

**OCT**

**1931**

45 Province  
Sept 24, 1931

# ROSS NAPIER, REDUCED TO RANKS, QUIT

Replaced Suddenly as Civil  
Service Head by Major  
Monteith.

## HIS SUCCESSOR "SPILLS THE BEANS"

Refused to Accept Old Job  
At Vernon at \$90  
Per Month Less.

VICTORIA, Sept. 22.—Colonel R. Ross Napier, for years one of the chief figures in the provincial civil service, left it today, according to the government, because he would not accept the government agency at Vernon—according to him, because, for political reasons, he was forced out to make way for Major Roger Monteith, as civil service commissioner.

Announcement that Colonel Napier had left, under circumstances which are sure to provoke a bitter debate in the Legislature, caused a sensation at the Legislative Buildings. Such incidents, especially when they concern returned soldiers, invariably lead to heated arguments in the House.

Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance, who has charge of government agencies, stated simply that Colonel Napier, relieved of his position of departmental commissioner, has been offered his former position as government agent at Vernon. This offer, Mr. Jones said, Colonel Napier had refused. That, the minister added, ended the matter so far as the government was concerned.

**SUCCESSOR TOLD  
HIM OF CHANGE.**

Colonel Napier's version of the incident, however, was quite different and implied a complete breach of agreement on the part of the government, which, he said, had arranged definitely to appoint him as civil service commissioner, as well as departmental commissioner investigating the civil service.

"I can not make any detailed statement at present," Colonel Napier said. "My first intimation as to a change came on August 15, when my successor (Major Monteith), under the impression that I was wholly conversant with these matters, came to my office to discuss taking over my duties."

**SALARY TO BE  
\$90 MONTH LESS.**

I telephoned to the provincial secretary, but could get no information from him. I subsequently interviewed the minister of finance on August 18 and he informed me that the Executive Council desired to make an appointment to my position and that he had been asked to see if he could find a place for me. He stated that he could make an opening at Vernon as government agent at a salary of \$25 a month less than my former salary, when I held that position and \$90 a month less than my salary as departmental commissioner.

**IMPOSSIBLE  
POSITION.**

"I pointed out to the minister of finance that quite apart from the question of salary, certain duties which I had had to carry out as departmental commissioner in reporting on the ef-

iciency of governmental departments, made it quite impossible for me to accept a subordinate position in the department in question, which must be obvious to everyone, and I may add that I made these reports at the request of the government, which brought me here from Vernon to do this work.

"Later I interviewed the premier and the provincial secretary, explaining my position fully and pointing out that I could not accept the government agency at Vernon, quite apart from all question of salary."

### OFFERED OLD VERNON SALARY.

"On August 28 the minister of finance intimated to me, by telephone, that the salary of the government agency at Vernon could be brought up to the former level, but I intimated to him that the salary matter was not the obstacle. Nevertheless, notwithstanding my refusal to accept the position, an order-in-council was put through on the same afternoon rescinding my appointment as departmental commissioner and appointing me government agent at Vernon. At the same time my successor (Major Monteith) was appointed in my place here."

"I may add that last year I was asked by the government to absorb the post of civil service commissioner, as well as my special duties of investigating the civil service. This I agreed to do and all arrangements for office accommodation and so on were made accordingly. The estimates for the present fiscal year also were made on that basis and while the arrangements were not implemented at the first of the fiscal year, I was assured by the provincial secretary that no change in my position was contemplated."

### TO COMPLETE HIS REPORT.

"Apparently when the estimates passed, a political hitch occurred. Later my successor called upon me to give me my first intimation that my understanding with the government had been broken. My first official intimation was in the form of a notification announcing that my appointment here had been rescinded. However, at a suitable time I shall make a statement on the whole matter. Obviously it is impossible to close down a work of such volume as I was carrying out at a moment's notice, and I am still engaged in the completion of a very extensive and important report. This will be completed notwithstanding what has occurred."

Colonist  
Oct 1, 1931

## ANNUAL PARTY RALLY TONIGHT

Large Attendance of Resi-  
dent Conservatives Sought  
by Victoria Association

Annual election of officers, and addresses by Premier S. F. Tolmie, D. B. Plunkett, member for Victoria in the House of Commons, Ottawa, and Victoria members of the Provincial Legislature will be the chief business before the meeting of the Victoria Conservative Association to be held this evening in the Chamber of Commerce auditorium, commencing at 8 o'clock.

Premier Tolmie will address the gathering on problems facing British Columbia at the present time. The occasion will be the first public address by Mr. Plunkett, who will review the events of the recent session of Parliament.

Officers of the association request that a generous response be made to its invitation to all Conservative voters in Victoria to turn out to the meeting, as it is felt the duties devolving upon the incoming executive of the association for the ensuing term will necessitate careful selection of personnel; and that in view of this fact, a wise and discreet selection should be made in order that the affairs of the Conservative Association may function in harmony and security through the year 1932.

R. A. Wootton, chairman of the Victoria Conservative Association will be in the chair.

Province  
Sept 25, 1931

# COLONEL NAPIER MAKES CHARGES

Claims He Was Dismissed  
After Criticizing Finance  
Department.

## HOUSE ISSUE FORECAST

VICTORIA, Sept. 25.—Blunt notice that Liberals in the Legislature will make a major issue of the dismissal of Colonel Ross Napier, as departmental commissioner, was given by the Victoria Daily Times, Liberal newspaper here, in an editorial, charging that Colonel Napier had been ousted to make way for a man nominated by the Victoria Conservative Association at the invitation of the government.

The Times said the matter would become more celebrated than the famous case of Norman Watt, dismissed and reinstated government agent at Prince Rupert.

VICTORIA, Sept. 25.—Colonel R. R. Napier charged over his signature here today that before he was dismissed as Provincial Government departmental commissioner he had prepared a report criticizing the finance department in "the severest terms"; that the finance department had been "directly antagonistic to any measures of reform" and finally that "the department had been antagonized by my refusal to approve what I considered improper orders-in-council regarding appointments, etc."

These allegations were made by Colonel Napier in a written statement which he issued to explain his position. While he said he had no desire that his dismissal should be made a subject of political controversy, he wanted the facts made clear so that "should any responsibility have to be attached to anyone in connection with the matter it may be placed on the proper shoulders."

### WARNED OF "HITCH."

In his statement Colonel Napier recalled that he had been requested by the government to come here from Vernon to investigate the civil service, and reiterated his former assertion that he was asked in 1930 to become civil service commissioner. He consented, and this arrangement being approved, the necessary redistribution of staff was planned and the estimates for the current fiscal year drawn up accordingly. But at the beginning of the fiscal year, Hon. S. L. Howe, provincial secretary, Colonel Napier says, informed him that "some hitch" had occurred regarding the civil service commissionership, though nothing was changed regarding Colonel Napier's own position.

"On several other occasions," he said, "I was assured by the hon. provincial secretary that the situation remained unchanged and that I would be consulted were any change contemplated."

### INTERVIEWED MINISTERS.

Then on August 15, without previous advice, Major Roger Monteith, who was later made civil service commissioner, visited Colonel Napier and informed him that he was to assume his post, but had been instructed to postpone taking over Colonel Napier's duties for a week.

Col. Napier recounted details of several interviews with ministers, but he finally declined to accept reappointment to Vernon at his former salary in the position of government agent there.

