair
and exercise such dictatorial and
deapotic rower.

Monkman Pass

Mr. H. G. T. Perry, M.L.A., does well to insist upon a special appropriation in the road estimates for \$20,000 to complete the Monkman Pass Highway from this end.

There are assets of the flesh and there are assets of the spirit. The initiative and enterprise by the Peace River people who conceived and went ahead with this enterprise are among the most valuable assets this country possesses.

If Victoria cannot spend \$20,000 on the encouragement of an asset of the spirit, not to mention certain very definite advantages to the flesh, then Victoria has fallen to a low level of comprehension and appreciation indeed.

First announcement of the government's proposal to tax undistributed profits was distinctly bewildering. The matter was presented to the House yesterday, without previous notice of any intention of the kind by the government. Businessmen could not understand the sudden introduction of this measure after the Minister of Finance had announced, in his budget speech, that there will be no change in taxation at this session.

It would be vastly better if the government would take the business community more into its confidence in these matters and so avoid the unsettling of conditions which these announcements are bound to cause.

It certainly appears clear that no matter how strenuously the government of British Columbia may desire to induce the division of profits, this proposed tax can hardly apply itself equitably in one province without being enforced with equal vigor in all provinces.

New businesses and enterprises will hardly choose British Columbia for their scene of operations if they can escape this impost by establishing in other sections of the country.

Moreover, if surplus profits are allowed to accumulate with the honest and sincere intention of expanding business and industries, it would seem that the Government would stand to derive a much greater revenue from the fruits of that expansion than to levy against the capital with which

that expansion is planned to be undertaken.

It is thoroughly clear that such a tax could not be imposed inflexibly. There must be some give and take in it. There must be due regard to the intent of those who allow profits to accumulate.

In the explanations given in our des-patches from Victoria, the government intimates that no harm to growing industry shall come from the new legislation.

What worries businessmen generally is that new and added burdens of taxing authority are being assumed by the government from time to time. These encroach-ments are threats against business expann; there is no use attempting to evade the implication that, on occasion, the govern-ment may apply an objectionable grip on the free and untrammelled operation of

similar results by other methods will not go down well with the general public.

What induces distrust of the govern-

ment's sudden proposal is that it goes much further than federal income tax provisions of similar kind and that it appears to be ased more on the drastic Roosevelt program which has spread dismay and ruin through the business community in the United States.

Courts Are Narrowing Our Rights, Says Wismer

Attorney-General Moves Second Reading of Bill Bolstering Validity of Gasoline Measure

By Sun Staff Reporte

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—The government's gasoline price-fixing policy was thrown into sharp debate Friday night when Attorney-General Wismer put through second reading of his bill attempting to bolster validity of the price-fixing law by declaring its intention.

Mr. Wismer insisted it be put through because courts, in their decisions, are narrowing down provincial rights.

"If it isn't so it's high time this Legislature went into the wholm provincial rights."

He said the actual legality of respective positions of the court

He said the actual legality of He said the actual legality or the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Act was not doubted, either by the court or by coun-sel, but Mr. Justice Manson's in-junction was given largely on the ground that the act implemented Mr. Justice Macdonald's coal and oil report. Since this report covered matters far afield from the province the court stopped the act being carried out.

URGENT MATTER

"This is a very important matter," the Attorney-General said, "because of the various court decisions narrowing down provincial rights."

Mr. Wismer insisted that when the House passed the act last year it had no intention of im-

year it had no intention of implementing the Macdonald report, which, at that time, had been read by few of the members.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, did not oppose passage of the bill, but he warned it would probably be a hardship, rather than a help, in the government's fight to protect the validity of its price-fixing.

ing.

He criticized the retroactive nature of the antendment and said that few legislatures would attempt to bolster a law up in this fashion when litigation was before the courts.

NOT CONSIDERED

"This bill itself is the strong-est argument against the Attor-ney General's own contention, namely, that that Macdonald re-port was not considered by the House when it passed the first act,"

mr. Maitland insisted the gov-rument had a clear way out by mply repealing the fuel act and inging coal and petroleum roducts under the new public

'If it isn't so it's high time this It isn't so it's night time this Legislature went into the whole matter and settled for good the respective positions of the courts and the Legislature." MA

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ANSCOMB CRITICAL

Herbert Anscomb, Con., Victoria, criticized the principle of the bill. To begin with, he said, everyone in the House knew the original act was based on the Macdonald report. If it was not, then the government had wasted its \$125,000 spent on the com-

He said the bill was unfair to business interests who were taking their case to courts and suddenly finding the government bringing down legislation to wipe out their contentions.

Premier Pattullo entered the debate to insist that the will of the Legislature, as expressed in its laws, should be the absolute rule of the country so long as it was within its own jurisdiction.

ONLY AS WORDED

Decisions in English courts held in high esteem the world over, always dealt with the word ing of a statute as it was passed and did not refer back to some thing that happened before.

The Premier said the plain fact was that the people thought the price of gasoline too high. Through the Legislature they de Through the Legislature they de-cided they wanted to reduce it. That was their sole intention and they had no idea of affecting busi-ness in California or anywhere

"They can talk about a fir "They can talk about a final authority resting with the courts," he said. "The final authority is with the people. When the people express their will through the Legislature the duty of the courts is simply to interpret what this will is, when expressed in a statute."

New Taxation Plan 'Handicap to Industry'

The Finance Minister Promised No New Taxation'; Mining Companies May Be Hardest Hit

News of the proposed new undistributed profits tax burst like a bombshell in the Vancouver business and financial community overnight and today preparations are under way to give serious examination to features of the bill.

The executive of the Board of

Trade and the B. C. Bond Deaters' Association will discuss the proposed tax at special meetings

Until they have studied the bill usiness leaders in Vancouver prefer to withhold comment.

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Murray Brink, president of the B.C. Bond Dealers' Association, announced this morning that an executive meeting of that organization will be held at noon on Monday to discuss the proposed law on profits.

Monday to discuss the proposed tax on profits.

Although investment men and others were inclined to withhold comment until further study of the proposed legislation, or until meetings have been held to deal with the situation, concern was expressed unofficially.

Various investment dealers are of the opinion that such legisla-

of the opinion that such legisla-tion might hurt confidence of in-vestors in B.C. industry.

One businessman stated he could not understand (why B.C. should attempt to adopt legislation that has already proved unsuccessful in the United States. As an instance, he explained that he knows of one company in B.C. that earned 20 per cent on its common stock but has been using its profits to pay off a \$150,000 bank loan.

RATHER PAY DEBTS FIRST

"If, as I understand it, a per-centage of these profits would have to be distributed among shareholders, this one company would be years in paying off its bank loan and expansion of the company's operations held back," he said.

"It is my opinion that it is bet-ter for shareholders and all con-cerned that plant expansion and paying off of debts is much more urgent than immediate divi-

paying off of debts is much more urgent than immediate dividends," he continued.

Business men agree that there are companies putting money in the bank, earning 1½ per cent in terest when dividends could be paid, but they say this is the exception rather than the rule, especially since the depression when business was forced to borrow heavily to maintain operations in the face of decreased trade.

These loans are now being paid

Mining company officials are of the opinion that imposition of the proposed tax would do much to hamper the development of the mining industry.

One mining company operator says that the 15 per cent tax on excess profts is already coveried in the federal taxes in section 2D of the income war tax, which forces distribution of such profits.

company need not necessarily be hold stock in several smaller mining companies which they might be forced to sell on the market to satisfy government demands, thus putting the smal-ler company in an embarrassing position, they state.

Small mining companies would especially be hurt by distributing funds which otherwise would be put into the development of mines and create employment, it was the opinion of one leading mining man in Vancouver.

HART'S PROMISE

Alex McKelvie, chairman of the B. C. division of the Cana-dian Manufacturers' Association,

"One's first reaction to the in come tax act announcement of yesterday is one of surprise in view of the statement made by Mr. Hart when he introduced the budget, that no changes are contemplated in the tax structure of templated in the tax structure of the province until such time as definite conclusions have been arrived at pursuant to the in-vestigation and findings by the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial relations.

"This amendment would cer-tainly seem to be a change in the basis of taxation of certain corporations.

FIFTEEN PER CENT TAX

"The taxing provisions of the act hitherto in effect gave the Minister power to tax undistributed profits in the hands of a corporation where, in his opinion, such profits or reserves were not being distributed, in order to evade taxation.

"As I read the new act," continued Mr. McKelvie, "such corporations will be given the opporations will be given the operations will be given the operations will be given the operations.

tinued Mr. McKelvie, "such cor-porations will be given the op-tion of paying out to sharehold-ers undistributed profits, but if these are not made, the Minister may levy a 15 per cent tax on any part of the surplus in the hands of the company. y part of the surplus in the nds of the company. 'While, on the phraseology of

the new act it seems to be aimed chiefly at holding companies or personal corporations,

panies or personal corporations, it is bound to apply also to a considerable number of industries in the province, the control of which is in the hands of a limited number of persons.

"The limit set by the new act is five persons, but while that number might easily have over 51 per cent of the stock, the balance might be widely distributed."

Mr. McKelvie went on. "So it

Mr. McKelvie went on. "So it would appear that many other corporations besides personal or family corporations would be affected by the new tax."

Alberni's Ambition

There is one thing you may always safely bet upon in a "redistribution" measure. It is that the political party in power is endeavoring to recast boundaries and ridings for the purpose of improving the chances of election of its supporters. If the job is too raw or otherwise barefaced, the opposition party raises the cry of gerrymander.

B.C. Legislature is presently engaged in this high-class manipulation. The backbone of the body politic is subject to irregular growth. A vertebra, here and there, sticks up or slumps out of place. A shift in density in population will occasionally show the need of application of the chiropractor's craft. Sometimes there is a reason infinitely more subtle.

The Islands constituency is one of the oldest in British Columbia. That picturesque group, which most people see and admire from the deck of the Vancouver-Victoria day steamer, was first settled back in the sixties. long before Vancouver—as a city—was thought of. Now, what about it?

Alberni, with its logging and lumber mills, its fisheries and its potential development in West Coast mining, is one of the fastestgrowing districts of the province. Presently, it is attached to Nanaimo, for purposes of representation. Today, Alberni demands a member of its own. Very laudable, replies the government. But it is unthinkable, in the present state of our politics, that a new constituency should be added. Therefore, to make up for the rebirth of Alberni, the extinction of The Islands is proposed.

Yes, gentle reader, that little suspicion growing in your mind is founded on a basis of truth. The member of the Islands is a Conservative gentleman, a returned soldier, and of all our younger legislators, on either side of the House, one of the most up-andcoming—an altogether promising specimen. The idea is to attach the Islands to Nanaimo, which is geographically adjacent, but separated for all practical purposes by considerable channels of very deep salt water. The only way for a resident of The Islands to get to Nanaimo is to charter an airplane or take steamer to Vancouver or Victoria and make a new start.

We have a friendly sympathy with the growing aspirations of Alberni, but the plan to "redistribute" The Islands out of an ancient heritage doesn't sound so good. There is no need of hurried action about this proposal and a fair compromise might be to lay the whole plan on the shelf until next year. Some more equitable solution may then suggest itself.

House Planning to

End Session Friday
VICTORIA, Dec. 5. — The
Legislature resumed its session
here today, hoping to complete it
by Friday night. Only major
business yet to be introduced is
the government's Redistribution
Bill, which will be ready during
the next day or two.

It is understood that the government will go ahead with its plan to place part of Vancouver East into Point Grey, even though the Redistribution Committee of the Legislature rejected the proposal.

Some powerful Liberals were hoping to have the whole bill laid on the table for a year.

Telford Offers to Fight Election on Bridge Probe

Willing to Resign 'If I Have to Get Out of My Party'; Seeks Royal Commission

Dr. Lyle Telford, M.L.A., and mayoralty candidate, is epared to resign his seat in the Provincial Legislature and fight a by-election on the Pattullo Bridge question, if he gets permission of the C. C. F. Party.

He told this to an enthusiastic audience in Moose hall on Sun-day night, which listened to him rake the Pattullo Government e and aft, and outline some of ideas for running Vancouver as its mayor.

WANTS COMMISSION

"I'm so sure I'm right about y charges in connection with "I'm so sure I'm right about my charges in connection with the Pattullo bridge that I'm willing to resign and fight a by-election. But what I really want is a royal commission. If I get it is a royal commission. wreck the government,

declared.

"If I've got to get out of public life I'm willing to do it. I foresaw the danger and I took it on the chin myself, because didn't want to get my party in-

volved.

'T'll get out of the party if I have to, but I'm going to stay right with this issue and fight it to a standstill. But I know my party will give me the right to resign and fight my seat again on it. I'll open up and make charges, and then watch the government scurry.

READY TO TESTIFY

"If I had wanted to welsh on my pledge I could have put two witnesses on the stand who would have proved my charges, but they are ready to go on the stand now, and I'm willing to stake my future on the faith of those two people," he added. Dr. Telford recounted the his-

tory of his bridge charges, of collusion between the bridge company and the Pattullo Govcompany and the Fartuilo Gov-ernment on the question of steel; of the government three times amending the Fraser River Bridge Act in favor of the com-pany, and then buying back its charter for \$225,000. He showed lantern slides of documents that

lantern slides of documents that featured his charges, and which were brought before the committee of the legislature recently.

The speaker took a rap at The Vancouver Sun. Then he gave The Daily Province a thankful pat on the back for its editorial on Saturday on the bridge subject.

He charged again that the Pat-

take any action on an offer to lay down gasoline in Vancouver at 20 cents a gallon.
"Pattullo said that offer came from an irresponsible party, but that irresponsible party was the chief government witness before the government's fuel commission," he added.

CIVIC AFFAIRS

Swinging to the municipal camaign, the speaker applied the ridge episode to civic affairs. "When I'm mayor," he said, ill future contracts will be on pen bids, when the most honest

I know we can't rectify things at once. I know I can't at or pull down taxes and interest un-der the present system. But let der the present system. But let us fight for a change, and mean-while let us be honest in our dealings with our fellow men."

He lashed out at the B. C. Electric Co., and suggested the city operate its own electric power plant rather than be "dictated to by watered stock."

MILK CENTRES

He proposed opening milk dis-tribution centres similar to those in New York, and proposed op-erating a municipal bakery to bring down the price of bread. Dealing with potatoes, he cited an instance where B.C. potatoes were selling in Hong Kong for \$11 a ton, and were quoted here

at \$38 a ton.

Dr. Telford loosed a barrage on the question of gasoline storage tanks scattered throughout Vancouver. He quoted a letter from the Dominion fire commissions. sioner, Ottawa, to the effect that they "constitute a major commu-nity hazard," and should be com-pletely isolated in a specially des-

ignated district.

The police department is effi-ciently manned, but, he alleged, the heads of that department are

"When I go in they can get ready to go out," he said. The "tinsel" of ballyhoo will be stripped aside and sincere respect paid to Their Majesties when they visit Vancouver, "if I am your mayor," Dr. Telford said when talking municipal and provincial

I think the King and Queen will be glad to get away from all the pomp for a change, and enjoy the sincere respect of their peo-ple. That is the kind of respect I will give," he said.

Tax Act As New Burden

Gov't May Even Collect Surtax Before Surpluses Distributed

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 5. — The provincial government's new attempt to force family corporations and closely-held private companies to distribute their profits and make them open to surtax drew the spotlight here today as business leaders became frightened of a heavy new tax

The government renewed its assurance that the undistributed profits tax is directed at compara tively few private companies, but it was agreed the proposed new law establishes an important principle in plugging a loophole in the income for in the income tax.

CAN "ASSUME" PAYMENT

Both the Dominion and the other provinces have clauses in their income tax laws dealing

with undistributed profits.
So has British Columbia

But the principle in the present law has been that if the govern-ment thinks a company is piling up excessive surpluses without distributing them it can assume that they have been paid out in dividends and tax the sharehold-

dividends and tax the shareholders accordingly.

The new plan, however, will give the Treasury power to step in and actually force some companies to pay surtax before the surpluses are distributed.

There is a safeguard that when a surplus is taxed in this way it cannot be taxed again when it is finally distributed in dividends.

IN ANOTHER PROVINCE

The main object of the new tax is to prevent family corporations from evading the surtax by set-

from evading the surtax by setting up holding companies which do not collect their dividends, but let surpluses accumulate in the bank when the shareholders do not need the cash.

Some corporations have discovered, for instance, that by setting up a holding company in an other province to draw the dividends from the parent company within this province, some of the surtax can be avoided.

That is why the treasury proposes to take power to tax the undistributed profits at their source within this province.

FLAT 15 PERCENT

FLAT 15 PERCENT

The ordinary surtax starts at 1 per cent and increases gradually up to 18 per cent on amounts over

The new tax is set at a flat 15 er cent, so that on small unounts it would be higher than

posed law a company will be notified by the treasury if its surpluses are considered excessive and will have a chance to distribute them before any levy is

WON'T AFFECT LARGE FIRMS

As far as public companies with large numbers of share-holders are concerned, it is not expected they will be affected by

This is chiefly because when there are many sharehoiders they continually demand all the dividends a company can stand and it has no chance to let I surplus lie idle in the bank.

surplus lie idle in the bank.

But in companies where a few
well-to-do men have complete
control, and do not need to draw
al ltheir profits, they can let the
surplus accumulate.

The new levy does not apply,
of course, to ordinary reserves
for depreciation, had debts and
so forth.

The treasury has always

The treasury has always had authority to tell a company if it htinks reserves of htis nature are being carried too high.

Board of Trade Debates Legislation

Representations concerning the Undistributed Profits Tax Act now before the legislature are likely to be made to Hon. John Hart, finance minister, by Vancouver Board of Trade on Tuesday.

A meeting of the executives of

A meeting of the executives of the mining and the insurance, financial and real estate bureaus of the board today did not reach finality, and definite action could not be forecast.

It is understood that the prevailing opinion at the conference was that the minister of finance already has, in the existing Income Tax Act, all the essential powers sought in the new bill, and that further legislation is not called for.

The B. C. Bond Dealers' Association met at noon to discuss the undistributed profits tax bill, but had no statement to make when the meeting ended.

It will be further considered at a meeting later today.

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\$750,000 Estate, Widow Has Never Got Cent of It

Legislature to Act in Strange Case of Forgotten Vancouver Woman Who May Get \$250,000

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—In 1904 Henry Towne, who had
made two great fortunes and lost most of them, died in Australia

Today his estate has grown to \$750,000, but his widow living in Vancouver has never got a cent of the principal and is in need.

This week the Legislature will be asked to step into this strange story and order about a third of the fortune handed over to Mrs. Towne and her children.

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For thirty-four years no one could think of a way of dividing the estate in a fashion to help the widow.

Towne's will provided that his money should go to the child-ren of his sisters if they had any.

One of the sisters died childless and the other in Australia is over enty and has no child.

The will says that if the sisters have no children the estate shall go to the Salvation Army and other charities.

CHARITIES AGREE

G. G. McGeer, K.C., counsel for Mrs. Towne devised the pre-sent method of legislating direct

He and other counsel are pre-paring a bill to be introduced in the Legislature by a private member along the lines of simi-lar legislation passed in other

The future of Mrs. Towne and her children thus rests today on the decision of the House.

An amicable settlement has been arranged between Mrs. Towne, the executors of the es-tate and the charities involved in

Mrs. Towne is satisfied with \$250,000, the executors and law-yers would be paid their fees, and the remainder, something under \$500,000, would be distributed pro rata among the charities.

The Legislature thus is asked only to ratify an arrangement satisfactory to all concerned.

MADE DIAMOND FORTUNE

Towne went to South Africa as boy, took over an abandoned amond mine, discovered one amond in it worth \$5000, and deaned up a fortune est at more than a million

mated at more than a million dollars.

He lost heavily, moved to Vancouver and then to Australia, where he made more money in real estate.

When he died his fortune had shrunk, but it has increased in value in the last thirty-four years, while his widow has often lived in poverty, members of the legislature have been assured.

If her husband had died recently Mrs. Towne could have applied for a portion of the estate under the provincial Testators Family Maintenance Act, which is designed to protect widows where their husbands leave them out of their wills.

The act, however, is not retro-

Telford Course Opposed

C.C.F. House Members Object to Plan to **Resign Seat**

(See Also Page 12)

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—If Dr. Lyle Telford, M.L.A., resigns his seat in Vancouver East, he may cause a major breach in the whole C. C. F. Party, C. C. F. members of the when they prepared to demand that Dr. Telford shall not resign and plunge the party into a by-election fight on the discredited Pattullo Bridge charges, which they can not support. House made that clear today

WARN EXECUTIVE

At a caucus today the members are expected to warn the party's Provincial Executive that it should not permit Dr. Telford to resign. If he does resign, the House members will not be able

to support him.

It is believed in C.C.F. circles here that Dr. Telford will accept the view of his fellow House members and withdraw his threat

to resign.

If the executive should refuse to permit the resignation, he would automatically read himself out of the party if he resigned. On the other hand, if the House members opposed the resignation and the executive approved it, tithis would create a grave breach between the elected men and the party organization.

MEMBERS DISCIPLINE

It is expected that the executive will avoid the difficulty by warning Dr. Telford not to resign. But no one pretends to know what Dr. Telford will do.

Meanwhile the House members asserting themselves as they have never done before have dealt with Dr. Telford in their own way. He must either accept their terms or he will not be readmitted to the C. C. F. CHICULS.

Last week he boited from the caucus in anger when it passed a resoution under which no members may bring charges against the government or take other action likely to involve the whole group, without consulting them group, without consulting them in advance. Dr. Telford refused to agree to this rule and burst out of the causus room.

Today's developments may efefct a program which apparently was designed to make Dr. Tel-ford leader of the C. C. F.. The program included three steps: First Dr. Telford's election to

the Vancouver mayoralty.

Second a by-election in Vaccouver East and his triumphant return to the Legislature and

Third—At a party convention next summer his elevation to the party leadership.

STRENGTHEN PARTY

The House members were quick to see these possibilities. They realized that if Dr. Telford resigned in Vancouver East and were re-elected he would be more powerful than ever, and the House group, which declined to support his bridge charges, would be correspondingly weaker. By resigning now Dr. Telford could rally around him many C.C.F. workers who did not support the bridge charges, but who would be bound to support their party's candidate in an election. The result of the present The House members were quick-

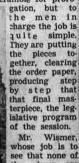
The result of the present trouble, C.C.F. members believe, will be to strengthen the party by closing its ranks. At all costs to avoid any split and to heal any threat of trouble before it breaks out. any threat breaks out.

New Deal-ish Or Russian Or Perhaps German

By BRUCE HUTCHISON e Vancouver Sun's Staff Reporte

VICTORIA, Dec. 6. — The dying hours of this session started Monday and, according to the old paradox, the House came to life with a start—a kind of fierce final spasm which inevitably precedes dissolution.

In the next four days the House will do as much work as it has done in the last four weeks. To the outsider it will look like a wild, inchoate pro-cess, a mad scramble for proro-



They are putting the pieces to gether, clearing the order paper, producing step by step that that final masterpiece, the legislative program of the session.

see that none of the pieces are left over when the subsides next Friday, pushed ahead the cleaning-up process most of Monday, and the House, which has no wish to spend another week-end in this salubrious climate, co-operated with him right loyally. By the end of the day Mr. Wismer could see daylight ahead and a clear road to Christmas.

Ousted Roosevelt

First job of the afternoon was to launch the new undistributed profits tax, which had an unfortunate arrival into the world of politics—what you might call a premature birth. It could have arrived peaceably enough if Mr. Hart had paved the way for it, caucused it and, perhaps, let the business community know it was coming. But, thinking it was quite an obvious and necessary thing, he launched it without telling anyone—and the outcry surprised him.

When Mr. Hart introduced his first financial child, the budget, he indicated that it would be his last for the present year. But here in the undistributed profits tax the House thought it saw a little brother—a very little one, to be sure, but, as Mr. Anscomb suggested, likely to grow into a big one after a while.

Mr. Hart denied any such possibility, insisted he was merely tightening up the present taxation machinery. When Mr. Anscomb suggested that the new legislation was Rooseveltian—this, apparently, being his supreme expression of scorn—Mr. Pattullo was prompt to make

ment here had enunciated its policy. Mr. Roosevelt was not present to deny that he had got his ideas from Mr. Pattullo, but a couple of big-time writers from one of the largest American magazines, who were present in the press gallery, got quite a kick out of the notion that perhaps the New Deal was born in British Columbia. orn in British Columbia.

Russian or German

Mr. Anscomb agreed that Mr. Pattullo was leading Mr. Roosevelt—another expression of high contempt—and leading him into the wilderness whence neither of them would return. Mr. Pattullo them would return. Mr. Pattlino smiled tolerantly, perhaps think-ing that he was in good company. rapidly coming of political age, knows that most British Colum-bians are still attached to the in-stitution of private property.

Alaska Highway

Meanwhile the House had other things to consider and in the evening encountered the first serious filibuster of the session. When the road appropriations appeared the House, like a pack of hounds that has smelled a strong seent, burst out in full cry.

Hour after hour members ros Hour after hour members rose to demand more money for their local roads, until Mr. MacPher-son retorted bluntly that there wouldn't be a cent for a new road until he had finished those under

Just before 1 o'clock the Hous Just before 1 o'clock the House came finally to an appropriation of \$25,000 for preliminary surveys on the Alaska Highway, for which it had been waiting avidly all day, and after the Premier had defended it and Mr. Maithand had attacked it, the C.C.F. which had been quiet most of the day, suddenly burst out in protest.

said Mr. Winch, Mr. Pat-If, said Mr. Winch, Mr. Pattullo wanted co-operation in ending the session it would be better to let everyone go to bed,
which in layman's languagemeans that the C.C.F. is prepared to blockade business if
these long hours continue.

The Premier, refusing to yield
to the threat, retorted that the
members had talked endlessly all
night, done no business and if

night, done no business and if the House couldn't finish this the House couldn't finish this week it could go on sitting as long as it liked. It began to look like an all-night hold-up, but in the end after 1 o'clock this morning the opposition broke down, the Alaska road vote passed and everybody staggered to bed. Now we know we are in the dying hours. The wonder is we don't die with them. die with them. It looked as if the undistributed

profits tax would go through without much trouble.

More laborious was the pas-sage of the Public Utility Act, sage of the Public Utility Act, which is going through by inches. Mr. Maitland and Mr. Anscomb rose to a fine pitch of procest against the clause by which a public utility plant can be served if the owners fall to obey the orders of the public utility commission. Russian, Mr. Maitlard called it, but Mr. Anscomb considered it German, a nice point of ethnology which didn't hold it up very long.

Mr. Winch seized the opportunity to inject a little socialist propaganda by declaring that the Pablic Utility Act, instead of going too far, didn't go far enough. It should enable the government,

careful to say that the share-holders should be paid for their investment — a phrase which showed that the C.C.F. group,

Business Protests New Tax

Board of Trade, C.M.A. Make Submissions To John Hart

Direct opposition of Van-couver Board of Trade to the undistributed profits tax bill now before the Legislature is voiced in a letter sent to Hon. John Hart, following a conference of bureau executives Monday.

BOARD'S OPINIONS

The board contends:
That undistributed profits belong to shareholders, who are best qualified and alone justified in deciding as to their disposition:

the undistributed profits represent funds which paid provincial and federal in-

paid provincial and federal in-come tax when earned; That the proposed tax would discourage new incorporations and encourage transfer of corporate assets outside the province; That the companies most likely

to be affected use their undis-tributed profits to acquire and develop new assets and thus perpetuate their lives beyond the operation from which the undistributed profits may be

unpredictably large

may be required for future expansion and development; That undistributed profits may be represented by assets other than cash, so that a tax of 15 per cent might entail severe per cent hardship;

hardship;
That the principle of discretionary rather than an arbitrary tax is likely to disturb confidence of investors;
That the present provisions of sub-section 3 of section 22 of the Income Tax Act already gives the minister power to tax undistributed profits or gains. gains.

gains.
Murray Brink, president of the
B. C. Bond Dealers' Association,
said his organization has forwarded a letter to the Minister of Finance urging that wording of various sections of the Act be
changed.

changed.
Until a reply to the letter has been received, Mr. Brink states the Association will make no further announcement of what transpired at a meeting of the organization, Monday.

Drivers Not Liable

Act Widens Civic Powers

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Laws governing municipalities will be amended under a bill to amend the Municipal Act, introduced Monday by Hon. A. Wells Gray.

Some of the major points are: Power is given councils to gov-ern the kinds of building that may be erected.

1. Councils are given authority to regulate taxi rates.

Subject to the Public Utilities Act, councils are given power to grant exclusive transporta-tion franchises or join with neighboring municipalities in granting them.

Councils are given power to control objectionable noises.

Councils are empowered to tax for library services

District municipalities are entitled to vote money for enter-taining distinguished visitors.

Tax rates for general purposes are pegged at 35 mills.

Matsqui is given authority to enter a medical service scheme for its residents.

Councils are given power to enter agreements under the Na-tional Housing Act.

B.C. Tax Act 'Rooseveltian'

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Hon. John
Hart, Minister of Finance, assured the Legislature Monday that
his new undistributed profits tax
plan does not constitute an increase in taxation but it simply a
weapon by which the present
surtax law can be enforced and
actually wills frect only half a
dozen companies.

dozen companies.

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, insisted the bill had a Rooseveltian tinge to it and appeared to be the thin edge of the wedge for more taxation.

HART ATTACKED

HART ATTACKED

He criticized Mr. Hart for having promised there would be no taxation changes this session and then bringing down the bill.

"You're just quibbling in that," said Mr. Hart. "Tve already said it is not an increase in taxation."

"Then why bring it in?" asked Mr. Anscomb.

"It's simply to help us enforce our law as it now is," said Mr. Hart.

DEBATE ADJOURNED

DEBATE ADJOURNED

E. E. Winch, C. C. C., Burnaby, wanted to know it it would apply against the Consolidated Mining % Smelting Company, which, he said, had reserves larger than its original capitalization.

Mr. Hart assured him the Consolidated is already taxed in all its provincial operations.

Second reading of the bill was held up when R. L. Maitland, K. C., Opposition leader, adjourned the debate.

