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FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1966

Education, Automation In Spotlight

The provincial government will give greater attention this year to its massive educational system and the Space Age problems facing British Columbia's labor force.

The Speech from the Throne, read to the House Thursday by Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes, said the legislature will be asked to expand the department of education and increase its budget; to extend services provided by the labor department and pass a number of legislative changes in the field of labor-management relations.

"It is apparent that with increasing automation and technological change, mass education has entered on another phase," said the lieutenant-governor.

"In consequence, an even larger proportion of the department of education's work will be directed toward the post-secondary field of education. Therefore, you will be asked to approve an expansion of the department."

The speech also said that increased emphasis would be placed on a continued revision of the curriculum at the elementary school level "to bring it into conformance with modern needs."

Undivided Attention

"The undivided attention of our educational authorities at all levels will be required if we are to achieve the optimum use of this massive and growing public facility and, at the same time, to keep the consumption of financial and human resources within attainable limits.

"To assist in these endeavors, you will be asked to approve a substantial increase in my government's expenditures for education," the lieutenant-governor said.

In the field of labor, he said, greatly increased emphasis had been placed on training and re-training to prepare for the requirements of a highly industrialized society.

"My government recognizes the increasing impact of automation and the technological changes of the economy of the

province and the lives of our people. In order to meet this challenge, you will be asked to augment substantially the services provided by the department of labor."

The number and scope of training programs are to be increased.

A number of legislative changes will be proposed, and a women's bureau will be established in the department to serve as a channel of communication with women's groups, employers and labor organizations, said Mr. Pearkes.

Also forecast was a comprehensive study of automobile insurance. This will be accompanied by a major crackdown on drunken and impaired drivers, and faulty cars.

BIGGER BURDEN

The Speech from the Throne, steeped in tradition, is a policy statement of the government, written by Premier Bennett, and read by the lieutenant-governor in his role as official representative of the Queen.

Expansion of the fields of education and labor will place a greater burden on the shoulders of Leslie Peterson, the 42-year-old cabinet minister who holds the dual portfolios.

Premier Bennett indicated he had no intention of separating the posts because of the manner in which the jobs "dovetail" together."

MULTIPLE ROLE

Mr. Peterson is a capable minister, he added, and will be no more hard-pressed in his new role than the premier himself, who in addition to his regular duties is minister of finance, president of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, chairman of the B.C. Ferries, and fiscal agent for the B.C. Hydro.

The lieutenant-governor announced that "more than 67 per cent" of the 195,476 persons covered by the non-profit B.C. Medical Plan "have qualified for the special provincial government subsidy."

"It is therefore abundantly clear that the plan has succeeded in achieving its primary purpose

—that of providing low-cost, comprehensive, first-dollar coverage to individuals who were not previously eligible for such protection."

FORENSIC CLINIC

In connection with the medical plan, Mr. Pearkes said the legislature would be asked to make certain amendments to the Medical Grant Act, but he did not elaborate.

He also announced that a forensic clinic would be established at the Mental Health Centre in Burnaby.

In the field of agriculture, the government will introduce crop insurance legislation at this session.

FEDERAL PLAN

"This legislation will be dependent on satisfactory amendments being made to federal crop insurance legislation; such amendments, if enacted in the manner indicated by federal authorities, would allow a satisfactory maximum coverage..."

The legislature will be asked to approve the increase in all civil service salaries, which was announced Dec. 14 by Premier Bennett. Amount of the increase was not disclosed.

It was also announced that the Queen Mother would be a guest of British Columbia during the centennial celebrations. She will stop here on her way to Australia, but there was no indication of how long.

OTHER BUSINESS

The lieutenant-governor said the government would bring in the following legislation:

- An act to provide for the conservation of wildlife in B.C., to replace the present Game Act.

- Amendments to the Mineral Act and the Placer-mining Act.

- Legislation to eliminate obsolete sections of the Forest Act and clarify other sections.

- Amendments to the Securities Act and the Administration Act.

- A Strata Titles Act to enable people who live in apartments or multiple-dwelling buildings to obtain title to their homes.

- A Revised Statutes Act to enable the next revision and consolidation of provincial statutes (last completed in 1960) to be completed in time for consideration by the legislature in 1970.

- Amendments to the Civil Service Superannuation Act, the Municipal Superannuation Act and the Teachers' Pensions Act in order that contributions and benefits may be co-ordinated with the Canada Pension Plan.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1966

Hartley Hears Vain Appeal For House Seat

William Hartley sat quietly at the far end of the House Thursday, his arms folded and an intent expression on his face, as Opposition Leader Robert Strachan pleaded unsuccessfully for the government to allow the ex-Yale member a seat in the House.

Speaker William Murray (SC, Prince Rupert) advised the House that he had received from Mr. Justice J. G. Rutan a certificate of determination that the 1963 election—in which Mr. Hartley was elected—had been nullified.

He said he issued a warrant to deputy provincial secretary L. J. Wallace on Jan. 17, for a new election to be held to fill the vacancy in Yale, in accordance with Section 36 of the Constitution Act.

POINT OF LAW

Mr. Strachan jumped to his feet to ask if there were any way in which Mr. Hartley could continue to sit in the House until after his appeal.

Mr. Murray replied that while he presumed the NDP leader was standing on a point of order, which he was permitted to do, he was in reality asking the Speaker to rule on a point of law.

The Speaker said that so far as the Court of Appeal Act applied to the constitution, he was neither required nor allowed to give a legal opinion on the question.

'NATURAL JUSTICE'

Mr. Strachan replied that he was not speaking on a point of law, but on "a point of natural justice and benefit to the people of Yale."

But his plea was ignored.

Gibson Ill With Flu

MLA Gordon Gibson of North Vancouver missed the opening of the legislature Thursday, confined to his bed with a severe attack of influenza.

Mr. Gibson was reported weakened from overwork and concern for his ailing wife.

By JACK FR

Legislative Repe

What will become of commission report on redistribution?

Probably nothing.

Feeling in the corridors of legislative buildings F that the government of Dr. Henry Angus' amendments in his own redistribution bill.

Reason for this feeling the tables have turned opposition MLAs who are full of losing their seats are beginning to think they would be strengthened by proposed redistribution.

SHOCKED SOME

Also, the report by Premier Bennett had not been seen by the government. It was tabled in the House apparently as a result of some of the government members.

The action was in the House, as anxious members sorted out the tangled web of the redistribution report had been brought down in closing minutes of the ceremony the day before.

Here is the picture of Saanich Island, as the politician:

Saanich Sacred MLA dalle charged that "Saanich has been wounded in the back by her friends, and the strong has been carried off to the west."

(The southern urban Saanich would be better served by Esquimalt, Victoria, Oak Bay, while Saanich renamed Sidney and northward to take in the sparsely populated G.

"The people of Saanich past 12 years have been speak in one voice, and a tremendous honor to interpret that opinion in the legislature," said Mr. Tis.

THREE RIDINGS

"This united front in the legislature is to be divided among three ridings with mixed opinions as to the destiny."

"They have ignored the contingent and characteristics that make up a community from Victoria northward to Saanich Peninsula."

CARVED UP

"It would seem that the region was bent on destruction by mutilating it on the Angus carving."

Findings Shock to Government

Socreds May Ignore Angus Commission

By JACK FRY

Legislative Reporter

What will become of the royal commission report on provincial redistribution?

Probably nothing.

Feeling in the corridors at the legislative buildings Friday was that the government will ignore Dr. Henry Angus' ambitious recommendations in bringing in its own redistribution bill.

Reason for this feeling is that the tables have turned and some opposition MLAs who were fearful of losing their seats are beginning to think their positions would be strengthened by the proposed redistribution.

SHOCKED SOME

Also, the report which Premier Bennett had boasted was not seen by the government before it was tabled in the House, apparently came as a shock to some of the government members.

The action was outside the House, as anxious members sorted out the tangled threads of the redistribution report which had been brought down in the closing minutes of the opening ceremony the day before.

Here is the picture on Vancouver Island, as the politicians see it:

Saanich Socred MLA John Tisdalle charged that "Saanich has been wounded in the House by her friends, and the heart of the strong has been carved up and apportioned to the weak."

(The southern urban fringe of Saanich would be bitten off by Esquimalt, Victoria North and Oak Bay, while Saanich would be renamed Sidney and moved northward to take in some of the sparsely populated Gulf Islands.)

"The people of Saanich for the past 12 years have been able to speak in one voice. It has been a tremendous honor to me to interpret that opinion in the legislature," said Mr. Tisdalle.

THREE RIDINGS

"This united front in the legislature is to be divided now among three ridings that have mixed opinions as to Saanich's destiny.

"They have ignored completely the contingent and contiguous characteristics that go to make up a community that existed from Victoria northwards on the Saanich Peninsula," he said.

CARVED UP

"It would seem the commission was bent on destroying any remembrance of the word 'Saanich' by mutilating it mercilessly on the Angus carving table."

Mr. Tisdalle had recommended to the commission during its hearings in Victoria that Saanich be divided into two single member ridings on the east and west sides of the Peninsula, with the common boundary running principally north and south along the Patricia Bay Highway.

NDP HELD

The proposed Sidney constituency would engulf Salt Spring, North Pender, South Pender, Saturna, Mayne, Galiano, Thetis and Resthaven Islands which now belong to New Democrat MLA David Stupich's Nanaimo and The Islands riding.

But Mr. Tisdalle points out that though he would be gaining a few new voters in the islands he would lose so many voters at the southern fringe that the existing 32,000 eligible voters in his riding would be reduced to about half that many.

OUTPOLLED

And Mr. Stupich doesn't mind losing the islands because a Social Credit candidate outpolled him by 500 votes there during the September 1963 provincial election.

"This would improve my position by 500 votes," said the NDP MLA, adding that the royal commission's proposal is "reasonable because the island are not logically part of Nanaimo."

The NDP-held Nanaimo riding would crowd southward to capture Opposition Leader Robert Strachan's communities of North Cedar, South Wellington, Extension and the other half of Chase River.

SWATH CUT

But it would also cut a swath northward as far as Englishman's River in Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell's constituency of Comox, picking up an estimated 3,700 eligible voters from these two areas while losing only some 2,250 in the Gulf Islands.

The Angus royal commission as Mr. Stupich sees it, was "a reasonable attempt to improve representation."

Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell said he would not be disturbed by a loss on his southern boundary because, "I will run wherever they put me."

RETAIN SEATS

But he argued that Vancouver Island as a region should retain 10 seats in the House. The redistribution report suggested Island representation be trimmed to nine, by turning the three-seat Victoria riding into two single seat constituencies.

Mr. Campbell explained that

he is defending the Island's right to 10 seats and not Victoria's right to its three seats, which the held by Public Works Minister W. N. Chant and Socred MLAs Waldo Skillings and J. Donald Smith.

Mr. Chant said in the corridor that "to be fair to other urban areas, Victoria could not justify three members—an adjustment was inevitable.

But he said he could not interpret the political implications of the proposed redistribution until the polls of the last election are examined for an analysis of the voting.

Mr. Smith said, "I would expect there would be some changes in this area because of the unfavorable balance of representation in other parts."

But, he pointed out that the report was "only a royal commission" which the government could follow in part or ignore altogether.

Mr. Smith warned that it is premature for comment until such time as the government studies the report and decides what bill it will bring before the House.

Alan Macfarlane (Lib.—Oak Bay), whose constituency would move northward to take the university and Gordon Head areas away from Saanich, said: "The commission has adopted most of the suggestions I made at the hearing, and I am delighted to have the riding expanded."

OAK BAY

He added with relief that "I have been often told every effort would be made to take away the riding of Oak Bay and deprive me of an opportunity to represent these people," and that he was gratified at the commission's finding.

A cautious note was injected by Liberal leader Ray Perrault. "These people who believe the redistribution on Angus formula is an accomplished fact are presuming too much.

"We still have to see whether the government accepts the report. No royal commission imposes an obligation on any government to accept it in toto," he said.

"Some of the government members themselves will be affected and I think there will be some heated discussions in the Socred caucuses," said Mr. Perrault.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1966

Ridings Act Pledged

Premier Bennett promised Friday that the government will bring in a redistribution bill during the current session.

But he would not say whether the bill will accept the changes recommended in the redistribution royal commission report which was tabled Thursday in the legislature.

Mr. Bennett told reporters in the corridor after the House had adjourned until Monday that "we will have a redistribution bill."

Asked if Dr. Angus' report will be incorporated in the government's bill, Premier Bennett replied: "I'm not saying there will be any changes; we haven't studied it yet."

He called for the res of Municipal Affairs Campbell in connection municipal land deal in Jan.

He said Highways Gagliardi was showing ism and discrimination ignoring the needs of Co Newcastle constituency building new roads for K and South Okanagan.

Mr. Strachan accused Works Minister W. N. C "dragging his feet" on c tion of the courthouse can, which was promise the 1956 election.

He said, "It is no wo can't get a reduction gas rates that hav charged to the people o Columbia," when exec Westcoast Transmission helping organize the Credit campaign during provincial election.

DEAR HAL LETTER

The NDP leader sai were two interesting s from last fall's trial cover public relations Williamson, who was c of writing the famous Hal" letter attributed to Bennett:

That Mr. Williamson he had written parts Speech from the Thre Premier Bennett's speech, and that he had Soered election promoti the vice-president of W Transmission and the e assistant of the firm's p

CHANT'S TURN

Premier Bennett sai House it was "not true" Williamson had written erment's speeches.

"Why didn't you a court and say so?" d Mr. Strachan. The pre not reply.

The opposition leader Chant was guilty of "p ation, stalling and delay poning the completion Duncan courthouse bec cost was too high.

JAN

1966

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1966

Car Insurance Probe Set

Major Boosts for Education Planned

Changes Due In Labor, Medicare

By JOHN MIKA

Times Legislative Reporter

Automobile owners and drivers, working men and women and students at all levels will feel the major impact of today's speech from the throne read by Lieutenant-Governor George Parkes at the opening of the third session of the 27th Legislative Assembly here.

But persons needing government help to obtain medical insurance and apartment dwellers will remember it too.

The speech contained two brief references to changes coming in the medicare and labor legislative fields which could foreshadow major "sleepers" or mean little more than minor alterations.

In both cases, Premier W. A. C. Bennett declined to elaborate on their significance.

Almost at the very end of the 4,500-word address—longest of the 14 written by Premier Bennett and dubbed by him as heralding "the Second Year of the Dynamic Society"—three announcements were made in rapid sequence affecting the motoring public.

● Mr. Justice R. A. B. Wootton, Dr. Peter A. Lusztig and C. E. S. Walls have been appointed as a royal commission "to examine all aspects of automobile insurance and related considerations as they may affect the people of B.C."

● Motor Vehicle Act amendments will be proposed "for the disqualification of motor vehicle driver licences whose blood has a prohibited concentration of alcohol."

● Other amendments will provide for "compulsory testing of motor vehicles throughout the province."

Premier Bennett, elaborating on the short reference to the

royal commission, told reporters that the investigation will be broad enough to cover a feasibility study of the provincial government setting up an auto insurance plan.

'Everyone To Be Heard'

"Everybody should have an opportunity to be heard in a full-dress commission hearing," he said. "It will be so broad they (the commissioners) can look at everything."

"We want the best solution, not just a good solution, for this province."

The announcement comes on the heels of a flare-up between auto insurance agents and the New Democratic Party which has made a government insurance plan part of its program.

Justin Harbord, Victoria agency operator and president of the provincial association, who earlier this week declared "war" on the NDP over the issue, is expected to be a leading witness before the commission. Both sides are expected to produce heavy briefs supporting and attacking the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office which is the only government agency in the car insurance field on this continent.

Mr. Bennett said there was no time limit on the study but he hinted that he expected a report about as speedily as the five-month Angus Royal Commission on redistribution. The latter's report was to be filed today.

The premier would not divulge any details of the blood-alcohol testing and motor vehicle testing proposals, saying they would be outlined in full by Attorney-General Robert Bonner when he speaks Tuesday during the throne speech debate.

Suspend Drunk Drivers

However, it is likely that B.C. legislation will follow the Saskatchewan precedent of cancelling driving licences of suspects who refuse to take a blood test and also suspending those persons whose test show a .15 per cent blood-alcohol reading.

The automobile testing program probably will be patterned on the one operated by Vancouver city but Mr. Bennett would not indicate if the provincial plan would involve a partnership with municipalities.

The government program at this session — as far as it was revealed in the throne speech — also will include major expansion of the education department's activities and budget which will affect everyone from kindergarten tots to pensioners taking night school courses.

The speech noted that the first graduates will be coming out of the re-organized high school program next year so "increased emphasis now will be placed on revision of the curriculum at the elementary school level — a revision already started — to bring it into conformance with modern needs."

The rapidly proliferating field of education, with new types of institutions as well as more facilities, will be clarified "in order that the whole public education system may be integrated

from kindergarten to postgraduate levels.

"It is apparent that with increasing automation and technological change, mass education has entered on another phase.

"In consequence, an even larger proportion of the department of education's work will be directed toward the post-secondary field of education. Therefore you will be asked to approve an expansion of the department," Gen. Pearkes told the assembly.

The speech noted there are already almost 17,000 full-time instructors, more than 420,000 students and buildings worth more than half a billion dollars in the public education system, not counting part-time and night-time classes. But growth continues at a rapid pace.

"To assist in these endeavors, you will be asked to approve a substantial increase in my government's expenditures for education," the lieutenant-governor read.