Colonist  
Oct 2, 1931

# R. A. WOOTTON RE-ELECTED

Chosen President of Victoria  
Conservative Association  
at Annual Meeting

Robert A. Wootton was re-elected president of the Victoria Conservative Association at the annual meeting of the organization held last night at the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium, and attended by upwards of 600 members. His sole opponent was E. W. Maynard.

Mrs. M. J. Roberts, an active member of the association for more than twenty years, was elected to the office of first vice-president over Alderman J. L. Mara. Mrs. Roberts was placed in nomination from the floor of the meeting. The four members of the executive elected were R. H. Powell, Mrs. W. C. Moresby, W. C. Winkle and Mrs. F. Kilsby. W. Skillings was the only other nominee, J. I. Mutter withdrawing before the ballot was taken.

### BY ACCLAMATION

Officers elected by acclamation were: P. M. Linklater, second vice-president; John L. Clay, treasurer; and R. H. Hiscopes, secretary. Hugh Allen occupied the chair during nominations and balloting.

General business of the association was transacted prior to the election of officers. President R. A. Wootton read his annual report of the activities of the association during the past year. The report was adopted by the meeting without comment, as were the reports of the treasurer and secretary.

### ADDRESS MEETING

Following nominations, candidates were given an opportunity of addressing the meeting. E. W. Maynard, candidate for the presidency, was the first speaker. He criticized the retiring president principally for not holding the annual picnic of the association as had been customary in other years. Mr. Wootton, however, made a direct appeal to the membership. Others who made brief addresses were Alderman J. L. Mara and Mrs. M. J. Roberts, candidates for first vice-president; R. H. Powell and W. C. Winkle. At the voting A. I. Kirkpatrick acted as agent for Mr. Maynard, W. H. M. Haldane for Mr. Wootton, and Major Roberts for Mrs. M. J. Roberts. F. A. Willis was returning officer.

The meeting was one of the largest of the association in several years, the auditorium being filled to capacity, and all speakers were given an attentive hearing without interruptions.

At the opening of the meeting the members paid tribute to the late Leonard Tait, a former president of the association, with all members standing in silence.

Province  
Oct 2, 1931

# B.C. No Wild Road

Relief Programme  
to Improve Existing  
Highways.

Hon. R. W. Bruhn  
Public Not to Expect  
Miracles.

VICTORIA, Oct. 1.—To wide demands for new construction Hon. R. W. Bruhn, minister of public works, emphatic reply today, was public that the government was undertaking a new road programme but was only relieving the situation.

"Too many people," he said, after a road tour through the interior, "seem to think that we are meeting the situation therefore this time to demand the construction of new roads in many places—we can do without for this. This is absolutely untrue. We are embarking on a programme of constructing new roads. We are not affording to do it. The taxpayer's country had better realize the importance of the new relief programme, that they to pay every cent it costs, indirectly. They had better too, that there is a definite power of financing."

### NOT TO END IN WILDERNESS

"Our programme at the moment includes only new roads which finish in the visible future. We intend to embark on roads which see no way of finishing with available. It would be foolish opinion to start large roads and then leave them uncompleted somewhere in the interior. Therefore, while we are going with the Big Bend road, Princeton road and a few others for the most part, at improvement of existing roads. "Another big point which will be overlooked," the minister sized, "is this: If we build new roads at this time we have the money to maintain properly when they are completed will be that all the roads in the province will be inadequate. We have got to use sense in this matter and remember the object of the present programme is to provide employment. There is opportunity for employing existing roads and a few new ones which we can build and the money now available."

### INSPECTS ROAD CAMPS.

Mr. Bruhn inspected a road camp in the interior reported that the men working appeared well satisfied with working conditions. They realize, he said, that British Columbia can not afford to pay more for road work.

The province expects to employ men on road work during the winter and the municipalities will use 10,000. The labour department now receiving lists of all men in government camps and will see that every man so assigned requires work.

Mr. Bruhn emphasized that a man was a settler or small farmer was not ineligible for a job. Months' work will help such men remain on the land and maintain farms, no more valuable relief can be undertaken by government, the minister said.



Provinc Oct 1, 1931

# B.C. Not Embarking on Wild Roadbuilding Scheme

## Relief Programme Mostly to Improve Existing Highways.

Hon. R. W. Bruhn Warns Public Not to Expect Miracles.

VICTORIA, Oct. 1.—To province-wide demands for new road construction Hon. R. W. Bruhn, minister of public works, issued an emphatic reply today, warning the public that the government was not undertaking a new road programme but was only relieving unemployment.

"Too many people," the minister said, after a road tour through the interior, "seem to think that because we are meeting the unemployment situation therefore this is a good time to demand the construction of new roads in many places—roads which we can do without for the present. This is absolutely untrue. We are not embarking on a programme of constructing new roads. We simply can't afford to do it. The taxpayers of this country had better realize now, at the commencement of the unemployment relief programme, that they will have to pay every cent it costs, directly or indirectly. They had better realize, too, that there is a definite limit to our power of financing."

### NOT TO END IN WILDERNESS.

"Our programme at the moment includes only new roads which we can finish in the visible future. We don't intend to embark on roads which we see no way of finishing with the money available. It would be folly in our opinion to start large road projects and then leave them uncompleted, ending somewhere in the wilderness. Therefore, while we are going ahead with the Big Bend road, the Hope-Princeton road and a few others, our plans for the most part are for the improvement of existing roads."

"Another big point which should not be overlooked," the minister emphasized, "is this: If we build too many new roads at this time, we shall not have the money to maintain them properly when they are completed. The result will be that all the roads of the province will be inadequately maintained. We have got to use common sense in this matter and remember that the object of the present work is to provide employment. There is plenty of opportunity for employment on our existing roads and a few new roads which we can build and finish with the money now available."

### INSPECTS ROAD CAMPS.

Mr. Bruhn inspected a number of road camps in the interior and reported that the men working in them appeared well satisfied with their working conditions. They seem to realize, he said, that British Columbia can not afford to pay more than the existing scale.

The province expects to employ 20,000 men on road work during the winter, and the municipalities will probably use 10,000. The labor department is now receiving lists of all men employed in government camps and will endeavor to see that every man so assisted really requires work.

Mr. Bruhn emphasized that because a man was a settler or small farmer he was not ineligible for a job. If a few months' work will help such men to remain on the land and maintain their farms, no more valuable measure of relief can be undertaken by the government, the minister said.

Parade Oct 4, 1931

# TOLMIE IS READY TO SWING AXE

Public Warned to Prepare for Cut in Government Services.

## PREDICT MANY WILL BE "FIRED"

Strong Opinion Within Cabinet for Reduction of Its Numbers.

VICTORIA, Oct. 3.—British Columbians had better prepare themselves for a drastic reduction in government services, as the only possible alternative to a heavy increase in taxation.

While the government's plans are not ready for public announcement, that much is known and members of the cabinet did not disguise it today after many secret discussions on the subject during the week.

"The public should be told and told now, that it had better stop making demands on the government for new expenditures, because we can not meet our existing ones without increasing taxation," a leading member of the government told The Province correspondent today. "The fact is our revenues will not cover our present services and they have got to be reduced. The public might as well make up its mind to that right now."

### CAN NOT GO ON INCREASING TAXES.

"We hear continual demands for economy, but you will see that when economies are effected there will be a great outcry against them. Well, the only other thing is to increase taxation heavily and we do not believe the public wants that. As a matter of fact, with many people not able to pay their taxes and with many men on the land asking for unemployment relief work, in order to pay their taxes, it is evident that we can not go on increasing taxes because people will not have money to pay for them."