Telfo Unli To R

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VICTORIA Lyle Telford from the Le vindication Bridge charg

This is the standing am the House to C.C.F. caucus Telford to d tion threat.

TELFORD RE

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ADVICE GIVE

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Understanding in Victoria Executive Will Deny Its O.K.

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 6. — Dr. Lyle Telford will not resign from the Legislature to seek vindication for his Pattullo Bridge charges.

This is the definite understanding among members of the House today after the C.C.F. caucus had asked Dr. Telford to drop his resignation threat.

TELFORD RETURNS

The doctor returned to Victoria today and said only that he had asked the provincial executive of the party for permission to resign, and this request still was before the executive.

As the executive is expected to

before the executive.

As the executive is expected to support the views of the House members and refuse this permission there is nothing for Dr. Telford to do but retain his seat. The alternative would be to resign and leave the party. His friends, of course, are confident he will not create this grave rupture, but will abide by the executive's decision. On these prospects he had nothing to say. pects he had nothing to say

ADVICE GIVEN HIM

Apparently Dr. Telford has accepted the general advice of his party, and the breach between him and the House group will be assed over.

Late Monday the group issued

a statement repudiating Dr. Tel-ford's bridge charges and urging him not to resign on the basis of repeating them. So far as anyone knows here, Dr. Telford is prepared to accept this advice, but whether he will re-enter the C. C. F. House caucus, from which he bolted last week, is not

The whole issue of party discipline and control of elected members by the executive of the C. C. F. party, as raised by the present incident, will be fought out at the party convention of 1939

The statement of the C.C.F. group on the Telford case, issued by Harold Winch, whip and de facto House leader, follows:

TEXT OF STATEMENT

"TEXT OF STATEMENT
"The C. C. F. legislative group has seriously considered all phases of the recent charges made by Dr. Lyle Telford re alleged overpayment on the Pattullo bridge, and of all incidents arising therefrom, with the result that we have communicated with the provincial executive to the effect that as these charges were made without the knowledge of the C. C. F., and therefore can only be considered as individual action, and as any by-election would have to be contested on the basis of party policy, we therefore oppose the suggestion that Dr. Lyle Telford resign his

seat for the purpose of contest-ing a by-election on a subject not

seat for the purpose of contesting a by-election on a subject not involving party policy.

"In view of the situation that has arisen during the present session, the legislative group is requesting an early meeting with the provincial executive for the purpose of clarifying the relationship between all parliamentary representatives and the organization, and settling such matters as discipline and leadership."

Vancouver Advice **Against Resignation**

Against Resignation

Little likelihood exists that Dr. Lyle Telford will find the provincial executive of the C. C. F. or the C. C. F. District Council of the Vancouver East riding in sympathy with his desire to resign his legislative seat and contest a by-election with the government on the question of his Pattullo bridge graft charges.

"The C. C. F. would not stand for a fight on the bridge question in a by-election," Herbert Gargrave, provincial secretary of the party, said Monday, "We fight elections only on C.C.F. policy, and this does not involve C.C.F. policy."

The District Council of Vancouver East is reluctant to undertake a by-election because of the express entailed. Clubs was

dertake a by-election because of the expense entailed. Clubs rep-resented on the council have all signified their continued confi-dence in the doctor, C. C. F. cir-cles report

cles report.
From a high official of the movement it was learned today that Dr. Telford considers his political future involved, and depolitical future in a by-election.

sires vindication in a by-election.

"We have tried to point out to him that his political future is a minor consideration; that it is the C.C.F. movement that comes first," the official said.

The provincial executive has received from its legislative caucus in Victoria a detailed account of the Telford incident.

Members Determined To Suit Themselves By BRUCE HUTCHISON The Vancouver Surviver

By BRUCE HUTCHISON
The Vancouver Sun's Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—The C. C.
F. development actually was the
only real news in the House on
Monday, though it wasn't mentioned there at all. To look at
the faces of the Socialist members you wouldn't suspect that
they are now at a turning point
in their lives, asserting themselves in their party for the first
time and rising to the full stature
of elected men. of elected men.

of elected men.

That, 'n simple fact, is what all the talk about the C. C. F. and Dr. Telford means. This new thunder on the Left is basically a determination by the C. C. F. group in the House, like any other group of elected men. to suit itself and not to stay under remote control from the party executive. executive.

Alfalfa Muffins From Cariboo for M.L.A.'s

Cariboo for M.L.A.'s
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.— Louis LeBourdais (Lib. Cariboo), persuaded the parliamentary restaurant to make some alfalfa muffins for all members to taste.

He explained that the alfalfa
came from Whisky Creek, and
the flour from Soda Creek, both
in the Cariboo.

This made the muffins a complete Cariboo delicacy from
Whisky and Soda Creeks.

Premier Refuses Parley On New Utilities Bill

Vancouver Board of Trade and C.M.A. Request Rejected as 'Not in Interests of Economy

(See Also Page 22)
Written representations to Premier Pattullo regarding
the Public Utilities bill, made jointly by Vancouver Board of
Trade and Canadian Manufacturers' Association last Friday, received short shrift from the Premier.

ASKED FOR CONFERENCE

A conference with the Premier and the cabinet had been asked by telephone, but it is stated that the Premier's secretary replied that no appointment would be fixed without definite knowledge of the subject matter and that it should be outlined in a

The letter was sent Friday. The letter was sent Friday. Premier Pattullo's brief reply came Monday. Addressed to John Whittle, president of the Board of Trade, it said: "I do not think that any-

"I do not think that anything would be gained by an
interview along the lines of
your communication, and indeed it would be difficult to
arrange an appointment because of the fact that we are
nearing the end of the session.
"In my view your represent-

"In my view your represent-ations are not in the interests of sound public economy, and will not, therefore, be embodied in the Public Utilities Bill."

The joint letter outlined a number of objections to the bill in its form at that time, and it was contended that longer notice of the intended legislation should have been given to allow study and consultation.

INDEPENDENT BOARD

It was contended that the pub-lic utilities commission should be responsible only to the legisla-ture, and that it should be composed of three men "of outstand-ing ability, having the necessary technical knowledge to deal fair-ly and impartially with matters which will come before them."

Like the Board of Railway Com-Like the Board of Railway Commissioners, the commissioners on should be able to place its findings into effect without such findings being subject to review by the lieutenant governor in council, the letter urged.

It was also contended that there should be more adequate provision for reference to the

provision for reference to the courts, both with respect to law and fact, in case of difference between the commission and the industries controlled under the

Amendment Stops Fake Partnerships

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—The Board of Industrial Relations is going to get power to stop people ev ing the Hours of Work law

ing the Hours of Work law by setting up fake partnerships. In an amendment to the act introduced Monday, the board is entitled to declare which persons in such a partnership are to be considered as employer and which as employees. This also applies to co-operatives or other joint arrangements which are set up to beat the hours of work regulations.

Appeal on New **Utility Act Only** On Points of Law

By Sun Staff Reporter VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—The gov ernment's new Public Utility Act will be tightened up by amendment immediately. As amendment immediately. As drafted, the act allows public utility companies to appeal rulings of the Public Utility Commission on points of law to the B. C. Appeal Court.

They may also appeal on questions of fact and equity with the consent of the government.

ernment.

ernment.

The new amendment, drafted by Attorney General Wismer, will permit appeals only on questions of law. Under no circumstances will there be any appeals on questions of fact. The government feels, on mature consideration, that if appeals were permitted on questions of fact, there would be endless litigation over all be endless litigation over all orders of the commission.

Compensation Pay **Boosted** in Bill

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Labor today had won its fight to increase
the amount of compensation
workmen receive for injuries in

By amendments to the Work-men's Compensation Act intro-duced Monday, the proportion of wages which will be paid out in compensation is raised from 62½ per cent to 66 and two-thirds per cent.

cent.

The allowance for widows is increased from \$35 to \$40 a month and the total allowance for a family from \$65 to \$70. Funeral benefits are raised from \$100 to \$125. In the bill as tabled in the House the Government dropped a plan to force employers to take greater reseponsibility in seeing that saafety regulations are carried out.

To Check Venereal

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Wide powers to enforce treatment and isolation of persons suspected of having venereal disease is contained in a bill introduced Monday by Hon. G. M. Weir.

It gives power to police, on proper authority, to confine persons so afflicted.

B.C. Utilities Bill 'Russian, German Tactics' Cry Opposition

Object to Seizure Clause in Law

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—
Powers contained in the Public Utilities Bill enabling the government to step in and seize utility companies that do not obey orders were at-tacked in the Legislature Monday as "Russian legisla-tion" and "German tactics."

Attorney-General Wismer in-stated that they are necessary or else the government will be else the government will be started for the Privy Council on every order that is made and every lawyer in the province will be engaged on one side or

section conferring this power is numbered 98.

LIKE SECTION 98

"It's just like the old Section 98 of the Criminal Code," said R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conserva-tive leader. "It's the most un-Canadian and offensive legisla-tion I've seen, much after the Russian type."

The proper thing to do to enforce orders is to go to the courts and get a mandamus, he said, instead of wielding a big stick and

The attorney-general said simi-lar authority is given in all utility

ar authority is given that it was a well as with a said. "It doesn't mean we're going to step in and run the B.C. Electric or force them out of business. Why, if you didn't have this, and the utilities decided not to co-operate we'd be started for the Privy Council." Mr. Wismer pointed out that if the government ever had to take over a utility, the bill provides it must be run for the benefit of the sharehalders as well as the good of the public.

OBNOXIOUS MEASURES

"If we didn't have this in the bill we would never get the bene-fit of this legislation, and I doubt if our children would," he added. Herbert Anscomb, Conserva-tive, Victoria, said the fact the

tive, Victoria, said the fact the government needed such a big stick indicated it must be considering some obnoxious measures. "It's absurd," he said. "We're not in Germany, you know. There must be more reasonable means of enforcement. It's so amazing it's a wonder it is in print."

Mr. Wismer said he could not understand why, when the utility companies did not object to the section, the Opposition should suddenly become their protagonists.

After further discussion the debate was adjourned, the bill still far from complete.

Maitland and Anscomb Gov't Asked to Spend \$50 Millions on Roads'

Haig-Agassiz Highway Feasible' MacPherson Tells House During Debate on Estimates

No Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 6. — The Department of Public Works has requests for various roads in the province that would cost around \$50,000,000, Hon. F. M. MacPherson, Minister of Public Works, told the Legislature Monday night in course of the usual long debate on road estimates, when members from all sides of the House asked attention for their own particular highways.

MONKMAN PASS REFUSAL

"I don't intend to start any new roads or assume new obligations while we have a number of outstanding projects still uncompleted," the minister added, as he an nounced he would not a special grant for the Monkman road to the Peace River, unteer labor.

He also said that while local interests suggested a \$60,000 vote to complete the Hope-Princeton Highway his engineers estimate the cost at \$1,685,000, including surfacing.

Mr. MacPherson detailed the following as road projects asked of the government from various sources: Hope-Princeton; a road over the Cascades; the West Coast Road on Vancouver Island; Sproat Lake-Tofino Road; Gold-en-Yoho Road; Blue River Road along the North Thompson; the Northern Transprovincial Highway; relocation of the Cariboo Highway and the Garibaldi Park

In the debate Hon. R. L. Maitland, opposition leader, urged ap-pointment of a non-partisan high-way commission. When he de-nounced Charles Reid, Liberal nounced Charles Reid, Liberal organizer, for announcing that the government will build a road from Agassiz to Hope next year, Mr. MacPherson denied Mr. Reid's statement. Mr. Maitland said this was a case of politics in highway policy.

HAIG-AGASSIZ ROAD

Mr. MacPherson assured L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, that a Haig-Agassiz road is feasible, and field notes on the route have been taken, but he could not give any assurance when it will be built.

Pattullo 'Nearly Got'

Pattullo 'Nearly Got'
Million for Bridge
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Premier
Pattullo told the Legislature
Monday night that he nearly got
\$1,000,000 from Ottawa for the
old Fraser River bridge, but
something slipped and it did not
work out that way.

In order to avoid the possibility
of having to spend money for a
lift span in the old bridge the
province is turning it over to the
Dominion by a bill given third
reading Monday.

"We will turn over title of the
bridge to avoid responsibility,
said the Premier, "but we are no
going to surrender our mora

Maitland Approves Credit Unions Move

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—"Money lenders have no heart or soul. There is nothing more victous than the practise of usury in Vancouver today," R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, declared in the Legislature Monday when the new R. C. bill on the state of the content of the conte day when the new B. C. bill au thorizing the creation of credit unions was adopted.
"We of the legal profession

know many cases of men being ruined by the loan racket that goes on day after day. Their wives come and tell us about it,"

U.S. Offers 'No Interest' Loan for Alaska Highway

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Opposition members tried in vain Monday night to stop the Legislature voting \$25,000 for preliminary Alaska Highway surveys on the ground that there was no assurance the road is going to be built.

The money, Premier Pattullo said, would be spent on preliminary reconnaissance work.

"I don't think the public is in-terested in all this political by-play," he said. "What they want is action."

PARLEY WITH OTTAWA

The U.S. Government is ar-dently anxious for the Alaska road and willing to loan money without interest for its construc-tion, the premier said. It was only the act of a friend-ly neighbor to let the United States secure access to Alaska.

"This road will not be allowed to Interfere with any other road work undertaken by the government," he declared, "and the preliminary surveys will not start until negotiations have gone a little further." little further.'

He said he would discuss the whole project with Prime Minis-ter King in Ottawa early in the

SPENDING EPIDEMIC

R. L. Maitland, K. C., Opposition leader, said no one was satisfied with the existing roads of B. C., and yet the government seemed determined to embark on a "spending epidemic" on a road to Alaska.

It would be time to spend

money on surveys when a reliable report on the road project

able report on the road project has been received.
Meanwhile, the expenditure of \$25,000 on surveys would be "extravagant and unnecessary."
If the United States wants the road let it pay for the surveys, said Capt. MacGregor MacIntosh, Conservative, of The Islands.
The road would finally cost \$50,000,000 at least, he warned.
Sam Guthrie, C. C. F. member for Cowichan-Newcastle, objected to construction of the Alaska road while existing roads were in bad condition.

Illegal to Have Firearms in Cars Or Aboard Boats

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Carrying of firearms in vehicles on
highways or in boats, except
during the open game seasons,
will be prohibited under
amendments to the Game Act
introduced in the Legislature
Monday by Attorney-General
Wismer.

Wismer.

Carrying of firearms with a loaded magazine in any vehicle at any time is also prohibited by the new sections.

The bill also provides for the game commission to set up regulations under which wild birds and wild animals may be kept in captivity.

This was brought in by the Attorney-General in response to the move by Ernest E. Winch seeking a law to compel adequate bear cages.

Other new clauses put additional restrictions on farmers shooting game.

shooting game.

They will now be required to get a permit to shoot pheasants that are damaging their

And only farmers with at least five acres of ground will be entitled to shoot game under special provisions for farmers. Previously the rule was two acres.

Dr. Weir 1 ure to Sa

VICTORIA. servants will drastically re third or a qu scale, when scale, when superannuation

This, Hon.
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ISSUE DEB

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Civic Pension Plans Facing Drastic Slash

Dr. Weir Introduces Measure to Save Fund Before Wrecked

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA.—Many retired civic servants will find their pensions drastically reduced, perhaps to a third or a quarter of the present scale, when the new municipal superannuation scheme goes into effect.

This, Hon. G. M. Weir told the Legislature Monday, is a neces-sity if the whole superannuation program is to be salvaged before it goes broke.

Dr. Weir's legislation, however. permits any municipality to in-crease at its own expense the pensions set under the new regu-lations, which become operative

ISSUE DEBENTURES

With the lowering of pensions will go a government debenture issue of \$3,500,000 to be turned over to the new fund. This will replace various investments in the old fund which the treasury will take over in exchange, so it does not involve an increase in the provincial debt.

Pensions will be worked out on two separate bases; First, a serv-

Pensions will be worked out on two separate bases: First, a serv-ice pension of \$360 a year for employees that have worked for 20 years, all of which will be con-tributed by municipal councils; second, a supplementary annuity made up from employees' contri-

MUST RETIRE

Principles established by the new bill include: after 1942 an employee must be retired at the maximum retiring age; no one over 30, except executives, who is employed after the new plan can get under the scheme; retiring ages for women are fixed at from 55 to 60, for men from 60 to 65, and for firemen and policemen from 55 to 60.

After the new plan starts a new employee cannot get a pension unless he has worked 20 years for a city.

PENSIONS CUT

PENSIONS CUT

Those already employed, if they are retired before completing 20 years service, will have their \$360 service pensions reduced by the amount less than 20 years that they have worked. Hospital employees, formerly not included, can come under it in future. Herbert Anscomb, Conserva-

in future.

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, condemned the plan as a
breach of faith but the Weir bill
was approved on second reading.

Pattulio Span Pays
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Against
an income of \$274,288 in the last
12 months, the operating costs
and financial charges against the
Pattulio Bridge are approximately \$257,000 a year, Hon. F. M.
MacPherson told the Legislature
Monday. He said traffic in the
year ending Nov. 30 totalled
1,771,383 cars.

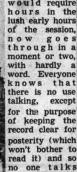
Speed Is Watchword Now at Victoria

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

The Vancouver Sun's Staff Reporter VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Hav-ing let the legislature talk beyond the rules, often beyond its mental powers, for five weeks, the government, in a sudden grim silence, began to push along the business of the country Tuesday in the last dash for proroga-

in the last dash for prorogation and Christmas.

This process is well known,
seasonal and inevitable. It has a
remarkable effect in expediting
the House, and business which
would require
hours in the
lush early hours
of the session,
n ow g oes



for the purpose of keeping the record clear for posterity (which won't bother to read it) and so no one talks much. Everyone wants to get on with the job and then to get home. At a time like this, tempers are

At a time like this, tempers are apt to grow short and they would be superhuman if they didn't. Thus when the opposition kept hammering at his plans for solidifying the proposed reductions in gasoline prices, Mr. Wismer began to show a human annoyance, not without shrewdness.

Where Do You Stand?

Where Do You Stand?

For some time he and Mr. Maitland had been arguing back and forth about the proper legal procedure for cutting gasoline prices, Mr. Maitland saying that they should be put under the new Public Utility Act to permit a new start, "sweet and clean"; Mr. Wismer insisting that this would delay a cut in gasoline prices for a couple of years.

Finally, Mr. Wismer, suspecting that there may be some politics in all this talk of law, burst out with a blunt protest. Let the honorable members of the opposition, quoth he, say now, right out like men, whether they really want the price of gasoline cut or not. In other words, those who arenot with us are against us in the fight to control the cost of motoring.

the right to control the cost of motoring.

Mr. Maitland, who had exhibited his best court room manner all day and quite floored the back benches with his legal learning, suspected that Mr. Wismer was attributing some ulterior motive to him. There was no ulterior motive, said he, no politics.

Mr. Wismer, relapsing to the amenities of the Supreme Court, begged the House to understand that he had suggested nothing of the sort. Of course not.

On to London

But, despite the impressive trappings of the court, Mr. Wis-mer's little studied indiscretion could mean only one thing—the government intends to make an issue, if necessary of its plan to issue, if necessary, of its plan to cut gasoline prices and, after carrying it through the courts, may carry it through the country.

Meanwhile Mr. Wismer was prevented from discussing the thing very far, as it is sub judice. He started to say that if the oil companies thought they were going to win—but stopped himself half way through a sentence, recombening by the sale way the sale way through a sentence, recombening by the sale way the sale way

half way through a sentence, remembering he was a lawyer and his law before the courts.

No wonder he is concerned about this thing. Mark that here is his chief legislative offspring, his own child, for which he must take responsibility before the courts and the country, which he will personally take to England to the Privy Council in the most important act of his legal career.

At any other time in the ses

At any other time in the session there would have been hours of wrangling over the undistributed profits tax. At this advanced season, Mr. Maitland required only ten minutes to tell the government what he thought about the program. He had to be careful, of course, not to in-dicate that he favored comdicate that he favored companies which pile up huge accumulations of undistributed profits, but he considered the government's way of approaching the problem unsound — no appeals to the court, complete control by the government.

Clearly foreshadowing what he will tell the country about the government after the House closes, Mr. Maitland protested against all this autocratic legislation, centralizing power in the

lation, centralizing power in the executive, depriving citizens of the right to appeal to the courts.
This will be strong ammunition
in the political fights of the

The trouble with Mr. Mait-land, said the Premier, is that he doesn't know the true character of the executive which is taking these new powers. It was just because he knew it so well, Mr. Maitland retorted, that he feared

Maitland retorted, that he feared such powers.

All this amused Mr. Winch very much. Here was one Conservative party, called Liberal, moving just slightly to the left, accepting about 5 per cent of the Socialist taxation program; and here was the other Conservative party objecting frantically even to this slight reform, saying it went too far. Actually, said he, it didn't go nearly far enough, and he quoted a lot of grisly figures to show how large corporations are pilling up profits and evading taxation.

Neither Mr. Maitland nor Mr.

Neither Mr. Maitland nor Mr. Winch, pulling from either side, could budge the government. Its taxation plan went through with-

taxation plan went through without change.

The strategy of weiting it out in silence continued the rest of the day as bill after bill went through. Even when Mr. Mathand sought to open the Liquor Act, to provide a new weapon against bootleggers, only a few words from Mr. Wismer were needed to kill it on the spot.

And then, as the day ended, one witnessed another inevitable phenomenon of this season, the sudden December cloudburst of legislation which always dampens and befogs the dying hours of the session. The government grinned, the opposition, wore a

we-knew-you'd-do-it look, for both parties have always done, always condemned each other for doing

it, always will do it.

No less than six bills came down in this single precipitation down in this single precipitation and more will come yet. There are limits, however, to the patience of the House. When the premier proposed to make it sit in the morning, Mr. Maitland raised sudden clamor and Mr. Pattullo had to abandon the idea. If, said he, with a cold threat which sent terror down our collective spines, the House wants to sit next week, why of course, it is nothing to the government. Oh, nothing at all! At the moment, the House has no intention of sitting part week cloudburst. of sitting next week, cloudburst

Interest Cut On Settlement Board's Debts

Gov't to Aid Farmers in Arrears

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Under a complicated formula placed be fore the legislature on Tuesday night, the B.C. Government pro poses to relieve farmers mounting charges on Land Settlement Board farms.

The amount of relief to b granted is not calculated in the bill, but overdue charges against the lands run something over \$1,000,000

OWES GOV'T \$5,000,000

The Settlement Board owes the provincial treasury over \$5,000,

The main provisions of the measure are as follows:

In place of interest on overdue loans that has been compounded since depression years, the interest rate will be reduced retroactively to 6 per cent up to May 31, 1936, and to 4½ per cent from there or from there on.
Once a farmer has brought

his interest payments up to date he will receive credit each year in the interest he pays towards he will receive credit each year in the interest he pays towards wiping off his principal. Thus he will be able to start reducing the principal of his debt by simply paying the interest.

AS REBATE
Further relief will be given by
allowing farmers to claim part
of the value of building or other
improvements they have made
to their lands as a rebate against
the principal of their debt.
Finally the Land Settlement
Board is given power to reappraise the various properties and
wipe out the difference from
amounts owing.

B. C. Employers to
Pay \$150,000 More
VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Increased
benefits for injured workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act, endorsed Tuesday by the
Legislature, will cost employers
an extra \$150,000 a year in assessments, Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, told the
House.

Hart Grapples With \$56-Million Re-Financing Plan for B.C. Loans

Covers Maturities Which Must Be Met In Next Few Years; B.C. Sinking Fund Total Leads All Canada

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—British Columbia cleared its decks today for the greatest job of financing in its history.

In the next four years Hon. John Hart, Minister of

In the next four years Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, must meet maturing loans of \$56,661,000.

Today he asked the Legislature for full legal power to cover the P.G.E. Railway borrowings in this total, thus making his authority complete.

MONUMENTAL TASK

He will get this power, but his job will be to find investors ready to buy British Columbia bonds by the millions at satisfactory interest rates.

This is the enormous task which Mr. Hart faces:

In 1939 he must meet loans of \$8,300,000, starting on March 5 with an item of \$3,000,000; on March 16 another sum of \$300,000 will come due; on July 2, \$3,000,000, and July 12, \$2,000,000.

In 1940 there will be maturities of \$4,361,000.

The following year, 1941, will see a peak of maturities—the un-precedented total of \$24,000,-

But 1942 will not be much easier with maturing loans of \$20,-000,000

These are the chickens of Brit-ish Columbia's old pre-war finan-cial adventures, also the P.G.E.

Railway, coming home to roost.

To handle them will require every ounce of credit that Mr.
Hart can build up from now on.

\$37,000,000 SINKING FUND

\$37,000,000 SINKING FUND
Fortunately, Mr. Hart has built ahead for years against the present strain.
He has on hand \$37,000,000 in sinking funds, largest total of any province in Canada.
Under present legislation he can throw all this into the balance if he so decides against the loans maturing in the next four years, thus reducing the net total of re-borrowing to less than \$20,000,000.
How much of the sinking fund will be used for this purpose will depend on financial conditions at the time.

LOWEST INTEREST
POSSIBLE

Politicians who examined his refunding legislation today and then looked up his ledgers to the days ahead realized why he wants to keep down current expenditures and avoid more borwing.

taxpayers millions of dollars over

a period of twenty years. MUST "SIT ON LID"

The rates, of course, will be high if credit is low and low if credit is high.

Credit will depend on the condition of the tredit is the condition of the condi

dition of the treasury in the next

year or so.

If investors are satisfied that
British Columbia is on a sound
basis Mr. Hart will get his money

cheaply.

If deficits occur and th ince goes further into debt there will be a slackening of confidence, interest rates will go up and taxpayers will pay more.

It is for this reason that Mr.

ort, resisting strong pressure, sitting on the lid for the

resent. He has to if British Columbia is going to get over these years of peak financial load.

Who's Going to Tell Bride About The Blood Test?

by Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Passage
of the government's bill to enforce blood tests before marriage was temporarily held up
in the Legislature Tuesday
when objection was taken by
some members of the proposed
method of notifying couples of
the results of the tests.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale,
raised the question who should
tell them. Hon. G. M. Weir,
Provincial Secretary, said it
would be the medical man who
made the tests.

"Surely you would allow an
intending bride or groom to disclose the condition to the intending partner, not let the doctor do it?" said R. L. Maitland,
K.C., Conservative leader.

The clause was stood over for
further consideration.

Tories, C.C.F. Attack New B.C. Profits Tax

'Goes Too Far' Says Maitland; 'Not Far Enough' Cries Winch; Bill Passes

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—The government's new undistributed profits tax ran into sharp opposition from Conservatives in the Legislature Tuesday because it went too far, while Socialists condemned it for not going far enough.

In the end the tax was approved.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., opposition leader, denounced the program for its failure to allow companies any appeal from a decision of the minister of finance and the cabinate of finance and the cabi

Federal legislation, said Mr. Maitland, provides for the taxa-tion of undistributed profits, but permits companies affected to ap-peal to the courts. The provin-cial act, he urged, should follow

cial act, he urged, should follow this principle.

The proposed B. C. tax will cover over 80 per cent of the com-panies operating in this province, Mr. Maitland said. That propor-tion is owned by five sharehold-ers, or less. If, as the govern-ment said, it intends to use the act only to make holding com-panies disgorge unreasonable re-serves, holding companies should be specified as the sole target of

An official of the finance department, he argued, will decide when a company is piling up an unreasonable reserve out of profits. Naturally, on appeal minister will uphold his of official and then the Lieutenant-Gov-ernor-in-Council will uphold the

minister.
"You don't know this Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council," Premier Pattullo retorted.
"It's because I know it so well that I object to this kind of legislation," Mr. Maitland replied.

ARSITRARY RATE

The rate of taxation, 15 per cent, was set arbitrarily, Mr. Maitland said, even though the government would not receive that much if the profits were distributed and the shareholders paid income tax on them. This was a wrong principal, he said.

"I don't know why," he added, "all this autocratic legislation, which gives such tremendous powers to ministers of the crown, should be passed here. Nothing could be more discouraging to the investment of capital."

"The time has come," Mr. Maitland insisted, "when we must know whether people are to be deprived of the right to go to the courts."

Mr. Winch admitted that the government had accepted about 5 per cent of the C. C.F. program, which calls for the taxation of large company reserves, piled up out of profit, but the present act did not go nearly far enough.

the municipalities and the unemployed, but it refuses to "go after money easily obtainable from those who have it."

Huge reserves have been accumulated by some companies and should be taxed, he said. He quoted an example of one unamed company which has a capital of \$8,000,000 and reserves of \$14,000,000. The Imperial OI Company, on its operations all over Canada, paid dividends of \$27,000,000 in 1937, held over \$3,500,000 and has \$81,000,000 on hand in the form of undistributed profits. By its federal charter, the company is able to escape any provincial tax on these reserves, he said.

Despite Mr. Maitland and Mr. Winch, the government's tax plan was annowed without a vote.

Winch, the government's tax plan was approved without a vote.

Bill Increases Forest Taxation

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.-The government's bill increasing the forest protection tax from 4 to 6 cents an acre was introduced Tuesday by Hon. A. Wells Gray. The tax is on logging operations.

It also raises the government's contribution to the fire-fighting fund from \$440,000 to \$500.000 a

Increases in timber royalties are postponed. The period for reinstatement of lapsed timber licenses is extended from one licenses is extended from one year to two. A special penalty of \$10 a month is provided for the extra year.

Authority is given the government to fix royalties on minor forest products, including Christmas trees.

Power to force occupiers of land to fight fires is strengthened in another clause.

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VICTORIA members on the price of they? Let th

This was it ney-General V the Legislatu fought throught to the Coa Products Con expects will and forestall their effort to ment from cu gallon off gas Conservative

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The Alaska Highway

Premier Pattullo's announcement that the United States Government is prepared to advance money to British Columbia for the construction of the Alaska Highway without interest is a statement which the people of this province were not unready to receive.

The Alaska Highway is a great undertaking that will add tremendously to our tourist resources. We cannot deny that fact. But the Alaska Highway is a project absolutely essential to the safety and protection of the United States, from the standpoint of continental solidarity, and it must be considered, first and foremost, from that standpoint.