Education, Labor Linked

Premier Bennett told reporters that he has no intention of splitting up the Education and Labor portfolios held by Leslie Peterson despite expansion of activities by both. He said the throne speech references showed how the two portfolios dovetailed and demanded a central administrator.

"My government recognizes the increasing impact of automation and technological changes on the economy of the province and the lives of our people," the speech said.

"In order to meet this challenge, you will be asked to augment substantially the services provided by the department of labor.

These services will include expansion of the training and re-training programs under way and inauguration of special research on working agreements and the impact of automation which will be used to help labor and managements during negotiations.

The labor department also will set up a Women's Bureau (following last year's establishment of the first woman industrial relations officer) which will correlate information, stimulate research and "compile comprehensive reports in such areas as equal pay for equal work, maternity protection, minimum wages and employment benefits."

In an enigmatic reference, which Premier Bennett declined to elucidate, the speech added:

"As a further measure by my government to make its services of labor, management and the public more effective, a number of legislative changes will be proposed."

Premier Bennett, when discussing the speech with reporters, started off by drawing their attention to another cryptic reference to legislative changes involving the province's medical insurance plan.

Details Come in Budget

"On medicare, you'll notice there are changes for the grants act," he said. "I can't say what they will be until the budget speech."

Pressed for some hint, he said: "It'll be an improvement. That's as far as I can go."

But the speech indicated that last year's B.C. Medical Plan is a success with 67 per cent of the subscribers having qualified for either the 50 per cent or 25 per cent premium subsidies (depending on income)—the first time the government has revealed the ratio.

The plan covered 195,476 subscribers and dependents by Jan. 10 (it began June 7) and the premier said he was sure that in time the target of 445,000 persons he raised last year will be reached.

He said that about 90 per cent of the province's population now has medical insurance of one sort or another which is "better than any other place in North America."

Other sections read by Gen. Pearkes from the throne speech said:

"My government will seek your approval at this session of a Strata Titles Act. This legislation will enable the many persons who make their homes in apartments or in buildings containing a number of dwellings to obtain title to their homes."

The premier elaborated only to say that such titles would qualify people who now rent to obtain the homeowner grant and to vote as ratepayers in municipal elections. Presumably they would become subject to municipal property tax too.)

"Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret has expressed her wish that Portland Island, given to her by the province of British Columbia in 1958, be returned to the province for use as a provincial park bearing her name.

Princess Park Planned

"My government is most appreciative of the generosity of Her Royal Highness in returning this gift for the enjoyment of the people of the province and will immediately establish Princess Margaret Park in accordance with her wishes."

(Premier Bennett denied that his government made any approaches to the princess for return of the island, about 1½ miles north of Swartz Bay, which was given to her during a B.C. centennial year visit shortly after plans had been announced to make it a marine park.)

"It is . . . appropriate to recall that on Jan. 24, 1867, Governor Frederick Seymour formally opened the first session of the Legislative Council of the United Colony of British Columbia at New Westminster. This was the first legislative body whose jurisdiction included the length and breadth of our province as we know it today.

"My government has advised me of its desire to commemorate this event and launch our celebration of the National Centenary by convening the opening of the appropriate session of the Parliament of British Columbia in the historic City of New Westminster on Jan. 24, 1967."

(Premier Bennett did not identify the building that will be used for the occasion but added that only the ceremonial opening day such as occupied today's assembly — will be held there. The rest of the 1967 session will be held in Victoria).

"I am pleased to learn that in March of this year, on her way to Australia, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will be an honored guest in the province of British Columbia during our Centennial celebrations."

(Premier Bennett would not reveal whether the Queen Mother's already announced stop-over of a few hours in Vancouver was to be extended into a brief but official visit.)

In other references, the throne speech forecast amendments to various acts including the superannuation provisions for civil servants, municipal servants and teachers as a result of the new Canada Pension Plan but it was not revealed whether they would be "stacked" on top of the federal pension or "integrated" with it.

The speech also recounted the past year's progress in welfare, transportation, hydro-electric power development and numerous other fields—in all cases predicting more advances in the future.

It said a Wildlife Conservation Act would be brought in to replace the Game Act but there was no detail.

Amendments to the Securities Act will be proposed but the premier declined to reveal whether they would include a requirement that lending companies and retail establishments disclose effective interest rates on financing loans.

Changes also were promised to the Forestry Act, Placer Mining Act and Mineral Act (the latter possibly involving the offshore mineral rights situation) and all statutes will be revised and consolidated by 1970.

The speech also indicated the province will institute a crop insurance program for farmers if there are satisfactory amendments to federal legislation clearing the way.

MLAs S LITTLE

By
Times L

Now that the Throne Speech ceremony and last night state ball are memories,

ordinary members of the legislature have time to take bearings on their home-away-from-home surroundings.

This year a great number of things are different and they are harbingers of greater changes in the year or two so far as personal amenities are concerned our legislators.

Most of these can be traced to the great gaping hole in the door to the Parliament Buildings from which spring steel skeletons of the centennial museum and archives

Parking Lost

The first change they noticed was that their convenient parking area, in the next corner of the former of service parking lot chosen the museum site, had disappeared. Now they have to walk almost a block to their temporary parking on the other side of the buildings.

Another early impression change for the MLAs found in the dining room where they fuel up for long-winded speeches.

The food's different year, with the change to Princess Mary catering service, but so are the prices. Several of the members known to be . . . ah, so what parsimonious . . . may be the most noticeable difference at all.

Inside the debating chamber, they may or may not notice the fine hand of Speaker William Murray as he embarks on a gen



Mika

Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby) started early this time in his annual campaign during legislative sessions to seek divorce reform.

He indicated Wednesday he intends to put a private bill before the Legislature which would permit divorce on several grounds besides adultery, including desertion, insanity and cruelty.

MLAs SEE MANY LITTLE CHANGES

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

Now that the Throne Speech ceremony and last night's state ball are memories, the ordinary members of the legislature have time to take bearings on their home-away-from-home surroundings.

This year a great number of things are different and they are harbingers of even greater changes in the next year or two so far as personal amenities are concerned for our legislators.

Most of these can be traced to the great gaping hole next door to the Parliament Buildings from which spring the steel skeletons of the centennial museum and archives.

Parking Lost

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Another early impression of change for the MLAs was found in the dining room where they fuel up for the long-winded speeches.

The food's different this year, with the change to the Princess Mary catering service, but so are the prices. With several of the members known to be . . . ah, somewhat parsimonious . . . this may be the most noticeable difference at all.

Inside the debating chamber, they may or may not notice the fine hand of Mr. Speaker William Murray who is embarking on a general

program of "toning up" the atmosphere and working conditions in the House.

This year, the old, workmanlike but dreadfully plain plywood bookcases that hold the law books of the province on each side of the House have been replaced with proper cabinet work.

Handsome Chair

The speaker's own chair—not the high-back formal one used for ceremonies but his working chair in the House—is a handsome piece of carved furniture, including a recess in the back to accommodate his tricorne hat when he leans back to gaze soulfully at the soaring dome above. Gone is the rather plain and worn chair that has seemed so out of place among the rich carpeting and shiny marbles of the chamber.

The members' own commodious, leather swivel chairs have been cleaned and shined up as much as possible but the speaker quietly is beginning to shop around for a general replacement of the decades-old furnishings.

But the biggest change is yet to come.

More Space

When that next-door hole gapes no more and the centennial complex is opened in 1967, workmen will move into the large archives area immediately behind the legislative chamber to renovate the space for other uses.

The speaker appears confident that the space will go to the MLAs to provide them with semi-private offices of their own—something entirely new for B.C. but more in keeping with the higher pay and heavier responsibilities of a modern politician.

A committee is studying the office allocation plan now with a view to giving one cubicle to every two MLAs.



Mika

BENNETT SLAMS TORY

At This Stage Thompson Right'

Premier Bennett today slammed back at Conservative MP Alvin Hamilton and said he agreed with national Social Credit Leader Robert Thompson's support of the Liberal government "at this stage."

The premier was asked for comment on Mr. Hamilton's speech accusing Mr. Thompson and his four colleagues of "cutting the throat of Premier Bennett" by saving the Liberal government from a non-confidence vote.

"That's not true," snapped Mr. Bennett.

"If I was in Ottawa at this early stage in Parliament I wouldn't defeat the government.

"We stand for stability. We don't try to see how popular we are but to do the right thing and sometimes that means doing something unpopular."

Mr. Bennett said the Socreds probably will be heavily criticized because they voted against the \$100 old-age pension proposed in the Tory non-confidence vote.

But, he said, sooner or later people would realize that the party was in favor of higher pensions and only voted the way it did in order to avert the chaos of another unwanted election.

"We're for the old-age pension and putting more purchasing power into people's hands but we don't fall for the cheese in the Diefenbaker trap," he said.

Mr. Bennett said the Socreds had achieved their stated pre-election aims of forming the balance of power and forcing the Liberal government to change its ways.

He claimed the federal cabinet re-organization was the direct result of the fact that the Socreds had the balance of power.

"But we've got to use that balance of power in a responsible way."

He said the party "certainly hopes" that higher pensions will be announced in the federal budget as well as abolition of sales tax on building materials.

Mr. Bennett, who campaigned extensively and bitterly against the Liberals in the Nov. 8 election, indicated he was more kindly disposed to the new federal regime.

"I think they're starting out as a much better government than they were last session," he said.

"I think they'll last."

THRONE SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS

A royal commission appointed today to study the whole field of automobile insurance including feasibility of a government plan.

Legislation to disqualify drivers whose blood has a prohibited concentration of alcohol.

Compulsory testing of motor vehicles throughout the province.

Substantial expansion of the education department and government expenditures on all phases of education.

Revision of elementary school curriculum will be speeded up.

Labor department services will be expanded to meet challenges of automation and training and retraining programs will be expanded and upgraded.

Establishment of a Women's Bureau within the labor department to promote improvement of working conditions for women.

A Strata Titles Act to enable many persons living in apartments to obtain title to their rented premises giving them a ratepayer vote and the homeowner grant.

Improvement of the Medical Grant Act subsidies under the B.C. Medical Plan.

Establishment of a forensic clinic at the Mental Health Centre in Burnaby.

Development of Portland Island, north of Swartz Bay, as a provincial park in the name of Princess Margaret who has decided to return it to the province for this purpose.

Next ceremonial opening of the Legislature to be held Jan. 24, 1967, in New Westminster where B.C. Legislature met 100 years ago.

Increase in all civil service salaries.

Amendments to the Securities Act, Forestry Act, Mineral Act, Placer Mining Act, various superannuation acts (to fit them in with the new Canada Pension Plan) and replacement of the Game Act with a Conservation of Wildlife Act.

GORDON FIGHTS

Grit Caucus In Revolt Over Rate Hike

Times Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA — A revolt in the Liberal caucus occurred Wednesday over suggestions the government might decide to raise the 6 per cent interest rate ceiling on bank loans.

The government has not yet made a firm decision on this question. Finance Minister Sharp was unable to attend the caucus because of the pressure of business.

His parliamentary secretary, Jean Chretien, acting on instructions from Mr. Sharp, opened up the subject by moving that the question of the interest rate ceiling be referred to a special committee of the caucus for study.

Walter Gordon, former finance minister, now a backbencher, immediately led the attack against any proposal to remove the ceiling on bank loans and it became a general discussion. Many Liberals participated indicating their firm opposition to any such move by the government.

URGED BY COMMISSION

The royal commission on banking and finance had recommended that the ceiling be removed. The economic council has recommended that the interest ceiling be lifted. There have been reports that Mr. Sharp had about decided to reverse the decision of his predecessor and lift the ceiling.

Mr. Gordon attacked such a move, setting out all the arguments he could muster against it. Several other Liberals spoke in support of Mr. Gordon's stand.

Mr. Sharp is reported to be annoyed that this whole question was opened up and debated in caucus at a time when he was unable to attend.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1966

Victoria to Lose One Seat In Shuffle of Legislature

Local Ridings All Face Change

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

Local MLAs today generally accepted the redistribution commission's recommendation that one of the Victoria region's six seats be sacrificed to help rationalize the constituency map of B.C. along more democratic lines.

If accepted the redistribution plan will give the cities the whip hand for the first time.

The report, tabled in the legislature Thursday, would rearrange provincial boundaries here (now affording six MLAs in four ridings) to create five one-man constituencies.

It would:

- Divide Victoria north and south of a line along Pandora into two renamed ridings;

- Enlarge Oak Bay to include the university and Gordon Head areas now in Saanich;

- Saanich would lose to each of its neighbors: the urban south end to Victoria north, the western Saanich Highlands to Esquimalt and the eastern university-Gordon Head area to Oak Bay; but it would be extended northward to add all the Gulf Islands up to and including Galiano and the resultant entirely-rural seat would be renamed Sidney constituency;

- Take away Esquimalt constituency's entire Malahat area but give it an urban toehold for the first time by transferring Esquimalt municipality and Victoria West to it.

There were boundary changes up-Island too but no seats lost and the report recommended 52 single-member ridings for the entire province with most of them fairly close to the

'RE' ALMOST BECAME 'EX' FOR STRACHAN

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan had a few anxious moments Thursday night until he ascertained that he still lived inside his proposed new riding.

The redistribution commission recommended Cowichan-Newcastle be renamed and reshaped, including moving its northern boundary down to Nanaimo River which cuts through Cedar where he lives.

"But I'm just on this side of the south bank, so I'm okay," he said after pouring over the commission's small maps.

arithmetical average of 16,750 voters.

The changes netted an increase of seven constituencies for the Vancouver and Victoria metropolitan areas combined—by reducing although not eliminating the over-representation in the hinterland—but in Victoria's case one more riding still meant an over-all loss of one MLA.

Metropolitan Areas Get Control

If adopted, the recommendations would make a historic change in the political stance of the province, passing control of the legislature from the hinterland to the two metropolitan areas.

The lower mainland and Greater Victoria, which now have a minority of 24 seats in the 52-member legislature would fill 31 seats—or 60 per cent—in the revamped legislature.

This would mean the power structure would conform much more closely to the population balance but even at that, the sheer necessities of geography and scattered frontier-population still would give the non-

urban areas five more seats than a strict "rep-by-pop" formula.

Commission chairman Dr. Henry F. Angus said this would in effect give "81,000 phantom voters" to the interior and north. But he pointed out it was still the most rational ideal that could be devised after the commission's travels of 1,200 miles by air, 230 by train and 6,000 by road to hold 34 public hearings since September.

Here's how the comparative statistical pictures shape up for this area:

The present three-seat Victoria riding contains seven square miles and 32,870 registered voters, or one MLA for each 10,927 voters.

Victoria North, Victoria South

The proposal would create a four-square-mile Victoria North riding with 18,900 voters and a 5.5-square-mile Victoria South with 19,200 voters.

Saanich constituency now has 29,780 voters in 80 square miles and proposed Sidney constituency would have 18,800 voters spread over 205 square miles, much of it water.

Oak Bay now has 13,956 voters inside seven square miles and it would have 18,600 voters in 10 square miles.

Esquimalt now has 16,089 voters and 1,315 square miles and it would have 17,700 voters and 940 square miles.

Herbert Bruch, Esquimalt MLA, who is chairman of the Sacred caucus, gave a typical response to the changes:

"I have no complaint to make, although I'm sorry to see the division, said he was gratified with the commission's recommendations.

"I have always felt Oak Bay deserves to be a separate riding represented by its own member and I'm delighted to learn it would be preserved.

"I felt we had a good royal commission and I am pleased with the general points."

Works Minister W. N. Chant said the Victoria changes seem sweeping but said it could hardly be argued that Victoria's representation was fair and should not be cut back.

"As long as it is within the bounds of reason I think the re-

Wait for Bill In the House

we have to wait until a government bill is in the house to see how much of the commission's report is embodied in the legislation. We'll give it a good, hard look then," he said.

All three Victoria MLAs live in what would become Victoria South constituency.

John Tisdale (SC—Saanich) whose brief to the commission on splitting Saanich peninsula into two constituencies divided by the Patricia Bay Highway was rejected, said he will "try to live" with the commission's recommendation.

"I'm sure there could be pros and cons forever on a topic like this but I doubt you'll see any amendments to this report for

Malahat area taken from my constituency. I argued against it but that's not the way the commission saw it and I accept that.

"I'm in agreement with the principle of one-member ridings everywhere and I also agree in general with the over-all changes in the province.

"I think we should rely on the commission. We, as MLAs, naturally are biased because redistribution not only deals with constituency boundaries but involves our futures as members.

"So I think that unless there is some glaring error in the report, we shouldn't quarrel with the commission but accept the whole thing."

Oak Bay MLA Alan Macfarlane, a Liberal whose seat was rumored to be headed for opposition—which I have not seen yet as have none of the cabinet—should not have any changes made in its recommendations," he said.

"Whether this is good politics or not I haven't even given a thought.

"The fact is that better representation by population was the reason for appointing the commission and it was bound to produce changes, so we shouldn't try to block them."

Waldo Skillings, the second-ranking Sacred MLA for Victoria was not available for comment but third-man J. Donald Smith declined to make any definite comment on the grounds it would be "premature."

"The simple reason you couldn't get any unanimity on the amendments," he said.

"That's the way she'll stand and we may as well live with it. Certainly I'll try to live with it and represent a new constituency as best I can—besides, I like sightseeing and I haven't had a chance to visit the Gulf Islands much in the past."