From other sources it was learned that members of the cabinet who are particularly concerned with finance have prepared concrete plans for the reduction of public services and the cutting down of the civil service. These plans have been under discussion during the last few days and while action has been delayed owing to the pressure of work in connection with unemployment relief, a final decision should be reached next week.

### PREDICT MANY WILL BE DISMISSED.

What is proposed to bring the balance within sight of balancing is not known yet, but it certainly would involve the dismissal of a substantial number of men and women from the civil service. It is believed that only in that way and not by a small reduction in salary can a permanent and worthwhile economy be effected. With a deficit of unknown proportions but running into several millions for the last fiscal year, a reduction of say ten per cent in civil service salaries or about \$300,000 a year would not help much.

### CABINET MAY BE CUT DOWN.

It was also learned that there is strong opinion within the cabinet itself in favor of a reduction in its numbers. It is realized that if the personnel of the public service is cut down the government will be subjected to criticism if it does not pare the expense of its own maintenance. This is heavier than usual, because the cabinet is as large as the law allows. It goes without saying of course that the cabinet will accept the same cut in salaries as is applied to the civil service.

Those in the cabinet who favor a smaller executive council are not influenced alone by reasons of economy. They feel that in these strenuous times a compact group can manage public affairs more efficiently than a larger and more unwieldy body. The tendency in this direction all over the world has not been overlooked here.

### FEWER MEMBERS MAY BE RULE.

There is also feeling in favor of reducing the membership of the Legislature as Manitoba proposes to do. The next session, when electoral ridings will be redistributed on the basis of the last census would provide an opportunity for this economy, but it is always difficult to persuade members to vote their political lives away.

This is one of those reforms which probably will be discussed a good deal and never implemented.

The government's chief difficulty in redistribution probably will be, on the contrary, to keep the membership down to the present forty-eight. With the great growth of Vancouver and the lower mainland, to give these areas adequate representation it will be necessary to reduce the number of rural members or increase the total membership. So economy in this direction is not regarded at the moment as practical politics.

But a reduction in the cabinet, it is believed by its advocates, would be practical politics of the most practical sort, designed not only to economize, but to please the electors as well.

"These," as one member of the government said this morning, in one of those unquotable anonymous statements, which mean much more than the quotable official ones, "are times when the public wants strong methods by governments. We have got to take them in British Columbia, if the financial situation is to be kept in hand."

The next few days it is believed will show whether the government is going to adopt these methods or not.

# City Member Gives Tribute to Work of Hon. R. B. Bennett

**D. B. Plunkett Makes Ringing Appeal for Canadians to Help Themselves to Prosperity by Giving Support to Canada's Premier**

SOMETHING of the gigantic problems facing Canada—problems which Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett and his able colleagues are courageously facing and solving—was told by D. B. Plunkett, M.P., in addressing the large audience that crowded the Chamber of Commerce auditorium at the annual meeting of the Victoria Conservative Association last night.

In addition to problems created through the world depression in trade, he said, there were domestic problems that had to be met. An instance of how large and imposing domestic worries could become was given when he pointed out that a few years ago the increase in the National Debt was but \$7,000,000 annually, but since the Canadian National Railway had become a spending factor in the life of the Dominion, the increase from this cause alone in a single year had reached the stupendous sum of \$130,000,000, while the cost of debt piled up by the people of Canada since 1919 by this railway was reported to Parliament as the staggering total of \$1,663,000,000.

## BUY CANADIAN GOODS

Mr. Plunkett made an appeal to all patriotic Canadians to assist individually in the solution of the depression problem by giving preference in their purchasing to Canadian products. In this way they could assist Canada—and incidentally themselves—towards prosperity.

He spoke of the value to Canada of the dumping duty provisions brought into force by Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Plunkett asked what would have happened had the United States been able to dump fruit into Canada this year as in former years under the Liberal administration, and before the Conservatives made provision for dealing with dumping practices. "With peaches selling on the other side for 40 cents a crate, where would the Canadian grower have found himself?"

## HEROIC METHODS INVOKED

Another instance of the attempt of the Americans to invade the markets of Canada by adopting dumping methods was instanced by Mr. Plunkett. This was with regard to panel doors, which were sold by the United States manufacturers in Ontario at a rate of \$1.35. The makers in the United States declared that they were not going to allow the Ontario market to be lost. At all costs they were going to keep it. In order to meet this situation it became necessary to put on a duty of 75 per cent, which seemed an unreasonable one. It was, however, necessary to do this to save the market to Canadians. It was in the face of such a situation arising that the speaker called upon Canadians to stand by the local producers.

In this connection the member said that the new tariff board to be appointed would be able to deal with just such a matter as the complaint about the price charged for peaches.

## NEW TARIFF BOARD

"The new tariff board will consist of three members, a chairman and two others. They will hold office for a period of ten years and will be eligible for reappointment. The new board will act under statutory authority and have full power to summon witnesses. In these respects it will be a great advance on the former tariff board, which was created by order-in-council and had no proper foundation of authority.

"The Prime Minister contends that the board should hold office beyond the term of any government, and the members should be in a position where they will not be deterred from the discharge of their duties by any thought of the personnel or of the policies of a given administration. Their powers will be fact-finding powers. They will constitute in every sense a judicial tribunal charged with—not the making of decisions—upon the facts, but the determination of what the facts are. In addition to its fact-finding powers, the tribunal may be used for the purpose of investigations under the Combines Investigation Act and under the provisions of the Customs Act which heretofore have been dealt with by another method."

Mr. Plunkett dealt at some length with the new Australian treaty, which he pointed out would be of more advantage to the Province of British Columbia than to any other province of the Dominion. In connection with it he paid a high compliment to Hon. H. H. Stevens, the leading part he played in the carrying through of the treaty. The efficient manner in which he had done this was all the more creditable in view of the fact that Mr. Stevens at the time was far from being a well man.

It was not a Conservative Government that broke the treaty with New Zealand, but a Liberal Government, he said.

## RECIPROCAL BENEFITS

Under the treaty, Australia tends Canada a generous preference on 415 out of 433 items in the Australian tariff, gives the Dominion a substantial preference in a potential market of \$630,000,000 annually, said Mr. Plunkett. Australia, each year, buys approximately \$300,000,000 from foreign countries. Canada is in a position to supply Australia with most of these commodities. In the matter of such commodities as newsprint, lumber, tinned salmon, automobiles, and so forth, hardly any doubt can exist but that our exports to Australia will increase enormously. We ought to add to our Australian exports by millions of dollars annually.

"Australia, of course, receives some like benefits. We have given Australia a substantial preference for fruits, sugar, rice and other commodities we do not produce. This, however, has been done in a manner to withhold any injury from Canadian agriculture and the Canadian fruit industry just as the preferences given to Canada by Australia are designed to prevent injury to any important industry over there. The entire treaty, indeed, recognizes the fundamental truth that preferences must have regard for local industries and that only with such recognition can they be successfully applied. In other words, there is appreciation of the fact that to build up an industry in one part of the Empire at the expense of a similar industry to another part of the Empire, is not a gainful policy. What has been aimed at—and it is something that all preferential policies should aim at—is that there shall be as much as possible of interchange of Empire goods as is consistent with the domestic prosperity of the respective Empire units.