Where the Highway is a luxury to us, it is an utter necessity to the United States. Therefore it is reasonable to suppose that the United States should bear a major part in the burden of its financing.

Premier Pattullo's statement, therefore, has not only been expected but awaited.

An early start on this project, favorable in conditions to British Columbia, will give meat and substance to the treaties which have just been concluded at Washington with the purport of adding to the close economic connection between the English - speaking

Wismer Hurls Gas Challenge

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vote.

By San Staff Reporter VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—"Do the members on the other side want the price of gas reduced or don't

they? Let them say so."

they? Let them say so."

This was the challenge Attorney-General Wismer flung across the Legislature Tuesday as he fought through his amendments to the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Act, which he expects will make the act valid and forestall oil companies in their effort to block the government from cutting three cents a gallon off gasoline prices.

Conservatives, led by R. L. Maitland, K.C., urged that the Fuel Act be scrapped and coal and petroleum products be brought under the new utility commission, but this the Attorney-General declined.

"If I followed that course the public would not get a cut in the price of gas for two years at least," Mr. Wismer declared.

Mr. Maitland disputed this argument.

"You already have a delay of

Mr. Mattland disputed this argument.

"You already have a delay of 18 months as a result of the chaotic condition arising from the manner in which this commission went ahead," he said.

"You're going to have more

delay as the case starts on the way to London."

If one were in the Utility Bill, juictor action would be possible. The bill was not completed.

Executive of C.C.F. Meets Here Dec. 15

Leaders Say Members' Position Settled and Party Strengthened

By BRUCE HUTCHISON
The Vancouver Sun's Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Provincial
executive of the Co-Operative
Commonwealth Federation will
meet in Vancouver on Thursday,
Dec. 15, to iron out the recent
dispute between C.C.F. House
members and Dr. Lyle Telford
and to strengthen their party for
the future.

and to strengthen their party for the future.

The executive is expected to end all thought of Dr. Telford resigning his seat over the Pat-tullo bridge charges, and will go further by enunciating more clearly the status of all House members.

members.

The members, it is expected, will be given greater freedom of action as they demand.

In the end, C.C.F. leaders say, the whole unfortunate situation which developed out of the bridge charges will prove a blessing in disguise by removing points of friction.

"BREAK" REAL ENOUGH

"BREAK" REAL ENOUGH
Apparently party members on
the Mainland have the idea that
enemies of the C.C.F. have been
overemphasizing the recent
break between Dr. Telford and
the House members and even
suggesting there was none.
But the written statement of
the House members disassociating themselves from Dr.
Telford's bridge charges and

urging Dr. Telford not to resign showed the true extent of the "break" and confirmed all the

earlier reports.

The "break" was real enough, as this unprecedented statement showed, but it is rapidly healing,

snowed, but it is rapidly healing, according to House members.

If this is so, it can only mean that Dr. Telford is preparing to accept the ordinary discipline of

accept the ordinary discipline of party politics.

The House members still stand by their decision that he must agree to work with them, instead of operating independently, be-fore he will be re-established in

"AIR HAS BEEN CLEARED"

"AIR HAS BEEN CLEARED"
After the provincial executive has upheld the House members, as expected, new plans for organizing the party in British Columbia will be laid and efforts made to bring it closer together with C.C.F. movements on the Prairies and in Nova Scotia.
"You will see that all this business is going to make the party stronger than ever," one of the chief figures in the C.C.F. told The Sun today. "The air has been cleared and we know now where we stand."

Battle On Right **Of Labor**

B.C. Collective Bargaining Bill Argued From **Both Sides**

By Sun Staff Reporter VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—From two sides today the government had representations about collective bargaining rights of labor.

rights of labor.

The government is considering introducing a bill to guarantee unions these rights.

Industrialists from Vancouver, headed by Wendell Farris, K.C., J. H. Macdonald and Col. C. E. Edgett, urged the Cabinet to retain the labor law the way it is.

AS BARGAINING AGENTS

The Trades and Labor Council of Vancouver, interviewing members of the government individually, urged that the Labor Arbitation Act be changed so that unions will be legally recognized as bargaining agents in labor disoutes.

as organical disputes.

The industrialist group which included, logging mining and general manufacturing interests, suggested in reply to this that if the Act is going to be opened there should be certain safe-

MUST RECOGNIZE UNION

The amendment as originally proposed provided that where 51 per cent of the workers in any industry belong to a union the employer must recognize this union as the workers' collective bargaining agency.

The employers suggested that the present Act had safeguarded workers and kept labor disputes at a new minimum in the last year.

But if the Act were to be changed along the lines proposed they urged that recognition be given only to unions already or-ganized and not to any organized

This, of course, would not for-bid employees appointing as their bargaining representatives officials of any union.

They have the right now to be represented by anyone of their choice whether these representa-tives work in the plant affected or not.

Labor leaders want the new amendment to be wide open so that the unions belong to them and they do not want this limited to unions now in exist-

BATTLE IN HOUSE

What the government will de-cide was not known at a late hour today, but obviously the House is in for one of the most

House today, but obviously the House is in for one of the most important arguments on labor legislation in its history.

Whatever the government does there will be disagreement.

Actually the present situation arises out of weeks of misunderstanding and talking at cross purposes. At one stage the government announced it would open the act, then stated the act would be left alone. Now it is going to amend it, but along what lines has not been finally determined. This uncertainty arose simply through misunderstanding between the government and the labor movement as to what the movement wanted in the act.

The delegation of employers represented the timber, mining and manufacturing industries, and virtually the whole business community of British Columbia.

Labor 'Deplores' Changes in Act

Vancouver Trades and Labor Council at their weekly meeting Tuesday night passed a resolution "deploring" the action of the provincial government in making changes in the Industrial Disputes and Conciliation Act contrary to changes suggested by the council.

The meeting charged that the

the council.

The meeting charged that the government had agreed to changes in section 5 of the act, following a delegation from Vancouver, then later made further amendments which all but nullified the original changes as profiled the original changes as profled the original changes as pro-posed by the trades and labor body.

B.C. Public Utility Bill Now Bars Appeals to Courts on Rates

Legal Action Allowed Only on Points of Law

Government Inserts Entirely New Formula Making Cabinet Final Tribunal on Charges

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—British Columbia's public utility bill, 135 sections and 12,000 words long, one of the most massive and most important pieces of legislation that has been before the Legislature in years, needs only a few finishing touches now before the House is ready to make it law.

APPEALS LIMITED

As the measure neared completion, Wednesday, the Government inserted an entirely new formula for allowing appeals against rulings of the utility commission.

There are two main principles et out in the new sections:

- Utility companies will be allowed to go to the Appeal Court on questions of law and jurisdiction only.
- 2. Companies will be barred from companies will be barred from appealing to the courts against rates, services orders or other points of fact dealt with by the commission, but they can carry their case to the Provincial Cabinet, which will have power to change orders of these to change orders of the com-

Scores of minor changes were put into the bill as it was built up step by step. Many altered phrases and wordings without altering important principles, and there was little debate. Premier Pattullo piloted the measure.

PENALTIES DROPPED

The government dropped one clause that would have given the

clause that would have given the commission power to impose certain penalties on companies. This had drawn strenuous criticism from the opposition, which maintained only the courts should be allowed to do this.

The government rejected the Conservative plan to put coal and petroleum products under the utility commission.

Opposition members put up a strenuous fight against a clause which permits the commission to name inspectors of utilities and force municipalities to pay their salaries. Attorney-General Wismer said that this was a discretionary power and would not be used unless obviously needed.

New Act Aimed at Few Companies Only

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.— Inustrialists who met the cabinet
esterday said they were assured
y Hon. John Hart that the new
indistributed profits tax is to
pply only against holding comanies s.. up to keep undivided
ans from being taxed.

\$66,000,000 For Relief But B.C. Got Value

\$37,000,000 of It Went for Needed Works

Sun Staff Reporter

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 8. — British
Columbia has received value for
the millions it has spent on unem-

the millions it has spent on unemployment relief.

Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, told the Legislature Wednesday night that the government had demanded value for \$37,500,000 out of \$66,000,000 spent on relief since 1930.

For the other \$28,500,000, which went on direct relief "we have at least received the salvage of humanity which must have some value," he declared.

Mr. Pearson explained that

Mr. Pearson explained that many of the items classed as un-employment relief costs actually went on road contracts for which full value was received, so that it was not right to say all relief

money was wasted.
Out of the \$37,500,000 spent on Out of the \$37,500,000 spent on various projects \$16,500,000 was for roads, bridges and highways, \$12,900,000 for various works in municipalities who demanded a return from their relief recipients, \$3,000,000 for supervision and materials, \$3,700,000 for various winter forestry camps and tourist road development, \$750,000 for mining roads and \$500,000 for youth training camps.

Divorced Couples to Get Certificate

Get Certificate
VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Divorcees
in British Columbia in future
will be able to get government
certificates showing they are divorced, just as people now get
marriage certificates.
This is one of several amendments to the Vital Statistics Act
brought into the Legislature by
Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary.
Another amendment will stop
busybodies from searching up
facts about adopted and illegitimate children.

'Don't Pile Too Much Taxation On Industries

-Hon, T. D. Pattullo

B.C. Far in Lead With Social Legislation, Should Consolidate Gains, Warns Premier

By Sun Staff Reporter

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—British Columbia, said Premier Pattullo in a highly significant warning to the legislature Wednesday, must not kill the goose that lays the golden egg of taxation by putting too much strain on industry.

This province, he declared, has gone further than any other in Canada in social legislation and should consolidate its gains before moving ahead too far in the expenditure of money on reforms, even though they are desirable.

The premier's statement, which showed with sudden vividness the feeling of his government on the central issues of these times, came at the end of a long debate on a C.C.F. bill which would have provided improved working conditions and lowered working hours for hospital nurses—a measure which Liberals voted down over the Conservatives and Socialists. cialists

cialists.

"It's all very well," said the premier, after listening to opposition demands for the bill, "to draw alarming pictures about the condition of nurses in our hospitals, but I'm getting a little tired of this sob stuff. It is being overstated and exaggerated. Not that we don't want to reach Utopia. We do, but we can not get there in one moment.

"It is eaid by recombers of the expensition that we can get

"It is said by members of the opposition that we can get the money necessary to pay for such reforms as this if we want to get it. Let me tell the House that there is a law of diminishing returns in the collection of taxation which we

diminishing returns in the collection of taxation which we well know.

"The hospital situation is receivin the earnest study of the government and the condition of nurses, as the minister of labor (Mr. Pearson) has said, can be dealt with under existing legislation. We know the hospitals need more money. So do the municipalities. So does the province. So does the Dominion. And no one at the moment can forsee the solution of this great problem.

"But don't push it too far. We have been moving further in British Columbia in the field of social legislation than any other province in Canada, and don't forget that our industries have to meet unfair competition from other provinces, and the competition of foreign countries. Our industries have been bearing it and apparently are doing fairly well but don't drive this situation too hard meantime. You can kill the goose that lays the golden egg."

'You Can Kill Nurses'

"You can kill the nurses, too," ter of Labor, agreed that growled E. E. Winch, C.C.F. whole situation of the hospit is unsatisfactory and, in so way must be rectified.

"The sooner we recognize to the nurses' bill.

The Premier's statement was

ceded by a lengthy debate on condition of nurses in hos-

"The sooner we recognize the we have to work out a satisfactory and practical financial base for the hospitals," he said, "the better. There must be a reconsideration of the whole financial situation, but I cannot how it can be done quick Meanwhile the problems of the same temperature."

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lations of the Board of Industrial Relations."

Harold Winch, C.C.F. whip, said this simply means that British Columbia, refusing to fi-nance hospitals adequately, is subsidizing them by the exploi-tation of nurses, and he declared the government can get money for hospitals if it wants to.

CARE OF UNEMPLOYED

R. W. Bruhn said the basic problem of hospitals is to finance the care of unemployed and the government has done nothing basic to solve this basic prob-

"Very glibly we vote \$10,000 for the chairman of a public utility commission and \$7500 each for his assistants as if they were supermen, when they will only be very ordinary Liberals— yet we can't find money for hos-pitals," exclaimed Sam Guthrie, C.C.F. member for Cowichan-

Newcastle.
Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal of Yale, said hospitals are well run and the C.C.F. bill would place an insupportable burden of expense

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The vote against the bill was 29 to 12, Conservatives supporting only so that it could be discussed further in committee.

50-Mile Speed **Limit for Cars** On B.C. Roads

Gov't Invites Legislature to Voice Opinions

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—The government may ask the Legislature next year to impose a speed limit of 50 miles an hour on country roads, Attorney-General Wismer said in the House Wed-nesday night, inviting members

nesday night, inviting members to consider its effect.
Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative, The Islands, said a speed limit on the open highways was simply inviting people to break the law.
Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said the only way to curb speeding is to put offenders in jail. Alderman Fred Crone, Liberal, Vancouver Centre, said the 30-mile speed law started at the beginning of this year is reducing accidents there and was observed accidents there and was observ by all but about five per cent of drivers.

He said experts agreed speed is responsible for 50 per cent of accidents.

Fire Bill Advanced

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Amendments to the Fire Departments
Two Platoon Act which will force all organized fire brigades to adopt the two platoon system Wednesday were endorsed on second reading. Wednesday without debate.

Bill Confining Duties To Lawyers Causes Clash

Measure Would Bar Others Than Barristers From Drawing Up Official Document; Perry Dissents

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—After a sharp clash Wednesday between private members and Attorney General Wismer, debate was stood over on a bill which would have made lawyers the only persons entitled to draw up legal documents for pay.

the only persons entitled to draw. Wismer said the measure would stop the practice of ambulance-chasing, but H. G. Perry, Liberal, of Fort George, said it gave the lawyers much greater monopolistic power than they require and should have been referred to the Private Bills Committee for full examination. Committee for full examination.

REMARKS RESENTED

He suggested it was going beyond the decencies of the legal profession to put such a bill the House in the late days of the

He claimed it would stop a justice of the peace or real estate man even getting a fee for draw-

ing an agreement of sale.

The attorney-general resented The attorney-general resented Mr. Perry's remarks and demanded he withdraw them. They were an insult to the legal profession, he said.

SMELLS A RAT

Mr. Perry said he meant no insult and would withdraw any-thing that cast reflections, but he wondered if the attorney-general was "brow-beating the

Mrs. D. G. Steeves, C.C.F. North Vancouver, said she smelled a rat because both the attorney-general and R. L. Maitland, K.C., Opposition leader, agreed on the bill.

Second reading was held up when J. H. Forester, Liberal, Burrard, adjourned the debate.

C.C.F. Measure Loses

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—The Legislature Wednesday rejected a C.C.F. bill proposing that at least two men sitting on a coroner's jury on logging and mining deaths should have at least three years' experience in the industry concerned.

Attorney Concern! Wigney Telegraphy Concerned.

Attorney-General Wismer rejected the proposal as upsetting the whole jury system.

Steel Busses Asked

Steel Busses Asked
VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Regulations insisting that all school
busses should be constructed of
steel to protect children in case
of accidents, was urged Wednesday night by R. L. Maitland,
K.C., Conservative leader.

He said if some of the present
wooden busses ever had a collision there would be death and
ruin everywhere.

Attorney-General Wismer and
Hon. G. M. Weir assured Mr.
Maitland that busses were rigidly inspected by police.

Motion to Amend Liquor Act Fails

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—The gov-rnment Tuesday killed a bill ad-ranced by R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, which would give police power to inspect all counter slips for purchases in liquor stores.

Mr. Maitland proposed it as a eapon against bootlegging. Attorney General Wismer re-

fused the amendment because he said liquor officials already gave police fullest information of this sort and examination of the 3,452,907 slips passing over liquor tore counters each year quite impracticable.

By Good Management

Fifty-six million dollars of debts coming due in the next four years represents sizable sum. But when you have \$37 millions of it practically available in the back of the till, then the task involved becomes much simpler.

It would not be as simple—in fact, it could not be attempted at all—if we in British Columbia had not husbanded our resources. We are facing a period when sturdy, frank insistence upon good financial practise will stand us in good stead and see us through to the other side. That to Hon. John Hart, as minister in charge of British Columbia's money, is largely due the credit of the happy outlook that we enjoy is a fact so well-known that it may be overlooked, because it is almost taken for granted.

It is no accident that the total of sinking funds in this province stands at a figure higher than any other province in Canada. It takes grinding toil to accomplish a situation as satisfactory as this. There has to be a watch-dog at the treasury. If he growls a little and refuses to be cajoled into spending as freely as we sometimes think he should, then the balance in the cash-box is left to speak volubly for itself.

The provincial government is going to refund its indebtedness on a fairly big scale at lower interest charges. If Vancouver city could, by a parallel operation, accomplish a similar result, great gains to the public financial situation in this province would be achieved. It is a fashion, perhaps excused by hard times we have gone through, to declare, with a wave of the hand, that our financial structure is unstable and we are headed for a rocky beach. It has even transpired that civic elections in Vancouver have been influenced by a cry that the city faced bankruptcy. We have our troubles, of course, but you and we, citizens and The Vancouver Sun, know very well that we are not going broke. This cry of the crash-to-come is quite unworthy of the best province and the best city on the continent,

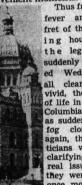
How hollow it all is can be judged from the manful way the government is facing the proposal to pay off part of its debt and re-new the remainder of the notes at a more advantageous rate of interest. There is no question but that it will be successfully worked out.

Duff Goes Back to Middle Of the Road

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

victoria, Dec. 8.—The politicians' argument and clamor about the real issues of our time can not forever hide these issues from view. Somehow they always survive this onslaught of enlightenment and emerge from the tog of explanation at the most inconvenient moments.

Thus from the the contract of the contract and the co



fever and the fret of these dying hours of the legislature suddenly emerged Wednesday, all clear and vivid, the facts of life in British Columbia. Then, as suddenly, the fog closed in again, the politicians went on clarifying the real issues and they were lost. they were lost once more, per-

haps for another year.

The fog broke unexpectedly during discussion of a C.C.F. bill during discussion of a C.C.F. bill to improve the working conditions of hospital nurses. It was the last place where you would expect to find any light on the real condition of this province and the real condition of the government's mind, but you must take it when it comes, in brief flashes, and be thankful.

Don't Stretch Too Far

Don't Stretch Too Far .

Premier Pattullo had listened for an hour to the unhappy politicians talking about the condition of nurses—admittedly far from satisfactory—and he had grown a little tired of what he called sob stuff. It is time, said he to himself, to get out of the fog, if only for a moment, time to warn these unskilled mariners where the ship of state is going.

So, little noted by the galleries and the benches, Mr. Pattullo suddenly burst out with a warning to the legislature and to the province generally to go slow in new social reforms that cost money; not, se said, that we don't want Utopia, but we can't get there in a single moment and may stumble if we try.

British Columbia, in the picture painted by the Premier, is a little community on the western

British Columbia, in the picture painted by the Premier, is a little community on the western sea, trading with the world, meeting the competition of low wages in other nations and in other provinces. The goods it sells all over the unprotected world, in the end must pay for all social reforms, including the aid of nurses. So far those goods have paid for more social reforms than the goods of any other province, but they cannt be stretched out indefinitely so long as their price is governed by the world price.

has never felt, warned the legislature to go slow, not to press too hard on the goods that go cut into the world, not to kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

Troubled Hospitals

The premier's speech was brief and soon lost in the fog, but to those who could listen and under-stand it meant much; meant that government, after the well-embered enthusiasms of its youth back in 1933, has swung sharply to the Right, in the jar-gon of the economists, is pursu-ing definitely a middle-of-the-road

This, of course, is no news to anyone who has been on the inside here from the beginning and knows that the government was elected and must seek re-election by the ballots of the great mass of ordinary, home-owning British Columbians. But it is not often that the government makes this clear or, in fact, tells what is really in its mind concerning the basic issues at all.

Quickly lost in the fog, submerged in a hundred fathoms of oratory, was the premier's statement. But one other thing became clear for a moment— British Columbia has not begun to solve the great basic question of medical care for its citizens. of medical care for its citizens. Everyone admitted that the hospitals are on a foundation of financial quicksand and must be rescued. No one knows how

All knew, though, that health insurance must be the first step, but no one was impolite enough to mention that sore subject. For another year the hospitals and the problem of medical care must wait. The middle of the road, boys, is the motto.

It was a deadly earnest House all day and night. Everybody knew we must waste no single moment if we were to get out of here by the week-end, and nobody wants to come back next Monday. Legislation went through not fast, but without the least filibuster. Even in these dying hours you could observe no un-seemly haste and most of the dying

seemly haste and most of the major bills were closely examined, criticized clause by clause.

In this grim atmosphere of business there were few human outbursts—only a passing breeze between Mr. Wismer and his good friend, Harry Perry. The man from the high north, who is one of the surviving tribunes of the people, made a characteristically vehement attack on a bill to extend the power of lawyers, calling it something beyord the "decencies" of legal practise.

This Mr. Wismer, with somewhat synthetic indignation, considered an insult to him person-

what synthetic indignation, con-sidered an insult to him person-ally, but Mr. Perry's explanation the property of the had been sneak ing in the Pickwickian sense, mollified the Attorney-General, who is always casily mollified and doesn't like to quarrel with anybody. mollified

and doesn't like to quarrel with anybody.

In the evening Mr. Cameron returned to another flashing attack on the handling of the Blubber Bay strike, accusing the police of concocting evidence against the strikers. Mr. Wismer replied that if Mr. Cameron had such facts in his possession he should take them to the courts. With this challenge, the brisk incident closed, with no one the wiser.

easier on the collective mind of the members than public utilities and the larger issues of the ses-sion. By midnight, after, Mr. Pearson's magnificent defense of Pearson's magnificent detense of the superson and Mr. Le Bourdais' interesting announcement that 700 B.C. mares expect to be mothers, the coder paper had shrunk conthe order paper had shrunk considerably and there remained the clamours question of redistribution, a few opposition resolutions. opposition resolutions, some minor bills—and the prospect of home, fireside and children at the weekend.

Driving Tests Soon

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—The value of the 250 questions posed by provincial police traffic experts for testing motorists was questioned in the Legislature Wednesday night by Capt. Macgregor Macintosh.

"No one could keep all these things in his head," he said.

Attorney General Wismer, ig-noring Mr. Macintosh's sugges-tion, said the driving tests would start soon at stations in Vancou-ver, Victoria and New Westmin-

C.C.F. Rules Officially On Status of Dr. Telford

There Is No Question of Policy Involved and 'Repudiation' Has Not Even Been Considered'

The official C.C.F. view of the controversy arising out of the failure of the Pattullo Bridge charges of Dr. Lyle Telford, M.L.A., is set forth today in a statement of the provincial executive, appearing in the form of an editorial in the C.C.F. weekly party newspaper.

The statement, which also explains mechanics of the relationship between the party executive and the C.C.F. M.L.A.'s, is as fol-

"Publicity through the daily press given to the failure of Dr. Telford, M.L.A., to prove his charges of overpayment on the New Westminster Bridge has created some confusion in the minds of the public and in some instances even members of the party seem to be unduly excited over the incident,

"NO POLICY INVOLVED"

"There is no matter of C.C.F. policy involved and the question of repudiating Dr. Telford as the result of the incident has not even been considered by the ex-ecutive committee.

"There is no question raised by

the situation that involves in any way the relationship between the legislative group and the party. Our members at Victoria are not

hampered or limited in their ac-tivities in the Legislature and the executive has never given any direction other than to crystalize the general policy of the party as adopted in convention.

DID NOT ACQUIESCE

"The C.C.F. members of the Legislature are definitely re-sponsible for their actions and ac-tivities as members to the move-ment through the provincial ex-

The Party Whip, Harold Winch, is seated on the executive as their representative.

The charges made by Dr. Tel-ford were not made with the ac-quiescence of the C.C.F. group of the Legislature and consequently the members cannot in any way be blamed," provided there is blame anywhere, for the failure of the charges.

EXECUTIVE RULING

"It is quite probable that as a result of this incident the question will be raised by our members in the Legislature as to the relationships between the members of the group and as to how their various activities shall be governed in the event of differences of opinion among them.

ecutive will make a ruling

CANNOT RESIGN

"In a Socialist movement it is essential that co-operation and discipline, particularly among the elected representatives, must prevail.

'When differences arise in the party, the provincial executive committee, representing the party as a whole between conventions, decides what is to be

"The C.C.F. members are elected on the party platform.

"The question of resignation is one for the party to consider and cannot be decided by any in-

"By-elections are not contest-ed by the C.C.F. on specific is-

"They are always fought on the general principles and program of the party."

Blubber Bay Echo in House

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 8. — Colin
Cameron, C.C.F., of Comox,
charged in the Legislature Wednesday night that men convicted for the Blubber Bay strike riots had been sent to jail on "con-

had been sent to jail on "concocted" evidence, if newspaper accounts of the trial were correct. One of them, he said, was attacked after he was arrested. Mr. Cameron said he had given the attorney-general evidence warranting an investigation.

Attorney-general Wismer, rose to say the men had been given the same fair trial that any man gets in a British country. A judge of Mr. Justice Murphy's standing would not accept concocted evidence, he declared.

If there was any fear of an injustice, an appeal could be taken Mr. Wismer added. He resented the suggestion of concocted evidence.

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Redistribution Passes Despite House Storm

Opposition Raises Cry of 'Gerrymander' as Act Goes to Committee

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 8 .- Over opposition cries of "gerrymander" the legislature today passed the government's Re-distribution Bill, thus reviving the Alberni Riding and abolishing The Islands. Liberal benches.

WARM DEBATE

The Conservative Party will wage a final fight to save The Islands when the bill goes into day, but orts are committee later in the day, but they know their efforts are bound to fail. The bill is expected to go through with only minor changes.

Debate today became hot Debate today became not at times as the opposition flung its gerrymander charges at the government. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, dared Preside Petalle to a pure in Point mier Pattullo to run in Point mier Pattulio to run in Folin Grey, and Dr. Lyle Telford asked the government leader to leave the "Siwash village" of Prince Rupert and seek election in Vancouver.

The government contented itself with a brief denial by Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, of any intention to gerrymander

any constituency.

Premier Pattullo, who introduced the bill, said it is based on the report of a committee which had heard fullest repre-sentations from all interested

persons.
"I hope this is the last bill of the kind," said Mr. Maitland, the kind," said Mr. Maitland, who added: "But to me it is a great compliment because every beaten government brings in a bill of this sort."

TORIES GAINING

government, knows the Conservative party is gaining ground and now tried to save itself, to pull itself up by its boot-straps through a gerry-

"No one can say The Islands haven't been a satisfactory rid-ing for 40 years," Mr. Maitland protested.

The Opposition leader invited anyone, particularly the Premier, to run against him in Point Grey because "no one can beat me any-where in Vancouver?"

where in Vancouver?"
At this the Premier and other
Liberals roared with laughter.
"Come up and run in Prince
Rupert," the Premier suggested.
"No, I want a big, representa
tive riding, not controlled by
party appointments and that sort
of thing," Mr. Maitland retorted.
"But if the Premier will come to
Point Grey he'll have the merriest
time of his life and it will be exit
for him."

Mr. Maitland admitted that

for him.

Mr. Maitland admitted that Conservative Governments had passed gerrymandering bills of this sort, but he hoped that in future redistribution will be based on judicial investigation.

"I'll commit myself to this—there'll be no more redistributions on these political disgusting lines," Mr. Maitland declared.

Dr. Telford, C.C.F. member for Vancouver East, called the bill an obnoxious gerrymander. He suggested the Premier leave the "Stwash village" of Prince Rupert and run in Vancouver, and this remark brought sharp protest

THREE VOTES EACH H. G. Perry, Liberal of Fort George, favored a royal commis-sion inquiry. He blamed the system of "territorial representa-tion" for the fact that the gov-

tion" for the fact that the gov-ernment represented a minority of the population.

Mr. Perry proposed a revolu-tionary plan whereby every voter would have three votes, one for his territorial position, one for his economic position and one for his cultural position. He also urged the abolition of party control of government by the election of the premier and cabinet by elected representativss, but he admitted this might not come for a hun-

dred years.

Talk by Conservatives of gerrymandering was silly, said Hon. G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, when the Conservative govern-ment had gerrymanded his Nanaimo ridig by throwing Social-ist territory into it and adding Alberni to it. He said he intends to run in Nanaimo, although he had been invited to run in Alberni and assured of a two-to-one majority there.

CENTRE OF CULTURE

The redistribution problem should be solved by a reduction of Victoria's four seats, said Colin Cameron, C. C. F., Comox. This would make possible retention of The Islands and creation of an Alberni seat without

or an Alberni seat without in-creasing the size of the House. Herbert Anscomb, Conserva-tive of Victoria, replied that Victoria is the centre of B. C. culture and intellectuality, while members for the north part of the island represent "wilder-

Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, said Liberal members had shown great independence and in the committee had voted and in the committee had voted down the government's plan to add past of Vancouver East to Point Grey. He wanted to run, he said, in the same territory where he had been elected before, so the proposed change in Point Grey's riding, now rejected, is a matter of "complete indifference to him."

LaborLaw Overhaul **Next Year**

Pearson Indicates Parlevs Between Employers And Labor Leaders

Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Fore-shadowing a fierce fight on labor unions' bargaining rights, Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, frank-ly told the Legislature today that his new clause on collec-tive bargaining is a temporary compromise.

Warmly defending the exist-ing Act as a help to labor and a formula for industrial peace, Pearson announced t employers and union leaders will get together within the next to rewrite the clause again to find a basis satisfactory to all sides.

REAL FIGHT YET TO COME

Trade union leaders, he said, had agreed unwillingly to the new amendment which, in effect, grants the business agents of xisting unions the rights to be

existing unions the rights to be bargaining agents when the majority of employees in a dispute are union members.

The real fight in the House is yet to come for Harold Winch, C.C.F., who plans an attempt to force much wider amendments into the Act adjourned debate on force much wider amendments into the Act, adjourned debate on the issue.

Mr. Pearson said that person-ally he did not want to open the Labor Act this year and would not have done so except at the pressure of trade union men.