However Mr. Tisdale took satisfaction from the commission's single-member principle for all ridings. He was publicly slapped down by Mr. Bennett in the last session when he advocated one-member ridings only to be interrupted by the premier who said he favored dual-member ridings.

'I Have Been Proved Right'

"I can only say that my remarks apparently have borne fruit and I have been proved right by the commission."

(However, although Dr. Angus and F. H. Hurley recommended single-member ridings, H. L. Morton brought in a minority report disagreeing with this particular point and contending that metro Vancouver and metro Victoria should have dual-member ridings as advocated by the premier and suggested by the terms of reference.)

Dealing with the reduction of seats for this region, the commission said:

"The reduction . . . is proposed not because the present districts, with the islands mentioned, have fewer than the average number of registered voters but because, if highly urban districts are to make good the allocation of members to outlying districts, Greater Victoria is one of the regions that should share the burden.

"In other words, the number of registered voters in a district in Greater Victoria should be compared not with the provincial average of 16,750 but with the numbers in districts in the lower mainland.

Municipal Lines Disregarded

"Within the Greater Victoria region, equality in numbers per MLA has been sacrificed to a limited extent to the desirability of natural boundaries, but municipal boundaries have been disregarded."

Esquimalt boundary would run up the Victoria Harbor waterway to Portage Inlet, eastward to the Trans-Canada Highway and up Interurban Road and along Hastings Street to the Highland District.

Oak Bay would run from Gonzales Hill due north to Foul Bay Road, cut across Trent Street and Lee Avenue to include the Veterans' Hospital, north along Richmond, west on Newton, northwards about half-a-block east of Shelbourne Street as far as North Dairy Road and thence

northward along Shelbourne to the edge of Mount Douglas Park and Cordova Bay.

Victoria South would lie between Esquimalt and Oak Bay boundaries, in a line extending from Inner Harbor along Yates Street, north on Douglas, east along Pandora to Oak Bay Junction, and northeast on Fort to Trent, north along Shakespeare and east along Bay Street to a point on the Oak Bay boundary between Royal Jubilee Hospital and Veterans' Hospital.

Victoria North would be sandwiched between these three, with its northern boundary running in a jagged east-west direction from Derby Road to the Trans-Canada Highway bridge over Interurban Road.

New Name of Cowichan-Malahat

Up-Island, Cowichan-Newcastle would be renamed Cowichan-Malahat and its area increased from 1,135 to 1,215 square miles by losing its northern side but gaining the Malahat, Mill Bay, Gordon River and Cloose areas from Esquimalt in the south;

Nanaimo and The Islands would be renamed Nanaimo and it would be cut back from 220 to 100 square miles by losing most of its islands to the new Sidney and Cowichan-Malahat constituencies (keeping only Gabroila and Valdez) but taking part of Cowichan-Newcastle in the south and up to Parksville in the north;

Alberni riding would be enlarged from 4,765 to 4,840 square miles by taking the chunk of Comox constituency between Parksville and Bowser.

And Comox would be reduced from 5,925 to 5,500 square miles by that loss.

Over-all, the commission recommends the following regional distribution of seats: five in the North, four in the Kootenays, four in the Okanagan, three in west central B.C., five in North Vancouver Island and the nearby mainland, three in northwest Vancouver, 16 in metro Vancouver, seven in the rest of the lower mainland as well as five in metro Victoria.

Huge Riding Called Northland

A completely new riding named Northland would be created spanning the northern third of the province, totalling 128,830 square miles and 6,300 voters.

The largest constituency at present, which would be absorbed by Northland, is Atlin and it totals 60,700 square miles with 15,760 voters.

Smallest new constituency would be Vancouver-Kitsilano with two square miles and 20,300 voters. The smallest now is Vancouver-Centre with 5.5 square miles and 36,132 voters.

Premier Bennett, who maintained neither he nor any other administration member had seen the report, said it would have to be studied by the cabinet before any concrete moves were taken.

Both Opposition Leader Robert

Strachan and Liberal Leader Ray Perrault made guarded compliments about the "industriousness" of the commission and generally praised their statements of principles.

However, both said they would have to study the report in detail before taking positions on its recommendations and they also pointed out that "in the final analysis" the government party would decide how boundaries were changed.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1966

Hints and Indications

ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST ELEMENTS in a Throne Speech which actually reveals very little of the government's intentions is the heavy accent on education. Reorganization and improvement of schooling from primary grades to adult technical institutions is promised, along with increased financial aid to the universities.

The latter aspect of the legislative program in particular will be watched with special interest throughout the province, since the recently announced increase in the federal per capita grant to universities calls for parallel action by the province. The need for such aid has been amply demonstrated in the Bladen Report, in the report of the Economic Council of Canada, and in the pleas of the province's three public universities for more funds to cope with the increased demands on their crowded facilities.

Labor legislation will also impinge on the educational field, with action promised to aid retraining programs for workers faced with the unsettling effects of increasing automation. Other cryptic references to labor bills must await Mr. Bennett's clarification.

The proposed compulsory testing of automobiles should occasion little

debate. A municipal testing system has long been in operation in Vancouver with beneficial results, and the principle should be easily extendable. Blood tests for suspected drunken drivers may pose considerations of individual rights and constitutional limitations, but the extent of the proposed legislation is not yet clear.

The Strata Titles Act will raise some interesting possibilities and also problems. By giving tenants of multiple dwelling places the status of owners, they would be eligible for the homeowners' grant and taxpayers' franchise. They would also be eligible to pay property taxes separately from their rental charges.

Although the Throne Speech was of record length, it will be the budget which will reveal the real meat of the session. In the face of Thursday's document, it is difficult to see how predictions of an extra long session will be borne out. But Mr. Bennett is well known for his production of highly controversial issues at an advanced stage in the sessions, and the present gathering may be no exception. The car insurance enquiry and the report on gasoline costs may well spark lengthy debates. But as yet the legislative clouds are well down on the horizon.

MLA Loses Reputation ... Just a Plain Member

The Angus redistribution report was the clincher in wiping out Victoria Soerod MLA Waldo Skillings' reputation as a prophet.

He gained the reputation two sessions ago when he correctly forecast the departure of former Victoria Times publisher Stuart Keate to take over the helm of the Vancouver Sun.

So everyone paid attention when he gleefully told the 1965 legislature about two more imminent events.

He said federal cabinet minister Arthur Laing, Liberal MLA Gordon Gibson and Vancouver Sun editor Bruce Hutchison were fighting it out for a senate appointment that would be made by mid-1965.

And he predicted that Liberal MLA Alan Macfarlane would be gerrymandered out of his seat by the next redistribution proposal.

Well, the Senate tip didn't pan out and Thursday a royal commission recommended that Oak Bay constituency be enlarged, rather than wiped out.

Tysoe Wants 'Ombudsman'

Compensation Advice for Workers
Needed From 'No-Strings' Lawyer

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

After two years' study, it took Mr. Justice Charles Tysoe about 250,000 words to tell the provincial government how to improve the workmen's compensation setup.

It likely will take the government just as long to fully digest and implement all the changes. It may endorse in the 451-page royal commission report tabled Thursday in the legislature.

The report endorsed many aspects of the legislation and administrative board's procedures but it also found plenty wrong—notably a lack of any built-in assurance that workmen would receive justice in their claims for compensation.

To rectify this, Judge Tysoe recommended sweeping changes to:

- Abolish the WCB's statutory right to decide arbitrarily whether any particular claimant has the right to launch an action

against an employer and, leave jurisdiction on this question with the courts themselves;

- Create a type of "Ombudsman"—a top-notch lawyer with adequate staff paid by and responsible to the government not the WCB—who would advise workmen on their compensation rights and take warranted appeals from WCB decisions to a special review board;

- Establish a three-man review board, to include a lawyer and doctor, which would be entirely independent and would have the "fullest power of investigation to get the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" of an appeal brought before it.

Appeal System Found Wanting

Mr. Justice Tysoe scored the present system under which WCB administrative officers hear appeals from workmen dissatisfied with WCB decisions on their applications.

"Those who comprise the reviewing body are employees of the WCB, hired and subject to discharge by the commissioners. They are part of the whole general operation, the pattern for which is set by the attitudes of the commissioners," the report noted.

"One would have to be naive indeed to believe that the members of the reviewing body are completely free to exercise their

own unfettered judgement when passing upon claims which, with equal justification, could as well be decided one way as the other."

Mr. Justice Tysoe rejected a demand by Opposition Leader Robert Straoan that all workers be covered by compensation benefits because employees would be "regimented into the workmen's compensation scheme" whether they were in totally non-dangerous jobs or not.

This also would entail "a cost to the workmen of the loss of important common-law rights," the report said.

Separate Study on Farm Workers

But Mr. Justice said the government should launch a separate study on whether all agricultural workers should be brought under WCB coverage.

In the case of present voluntary coverage for fishermen, he rejected both suggestions that compulsory coverage be introduced for them all and that workers on company boats now covered should be excluded from coverage.

The report recommended that the "CB be given power to shut down a company's operations if it broke any first-aid regulations.

The WCB inquiry began in February, 1962, under the late Chief Justice A. C. DesBrisay and was continued after his death by appointment of Mr. Justice Tysoe two years ago.

Earlier this year, he delivered an interim report which resulted in major increases in compensation rates, survivors' pensions and other allowances retroactive to the beginning of last year and establishment of a government-industry annuity fund to increase pre-existing pensions.

Total estimated cost of the interim recommendations was \$20 million over the next decade.

BINDING RULING NEXT?

Ferry workers may seek a fresh hearing into their grievances over the 1966 working schedule.

The consideration follows a report by the Civil Service Commission released Thursday which recommended no changes be made in the schedule.

The spokesman for the employees, lawyer Marney Stevenson, said a decision will be made next week whether to seek a board of reference ruling which, unlike the findings of the commission, would be binding.

There hasn't been a board of reference since 1962.

The commission heard briefs from the employees and B.C. Ferries following a sudden walkout by crews of two ferries on New Year's Day, when the new schedule went into effect.

To provide hourly instead of two-hourly sailings on weekends in the slack season, employees must work 10 days on, four days off instead of the previous week on, week off system.

The employees wanted a schedule similar to those in other kinds of continuous operations. This would involve a "spare board" to relieve workers.

The Civil Service Commission said because of the seasonal pattern of public demand ferry crews are precluded from summer vacations.

It also said the spare board system was not desirable because a number of employees would be unemployed part of the year.

There are, however, a number of work schedules which would meet the demands of the travelling public and not require a spare board. But there is no certainty any other schedule would meet the situation more acceptably than the 1966 one.

Before the 1967 schedules are made, there should be consultation with ferry crew representatives to obtain the most practical and acceptable schedule possible "whilst recognizing the prerogative of management to make the final decision."

\$3.9 MILLION S(NO)W JOKE

A hard-to-believe figure for Victorians is the provincial highway department's snow removal bill for last year—\$3.9 million.

The department's annual report for 1965 said the cost of keeping the province's 25,639 miles of roads clear during winter months climbed \$1.4 million from the previous year.

DURING 1965

BCHIS Pays Out \$200,000 Daily

B.C. Hospital Insurance Service paid out about \$200,000 every day of 1965 to cover all but the daily dollar of hospital bills for B.C. residents.

This was revealed in 17th annual BCHIS report tabled in the legislature Thursday.

The total payment for the current fiscal year is estimated at \$73.5 million.

A total of 286,360 BCHIS patients were discharged from hospitals in 1965, an increase of 8,337 or 3 per cent over 1964.

The hospitals were paid for 2,741,576 days of care, an increase of 71,400 patient days or 2.6 per cent over the previous year.

In addition, BCHIS paid an estimated \$600,000 for about 3,500 British Columbians who were hospitalized outside the province last year.

During the past year 11 major hospital building projects, involving new beds in addition to other facilities, were completed in the province at an estimated cost of \$10 million with the provincial government providing slightly less than half the money.

At year end, 10 major hospital projects were under construction involving 457 beds at estimated costs of \$11.3 million. Another 1,800 beds are involved in some \$50 million-worth of future construction now in advanced stages of planning.

THIS CABINET GATHERS NO MOSS

British Columbia's perambulating cabinet spent a total of \$61,311 on travel during the 1964-65 fiscal year.

The figures were contained in the public accounts tabled in the legislature Thursday.

They showed that Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce Minister Ralph Loffmark and Premier W. A. C. Bennett were the most restless of the 13 minister—spending over \$7,000 apiece.

And that's not counting the fours both have made to the Orient, Europe and California since last spring.

Mr. Loffmark led the pack with travel vouchers totalling \$7,604 while Mr. Bennett charged up \$6,127 as premier and \$1,181 as finance minister for his business trips.

Well to the rear was Public Works Minister W. N. Chant who spent \$1,936 for travel.

In between were: Highways Minister P. A. Gagliardi \$6,161; Attorney-General Robert Bonner \$5,564; Agriculture Minister Frank Richter \$5,187; Health Minister Eric

Martin \$4,597; Lands, Forests and Water Minister Ray Williston \$4,480; Education Minister Leslie Peterson \$2,196 and \$2,208 added as labor minister.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black \$2,680 and \$1,551 added as social welfare minister; Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Donald Brothers \$3,104, and Recreation and Conservation Minister Kenneth Keirnan \$2,693.

PERSONNEL SUPERVISOR FOR FERRIES

The Provincial Civil Service Commission announced on Thursday it will appoint a full-time personnel officer to supervise 1,400 employees of the B.C. Ferry Authority.

The move follows the first full-scale hearing by the commission into complaints by the ferry workers. It was held about 10 days ago following changes in the working schedule which brought numerous objections.

"As the ferry staffs have now expanded to some 1,400 personnel, the time has arrived when a full-time personnel administrator is required," the Civil Service Commission announcement said.

"This is a result of previous planning to come into effect in 1966."

Attempt To Seat NDPer Fails

An attempt to seat New Democrat William Hartley was rejected by Speaker William Murray minutes after the legislature opened Thursday.

The bid was made by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan after formal notice of the vacancy in Yale riding was made to the House.

Mr. Hartley was elected Sept. 30, 1963, in the last general election. A judicial recount gave Mr. Hartley the election, but the court this month ruled it void because more votes were cast than there were qualified voters.

The House was told a new warrant of election would be issued.

Mr. Strachan asked the Speaker if "there is no way for the member to continue as a member pending termination of all legal proceedings."

An appeal of the court decision is pending, but meanwhile the Constitution Act forbids Mr. Hartley from sitting in the legislature.

Mr. Murray ruled Mr. Strachan's bid amounts to a point of law and he cited precedents making it beyond his authority to deal with.

Mr. Strachan argued that it was not a point of law but a matter of "natural justice and benefit to the people of the constituency of Yale."

ANYTHING GOES DAYS AT END

The good old days of "anything goes" — and sometimes "everything goes" — are gone from the mining scene in British Columbia.

That was made clear in the annual report of the provincial mines and petroleum resources department tabled in the legislature Thursday.

It always is a year late and its lists of statistics on mineral production more than a year ago have been published previously.

But the report surveyed general developments in the mining field as well including a brief item on action taken against sloppy dynamiters in the pits.

THIEVES LIKE LIQUOR STORES

Government liquor stores are popular with thieves as well as honest drinkers.

Liquor control board's report for the 1964-65 fiscal year said nine government stores were burgled of booze worth a total \$983.01—but every drop was covered by insurance.

FRI., JAN. 28, 1966

STUDY OF SASK. PLAN WON'T HELP, SAYS OFFICIAL

Massive 'Re-Think' on Car Insurance

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

A mammoth task of sorting out reams of rating sheets and sociological needs lies ahead for the royal commission on auto insurance which has two Greater Victoria residents on its panel.

And, for a start, the commission members were told through a legislature report Thursday that the Saskatchewan government insurance plan won't be much help in settling one of the main issues — whether the B.C. government should enter the field.

'RE-THINK'

"It would be fair to describe the purpose of the inquiry as an invitation to the commissioners to re-think the entire problem of protection to the public arising out of the all-prevailing presence of the automobile in daily life," said Attorney-General Robert Bonner, the spark-plug behind the inquiry.

"Apart from questions concerning insurance coverage and rates, there is also the question of the sufficiency and satisfaction of remedies provided by traditional court action, delays and costs to be gone into."

FORMER REEVE

Struggling with the problem will be chairman Mr. Justice R. A. B. Wootton, a former Oak Bay reeve, who was appointed to the B.C. Supreme Court in 1961.

The other members will be Dr. Peter Alfred Lusztig, a 35-year-old associate professor of finance at the University of B.C. who is an insurance expert, and C. E. S. Walls.

Mr. Walls, who lives here, is

manager of the B.C. Federation of Agriculture and no stranger to insurance or financial statistics. He has served for the past three years on the federal Royal Commission on Taxation and was Manitoba manager of a major insurance company before joining the army at the outbreak of the Second World War.

Of the nine terms of reference given the commission, chief public attention likely will centre on the last three:

"Whether the public of this province will be better served by the continuation of present procedures for the recovery of damages arising out of motor vehicle accidents and by the preservation of present forms of insurance coverage . . . or by a plan whereby compensation for damage arising from accidents may be paid without determination and attribution of responsibility . . . or by a combination thereof;

"Whether such a (plan or combination) if recommended, should be administered privately or by or through a governmental department or a governmental agency . . . and;

"The method and procedures that would be most effective in the introduction of (a n y) change, if recommended."

The other terms seek investigation of the costs and delays now encountered by accident victims seeking compensation, the portion of total damages they recover and whether it is adequate, the cost to insurance companies and their clients of present policies and whether the premiums are fair.