## ALL FOR EMPIRE

"All of us, irrespective of parties, should wish well for this treaty. We are all, in our own way, for Empire trade, for the upbuilding of the Empire, and while we may disagree regarding the manner and methods in which this can be brought about, none of us should want to see failure of anything which tries to promote the principle. If we can sell more goods to Australia without hurting any Australian interest, and if Australia can sell us more goods without injury to any vital Canadian interest, then both countries will achieve gain which means prosperity for the whole of the Empire. "Behind the new Australian Treaty there is the fundamental purpose of developing inter-Imperial trade. Australia extends to Canada a preference on 415 out of 433 items in her tariff, while the preference given to Australia by Canada, on such

things as the former Dominion can supply, is increased from twenty to twenty-eight. Of outstanding benefit to this country will be the tariff on canned salmon, lumber, newsprint and some other items of export. On the other hand Canada undertakes to buy or to give a tariff which should stimulate buying such things as Australian fruits, nuts, wines, raisins, currants, sugar and canned meats. The tariff on Australian butter is 5c, compared with 8c from other countries and 1c heretofore.

## WORK CHANGES

"Now, under this new treaty with Australia, if trouble arises over a particular kind of importation, the item in question becomes dutiable under the general tariff, pending an effort to reach a satisfactory arrangement. In other respects, without canceling the whole treaty, the preference will continue to operate without being interfered with.

"The great principle which governed in the negotiation of the new trade agreement between Canada and Australia is that such commodities as Canada produces and Australia requires shall find a favored market in Australia, and that such commodities as Australia produces and Canada requires shall find a favored place in Canadian markets. When goods or commodities which were produced in Australia would compete with Canadian goods or commodities, there must be such a tariff as would insure fair competition with Australian goods in the Commonwealth similar duties must be imposed.

## ONE UNIQUE FEATURE

"Stress is laid upon one unique feature of the new treaty. It is that which makes difficult the cancellation of the arrangement now concluded. It is sought to obviate the unfortunate occurrence with New Zealand, which enjoyed the privilege of shipping butter to Canada at a duty of 1c per pound. The shipments obtained such proportions that Canada was compelled to give notice to New Zealand of the cancellation of the agreement which had been extended to that Dominion, whereupon New Zealand retaliated by withdrawing her preference to Canadian products. When Mr. Bennett took office over 40,000,000 pounds of butter had been imported into Canada from New Zealand.

Canadian lumber has an advantage of 20 shillings per thousand feet over our competitors in the States of Washington and Oregon. Laths and shingles receive a similar preference of 2 shillings per thousand. Logs had a 10 per cent preference. Under the old trade agreement Canada had no preference on lumber, while the new arrangement provides a preference of approximately 35 per thousand feet, b.m. The potential market in Australia is \$20,000,000 per year.

## CANADIAN NEWSPRINT

Canadian newsprint will enter Australia free, under this treaty, being a preference of 24 per ton over the product of a foreign country, or, in other words, the preference has been increased from \$15 to \$20 under the new treaty. Canada last year sold \$4,000,000 worth of this product to Australia, whose total importations amounted to \$11,000,000.

Canned salmon receives a preference of 3d a pound over the foreign competitors, which means an increased preference from 3c to 6c per pound. Latest trade returns show an export from Canada to Australia of \$2,500,000.

Proceeding to the pre-election promises by Mr. Bennett, the speaker said that it was inconceivable on the part of the Liberals that a Prime Minister should live up to these promises.

"Payment of the full cost of old age pensions will be assumed by the Bennett Government as soon as the state of Federal finances permits," he said. "Premier Bennett's present decision to pay but 75 per cent of the pensions is merely a temporary measure, put forward during the present depression and in view of the other heavy expenditures in the provinces."

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

Dealing with the financial situation and the task which faced Mr. Bennett in this matter, the member said the fact was disclosed in Parliament that some years ago the annual addition to the national debt was only \$7,000,000. In recent years, it was stated, the C.N.R. in a year had increased the debt by as much as \$130,000,000. Since April, 1919, the aggregate had amounted to the immense sum of \$1,663,000,000.

No one, said Mr. Plunkett, wanted to see but one railway system in this country. At the same time, when extravagant expenditures were being made, such as those in some instances by the Canadian National, it became necessary to call a halt.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

The unemployment situation in the Dominion had been met in a mainly fashion by the Government. It was well that at this time the country had a real Canadian Prime Minister at the head of affairs. A blank cheque had been given the Government for the handling of this situation and the matter was being dealt with in a manner to insure against extreme want during the winter. It was estimated that some 250,000 Canadians who were in distress from lack of employment would be given assistance during the winter from the Dominion or Provincial Governments or municipalities. A survey had been made of conditions in all the larger cities and towns, and this estimate was based upon last winter's experience and upon preliminary reports recently received by the Department of Labor.

Something like 150,000 farmers in the southern portions of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta were virtually destitute and would require work and wages for themselves and fodder for their farm animals. Livestock to the number of 150,000 would be taken from drought areas to spots where the feed was more plentiful.

## ALL TREATED ALIKE

The task in large part which the Dominion was undertaking in this respect was one which it was not really obliged to face.

"In ten months the present Premier has caused \$80,000,000 to be spent for the relief of unemployment. Of this he had \$20,000,000 voted from the public treasury for use in Liberal and Progressive as well as Conservative provinces. There was no politics in this, all being treated alike.

"In the Province of British Columbia, 33,586 individuals have been given employment," the speaker continued, "700,926 man days' work, and 16,406 persons have received assistance by direct relief, or 5,977 families, to June 30, 1931."

Mr. Plunkett said that Canadians were now beginning to return to this country. This was different to conditions under Liberal rule in 1928 and 1929, when 132,619 entered the United States from this country.

## TRADE SITUATION

In the matter of trade, when Mr. Bennett took office, there were total imports by Canada from the United States of \$693,585,482, with total exports from Canada to the United States of \$522,677,787, or a difference in favor of the United States of \$170,907,715.

"Comparing this statement with the latest Dominion return, we find for the eight months ending August 31, of this year, we imported goods valued at \$272,842,838 and our exports amounted to \$246,525,515, or a

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difference of only \$36,317,115, compared with a difference of \$370,007,715 in the year 1929," said Mr. Plunkett.

Other matters touched on by Mr. Plunkett were Dominion and Provincial taxation, with comments on hospital services and educational advantages, air mail routes and curtailment of unnecessary expense, increased revenue through taxation which, he said, was aimed to collect from those able to pay. He also reviewed some of the legislation passed at the last session of the House of Commons with comment. He mentioned the Beahrnolds inquiry and its results, the new tariff board and its duties, taking over of the Royal Mint by the Canadian Government, new and amended laws placed on the statute books.

#### PREMIER'S ACTIVITIES

Mr. Plunkett also dealt with a number of the accomplishments of Premier Bennett since taking office a year ago. Enumerating them, the speaker said:

"He has arranged to absorb 5 cents per bushel of the cost of sending Western Canadian wheat to market. Besides protecting the coal and steel industries, he has granted the coal mines of Eastern Canada a bonus on their production. By imposing the new coal duties, he has stimulated the replacing of United States anthracite by British anthracite throughout the Eastern and Central provinces. He has offered Great Britain and the other Dominions a policy of inter-continental preferences, which has been approved by all the other Dominions, and which will be adopted in the Mother Country as present conditions indicate. Mr. Bennett has cleared the financial horizon by converting \$634,400,000 of maturing Government bonds into long-term issues bearing a lower rate of interest. In so doing he has provided for and made a saving and a reduction of millions annually in the nation's interest burden.