HAS HELPED UNIONS

"My view is that our bargaining clause, as drafted last year, has not interfered with trade unions," he said. "In fact, in some cases it has helped them to

some cases it has neighbor them to get working agreements. "However, the unions insist it affects them and we have the greatest respect for the unions and the good they have done for

The Minister admitted that the bargaining clause has not stimu-lated labor organization as it might, partly, perhaps, because some employeds are opposed to organization and others fear it, one of the reason.

because it is extremely difficult to write into any law a clause that can prevent an employer dis-

criminating against an employee if he chooses to do so.

"At the same time," he said, "I believe the Act has helped the organization of labor, only in small groups, I admit, but it has.

BLUBBER BAY STRIKE

"So far as labor conditions generally are concerned we have been as peaceful as we possibly

neen as peaceful as we possibly can expect and better than most sections of the North American continent during these times."

Turning to the Blubber Bay strike and riot, "the only serious blot on the record." Mr. Pearson said this would never have happened if the men had accepted

the arbitration award under the Act and left the Labor Department to deal with the matter.

Instead they had rejected, on unsound advice, thus leaving the Labor Department powerless because, by law, it had to give them the right to strike once arbitra the right to strike once arbitra

MEN BADLY ADVISED

The impression given by Labor papers that the Pacific Lime Company was at fault in forcing the men to strike was incorrect, Mr. Pearson said.

"The company accepted the arbitration award in such terms that I could have practically forced the re-employment of the nine men about whom the strike started," he said.

Mr. Pearson said the men had been advised by some members of the House (referring to Harold Winch) to accept the award, but instead had listened to their union leaders.

The main trouble at Blubber Bay was the large group of Chi-nese, numbering 80, who were

controlled by one or two men.
"I was amazed, and I might say, disgusted, to find that out of 120 employees there, 80 were Chinese," he said.

Herbert Anscomb, Conserva-tive, Victoria, spoke briefly be-fore Harold Winch adjourned the

WHAT BILL PROPOSES

Subject of many representa-tions and drafted only after much negotiation, the new clause gives established labor unions the right to act as bargaining agents, but it will not give future unions these rights.

The amendment makes the bargaining rights charter read as follows

"It shall be lawful for employ-ees to bargain collectively with their employer and if the majority of the employees are, on the seventh day of December, 1938, organized into a trade union, to conduct such bargaining through the officers of such trade union, and if not on that date organized and in not of that date of galaxies into a trade union, to conduct such bargaining through representatives of employees duly elected by a majority vote of the employees affected, and any employer or employee refusing so to ployer or employee refusing so to bargain shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$500 for each of

Won Concession, Says Bengough

P. R. Bengough, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, and E. H. Morrison, chairman of the provinciali executive of the Trades Congress of Canada, re-turned to Vancouver today after interviewing the government on the Labor Act the Labor Act.

interviewing the government on the Labor Act.

"We did not get all we asked but we won part of our request," said Mr. Bengough.

"Unions organized since the act first came into force will be recognized, in addition to those in existence prior to that time."

"Previously," he added, "an officer of a union could not be the representative of a group of workers in an industrial dispute. As it will become, the workers can appoint officials of any union as representatives."

An attempt will be made by Labor leaders and employers in the coming year to work out a formula mutually satisfactory, with the prospect that the act will be further amended at the next session.

A-R-O-U-N-D THE TOWN

Low visibility at the coast de-layed arrival of Trans Canada Air Lines mail plane here from the east until noon today.

Police today are trying to locate the owner of a loaded 45 calibre revolver, which was found in a lane east of the 700 block Granville Street Wednesday.

Granville Street Wednesday.

Flags on all federal public buildings and the Court House are at half-staff today in a final tribute to Norway's English-born Queen, Maud, whose funeral took place today in her adopted land.

An evening or cards will be held by members and friends of Birmingham and Idland Counties Association at the home of Mrs. A. E. Danvers, 1830 Arbutus Street Saturday, proceeds in aid of work of the association.

A social and dance will be held by the Crotian Communit, in the Hastings Auditorium, 826 East Hastings Auditorium, 826 East Hastings Street, tonight in aid of the new Crotian Educational Home, now nearing completion at 600 Campbell Avenue.

All C.C.F. candidates in the civic elections will be heard briefly in an "open mike" broadcast over CKMO on Saturda at 10 p.m. Questions will be ans wer d if sent in to 708 Holden Budding in time before the broadcast.

Utilities Measure Praised by Crone

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—The Public Utilities Bill will provide a weapon which municipal councils have wanted for a long time in that it will enable government authority to find out details of utility businesses and thus set up a sound argument for changes in rates, Alderman Fred Crone, Liberal, Vancouver Centre, declared in the Legislature Wednesday.

It should be welcomed by counmunicipalities who of all with utility companies, he These councils, continually inder pressure from residents, lave had little power because hey could not examine a utility ompany's books and records.

Dr. Gillis Critical Of New Health Act

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.-Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, warned the egislature Wednesday night that the new pre-marriage health tests would lead to a great deal of companionate marriage in the province. Couples not wishing to take the tests might live together without marriage ceremonies. The bill was completed in com-

Islands Riding Sunk Without Trace

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

The Vancouver Sun's Staff Reporter VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—This is the time—the last, dying hours of the session, with the eyes of everyone on the clock—when the statute law of British Columbia may be said to melt into a kind of thick liquid flux just before it crystallizes, hard and brittle, for another year.

As the vast fluid substance



fluid substance of our legislature sputters and boils in these last hours, as clauses are slipped in and ladled out, al-most anything most anything may happen. If you don't watch it every moment something entirely unexment something entirely unexpected and embarrassing may crystallize out of the boiling, and remain cold in the pot on the gray dawn after prorogation.

Thursday Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Wismer watched the pot like trained metallurgists, watched it trained metallurgists, watched it anxiously and long, never taking their eyes from it, making sure that nothing dangerous got in, making equally sure that many minor but essential ingredients got in. By today they were pretty sure that the whole mass would crystallize in the end as planned.

planned.

It is a bewildering business in the dying hours and no one except the Premier and his legal adviser attempt to keep track of it all. Every other member has some little thing that he wants to put into the pot or take out and he lets the rest go. There were enough of these smaller matters to keep the House in fairly feverish activity from the middle of the morning to the middle of the night.

Evil Spirits

The pot boiled first as the government stirred in its new redistribution bill, a measure which tribution bill, a measure which way be said to combine the diverse sciences of geography and politics in a remarkable fashion. The opposition conducted a short hat stinging attack on the evil spirit of Gerrymander which they saw in the bill and the government, with its eye on the clock, attempted no particular reply.

It was here, however, that Dr. Tellord demonstrated once more his uneanny gentus for the wrong word when, to the joy of the Liberals and the blank faced in gredulity of his own party, he called the premier's scat of Prince Rupert a "Siwash village." The Liberal benches, secretly delignied, muttered protests, knowned.

in his own riding here it was, served up on a silver platter.
Harold Winch, loyally rushing to sweep up the mess left by his associate, attempted to divert attention from it by pleading for the small cities of the province, urging their importance in the problems of redistribution. But the harm had been done.

Small Town Stuff

Mr. Maitland wasn't much more discreet than Dr. Teliord, for when he asked the Premier to run against him in Point Grey and the Premier asked him to run in Prince Rupert, Mr. Maitland retorted, in an unguarded mo-ment, that he wanted to run in a big and important constituency, not in a small town where elec-tions were won by patronage and political jobs.

It was a bad day for Prince Rupert. A good day for Liberal candidates there.

A good day also for oratory and solid debate. Some of the best speeches of the session burst out suddenly in the dying hours— Mr. Pearson defending his Labor Arbitration Act amendments, Mr. Winch attacking them, Mr. Wismer carrying the fight back to the Socialists.

This, of course, was a matter potentially more important to the average working man of British Columbia and to industry than most things before the House in recent years. It meant that British Columbia was facing here the universal problem of our times—the class struggle, the strange wriggling, tortured pro-cess of our society trying to ad-

cess of our society trying to adjust itself to the machine age.
Vaguely our legislators realize that here they are up against something fundamental and historic. The House listens with a new gravity. Men speak with a new power of conviction.
Mr. Pearson, who has made few speeches of late, showed himself a master of argument and fact as

speeches of late, showed himself, a master of argument and fact, as he explained why the Government had given labor a lot, not quite as much as it wanted, in the new lagislation.

Mr. Winch, his face dark with

anger, delivered a powerful speech denouncing the proposed law, denouncing the Government for being the tool of employers, denouncing the state of society, Mr. Wismer, who has suddenly

denouncing the state of society.

Mr. Wismer, who has suddenly become the chief front line fighter of the government, a single-man battallion of shock troops, spoke as an old friend of labor, asked it to be patient, to make progress by reasonable steps, not to disrupt industry which paid its wages This speech showed him at his best, in a rough and tumble fight, and indicated the remarkably increased stature of the man since he entered this cabinet.

Mr. Maitland was judicial, cautious, and on the fence. Stand the whole thing over for a year, said he. But failing that, he supported Mr. Pearson, showing again, what has always been quite obvious, how close the old line parties are on all fundamentals, how the real issue is always between them and the socialists. In the end the new legislation, guaranteeing recognition to existing but not future unions, was passed with the clear understanding that this was a temporary stop-gap only, that something

subject of battles in this legis

subject of battles in this legisla-ture a hundred years from now.
There was no use worrying any further about these great imponderables, and the House turned its attention to the imme-diate job of getting home for the week-end. When it makes up its mind to a task like that the House, for all its size and age, can move with amazing agility.
Thus when the Redistribution Bill went into committee near

Bill went into committee near midnight and everyone prepared

midnight and everyone prepared for hours of nagging and wraggling, the whole thing went through in less than five minutes. Somehow, all the starch had gone out of the opposition, from which some little fillibuster at least had been expected.

Capt. Macintosh went through the motions of a final fight to save his Islands riding, but this was quickly voted down, and the new electoral map, with The Islands finally submerged, was presented complete to the electorate, which will deal with it, in the uncertain fashion of democracy, in the year 1941.

New Profit Tax Not New Levy At All--Wismer

Measure Wins Approval After Explanation in House

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—The government's undistributed profits tax was given approval by the Legislature Thursday after Attorney-General Wismer had ex-plained that it did not in any sense increase taxation in British Columbia, but merely prevented

a few rich men evading taxes.

"This legislation," Mr. Wismer declared, "has been completely misunderstood in some quarters. It is not an increase in taxation. The taxation due from all companies is already written into the statutes.

"This act merely enables us to enforce it in the case of a few men who, instead of returning profits to themselves as shareholders, form holding companies outside the province, pay the money to these holding companies which are then untaxable. 'Our plan, is simply to protect capital and labor by seeing that people can not evade the acts of the Legislature and refuse to pay the money they are obligated to pay and when we need it so badly for social and other services."

'I dare say this won't apply to more than six companies," said Hon. John Hart, Minister of This act merely enables us to

more than six companies," said Hon. John Hart, Minister of

finance.

When R. L. Maitland, K.C., opposition leader, objected that there was no appeal to the courts over the decision of the minister as to what constitutes an undistributed profit or unreasonable reserve, Mr. Hart said that such an appeal provision would involve endless litigation.

In all his years of office, he said, not one company had appealed to him over the decision of his officials of what constitute an unreasonable reserve.

an unreasonable reserve.
This showed, he said, how

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Employers Must Recognize All Unions Organized by Dec. 7

Status of B. C. Labor Defined in Historic Debate in Legislature

Industrial Act Amended But Only Temporarily Until Industry and Labor Meet in Conference

By BRUCE HUTCHISON
The Vancouver Sun's Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—In historic debate here last night,
the Legislature grappled with one of the basic issues of
these times by deciding the status of organized labor in British Columbia.

Called by C.C.F. members a ere trick in the interests of capital, and by the government a reasonable compromise, an amendment to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act forces empolyers to recognize in all collective bargaining the unions already organized in their plants, with a membership of fifty-one per cent or more of their workers.

COMPELS RECOGNITION

But the amendment compels this recognition only of unions so organized on December 7.

This does not mean, of course, that unions formed in future cannot bargain collectively with employers.

The right of collective bargaining is fully preserved for every worker in this province.

In any industry or business the workers by vote may compel an employer to bargain with them and may appoint representatives of their own choosing.

They may, in fact, compel recognition of their union, though

not in name, by choosing union officials as their representatives.

WITHOUT A VOTE

But only unions already formed can insist that they and their leaders must automatically be recognized as bargaining agencies without a vote by the

For the government, Hon. G. S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, defended introduction of the amend-

ment and Attorney-General Wis-mer amounced that it way by no means a permanent policy. In the next year, he said, em-ployers and workers' representa-tives will sit down together and try to work out a compromise program satisfactory to all con-cerned.

Harold Winch, C.C.F. whip, fiercely assailed the amendment as making Mr. Pearson "the tool of employers" and as a "blow to union organization."

BLUBBER BAY STRIKE

BLUBBER BAY STRIKE

Mr. Winch began by denying
the previous statement of Mr.
Pearson that the workers were
responsible for the failure of
conciliation efforts in the Blubber Bay strike.

The government's amendment
to the Arbitration Act, he declared, had been suggested by
interests directly opposed to organized labor—such interests as
the logging and waterfront inthe strike of the st

anti-unionist activities and de-termined to fight against the right of collective bargaining." Colonel C. E. Edgett, Mr. Winch said, had been one of the leaders of the employers' dele-gation which had asked the govermment for the present amend-ment—"a man known all over western Canada as the greatest anti-unionist."

ONLY ONE OF DELEGATION

Premier Pattullo said Colonel Edgett had merely been one of a large delegation which met the government and had not spoken.

The Premier had not known, he said, who Colonel Edgett was among the group and he had no influence on the cabinet's de-cision. The government, he added, had considered the situation not from the em-ployers' standpoint but on its merits.

merits.

The reason why the government did not wish to give recognition to unions formed in the future, said Mr. Winch, was

Such industries as those of Such industries as those on logging and the waterfront were determined to stop organization of their workers, and to refuse to recognize union organizations if they were formed.

'AFRAID OF CIO'

Inevitably, he said, labor would organize in British Columbia, and the amendment would make it unnecessary for employers to recognize the unions or deal with the "militant and intelligent union officials."

"The employing interests," he said, "are very smart and have pulled a fast one in getting the government to bring in this amendment.

"Everyone knows the reason for all this. They are afraid of the C. I. O."

VANCOUVER APPROVAL

VANCOUVER APPROVAL.

The amendment might have been accepted by one or two labor organization officials, he said, but only as something better than nothing at all.

To support this he read a telegram from the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council saying the amendment helped existing unions and thus was preferable to no amendment.

In a fighting reply Attorney General Wismer declared the government knew it owed its election to the support of labor, and felt it still had that support 'ALL THE PEOPLE'

'ALL THE PEOPLE'

people," he said, "and it is a very important thing that no steps should be taken that will disrupt our industry.

"We have to listen to the voice of industry as well as to the voice of labor.

of labor.

"Surely there is nothing wrong here to in industrialists coming here

"We had previously listened to

representatives of labor.
"I had discussed this whole question for months with labor

representatives.

"This amendment is not the suggestion of industry, but was worked out of conferences with oth parties.

NOT FINAL AMENDMENT

"Moreover, it was understood that when this amendment was drafted that during the coming year representatives of labor and representatives of employers would get together around a table and try to work out some-thing satisfactory to all.

thing satisfactory to all.
"This is not a final amendment, but it carries organized labor a long step forward.
"Why not wait for a year and have a round table conference?"
"And remember you cannot have strikes and disruption of indistry it you are the strikes." industry if you are going to live under our present system.

MIGHT BE NO WAGES

"I have been fighting the cause of labor for 25 years and Mr. Bengough and Mr. Morrison told me they were satisfied with this legislation for the present. Nothing was slipped over any-

one.
"I am not going to attack the C.I.O. now and may never attack it, but I want to say that if this government does everything for labor without regard to the needs of industry, pretty soon there will be no one to pay wages and I am confident that the great bulk of organized labor will support the stand of the government."

MUST CONSIDER

MIDDLE PEOPLE'

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, urged the government to stand the whole issue over for a year or two until the present Act had been given a thorough test.

He said members, when they regarded what had happened in San Francisco, must consider not only the positions of capital and labor, but also the middle people, the general public.

Objections to the original bargaining clause were only from a certain type of people, not from the orthodox labor unions, he argued.

argued.
Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, attacked the bill as discriminating between labor unions now established and those that might be organized in the future.
E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, attacked the amendment but i

M. Bryan, Liberal, Mackenzie, a union man himself, said the legislation was valuable to labor which did not prosper when mushroom unions sprang up.

If the amendment had been in strong explicit the Blubber, Bay

effect earlier the Blubber Bay trouble would not have occurred.

Legislature Stands In Silent Tribute

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—The legislature stood in silent tribute to James H. Schofield. Premier Pattullo moved a vote of condolence to his wife and family.

Timber Exchange

VICTORIA.-A bill given sec ond reading in the Legislature, Wednesday night, will allow the Powell River Company and the Pacific Mills Ltd. at Ocean Falls to use pulp timber from ea

Compassionate Plea For Pensioners Made

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—Pleas for retired municipal servants whose

pensions will be slashed featured the final debate Thursday on the new superannuation scheme. "We've been delaying this mat-ter and if we wait any longer the fund will collapse," said Hon. G. M. Weir.

British Columbia Using an Excessive Amount of Heavy Fuel Oil

'Cost of Coal, B. C.'s Natural Fuel, Too High' Macdonald Commission Declares in Final Report

Oil Production and Distribution Charges Asserted to Be Too Low; Scientific Study Advocated; Central Depots to Increase Use of Coal

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—British Columbia, one of Canada's big coal-producing provinces, is using an excessive amount of heavy fuel oil, far more than any of the other provinces in comparison, and per capita more than most parts of the world, Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald found in his final report for the Coal and Oil Commission, tabled in the Legislature

Mr. Justice Macdonald declared that B. C. in 1936 imported more heavy fuel oil than all the rest of Canada combined.

The report put before the House today is the third section of the Commissioner's report, dealing with the relative economic values of coal and oil as s. The previous two sections, in the price of gasoline and coal, were tabled last year.

COSTS TOO HIGH

COSTS TOO HIGH

In his final conclusion, Mr. Justice Macdonald says:

"The costs of production and distribution of coal have been found to be too high, with resulting uneconomic prices to consumers. The cost and production and distribution of heavy fuel oil as stated by oil companies, on the contrary, have been found to be too low, and not to reflect or represent the economic cost thereof; also with resulting uneconomic prices to consumers.

"The oil commanies have been omic prices to consumers.

The oil companies have been

"The oil companies have been able to pursue this course by using a method of allocating costs whereunder the losses incurred in heavy fuel oil have been loaded onto gasoline, thereby increasing its alleged cost of production."

Mr. Justice Macdonald finds that on a proper distribution and production basis, coal could be used much more economically than fuel oil in many heating

BAILWAY OPERATION

"In railway operation in Brit-sh Columbia," the report says, the use of coal and heavy fuel the use of coal and heavy fu oil is dictated not by the merits of these fuels for locomotive use but rather by their competitive

but rather by their competitive prices. Heavy oil is purchased by the railways at prices much below the economic cost of production and economic delivered prices as found.

"If heavy fuel oil and coal were sold at economic delivered prices, the use of coal in railway locomotives should result in substantial annual savings. In 1936, 44,057,660 gallons of heavy fuel oil were consumed in railway locomotives in British Columbia, as compared with only 2,871,923 gallons in all the rest of Cangalan."

mountainous character of the ountry, and the danger of fire azard. Governments would not object to coal in locomotives for this reason but there would have to be patrols as in Eastern Can

ada where coal is used exclusively.

COAL UNTESTED

The railways have not tested coal here, the commissioner says, and there is no reason to believe this fuel would not be successful. On the other hand, "it is not possible to find in the evidence presented that coal as a fuel in logging operations is as safe as oil in respect to fire danger." But the report finds that coal is safely used in logging in Washington and one part of Vancouver Island. Exhaustive tests should be made to settle this question.

The report also urges tests of The railways have not tested

The report also urges tests of the use of coal in coastal steam-ers, along lines tried in Britain with chemical stokers.

"Insofar as British Columbia astal steamships are concerncoastal steamships are concern-ed, if coal and heavy fuel oils were sold at economic delivered prices, there is no reasonable doubt but that the advantage would be considerably in favor of mechinacily stoked coal," the

commissioner continues.

"There are other considerations, such as cargo space and time for refuelling, in regard to which we are unable to reach a final conclusion without more in-

"On the type of evidence sub-mitted to us we are are able to conclude that one fuel is better than another for use in steam tugboats."

MORE WORK

In addition to the number of miners employed in producing the 186,706 tons of coal needed to supply coastal vessels if all burned coal, the burning of a British Columbia fuel product "would assist materially in greater employment in transportation and distribution services, entirely apart from employment in allied industries and occupations arising out of the additional direct employment in coal mine production and distribution service.

and gives caried employment in primary and secondary indus-tries.

. . . We do not think it is necessary to stress further a condition apparent to the com-mon sense of all British Colum-bians."

Oil companies, the report says, show the cost of various products in a way which does not show the true cost of producing heavy fuel

oil.

The Canadian Collieries charged depreciation "largely according to the discretion of the directors and in addition large withdrawn from the sums were withdrawn from the company's depreciation reserves and used for other purposes. We recast this method," says the report, "and treated the excessive depreciation charges as profit."

UNIQUE CONDITION

This was done according to the practises of the best accounting firms, the report says. and quote authorities for the statement.

"The excessive use of heavy fuel oil in B.C. indicates the exis-tence of an unique condition in this province," the report says. "Although it is a great coal

producing province more heavy fuel oil is consumed as a substifuel oil is consumed as a substitute for coal than in any other
province; also in addition to the
heavy fuel oil processed here
more heavy fuel oil was imported
into B.C. in 1936 than into all the
rest of Canada. Despite our comparatively small population British Columbia consumed in 1936
one-third of the heavy fuel oil
used in Canada."
"It is contrary to the economic

"It is contrary to the economic welfare of the province that depreciation reserves should be withdrawn from a company," the report declares.

He refers to tests on the relative marits of heavy fuel oil and

tive merits of heavy fuel oil and coal in heating two hotels in Chicago, made by the Com-mercial Testing and Engineering

COAL CHEAPER

Taking into account differences in heavy fuel oil and coal used in Chicago and those used in British Columbia, the commissioner finds that in similar tests here, the cost of fuel oil would be considerably higher than Nanaimo coal to do the same work

same work.

The saving by using Nanaimo coal would be \$1.4818 for each ton needed. If Comox coal were used, the saving would be even

livered price as calculated by the commission

Comox coal could compete at \$8.10 per short ton, or \$1.99 above its economic delivered

REDUCED COSTS

REDUCED COSTS

"It will be apparent," the commissioner says, "that if Vancouver Island coal does not wish deliberately to make heavy fuel oll a present of a market involving a substantial part of volving a substantial part of 34.87 per cent of its production (the domestic trade require-34.87 per cent of its production (the domestic trade requirements) not only must the cost of mining be reduced at least 85 cents per ton but retail distribution charges must be lowered very considerably below \$2.25 per short ton (which in itself is 75 cents below the present "leased yard spread" and \$1.25 below the ordinary "dealer's" spread.)

At present a private body or company controlling the price of gasoline, and consequently the price of heavy fuel oil, can vir-tually destroy the B. C. coal in-

dustry, the report continued.

"Regulation, therefore, by a public body is highly desirable in it (the coal industry's) interest in the public interest.

"To illustrate, in November, 1935 (when gasoline prices in Vancouver was 29 cents a gal-lon) the Vancouver motorist in ion) the Vancouver motorist in every 10 gallons of gasoline purchased paid \$1.10 in excess of the fair retail price; this \$1.10 excess price paid by nearly 100,000 British Columbia motorists dia not show as oil company net profit, because it was 'shifted back' to make up (among other similar losses) some \$1,400,000 losses incurred in heavy fuel oil sales below cost to the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways.

Pacific and Canadian Pational Railways.

"All companies now operating refineries in British Columbia (Imperial, Union and Shell—no reference here to Standard as it came into British Columbia later)

and in the people in 1934 a grand

came into British Columbia later) sold to the people in 1934 a grand total of 30,691,387 gallons of gasoline and 166,320,707 gallons of heavy fuel oil (including intercompany sales of the later).

"In view of the fact that on the whole they sold and dealt with over five times as much heavy fuel oil as gasoline, the former 'regardless of cost,) the reader may estimate what adjustment in prices would absorb any diminution of revenue consequent upon a reduction in gasoline prices.

have the co

"This is so a market twants, all the to do is to price which and then reany losses t any losses t COLLIERIES

The Comm muir) Limite largest ope charge of se he applies to

"It will be nadian Collie plaint agains for selling is cost, then for domestic co have an equagainst Cana selling below industry."

GASOLINE

In the fir port, Mr. found that gasoline in have been per gallon, 1935 condition plicity and line service ated, 23 cen be a fair pri

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apparent," the tys, "that if I coal does not to make heavy of a market in-antial part of its production trade require-must the cost aced at least 85 retail distribu-act be lowered below \$2.25 nich in itself is to the present ad" and \$1.25 nary "dealer's"

INDSTRY rivate body or ng the price of a sequently the sel oil, can vire B. C. coal interest continued.

erefore, by a ghly desirable istry's) interest interest.

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now operating tish Columbia and Shell—no Standard as if columbia later) in 1934 a grand gallons of gas-707 gallons of neluding inter-the latter).

have the coal mining industry virtually at their mercy," he

"This is so because if coal has a market that heavy fuel oil wants, all the oil companies have to do is to lower fuel oil to a price which coal can NOT meet, and then recoup themselves for and then recoup themselves for any losses therefrom by charg-ing a higher price for gasoline."

COLLIERIES ACCUSED

The Commissioner also levels at Canadian Collieries (Duns-muir) Limited, Vancouver Island's largest operators, the same charge of selling below cost that he applies to oil companies.

"It will be obvious that if Ca-"It will be obvious that if Ca-nadian Collieries has a good com-plaint against the oil companies for selling heavy fuel oil below cost, then for the same reason the domestic coal consumer must have an equally good complaint against Canadian Collieries for selling below cost to railways and industry."

GASOLINE PRICES

GASOLINE PRICES

In the first section of his report, Mr. Justice Macdonald found that the retail price of gasoline in Vancouver should not have been more than 18 cents per gallon, based on 1934 and 1935 conditions. Until the "multiplicity and duplication" of gasoline service stations was eliminated, 23 cents per gallon would be a fair price.

Another section of the report

Another section of the report refers to "idle" property held by Imperial Oil Limited.

This states than an investiga-tion at the Land Registry office, only recently made, disclosed only recently made, disclosed "that (with one exception) cor-ner lots in Vancouver and vicinity amounting, according to transfer values, to enearly a quarter of a million dollars, were purchased between 1927 and 1931." The report says service stations were not erected on these lots, pur-suant in my opinion to the policy of main:aiming prices and pre-venting competition."

REFERS TO LOSSES

Mr. R. M. Pidgeon, D. C. manager of Imperial Oil, as reported October 12, 1938, stated that 'evidence was presented to Dr. Carrothers indicating that the industry is losing money in British Columbia. This is presumably apart from any proposed ably apart from any proposed reductions in gasoline prices. It is not stated whether there was any diminution in the volume of sales—or if costs were higher. The purchase of the idle property referred to might possibly repre-sent the "loss" or part of it. These purchases ought really to indicate a lucrative business in this prequee" this province.

OIL TAXATION

OIL TAXATION

The commissioner finds that while heavy fuel oil competes unfairly with coal, furnace oil, used mainly in household heating appears "to be sold in fair competition.

"Heavy fuel oil now bears two direct taxes—the 17½ cents per barrel provincial tax and the eight per cent Dominion sales tax—while coal has no direct tax, not even the sales tax.

"In the dircumstances there."

"In the circumstances, there-fore, if heavy fuel oil will sell to larger building heating plants at economic delivered prices and coal will not, we see no justifica-tion for penalizing heavy fuel oil by the continuance of those direct taxes."

The commissioner says he favors a "customs duty on imported heavy fuel oil high enough to enable it to be sold at economic delivered prices." In 1935, heavy fuel oil delivered direct to coastal points from our direct direct oil not compensated to by the existing customs duty of 17½ cents a barrel.

Unless the additional duty is put on, he claims, "the price of British Columbia heavy fuel oil to large users may be dictated by California heavy fuel oil dumped into this province at prices which can not be competed with, either by British Columbia fuel oil or by

"The lower the price at which British Columbia processed fuel oil sells in order to compete with California heavy fuel oil, the greater the heavy fuel oil losses California to be absorbed by British Colum bia processed gasoline," he com

COAL OUTPUT

Mr. Justice Macdonald says to the end of 1936 British Columbia's coal industry production 96,056, 118 short tons valued at \$340,699, 557. But from 1910 to 1935, when population increased by 90 per cent, coal production dropped 57.57 per cent.

B.C. Calls for Ban on Orient **Immigration**

'No More Japanese or Chinese Should Enter This Country'; Compromise On Conservative Resolution

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—As the last act of its present session the Legislature prepared today to put British Columbia on record as opposed to further Oriental immigration in Canada.

> After a full dress debate on the whole Oriental problem this morning the House was asked by the Government to declare its view that no more Japanese or Chinese should enter this country.

WOULD SCRAP AGREEMENT

This motion was a compromise on a Conservative proposal that the House ask for the repeal of the "gentlemen's agreement" with Japan under which 150 Japanese are admitted to British Columbia annually.

Previously the Provincial Gov-ernment had opposed this motion as embarrassing to the Canadian Government during a period of

world tension.

But today's motion sponsored by D. W. Strachan of Dewdney indicated it was prepared to favor Oriental exclusion in different

Oriental exclusion in different words.

Conservatives adjourned debate on the Strachan motion until this afternoon, determined to fight for repeal of the "gentlemen's agreement," but they will be outvoted by Liberals before the day is out.

Meanwhile R. W. Bruhn, Conservative of Salmon Arm, moved a motion condemning the Federal government for failure to reduce the number of Japanese in fishing on this coast, but he withdrew it after a long argument when it became clear the government would amend it to praise the Federal authorities for their handling of the problem of Orientals in fishing.