The justification for the three insurance rate boosts in the past year, the operation of the traffic victims indemnity fund and any changes in insurance needs as a result of the

availability of hospital insurance, medical insurance and workmen's compensation also will be examined.

E. T. Cantell, superintendent of insurance, drafted the report on comparative auto insurance rates which was tabled in the legislature.

It said there would be little saving, in any, in a government-sponsored insurance plan here that was based on the Saskatchewan scheme because the factors were so different.

"One difficulty in examining the merits or demerits of exclusive government operated car insurance is that it exists in only one jurisdiction in the western world—Saskatchewan," he wrote.

Mr. Cantell noted that minimum insurance in Saskatchewan costs the car owner \$52 no matter where he drives or how much he uses his car. The same coverage in Vancouver—where traffic densities are much heavier than in prairie cities—ranges between \$46 and \$111 depending on driver's age and how much the car is used.

In other parts of B.C. the same amount of coverage can be obtained in some circumstances for as little as \$27.

Although Opposition Leader Robert Strachan decried appointment of the commission as a stalling tactic, it was welcomed by the Insurance Agents Association of B.C.

"A detailed study undertaken by an independent tribunal will be of great benefit to both the insurance industry and the public," said association secretary-manager George Rickart in a prepared statement.

"Commission findings will be based on fact rather than political propaganda and we, as independent agents, will be happy to abide by such findings."

PEOPLE WAN

Car In

A royal commission inquire into car insurance criticizes today as a stalling tactic.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said the commission's appointment announced in the throne speech Thursday "is the last refuge of a government that doesn't know how to act."

The commission, announced in the throne speech, was composed of Mr. Justice

Wootton, Dr. Peter Alfred Lusztig and C. E. S. Walls. It will examine all aspects of car insurance.

"We don't require a royal commission," said Strachan, B.C. leader of the New Democratic Party, "has long favored government car insurance in this province similar to that in Saskatchewan."

"The people of B.C. have been their own royal co-

B.C. CAN ALSO BOAST BEING CAR CAPITAL

British Columbia has more cars per capita than the rest of Canada.

Annual report of the motor vehicles branch for 1964, tabled in the legislature Thursday, said there are 10 cars—not counting other vehicles—for every 24 residents of the province.

This compares with the national average of 10 for every 30 persons.

The commercial transport department reported there were 146,000 trucks and 15,000 trailers registered in the province for an 8 per cent increase.

PEOPLE WANT ACTION, SAYS STRACHAN

Car Insurance Inquiry 'Stalling Tactic'

A royal commission to inquire into car insurance was criticized today as a stalling tactic.

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Wootton, Dr. Peter Lusztag and C. E. S. Walls. It will examine all aspects of car insurance.

"We don't require a royal commission," said Mr. Strachan, B.C. leader of the New Democratic Party, which has long favored government car insurance in this province similar to that in Saskatchewan.

"The people of B.C. have been their own royal commis-

sion on automobile insurance for years. They don't want another royal commission. They want action."

Murray Drew, president of the Victoria local of the International Woodworkers of America, said he endorses a commission only if it isn't meant to put off action for several years.

"If the commission is sincere in its efforts to go into all phases it is a good thing," he said.

"It will give us and others an opportunity to submit briefs."

One of the organizers of a local petition calling for government insurance said there is no reason to think the commission is anything but a stall.

"We will go ahead with the petitions and get as many signatures as possible and present them to the govern-

ment," said Fred Bevis, president of the Victoria NDP association.

"If the government won't accept them, we'll take them to the royal commission with supporting statements."

Mr. Bevis has already written Premier Bennett seeking to present the petitions to the cabinet at the end of February.

An insurance spokesman who last week declared war on the NDP and unions for their call for government car insurance was not available for comment today.

Justin Harbord, president of the Insurance Agents Association of B.C., was out of town and is not expected back until the middle of next month, his office said.

Bennett Whispers Election Call?

By JOHN MIKA

Only a careful listener could hear an election call in Thursday's throne speech but it was there — in a mischievous whisper.

Although the overall tone of the speech didn't point toward or away from an election, there was a semantic clue that stood out strongly for a 1966 vote.

It came early in the speech — which was written by Premier Bennett although read by Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes — in a paragraph suggesting the next opening ceremonies of the legislature will be held in New Westminster to commemorate the 100th anniversary of first legislative session of the united colony.

"My government has advised me of its desire to commemorate this event and launch our celebration of the national centenary by convening the opening of the appropriate session of the Parliament of British Columbia in the historic City of New Westminster on Jan. 24, 1967."

The key words are "appropriate session of Parliament." This is the third session of the 27th

Legislative Assembly and next year should see convening of the fourth — unless an election intervenes.

In that case the designation would be the first session of the 28th Legislative Assembly but Mr. Bennett obviously couldn't say that without telegraphing his punch.

"Appropriate session" covers both bases — and even intervention of a special session for that matter — but the fact the premier was so carefully vague is plenty of hint of what's on his mind.

Significant too is the fact that the passage does not presume to say the event "will" take place but announces only the present administration's "desire" that it occur.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1966

PURCHASING CHIEF

Gov't Red Tape Just Too Much

The purchasing commission's new chairman, former deputy forestry minister Gerald McKee, told the legislature Thursday his organization is inefficient.

He blamed it on too much red tape and not enough manpower.

Mr. McKee succeeded G. E. P. Jones, who was fired by the legislature last year. Mr. McKee sized up his job in an annual commission report tabled in the legislature.

Mr. McKee said the commission oversees government purchases which totalled \$41.8 million last year has only six buyers to do the job. He said Vancouver city has the same number of buyers to handle \$4.8 million of annual purchases.

And there are only 15 men on the commission's staff to service 7,118 business machines of all makes and types.

To indicate the staggering amount of paper work required, Mr. McKee pointed out that last October regulations were changed to raise from \$10 to \$25 the amount of purchase exempted from requiring a requisition or emergency purchase order.

"It is estimated that this alone will save 11,000 emergency purchase orders, in quintuplicate, and at least \$30,000 in processing them," the report said.

Sharp Criticism Of B.C. Prisons

Dungeon-like cells beneath a cow barn, lacking any sanitation for their prisoners, were described Thursday in a report tabled in the British Columbia legislature.

The isolation units, and a number of other undesirable features of the Cakalla prison farm in Burnaby near Vancouver, were criticized in the report of S. Roxburgh Smith, B.C. director of corrections.

A section of the report said: "This unit, in the light of progressive correction philosophy, is becoming more and more of an anachronism, and a dangerous one, and requires the closest supervision, both executive and medical.

"The basement of the cow barn, constructed in the form of a bunker which is reminiscent of an air-raid shelter of the last war, contains some dark cells closed by iron curtains in which observation is impossible, the only aperture being a small one for the passage of food.

"There is no sanitation in these cells and when they contain aggressive and violent inmates it is not unusual for the staff, when opening the cell door, to receive on their persons the contents of a bucket of excrement."

The medical officer said Oakalla buildings were impregnated with cockroaches. Fumi-

gation was carried out at intervals.

Mr. Smith also said the Prince George jail operated at capacity during the year in review and the overflow had to be sent to Oakalla.

There was urgent need for additional accommodation in the rapidly-growing area.

"Kamloops jail, a relic of the 19th century, is quite unsuitable to house prisoners any longer and should be abandoned."

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1966

Private Hospitals 'Cash In' On Gov't Non-Profit Plan

Profit-making private hospitals are trying to cash in on government aid to non-profit extended care facilities, the legislature was warned Friday.

In moving the reply to the throne speech, Cariboo Social Credit member William Speare urged caution on the government in the granting of 50 per cent toward acquisition of private hospitals by non-profit organizations.

He said that since the government plan was introduced in December, the selling price of profit-making private hospitals, which cost \$4,500-\$5,000 per bed to construct, has risen to \$10,000 per bed.

A spokesman for B.C. Hospital Insurance Service said later a number of private hospital deals

had been initiated, but so far none had been consummated.

Since December, BCHIS has offered proportionately the same financial aid to non-profit private hospitals affording extended care as it has to capital costs of expanding acute care hospital facilities.

The move based on closing a gap between the needs of persons requiring long-term medical care and the ability of institutions to provide it.

Mr. Speare said nursing home facilities in B.C. are so short that persons qualified under hospital insurance to receive care are unable to gain admittance.

He said communities are showing some initiative here, but it is up to the government to provide leadership and overcome inequities.

Prompt Action Promised On Redistribution Bill

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

Premier Bennett Friday said the government has not begun to study the Angus redistribution report yet but it will bring in a bill "at this session."

He said he was pleased with the promptness of the royal commission's inquiry and agreed that his initial reaction to it is not the same as his immediate rejection of the federal B.C. redistribution proposals.

Mr. Bennett gave no sign that he was disturbed by the report or that he had any major objections to it but did indicate he wants fairly speedy action on it.

"I would think that it would be dealt with at this session. That is my opinion and my hope."

Then he told reporters to express his reaction more strongly as "I see no reason why it shouldn't be."

CORRIDOR MUTTERINGS

The natural corridor mutterings of MLAs fearful the report will hurt them has begun but so far the consensus is that the report will be adopted as presented.

"If you were to open it up for any big amendments, you would just start a whole new hearing

on the floor of the House," commented Social Credit whip Bert Price. NDP whip John Squire agreed.

Mr. Price added he personally thought, "the government will recommend adoption of the whole report, although I don't know what they will do."

SECOND THOUGHTS

But John Tisdalle (SC-Saanich) is among those who are having serious second thoughts about the report after first saying he would "try to live" with changes proposed for his riding.

"I'll still try to live with it if it comes but I reserve my right to say I don't like the thing because it amounts to an amputa-

tion of Saanich," he said Friday evening.

"Looking at the whole thing over the province and the reduction of representation for rural areas, I don't think a politician could have done any worse than the commission."

'MEMBER OF OWN'

Mr. Tisdalle said the proposed Sidney riding virtually duplicates the "old North Saanich-Gulf Islands constituency of many years ago but with the potential growth on the Gulf Islands they should have a member of their own—maybe it should be made into a permanent Speaker's riding."

Noting that heavy inroads into "my area of voters" are proposed for Oak Bay, Victoria North and Esquimalt constituencies, he added "I don't have to stay in Saanich riding, I could still run in any one of the other three—they're still the people that voted for me."

Mr. Tisdalle said it might be a good thing if the report "was preserved for future study, say a year."

But he wound up with apparent resignation.

"Unfortunately, now it is going to be very difficult or even impossible to make any substantial changes in it."

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1966

Thursday, January 27, 1966

Word on B.C. election due today?

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA The first indication of a much-mooted 1966 provincial election is expected to be in the Speech from the Throne which Lieut.-Governor Pearkes will read to open the legislature today.

The third session of the 27th B.C. Legislature opens at 3 p.m. in a ceremony marked by tradition and pageantry.

A 15-gun salute will greet Pearkes on arrival at the legislative building where he will be met by Premier Bennett and escorted to the chamber.

Fifty MLA's (there are two vacancies this session) and nearly 400 invited guests are gathered to hear the traditional opening address which outlines what program the government intends to place before the legislature.

It is expected to contain the first indication of the likelihood of a provincial election this year.

Hottest topic is likely the redistribution of provincial electoral ridings.

Royal Commission Chairman Dr. H. F. Angus said the report was delivered to the government last Friday.

The report, which Angus described Wednesday as "a great mass of material," is expected to be tabled along with more than a dozen other departmental reports before the House rises this afternoon.

Another major royal commission report, Judge C. W. Morrow's findings on gasoline prices, is expected to be tabled later in the session.

A government report on auto insurance will also be brought down. The NDP has said it will make a big pitch for government-run car insurance, but there is no indication the government intends to bring in any legislation to make this possible.

A royal commission report by J. V. Clyne on expropriation procedures, tabled during the 1965 session, is expected to result in new expropriation legislation this time.

There are also indications that new legislation affecting motor vehicles will be brought down.

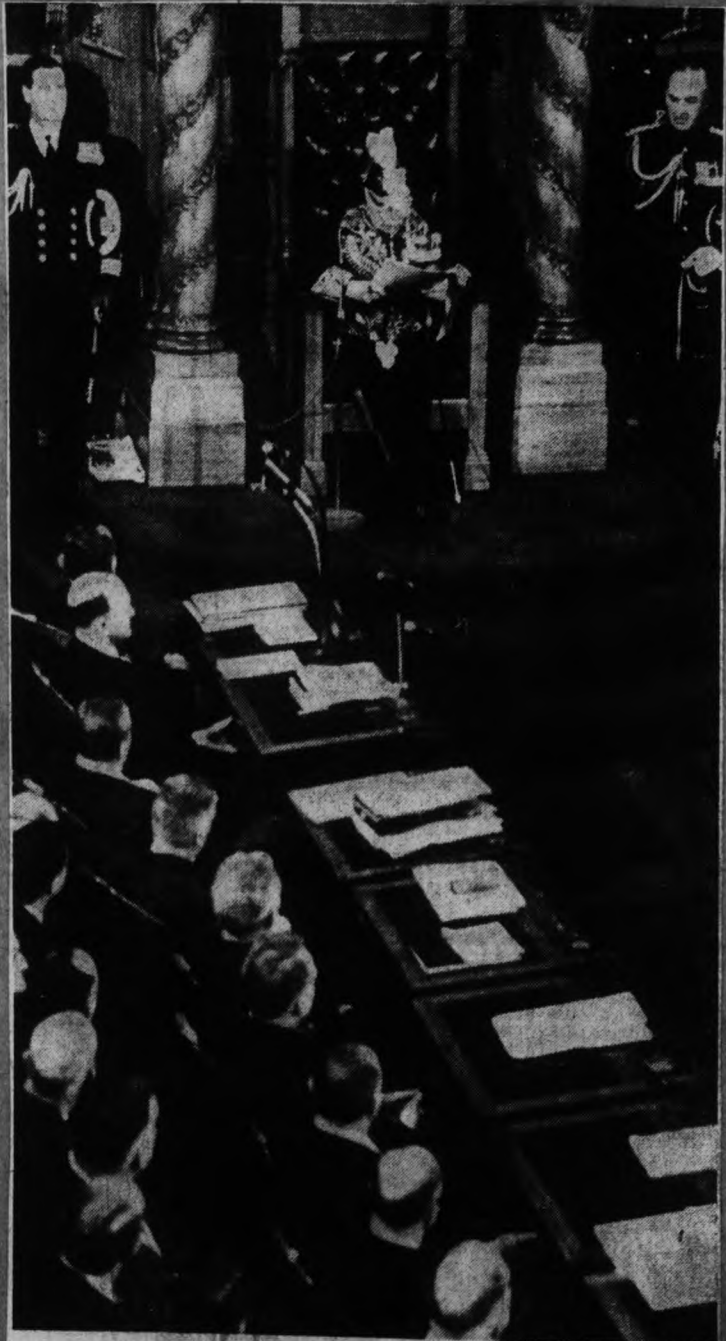
The impact on automation, increased aid for education at all levels, chronic care, and the failure of the B.C. medical plan to draw wide support, are all expected to be hotly debated.

Government MLA's met for approximately two hours in caucus Wednesday afternoon. Premier Bennett told reporters before entering the meeting he expected this session to be "cordial."

Last year the session lasted 65 days and there were 27 night sittings.

Bennett has said the decision whether or not to call an election this year depends upon what happens during the session.

Friday, January 28, 1966



Legislature listens as Lt.-Gov. Pearkes delivers Throne Speech. —Don McLeod photo



Friday, January 28, 1966



Premier Bennett, bottom, and his cabinet hear speech from Throne.



A wreath lies on desk of George McLeod, MLA for North Okanagan who died last year.

Friday, January 28, 1966

Friday, January 28, 1966



Premier Bennett and Lt.-Gov. Pearkes enter Legislature.

Purchasing commission understaffed, says report

The B.C. purchasing commission is understaffed and has too much unnecessary paper work.

Commission chairman Gerald McKee made the complaints in the commission's 1965 annual report tabled in the legislature Thursday.

The commission had only six buyers, one of them hired last June, handling \$41.8 million of purchases, the report said.

By comparison, the city of

Vancouver has six buyers to handle \$4.8 million worth of goods.

As a step towards improved efficiency a change was made last October to raise from \$10 to \$25 the level at which a purchase requires a requisition or emergency purchase order.

This should save 11,000 emergency purchase orders and at least \$30,000 in processing them, the report said.

Friday, January 28, 1966



Main changes in the Fraser Valley is a sharp reduction in size of Chilliwack riding and present two-member Delta riding split into four.