"In appointing a comptroller of the Treasury, with authority over all governmental and departmental expenditures, Parliament is about to inaugurate a far-reaching system of national economy which will check leaks, paralyze extravagance and save the taxpayers millions," Mr. Plunkett concluded.

*Colonist  
Oct 2, 1931*

## Premier Vigorously Replies to Critics Of Administration

**Hon. S. F. Tolmie Flays Opposition Leader in Defending Government—Challenges Mr. Pattullo to Provide Solution of Provincial Ills**

**I**N clear-cut, definite language which permitted of no misinterpretation, Premier Tolmie last night, at the annual meeting of the Victoria Conservative Association, gave answer to T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, and other critics of the administration.

There was no mincing of words in the way in which the Premier challenged the Opposition leader's record as a minister of the former administration, as a departmental executive, and as a contributor of constructive thought for the development of provincial progress and stability at this time.

In contrast to the twelve years of Liberal waste and inefficiency of administration, the Premier gave instances of the advancement made in 1929—an advancement in the face of the most difficult conditions and world trade stagnation ever experienced. In this respect he pictured the difference and extravagance that characterized the Liberal Government's handling of the Pacific Great West railway with the business-like manner in which the present administration, with the assistance of the Hon. S. F. Tolmie, was approaching the situation.

marked, the Premier remarked, was very critical of taxation. The cost to the taxpayers of British Columbia for the "land wild-cattling" personally supervised by Mr. Pattullo himself as Minister of Lands, and as a member of the Liberal Government, amounted to \$12,265,561, bearing annual fixed charges of no less than \$86,528. This meant that the taxpayers of British Columbia must raise each and every day more than \$2,150 to pay the charges on this one evidence of Mr. Pattullo's handling of land settlement. And now this same Mr. Pattullo was loudly shouting for the Government to put unemployed on the land, added the speaker.

In making reference to the recent developments in regard to the Pacific Great Eastern, the Premier told how, on taking office, he had secured the co-operation of the two transcanada railways in having a resources survey made of the natural values of the subsidy lands which had been granted to the railway under the 1925 legislation.

#### OPPOSED SURVEY

Mr. Pattullo had objected to this survey, and had declared that he, as Minister of Lands in the former Government, had all the information that could be uncovered already on file.

"This," quietly remarked the Premier, "was an absolutely false statement with no foundation to it whatever, and Mr. Pattullo knew it."

"We discovered," the Premier explained, "that there were immense resources in saw and pulp timber, large areas of placer diggings. Our geologists report that there are areas of placer diggings in the Cariboo still untouched with a value of at least \$300,000,000; that there are 600,000,000 tons of semi-anthracite coal; that there is petroleum, natural gas, limestone and water powers."

In addition, and what is of immediate value to the P.G.E., Mr. Tolmie explained, was the discovery of a new crossing of the difficult Cottonwood Canyon. This was devoid of the gumbo walls that barred further construction by way of the route selected by the former Government.

#### VALUABLE DATA

A resources survey of the Peace River area, he said, had also been made, and the important discovery was made that a vast extent of what had been previously classified as forest reserve land was high class agricultural terrain. "This discovery alone," he commented, "is more than sufficient to pay our share of the cost of reconnaissance."

removed, if you want a 100 per cent perfect administration, then—elect the Liberals with himself at the head.

#### P.G.E. EXTRAVAGANCES

"I have already pointed out to you the deficits incurred by his splendid administration," went on the Premier. "I have already made it clear to you that he was, perhaps, the worst Minister of Lands in the history of British Columbia, his land schemes involving us in tremendous debts which we will have to pay—but let me point out what happened in connection with the P.G.E. Mr. Pattullo has told you on many occasions that he was a professional politician. The other night in Vancouver he said he was out for votes."

In his whole address, of an hour and a half, he never made one single practical suggestion with regard to meeting the present acute situation in British Columbia. In fact he entirely ignored the unprecedented situation in this province, and used his best ability to get votes as a professional politician.

#### WOEFUL WASTE

"Now let us, for a moment, see just what the Liberals did to complete the construction of the P.G.E. from Quesnel to Prince George. In 1920 Premier Oliver stated that he had enough money to complete this road and that it would be carried out. In 1921 he borrowed \$4,000,000 for this purpose, but the road was not completed. In fact they laid eighteen miles of track and the bridge timbers, which cost \$134,303, were left to rot, and 50,700 ties were left by the roadside and they are there yet, except those which were disposed of finally for firewood. This is a sample of the business administration which he promises to give you as a professional politician when the Liberals are returned to relieve the situation."

Another \$4,000,000 was borrowed by the Liberals in 1928 to complete the road to Prince George, but that year the MacLean Government was defeated.

In commenting on the proposed extension of the line, which will commence when authorization has been received, the Premier said that

it was estimated that the eighty-two-mile extension would be completed within two years' time. "By building into Prince George we have something complete, something that we can better offer to prospective buyers than the railway as at present uncompleted."

In discussing unemployment conditions, the Premier instanced that the slump was first felt in 1929. This was anticipated and a road construction programme was embarked upon by the Government, which absorbed 7,000 men who were being laid off from industries which were feeling the approaching restriction of trade.

At the present time there were already approximately 10,000 persons at work, and others were being added daily to the total of employed under the emergency programme in arrangement with the Dominion Government.

#### LOOKING FORWARD

The emergency schedule of works, he stressed, must necessarily be temporary in character. Realizing this the Government was looking forward to more stable times. To this end trade extension work was being undertaken.

"We began this work," he said, "shortly after taking office, carrying out activities, in conjunction with timber interests, to New Zealand and Australia, and we have had very good results. We have now created a market extension committee of the Cabinet, whose business it is to use every possible means to extend our markets for our exportable surplus."

Turning his attention to the criticism by Mr. Pattullo of Hon. Thomas Coventry, markets commissioner in London, the Premier made vigorous defence of that official, who was, he said, doing excellent service for British Columbia. He instanced many important results that had come to British Columbia exporters through the efforts of the commissioner. This week, an order had been received from London by wire from him for 1,000 dozen cans of loganberries and 250 dozen cans of blackberries.

work being done. It was pointed out that further substantial work would be received.

The Premier gave figures to show the percentage of lumber sales in the requirements of New Zealand and Australia were increasing in favor of British Columbia mills.

#### OFFERS NO SOLUTION

In further answering the attacks of Mr. Pattullo, the Premier remarked: "I notice he is severely criticizing our activities in reference to unemployment relief, and goes on to say that our road construction is too elaborate and money should be spent on getting more people on the land."

"Let me point out that to get a man properly settled on the land and producing a living for himself would require probably three years, depending on conditions. These men need assistance now and must be given it forthwith, any other schemes being developed in the meantime."

"If we are spending too much money on unemployment," challenged Dr. Tolmie, "what would Mr. Pattullo do with them? Would he permit the present conditions to exist and allow them to huddle for themselves? What is his solution? Would he follow the policy of 1928-29, when his Government told the jobless to 'don your overalls and get to work'?" And when the municipalities at that time applied for assistance they were instructed to "go and stew in your own juice."

"Or would he," went on the Premier, "adopt the policy of his Federal leader, who went up and down the country telling the people that there was no unemployment—that it was only Conservative propaganda. And Mr. Pattullo trails around the province in Mackenzie King's dust, backing him up and on the side trying to get a position in the then Premier's cabinet, only to be beaten out by the champion short distance Cabinet minister of Canada, Hon. Ian Mackenzie."