MUST LOOK AHEAD

MUST LOOK AHEAD

British Columbia, said Mr. Bruhn, must look ahead 50 years and by restricting Orientals' activities now cause them to adjust themselves to the needs of the province in the future.

He traced the heavy increase in the number of fishing licenses issued to Japanese here in recent years.

issued to sapanese;

J. A. Paton, Conservative, Point Grey, suspected that "someone" is subsidizing Japanese fishermen, who are all buying big boats powered with new Diesel engines.

"There is something sinister about that," he warned, "particularly as we know every cove and bay on our coast has been infested by Japanese fishermen."

He did not regard Japan, however, as a potential enemy.

"We are locking the stable door after the horse has gone," said

Summary of Fuel Probe Findings

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald made the following findings on coal in the third section of his report on the coal and petroleum industries of British Columbia: Under proper conditions of firing, coal is equal to a similarly designated fuel oil in boiler furnaces.

In stationary plants, the same efficiency can be expected from coal and heavy fuel oil.

Coal is the logical and economical fuel in this province since fuel

Coal is the logical and economical fuel in this province since fuel oil is not produced here.

Coal can be used with a substantial saving in building heating plants, such as office buildings, hotels, departmental stores and institutions. Tests already conducted prove this.

In stationary and industrial power plants, coal can be used with substantial savings, whether pulverized or mechanically stoked.

Properly qualified engineers should be employed to get the best results from coal.

Instead of coal being a decadent fuel, as some sources suggest, experience in Great Britain and the United States shows it is one of the most fruitful fields for commercial research.

To British Columbia it is important that such scientific study should be encouraged.

should be encouraged.
esel or furnace oil used in dwelling houses does not compete
with automatically fired coal, even on today's competitive prices.

LOSES MARKET
Vancouver Island coal has lost a large market because of its high cost of production and distribution. Alberta coal and sawdust burners are two big competitors.
Reduced charges of building heating plants should not be overgoome by higher charges to domestic consumers of coal. Automatic coal-burning equipment would increase the market for pea and slack coal, but domestic consumers should be protected against an increase in price of these coals. Establishment of central coal-distributing depots, or some modification of this principle, is the only way the present high distribution charges can be reduced so that coal can compete in building heating plants with heavy fuel oil, if the latter were sold at economic delivered prices.
Gouses and other buildings, it says, should be constructed to receive coal in build unsacked, and should be equipped with automatic coal stokers.

Ho. G. S. Pearson, Minister of

"If we drive them out of on "If we drive them out of one industry they bob up somewhere else. It's like ring around a rosy. But I am absolutely opposed to the admission of more Japanese laborers in Canada.

"But every Japanese who has a fishing license is a naturalized British subject."

Mr. Pearson said he and his father before him had fought for Oriental exclusion.

He gave the House figures to show that only 14 and one-half per cent of the fishermen now operating are Japanes with 40 per cent in 1921 Canada started to reduce Japan-

While Japanese do not dominate the industry Mr. Pearson made it clear he was not arguing against a further reduction in Japanese licenses.

He showed how the present provincial government, reversing the policy of its predecessor, had greatly reduced the number of Orientals in fish packing plants and turned the jobs over to white

NO "PERSECUTION"

One returned soldier, Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conserva-tive, urged the House to act now on Orientals or blame itself for results later, and the other one-armed veteran in the House, Capt. C. R. Bull, Liberal, demanded that British Columbia refuse to persecute minorities, and he sug-gested Mr. Bruhn withdraw his resolution.

A sharp clash occurred when R. L. Maitland, Opposition Leader, accused Capt. Bull of getting votes in South Okanagan by say-Conservative opponent had acted as lawyer for apanese

Capt. Bull said he had taken no part in this campiagn and could not control what his friends

Premier Pattullo suggested that if the House ept condemning the federal government this would make difficult negotiations between the province and the Do

This would apply whether a Liberal or Conservative gover-ment were in office in Ottawa.

British Columbia, he said, re-alize that the Orientals were here and must live.

They could not be driven from one industry to another and could not all be repatriated.

Mr. Bruhn denied he had any

political uotive in proposing his resolution and withdrem it only because he sam the government intended to force through an amendment by Mr. Pearson com-mending the federal government handling of Japanese fishiny li-

Rather than praise the federal authorities Mr. Bruhn dropped his plan to condemn them know-ing he was outnumbered by the

What B.C. Legislature Has Done In New Enactments This Session

Government Attitude to **Business and to Courts Leading Issues**

VICTORIA, Dec. 9:—With a broad program of legisla-tion passed British Columbia's legislature is heading for prorogation tonight.

By far the outstanding law of the session, now in its seventh

week, is the utility bill.

Built up, torn down and rebuilt through many long hours of committee work, the finished product is in 132 sections containing 12,-000 words. Over a wide field it gives the government and a new three man utility commission the authority to decide how much people shall pay for electric light. transportation, water, telephones and telegraph, up to a point, and the kind of service they should

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Out of this measure, and changes in the Coal and Petroleum Act designed to bolster its validity, arose the most signifi-cant issues of the session:

First, the government's attitude toward business.

Second, the government's rela-tion with the courts.

Throughout the session busi-ness and industrial leaders have kept a watchful eye on proceedings, fearful the administration intended to take sweeping control over business. Finally the Pre mier went out of his way to dis-pel their fears and assure them it meant no harm, wanted co op-eration, and simply seeks to deal with a problem that has long eded attention.

needed attention.

The power of the courts to upset legislation and block the government's plans was forcibly brought home by the gasoline injunction which brought about attorney-General Wismer's fuel according to the conditions. act amendments that, he told the House, should win his case in the Supreme Court. With this experienceperience in mind the government took the most elaborate steps to protect itself in the utilities law from being stopped by the courts

wrote in a complicated for-It wrote in a complicated formula setting just out how and when the act can be taken before the judiciary. Both the Premier and Attorney-General plainly implied they thought the courts too ready to block the intentions of the House.

LABOR MEASURES

LABOR MEASURES

For labor, the government put through two measures of considerable prominence. Outstanding was the new definition of the bargaining rights of trade unions. Existing unions will now be entitled without any question to have their business agents act for employees in disputes. In the act passed last year they had this right only if employees said so by majority vote, a sore point with labor groups ever since the measure was adopted.

The other move of interest to labor was the increase in benefit under the Workmen's Compensation Act, giving them 66 23

for funerals and raising widows' from \$35 to \$40 a month.

Government's policy was not greatly changed during the session. Of major im-portance for the future, however, was a Revenue Act amendment which completes Finance Minister John Hart's authority to deal with the big problem of refinancing some \$57,000,000 worth of maturities during the next four years. He was left pretty well with a free hand to meet this situation as it comes along

PROFITS TAX

Mr. Hart's new plan to get at undistributed profits in family corporations went through des-pite some opposition from business men, but on his assurance it is aimed only at a few holding companies. The Finance Minproperties, and the forest branch vincial expenditure at the \$29,000,

Politically speaking, the redis tribution bill provided some of the liveliest moments of the ses sion, bringing the usual charge of gerrymander. In brief, it leave the House the same size with 48 members, but restores the old Alberni riding, throws the Islands into Nanaimo, and separates Oak Bay from Victoria into a separate

The government took two steps in its campaign to suppress venereal disease. It will be able, when it decides, to insist that all people take a blood test before they can get a marriage license. This does not come into effect right away, because there is not enough accommodation at pro-vincial laboratories to offer free tests. It also took wider authority to make people take treatment for venereal diseases.

In the way of financial relief for farmers and real estate owners, problems still lingering from the depression, several measures were passed. Chiefly there was the power to write off hundreds of thousands of dollars on debts owed the Land Settlement Board.

passed up again, and the moratorium on mortgages was renew ed for another year.

As usual there was a good deal of legislation dealing with municipanties. The municipal pen-sion scheme was revamped to put the fund on a sound basis, but it ft municipal employees with naller pensions. Guarantees of eap federal loans to cities for if-liquidating works were au-orized, adoption of the two-Jilzed, adoption of the two-platoon system for fire depart-ments in all municipalities was approved, and a variety of amendments put into the general Municipal Act and special Vancouver laws

Automobile drivers, and their insurance companies, are relieved of liability for injuries to their passengers in accidents under another group of acts: other gives legality to the estab-lishment of credit unions.

The mines department was given additional powers to en-force its policies of encouraging actual development of mining properties, and the forse branch got wider authority to pursue its forest protection plans, includ-ing an increase in the tax on timbermen from 4 to 6 cents per acre. An important change in the Land Act empowers the gov-ernment to waive its one-quarter interest in new townships.

Utilities Bill, With Slight Changes, Finally Sanctioned

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—With
little debate, the Legislature
Thursday gave final sanction
to the bill to regulate public

The government provided a last minute surprise by changing, for the second time, its formula on a ppe als against ruling of the utilities commission.

sion.

As finally adopted the bill sets out the following procedure for appeals:

(1) An appeal can be taken at any time to the Appeal Court on matters of law and jurisdiction.

(2) An appeal can be made to the provincial cabinet

against rates or other fac-tual orders of the Utility Commission.

(3) If the government decides it cannot settle a point of fact it may allow the case to go to the courts.

The last point was the one introduced in the final debate,

altering the position of the gov-ernment which previously had declined to allow appeals on fact.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, briefly protested. Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, moved to kill the government's control of the commission, but mustered only eight Conservative votes. Three Smart Tested House

By BRUCI VICTORIA second sess teenth Legis Columbia be ages. They a Last night

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Three Smart Men Tested in House

By BRUCE HUTCHISON VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—The second session of the Nineteenth Legislature of British Columbia belongs now to the ages. They are welcome to it.

Last night the session died, according to old custom, in disorder and merriment, and was buried under a blizzard of old papers red into the air by howling slators. They are going home for the legislators.

home for the Christmas ho days, like bot released fro school, and they have earned their

The second session of the nineteenth legislature has gone down into history, where it may be little noted nor long remembered, but

it had its points.
In the development of our legislative structure
in British Columbia, and in the opment of figures who will the that structure in the re-make days ahead, it was, comparatively speaking, an important session. Also, it was a peculiarly earnest and intelligent session, a fact no taxpayer is perhaps expected to

This session was a test for three men. It was a test, first, for the new leader of the Con-servative Party, Mr. Mailand, and it is the view of this reportthat he met it well.

Careful and Dignified

Careful and Dignified

He has some way to go yet, perhaps three years of testing, before the public decides in 1941 whether he is big enough to be premier of this province. But his start was well-planned—quiet, even repressed and deadly serious. By the end of the session the old laughing, carefree afterdimer Maitland was pronounced extinct, deliberately killed by the new, sober-sided, grim Mr. Maitland, who already feels the mantle of office and the hand of history heavy on his shoulder.

We rather miss the old Maitland, though. We rather miss

We rather miss the old Malt-land, though. We rather miss also the rough-riding, two-gun opposition leadership that we have had from such men as Messrs. Pattullo, Pooley and Bowser. Mr. Maitland thinks his method of repression, leaning backwards to be dignified, is best suited to these grave times, when electorates are too worried to be interested in party poli-tics. The smart kind of party politics thus is to appear to have none.

Wismer's Test

ent and fairness. What he has ot yet proved is that his policy liffers in any fundamental from the policy of this government. He can claim that he is a better administrator, more competent, more honest. But up to now he cannot claim to have found a better basic program or offered any new solution. Perhaps there isn't room for one within the nar-row confines of the provincial government.

The second man put to the test Attorney-General You couldn't count his first session last year, when he was too new at the job to take hold completely. This was his first work-ing session and he carried the main load of the government, as an attorney-general must.

He carried it far more ably than his best friends had dared to hope. This remarkable man came into the government with the reputation of being one of the best fellows in British Columbia, but with no serious thought of administration, no de-sire—so it was believed—for hard work or the cares of office. He has turned out to be one of the most useful cabinet ministers we have had here in years.

This session he settled down to

work, worked night and day, handled the whole legislative program, fought a major legal case on the side and put through a public utility act, the most important law passed in recent times.

. Also, to the surprise of his friends, he became a first-rate debater, all the more effective because he wastes no time, speaks briefly and has no bitterness in him to make future trouble for the government. And through it all he has retained his extraordinary capacity for making friends, of grinning his way boyishly out of any difficulty, or compelling everyone in this House to like him by his friend liness and his bursting joy of

Mr. Pattullo has no more useful lieutenant. If he stays in politics, which he says he won't, and keeps his nose to the grind-stone this way, he may go far.

Smart Leadership

The thind man on trial was young Mr. Winch. All events of this session singled him out beyond question as the strongest figure in the socialist movement in British Columbia. By his own in British Columbia. By his own will he was not called the House leader, bhe led the C.C.F. group all the way and led it with remarkable success.

Under his direction the social-

ists have had a most definite effect on the business and legisla-tion of this country. Even from the standpoint of capitalism, this has probably been a good effect on the whole, for checks and balances are the very essence of our democratic system, the delicate machinery which keeps it on the tracks.

Also under Mr. Winch the Also under Mr. Winch the group has survived a storm which might well have washed it up. Battening down its hatches, keeping a stiff upper lip, the C. C.F. group has come through the storm so far, somewhat battered but in no real danger.

But it has yet to deal with the key problem of Dr. Telford and with the unsound system which

der the remote control of a comder the remote control of a committee. It is Mr. Winch who has raised this latter issue and will fight it to a finish inside the party. In the end he may well be the party leader.

These were the men tried and not found wanting in this session. The issues developed may, in the end, prove more important in our politics. The main issue, of course, is the control of public utilities, on which the next pro-vincial election campaign may be fought.

be fought.

This public utility act is only the beginning of it. Oceans of controversy, of investigation, regulation lie ahead before the consumer feels the effect of what was done here this week. But because the consumer must feel it distribute its the consumer must feel it distribute the consumer must fe

feel it directly in the end, this is the stuff of which politics are made, on which governments win or lose. Finally, their performance here in the last seven weeks here in the last seven weeks must have affected the standing of the government, the Conserva tives and Socialists in that inarti-culate but sensitive organ, the public mind. What the public thought of it all, how it regarded the little incidents that seemed so important to us, whether it saw or remembered anything very definitely, we at the centre of events, cannot know. Less than anyone can we know the public mind, but the members of this legislature will find out when they go home for Christ-mas. At the moment, perhaps, the old wish of a Merry Christ-mas has a rather hollow sound in

their ears. This much can be said_the public was earnestly served by all three parties in this House, which are at least equal in intelligence and virtue to the average of the people outside. How well it was ed time will show.

After saying fearful things about our politicians of all sides for years and years, and after seeing some other systems work in Europe, this chronicler ven tures the humble opinion at the session's end that democracy even in its smaller aspects here in British Columbia, is the only system that would suit our breed, and that, with all its delay, clamor and exasperation we'd bet ter hang on to it.

Weir, Wismer In Action at Prorogation

Hurl Papers at Maitland in **Quiet Ceremony**

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—In the
customary brief closing ceremony, quieter than usual, Lieutenant Governor E. W. Hamber, in Windsor uniform, prorogued the legislature at 9 p.m. Friday, giving assent to seventy bills passed during the six and con-half weeks' sitting.

Galleries were crowded to see His Honor arrive, accompanied by military and naval aides, but by military and naval aides, but the only excitement they saw was the battle of papers. There was no sing-song. Best part of the action was Hon. G. M. Weir, provincial secretary, hurling huge packets of printed bills at R. L. Maitland, K.C., opposition leader, ably assisted by Attorney Gen-eral Wismer.

The government allowed one of its minor bills to die on the order paper. It was an amend-ment to the Hours of Work Act that would have prevented eva-sion of work-hour laws by fake

sion of work-hour laws by fake partnerships.
Dr. J. D. Hunter's resolution urging a system of hospital in-surance also died on the paper despite the protest of Mr. Mait-land

'Oxford, Cambridge,

Give U.B.C. High Grade'
VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—The University of British Columbia is classed as a "grade A" institution by Oxford and Cambridge, Hon. G. M. Weir, Minister of Education, told the Legislature when a motion by Mrs. D. G. Steeves (C.C.F.) came up for discussion.

The motion, which was de-feated, called for a committee of the whole House "to consider the question of how the university question of how the university can be made to serve the cause of democratic education more adequately in the future."
"Personally I would like to see the students' fees cut to \$100 or less," Dr. Weir said.
Dr. J. J. Gillis asserted that the U.B.C. was only available for

House Votes for Oriental Exclusion

Sweepstakes to Assist **Hospitals Find Favor**

Victoria Sees Last Minute Dash to Pass Legislation As Prorogation Ceremonies Approach

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—In the final dash for prorogation Friday afternoon the Legislature put itself on record with a variety of opinions, dealing with resolutions that have stood on the order paper for weeks. Some were passed. Some were rejected and others were amended and approved.

and approved. Chief among those passed

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pr th gr Oi ar m

1. A resolution of Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, favoring sweepstakes, conducted either by the Dominion or provincial governments, with 25 per cent of gross proceeds for hospitals.

2. A resolution brought in by 2. A resolution brought in by Capt. Macgregor Macintosh, Conservative, The Islands, and amended by D. W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewdney, favoring to-tal exclusion of any more Japanese and Chinese from Canada.

3. A resolution urging the federal government to construct and maintain national highways or co-operate with the province in building them.

4. A resolution asking Ottawa to consider reduction of the old age pension limit, this being Mr. Pearson's amendment of a motion by R. W. Bruhn that asked pensions for all at 65.

5. A resolution of Dr. J. D. Hunter, Conservative, Victoria, that continued attention be paid to the problem of tuberculosis among Indians.

Those defeated included:

1. Harold Winch's motion urging the government to ask Ottawa to put the B. C. Telephone Company under provincial control.

2. A motion of L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, urg-ing the House consider exces-sive freight rates on feed grains.

3. A motion by E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, urged the Parents' Maintenance Act be disregarded in considering old age pension applications.

HANDS FILLED

On the telephone resolution, Premier Pattullo said his government had enough problems on his hands at the present time. He was in sympathy with the idea, but the government's hands were well tilled now without starting a scrap with the telephone company.

Party lines split in the division on the motion, with H. G. Perry, Liberal, Yale, and Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, voting with the C.C.F. members. The Conservatives joined the government on the issue.

Oriental exclusion went through on an unrecorded vote after Conservatives protested the wiping out of their motion that the gentlemen's agreement with Japan be abrogated. They appealed the speaker's ruling and lost on a 27-14 straight party

DE G

Blood Tests Before Marriage Licences For B. C. Citizens

VICTORIA, Nov. 30.—Pre-marital venereal disease tests are to be made compulsory in British Columbia, according to an amendment to the Marriage Act, introduced in the Legislature on Tuesday by Hon. George M. Weir, provincial secretary.

The amendment is a modification of a bill introduced at several pre-vious sessions of the Legislature by E. E. Winch, C. C. F. member for Burnaby.

for Burnany.

It orders that no marriage licence shall be issued until there has been filed with the issuer of marriage licences a certificate in respect of each party to the intended marriage showing:

1. That a standard laboratory test has been made in an approved

st has been made in an approved boratory of the blood of the party the intended marriage with a ew to the determination of syph-

ilis:

2. That the blood specimen was taken by a medical practitioner registered under the Medical Act, within 20 days prior to the issuance of the marriage licence, or solemn-

of the marriage licence, or solemnization of the marriage:

3. That the result of the blood test has been made known to both parties to the intended marriage.

An exemption is given "in a case of extreme emergency" provided that the parties concerned make a statutory declaration to the effect that to the best of his or her knowledge, he or she is free from sybilis in a transmissable form.

This exemption would apply, also, in the case of the parties being in an isolated area, far from a laboratory. It is the intention of the government, however, to establish

atory. It is the intention of the government, however, to establish laboratories all over the province, The News-Herald was informed.

There are twenty sections to the new bill, most of them being minor amendments, to regulations under the act.

\$5,500,000 VOTED IN ESTIMATES

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Nov. 30.—Pressing
the work of the session in an effort to reach prorogation next
week, the Legislature, in committee of the whole on Tuesday night,
See approach to estimate that.

gave approval to estimates total-ling more than \$5,500,000. In rapid succession, the members went through the following esti-

Provincial secretary, \$5,163,067; Department of Mines, \$301,030; Department of Trade and Industry, \$256,649; Department of Railways,

\$21,330; Pepartment of Railways, \$21,330; Premier's office, \$19,040. Some votes in the Department of Municipal Affairs were also dealt with before the House ad-journed at 11:15 p.m.

PASSENGER HAZARD TO BE CUT FROM MOTOR ACCIDENT SUITS

Autoists Would Not Be Liable For Injury To Riders In Cars

(By Staff Representative)

(By Staff Representative)

Victoria, Nov. 30.—Elimination of the "passenger hazard" in automobile accident suits is aimed at in a bill being introduced into the Legislature during the next day or two by Hon. Gordon M. Wismer, K.C., Attorney-General.

Mr. Wismer has been studying such legislation for some time, and is confident that it will prove of real value to both motorists and insurance companies.

Under the proposed bill, motorists would not be responsible—except in the case of commercial vehicles carrying for compensation—for injuries suffered by a passenger riding in their car.

Mr. Wismer believes that damage suits brought by passengers in the past has aggravated the present insurance rate situation. Insurance company officials have expressed the belief that many such suits were the result of collusion between driver and passenger.

Under the proposed bill, grounds for any such action would be com-

More Money Needed For Hospitals

(By Staff Representative)

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Nov. 30.—During the
House sitting last night consideration of estimates if the provincial
secretary's department brought
forth criticism from R. W. Bruhn,
Conservative, Salmon Arm, that the
\$50,000 allocated for grants to hospitals was insufficient. He felt
that the government was not providing nearly sufficient for this
branch of the department's work.

Comments from The Capital

Tempers Flare as Members Probe Steel 'Steal'

By A. H. WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA. Dec. I. — W. T. Straith, Liberal member for Victoria, who has rapidly been "getting in the hair" of Opposition members in the hair" of Opposition members during committee work, was rebuffed by Rolf Bruhn and R. L. Maitland, K.C., during the Public Accounts investigation of the Telford bridge charges on Wednesday and was quite huffed about it.

After Mr. Straith had been telling Dr. Telford what he could and could not do, Mr. Bruhn asked if the Victoria member was chairman of the committee.

"No," said Mr. Maitland, "Mr. Kenney is chairman and Mr. Straith is counsel for the government."

Mr. Straith didn't like this at all and adopted an attitude of dignified

The public accounts committee The public accounts committee started out for an excursion on the Fraser on Wednesday and ended up in the Skoda munition works, Czechoslovakia.

And Dr. J. Lyle Telford, who has ambitions for the mayoral chair in Vancouver, and who thought he was point to evertheav the recomment.

Vancouver, and who thought he was going to overthrow the government with startling charges about graft in the Pattullo bridge construction, looked just like a Sudeten refugee. He was called "a dog chasing his tale," he was shouted at, laughed at, jeered at. Harassed on all sides he continued to shout that he was "going to go down the line," "go on the radio." "see this thing through if it takes six months."

At a cost of \$4000 a day (government estimate on sessional costs), the benevolent, white-haired doctor succeeded in proving:

Not that the government had overpaid some one \$300,000 for construction of the bridge;

Not that there was a combine between bridge companies in Canada;

between bridge companies in Canada;
But that the Skoda works produces steel \$35 a ton cheaper than sewhere. So what!
(Incidentally the committee memers agree that the doott is white-naired, but they don't think he is benevolent.

With his famous "apit" curl standing out straight with indignation, Tom King shouted in the public accounts investigation: "Dr. Telfords out on a limb and now is trying to get off on another tack?"
The mixed metaphors didn't "phase" Dr. Telford, who continued to jump up and down, burl deniais, challenges, innuendos. Bediam broke loose, But even this and the hammering of Chairman E. T. Kenney's gavel could not drown the stentorian tones of Mr. King, shouting: "Shame, shame!"

Comparison Of Steel Costs In **Local Bridges**

Inquiry Hears Span **Over Fraser Cost** \$201 Per Ton

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—(Staff Representative)—Cost of structural steel in the Pattullo Bridge was \$201 a ton. In the Lions Gate Bridge it cost \$204.

Major W. G. Swan, consulting engineer on both projects, gave this information to the Public Accounts Committee of the Legisland the one of the Medical way when it opened

ture on Wednesday when it opened an investigation into Dr. Lyle Tel-ford's charges of over-payment for steel used in the New Westminster

span.

Dr. Telford's charges were made in the House a week ago. He said that the actual cost of steel was \$140 a ton, and that the government had made an over-payment of "several hundred thousand dollars."

Major Swan, who was closely interrogated by Dr. Telford on various subjects relative to construction of the Pattullo Bridge said that his comparison of the two bridges was quite fair.

While the average cost of steel on the Lions Gate Bridge was \$191, this included all types and the price paid for structural steel comparable to that used in the New Westminster span was \$204. This was for the stiffening trusses and towers. The steel in the viaduct at the north end of the Lions Gate Bridge cost \$174, thus reducing the average.

Bridge cost \$174, thus reducing the average.

To R. W. Bruhn, Conservative member for Salmon Arm, Major Swan said that the Dominion Bridge Company's tender for construction of the Pattullo Bridge was \$130,000 below that of the Western Bridge Co., the unsuccessful tenderer.

Over a period of 10 years, said the engineer, he has always estimated the cost of steel at 10 cents a pound. The price actually ranged

the engineer, he has always estimated the cost of steel at 10 cents a pound. The price actually ranged from 8% cents to 11½ or 12 cents a pound.

With E. T. Kenney, Liberal member for Skeena, as chairman, the committer of Tom King, Liberal, as ecretary; D. W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewdneys; R. H. Carson, Liberal, Dewdneys; R. H. Carson, Liberal, Kamloops; Harold Winch, C.C.F. Vancouver-East; R. L. Maitland, K.C., feader of the Opposition; C. R. Bull Liberal, South Okanagan; W. T. Straith, Liberal, Victoria: C. S. Leary, Liberal, Kaslo-Slocan; R. W. Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm; C. H. Tupper, Liberal, Smilkameen; Harry Johnston, Liberal, Revelstoke, and R. R. Burns, Liberal, Trail-Rossland.

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Premier Here Unle

VICTO night dran \$300,000 the object

I erred i responsi This the Public had filed a

His st Pattullo th charges un "We

making sta nothing in trust in go member's s sorry the h Dr. To but ad "I feel sis sibility," he the serious made. I felt a responsibl my charges The repo merely deta investigatio "No evide having been requestes p his charges was unanim committee."

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ELFORD CHARGES COLLAPS

Sensational End To Bridge "Steal" Accusations As City Withdraws Statement

Complainant Rebuked By Colleagues for Terming Hobbs 'Irresponsible Party'; No Overpayments Revealed

Premier Notifies House That Government Will Hereafter Ignore Charges Made in Future, Unless Furnished in Writing

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—Dr. J. Lyle Telford on Wednesday night dramatically withdrew his charges of over-payment of \$300,000 in construction of the Pattullo Bridge, and became the object of censure at the hands of both private members

"Personally, I can take this on the chin. Perhaps
I erred in believing I was accepting the statement of a
responsible man."

This was Dr. Telford's statement in the Legislature after Public Accounts Committee which investigated his charges

This was Dr. Telford's statement in the Legislature after the Public Accounts Committee which investigated his charges had filed a report announcing his retraction.

His statement followed a declaration by Premier T. D. Pattullo that in future the government would ignore any charges unless they were placed in writing.

"We have had the illustration several times of members making statements derogatory in character, and then finding nothing in them," said Mr. Pattullo. "These create general distrust in government. One would have thought the honorable member's statements were going to rock this house. I am very sorry the honorable member did make such statements."

Dr. Telford agreed that statements should be in writing, but additionable of the statements of a responsible man on which to base my charges."

The report of the committee merely detailed the hearing of the investigation and added:

"No evidence of any over-payment having been produced, Dr. Telford requestes permission to withdraw his charges and on resolution, this was unanimously agreed to by the committee."

The statements referred to by Dr. Telford were contained in the

dedicase of the second of the

committee."

The statements referred to by Dr. Telford were contained in the copy of a letter which Dr. Telford produced in the investigation and which he claimed had been written by G. D. Hobbs, Vancouver representative of an English steel rope concern.

Mr. Hobbs refused to acknowledge that he had written the letter. Faced with this, Dr. Telford made it known soon after the committee started its night sitting, that he wished to withdraw his charge—or at least "reduce it to \$30. a ton overcharge."

as "irresponsible" brought forth a storm from committee members, and subsequently in the Legislature. Louis Lebourdais, Frank Putnam, Captain C. R. Bull spoke strongly about it, and even Harold Winch, C. C. F. whip, asked Dr. Telford to withdraw that reference on the grounds that Hobbs questioned the authenticity of the letter. a storm from committee members.

he authenticity is not ques-d." said Dr. Telford. "I can't draw that, I'm not through yet." the House, Hon. Gordon S.

in criticizing Dr. Telford for his attack on Mr. Hobbs.

"No one with any sense would uggest there was any responsibilthe 'Attorney-yeneral. "He new charges a respectable Vancouver citizen is irresponsible. There ought to be a rule of this House preventing such statements."

QUIET AFTERNOON SESSION OF HOUSE

(By Staff Representative)

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—With more
than 20 members absent from the
House in the Public Accounts Committee investigation of Dr. J. Lyle
Telford's Pattullo Bridge charges,
the Legislature did little business
on Wednesday afternoon.
Some bills were introduced and
second and third readings given to
others

others.

Bills introduced included an amendment to the U.B.C. act; amendments to the Statute of Limitations act; Contributory. Negligence act; Motor Vehicle act and Mechanics' Lien act.

Chief Witness In Steel Probe Charges Private File 'Missing'

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 1.—By going into world markets and buying steel from Czechoslovakia, the government could have saved approximately \$35 a ton for steel used in construction of the Pattullo Bridge.

And on this information, Dr. J. Lyle Telford on Wednesday night based his charges that there had been over-payment for steel used in the bridge construction.

In an investigation by the Public Accounts Committee

which several times threatened to break up in utter confusion, Dr. Telford denied the \$300,000 over-payment charge which

Dr. Telford denied the \$300,000 over-payment charge which he made in the House a week ago.