Proposed new ridings

Proposed new ridings and numbers of registered voters:

1. Alberni	15,600
2. Boundary	16,000
3. Burnaby-Edmonds	17,300
4. Burnaby-Simon Fraser	19,300
5. Burnaby-Willingdon	18,000
6. Cariboo	12,200
7. Chilliwack	20,100
8. Columbia River	11,500
9. Comox	19,200
10. Coquitlam	20,800
11. Cowichan-Malahat	15,000
12. Delta	21,000
13. Dewdney	17,600
14. Esquimalt	17,700
15. Kamloops	14,800
16. Kootenay	11,800
17. Langley	18,300
18. Mackenzie	15,000
19. Nanaimo	15,200
20. Nelson-Creston	12,100
21. New Westminster	20,300
22. Northland	6,300
23. North Okanagan	11,500
24. North Vancouver-Capilano	17,000
25. North Vancouver-Seymour	17,500
26. Oak Bay	18,600
27. Omineca	8,000
28. Peace River	7,800
29. Prince George	14,100
30. Prince Rupert-Skeena	16,000
31. Richmond	20,500
32. Rossland-Trall	14,000
33. Shuswap	10,500
34. Sidney	18,800
35. South Okanagan	15,600
36. Surrey	20,600
37. Vancouver-Burrard	20,100
38. Vancouver-Centre	20,600
39. Vancouver-Fraserview	18,300
40. Vancouver-Hastings	20,900
41. Vancouver-Kitsilano	20,300
42. Vancouver-Langara	20,500
43. Vancouver-Mountain View	21,400
44. Vancouver-Park	19,000
45. Vancouver-Quilchena	20,500
46. Vancouver-Rupert	18,200
47. Vancouver-Shaughnessy	19,100
48. Vancouver-University	20,800
49. Victoria-North	18,900
50. Victoria-South	19,200
51. West Vancouver-Howe Sound	18,800
52. Yale	11,000

Total (round figures) 873,300
Average number of registered voters per M.L.A. — 16,750.



In the redrawn B.C. map ten interior ridings disappear with stronger representation going to populated areas.

Bigger voice for metro areas

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Sweeping changes to provincial election boundaries in which 10 ridings are wiped out and only five of the present 42 ridings left virtually intact were recommended Thursday. The Angus Royal Commission Report on redistribution proposed 52 single-member ridings. Thirty-one

would be in metro areas of the Lower Mainland and Victoria and 21 in the rest of the province.

The most drastic changes are proposed in Vancouver, where it is recommended the five existing multi-member ridings be replaced by 12 single-member ridings. This prompted one commission member to enter a dissenting report.

Kenneth L. Morton, deputy registrar general of voters, said he agreed with all the recommendations of the commission but this one. He described it as a "regressive step to the old ward system which Vancouver did away with by plebiscite back in 1915." He favors six dual-member ridings for the city.

The recommendations would increase

representation in the Lower Mainland and Greater Victoria from the present 24 members to 31.

The rest of the province, which now has 28 MLAs, would only have 21 under the proposed new electoral map.

Even at that, the commission had to assume the presence of "81,000 phantom voters" in order to justify assigning of five extra seats upcountry.

If representation by population had

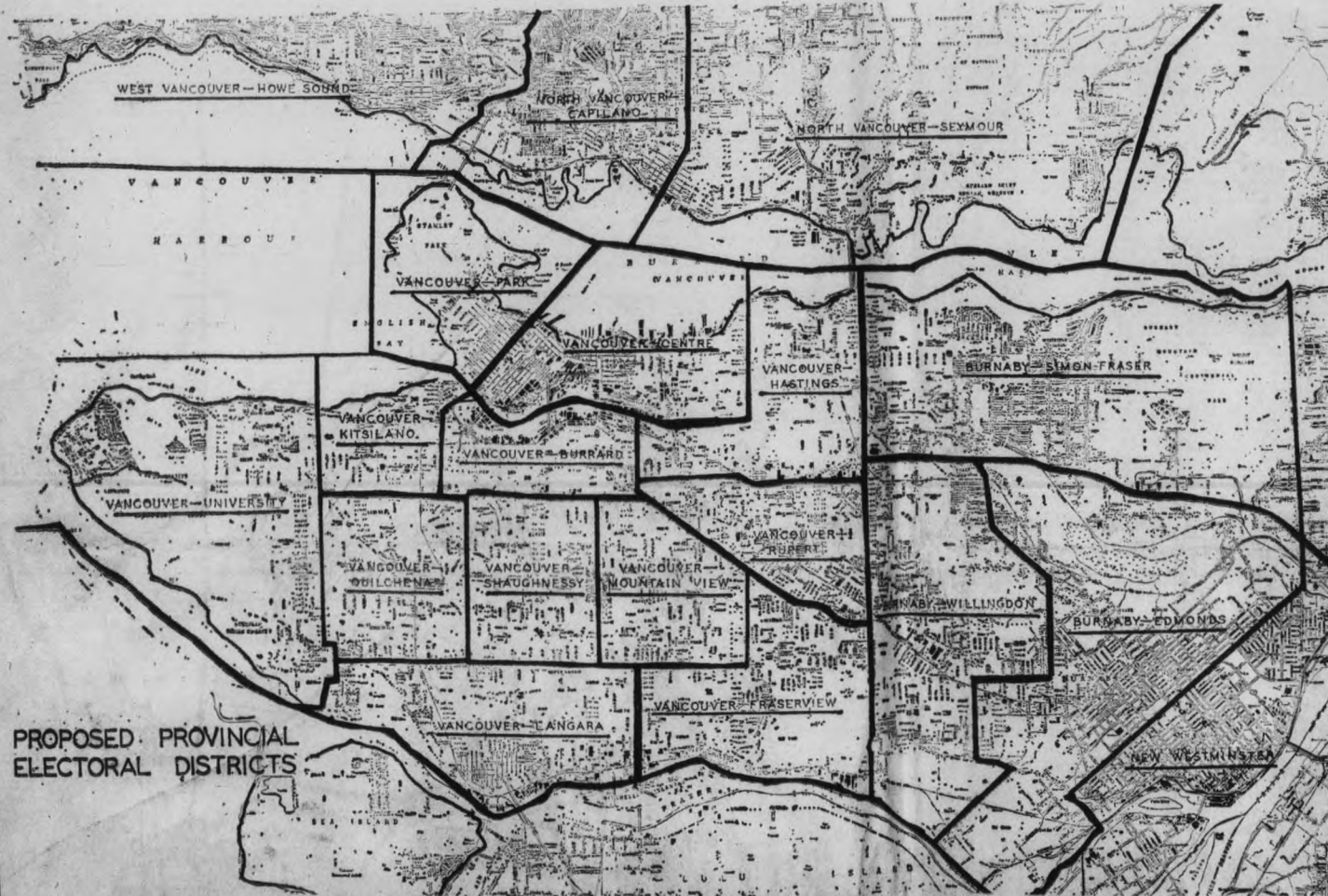
been followed, the report said, metro areas would have qualified for the five extra seats which the commission distributed—two to the north, one each to the Kootenay, Okanagan and the remainder of the province.

The 10 seats which would disappear are Similkameen, Revelstoke, Cranbrook, Atlin, Skeena, Fernie, Lillooet, Kaslo-Slocan, Grand Forks-Greenwood and Saanich. Four are now held by the

NDP, one by the Liberals and five by government members including a cabinet minister.

The Royal Commission was set up last August with Professor Henry Angus as chairman and Chief Electoral Officer Frederick Hurley and his deputy, Morton, as commissioner.

(Continued on Page 1A)
(See CITY ALLOTTED)



PROPOSED PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

Proposed changes in Metropolitan Vancouver electoral makeup would give area five new seats in Legislature

\$23-a-month drink bill

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The average B.C. family spent \$23-a-month on liquor in the year ended March 31, 1965.

The Liquor Control Board annual report, tabled in the Legislature Thursday, said liquor sales totalled \$124.9 million, an increase of \$7.7 mil-

lion over the previous year. The board made a net profit of \$35.4 million. Sales of permits totalled \$47,511, a rise of \$3,451.

The board issued 1,574 licences, while 20 licences were suspended and 23 either surrendered or cancelled during the year.

Women's labor bureau to be established

VICTORIA — The working woman had her day in the Legislature at Thursday's opening when the throne speech announced the establishment of a Women's Bureau in B.C.

The bureau will be established within the Department of Labor to channel communication with women's groups, employers and labor organizations.

It will be similar to that run in Ottawa and headed by Miss Marion Royce and another in Toronto. The move follows the appointment a year ago of the first woman Industrial Relations Officer in B.C. Mrs. Christine Waddell, former business agent of the Hotel and Restaurant Union.

Friday, January 28, 1966

City allotted 12 single-member ridings

It was asked to take into account historic and regional claims for representation and to limit new districts to a minimum of approximately 7,500 registered voters by 1975. The commission was also asked to give consideration to two member ridings, arguing they areas.

The report said, however, that the recommended apportionment of Vancouver seats was substantially what local representatives had asked for during public hearings.

The commission defended its decision not to propose multi-member ridings, arguing they tend to give members a weakened sense of individual responsibility, and often lead to a weak candidate being elected on the merits of his party colleague.

On the North Shore the report proposes three ridings. West Vancouver-Howe Sound includes the communities of West Vancouver, Bowen Island and Woodfibre, and it takes the communities of Pemberton, Squamish and Britannia from Lillooet.

The present two-member North Vancouver riding would be split in two. North Vancouver-Capilano runs from the Capilano River to Lonsdale. North Vancouver - Seymour stretches from Lonsdale to Indian Arm.

In the Fraser Valley the commission recommends a sharp reduction in the size of Chilliwack, with territory on the east being given to Yale and on the west to Delta.

Dewdney would be split with the north-south dividing line following the general line of the Pitt River. The west would become Coquitlam while the east section would retain the name Dewdney.

The present two-member Delta riding would be split into four; the municipality of Richmond would form one district retaining that name.

The remainder of the present Delta riding would be divided in three roughly equal parts under the names Delta, Surrey and Langley.

The report said Metro Vancouver, in order to get proper and effective representation, should have 16 members instead of the present 12. It added that each riding would have an average of 19,650 registered voters.

New Westminster riding would remain essentially the same as it is now. Burnaby would be divided into three. Burnaby East would run south from the Trans-Canada Highway to the New Westminster boundary and Mallardville. Burnaby-Simon Fraser would be that portion of Burnaby north of the Trans-Canada Highway, and Burnaby-WIL-

lington would run south from the CNR track to the Fraser River.

The City of Vancouver and the university area would be divided into 12 equal population areas.

Vancouver Burrard runs from False Creek to Sixteenth Avenue and from Fraser Street to Burrard.

Vancouver - Centre extends from Burrard Inlet to Grandview and False Creek and from Thurlow to Nanaimo.

Vancouver-Fraserview is bounded by Kingsway in the north and Fraser River on the south, and extends from Boundary Road to Fraser Street.

Vancouver-Hastings runs from Burrard Inlet to Grandview Highway and from Boundary to Nanaimo.

Vancouver-Kitsilano extends from the waterfront to Sixteenth Avenue and from Burrard to Collingwood.

Vancouver-Langara runs from Forth-ninth Avenue to the Fraser River and from Fraser Street to Blenheim and Carrington.

Vancouver - Mountainview runs from Sixteenth to Forty-ninth and from Nanaimo to Main, with a big diagonal slice cut out by Kingsway.

Vancouver-Park consists of the West End and Stanley Park with the boundary on Thurlow Street.

Vancouver-Quilchena runs from Sixteenth to Forty-ninth and from Granville to Collingwood.

Vancouver-Shaughnessy extends from Sixteenth to Forty-ninth and from Main to Granville.

Vancouver-Rupert is bounded by the Grandview Highway, Kingsway and Boundary.

Vancouver-University takes in the present UBC land.

In the far north a new district of Northland would include northern portions of Fort George, Omineca and Atlin.

South Peace River would become Peace River with only minor changes in the boundary. Fort George remains essentially the same with the name changed to Prince George.

Omineca would be extended west to include Bulkley Valley to a point west of Hazelton.

What remains of Skeena, including the communities of Terrace and Kitimat, would be added to the district of Prince Rupert.

The present Fernie and Cranbrook ridings would be absorbed into a new Kootenay riding.

Columbia, with an addition to the south, would be renamed Columbia River and take in Kaslo-Slocan and that

portion of Revelstoke west of Monashee.

There would be only minor changes to the boundaries of Rossland-Trail and Nelson-Creston.

The present Salmon Arm riding would be extended southwards to include Enderby and Armstrong and should be renamed Shuswap.

North Okanagan would be extended to include a portion of the present South Okanagan riding, and Similkameen would absorb Grand Forks-Greenwood and part of South Okanagan under a new name of Boundary.

Cariboo would be extended south to include the northeast portion of Lillooet. Kamloops would come in for only minor boundary adjustments.

Yale would be extended to include a large portion of Lillooet, what's left of Similkameen and take part of Kamloops, Dewdney and Chilliwack ridings.

On the coast Mackenzie loses Lasqueti and Bowen Islands and Woodfibre.

Comox on Vancouver Island would also be reduced in size, losing Parksville to Alberni riding. Alberni would be enlarged on the west to include Clooose.

Nanaimo and the Islands would lose all of the gulf islands except Gabriola and Valdez and the commission recommended that Lasqueti be added.

Cowichan-Newcastle would be renamed Cowichan-Malahat and include the Malahat, Mill Bay and Gordon River. The report said it would also include Thetis and Kuper Islands.

Greater Victoria now has six MLAs including one three-member riding in the city. The commission recommended that this number be reduced to five.

Esquimalt riding would be enlarged by including portions of Victoria and Saanich.

Oak Bay would not be greatly altered but its boundaries would be shifted northward to take in a portion of Saanich.

Victoria would be divided into two ridings, North and South Victoria, each with one member.

Saanich would be renamed Sidney. The commission said it would include the Gulf Islands in this riding rather than as part of Nanaimo, because ferry connections provide a logical line of communication with the Saanich peninsula.

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New curb on drivers and cars

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Changes that will affect every motorist in the province were outlined in the throne speech at the opening of the B.C. Legislature Thursday.

They are:

- Compulsory motor vehicle testing on a province-wide basis.

- An attempt to curb borderline drinking drivers by what amounts to a voluntary system of breathalyzer testing.

- Establishment of Royal Commission to study the entire field of automobile insurance in the province.

- Tabling later in the session of Judge Charles W. Morrow's report on gasoline prices in B.C.

The throne speech, one of the longest in recent years, took Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes about 40 minutes to read in the packed legislative chamber.

It contains at least partial

answers to many of the major points of criticism directed against the government.

There were promises of new aid to education, expansion of the education department to cope with mass education in the age of automation, augmented labor relations services, establishment of a forensic clinic in Burnaby, improvements to the B.C. medical plan, and help for agriculture and tourism.

(A forensic clinic — "forensic" meaning connected with the law — would assess and treat mental disorders that cause people to break the law. Patients would be sex offenders, drug addicts, alcoholics, compulsive shoplifters and the like.)

New labor laws

New labor legislation will be introduced at this session but the throne speech didn't indicate in which areas this would lie.

It contained only one vague reference to legislation designed "to make government services to labor, management and the public more effective."

Among other new legislation promised in the Throne speech is the Strata Titles Act which would make it easier for apartment dwellers to own their apartments.

This would enable them to qualify for the homeowners' grant and to run for civic office.

The compulsory motor vehicle testing program to be introduced this session will probably be phased over three years.

Permanent motor vehicle testing stations, like the one in Vancouver, will likely be

established at three other Lower Mainland points. Most likely spots: North Vancouver, Burnaby and perhaps Chilliwack.

Other permanent stations will be established at Victoria and Nanaimo to serve Vancouver Island.

Up-country points will probably be served by testing stations established in garages.

Since the mobile government testing unit was established in August, 1964, approximately 25,000 drivers have voluntarily undergone tests. Defects of some kind were found in 67 per cent of the cases.

The throne speech makes reference to provisions for "disqualification of motor vehicle driver licences whose blood has a prohibited concentration of alcohol."

(Continued on Page 1B)
(See DRIVERS)

The system proposed by the government will permit police officers to stop drivers suspected of being borderline impaired cases and ask them to surrender their licence.

(Charges are now laid if the alcohol level reaches .15 per cent.)

The driver then has the right to take a breathalyzer test to prove that he doesn't fall within the blood-alcohol range to be set out in the new legislation. If he is successful the licence is returned immediately.

If he declines to take the test or fails it his licence will be held for a period of probably 24 hours.

Unofficially, this is taken to mean that if the policeman considered the motorist impaired, he would arrest and charge him in the normal fashion. If believed to have been drinking to a lesser extent, he would allow the motorist to go free but without his car. In this case, the motorist would not be charged.

INSURANCE PROBE

If the motorist refused to surrender his licence, he would have the option of taking a breathalyzer test. If it showed him to be impaired, he then would be charged.

Premier Bennett said later the government has been studying the question of automobile insurance for several months.

It decided the issue was so complex, with so many wishing to express views, that the only way to handle it adequately was by full-dress Royal Commission, he said.

The commission will consist of Mr. Justice R. A. Wootton, UBC Assistant Professor of Business Administration Dr. Peter Lusztig and Charles Walls, manager of B.C. Federation of Agriculture and a member of the federal Royal Commission on Taxation.

The commission's study of the question will encompass questions of government-operated car insurance and private plans made available through government agencies.

GASOLINE REPORT

Premier Bennett says: "We want to find not just a good solution to this question of car insurance but the best solution."

Judge Morrow's report on the marathon gasoline price hearings hasn't been delivered to the government yet. He is expected to arrive here this weekend and spend the next few days completing final details of the report.

The premier promised it would be tabled in the House during the session.

Bennett declined to say at this stage what changes will be made in the government's voluntary B.C. medical plan.

The changes, which will be "improvements on the existing plan," will be known on budget day, he said.

After about four months of operation the government plan provides coverage for 195,476 subscribers and dependents making it an "unquestionable success," the premier says. The speech also disclosed for the first time that 67 per cent of subscribers to the plan qualify for government subsidies.

Bennett said he is confident the government plan will eventually cover practically all of the 450,000 B.C. residents who fall into the low-income category.

ROYAL GUEST

The speech says Queen Mother Elizabeth will be an honored guest in the province during a stopover en route to Australia in March. The premier declined to comment on the length of her stay.