#### FINE RECORD

The Premier went on: "Compare this with Mr. Bennett's action. Mr. Bennett immediately grasped the situation, called a special session, made provision for the acute situation and all the provinces were assisted in dealing with this problem. Compare it with Mr. Bennett's action since that time, when he has even gone farther in his assistance to the provinces, assisting both provincial governments and municipalities, not only in paying his proportion of expenditure but also in extending loans to those municipalities requiring financial aid."

"This is the difference between the action of a statesman and pettifogging politicians who were trying to make the most out of the unemployment situation to disgruntle the people and add to the fuel of unrest. In fact, I think that one is safe in saying that Mr. Pattullo knows practically nothing of the unemployment situation as it exists in British Columbia."

In further reference to Mr. Pattullo's land proposals, Dr. Tolmie said:

"Mr. Pattullo, in the Liberal regime as Minister of Lands, expended \$12,000,000 in land projects which he claimed would be self-supporting and which have never

yielded one cent of profit and will be a burden to this country for fifteen to twenty-five years. The annual fixed charges are \$886,528. This is where taxes are going. This means that we have to dig up annually nearly a million dollars from revenue to pay for his mistakes."

#### COSTLY DEFICITS

"He has always been boasting about his efficiency. In the years he was in power, 1917 to 1926, his Government had deficits of \$16,792,703 and, mind you, these were so-called good times. The annual fixed charges for interest and sinking funds on this were \$1,142,000, which is in addition to his deficit on land schemes that went wrong, making a total of \$29,000,000, on which is required \$2,028,000 for interest and sinking funds."

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*Nechako Chronicle*  
Oct 3, 1934

## Omineca Conservatives Hold Monster Annual Convention

Harry W. Smale, of Fort Fraser, Elected President of Central Assn.

"This will show you who is responsible for the high taxation which we have to carry. Remember, the people have to pay for Mr. Pattullo's million dollars mistakes, and remember also that in 1928, when this Government took over the reins of administration, 84 cents out of every dollar of revenue was already spent, and we had only 16 cents on the dollar on which to carry on the new business of this country."

"This will clearly indicate to you what is largely the cause of our present shortage and the necessity for economy. Mr. Pattullo did a wholesale business in wildcat schemes. Under his direction this will mean a loss of at least two-thirds of capital expenditure."

### LIQUOR BOARD SAVINGS

The Premier also dealt with criticisms of Liquor Board salaries. He appealed to the common sense of the people of British Columbia to say whether it was not good business to pay \$30,000 a year for a Liquor Board that effected annual savings of \$331,000. "It means that the entire cost of the board represents only 9 per cent of the savings that they effect each year."

In contrast to these economies effected by the new administration, he cited the Liberal Government's increase in the price of beer on the eve of the 1924 election, and the purchase of a \$65,000 warehouse in Vancouver for \$150,000.

In closing the Premier made reference to the recent meeting addressed by C. M. Woodworth, of Vancouver. He was glad that Mr. Woodworth, who claimed to be a supporter of the Conservatives, had supported the Conservatives in the last Federal election. Mr. Woodworth had been an Independent candidate in Vancouver. Out of 37,457 votes polled he had obtained 687. "Apparently the people of Vancouver do not know his merits," he remarked. "We do not mind constructive criticism," concluded the Premier, "but soundless hammering and criticism will not get anywhere, and I want to say to these brainy men who pay their fares down here that they would use their time to better advantage if they were to set about finding some solution to the present problem. Any fool can find fault, but thinking up a remedy that is worth while is quite another undertaking."

*Colonist*  
Sept 17, 1934

## Critics Now Support His Payroll Tax

NEW WESTMINSTER, Sept. 16 (CP).—"Some of the men who were the strongest critics of my 1 per cent income tax when it was first effective have since changed to such an extent that they now express regret that it was not two per cent. Some former critics say it may have to be increased. Well, I am not saying what I am going to do. But you know that the situation is not too rosy."

This statement was made by Hon. J. W. Jones, Provincial Finance Minister, this afternoon, in the course of an address before the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, when an outline of provincial financial conditions was given to representatives of British Columbia districts.

By far the largest and most representative gathering of Conservatives that have ever met in the Omineca Constituency assembled at the annual convention of the Omineca Central Conservative Association held in the Canadian Legion Hall at Vanderhoof on Thursday afternoon and evening. Nearly every settlement throughout this immense riding, the second largest in British Columbia, being represented.

Mr. Samuel W. Cocker, the Candidate, presided, and, after expressing his appreciation of the delegates attending, many having come long distances, he dwelt at considerable length with the resolutions that had been passed at the last annual convention and the steps that had been taken to prosecute them.

Mr. John A. Fraser, Member for Cariboo in the Dominion House, spoke for an hour on the legislation that has been passed since the Bennett Government had come into office.

He cited the estimated revenue and expenditures and stated how the Government intended to meet the probable deficit. He pointed out that the tariff had been increased as indicated during the last campaign, so as to provide a home market for the Canadian producer as well as work for the Canadian labourer. Mr. Fraser said that the special vote of twenty million dollars provided at the special session for un-employment relief resulted in the expenditure of eighty million dollars and gave employment to three hundred and thirty thousand people.

The following officers were elected: Honourary president, the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett, K.C.; first vice-president, Honourable Dr. Simon Fraser Tolmie; second vice-president, Mr. John A. Fraser, M.P. for Cariboo; third vice-president, Mr. Samuel W. Cocker; president, Mr. Harry W. Smale, of Fort Fraser; vice-president, Mr. Byron A. Smith, of Burns Lake; secretary - treasurer, Mr. Frank Bowman, of Vanderhoof. An executive committee composed of the presidents of the various local associations.

The next annual meeting will be held at Topley about the first of October, 1935.

We will give a more detailed report of this important convention in our next issue.

### Extending Policy of Classifying Reverted Lands.

(Submitted by the Vanderhoof Assn.) Whereas in the matter of re-verted lands, the Provincial Government has made an effort toward the colonization of these lands by having them classified and made easily available for sale, and

Whereas their efforts up to the present time, have been confined to the Nechako Valley, and one or two other parts of this Province,

And whereas a large area of land eminently suited for agricultural purposes lies West of the Nechako Valley, particularly in the districts lying Southeast and West of Burns Lake,

And whereas a large proportion of this land has re-verted for non-payment of taxes,

And whereas it is generally believed that the solution to the problem of getting these lands settled lies along the lines already followed by the Government,

Therefore be it resolved that this meeting of the Omineca Central Conservative Association favour the immediate classification and valuation of the above mentioned lands, so that they may become available for settle-

ment, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Honourable the Minister of Lands, and to the sub-committee of the Provincial Cabinet, who have the matter of re-verted lands now in hand.

### Request that Central Interior Grain and Hay be used for the construction P.G.E. Supplies

(Submitted by the Vanderhoof Assn.) Whereas the Provincial Government has announced its intention to build the Pacific Great Eastern Railway further from Quesnel to Prince George at an early date,

And whereas the said construction will require a very large quantity of grain and hay to be supplied,

And whereas Central British Columbia is in a position to supply such grain and hay of a first class quality,

And whereas it is the declared policy of the Provincial Government to buy and use British Columbia products wherever possible, in order to stimulate business generally within the said Province,

Now therefore be it resolved that this annual meeting of the Omineca Central Conservative Association very strongly recommends to the Provincial Government, that all purchases of grain and hay be made in British Columbia, and that British Columbia produce only be used and that special attention be paid to the excellent stock of these commodities now in Central British Columbia awaiting a market, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the proper authorities.