"From time to time throughout this investigation! have pointed out, and I point out again now," ahouted E. T. Kenny, chairman, "The charge being investigated by this committee is that there was an over-payment of \$300,000 for steel. I demand that we deal with that subject only."

Time and time again Mr. Kenney pointed out that the contract made out by the government insisted that only Canadian or British steel ahould be used. Earlier in the en-

"Let's get boxing gloves and go to it" shouted R. W. Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm, above the bedlam of sound.

"Dr. Telford is like a dog chasing his tail. If we stay here all week, we won't get any further," and Captain C. S. Leary, Liberal, Kaslo-Slocan.

Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, moved an adjournment, and that action be taken to find out what price was being paid for steel in the various steel-making countries of the world at the time the bridge was built. This found no seconder, however, and after a few more moments of excitement it was decided to adjourn for dinner, to proceed at 8 p.m.

proceed at 8 p.m.

First witness called during the atternoon sitting of the investigation was Hon. Frank M. MacPherson, Minister of Public Works, who told of arrangements leading up to awarding of the contract for the bridge.

Dr. Telford claimed that the 225,000 paid to the Fraser River ridge Company for its franchise thould be added to the cost of the seel. This met with laughter from the committee members.

LIVELY INTERLUDE

tile committee members.
LIVELY INTERLUDE

"Yes, I'll go into that franchise,"
muttered the imperturbable doctor.

"The workmen got \$600,000, too,"
said Tom King, Liberal, Columbia.
"Is that to be added to the cost
of the steel also,"

"Oh, I don't mind that," said
Dr. Telford, "But you know there
was \$225,000 overpaid there to
start with. There appears to have
been collusion between the government and ..."

Here there was an interruption
from several members.
"Are you going to try and stop
me?" he asked, as Mr. Kenney emdeavored to confine him to the
original complaint. "I have evidence
the government turned down other
companies, yet this company, which
had no qualifications, was paid
\$225,000."

"That was approved by the Les-

\$225,000."

"That was approved by the Legislature," eaid R. L. Maitland K.C., leader of the opposition.

"Yes, and the government has since gone to the country and been returned," interjected R. Burns, Liberal, Rossland-Trail.
Thumping his gavel, Mr. Kenney asked Dr. Telford to proceed with the witness.

asked Dr. Telford to proceed with the witness.

"Well, I'll let Mr. MacPherson go now," he said. "He has admitted be paid this \$225,000."

There were denials of this from Mr. MacPherson, and several of the committee members.

"The government, not me," said the minister.

VALUABLE FRANCHISE

VALUABLE FRANCHISE

E. M. Boyd, secretary of the
Northern Construction Co. Ltd.,
was then called. His company was
one of the sub-contractors, he said.
Reinforcing steel had been bought
at a cost of 3.9 cents a pound which
he considered a fair price at the
time. After several questions which
carried the committee down the
Fraser River to the proposed Ladner bridge, he also was released.
Next witness was James A. Collins, head of the Fraser River Bridge
Company, who presented the committee with an imposing list of his
bridge building contracts in Canada. He Itemized dozens of them,
from Lethbridge to Prince George
and New Westminster to the Peace
River.

With that record, I think you do have financed the bridge resives," gaid Dr. Telford, We were prepared to, Doctor, the government — wisely, I ik—decided we were going to tee too much money, and took the franchise, paying us a feetists and

tion of the bridge," said Mr.

HAS "GRAVE DOUBTS"

Almost sensational was the evidence given by C. D. Hobbs, Vancouver representative of a British steel rope company, who refused to acknowledge as his the letter upon which Dr. Telford had based his original charges.

The letter, Dr. Telford admitted, was a copy of the original. Faced with it Mr. Hobbs said he could not swear it had been written by

not swear it had been written by him, he had "grave doubts about it", and the stenographer's initials on it were not the initials of his own stenographer.

wn stenographer.
Furthermore, he added, he had, despite a diligent search, been unable to find one of his files of confidential letters. He would "like very much to know" where Dr. Telford got the letter.
"I'd like to know where you got this letter," Frank Putnam, Liberal, Nelson-Creston, said to Dr. Telford.

Dr. Telford.
"So would I," added Mr. Hobbs.

Dr. Telford would not tell. The letter purported to be one written by Mr. Hobbs to a Mr. Lloyd of the White Cross Company, Warrington, England. It averred that "a price of \$140 a ton would embarrass the steel companies of Candal."

"How did Dr. Telford get this let-ter? Did he swipe it?" asked Rolf

Bruhn.

"If Mr. Hobbs will go and look again, he will find his file, all right" said Dr. Telford. "This letter came from the other end. He's all right: He needs' worry."

Mr. Bruhn repeated his question. Mr. Hobbs said:

"I'd just love to know!"

Mr. Hobbs said:
"I'd just love to know!"
A moment later Dr. Telford turned to answer an interjection by R. H. Carson, Liberal, Kamloops, and said that Canadian bridge companies had formed a combine that the government was in collustion with them.

The committee laughed heartily.
"I'm going through with this if
it takes six months," shouted the

it takes six months," shouted the harassed doctor.

Next, and final witness of the afternoon was J. C. Boyes, bridge engineer, who, under examination by Dr. Telford, said that \$140 a ton steel would be from Belgium—and that not fabricated. The cheapest steel obtainable, to his own knowledge, was from the Skoda works, Czechoslovakia, which would be \$35 a ton cheaper than the steel used in the Pattullo Bridge.

"Would Dr. Telford suggest that

"Would Dr. Telford suggest that this government should have gone to Czechoslovakia for its steel?" asked Mr. Putnam.

"I still say it's a 'steal'," said the Doctor. "I deny saying we should have gone to Czechoslovatia. I never mentioned Czechoslovatia. I say we should have had bids from the bridge-builders of the world and accepted the lowest tender. "You limited the Pattulio Bridge contract to two companies in Canada which are working fifty-fifty."

AN IGNOMINIOUS COLLAPSE

Dr. Lyle Telford, M.L.A., is quoted as "not worrying" after the collapse of his grave charges against the Government of allowing large overpayments on the Pattullo Bridge contract.

But the public of British Columbia is worrying, and while there are varying schools of thought on the matter in Vancouver and elsewhere in the province, there is unanimous agreement that it is time unsupported charges, usually made in radio addresses, and frequently from the platform by the Vancouver East member should come to an end.

The newspapers, as the custodians of public freedom, have been the repeated target for attack by Dr. Telford. They are the people who have the best right to tell him that there are laws developed by centuries of experience, and etiquette developed by generations of good taste which require that some measure of reserve should be exercised, and that civil servants for instance, doing their work without possibility of reply, should be exempt from public discussion.

Attacks on public men and public institutions should be made only after the most severe scrutiny of the facts. A man who occupies a position like a member of the Legislature and essays to be mayor of the chief city of the province needs to set an example of caution.

The only crumb of satisfaction we can take in looking back on some of the things which have been done is that Dr. Telford has put into words publicly what many people in the city and province have allowed to pass by word of mouth.

Vancouver has a bad reputation for gossip, and it does not require long memories to recall serious consequences to innocent people from this laxity of language.

If in the supposed interests of politics charges are to be made affecting the honor and integrity of members of the community responsible for the handling of public money, it is incumbent that those who set an example should be scrupulously careful, because the ordinary citizen is ready to believe almost anything, and to impute motives where none exist.

Apart altogether from the cost of such an inquiry as that of the Public Accounts committee of Wednesday, it is to be hoped that a greater sense of responsibility will be developed, and a better example set to the community than has been the case in recent years, not only by Dr. Telford, but by others whose names will readily spring to memory.

We maintain the issue is not whether the critic believes the charges to be well foundedwe are prepared to allow that argument to Dr. Telford, or any man who makes them in good faith-but that the evidence must first be forthcoming in the form of sworn statements capable of investigation by a competent tribunal, and that the element of scandal shall not enter therein.

Special For Ma

House A Estimate Bridges,

(By Staff VICTORIA, for road n and wharves 570, were con of the whole during a brief Largest vot trict, where i next is Nel Fort George, 8 wood and Kar votes of \$37,5

Vancouver ro tenance of ro University an 000. The vote f \$625,000; ferr \$18,700; sno equipment \$1 eration \$60,00

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H. G. T. Per
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Contract To Lack

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the governmen eral Constructi work on the I of the Radium-arose as result ing, the public of the Legislatu

day.
After hearing an investigations, the conthere had been there had bee Approximately pute and it wa eral authoritie ment of the D cause of the d. The committude of the committed of the commi

Special Appropriation Asked For Monkman Pass Highway

House Advances Estimates for Roads, Bridges, Ferries

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 2. - Estimates road maintenance totalling \$986,500 and for bridges, ferries and wharves amounting to \$2,179, 570, were considered by committee

of the whole House on Thursday during a brief afternoon eitting. Largest vote is for Cariboo Dis-trict, where it amounts to \$62,000; next is Nelson-Creston, \$45,000; next is Nelson-Creston, \$45,000; Fort George, \$45,000; Omlneca, \$40,-000; Lillooet, Grand-Forks-Green-wood and Kamloops each have road votes of \$37,500. The only vote for Vancouver road work is for main-tenance of roads in the Point Grey University area, amounting to \$5,-

000.

The vote for bridges amounts to \$525,000; ferries \$250,000; wharves \$18,700; snow removal \$120,000; equipment \$120,000, and traffic operation \$60,000.

The vote was stood over when I. G. T. Perry, member for Fort leorge, asked for a special vote for he Monkman Highway construc-

tion.

It did not reflect well on successive governments of British Columbia that such an important section of the province as the Peace River was still without either rail or road connection with the Coast, said Mr. Perry.

Contract Said To Lack Clarity

Committee Finds No Overpayment on Job

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Dec. 2—Charges that
the government overpaid the General Construction Company for the
work on the Dutch Creek section
of the Radium-Kingsgate Highway,
arose as result of a misunderstanding, the public accounts committee
of the Legislature decided on Thursday

day.

After hearing four witnesses in an investigation into the allegations, the committee found that there had been no over-payment. Approximately \$3,000 was in dispute and it was revealed that Federal authorities had held up payment of the Dominion's share, because of the difference of opinion. The committee, reporting to the Legislature, recommended that in future, contracts should be written more clearly to avoid any possible doubt.

The trouble area.

doubt.

The trouble arose over the contract for surface grading and a misunderstanding arose as to how this should be paid for in the con-

Comments From The Capital

Islands Electors Try to Save **Doomed Riding**

By A. H. WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—There was lot of dirt in the public accounts committee sitting on Thursday. committee sitting on Inurally.
was real dirt, too—750,000 yards of
it, approximately. It was the dirt
removed during construction of the
highway between Kingsgate and
Radium and was the subject of an
investigation. It appeared to evolve investigation. It appeared to evolve chiefly, however, around an argument among engineers as to what should be paid for the removal of earth. Harold Winch, spokesman for the C. C. F., denied that he was making any charges.

Captain Macgregor Macintosh has not yet given up in his fight to retain the Islands. On Thursday he brought to Premier Pattullo a strong delegation of "islanders" from Sait Spring and other points to protest against the proposed redistribution. It is a foregone conclusion that the government has made its mind up, but the captain and his Conservative colleagues are going down fighting. going down fighting.

going down fighting.

Dr. Telford was digging into public accounts again on Thursday just as though nothing had happened the night before. No one would have suspected the humiliation he must have undergone. Most members of the House really felt sorry for him on Wednesday night when, pale of face and perspiring freely, he admitted that he had "taken it on the chin" over the Pattullo Bridge charges. But on Thursday morning he was back in the fray, taking a very active interest in the investigation being made into the Radium-Kingsgate highway innuendoes.

B.C. GOVERNMENT PROSPECTS FOR OIL

VICTORIA. Dec. 2.—An expenditure of \$60,000 in the mines department estimates will be used to make further geological examinations for oil in the Peace River district, Hon: W. J. Asselstine told the Legislature. "If results are satisfactory they may be followed by a geophysical survey of favorable localities."

B.C. Executive **Asked To Probe Telford Charge**

C.C.F. House Group Will Report to Central Office

NO STATEMENT

Member Remains in Mayoralty Race For This City

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 2-C. C. F. mem ers of the House, following a caucus here Thursday afternoon, are going to communicate to the C. C. F. Provincial Executive their views concerning the outcome of charges made against the govern-ment by Dr. J. Lyle Telford, one of

ment by Dr. J. Lyle Tellore, one of their group.

This was learned on good author-ity following lengthy discussion by the C. C. F. members. The mem-bers refused to make any comment on the nature of their report to

on the nature of their report to head office, but it was believed that the group disassociated itself from Dr. Telford's charges entirely. Outcome of the enquiry which resulted in his withdrawal of the charges would have no bearing whatsoever on his participation in the Vancouver mayoralty race, Dr. Telford said on Thursday.

Herbert Gargrave, secretary of the C. C. F., declares disciplinary action against members of the party, whether members of the Legislature or not, can only be taken by the provincial executive. He said the executive had not been consulted before Dr. Telford made his charges.

TOWNSITE LOTS MAY BE CONVEYED

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.-Provincial townsite lots may be transferred municipalities, Premier T. D. to municipalities, Premier Pattullo intimated to the Legisla ture on Thursday.

His announcement came lengthy debate on the amend ment to the Land Act, which finally advanced through committee stage The amendment would permit ditions, to reconvey to townsite owners the government's standard 25 per cent of the lots. It is be-ing opposed by R. L. Maitland, K.C., leader of the Opposition.

Comments from The Capital

Storm Halts House As Lights Are Extinguished

By A. H. WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.-While staid egislators pondered over the act with which they proposed to conwith which they proposed to con-trol utilities in British Columbia, the most important utility at the moment—the electric light—gave several despairing flickers and

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

It is still out at this writing ... The House, which endeavored to strug-gle along with the aid of flashats, has adjourned long since.

This is written by the light of a wind-blown candle flame while an

wind-blown candle flame while an so-mile-an-hour gale crashes against the windows of the Parliament Buildings, tears the copper sheets from the roof and shakes the buildings themselves.

From the shattered roof, rain drips into the corridors. In the derkness, page boys crash isto cahinet ministers, attendants trip over carpets, and newspaperme grope their way up and down darkened stairs between the press room and the Assembly Chamber.

Outside, the blinding rain drives

and the Assembly Chamber.

Outside, the blinding rain drives across the lawns like water from a fire hose. The trees and ornamental shrubs are doubled over their tips in many instances sweeping the ground. There are great sounds — crashing and booming through the building.

The lights did not fall without warning. When Premier Pattulk that arose to announce that the House would proceed with consideration of the Utilities act, all the lights flickered slightly. A momentager they did it again, and then again.

Finally, they went out. Therefore a few seconds, they came on axis. Twice more they failed, and were restored and then they sent out and stayed out.

Premier Pattullo rose to ask the

Hon. Frank MacPherson appear d with a flashlight which he anded to Chairman Robert Car-on, and although several members bjected, the House decided to pro-

MINES ACT CHANGE SCRAPS PRESENT STAKING LAWS

(By Staff Correspondent)
VICTORIA, Dec. 3. — Amendments to the Mineral Act and
Placer Mining Act were introduced by Hon. W. J. Asselstine,
minister of lands, before the House
adjourned Friday night.

minister of lands, before the House adjourned Friday night.
Subject of considerable discussion between officers of the Department of Mines and mining men of the province during the past year, the Mineral Act changes include the scrapping of the present staking laws and the allowing of a prospector to stake eight claims for himself within an area of ten miles.

of ten miles.

Previously he was limited to one claim for himself.

The words "veins, or lodes, or rock in place," are struck out of the old act and replaced with the words "any mineral deposit".

No irregularity happening previous to the date of record of the last certificate of work shall affect the title of a property in any dispute, the amendments add.

Disputed Point In Petroleum Law Is

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—An amendment to the Petroleum Producta Act which will clarify the government's position in not interfering with outside provincial activities of any company was introduced in the Legislature on Thursday by Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., Attorney-General. It is set out in the amendment that in fixing the price of one commodity the Control Board shall not consider the relation of any other industry or commod-

any other industry or commod-ity. The legislation shall be re-troactive and it is made clear that the government is not im-plementing the MacDonald fuel

Cleared By Clause

(By Staff Representative)

MUST REACH UNDERSTANDING

The marriage legislation suggested at Victoria touches so closely the welfare and personal habits of our citizens that more attention should be given to it than perhaps the ordinary citizen has appreciated.

One commendable fact has been that a thorough investigation has been made during the last few months by a committee of public-spirited citizens, backed with departmental officials who have studied the problem closely from actual administrative practice.

The plans they suggest are going to cause heart-burning later, but cannot be termed novelties as already similar legislation exists in other parts of the Dominion, and elsewhere on the continent.

But there must be reciprocal legislation in the State of Washington, so that the induce-ment, already an active factor in evading the eight-day licence system, to drive across the line and get married in the neighbor state can be checked.

It is absolutely requisite that every marriage of our citizens should be under the laws of the province where they are to live, and where the family is to be reared.

where the taminy is to be reared.

We must not place such barriers as to increase that flight of young couples to the American side to evade our legislation. The financial loss has been heavy, the loss to our records and the protection of civilized society in a vital human bond is still more imperative

Immediately this legislation is enacted there Immediately this legislation is enacted there should be arrangements made with the State authorities at Olympia requesting them to enact similar regulations—and they can be done without imposing unfair restrictions on the marrying couples of Washington—so that uniformity of marriage law may prevail, and thus remove the inducement to solemnization of the vows under an alien flag.

Bill Hopes To Prevent Gas Case Appeal

Amendments to Coal And Petroleum Act Debated

VALUE QUESTIONED

Maitland Criticizes Action in Face Of Litigation

(By Staff Representative) VICTORIA, Dec. 3.— "All this Legislature tried to do was express its will with regard to the price of gasoline," said Premier T. D. Pat tullo in the House Friday night, as he supported the government'

most recent amendments to the Coal and Petroleum Products Act. Coal and Petroleum Products Act.
Bill 49, containing the amendments, passed second reading only
after considerable opposition had
been voiced by both Conservative
and C.C.F. ranks.
On the grounds that it interfered with the courts, it was bitterly attacked by R. L. Matitand,
K.C., Leader of the Opposition.
The bill, as explained by Hon.
Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., was te
elucidate contentious points in the
Coal and Petroleum Act.
"By it, we hope to avoid the expense of carrying the present littgation to the Privy Council," said
Mr. Wismer.
"You'll go there anyway," said

"You'll go there anyway," said Mr. Maitland, "I think it very un-wise, in the very middle of a law-suit, to endeavor to eliminate the cause of that lawsuit by legisla-tion. It is very bad to make it retroactive.

"There is a way out of this whole problem," Mr. Maitland dded. "You could bring coal and petroleum products under your Utilities Act, and thereby save the

Utilities Act, and thereby save the need for separate commission, and every other overlapping expense. This present bill is going to be a hardship instead of a help."

It was a peculiar state of affairs, said Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver-East, if the courts could rule against the Legislature because its legislation was based on the report of a commission.

"We believed, when the original act was passed, that it was based on the MacDonald report," said Herbert Anscomb. Conservative, Victoria. "If it was not, then what was the good of paying \$125,000 for the report,"

"The final authority does not

or the report?"

"The final authority does not rest with the courts, it rests with the people," and the Premier. "Surely this Legislature has the right to say what it does mean. All we want is to have some say over the price of gasoline."

The bill was then given second reading without further comment.

New Pro Tax If No Distribut

15 Per Cer Proposed in Legislature

(Staff Repr set of the afterne Legislature, Frida to the income ta duced by the Hon ister of finance. per cent tax on un tributed profits o

per cent tax on untributed profits of sovernment resers asy what are rements in the way company will be which to make di Safeguards are ver, against do the undistributed amendment would uses on annuities companies.

Another ament wo and three-quo on the gross am of life insurance of all other incontents dealing profits would pe appeal to the 1 in-council.

New Profits Tax If Not **Distributed**

15 Per Cent Levy Proposed in Legislature

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(Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.-At the out set of the afternoon session of the Legislature, Friday, an amendmen to the income tax act was intro duced by the Hon. John Hart, min ister of finance. It provides a 15 per cent tax on undivided or undistributed profits of companies. The government reserves the power to say what are reasonable requirements in the way of reserves. A company will be given 30 days in which to make distribution.

Safeguards are provided, however, against double taxation on the undistributed profits when they are finally distributed. Further, the amendment would not apply to bonuses on annuities of life insurance companies.

Another amendment will put a ister of finance. It provides a 1

another amendment will put a two and three-quarters per cent tax on the gross amount of premiums of life insurance companies in lieu of all other income taxes imposed on them. Another amendment will put

Another provision of the amend-ments dealing with undistributed profits would permit companies to appeal to the lieutenant-governor-in-council.

HOOKING LOAN 'SHARKS'

Retribution for many a "sucker" comes in the form of the Credit Unions Act, now before the Legislature in Victoria.

Successful in several of the eastern provinces, the Credit Unions will undoubtedly prove of great benefit to many persons in. British Columbia.

To the uninitiated, a Credit Union is simply a group of persons who contribute agreed amounts to a fund from which any of them may borrow money for urgent needs. To those persons who, because of small wages, have to live right up to their income, Credit Unions are a boon indeed.

It is such persons as these who, when sick. ness comes, or accidents occur, have to go to loan "sharks" and pay exorbitant amounts in interest and "service charges" to obtain ready cash. Then they have to work and struggle for months to pay back the money.

Under the Credit Union system, interest rates can be charged. They are low, however, and under the present act are set at one per cent a month, "including all charges for making the loan and shall be payable only on the unpaid balance."

The act defines that loans of any amount less than \$100 may be made without security and loans can only be made to members for a "provident, productive or merchandising purpose."

A credit committee of the union, the act says, shall have the supervision of loans, but shall not have power to make a loan unless a majority of the committee is present and all the members present unanimously approve the loan.

The Credit Union will be able to admit to its membership anyone over the age of sixteen and shall be entitled to hold a lien against the shares of any member who has borrowed from it.

Incorporation of Credit Unions is designed along the lines of the ordinary company incorporation regulations and all subscribers are fully protected by the new act.

It is expected that many of them will be formed in the province as soon as the act becomes law and the way will thus be paved for most citizens to become members and thereby protect themselves from loan "sharks" charging as much as 200 per cent interest on comparatively small loans.

In-Council and the power of the commission to make regulations. All of which is ammunition for Op-position attacks on the government.

Then there are the police estimates, amounting to \$883,079. Consideration of these has been held over at request of the C. C. F., voiced by Harold Winch, whip of that party. Colin Cameron, the C. C. F. member for Comox, is expected again to bring up Blubber Bay when this vote is being discussed, and J. M. Bryan, Liberal member for Mackenzie, will probably reply to his remarks if he is well enough. Mr. Bryan at the moment is quite ill with a complication of chest and bronchial aliments.

Attorney-General Wismer, who does most of the "replying" for the government and is always ready with his answers, will also have something to say on that subject. Actually, the police vote is very little higher than last year and police officials are quite frank in their declarations that it is not sufficient for the increasing duties of the provincial force.

for the increasing duties of provincial force.

And then there is Hon. John Hart's surprise bill amending the Income Tax Act. It is a dark horse Big Business is worried about it, however, and some serious lobby Th amendment proposes the taxa-tion of surplus profits of any organtration and is looked upon with mis-siving by many of the larger firms in the province

n the province. Meanwhile, the flouse buzzes with gossip and rumor about Dr. Telford gossip and rumor about Dr. Telford and his relations with his C. C. F. colleagues as a result of the debacle over the Pattullo Bridge chaffes. Some revolutionary announcement is expected from that quarter and both the government and Conservative benches are watching and waiting with considerable interest.

All-in-all, it should be an interesting time week.

erable interest.
All-in-all, it should be an interesting, final week.

Comments from The Capital

House Enters on **Home Stretch** This Week

By A. H. WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.-We ent ne stretch! Unless there is an-er storm—either outside or in-s. he Parliament Buildings—the dislature will prorogue toward end of this week. Either Thurs-or Friday is the day set by se who arrange such matters.

There is still quite a bit of legis-There is still quite a bit of legislation on the order paper, however. The Utilities Act has not yet completed committee stage, there being 60 more sections to deal with; then there are the police estimates to be considered, the amendments to the Mineral Act, the amendments to the Income Tax Act and many other amendments of lesser importance.

The Utilities Act has already been pretty well discussed in the news. Several contentious sections were stood over during discussion last week, however, and it is expected there will be some debate on them. Still to be considered by the rapidly-tiring legislators are those sections dealing with orders and enforcement, the matter of appeals from orders of the commission, offences and penalties; the liability of public utilities for the acts and omnissions of their employees; the lixing of rates by applyaes; the lixing of rates by applyaes;

TO ELIMINATE HAZARD

Attorney-General Wismer is to be com-mended for his act—now before the Legisla-ture—which would eliminate the passenger "hazard" in automobile accidents.

There is, no doubt, that many so-called friendly actions have resulted from this clause riding as passengers in automobiles. The in-surance companies have had to pay many claims under this heading and as a result, all motorists have had to put up with everincreasing insurance rates.

The rates in Vancouver are already far too high. The insurance companies, of course, can hardly be blamed for this. The rates are only governed by the frequency and amount

This passenger claim, however, is one which has added to the ascendancy of the insurance rates and its elimination by the Legis-

lature should bring some easement.

Owing to high rates, many motorists have been unable to afford full coverage and some been unable to afford full coverage and some few unfortunates have had to pay out of their own pockets, the claims of passengers who have suffered injury in their cars. They, too, are being protected by the new legislation.

Passage of this bill by the Legislature will, in addition, be another step forward in the unification of the laws of Canada. Most other procures have already eliminated the present

nces have already eliminated the passenhazard secion from their motor vehicle and British Columbia is now falling in

Telford Ready To Make More Charges

Wants to Place Case Before Royal Commission

RENEWS ATTACK

Ready 'To Wreck Government' on **Pattullo Span**

"I took it on the chin because I fild not want the party to get in wrong; but if I get permission of wrong; but if I get permission of
the party to resign my seat—and I
think I shall get ft—I shall make
much more serious charges and
then seek re-election to the House.
If I am beaten I shall go out of
public life. I am prepared to sacritice that part of my life for what I
think is right."

Thus did Dr. Lyle Telford return
to the attack on the provincial govarmment over the Pattullo bridge
costs when he addressed a meetmg in the Moose Hall Sunday night.
Contrary to the experience of his
meetings there the hall was
are meetings there the hall was
are meetings there the was reested with wild cheers of welcome.

"I am speaking of the word STEEL," he spelled, "not of the STEAL that was in it," he added.

The bridge deal he called one of the worst political scandals in Can-ada declaring at this point, as he did frequently throughout his talk, that he was willing to resign and go before the legislature and make

go before the legislature and mane worse charges.

"Don't think for a moment I'm wrong on that steel"—he did not say which spelling this time—"I'm not wrong. I am aure of it." He claimed Pattullo was worrying over an unfavorable balance of trade with the East. He gave the contract to two Canadian steel companies who had to buy 70 per cent. of their steel from England.

"Do you know," Dr. Telford

of their steel from England.

"Do you know," Dr. Teiford asked, "that there is Luxembourgh steel in the C, N. R. hotel, in the Marine Building and in the First Narrows bridge?"

Later he said he could have proved his points had he broken faith with two men, but they were prepared now to give evidence.

"I want to get before a Royal Commission and experts," he cried. "And if I do I shall wreck this government."

C.C.F. PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE STAYS OUT OF BRIDGE BATTLE

House Members See No Reason for Telford to Resign

"No action" will be taken by the Provincial Executive of the C. C. F. upon charges made by Dr. J. Lyle Telford, M. L. A., in connection with alleged over-payment on the Patullo Bridge and his threat to resign his seat in the Legislature, Herbert Gargrave, secretary, B. C. section, announced Monday night.

"These matters," Mr. Gargrave said, "will be dealt with in the regular course of business at the monthly meeting next week. They are not matters for alarm at all,"

"The Provincial Executive," he said, "sets up a general policy prior to the session. From then on we have perfect confidence that the elected representatives will carry the party through. We do not interfere.

elected representatives will carry
the party through. We do not interfere.

"We do not say a representative
should have or shouldn't have done
a certain thing. We entirely rely
on their own judgment."

Mr. Gargrave said the Provincial
Executive "does not discipline an
elected representative unless he
violates the principles of the puriy.
It is not a question of conflict between the executive and the elected representatives," he declared.
Following is text of a statement
issued by the C. C. F. through
Harold Winch, following caucus of
party members held at Victoria on
Monday afternoon.

"The C. C. F. Legislative group
"The C. C. F. Legislative group

Harold Winch, following caucus of party members held at Victoria on Monday afternoon.

"The C. C. F. Legislative group has seriously considered all phases of the recent charges made by Dr. Lyle Telford, re alleged over-payment on the Pattullo Bridge, and of all incidents arising therefrom, with the result that we have communicated with the Provincial Executive to the effect that as these charges were made without the knowledge of the C. C. F. and therefore can only be considered as individual action, and as any by-election would have to be contested on the basis of party policy, we therefore oppose the suggestion that Dr. Lyle Telford resign his seat for the purpose of contesting a by-election on a subject not involving the party policy. In view of the situation that has arisen during the present session, the Legislative group is requesting an early meeting of the Provincial Executive for the purpose of carifying the relationship between all parliamentary representatives and the organisation, and settling such matters as discipline and leadership."

Mr. Winch said the members had communicated their views to the Provincial Executive by letter on Saturday and had also telegraphed the above statement following the saucus.

the above statement following the caucus.

"I am quite satisfied with the action taken by the party," Dr. Lyle Telford told The News-Herald Monday evening before leaving for the Capital city. "It is the attitude I considered would be taken and is quite within their jurisdiction. I accept personal responsibility for the charges made and in no way attempt to involve the party which, however, does become con-

Comments from The Capital

Change Coming In Municipal Superannuation

By A. H. WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Superannuted municipal employees are about to suffer a sad set back, judging by regulations in the new Municipal Superannuation Act which Hon. John Hart brought in on Monday.