Princess Margaret has approved return of Portland Island, a gift from the people of B.C. in 1958, to the province which will make it a new marine park. The Throne speech said Portland will be renamed Princess Margaret Island.

It also announced the opening session of the 1967 provincial legislature will be held in New Westminster on Jan. 24 next. The Royal city was capital of B.C. from 1866 to May 1868.

Among other legislative changes foreshadowed in the Throne speech are amendments to the Securities Act, Forest Act, and replacement of the present Game Act with a new act to conserve wildlife in the province.

A throne speech cocktail

Premier Bennett criticized Prime Minister Pearson's Throne Speech as a thing of milk and water. His own, read Thursday by Lieutenant-Governor Pearkes, was rather like a frothy cocktail before the alcohol is added.

It looks all right, if full of bubbles. But we can't tell the size of the kick until we see the amount of those essential ingredients: Determination and money.

Long-delayed moves will be made in the field of highway safety. Compulsory motor vehicle testing will cover the province, and the attorney-general has found an ingenious way around compulsory testing of drivers suspected of drinking. They can either take a test or give up their licences for a day.

Premier Bennett has called royal commissions devices for dis-

posing of difficult problems. He gave one the headache of gasoline prices when the NDP made a political issue of this. Now he hands another the tangled question of car insurance rates, which again the NDP has been turning into a major issue.

One uncharitable, but realistic, interpretation of the premier's move might be that he wants to delay action on these issues until he has survived another election later in the year.

New labor laws are coming. Until they are produced, we won't know whether the premier dares make them strong enough to prevent a minor squabble from halting the entire industry of the province.

A forensic clinic is promised, to try to diminish the rash of senseless crimes committed by those

who are mentally ill but cannot now get adequate treatment.

This scandal should have been dealt with years ago. We hope that the new plan, like other mental care improvements promised in the past, does not turn out to be an Opening Day bubble.

There are signs that some chronic deficiencies will be remedied. Securities laws will be tightened; a "substantial increase" will be made in education spending; re-training programs will be strengthened.

The base for this year's legislative cocktail looks interesting enough. The coming weeks will show if it really has a kick—and whether it is blended skillfully enough to give the opposition an election hangover, which seems likely.

Car policies compare favorably with Sask.

For about half of Vancouver's drivers the average cost of auto insurance is about the same as the fixed insurance cost in Saskatchewan, according to a report tabled Thursday.

It said the minimum cost of coverage was \$46 anywhere in the province of Saskatchewan. This was boosted to \$52 for the so-called average family

because Saskatchewan's government-run scheme includes a \$3 charge on each driver's licence.

The same limits of public liability insurance, though with fewer fringe benefits than Saskatchewan, cost between \$45 and \$111 in Vancouver depending on the driver's record.

Among the guests

Comedian Dick Gregory sees non-violent dagger

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — One noteworthy guest in the Legislative Chamber was American comedian and Negro civil rights leader Dick Gregory.

He attended the opening sitting as a guest of Frank Calder, New Democratic Party member for Atlin. It was Gregory's first visit to a Commonwealth legislature.

Shortly before the opening, he met some NDP MLAs informally at a gathering in Opposition Leader Robert Strachan's office, among them the member for Vancouver East, Alex Macdonald, dressed in his clan kilt and jacket.

Gregory showed great interest in Macdonald's skein-Dhu, the short-bladed Scots dagger worn inside the knee socks. Macdonald described it as his form of non-violence and gently replaced it in his sock.

Strachan:

It's much about nothing

VICTORIA (CP)—Opposition Leader Robert Strachan was generally critical Thursday of the throne speech read at the opening of the B.C. Legislature.

He said in a statement the speech "contains some hints of improvements, some threats, some promises, the usual royal commission and a great many words about nothing at all.

"This speech from the throne may have been adequate 10 years ago, but it fails to meet the needs of today and ignores the urgency of tomorrow.

"The premier said the federal speech from the throne was a milk and water effort. His own is even more so."

Announcement of increased spending on education and other education improvements may be too little and too late, he added.

"We know from the record that any amendments this government has made to labor legislation has only made the situation worse."

The royal commission inquiry into auto insurance was "the last refuge of a government that doesn't want to act."

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Scrap it, says prison chief

Oakalla verminous, explosive

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The B.C. Director of Corrections, S. Rocksborough Smith, has called for the scrapping of Oakalla prison and its replacement with a series of small units in the Lower Mainland.

In his annual report for the year ending last March 31, he condemned Oakalla as overcrowded, dangerously explosive and infested with vermin.

And he claimed the crowding of first offenders with hardened criminals, including some perverts, is causing increasing danger and expense to the province.

He charged that a prisoners' riot in May, 1964, which cost \$70,000 in damage, was caused by overcrowding and lack of segregation.

He expressed gravest concern for juveniles passing through Oakalla while waiting until their cases are concluded in court. They endure a 20-hour daily lockup in the remand cell block containing adult prisoners, many of them habitual criminals, alcoholics, homosexuals and addicts, he said.

During 1964-65, 214 male juveniles went through the prisons.

Said Smith: "Many of these youths arrive at Haney Correctional Institution and at New Haven with distorted ideas and values as a result of their association in the remand unit with older recidivistic prisoners (repeaters) whose only thought is to beat the

rap.

"All this makes the demanding job of training these young prisoners that much more difficult," said the director.

Smith said admission facilities are so inadequate that it is impossible to clear prisoners completely of vermin.

The isolation hut at the prison came in for some of Smith's strongest criticism.

He said there is no sanitation in these cells and inmates can become critically or fatally ill without the staff knowing.

"When these cells contain aggressive and violent inmates, it is not unusual for the staff, when opening the cell door, to receive on their persons the contents of a bucket of excrement," said Smith.

Bigger education setup puts accent on colleges

By WILF BENNETT

The most significant disclosure on the government's 1966 education policy in the Throne speech, aside from the promise of more money, is the announcement that the department of education will be expanded to give more attention to post-secondary schools.

This, undoubtedly, is the plan of new Deputy Minister of Education Dean Neil Perry, formerly UBC vice-president, probably means a new department for the province's expanding universities, junior colleges and technical and vocational institutes.

Two years ago, when there was only one university and three vocational schools, this field could be handled as a part-time effort in the education department.

JUNIOR MINISTER?

But now there are three public universities, a major two-year technical institute, three junior colleges operating or building, and vocational schools in many provincial centres. As the Throne speech says, their enrolment is continuing at a rate exceeding normal growth.

The new development probably will mean the naming of a director, possibly another deputy minister, for college-level institutions.

The promised "substantial increase" in education expenditures, while welcomed by

educators, is regarded as rather meaningless until presentation of the budget reveals how much.

Every budget for the past 20 years has provided increases in education expenditures, often substantial, so this is nothing new until the amounts are known.

MORE MONEY

Increases have been asked in all fields from elementary to post-graduate university levels. Premier Bennett has already said there will be more money for universities, in line with expansion of buildings and student population, and with recently announced increased federal grants.

There is no indication in the Throne speech that Premier Bennett intends to accede to the requests from provincial trustees' and teachers' organizations to name a separate ministry of education, splitting the two portfolios presently held by Labor and Education Minister Peterson. Labor organizations have also consistently urged such separation.

Two years ago education became the top single government expenditure, taking over from highways.

Last year the budget called for expenditure of \$152.2 million — or 34 per cent of estimated revenues for the year ending March 31.

Judge asks changes in WCB

By JACK CLARKE
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Reconstruction of the Workmen's Board of Review to ensure greater impartiality in dealing with compensation appeals has been recommended by Mr. Justice Tysoe in the report of the Royal Commission on Workmen's Compensation.

In his report, tabled in the Legislature Thursday, Mr. Justice Tysoe said: "It is my opinion that whatever seeming difficulties may appear in the way the Board ought to make the necessary changes in its procedures and practices to ensure that the tribunal charged with the duty of passing upon decisions relating to claims by workmen or their dependents is as completely independent and impartial as the circumstances will allow."

The provincial government earlier introduced increases in the allowances and pensions paid to disabled workmen, widows and dependents.

THREE MEMBERS

Under Mr. Justice Tysoe's proposal, the Review Board would comprise not less than three members. He stipulated one should be a well-qualified lawyer and another a well-qualified doctor. He made no comment on who should comprise the rest of the board.

The Board would devote its whole time to the business of the Review Board and would never be available for consultation by any members of the WCB staff about a pending claim.

The Review Board would have the "fullest power of investigation to get the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" of a case before it.

Mr. Justice Tysoe recommended establishment of an office of compensation consultant, independent of both industry and the Board but responsible to and paid by the government. His job would be to advise the present compensation counsellor and to represent workmen in some of the most contentious cases going before the Review Board.

UNJUST CLAIMS

Under the present setup, the Review Board comprises the WCB's chief claims officer, the chief medical officer and the chief solicitor. During the commission's hearings, Opposition Leader Robert Strachan and others claimed the hearings of appeals by men involved in considering the original claims, as "unjust."

In his report, Mr. Justice Tysoe said the review by three persons within the WCB administration is in essence a reconsideration of a claim and doesn't purport to be a hearing in any commonly accepted sense.

Said the judge: "Those who comprise the reviewing body are employees of the WCB, hired and subject to discharge by the commissioners. They are part of the whole general operation, the pattern for which is set by the attitudes of the commissioner."

Saturday, January 29, 1966

Awheel ho!

CAR CHAMPS

VICTORIA—B.C. has more cars per capita than any other part of Canada it was disclosed in the 1964 annual report of the provincial Motor Vehicles Branch.

There were 10 vehicles for every 24 people in 1964, the same as Saskatchewan. Canadian average is 10 vehicles for every 30 people.

In cars alone B.C. leads the nation with 10 cars per 30 persons. Ontario is next with cars for every 33 citizens.

Record hospital payout by insurance service

VICTORIA — The B.C. Hospital Insurance Service last year paid out a record \$200,000 a day for hospital services in the province. The total hospital bill was \$73.5 million.

In 1949, the first year of operation for the government insurance scheme, the daily hospital bill averaged \$50,000.

The 17th annual report of BCHIS, tabled in the Legislature, said 286,369 patients were treated last year, an increase of three per cent over 1964.

Public hospitals in the province were paid for 2.7 million days of patient care, an increase of 2.6 per cent over the previous year.

Last year the hospital insurance scheme also paid bills totalling \$600,000 for B.C. residents treated in hospitals outside the province.

The report said that at the end of 1965 10 major hospital projects totalling 457 beds were under construction. Estimated costs of the projects were \$11.3 million.

Another \$50 million worth of hospital projects were in the planning stages, the report said.

Bennett pledges action on redistribution report

VICTORIA—Premier Bennett says there will be a redistribution bill placed before the legislature at this session.

He explained in an interview Friday he hasn't had time to read the report yet but had seen the story in the morning newspaper.

"I can see no reason why the report should not be dealt with as soon as possible," the premier said.

The cabinet is expected to begin a detailed study of the royal commission's findings next week.

Bennett said he wasn't suggesting any changes in recommendations at this time, but he stressed it was a report to the government and therefore subject to change before presentation to the Legislature.

Syphilis rate declines

VICTORIA—Provincial venereal disease programs last year resulted in a 41 per cent drop in syphilis cases in B.C.

The report of the health department, tabled in the legislature Friday, said the drop was due to quick treatment of contacts.

Gonorrhoea, in spite of stepped up control efforts, in-

creased slightly during the year to 6,146 cases.

The steady growth in B.C.'s population continues, the report said. The mid-1965 total approached 1.8 million, up 51,000 from 1964.

Death rate was the lowest reported in the province for 40 years, and the infant mortality rate one of the lowest in the world.

The birth rate in B.C. continues to decline. It is now 18.6 per thousand, compared with a peak of 26.1 in 1956.

Saturday, January 29, 1966

LEGISLATURE

Government urged to resist 'high-cost' hospital prices

Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The government was warned Friday not to fall for inflated purchase prices now being asked for some private nursing homes in B.C.

William Speare (SC—Carlboo), a former hospital administrator, said he knows of some private hospitals, built at a cost of \$4,500 to \$5,000 a

bed, which are now being offered for sale at \$10,000 per bed.

The new interest in nursing home purchases results from a recent government offer to pay 50 per cent for the cost of these facilities when operated by community groups on a non-profit basis.

Last Dec. 1 the government introduced \$1-a-day BCHIS

care for chronic cases, but reported only 570 non-profit beds were available. Patients in private nursing homes do not qualify.

Speare said it was unsatisfactory to have citizens — entitled to \$1-a-day coverage — denied insurance because of insufficient beds.

He said many communities have come forward with non-profit projects, but it is the responsibility of the government to provide leadership.

Speare moved acceptance of the throne speech and Hunter Vogel (SC—Delta) seconded it.

Move to get barred MP seated fails

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Strachan tried unsuccessfully to have William Hartley seated as NDP member for Yale when the Legislature opened.

He asked the Speaker to consider that Hartley had appealed the court ruling voiding his 1963 election.

"If he was able to represent Yale for two sessions while a legal decision was pending on one side, surely it is only fair that he should still represent the riding," Strachan said.

Mr. Speaker William Murray said the question involves a point of law and therefore was outside his jurisdiction.

"I'm not asking for a ruling on a point of law," said Strachan. "It is a point of natural justice and benefit to the constituents of Yale."

Hartley is attending the opening as a guest. His appeal is scheduled to open Feb. 7 in Victoria.

Education cost rises \$21.5 million

VICTORIA — Public school education in the year ended March 31, 1965, cost B.C. \$199 million, an increase of \$21.5 million.

The public schools report submitted to the legislature showed the government share was \$105 million compared with \$95.5 million the previous year.

Total enrolment increased by 21,000 to 400,064—390,507 in municipal schools and 9,557 in rural schools. The pupil-teacher ratio averaged 31.67. Regular attendance level was 89.85 per cent.

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THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 1966

Auto Insurance Probe Launched by B.C. Gov't

Drinking Drivers Face Stiffer Law

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Appointment of a royal commission to probe the whole field of automobile insurance in B.C. was announced today in the speech from the throne opening the third session of the 27th Legislature.

The speech, generally outlining government policy for the coming year, also disclosed plans for what could amount to compulsory blood-testing of suspected impaired drivers.

Legislation will be introduced to allow police to suspend the driving licences of suspected impaired drivers when they are confronted by officers.

Maximum Alcohol Level

The law will set a maximum level of alcohol in the bloodstream beyond which it will be an offence to drive.

It will be up to the motorist to provide evidence of a test by blood sample or breathalyzer if he wishes to challenge the suspension in the courts.

In addition, the speech provides for compulsory safety motor vehicle testing throughout the province.

In the speech read by Lt.-Gov. George Pearkes, Premier W. A. C. Bennett's Social Credit government announced plans to substantially increase education spending, expand the education department, set up a forensic clinic in Burnaby, and establish a women's bureau within the department of labour.

Details Coming Later

Few details were given about the government's new policies. They will be disclosed gradually during the next several days when bills are introduced, when cabinet ministers speak in the throne speech debate, and when Bennett brings down his budget in two weeks.

Bennett said at a press conference that B.C. Supreme Court Justice R. A. Wootton will head the royal commission probe of auto insurance.

Other members, appointed today by cabinet order-in-council, are University of B.C. Prof. Dr. Peter Alfred Lusztig, and Charles Walls, manager of the B.C. Federation of Agriculture.

Lusztig is a member of UBC's commerce department and is a specialist in finance and insurance. Walls is a member of the federal royal commission on taxation.

Examine All Aspects

The throne speech said that the commission was set up "to examine all aspects of automobile insurance and related considerations as they may affect the people of British Columbia."

It was learned the auto insurance commission has been instructed by the cabinet to report on the feasibility of a complete government scheme, or limited participation, or government agencies at which insurance is sold.

The commission follows a study by the insurance branch of the attorney-general's department of insurance rates across Canada.

A report of that study will be presented to the legislature by Attorney-General Robert Bonner tonight.

Can Call Experts

The three commissioners have power to call on experts to assist them in a complete study of auto insurance rates, coverage, protection of the public and administration.

The proposed blood test law will be a new approach to the problem of drinking drivers and is believed the first of its kind anywhere.

The law will not provide compulsory tests, but is aimed at keeping drinking drivers off the road by suspension of their licences, it was learned.

Police will have the power to suspend a driver's licence on the spot if the motorist appears to be impaired by alcohol.

The law will set a maximum level of alcohol in the

bloodstream beyond which it will be an offence to drive.

However, it will be up to the motorist to provide evidence of a test by blood sample or breathalyzer if he wishes to challenge the police decision.

The compulsory motor vehicle testing law will provide for a network of testing stations across the province with an option for municipalities to operate, similar to the Vancouver scheme.

A top government source said the blood test and mechanical testing laws are aimed at reducing accidents by up to 22 per cent. The spokesman said that surveys show 12 per cent of accidents can be attributed to alcohol and 10 per cent to faulty vehicles.

Bennett said the proposed forensic clinic to treat sex deviates will be established at the present mental health clinic in Burnaby, but he gave no other details.

Such a clinic has been long sought by various groups in the province.

The premier, explaining that more revenue would be channelled into education, said education is now a \$500 million operation in B.C., employing 17,000 full-time instructors for over 420,000 students.

OPTIMUM USE

"The undivided attention of our educational authorities at all levels will be required if we are to achieve the optimum use of this massive and growing public facility and, at the same time, to keep consump-

tion of financial and human resources within attainable limits," the throne speech stated.