### Production of Railway Ties

(Submitted by the Vanderhoof Assn.)

Whereas the main Winter industry of Central British Columbia is the production of ties;

And whereas many settlers throughout this district depend on this for a revenue, so that they can stay on their farms and develop them;

And whereas it is true that provision is now made by the Government of British Columbia for work in relief camps, for all those in need, and whereas many settlers will not be able to take advantage of this work, owing to being located some distance away from the proposed camps, and also through having live stock to attend;

Therefore be it resolved that this annual meeting of the Omineca Central Conservative Association strongly request that some production of ties be provided for during the coming Winter, in order that the needs of the settlers be taken care of, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Railways, Mr. John A. Fraser, M.P., and to the General Tie Agent of the Canadian National Railways - Mr. G. P. MacLaren.

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## PUBLIC WORKS ARE PLANNED

D. B. Plunkett and C. H. Dickie, Federal Members, to Meet Head Architect

A conference between D. B. Plunkett, M.P., member for Victoria; C. H. Dickie, M.P., member for Nanaimo riding, and T. W. Fuller, head architect for the Dominion Government, will be held today to discuss the programme of public works recommended by the two members to the Dominion House.

Announcement to this effect was made last night at the meeting of the Esquimalt Conservative Association by Mr. Plunkett, who addressed the gathering.

Mr. Plunkett declared that both he and Mr. Dickie had hopes of securing relief employment by adoption of the programme they suggested. Matters pertaining to Federal public works for the relief of unemployed will be discussed.

### FAITH IN LEADER

Mr. Plunkett said that he, with other members of the Conservative party, had great faith in Premier R. B. Bennett and that he felt sure Canada would emerge from the present depression into an era of prosperity, despite "the croakers of ruin and moaners of ill suggestions."

Mr. Dickie was equally optimistic and said he had great hopes of achieving the programme of public works he had outlined. It was with a feeling of optimism that he looked forward to his meeting with Mr. Fuller, he said.

Canada was fortunate in having such a leader as Mr. Bennett. "He is a man of the hour and no better leader than he could have been found within the British Empire. If Mr. Mackenzie King had stepped across the aisle at the last session of the Commons and offered to forget party politics in such times of distress, in the same manner as the great leaders in the Old Country, he too would have been a man of the hour. But he missed his opportunity," Mr. Dickie said.

Through the leadership of Mr. Bennett the Dominion Government was doing its utmost to alleviate the unemployment situation. He said that the \$2-a-day wage was not a standard one and not a wage that he would like to see remain for all time, but if standard wages were paid for relief work the country would be bankrupt in a year.

"What we need most just now is more of that Anglo-Saxon fortitude and we will win through to better times with colors flying," Mr. Dickie concluded.

## UNITY ASKED IN POLITICS

Opposition Leader Offers No Assistance, Hon. R. H. Pooley Declares

"In these times of distress we do not see the great political leaders of England chasing around the countryside like Dufferin Pattullo, tearing things to pieces. We find only self-sacrifice, forgetfulness of party cause, in the great effort to pull England out of the situation into which she has sunk."

"We find Stanley Baldwin joining forces with Ramsay MacDonald, who has been deserted by some of his Laborites. We see prominent Liberal statesmen co-operating in the common cause—that of working, fighting and pulling together to free the British Empire from depression which has beset her."

"Let us, then, in this province, which has so much to win by united effort, get behind the wheel and follow the lead set in the Old Land and forget party strife in an earnest endeavor to better conditions."

Such was the conclusion of an optimistic speech given by Hon. R. H. Pooley, Attorney-General, before a large gathering at the Esquimalt Conservative Association meeting last night.

### RAY OF HOPE

"These are times of depression and trial. Yet I see a glimmer of hope, and things which seemed not so bad as they may seem. Let us for a moment glance back into the past and see what strides we have made."

"In 1909 our exports amounted to only \$22,000,000. This figure was steadily increased until 1929, when there was an export trade of \$237,000,000."

Mr. Pooley went on to enumerate many other instances where the province had made great advances. Hydroelectric power had increased from 355,000 horsepower to 631,000 horsepower from the year 1924 to 1930. The water-borne lumber trade had expanded from 146,000,000 board feet in 1920 to 801,000,000 board feet in 1929, and dividends paid in British Columbia had increased from \$11,000,000 in 1927 to \$13,750,000 in 1929.

These and many other statistics were quoted to reveal that British Columbia was not in the depressing state of affairs as some people would "have us believe."

### TREATY IS HELP

"On top of this we now have the Australian trade treaty, and I venture to say that when the figures for the year are revealed there will be another substantial increase in trade shown," Mr. Pooley declared.

He criticized T. D. Pattullo for the manner in which he was going through the province crying "blue ruin" and aiding not one particle to help the present Government in a time of distress in a manner such as the great leaders of the Old Land were doing.

At the close of the evening the meeting passed a vote of confidence in Premier R. B. Bennett, Premier Tolmie, Hon. R. H. Pooley and C. H. Dickie, Federal member for the Nanaimo riding.

Mrs. S. R. Bowden gave a report on the recent meeting of the Federal Conservative Association held in Duncan.

## DEATH TAKES J. A. BUCKHAM

Popular Member of the Legislature Passes After Long Illness

Death yesterday claimed one of the best beloved members of the Legislature when John Andrew Buckham, former Speaker and for fifteen years Liberal member for Columbia died at his home, 1367 Devonshire Crescent, Vancouver.

Mr. Buckham was, in but indifferent health for several years, and on the advice of his physicians removed to Vancouver from Golden last year. At Golden he conducted a business as druggist for the past thirty years, and was recognized as one of the foremost citizens of that locality during the whole of that time.

### WAS POPULAR

Kindly of nature, he was familiarly known as "Jack" Buckham to hundreds throughout the province, who lose, in his passing, a generous and thoughtful friend.

Mr. Buckham was born at Killmaurs, Ontario. He attended the Ottawa Collegiate Institute and the Ontario College of Pharmacy. Upon graduation from the latter institution of learning he came West and in 1901 established himself at Golden where, in 1909 he married Miss Laura Tressa Kenny, who with two daughters and two sons, survive, and to whom he left the sympathy of all who were privileged to know John Buckham.

He first appeared in the political field when he contested Columbia riding in 1909 in the Liberal cause. He was not elected at that time, but in 1916 he was victorious, and was again given the confidence of the electors in 1920, 1924 and at the last general election in 1928.

### EFFECTIVE WORKER

In the Legislature he soon established himself as a man of tolerant views, who numbered his personal friends among all shades of political opinion. His judgment was sound, and his advice was regarded as being of value to his colleagues. He did not seek the limelight in the debates on the floor of the Legislature, but his genuine regard for the welfare of the country was evidenced in the quiet but persistent work he accomplished in committees.

### PAY TRIBUTE TO MEMORY

"I am very sorry indeed to hear of Mr. Buckham's death," said Premier Tolmie, when informed of the occurrence. "He was a very fine personality and a splendid type of citizen. His passing will be keenly felt, not alone in the British Columbia Legislature but throughout the province by all who were fortunate enough to know him. I wish to express my keen regret at his passing and extend my sincere condolences to his bereaved family."