John Hart brought in on Monday. It proposes to wipe out existing allowances—when it becomes effective next April—and establish a new scale. A rapid calculation would indicate that a pension of about \$50 a month will be received by superannuated employees, this being based on "an actuarial basis." Which makes it very awkward for some of those men who retired before they needed to have retired because they were able to get a

because they were able to get a pension of \$200 or more.

Glen Braden, the serious young Gien Braden, the serious young man from Peace River, says he is not opposed to the Monkman Pass highway, but he certainly did not give it any boosts when he spoke during discussion of the road main-

enance vote.
It appeared It appeared that young Mr. Bra-den was elected on a platform of "one people, one province, one high-way"—and that not by way of

way"—and that not by way of Monkman Pass.

Mr. Braden says the road should go around by Fort St. John and Hudson Hope to Finlay Forks and Manson Creek. He produced a large map to show the Legislature. From the Press Gallery it appeared that his route was about twice the distance that it is by way of Monkman Pass, but of course, some of his road is already built.

Mr. Winch the Elder had a proud moment on Monday afternoon when Attorney-General Wismer introduced a bill to amend the Game Act which, among other things defines the amount of space to be provided for bears in captivity—or any other animal or bird, for that matter. Mr. Winch has carried on his "caged bear" fight for some years now, and is receiving the congratulations of members from both sides of the House on his linal success.

both sides of the House on his final success.

The bill carries a number of other amendments to the act, a hurried glance at them indicating that it is still against the law to shoot farmers.

Although this seems to be in doubt, for section two of the amendments says:

"Section two of the Game Act, being Chapter 108 of the revised statutes of British Columbia, 1926 is amended by striking out the word 'three' and the definition of 'farmer,' and substituting therefore the word 'five,'"

UNITED TO BUIL

VICTORIA. States Governm lend money to without intere

of the Alaska Premier T. I the Legislature ly before 1 a.m went into disc for a pr the highway

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Replying to voiced by R. Leader of the tullo said he commission o ilar to that ap States—would

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Co-operate.

The vote wuntil plans whe added, and with any ot ject, as sugg Mr. Pattul

he expects t early in the pursue his le Tom Uphill of the vote, enter B. C. enter B. C. corner and go Golden.

Loan To Borrow II B.C.

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(By Staff VICTORIA, constructi entive medi University of cently in The

cently in The in an amendm Act 1935 intro ture on Monds The amenda ing on Monds borrowing of ceeding \$350.0 erecting and strute University tenant-Govern deem expedie A \$300,000

UNITED STATES PREPARED TO LEND MONEY TO B. C. TO BUILD ALASKA HIGHWAY--WITHOUT INTEREST

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—The United States Government is prepared to lend money to British Columbiawithout interest-for construction

of the Alaska Highway.

Premier T. D. Pattullo informed the Legislature to this effect short- before 1 am. today, as the House went into discussion of the \$25,000 for a preliminary survey highway route.

"The United States Government is every anxious to have the road built," said the Premier. "Surely we must play the part of a good neighbor. The United States can only have access to its own territory by going through British Columbia."

Replying to criticism of the vote, R. L. Maitland, K. C., d by Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Pattullo said he expected a Canadian commission on the highway-similar to that appointed in the United States—would soon be announced

here.

He had thoroughly discussed the matter with Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and had been told to see what he could do, Mr. Pattulo continued. He had accordingly ne, to Washington and found th United States more than ready to

co-operate.

The vote would not be expended until plans were further advanced, he added, and would not interfere with any other government project, as suggested by Mr. Maitland.

Mr. Pattulio said, further, that he expects to leave for the East early in the New Year in order to pursue his investigations further,

Tom Uphill, who spoke in favor of the vote, urged that the road enter B. C. in the South-Eastern corner and go by way of Fernie and

The vote finally passed.
The House adjourned at 1 a.m.

Loan To Allow **Borrowing For U.B.C. Structure**

Preventive Medicine **Building May Be** Started Soon

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 6. -Possibility construction of a modern pre ventive medicine building at the

ventive medicine building at the University of B. C.—as forecast recently in The News-Heraid—is seen in an amendment to the B. C. Loan Act 1936 introduced in the Legislature on Monday by Hon. John Hart. The amendment, given first reading on Monday, would permit the borrowing of "such sum, not exceeding \$350,000 to be expended in erecting and equipping such buildings and structures upon lands of the University of B. C. as the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may deem expedient."

A \$300,000 laboratory was proposed in plans related by Hon. George M. Weir some weeks ago. The building would house the provincial laboratories at present on Horaby Street.

Pension Fund Short Over \$1,700,000

Legislature Learns Of Liquidation Threat

CAR HAZARD

Maitland Suggests Saskatchewan Act Example,

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 6 .- The superannuation fund for municipal employees is short \$1,700,000, Hon. George M. Weir informed a surprised Legislature Monday night and unless drastic changes in the Superannuation Act are adopted the plan will go into liquidation, he said.

After intensive investigation, an actuarially sound plan has been worked out, Dr. Weir said, in speaking on the second read-ing of the act.

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—The House hurried through a number of bills in second readings and committee stage on Monday night.

Two of these, amendments to the Motor Vehicle and Contributory Negligence Act, which would elimate passenger hazard insurance—were bitterly opposed by Opposition ranks, led by R. L. Maitland,

Mr. Maitland moved as an amendment that the Legislature adopt the Saskatchewan Act, which prevented suits by pasengers against automobile drivers "unless there has been gross negligence or wilful and wanton misconduct".

This was defeated, however, only nine of the combined opposition members supporting it. It was then given third reading.

then given third reading.

Third reading was also given to the Noxious Weeds bill, and the act transferring the old New Westminster Bridge to federal authorities.

The House pushed forward into committee stage several routine measures brought in for unification with federal acts. These included the Court of Appeal Act, the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act and an act respecting the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act, 1938.

The Credit Unions bill and amendment to the B, C. Loan Act were given second readings.

Lively Discussions In House On Road Problems And Extensions

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Dec. 6. — Roads, roads, roads! Marching up and roads, roads! Marching up and down again! That was the tenor of Legislature business in the House on Monday night when members on both sides struggled valiantly to uphold the amounts awarded their districts, or struggled equally valiantly to obtain greater grants for their districts.

The forensic classic arose during discussion of the vote of \$2.179,570 for the maintenance of roads, bridges and ferries.

Rolf W. Bruhn, Conservative member for Salmon Arm, wanted the government to take over the

member for Samon Arm, wanted the government to take over the operation of the ferry at Sicamous, which "charged 50 cents for taking cars across 120 feet of water." Glen Braden, Liberal member for

Peace River, said he was not op-posed to the Monkman Pass highposed to the Monkman Pass high-way, but wanted the Peace River's road outlet to be by way of Fort St. John and Hudson Hope to Fin-lay Forks. Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, asked for an extension of the Island highway as far as Say-

ward.

M. M. Connelly, Liberal, Omineca, did not think much of the Monkman highway, either. He did not like the idea of people starting construction of a road and then asking for government assistance

Kenney, Liberal, Skeens, was a dangerous preced-

R. L. Maitland, K.C., raised quite a storm over a newspaper repor which quoted Charles Reid, Liberal organizer, as informing an Agassiz audience that the Haig-Agassiz highway would be started next year. Hon. Frank M. MacPherson denied the report.
Captain MacGregor Macintosh

Conservative member for the Islands, asked for a reduction of automobile licence fees and gasoline tax in such districts as his, where the roads were limited in extent.

H. G. T. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, said the men who had been building the Monkman Pass high-way deserved more consideration at the hands of Liberal members from surrounding districts. An out-let had been promised for the past 18 years, he added.

The vote finally passed at 12:15 a.m. after Alex Paton, Conservative member for Point Grey, had suggested that construction of the West Coast highway be undertaken by the Department of National De-

For some time it looked as though certain of the Conservative members were going on a fillbuster. Even after Mr. MacPherson had given an outline of the government's road policy, the members kept on talking.

Effort Made To Check Blanket Staking

Changes in Mineral **Act Praised By All Parties**

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.-Main jects of changes to the Mineral Act, presented to the House Monday for second reading, are to obtain more work on lands in prospective mineral areas, to prevent 'blanket" claim staking and prevent litigation in connection with

vent illigation in connection with the obtaining of Crown grants, Hon. W. J. Asselstine, Minister of Mines, informed the Legislature. Mr. Asselstine was commended for the legislation by members of both the Conservative and C.C.F. ranks. R. L. Maitland, K.C., said he believed the act was good, but regretted that it had been brought down so late in the session.

down so late in the session.

Alex Paton, Conservative, Point
Grey, doubted whether the changes
would prevent "blanket" staking. Grey, doubted whether the cash-would prevent "blanket" staking. It defines that one may may stake eight claims, and Mr. Paton pointed out that if there were 50 men in a company, each one could take eight claims, making a total of

The minister pointed out, how-ever, that large concerns had in the past staked tremendous areas and simply renewed their claims each year, without carrying on any work. Under the new regulations Under the new regulations, the persons staking the claim would have to undertake a certain amount

The amendments to the Placer Mining Act, brought in for the pur-pose of conformity with the Min-eral Act changes, were also given econd reading.

'Big Stick' Methods

Seizure Clause In Utility Bill Called 'Russian' Legislation

(By Staff Representative) VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—There was talk of "big stick" methods and "Russian Legislation" in the House on Monday when committee car-

on Monday when committee carried on its consideration of the Utilities Act. The last of 136 sections in the act was reached by committee of the whole House, but several sections were stood over for further consideration.

Most hotly contested was Section 98, which would give the Utilities Commission power to seize the possessions of a utility company in order to enforce its orders.

"Why not go the limit, if you are going to have real Russian legisla-

tion?" asked R. L. Maitland. "You might as well seize the directors and employees at the same time. This isn't Canadian legislation."

Premier T. D. Pattullo interposed to say that the House would pass it and then it would be Canadian legislation.

"There is no precedent for it," and Mr. Maitland.

THE EXCESS PROFITS TAX

There appears to be some fear in the community here, as the chief commercial centre of British Columbia, as to the effect of the operation of the excess profits tax to be im-posed under the Income Tax Amendment Act, and how it will affect interlocking companies, particularly those which finance other small

An invitation should be extended to Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, by the Board of Trade, in conjunction with other commercial bodies here, to ask the minister to explain the situation with that lucidity for which he is fully capable.

The board took the lead on a somewhat similar occasion in connection with his pre-decessor, Hon. J. W. Jones, when he held the same portfolio in the Tolmie Government. Then Mr. Jones allayed some apprehensions which were inevitable in the campaign of economy rendered necessary by the difficulties of the time. Altogether it was worth while, and had the result of straightening out practical

While the various organizations are naturally alarmed as to the effect of this restriction on capital there is the assurance of the minister already that actually it is only designed to plug a loophole in the existing law, and force distribution of profits which in their individual ownership would naturally come under the operation of the existing income tax legislation.

Noxious Weeds Control Urged

House Committee **Hears Argument**

VICTORIA, Dec. 6 .- (Staff Representative)-North Saanich farm ers, appearing before the Agricultural Committee of the Legislature on Monday, demanded that the department of agriculture take over full responsibility for enforcement of the Noxious Weeds Act amendments now before the House.

Hon, K. C. MacDonald, minister of agriculture, refused to accept this, however.

"If the people of Saanich haven't "If the people of Saantch navent:
the courage to set up an enforcement committee of their own, or
go to the police, the department is
not going to do anything." he said.
Power is provided in the act for
60 per cent of the farmers in any

district to elect a committee which would enforce control of noxious

farmers' cause was champloned by Captain Macgregor Mac-

would up its business of the session at a brief meeting on Monday, and a full report of its activities is being presented to the House by Chairman E. T. Kenney.

\$20,000 Needed For New Road

Monkman Pass Case **Before Minister**

(By Staff Representative) VICTORIA, Dec. 6. - Francis Murphy, president of the Monkman Pass Highway Association, and Arthur M. Smith, publicity director, interviewed Hon. Frank M. Mac-Pherson on Monday, giving him a report on progress of the volunteerbuilt highway which is linking the Peace River country with the coast.

Escorted by Harry G. T. Perry, M.L.A. for Fort George, the visitors laid before the minister full details of the progress made. Although no actual request was made for financial assistance from the government, the visitors are hopeful that this will eventually be forthcoming.

Mr. Smith declares that \$20,000 ould be sufficient to complete the

highway, and put it in first-class shape for automobile use.

Since speaking about the highway in the House last week, Mr. Ferry has been deluged with telegrams and letters of congratulation and encouragement, he reported.

New Rates In Effect April 1 For Pensioners

Municipal Employees' Benefits Cut; Age **Limit Tightened**

(By Staff Representative) VICTORIA, Dec. 6.-Superannu ated employees and persons at present employed are drastically affected by an act introduced in the Legislature on Monday by Hon. John Hart Minister of Finance

Under the new bill, every allownce now in force under the former act shall cease on April 1, when the new act is to come into force; new allowances will be instituted in lieu of those now paid.

Under the act, superannuation payments are based on two factors— service, pension and retirement

ennuity.

Employees will contribute four per cent and employers seven per cent on the aggregate payroll of those covered by the act.

No employee who enters into the municipal service over the age of 30 will come under the act, except in the case of professional or executive officers.

With the excention of policement

ecutive officers.

With the exception of policemen, who retire at 55, a minimum of 60 and 65 years is set for retiring ages. It is proposed, under the bill, to set up a department under a commissioner for the control of the superannuation plan.

Utility Bi Changes,

Reasons F Excess Pro Distributio

Declaring the ot in the inter lic economy, an be embodied in bill, Premier P to representation Board of Trade Division

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Utility Bill Needs Two Major Changes, Board Informs Premier

Reasons For Opposing Excess Profits Tax Distribution Recited

Declaring the representations are ot in the interests of sound public economy, and will not therefore be embodied in the Public Utilities bill, Premier Pattullo has replied to representations made by the Board of Trade and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, B. C. Division

He glso declines to grant an in-terview, on the ground that no value would accrue therefrom.

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value would accrue therefrom.

In the course of the letter on the matter, President John Whittle points to two particular matters. "In line with the practice in effect in other provinces, as well as in other countries, we feel that the proposed Public Utilities Commission should be responsible only to the Legislature." Board findings, in the board opinion, should be effective without subject to review effective without subject to review

effective without subject to review by the cabinet.

The second point made is that more adequate provision should be made for reference to the courts, both as respect to law and to fact. Emphasizing the desirability of uniformity of legislation on a sub-ject like utility control, the letter suggests that the type of legisla-tion is not new in other provinces, and its application from the experi-ence of other provincial govern-

and its application from the experience of other provincial governments should form a basis for action in British Columbia.

Section 103 is criticized as being one which will make it difficult for any appellant to reach the courts on a point of fact. Adequate provision for appeal to the courts without incumbrance or restriction is urged.

Representations are to be made also from the mining bureau

also from the mining bureau through the board in connection th the "excess profits" amend-ent of the Income Tax Act. With e mining bureau in this regard linked the insurance, finance the mining pureausitinked the insurance, name and real estate bureaus. They agreed on a joint resolution favoring opposition to the passing of the legislation on the following, among other grounds:

1. The imposition of such s tax metrics and tend to discourage new insurance in the columbia.

among other grounds:

1. The imposition of such a tax would tend to discourage new incorporations in British Columbia and encourage the transfer of corporate assets to companies incorporated outside British Columbia.

2. The companies most likely to be affected are those which use their undistributed profits to acquire and develop new assets and thus perpetuate their lives beyond the operation from which the undistributed profits may be earned.

3. Unpredictably large sums may be required for future expansion and development.

4. Undistributed profits may be represented by corporate assets other than cash so that a tax of 15 per cent might entail severe hardship for the company thus taxed.

5. The principle of a discretionary rather than an arbitrary tax is likely to disturb confidence of present and prospective investors in British Columbia.

3. The present provisions as set at by sub-section 3 of section 22 of the Income Tax Act gives the minister power to tax undistributed profits or gains.

THE ALASKA HIGHWAY

Most important announcement which has come at this session of the Legislature came from Premier Pattullo in the early hours of Tuesday morning, when he assured the House that the United tSates Government was ready to lend British Columbia the money to build the Alaska Highway-and without interest.

That issue is one of those upon which there has been a wide divergence of opinion. Some said one thing, some another. It is only recently that Sir Evelyn Wrench, the well known publicist, who knows British Columbia thoroughly, has sounded an appeal in The Times to the financial interests of Great Britain that it would be in the real interests of Anglo-Saxon understanding and self-preservation for them to advance a loan to British Columbia for such an imperial need.

With the assurance that the money is available, surely the opposition which has developed will find some way to approval without fearing an American protectorate of this province. It is inconceivable from the question of defence of North America that the highway could become a menace to this seaboard, for the defence will have to be directed largely from the Aleutian Islands, from the Queen Charlotte group, and from south Vancouver Island.

The latter two points are receiving the attention of the Canadian Government, while ambitious plans for a base for the U.S. fleet at some point like Unalaska in the Fox group are under consideration at Washington.

Mr. Pattullo has lifted the veil on part of the negotiations which have proceeded between Washington and Ottawa, and of the attitude of Ottawa to his last visit to the U.S. capital on this subject.

It is fortunate that this major announcement should coincide with the presence in Vancouver, introduced by a radio message from Victoria from the Premier, of Congressman Warren G. Magnuson, who has been a most enthusiastic supporter of the plan, and is rightly associated with the commission which the Washington Government has set up with the idea of studying the methods to be pursued, and how the work shall be advanced to link up Hazelton and Fairbanks, and to utilize parts of roads already constructed.

Mr. Pattullo looks to appointment of the Canadian commissioners shortly, and indicates resumption of his efforts in the East shortly after the holidays, when parliamentary organization will be reassembling after the custom-

Psychologically the announcement is of importance in that it removes one of the most legitimate criticisms in the quiver of the opponents of the new trunk highway. There is a legitimate objection to using the credit of this province to finance a great road program when so much other highway work requires to be done in British Columbia, but here is a pro-posal to use borrowed credit which would only be available for a national work in which the U.S. would be justified in joining as part of its continental defence program, and its effort to develop the economic life of Alaska.

Plan To Halt Bootlegging Turned Down

Police Receive Full Aid From Board. Says Wismer

SECOND READING

Maitland Alarmed At Growth Here Of 'Blind Pigs'

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—An effort by R. L. Maitland, K.C., to set up additional barriers against bootlegging in Vancouver failed in the House on Tuesday when his proposed amendment to the Liquor Act was defeated on second read-

The amendment would make available to police officers all sales vouchers kept in the liquor

stores.

Mr. Maitland said that one thing which had been drawn markedly to his attention during the Tucker police probe of 1936 was the prevalence of "blind pigs" in Vancouver, and the number of convictions under the Liquor Act. He felt that operations of bootleggers — "the countenancing of whom led to other crimes"—could be considerably cut down by his proposal. Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., said that for years the Liquor Considerable that the said that for years the Liquor Constant of the said that for years the Liquor Constant of the said that for years the Liquor Constant of the said that for years the Liquor Constant of the said that for years the Liquor Constant of the said that for years the Liquor Constant of the said that for years the Liquor Constant of the said that the said that

ably cut down by his proposal.

Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., said that for years the Liquor Control Board had given the police all information they required. He, personally, had never received any such request as this from the Vancouver Police Commission, with which body he kept in close touch.

"To show you the impracticability of this plan," he said, "I would draw to the attention of the House the fact that in one liquor Store in one month there are 70,000 sales slips and a total of 3,452,807 in a year. So it would be impossible for the police to check through all these."

Superannuation Bill Age Limit Criticized

A clause in the proposed new superannuation bill restricting benefits of the act to employees under 30 years of age met with strong criticism from a section of the Vancouver & New Westminster Trades and Labor Council, Tuesday. It will virtually mean the exclusion from benefit of all stationary engineers employed by the school board, it was stated.

On advice of several delegates, however, council deferred endorsing a motion of protest to the government. Birt Showler, teamster agent, took the stand that while none would like the new plan, unless it was actuarily sound it would again be no use and further cuts in pensions would result in the future.

Further discussion of the bill will be in the hands of the council's legislative committee. When it re-ports appropriate action will be taken.

Comments from The Capital

Dr. Telford Is Confident of **Mayoralty Poll** By A. H. WILLIAMSON

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.-Dr. J. Lyle Telford was back in the House n Tuesday, but did not take any ctive part in the proceedings. It is expected that this will be his last appearance this session, as he deep in the Vancouver yoralty race.

He was pretty confident over the outcome of that electoral con-test, he informed newsmen. In the same breath he spoke in glowing terms of one of his competitors, Co. Nelson Spencer.

When discussion on amendments to the Game Act started it was appropriate that "Pat" Maitland should rise and suggest adjourning the debate to the night sitting. The night sitting had been cancelled in favor of a game diner being given by Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., and Hon. John Hart.

The House is rushing through e final stages of its annual legisation in an effort to "get out of the trenches by Christmas." The the trenches by Christmas." The intention is to conclude this week, but it means long and arduous sittings, several times a day, to conclude by Saturday. Meanwhile, the Opposition members bewall the last-minute rush, and the fact that important legislation is brought in during the dying moments of the session, and does not receive the consideration it should. Which happens every session, of course. Nobody ever has thought of doing anything about it.

The mining committee endeavored to wind up its affairs on Tuesday, but lengthy speeches preclude this, and the committee will have to meet sgain. Alex Faton, whose speeches and queries ran the House into a late sitting on Monday, did most of the talking again in this committee. Mr. Paton takes his duties as a representative of Point Grey very seriously, but it becomes a bit wearying so late in the session.

New Tax Act **Under Fire By Maitland**

Change Casts Shadow Over All Firms, He Says

VICTORIA, Dec. 7.—Hon., art's amendments to the Inc.

attacked by the Conservative

benches in the House on Tuesday.
R. L. Maitland, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, said the existing act gave the government power to step in and investigate the reserves of any company, and he was "ob-jecting strenuously" to acts of this

"There are holding companies and holding companies," he said. "This bill covers every little company in the country. Eighty per cent. of these companies are controlled by five shareholders. If you are going out after tax-evaders, why cast this shadow over all com-

panies?"
Harold Winch, C.C.F. whip, was
of opinion that the act did not go
far enough. There were many companies, he said, that had built up
reserves in excess of total assets,
The government should "go after"
the excess reserves of all companies. The bill finally passed second

The House went through practically all the bills on the order paper during the extended afternoon sitting.

Man Engaged In Gas Business Is Forgotten

Criticism Of Price Fixing Voiced By Leslie Eyres

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 7 .- "Thousan of men will be put out of work as a result of the price fixing of the Coal and Petroleum Products Act, Leslie Eyres, Conservative member for Chilliwack, argued in the Legislature on Tuesday.

Discussing Hon. Gordon S. Wis-mer's amendments to the Act, Mr. Eyres said that while the legis-lation protected the people and the oll industry, it was forgetting the man engaged in the gasoline business.

He urged that the gasoline sales clauses be placed under the Utilities Act, and was supported in this by R. L. Maitland, K.C., leader of the Opposition, and Alex Paton, Conservative member for Point Green

Grey.

Mr. Wismer said he failed to understand their arguments, if the Legislation were included in the Utilities Act, it would mean another year's delay in obtaining reduction in the gasoline price, he said.

"I could understand such arguments from the oil industry," said Mr. Wismer, "but not from the people who will benefit through the price reduction, if the people don't want it, why don't they say so?"

Premier T. D. Pattullo endeavored to reassure Mr. Eyres, and
said he was confident it would
"farn out all right."
The amendment passed the second reading.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The brief submitted by the Vancouver Board of Trade and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association (B.C. Division) is a clear, reasoned and logical presentation of their case against the Government regarding the act for the regulation of public utilities.

The views they set forth will be endorsed by not only the large and influential body of business men whom they represent, but by thousands of citizens who see in this measure an intrusion of private and individual rights and a departure from long-established procedure under British democratic rule.

Such drastic legislation as this should not in all fairness be brought down at the tail-end of a session when the order paper is crowded with business and when there is not adequate time for full consideration and discussion. A measure which so much concerns the business of the entire province should be submitted to every organization affected thereby so that its full implications can be considered and dis-

On two vital points the proposed legislation seems to depart from the established Canadian and British practise. In the first place it is obvious that the Commission should be responsible solely to the Legislature and not subject to the overruling of the government.

Secondly, adequate provision should be made for submission to the courts, both as regards law and facts. The courts and the courts alone should have the power to grant or refuse the right of appeal. As the brief points out, "business has the utmost confidence in the courts. Surely the government feels this also."

The overriding of the judiciary by the political party in power is an undemocratic procedure and a most dangerous precedent.

Asks Check Of Motorists

Maitland Refers to Broken Regulations

(By Staff Representative) VICTORIA, Dec. 8.-R. L. Maitland, K.C., leader of the Opposi-

tion, considers it unfair that while any Vancouver residents are ob serving the 30-mile an hour speed limit, a great many more are not. Nor, said Mr. Maitland during discussion of the provincial police es timates, had he ever seen a motorist in Vancouver "pinched" for overtaking a vehicle on the wrong

side.

Attorney-General G. S. Wismer, K.C., said that no doubt the Vancouver police commission would see that both these regulations were strictly enforced.

Travelling units to give drivers' tests to residents of the Interior G.B.C. are planned for the near future, Mr. Wismer said in reply to a question by R. W. Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm.

Mr. Bruhn had asked if it would be necessary for these people to go to Vancouver for their tests.

New Haven To Be **Extended As Soon** As Practicable

(By Staff Representative) VICTORIA, Dec. 8.-The Borstal-type experiment at New Haven, Burnaby, was highly comwho said that extensive additions to the First Offenders' home would be made as soon as pos-sible.

eible.

Money for this had not been included in the estimates, as it was proposed to obtain it from the capital account whenever possible. It was proposed to have the boys themselves build cottages for the total accommodation of 100 to 150 inmates.

The institution was already overcrowded, and much too small for present requirements, he added. He urged that every member of the Legislature visit the home, in order to see the satisfactory progress being made.

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Guthrie' Utilities Must Be

By A. H. W
(Staff Rrei
VICTORIA, D.
Sam Guthrie, ou
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Comments from The Capital

Guthrie Thinks Utilities Board Must Be Supermen

By A. H. WILLIAMSON (Staff Rrepresentative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Comments: Sam Guthrie, out-spoken and well-liked C.C.F. member for Cowichan-Newcastle does not hold Liberals in Newcastle does not hold Alberais in high regard. One would think, from the \$10,000 salaries, that the men who were going to sit on the Utilities Commission were supermen, said Mr. Guthrie, when, as a matter of fact "they will only be three good Liberais." hree good Liberals

Mrs. Steeves admitted in the House that she had not studied the amendments to the Legal Profession Act, brought in unexpectedly by the Attorney-General. When, however, she saw the Leader of the Opposition—who is also a law-ver—embracing the Attorney-General "across the floor of the house," she certainly smelled a rat and romptly decided to oppose the neasure. There were cries of enouragement from several quarters of the chamber. Laymen can lways put up a united front when they think any of the professions may be "trying to put one over on hem."

With the House rushing toward prorogation at the week-end, members were becoming a bit wearled, and tempers were frayed. At first twas hoped the House would propose today. Then it became aparent that the session would exend to Friday. Now, with three fittings today and tomorrow it is apparent that the session cannot onclude before Saturday afternoon. The opposition benches elze on each new piece of legislation as another effort on the part of the government to cram measures through in the dying monents of the House. That occurs very session, with the government benches simply outsitting the opposition.

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It appears that Attorney-General Wismer's amendments to the Legal Profession act, introduced in these ying moments are doomed to the imbo of forgotten things. It become apparent, soon after the measure was introduced that there was opposition on both sides of the House. The debate on it was grow-cuite, heated—even among Libby boston of the base on it was growing quite heated—even among Liberal members—when it was sudienly adjourned by J. Howard Forester. It was evident that that master politician, Liberal Whip Sid Leary, had seen that the bill was not popular, and chose the easiest way out.

The House was just about to approve the police estimates when alex Paton, dignified and dufful member for Point Grey, arose to announce that he would like to change from "the sublime to the ridiculous."

The collective members tittered a bit at this, but when he went on to say that he wished to know the reason for the increasing cost of country goals, the House just roared. Reading from the estimates Mr. Paton apparently mistook

Huge Cost Of Relief In B. C. Revealed

\$66,345,000 Spent In Eight-Year Period

HOW MADE UP

Bulk of Direct Relief Disbursed In Vancouver

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 8 .- During the fiscal years 1930-1938, a total of \$66,345,192 was spent on relief in British Columbia, Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, told the Legislature Wednesday night during consideration of estimates for his department.

for his department.

This was made up, said Mr. Pearson, of the following expenditures:

Administration costs \$1,191,923;
public health, \$1,168,591; direct relief, \$26,433,387. Most of this direct relief was expended in Vancouver, he said, and 20 per cent, of those on relief were unemployable. he said, and 20 per cent, of those on relief were unemployable. Roads, bridges and highway maintenance work accounted for \$12, \$15,778; winter work projects, placer mining camps, flood relief and tourist road development took another \$3,778,042; mining tralls, roads and forest patrol work another \$776,709; youth training, recreational and urban occupation training \$440,049, and agricultural assistance \$73,485.

Town Estate Bill Before Legislature

(By Staff Representative)

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA. Dec. 8.—An act to provide for the distribution of the estate of the late Henry Town, of Vancouver, was brought in by Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., shortly before the House adjourned on Wednesday afternoon.

The act is enabling settlement upon Town's widow of a portion of his estate, left when he died in 1994, and now valued at approximately \$750,000.

The remainder will go to a num-

mately \$750,000.

The remainder will go to a number of charities. The bill was fostered in the House by Fred Crone, Liberal member for Vancouver-Centre and was closely watched by legal representatives of both the widow and a number of affected charitable organizations.

Blubber Bay Trial Evidence Challenged

Wismer Repudiates Possibility of Fake' Evidence

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Recent assize trials in Vancouver brought from Colin Cameron, C.C.F. mem ber for Comox, in the House last night, charges that police officer had twisted their testimony, and

had twisted their testimony, and that innocent men were being sent to jail on perjured evidence.

Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., attorney-general, scorned the idea. It was impossible, he said, that any man could be tried before Mr. Justice Murphy and a jury, and be convicted on "concocted evidence." "These men have received the same trial as anyone else would—even honorable members of this House," said Mr. Wismer.