"To assist in these endeavors, you will be asked to approve a substantial increase in my government's expenditures for education," said Lt.-Gov. Pearkes.

The speech said that increased emphasis will now be placed on revision of the elementary school level curriculum, in line with changes implemented at the secondary level.

"To prepare our youth for the opportunities offered by this new society, my government will continue to formulate modern diversified programs in the field of public education," Pearkes said.

EXPANSION BASIS

Automation and technological change, also mentioned in the throne speech, will be the basis for expansion of the education department.

Bennett told reporters that his plan to enlarge the department is specifically aimed at placing greater emphasis on post-secondary education—universities and technical and vocational colleges.

"My government recognizes the increasing impact of automation and technological changes on the economy of the province and the lives of our people. In order to meet this challenge, you will be asked to augment substantially the services provided by the department of labor," the speech said.

AMENDMENTS COMING

Amendments to the Medical Grants Act, which set up the government-sponsored B.C. Medical Plan last summer, will also be introduced.

Bennett said the success of the medical scheme, which now covers 194,000 people, has exceeded his expectations. He said he is confident that the plan will soon cover 400,000 people, his original target.

The throne speech also disclosed that the government intends to bring in legislation for a crop insurance program, if it can be tied in with the federal plan.

It also revealed that amendments will be made to the Forest Act, to eliminate obsolete sections, to the Mineral Act and the Placer-Mining Act.

GAME ACT CHANGE

The throne speech said also that a new act to provide for the conservation of wildlife will be brought in to replace the existing Game Act.

There will also be a Strata Titles Act, aimed at enabling apartment dwellers to obtain titles to their homes.

Legislation will be brought in to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act, the Municipal Superannuation Act and the Teachers' Pensions Act so that contributions and benefits can be co-ordinated with the new Canada Pension Plan.

IN ROYAL CITY

It was also disclosed that the next session of the legislature will be opened Jan. 24, 1967, at New Westminster, as a centennial ceremony.

Bennett said this is appropriate because on the same day in 1867 Gov. Frederick Seymour formally opened the first session of the legislative council of the united colony of British Columbia at New Westminster.

Announcement of the date for the next session was seen as an indication that Bennett will not call a general election this year, as many observers believed.

He does not have to call an election until 1967.

The throne speech also said that Princess Margaret Island, one of the Gulf Islands group, will be developed as a provincial park named after the princess.

The island was given to Princess Margaret by the province some time ago. But Bennett said today the princess has returned it to the government for development for the use of British Columbians.

Bennett, in a sort of state of the province address during a press conference, said B.C. is growing at a faster rate than any other part of North America.

"B.C.'s brightest days lie ahead," he said, indicating he will have more to say about this in his budget address.

In those days British Columbia wasn't rolling as today. Times were hard. The speech from the throne was sad but optimistic. "Gloomy as our present situation may be, I think look to the future with confidence, if we work together for the public good, merging as far as possible sectional or local into a desire to promote general welfare."

"Let me express confidence that better days yet in store for us. The cloud of adversity that over the south light we proceed northward, winter has yet seen numerous and contenting population that which is now working gold creeks."

That was a century and before Social now there's no gloom adversity, and certain hint of it in the 1966 from the throne.

Lt.-Gov. George F. went through the eight Social Credit monuments pronouncing each word, and everyone at him, sitting there in his gold braid, covered in won medals.

The speech said:

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—If the 1966 session of the Legislature is as long-winded and full of unnecessary words as Thursday's Speech from the Throne we're really in for it and your MLAs will flagellate themselves into a state of collapse.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan read it in advance (courtesy of the premier) and listened to it, and snorted:



NESBITT

"A great many words about nothing at all." Why, said he, this year's speech is even more "milk-and-honey" than the premier himself said of the Ottawa Speech from the Throne a few days back.

Huh, spat out Strachan, words, words, Social Credit words, and to him there's nothing more hollow and fraudulent.

Yes, cruel as this judgment may be, that's just about what the speech amounted to — a great many words about nothing at all. It was mostly a boring document, a paen of praise for the government. It contained a list of very important personages who had

come a-calling upon us in the last year, a chit-chatty compilation, but to what avail in a throne speech?

The speech had a cosy lecture on our history, which is important enough, true, but this seemed hardly the place for such a lecture, because no one really took it in. I found the idea of opening the session in New Westminster next year imaginative; for it was there, 100 years ago, the first legislative session of the united Crown colony of British Columbia was opened by royal governor Fredrick Seymour.

In those days British Columbia wasn't rolling in gold, as today. Times were hard. The speech from the throne was sad but optimistic: "Gloomy as our present position may be, I think we can look to the future with confidence, if we work faithfully together for the public good, merging as far as may be all sectional or local interests in a desire to promote the general welfare."

"Let me express my confidence that better days are yet in store for us. The heavy cloud of adversity that hangs over the south lightens as we proceed northward and no winter has yet seen a more numerous and contented mining population than that which is now working on our gold creeks."

That was a century ago and before Social Credit; now there's no gloom, nor adversity, and certainly no hint of it in the 1966 speech from the throne.

Lt.-Gov. George Pearkes went through the eight-page Social Credit monumental, pronouncing each word clearly, and everyone admired him, sitting there in his stiff gold braid, covered in hard-won medals.

The speech said: "I am

happy to report that the comprehensive planning of my government in the field of welfare service has resulted during the past year in continued improvement of these services."

Hearing this, Welfare Minister Wesley Black preened himself, but his chief opponent, New Democrat Dave Barrett of Dewdney looked as if he'd bounce out of his chair, for he's of the opinion our welfare services are getting worse by the hour, because this government, in his view, is tight when it comes to the humanities.

Well, anyway, the speech said that everything is rosy in this province, that we have no problems, and never will, as long as the people are sensible enough to keep in office this sterling government presided over by that masterful politician W. A. C. Bennett.

It didn't say that in so many words, but that's what I read into it. There were, thank goodness, a few items to chew on. It's good to know compulsory testing of automobiles all over B.C. is coming; that should rule off the roads a lot of beat-up old wrecks. Fine, too, that car

insurance is to be given a public airing, perhaps compulsory government car insurance will result. It should.

The invited guests, dressed to the nines, and jam-packed, listened to the wordy speech politely, stifling yawns, impatient to get going to all the parties that make your capital a gay and giddy place on legislative opening day. It's all very social and the hobnobbing that goes on is terrific. It bends the ears.

The Liberals wore tiny red roses in their buttonholes. Opposition leader Strachan had white heather; New Democrat Alex Macdonald of Vancouver East, became more Scottish than Malcolm Graeme, was self-conscious in a kilt, and that little bundle of femininity, New Democrat Mrs. Lois Hagen of Grand Forks-Greenwood, had a red pom-pom as her topknot, nodding and fluttering it across the aisle at the premier, one of her favorite men when she puts politics aside.

The Sacred members were flowerless; their lapel show is when the premier delivers his budget. That great day they all trot into the House defiantly sporting hyacinths,

in the Sacred colors of white and green.

I looked from the press gallery at the always pleasant Mrs. Bennett. No woman in our history has been a premier's wife as long as she, and I often wonder what she thinks of her lot in life. Somehow I feel she's too lady-like to say anything out loud. And so she carries on, and everyone's the better for a few words with her. In dignity she rolls with the punches of politics, at the same time having no views on politics—in public that is. Heaven only knows how much good, sound advice she gives the premier in the privacy of their Saltspring Island hideaway.

It was a great performance as usual Thursday, all tradition and goodwill, and the feeling it's great to live in a democracy, and there was a submerging of any wicked thoughts that a lot of the fuss and feathers of opening day is, in large measure, costly, out-of-date nonsense, and might well be pitched out the window, so that we could the more quickly get on with the job.

Friday, January 28, 1966

City Gets Bigger Voice

Angus Probe Gives Metro Area 26 Seats

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Eight more members of the B.C. Legislature are recommended for the Lower Mainland in a bold scheme for redistribution proposed by a royal commission Thursday.

But one of the three commissioners refused to agree to part of the plan which changes every existing riding but one.

Commissioner Kenneth L. Morton, deputy registrar of voters for the provincial government, charged that the redistribution for Vancouver would be a return to the ward system.

He filed a minority objection on this point to the broad plan approved by commission chairman Dr. Henry Angus and Fred Hurley, B.C.'s chief electoral officer.

The majority report calls for 52 MLAs to represent 52 ridings.

At present there are 52 MLAs for 42 ridings, eight of them multiple-member constituencies.

Morton agreed with the rest of the recommendations—a hefty volume of political dynamite which was tabled immediately after the formal opening of the annual session of the legislature.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett said neither he nor any member of the government had seen the report in advance.

His only comment was: "The government will study it."

There was no indication whether the government would act on the report this session, by drafting legislation to implement it, or by referring it to a House committee for consideration, or rejecting it.

The Angus report would boost the Lower Mainland's representation from 18 to 26.

It slashes rural representation from 28 to 21 and lops one seat off Victoria.

The major political carnage would come in the Kootenays, whose present seven MLAs would be reduced to four.

The commission tried to divide the province into ridings each with an equal number of 16,750 voters.

But, it said, fears of regional domination in the hinterland spurred it to give the Lower Mainland and Victoria five fewer MLAs than strict representation by population would require.

Instead, it said, it had distributed the five seats, really

representing 81,000 "phantom voters," across the more sparsely-populated areas of the province.

It stuck, however, to an instruction in its terms of reference that no riding should have fewer than 7,500 voters by 1975.

The only untouched riding in the Angus plan is New Westminster, now represented by Rae Eddie (New Democratic Party).

The names of 20 present ridings are retained, although their boundaries are altered except for the Royal City.

There are 32 new names on the Angus electoral map.

Swallowed up in the redistribution are the present ridings of Fernie, Cranbrook, Revelstoke, Grand Forks-Greenwood, Kaslo-Slocan, Skeena, Atlin, Similkameen and Lillooet.

Fernie is now the seat of Liberal Harry McKay. Cranbrook is represented by Leo Nimsick (NDP); Revelstoke by Sacred Arvid Lundell; Grand Forks by Lois Haggen (NDP); Kaslo-Slocan by New Democrat Randolph Harding; Skeena by Sacred Dudley Little; Atlin by Frank Calder (NDP); Similkameen by Agriculture Minister Frank Richter, and Lillooet by Sacred Don Robinson.

The opposition leaders officially had no comment on the Angus plan, saying they wanted time to study it.

But they were obviously shocked at the sweeping changes as they peeked while reporters read the only copy of the report made available by the government.

New Democratic leader Robert Strachan wrestled with it for some time, then stomped out, snorting: "It's impossible to understand."

"Oh, my God, look at that," was the reaction of New Democrat John Squire of Alberni.

'Right for City,' Says McGeer

"That doesn't look too bad," said Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East).

"That's just about right in Vancouver," said Pat McGeer (Lib.—Point Grey).

"It's what I recommended on the North Shore," said Liberal leader Ray Perrault.

The commission divided metropolitan Vancouver into 16 single-member ridings, instead of the present six ridings with 12 members.

Each new riding would have an average of 19,650 voters, although the exact numbers were not spelled out in the report.

This was the part to which Morton objected. He maintained it was not within the commission's terms of reference to eliminate multiple-member ridings.

The terms, set out by the cabinet last August, said the commission should give consideration to two-member ridings in Vancouver and Victoria.

Morton said that to divide Vancouver into single ridings would be a regressive step to the ward system which the city abolished in 1935 by plebiscite. At that time, the city of Vancouver had 12 wards.

Morton said six multiple-member ridings would give more flexibility.

However, the main report of the commission said its plan for Vancouver represented the majority of requests at public hearings.

It said multiple-member ridings were undesirable because a weak candidate could get elected on the coattails of his party colleague; the MLA's sense of individual responsibility was weakened and important minorities could be extinguished.

Outside Vancouver, the commission proposed seven

ridings for the Valley and Delta. Major change up the existing into four ridings: Mond, Surrey, Delta.

Dewdney would with its western Coquitlam.

The North Shore three ridings: present two-member Vancouver.

The new ridings are: West Vancouver Sound; North Capilano, and North-Seymour.

Burnaby would three new ridings.

Greater Victoria five ridings, each member instead four with a MLAs.

Changes for Vancouver Island just boundaries create any new ridings.

Northern F.C. five MLAs with Atlin, at present riding, being at

In the Kootenay and Cranbrook combined to form two of Kootenay, with Revelstoke and would go into Columbia River.

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Recent

ridings for the Lower Fraser Valley and Delta area.

Major change would carve up the existing riding of Delta into four ridings called Richmond, Surrey, Langley and Delta.

Dewdney would be halved with its western portion called Coquitlam.

The North Shore would get three ridings instead of its present two-member North Vancouver.

The new ridings proposed are: West Vancouver—Howe Sound; North Vancouver—Capilano, and North Vancouver—Seymour.

Burnaby would be split into three new ridings.

Greater Victoria would have five ridings, each with one member instead of its present four with a total of six MLAs.

Changes for the rest of Vancouver Island would adjust boundaries but would not create any new ridings.

Northern F.C. would have five MLAs with Skeena and Atlin, at present the smallest riding, being abolished.

In the Kootenays, Fernie and Cranbrook would be combined to form the new riding of Kootenay, while Columbia, Revelstoke and Kaslo-Slocan, would go into newly-named Columbia River.

Salmon Arm To Be Re-Named

In the Okanagan, Salmon Arm would be expanded and

re-named Shuswap. Parts of South Okanagan and Grand Forks-Greenwood would be put into a riding called Boundary.

North Okanagan, which the commission said is too big at present, loses some northern territory to Shuswap.

South Okanagan, which is Bennett's own riding, is cut down to include only Kelowna, Summerland and Peachland.

The present riding of Similkameen is to be absorbed by Boundary.

The commission allocated five seats to northern B.C., not just because of its vast size, but because it felt there is a great diversity of interests there and some parts will grow substantially by 1975.

What is now North Peace riding and tiny Atlin is merged into a huge riding across the top of the province called Northland.

South Peace will become plain Peace River riding with only minor boundary changes.

Fort George is little changed by the commission but it is given the title Prince George after the city which makes up most of its population.

Omineca loses a chunk off its northern border to Northland, but is extended westwards to cover part of the present riding of Skeena.

Prince Rupert gets the rest of Skeena, including Terrace and Kitimat.

In the Kootenays, only Rossland-Trail and Nelson-Creston are left relatively unchanged.

In the west-central region of the province, Kamloops is changed only slightly, but Cariboo and Yale are made much bigger, each getting chunks of existing Lillooet.

On the west coast, MacKenzie would remain, but lose two islands, Lasqueti and Bowen.

Victoria City Cuts Urged

Vancouver Island's main change is around Victoria.

Now represented by three Seored MLAs, Victoria City is cut into two ridings, Victoria North and South.

Saanich loses some territory to an enlarged riding of Esquimalt, and is re-named Sidney. It gains the Gulf Islands, which now belong to Nanaimo.

Oak Bay is virtually unchanged, taking on only a small part of Saanich.

Strachan's home riding of Cowichan-Newcastle is re-named Cowichan-Malahat and is extended south to Mill Bay and north to Gordon River.

Nanaimo loses the Gulf Islands, which the commission felt belonged to the new Sidney riding because of their close link by ferry to the Saanich Peninsula.

Alberni is enlarged to include Parksville on the east and the west coast fishing community of Clooose.

Comox is cut down slightly by the shift of Parksville into the Alberni riding.

ON YALE SEAT

NDP Bid Fails

VICTORIA — An opposition bid to seat court-ousted MLA Bill Hartley was rejected by the Speaker of the legislature at the formal opening of the session Thursday.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan appealed to Speaker William Murray to allow his New Democrat colleague to represent the riding of Yale, where he was elected after a recount in 1963.

Recently, the B.C. Supreme

Court ousted Hartley because of voting irregularities in Yale.

Hartley has appealed the ouster and will take his case to the B.C. Appeal Court Feb. 7.

"If he was able to represent Yale for two sessions while legal decision was pending on one side, surely it is only fair that he should still represent his riding," Strachan contended.

'FLU FELLS GIBSON

Sun Victoria Bureau VICTORIA — The toughest man in the Legislature missed the opening session Thursday because of illness.

Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver), a prominent lumberman, was felled by the flu.

Gov't Jogs Through \$61,000

Sun Victoria Bureau VICTORIA — B.C.'s cabinet ministers are travelling men.

They spent \$61,311, or \$5,100 a month on their jaunts during the last fiscal year, which ended March 31, 1965.

The government's public accounts, details of spending during that year, were tabled in the legislature Thursday.

Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark led the travel pack with expenses of \$7,604.

He was followed by Premier W. A. C. Bennett, who spent \$7,308; Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi, \$6,161; Attorney-General Robert Bonner, \$5,564; Agriculture Minister Frank Richter, \$5,187; Health Minister Eric Martin, \$4,597; Forests Minister Ray Williston, \$4,480; and Education-Labor Minister Leslie Peterson, \$4,404.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black spent \$4,231; Mines Minister Don Brothers, \$3,104; Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan, \$2,693; and Public Works Minister W. N. Chant, \$1,936.

No Profit to B.C. Drivers Found in Saskatchewan Plan

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — There would be no saving for the average B.C. motorist if the province adopted Saskatchewan's government auto insurance scheme, a special report to the Legislature said Thursday.

The report, by B.C. Insurance Superintendent Tom Cantell, said in many cases rates are very similar in the two provinces.