"If the honorable member for

"If the honorable member for "If the honorable member for Comox has any evidence in these cases he should bring it forward now. I shall certainly investigate, if any such evidence is brought forth. I would never allow any innocent man to go to Jali. This is a serious charge and a reflection on the courts."

a reflection on the courts."

Mr. Cameron hastened to explain that he only had the newspaper reports, "but if they are correct, it would appear that the evidence was concocted."

The discussion came during during consideration of estimates for the provincial police.

Frank Putnam, Liberal member for Nelson-Creston, expressed the opinion that there should be more specialists in criminal investigation in the provincial police. There were too many cases, he said, where no one was convicted for the crimes.

Mr. Wismer said careful traing was being carried on, and believed that the force would so have one of the finest criminal in vestigation departments on the con-tinent.

HOUSE RACES AGAINST TIME

(By Staff Representative)

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—The House raced through most of the measures still on the order paper on Wednesday, racing against prorogation for the week-end.

Third reading was given to the Public Schools Act, calling for 12 full years of free education, providing that where a pupil began attendance at the age of seven, the age limit would be 19 instead of 18, if parents paid taxes totalling \$75 a year.

if parents paid taxes totalling \$75 a year.

An amendment to the Coroner's Act, introduced by Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, which would provide for representation on juries by loggers and miners when their industries were concerned, was defeated.

Act To Check 'Ambulance Chasing'

(By Staff Representative)

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Dec. 8. — Amendments to the Legal Profession Act, which Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., said were aimed at the elimination of "ambulance chasers" met with considerable opposition, when brought up for second reading in the Legislature on Wednesday.

The alacrity with which R. L. Maitland, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, commended this government legislation brought forth expressions of suspicion from several members.

H. G. T. Perry, Liberal member or Fort George, saw in the amend-nents the danger of wiping out ome of the business now handled by notaries public, justices of the peace and real estate men— the witnessing and signing of numer-ous documents of a legal, or semi-

"The Attorney-General has gone beyond the decencies of the legal profession in not having this gone into thoroughly," he

This brought a sharp rejoinder

This brought a sharp rejoinder from Mr. Wismer, who sensed a personal insult, and an insult to the whole legal profession.

Mr. Perry assured him there was no reflection intended — "Unless the Attorney-General wants to abuse the witness because he has such a poor case."

Harold Winch, C.C.F. whip, and Mrs. D. G. Steeves, C.C.F., Vancouver-North, were inclined to agree with Mr. Perry. The argument ended, however, when J. Howard Forester, Liberal, Burrard, adjourned the debate to the next sitting.

Reject Plan To Cut **Working Hours Of** Nurses In Hospitals

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Dec. S. — E. E.
Winch's bill to amend the Hospital Act in an effort to cut working hours of nurses and reduce
the number of beds which each
nurse had to attend was defeated
in the House on Wednesday when
a division was called on second
reading.

reading.

The bill received full support of the Opposition benches, but was defeated by a vote of 29 to

To arguments in favor of it Hon. George M. Weir said that nurses in government institu-tions had declared themselves in favor of the present system.

GOVERNMENT ATTACKED FOR **ALLOWING EMPLOYERS TO** INFLUENCE' MINISTRY

Breeze Blows Up Over Amendments to New Act

CONTINUE FIGHT

Haro. Winch Says Col. Edgett Is 'Ant Union'

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA. Dec. 9.-A bitter atick on Col. C. E. Edgett, Head of the Industrial Council, and other industrialists whom he charged were endeavoring to block organization of the C.I.O. in British Columbia, was made by Harold Winch, C.C.F. whip, in the House

Winch, C.C.F. wnip, in the House Thursday night. In one of the outstanding debates of the dying moments of the ses-sion, Mr. Winch flayed the govern-ment for 'sllowing the employers to influer 'them' in the amend-ments to 'Industrial Conciliation and Arbit ion act, up for second

reading.

The amendment to section five. which would make the officials of unions organ. d as at Dec. 7, 1938, the collective margaining agents of employees, was the bone of con-

employees, was the bone of contention.

Mr. Winch expressed great surprise at its introduction. The government—changing its mind—apparently did not know what it did want, he said.

"Certain Industries infamous in Western Canada for their antiunion activities send their representatives over here and 'put one over' on the government," said Mr. Winch. "Colonel Edgett (named as one of a delegation interviewing the government) is the greatest anti-union worker in British Columbia. He is known fhroughout the west as being most bitter against organized labor.

"Naturally we known."

"Naturally we know what the in-dustrialists are aiming at. It is the C.I.O. They are trying to block any progressive labor organiza-tions."

any progressive labor organizations."

Attorney-General G. S. Wismer
arose to argue that Mr. Winch was
suffering under a misapprehension—
that the matter had not been
dealt with hastily, but after numerous conferences with labor representatives. The amendment was
not the suggestion of industry.

But E. E. Winch and Colin Cameron immediately took up the argument and expressed their utmost
antagonism to the measure.
Chief argument in each case was
the setting of a date in the amendment. This, the C.C.F. members
pointed out, completely eliminated
any new unions. Mr. Winch Senior
said that the amendment might be
acceptable if this date were taken
out.

Prorogation Assured By Saturday

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.—The House practically cleared the order paper of bills and acts in a late sitting Thursday night and officials ex-pected to call in His Honor for prorogation on Saturday morning

rogation on Saturday morning.

The government's redistribution
plan, contained in the bill amending the Constitution Act, passed
third reading practically without
comment—much to the surprise of
many observers.

Third reading was also given

Third reading was also given without marked opposition to the

following:

An act to amend the Placer
Mining Act, amendments to the
Superannuation Act, Placer Mining Act, Income Tax Act, Henry Town Estate Act, Workmen's Compensa-tion Act, Vital Statistics Act, Land Settlement and Development Act, and Trades Licences Act. Second reading was given to amendments to the Industrial Con-

second reading was given to amendments to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, Sumas Drainage, Dyking and Development Act, Contagious Diseases (Animal) Act, Land Surveyors' Act, Water Act and Insurance Act.

The House completed committee consideration of the Utilities Act, the only major change being that appeal to the courts on points of fact will be allowed at discretion of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. This was a contentious point which caused considerable discussion in earlier stages.

In order to clarify an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act which clause in automobile accident suits, Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., atternessessia.

clause in automobile accident suits, Hon, Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., at-torney-general, on Thursday night introduced in the Legislature a fur-ther amendment which declared that this legislation was not retro-active. The measure was approved by the House without comment,

Comments Capital

Rupert Called 'Siwash Village' By Dr. Telford

By A. H. WILLIAMSON (Staff Representative)

Telford has found a new phrase.. For some reason catch-phrase. For some reason— as yet unexplained—he considers the city of Prince Rupert is a Si-wash village and he made much use of that term when he was discussing the redistribution

was discussing the relativistical bill on Thursday,
"That Siwash village called Prince Rupert," he repeated time and again. Asked why it was a "Siwash village," he replied, eventually, that they seemed to be mostly Siwashes there—"at least, Siwashes there —"at least, Siwashes the at least the siwashes the siwas a Siwash was unfortunately killed when I was there last."

Harry Perry, whose book-like English is always worth listening to, gave another fine dessertation on democracy and the evils beseton democracy and the evils besetting it when he discussed redistribution. And he carried his listeners right on to Elysian fields, where Mr. Speaker was not elected by popular vote, where each member had three votes and where the House consisted of 35 members who elected their own premier and cabinet. Canada and British Columbis would have to get away from party control of government, he maintained.

Ed Kenney, the small man with the big voice from the broad acres of Skeena constituency, put in a word on behalf of the redistribution bill. He argued that the Angel Gabriel himself could not bring in a redistribution bill that would suit everyone. Of course, in this modern swing age, it is even doubtful if the Angel Gabriel's horn-playing would be considered really first class music. "Pat" Matitand thought the whole bill was "all silly and non-sense," and suggested it be included in the comic papers. Harold Winch was more serious and said that Mr. Perry had stolen his thunder. A revision of the whole system was needed, he believed.

Gebrge Murray, representative of

George Murray, representative of Lillooet, had a brilliant suggestion to ease the shock which superannusted civic employees are going to suffer as a result of the pension cut. Mr. Murray proposed to the House that the City of Vancouver should present each of these retired employees with a reverted amployees with a reverted tax sale lot. He did not say what the pensioners would use for money to pay taxes on the lot.

Legisla Adopts Lottery

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(By Staff R VICTORIA. I ncial Legislati riday night as reepstakes in In a surprise

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B. House Endorses Hospital 'Sweeps'

Legislature **Adopts State** Lottery Motion

Uphill Resolution Goes Through in Surprise Move

NO DISSENTIENT

25 Per Cent of Gross Proceeds to Be Earmarked

(By Staff Representative) VICTORIA, Dec. 10 .- The Proincial Legislature went on record riday night as favoring hospital eepstakes in Canada.

In a surprise move in the last mements of the final sitting this session, Tom Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, moved the resolution, which, after some slight misinderstanding, was approved by by House.

inderstanding, was approved by he House.
When Mr. Speaker Whittaker first called for the "ayes" and "nays," he declared the resolution cost. Mr. Uphill asked him to call the question again, however, and this time there was not a dissenting voice. He accordingly declared the resolution carried.
Mr. Uphill, thinking he had lost, sprang to his feet and called for a division, but several members quickly pointed out that had won, and he sat down, with a broad smile on his face.
His resolution follows:
"Whegeas there is more over-

"Whereas there is more over-hospitalization in British Colum-bia than anywhere in the Domin-

whereas hospitals

"And whereas hospitals throughout the country are in urgent need of funds for various articles of equipment;
"Therefore be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly go on record as being in favor of sweepstakes, conducted by either the Dominion or any provincial government, 25 per cent of the gross proceeds of which shall be allocated to a fund to be set up for the purpose of building new hospitals, purchase of equipment for, and general solvency of, established hospitals."

House Rejects Plea To Half **Nippon Entry**

Division on Future Control of B. C. **Telephone Rates**

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA. Dec. 10.—Captain MacGregor MacIntosh's motion for abrogation by Ottawa of the exist-ing agreement with Japan in re-gard to immigration went down to gard to immigration went down to defeat when a division was called in the House late in its final sit-

ting.

When the ruling of Mr. Speaker
Whittaker on the subject was challenged by the Opposition benches,
he was sustained by a vote of 28
to 14, the Liberal ranks voting
solidly against the motion. The
Conservatives were supported by
the C.C.F. ranks.

Conservatives were supported by the C.C.F. ranks.

An amendment by David W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewdney, which commended the government's recent representations to Ottawa on the subject was approved.

H. G. T. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, and Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, voted with the C.C.F. when a division was called on a motion by Harold E. Winch. It would have the Dominion government repeal the act which placed the B. C. Telephone Company under jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners. The Conservatives voted with the government and the measure was defeated 35 to 8.

Captain MacIntosh's motion that public tenders should be called for an author works.

Captain MacIntosh's motion that public tenders should be cailed for on public works projects was defeated when Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, put in a successful amendment that the government should call tenders as it deemed advisable.

Also without a division being called, the House supported a motion by Dr. J. J. Hunter, Conservative, Victoria, asking for further negotiations with Ottawa toward improving the tubercular situation as it affected Indians.

Conferences To Start Health Insurance Plan

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—With a view to working out a province-wide health insurance scheme, Dr. G. M. Welr, provincial secretary, proposes to start conferences immediately after the present session of the Legislature. Announcement to the effect was made in municipal committee of the Legislature Friday by Dr. Gordon Kenning, Victoria.

DR. TELFORD REPLIES

Sir,—A few days ago, T incidentally mentioned in the Legislative Assembly that I had every reason for believing that there was an overcharge of \$500.1000 in connection with the steel used for the Pat-

out in connection with the steel used for the Pat-tullo Bridge.

To my astonishment, there was all but an earth-quake and I was given newspaper space which, had it been paid for would have taxed the resources of even the non-Partisan League.

May I now be permitted to draw to the attention of your readers, a statement made by Brigadier-General Clark in connection with the Fattullo Bridge, You will find a report of this in the Dally Province of May 22, 1937. "No greater disgrace exists in the of May 22, 1937. "No greater disgrace exists in the history of the province than the financing of the Pattullo Bridge. . . . The Pattulio Bridge could have been built for \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 less than it is

costing."

Now I merely said \$300,000. General Clark's figure is very much higher, but as he was not a mayoral candidate his statement received very little attention at the time. He was not denounced by the press. He was not even court-martialled. He is still living, and honors have been heaped upon him, including the Order of the non-Partisan, recently bestowed by Mayor Miller. Mayor Miller.

Had not one of my witnesses suddenly suffered had not one of my witnesses sudenly surfered from an unfortunate lapse of memory (perhaps should diagnose it as political amnesia) I would not have disappointed my friends, as they say I die the However, my real friends understand the situation J. LYLE TELFORD.

House Favors Lowering Old Age Limit

Plan Would Make **Pension Payable** At 65

(By Staff Representative)

VICTORIA, Dec. 10. — Reduction of the old-age pension age from 70 to 65 years will be recommended to Ottawa by the Provincial Legislature, it was decided in the dying moments of the session here on

lature, it was decided in the dying moments of the session here on Friday.

Declaring himself sympathetic toward a resolution by R. W. Bruhn, Conservative, Salmon Arm, which would reduce the age limit, Hon. George M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, moved a resolution asking Ottawa to reduce the age as soon as possible.

His amendment also included recommendation that a system of national compulsory contributory insurance be instituted in Canada.

Colliery Costs Reduction Considered

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.-Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Ltd. have ot substantiated their objection to the coal report finding that mining costs can be reduced, according to the M. A. Macdonald report tabled in the Legislature Friday.

The commissioner added that if the company insists upon maintaining its present attitude of denying that any reductions can be made "we are atraid its bona fides will be seriously brought into question"

Replying to criticisms of a previous section."

Replying to criticisms of a previous section of his report, contained in a brief of Canadian Colleries, the commissioner said the brief "seeks to establish its own exactitude on the one hand and the unreliable character of the coal report on the other by the constant use of epithets.

"Among the thousands of figures and scores of tables found therein, thoroughly combed for errors, they have discovered only two, neither of them material," he said. "Analysis of the objections adds weight to the conclusions attacked."

Consumer Pinched By Cool **Versus Fuel Oil Price Fight**

Commissioner Scores Operating Methods, And Waste Alleged

VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—Death war ant of the Vancouver Island coal nining industry has been signed if oil companies in British Columhis are allowed to fix the price of government or legislature, according to the third section of the Macnald report on coal and petroum industries in this province.
was tabled in the Legislature

It was tabled in the Legislature Friday.

"In this province the oil companies who control the price of gasoline, control also not only the price of heavy fuel oil, but have the coal-mining industry virtually at their mercy," the report, made by Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald, of the British Columbia appeal court,

states.

"This is because," it continues, "if coal has a market that heavy fuel oil wants, all the oil companies have to do is to lower fuel oil to a price which coal cannot meet and then recoup themselves for any losses therefrom by charging motorists and other gasoline users a higher price for gasoline."

The commissioner's charge of selling below cost is aimed not only at the oil companies, but at Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Ltd., Vancouver Island's largest operators.

ators.

"Canadian Collieries defended these conditions on the ground it was forced to sell railways and natural trailways and natural trailways and conductors."

these conditions on the ground it was forced to sell railways and industry below cost in order to compete with heavy fuel oil also selling below cost." he says.

"It will be obvious that if Canadian Collieries has a good complaint against the oil companies for selling heavy fuel oil below cost, then for the same reason the domestic coal consumer must have an equally good complaint against Canadian Collieries for selling below cost to railways and industry." First step in saving Vancouver Island coal mines from extinction would be a reduction in the selling price of gasoline, the report says, with the explanation that if the price of gasoline, the report says, with the explanation that if the price of gasoline is reduced to the extent it should be, then heavy fuel oil would be compelled to carry its own fair load of cost and would thus compete with coal on a fair, comparative basis.

The report on the whole, is favorable to coal, although in distribution of that commodity there have been high charges, because the facts warrant it, the commissioner states.

"In the distribution of coal the domestic and smaller consumers have been saddled with higher distribution charges, to enable lower delivered prices to the large building heating plants," he says. "It the argument applies against oil it must apply also against coal.

"With abundant coal resources," he continues, "It is in the economic interests of this province to take every legitimate step to encourage its use and to place it on a footing of aguality with heavy fuel oil.

He finds that oil companies have exploited the consumer's tendency to buy the cheapest fuel by selling tel oil in competition with coal production.

At prices much below the cost of Taillustrate, in Novamine.

gallons of gasoline purchased paio \$1.10 in excess of the fair retain price," he goes on. "This \$1.10 excess price paid by nearly 100,000 British Columbia motorists did not British Columbia motorists did not show as oil company net profit because it was 'shifted back' to make up, among other similar losses, some \$1,400,000 losses in curred in heavy fuel oil sales below cost to the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways.' THREE CONCLUSIONS

The commissioner says his investigations, which followed his appointment by the provincial government in 1934, prompted three outstanding and basic conclusions.

outstanding and basic conclusions.

These were (a) that British Columbia coals are a suitable and convenient fuel; (b) that, in general, about the same efficiency may be expected from either coal or heavy fuel oil provided design and operating conditions are equally suitable and (c) that, if coal and heavy fuel oil both are sold at economic delivered prices, coal should have a decided advantage over heavy fuel oil. "Reductions in mining costs on Vancouver Island, and elimination of top heavy coal distribution charges are essential conditions to support this conclusion," he added.

He warns that "reduction in the

He warns that "reduction in the cost of mining coal on Vancouver Island has to be faced if coal is to

cost of mining coal on vancouver island has to be faced if coal is to maintain its place as a competitive fuel." adding that "a large market has been lost to Vancouver Island coal because of its high cost of production and distribution."

The commissioner said that "in view of the propaganda now being circulated by oil companies, it is emphasized that the reduction to 23 cents per gallon was not contemplated to interfere with service stations as they then and now exist. We made it plain—to quote from the petroleum report:

"With present wasteful methods of distribution the retail price of gasoline should be reduced to not more than 23 cents per gallon in Vancouver."

"Naturally we realized the multi-plicity of and duplication of service stations could not be eliminated 'over night' and that it would take a reasonable time to do so. IMMEDIATE REDUCTION

a reasonable time to do so.

IMMEDIATE REDUCTION

"Therefore we tound that the reduction to 23 cents should take place immediately and in due course further reductions should follow, until the oil companies had disappeared from the wholesale and retail fields and normal business competition had adjusted the number of garages and bons fide independent service stations needed in any community.

"This finding, of course, intended that the reduction should be absorbed wholly by the oil companies and not that a proportion of it should be passed on to the service station dealer. This should be a compelling influence on the oil companies to retire from the retail field."

The commissioner comments on the assertion that a great loss will occur if gasoline prices are reduced by the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board Act.

"All companies now operating frincries in British Columbia," he says, "sold to the people in 1924 a grand total of 30,551,387 gallom of gasoline and 166,320,707 gallom of gasoline and 166,320,707 gallom of heavy fuel oil.

"In view of the fact that on the whole they sold and dealt with our products as much heavy fuel oil.

gasoline, the former 'regardless of cost, the 'reader may estimate what adjustment in prices would absorb any diminuition of revenue consequent upon a reduction in equent years.

subsequent years.
"The foregoing statement is based on 1934 figures. There is no reason to assume that this general relation has not been virtually maintained in subsequent years.
"For the benefit of those who have qualms about anything that savors of regulation of the price of gasoline," the commissioner adds, "it should be said at once that the price of gasoline is fixed now... It has been done by the oil com-It has been done by the oil com-panies with no relation to reason-able cost of production and distri-bution, but based only on 'what the traffic would bear'."

Islands Riding Sunk Without Trace

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

VICTORIA, Dec. 9.-This is the time—the last, dying hours of the session, with the eyes of everyone on the clock -when the statute law of British Columbia may be said to melt into a kind of thick liquid flux just before it crystallizes, hard and brittle, for another year.

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fluid substance of our legisla-ture sputters and boils in these last hours, as clauses ladled out, almost anything

most anything may happen. If you don't watch it every moment something entirely unexpected and embarrassing may crystallize out of the bolling, and remain cold in the pot on the gray dawn after protogation.

Thursday Mr. Pattulle and Mr. Wismer watched the pot like trained metallurgists, watched it anxiously and long, never taking their eyes from it, making sure that nothing dangerous got in, making equally sure that many minor but essential ingredients got in. By today they were pretty sure that the whole mass would crystallize in the end as planned.

It is a bewildering business in the dying hours and no one except the Premier and his legal advisor attempt to keep track of it all. Every other member has

EVIL SPIRITS

The pot boiled first as the government stirred in its new redistribution bill, a measure which may be said to combine the diverse sciences of geography and politics in a remarkable fashion. The opposition conducted a short but stinging attack on the evil spirit of Gerrymander which they saw in the bill and the government, with its eye on the clock, attempted no particular reply.

It was here, however, that Dr.

attempted no particular reply.

It was here, however, that Dr. Telford demonstrated once more his uncanny genius for the wrong word when, to the Joy of the Liberals and the blank-faced incredulity of his own party, he called the premier's seat of Prince Rupert a "Siwash village." The Liberal benches, secretly delighted, muttered protests, knowing that if the premier needed any help to defeat a C.C.F. candi in his own riding here served up on a silver Harold Winch, to sweep up

From Friday's Vancouver Sun comes this excerpt from Bruce Hutchison's daily column of comment on Victoria's political activities. Now read the Sunday Sun TODAY for today's column by Hutchison, informative and interesting — And enjoy All the Sunday Sun's week-end features.

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Spring May B Again

By A. H

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Comments From The **Capital**

Spring Session May Be Tried Again in 1940

By A. H. WILLIAMSON

(Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—Contrary first impressions, Attorney-Gen ral Wismer's amendments to the egal Professions Act sailed hrough with flying colors. When irst introduced, this measure met tirst introduced, this measure met with considerable opposition. The back-benchers were a bit suspicious when a law relating to lawyers was introduced by a lawyer and heartily endorsed by another lawyer, "Pat" Maitland. Mr. Wismer explained that it was aimed at the elimination of "ambulance chasers," but the House was suspicious. Then one of the up-country menters made what was considered a

Then one of the up-country menibers made what was considered a
bersonal attack on "the Cowboy"
Mr. Wismer, to the uninitiated)
and when the bill came up, everybody voted for it except the one
man who had been so outspoken
about it.

No sooner is one session ended than there is talk of another one. Almost every year, at conclusion of the annual gathering of members, some one takes up the suggestion of a spring session. They argue that a spring session would fit in with the government's fiscal year; that it would be more convenient for up-country members to attend in the spring than have to stay in Victoria almost up to Christmas; that the cabinet is always busy in the fall, and many other reasons are put forth. This year the movement is afoot again and it is gaining strength. At long last there is a concerted movement to change the annual meeting date to the early spring and while it may not happen in 1939, it is almost sure to happen in 1940. These things take a little working out.

and so another year ends. Their ardous labors on behalf of the people and democracy concluded for the moment, back go the members to their wide-scattered balliwicks. From the bright sunshine in Victoria today, Louis LeBourdais, for instance, must go back to the still, cold air and the snow-covered ground of the Cariboo; Glen Braden has to travel hundreds of miles through British Columbia and Alberta back to his home in the now-frozen Peace River country; Harry Johnston goes back to the high altitudes and brisk fresh air of the mountains at Revelstoke; Mark Connelly and Ed Kenney travel by different routes back to the distant lands of Omineca and Skeens, respectively.

That bright land in the East Kootensys, Creston, calls Frank Putnam homeward, while Ron Burns heads for the roar of the great furnaces and the rattle of giant machinery at Trail. Rolf Bruhn will his himself back to the beautiful Shuswap Lake country and his lakeshore home, while Boh Carson will travel homeward to hat "City in the Sun," Kamloops.

Les Eyres goes home to the pleasant farm lands of Chilliwack and Dr. Gillis will travel up the beautiful Nicola Valley to his home in peaceful, sun-bathed Merritt. Exra Henniger has a long ride home to Grand Forks and his general store, and Tom King will go to his multifarious duties and business interests in and around the mountains at Golden. Sid Leary, after winding up his duties as Liberal whip, will be welcomed home down the Arrow Lakes way, and George Murray will travel by boat and rail and car to his home and newspaper business in Lillooet.

And the city members disappear and members of the cabinet steal away for a brief rest and all is quiet again in that noble pile, the Parliament Buildings.

70 Measures **Enacted By** Legislature

Prorogation Comes Day Earlier Than Expected

(By Staff Correspondent)
VICTORIA, Dec. 10.—One bill fied on the order paper and several motions and resolutions met a simmotions and resolutions met a similar fate when the second session of the nineteenth Legislature was formally prorogued by Hon. E. W. Hamber, Lieutenant-Governor at 9 pm. Friday, It ended six and one half weeks of legislative deliberations.

Escorted by Col. J. R. Kingham and Col. Vincent McKenna, his aides-de-camp, and A. M. D. Fairburn, chief secretary, His Honor arrived at the House at 8:45 p.m. and within a few moments members were celebrating his departure—and the end of the session—by hurling aloft thousands of copies of bills, orders of the day, votes and proceedings and other contents of wastepaper baskets.

The seventy acts written into the

of bills, orders of the day, votes and proceedings and other contents of wastepaper baskets.

The seventy acts written into the statute books of the province during the session were read out by W. H. Langley, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. The legislators were thanked by His Honor for the "generous supply granted for public purposes:" Hon. George M. Weir read the formal prorogation order, and thus ended the session. Left on the order paper following the final business sitting in the afternoon, was bill 72—au act to amend the Houre of Work Act. Also left were a number of motions and resolutions by private members.

Among these was one calling for a system of hospital insurance, introduced by Dr. D. J. Hunter, Conservative Victoria. As the House met for progrogation, R. L. Maitland, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, drew this to the attention of the members.

Speaking on behalf of the Premier, who was awaiting the Lleutenant-Governor, at the front entrance, Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., attorney-general, said that there had been some misunder-standing and if the motion was to be dealt with, it would have to be during the presence of His Honor. This was not done, however, and the motion died on the order paper. Within a few moments of prorogation, the members were scattered, many of them leaving immediately for their homes. In the House remained only the staff of the sergent-at-arms and the janitors, cleaning up and putting the sessional affairs in order for another day.

SWEEPSTAKES

The accord which was given by British Columbia's legislators to the motion of Thomas Uphill, M.L.A., that the government go on record as favoring sweepstakes in Canada, is indicative of a feeling that is fairly general in this province.

Much material benefit has accrued to charitable institutions in various parts of the world as a result of properly conducted and honest lotteries. Nor can anyone ignore the fact that Canadians spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually on sweepstakes, being

conducted outside this country. The moral aspect of lotteries is another matter.

Vancouver is noted for the contributions it makes to sweepstakes, both in Ireland and in Australia. Each train from this city takes money to sweepstakes in the east, each Sydney-bound liner carries thousands of dollars to lotteries in Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland.

All that money could be diverted to funds within the Dominion, if Mr. Uphill's idea were to be adopted. His proposal is that 25 per cent of all takings be set aside for the maintenance and improvement of established hospitals and for the construction of new ones

No one can deny the serious situation at the Vancouver General Hospital, where there is an annual deficit in excess of \$100,000. A sweepstake in this country would not take care of all the hospital needs of Canada, but it could alleviate some of the distress.

Approval of sweepstakes in principle by the British Columbia Legislature does not, of course, legalize them in this province. It will do much, however, to give impetus to the increasing agitation for them.

Comments From The Capital

All Is Peace And Quiet Again As Session Ends

By A. H. WILLIAMSON
(Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, Dec. 12.—The noble

pile that is the Parliament Buildings is a calm and peaceful centre again today after seven weeks' of hectic legislative endeavors of 48 "honorable members" from all sections of British Columbia.

ections of British Columbia.

Within the beautiful Legislative assembly Chamber, where there as been light and noise and a usile of activity these past seven reeks, all now is quiet and dim. The many-colored marble pillars, he beautiful carved oak panels and the deep blue carvet that cov-

Gone are the little page boys in their bright red and blue uniforms; gone are the formal trappings of Mr. Speaker Whittaker and the sergeant-at-arms and the clerk of the Legislative Assembly; gone are white-gloved attendants who guarded the doors to the corridors and galleries and gone are most of the members of the Legislature, back to their widely-separated homes. ated homes.

office space taken over by the various staffs is given back to the departmental officials who occupy them for the remaining 10 months of the year, and doors and brass gates are flung wide and the public can roam at will through the

quiet corridors.

guiet corridors.

It is very different from the hast hectic night. With the Lieutenant-Governor arriving to conclude the session there was a great scene of excitement and activity. There was a feeling of tenseness and suppressed exhilaration at the house of considing the argument. thought of concluding the arduous hours of work, which marks the final moments of every session.

final moments of every session.

Then His Honor concluded the session and for a while pandemonium broke loose. Members let their feelings run riot and there was many a quip and song and prank for a few hours as they celebrated one last reunion before separating for another year.

First to leave were the C.C.F. members. There were caucuses of the Conservativss and Liberals, however, and they remained for some hours after prorogation.

With R. L. Maitland, K.C., at their head, the Conservatives went over the business of the session.

over the business of the session. reviewed thir stand and laid plans

over the business of the session, reviewed thir stand and laid plans for the future.

The Liberals did likewise, but paused in their more serious considerations for two more pleasant events. To Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal member for Yale, who resigned his chairmanship of the caucus after five years, they presented a handsome travelling bag.

To Captain C. S. "Sid" Leary, member for Kaslo-Slocan and veteran Liberal whip, they presented a valuable set of cutlery. Then with the blessing of "The Chief" as they called Premier Pattullo, they broke up to prepare for their homeward journeys.

It was a long arduous session and it saw much accomplished. There was a marked unanimity of opinion among all the members on most of the major issues. Debates were friendly and seldom was there any heat or acrimony. New members made permanent friendships and old members strengthened the bonds of comradeship that have grown up during years of public service.

The ridings of British Columbia

The ridings of British Columbia are well and ably represented at Victoria and those representatives are well named "honorable mem-bers."