But they are difficult to compare, the report said, because they are based on entirely different theories.

Saskatchewan premiums are based on the size and age of the insured vehicle.

UNIVERSAL BASE

B.C. premiums are based on what the vehicle is used for and by whom, the same method adopted by the private insurance industry throughout the rest of the world.

Cantell said some strange things happen in Saskatchewan.

For example, a 17-year-old youth with an old car worth only \$50 gets his insurance for one-fifth the price paid by a clergyman driving a medium-priced modern car.

Cantell said minimum coverage in Saskatchewan for a standard model 1962 car driven by a man and his wife would cost \$52 a year.

The same coverage for the same car in Vancouver would cost between \$45 and \$111, he said.

"For more than half the

drivers in Vancouver the average cost is about the same as the fixed cost in Saskatchewan, despite the very important factor of traffic density in Vancouver, which is 3½ times as large as the biggest traffic centre in Saskatchewan," Cantell said.

In other parts of B.C., he said, private insurance premiums would be cheaper than those charged under the Saskatchewan government scheme.

Saskatchewan's premiums do not vary according to the age of the driver, so motorists under 25 would get cheaper coverage there, Cantell said.

"Nevertheless," he added, "it appears that, all factors considered, the average B.C. motorist would find his insurance bill just about the same as it is now if a Saskatchewan-type insurance were introduced in B.C. tomorrow unless there were substantial government subsidization of the accident bill."

Cantell said this is despite the fact that Vancouver has five times as many traffic deaths as Regina, although the population is only 3½ times greater.

Cantell's report was tabled in the legislature by Attorney-General Robert Bonner without comment.

But it followed announcement of a royal commission to investigate all aspects of auto insurance in B.C.

Said Bonner: "It would be fair to describe the purpose of the inquiry as an invitation to the commissioners to re-think the entire problem of protection to the public arising out of the all-prevailing presence of the automobile in daily life."

The commission's terms of reference are wide. One of its tasks is to find if there is justification for recent increases in private auto insurance premiums.

It must also say if there is any better method of providing auto insurance than the present system.

MANY OBJECTIVES

If there is a better method, the commission is asked to say if it should be administered privately or by the government, or by a combination.

The terms of reference, laid out by the cabinet order appointing the three-man commission, also include investigation of costs and delay in compensation for accident victims; the effectiveness of court claims for damages, cost of premiums and what legislation, if any, will be needed to bring about improvements.

No date has yet been set for the commission to start hearings, but Bonner said he thinks it will take a long time for it to conduct the type of comprehensive probe sought by the government.

REPORT SAYS:

Purchasing Board Short Of Staff

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Unnecessary paper work and a shortage of staff were blamed Thursday for inefficiency in the government's purchasing commission.

The situation was revealed in the commission's annual report for 1965, tabled in the legislature on opening day.

The report was written by Gerald McKee, who took over as chairman of the commission in mid-year after the government forced retirement on former chairman George E. P. Jones.

McKee said the commission has only six buyers, one of them hired only last June, to handle purchases totalling \$41.8 million during the year.

The City of Vancouver, by comparison, has six buyers who handled only \$4.8 million in purchases.

"The pressure on the staff was so great that an excessive amount of overtime was involved," the report stated.

It also said there are only 15 men to service 7,118 business machines in government offices.

As a step to improve efficiency a change was made last October raising from \$10 to \$25 the amount of a purchase not requiring a requisition or emergency purchase order.

"It is estimated that this alone will save 11,000 emergency purchase orders, in quintuplicate, and at least \$30,000 in processing them," the report stated.

Span Silence Draws Slam

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Liberal leader Ray Perrault said today he is disappointed the provincial government failed to make any announcement about a new Burrard Inlet crossing at the opening of the legislature Thursday.

Perrault said residents of the Lower Mainland had hoped the government would refer in the throne speech to its plans for a new crossing.

He said maybe the government has not yet had time to study special engineering reports which will recommend where the crossing should be.

The findings of administrative commission report of Mr. W. Tysoe, wh the legislature

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DRIVING

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FRIDAY, JAN. 28, 1966

Better Deal Urged On Worker Injuries

Victims Not Receiving Justice, Probers Report

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A royal commission that probed British Columbia's workmen's compensation procedures says workers are not getting the justice they deserve from the quasi-judicial machinery of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

The finding and recommendations to improve the situation are contained in the report of Mr. Justice Charles W. Tysoe, which was tabled in the legislature Thursday.

The judge proposed a series of administrative changes to ensure a better deal for workers, including the appointment of officials to give advice and deal with complaints.

Mr. Justice Tysoe submitted interim proposals last fall for increased pensions and allowances for workers and their dependents and these were implemented by the government.

IMPARTIALITY URGED

The 451-page report filed Thursday is the final document of the probe, set up in February 1962 with the late Chief Justice A. C. DesBrisay as commissioner.

Mr. Justice Tysoe was appointed to succeed him in January 1964.

Chief among the recommendations is the proposal to reconstruct the WCB's board of review "in the interest of impartiality."

Mr. Justice Tysoe said the review board should be removed from its position as a subject of the WCB so that it can act independently and impartially.

He said the review board

members are now WCB employees and therefore can be hired and fired by the commissioners.

'REFLECT POLICIES'

"One would be naive to believe that the members of the reviewing body are completely free to exercise their own unfettered judgment when passing upon claims, which, with equal justification, could as well be decided one way as the other," he said.

Mr. Justice Tysoe added:

"If the policy of the commissioners is to be tight and technical, the thinking and approach of the reviewing body will have to be the same or its members are not likely to hold their jobs for long.

"It would be improper for them as servants of the board to do otherwise than reflect the policies of the commissioners."

The judge also said that membership of the review board should not be less than three, and that it should include a well-qualified lawyer and a doctor.

The board should have the power to compel attendance of witnesses, production of documents, discretion to permit cross examination and should give full reasons for its decisions in writing, he said.

WHOLE TRUTH

"The powers and duties of the board of review should include the fullest power of

investigation to get at the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth of the matter before it, and full discretion to determine the procedure in each individual matter," the judge said.

He also recommended the appointment of a well-trained lawyer as a compensation consultant to represent workers in contentious cases before the review board.

And he proposed the creation of a complaints department through which complaints of every kind would be funnelled.

The report said that the right of the WCB to decide whether injury cases brought against employers are proper should be eliminated and left with the courts.

LEGAL ADVICE

The judge rejected a suggestion put forward during hearings that a lawyer be appointed as chairman of the board's medical review panel, but said the chairman should be given authority to obtain legal advice from an independent source.

He also put aside a request that all commercial fishermen should be included under workmen's compensation, but said it should be made clear that the benefits are available on a voluntary basis.

Nor did he agree with a suggestion that compensation be paid for "social loss of hearing."

DRIVING LAW

Gaglardi Wins Round

By FRANK RUTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Phil Gaglardi has won a round in the cabinet battle of the bottle.

The highways-and-gospel

minister finally made his point about alcohol causing accidents.

He persuaded his colleagues in the government to introduce a law allowing police to suspend a driver's licence on suspicion of impairment.

The driver will be able to get the licence back by taking a breathalyzer or blood test, or by waiting for a set period, possibly 24 hours.

Gaglardi has long battled Attorney-General Robert Bon-

ner on his contention that alcohol is the major cause of traffic accidents.

Bonner has maintained that alcohol is just one of many causes and recently branded Gaglardi's theory a simple-minded suggestion.

Gaglardi won out on the new law, but this is only the first round, he said.

The second, which he intends to fight now, is for compulsory breath or blood tests.

OPPOSITION LEADERS CRITICAL

Speech Called Smug, Tired

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett's throne speech launching the second year of his Dynamic Society left the two opposition party leaders generally unimpressed Thursday.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault called it a document of smug self-satisfaction, vague in purpose.

"This is a very tired policy statement on the part of a weary government," he declared.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said the contents of the speech fail to meet the needs of today and ignore the urgency of tomorrow.

"The speech from the throne contains some hints of improvements, some threats, some promises, the usual royal commission, and a great many words about nothing at all," said Strachan.

NOT NEEDED

The New Democratic leader said the royal commission on auto insurance, announced in the throne speech, is unnecessary.

"It is the last refuge of a government that doesn't want to act," he said. "We don't require a royal commission. The people of B.C. have been their own royal commission on auto insurance for years. They want action."

Strachan also said that a promise for new labor legislation could be interpreted as a threat to labor peace in the province.

"We know from the record that any amendments this government has made to labor legislation have only made the situation worse," he said.

WOMEN'S BUREAU

Strachan was pleased with the announcement that a women's bureau is to be set up in the labor department. This has been advocated by the NDP for several years, particularly by Mrs. Lois Hagen (NDP—Grand Forks - Greenwood).

Perrault welcomed the announcement of the women's bureau, too, and also applauded the proposals for new legislation to combat drinking drivers and faulty vehicles.

But he said the speech neglected to provide needed reforms in municipal-provincial tax sharing, social welfare and care for the chronically ill.

He also said the speech ignores the local taxpayer.

"At a time like this, as we enter a tough, competitive era, we need more than a document of smug self-satisfaction, something better than a program vague in purpose and destitute of direction," he said.

James NES

* VICTORIA Cariboo sound was this:

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In the House this week

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—William Speare (Social Credit) of Cariboo sounded his shrill trumpet, and the message was this:

It's terrible, and tiresome, the way oppositionists in the legislature always say the Speech from the Throne is terrible and tiresome; year after year all they can say is that the throne speech is terrible and tiresome.

"It's printed well," said Opposition Leader Robert Strachan, unruffled and sarcastic, and resting contentedly after all the heady festivities of the day before.

All oppositionists can do, said Mr. Speare, sadly, is to try to negate and disparage the speech — to which those on his side cried "shame" at those across the floor.

But over there they paid no attention. They'll continue to negate and disparage practically everything this government does, whenever it suits their political purposes to do.

Mr. Speare consoled himself and his side by saying: Oh, well, what do you expect? Opposition criticism of the Throne Speech, and all the marvels of Social Credit is to be expected.

He considers the source and such criticism carry less weight each year, and so it matters not what those spoli-sport, sour-grapes oppositionists say. They're only howling in frustration.

It was the same old tune and we'll hear it played many times over as the session progresses — if you can call it progress.

There's lots more money for lots more people this year. The Speech from the Throne fell all over itself in praise of the civil servants, and said they'll be getting pay boosts.

I'd say those in the top brackets don't specially need it, though everyone likes more.

With Mr. Bennett in charge of the purse strings, however, the top brackets will be the ones who get the most.

I have a letter from Penticton, from a retired civil servant who signs his name, but asks that it should not be used.

He says: "Those who retired around 1949, when the present cost of living was established at 100, are now feeling the pinch, when the cost of living is at 140."

"All those on salaries now have had raises commensurate with the present cost, whereas the superannuants have not had any benefits."

In the House of Commons this week, Stanley

Knowles (NDP) was of the opinion that retired civil servants should not be neglected.

I think, with all the largesse our premier is handing around these days, he could find another \$10 a month for those who served us well when salaries and pensions were not as high as now under the star of Social Credit.

How about it, Mr. Premier? Remember, the retired civil servants are the ones who built solidly so that your political empire of today coasts along on firm foundations.

One cannot but wonder what more Vancouver MLA's, as recommended in the Angus report, are going to do with themselves.

There are nine now. As far as I know they never get together to discuss the needs of Vancouver. I don't suppose that if the mayor of Vancouver wanted them all around him for a general discussion they'd all show up, politics dividing them.

In this group of nine are six Social Crediters, one Liberal, and two NDPers.

Such a bagful of political division would never come up with anything but an acrimonious wrangle.

However, perhaps I'm wrong — but we'll never know until they all get together, which they will never do.

So it is the mayor of Vancouver and his aldermen who are always trotting over here to see cabinet ministers, when it should be the Vancouver MLAs who are the clearing house, the link between the City of Vancouver and the provincial government.

It's the same in Ottawa, with B.C.'s 22 MPs. They never get together for the good of the province as a whole. Politics keeps them hardly on speaking terms.

When Premier Bennett goes to Ottawa he pays no attention to them.

These 22 should act as a liaison between the B.C. and Ottawa governments — but, oh, no.

Vote Bill Promised

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett promised Friday his government will present a redistribution bill at the current session of the legislature.

But Bennett, in an interview, refused to say if the bill will follow recommendations of the Angus royal commission, which proposed sweeping changes including eight more MLAs for the Lower Mainland.

"I haven't had a chance to read it yet; it hasn't come before the cabinet," Bennett said.

Bennett said he had glanced at newspaper stories about the Angus report, but he didn't read any of the detail.

He said he had no comment on what he did read in the papers.

However, he said: "We will have a redistribution bill at this session."

"I'm not saying there will be any changes; I'm not suggesting any changes," the premier said.

However, he said the cabinet does not have to accept all or any of Angus' recommendations.

MLA SAYS

Quesnel Needs Bridge

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Lack of a new bridge at Quesnel is stifling development of the surrounding Cariboo, a Socred MLA said Friday.

Bill Speare (SC-Cariboo) said the bridge was needed six years ago and urged the government to announce an immediate start on construction.

At present, the only route across the Fraser River at Quesnel is a single-lane bridge which holds up traffic, Speare told the legislature.

The tie-ups have delayed fire trucks trying to reach fires across the river, he said.

"The life of the district surrounding the bridge is restricted by it," said Speare.

Speare also asked the government to construct a new provincial building, which he said is sorely-needed, at Williams Lake.

He called for more development of dirt-surfaced arterial roads in the Interior generally, suggesting matching government grants to industries which are prepared to improve them.

Speare also said a special committee should be set up to study problems of access and maintenance on logging roads where settlements are springing up in the Interior.

SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 1966

Hospitals' Price On Beds Rapped

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Private hospital owners are trying to sell out at double the cost of their beds to non-profit groups which can qualify for government aid, a Socred MLA charged Friday.

Bill Speare, MLA for Cariboo, and a hospital expert in private life, warned the government to be cautious about approving aid for any such deals.

Speare was the first MLA to speak at the session of the legislature which was formally opened Thursday.

He called on the government to exert more leadership in the field of chronic care.

Last December the government launched a program including \$1-a-day hospital insurance coverage for long-term patients in approved non-profit chronic hospitals.

It also promised to pay half the cost of the purchase of private hospital beds by non-profit groups or existing public hospitals.

Speare, who is a hospital consultant and former hospital administrator, told MLAs he knew some offers to sell have been made by private hospitals.

He said the operators are trying to get \$10,000 per bed, when the original cost had been only \$4,500 to \$5,000 a bed.

"I would urge caution in considering any such purchase," Speare said.

Later, Speare told The Sun several such offers have been made, but he would not disclose details.

A health department official said that no purchases have been approved since government's 50 per cent grants became available Dec. 1.

Speare told the legislature government had taken a step in the right direction by offering some chronic care coverage.

But, he said, there are not enough beds available for people who qualify for \$1-a-day insurance.

The government has approved use of about 500 such beds throughout the province.

"It is an unsatisfactory situation that people entitled to this form of coverage are not being admitted to non-profit beds due to the scarcity," Speare said.

"It is the duty of the government to exert leadership and direction to overcome the inequities which do exist," he added.

Land Fill Project For Docks Urged

Delta Socred Urges Study Of Fraser Mud Flats Area

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A Social Credit backbencher Friday proposed a major land reclamation project in Richmond to expand port facilities on the Lower Mainland.

Hunter Vogel (SC-Delta) told the legislature the provincial government should launch a study of the scheme to develop shipping facilities in the area known as Sandheads and Sturgeon Banks.

Vogel, seconding the reply to the speech from the throne, suggested reclaiming 3,500 to 4,000 acres of land.

The MLA noted that enlarged terminal facilities are needed at the coast to handle increasing volumes of exports to Pacific countries.

He said additional port accommodation at Boundary Bay has been proposed.

Vogel said, however, that Boundary Bay should be left as a recreation area and the Sandheads scheme undertaken as an alternative.

The MLA said engineering and market studies will be required to determine when additional facilities will be needed.

"I think the provincial gov-

ernment should undertake this study because I think the provincial government should take the initiative in finally establishing a new operating authority and the policies under which the authorities would function," he said.

Vogel said it might be necessary to form a new kind of federal-provincial authority to oversee the port project.

The MLA also suggested setting up driver clinics in communities, possibly sponsored by private organizations or service clubs.

Instead of sending poor drivers to jail they should be sent to a clinic and taught proper driving habits, he said.

Vogel also proposed creation of perimeter parking lots in Greater Vancouver, served by buses to downtown, to encourage drivers to keep their vehicles out of the congested downtown area.

MONDAY, JAN. 31, 1966

NDP Seeks PGE Probe

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A New Democratic Party MLA will ask Tuesday for a full investigation of the crown-owned Pacific Great Eastern Railway by a legislative committee.

Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) gave notice today that he will make the motion during the Tuesday sitting of the assembly.

Lawyer Dowding said the standing committee on mining and railways should investigate and report to the assembly on working conditions, safety procedures, disciplinary measures, personnel relations, financial policy and labor relations of the PGE.

He said the committee should be given power to call witnesses and order production of books and papers.

A special committee composed of Attorney-General Robert Bonner, Works Minister W. N. Chant, Socred MLA Herb Bruch, NDP Opposition Leader Robert Strachan and Liberal Leader Ray Perrault has been set up to appoint MLAs to eight legislative committees, including the the committee on mining and railways.