"I am indeed sorry," exclaimed Hon. R. H. Pooley. "Mr. Buckham was one of the best liked men in public life in British Columbia. There was nothing narrow in Jack Buckham's outlook on life. He played the game fairly and honestly. He was a real sportsman. A man of powerful physique, it was sad to see him gradually declining, but throughout his long illness he maintained his cheerful spirit and kindly outlook. He will be sadly missed among his colleagues on both sides of the Legislature and by his host of friends throughout the country."

"I am indeed sorry to hear it," commented Hon. C. F. Davis, present Speaker of the Legislature. "Mr. Buckham was a fine type of citizen; one that it was a pleasure to know. Full of kindly good nature and manifestly fair, he presided for four years as Speaker in the Legislature, and in that capacity won the friendship of those who were politically opposed to him, as well as of his political colleagues. Retiring by nature, he was a true friend and a man of broad sympathies. He will be greatly missed from his place in the Legislature."

# Premier Predicts Great Recovery in British Columbia

Pacific Commerce Will Awaken to New Prosperity With Return of Settled Conditions—Province Will Profit Immeasurably by Its Location and Pioneering Efforts of Citizens

**"B**RITISH Columbia's Bank of Natural Resources is 100 per cent solvent, and one of the finest assets lies in the dominant courage and initiative of its people," Premier Tolmie declared in the course of a stirring address to the Saanich Central Conservative Association, gathered in the Campbell Building last evening. The Premier delivered an inspiring message of confidence in the ability of Canada to regain her prosperity, and predicted that the next decade would be one of greatest opportunity for British Columbia.

History taught, stated the Premier, that unrestricted optimism or unconfined pessimism were rarely grounded on solid facts. There was no denial times were hard, but they had been harder within the memory of living generations. At such times there was a common tendency to take too pessimistic a view of the situation, and this had betrayed able men in bygone years to predict disaster.

**FAMOUS MEN WERE WRONG** in the nineteenth century, Wilberforce declared that he dared not marry, the future was so dark and unsettled," the Premier continued. "William Pitt at one time affirmed that there is scarcely anything around us but ruin and despair. On the eve of his death the Duke of Wellington 'thanked God that he would be spared from seeing the consummation of ruin that was gathering.' Disraeli, in 1849, said 'that in industry, commerce and agriculture there is no hope.' Lord Shaftesbury, in 1893, had it 'that nothing could save the British Empire from shipwreck.' Now these were able men, but you see their estimate of their own times was not borne out, and that the depression they envisioned lifted shortly afterwards."

It was not only Canada that was affected by the present lull in the world distribution of goods, he went on. All countries were having their own troubles, and those of this Dominion were relatively light by comparison. A recent survey in The New York Times showed \$450,000,000 set aside for public works to create winter employment; state budgets of \$40,000,000, and civic budgets ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$15,000,000 in the larger centres for the same purpose. The United States admittedly was one of the richest countries in the world.

While Canada was affected equally with other nations, he believed that the Dominion would be one of the first countries to recover, and that this recovery would spring largely from within. In the war, youths of eighteens and nineteen years of age had volunteered to face the perils of Europe, and now, and Canada's resources were being developed well on the home front. The peacetime opportunities were the same, and the Dominion would prosper, the Premier declared.

**HUNDRED NEW FACTORIES** "Policies outlined by Mr. Hon. B. B. Bennett are already bearing to the benefit of British Columbia," the Premier continued. "More than 100 new factories have been placed in operation this year in Quebec and Ontario, and employment created for many hundreds of men. Under the wise revision of tariffs to put an end to reckless dumping of foreign surplus of fruit and vegetables, Canada is this building up a domestic

market for her own commodities. Ontario and British Columbia are sharing equally in supplying the Prairie market; while Prairie cattle and other products are in turn being used in British Columbia and the East, a very fair exchange.

"Here in British Columbia we have declared wholeheartedly in favor of development of the domestic market. The Government is using British Columbia and other Canadian products almost exclusively in its camps, and upwards of \$30,000 a day is being put into circulation in allowances for these men, and for their food and supplies, etc. The circulation of this money is beginning to be felt, and private support of the buy-at-home policy is increasingly in evidence.

**TIME TO SPEND** "But it is not only a question of buying necessities; more is needed," the Premier continued. "In Canada today there is an accumulation of \$50,000,000 in the increase in savings deposits in chartered banks. For those who are able to spend in moderation, this is the time to do so, and put some of that money back into circulation. An old adage says 'buy when people want to sell, and sell when they want to buy.' This is the time to buy, and confidence displayed at this time will not be found misplaced."

The Premier touched on British Columbia's exports and imports, showing that the province depended, in normal times, on the export of large quantities of lumber, fish, minerals and agricultural products to markets that were not at the moment as open to these goods. Home stimulus, wherever possible, would hold the fort until world conditions brightened, and export movements began in volume again, he stated.

By earlier lambing, British Columbia sheep producers this year saved a \$200,000 market in the early Spring for the British Columbia product, that was formerly taken by foreign imports. Lamb Week itself netted \$35,000 in the turnover of British Columbia goods, and the stimulus this created had continued on into succeeding weeks.

"We believe that each year in Canada today is pioneering in the dawn of a new era, an era of national unity and self-reliance. We will take this country ahead of other countries. The next decade will be the turning point for this province. In that period we will begin to reap the benefit of new Pacific commerce, on that great ocean which is now coming into its own. Great as was the Atlantic trade, I believe that the Pacific will rival that development, and that this growth is already in the making. British Columbia is the gateway for Canada in this great new market, and has the best chance of way to profit by the swing towards interchange of goods across the Pacific."

Every year, continued the Premier, could not be a harvest. Harvest came in the Fall, but not also in the Spring, Summer and Winter.

## EFFORT IS NEEDED

"It is the same with prosperity in a world sense. We must put in the effort to bring success, as individuals and as nations. We must seed the ground of opportunity, nurture that seed by work and cultivation, and then wait for the harvest in the fullness of time. We must learn to take the lean years with the good, and to put away something to carry us through the lean times. But just as the plenty follows the harvest of the year, so will prosperity follow adversity, if we but have confidence and work for that goal.

"The country, the size of Canada cannot be measured in years alone. It takes decades to show whether or not real and substantial progress has been made. Think back over the sixty years of British Columbia's history as part of the Confederation. We have gone far in that time, but far as that is, I firmly believe it will be relatively insignificant to what the future yet holds in store for us," Premier Tolmie affirmed.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. BUCKHAM

At the opening of his address, the Premier paid tribute to the memory of the late John A. Buckham, Speaker of the Provincial Legislature in the former administration. His death would create a genuine loss to the people of the province, and his passing would be keenly felt by members on both sides of the House, he said.

Premier Tolmie expressed his thanks to the retiring officers of the

Saanich Central Conservative Association, and his congratulations to the newly-elected board. The loyalty of Saanich to himself and his Government was a concrete force for which he was ever grateful, and of which he would always be proud.

He told of the measures taken by the Provincial Government to relieve unemployment, and of action initiated to seek extended markets for British Columbia goods, both at home and abroad. Saanich, he congratulated on growing the finest pears in the world, and on possession of a rich soil which had already given evidence of what it could do in the production of seeds, bulbs, fruit and vegetables.

## STIMULATE HOME MARKET

British Columbia imported food products to a value of \$23,000,000 yearly, and could find plenty of room for more of its own production, he stated. The Government was alive to the necessity for stimulating the home market, and was doing everything in its power in that direction. It remained still for the people themselves to co-operate in a way that would make the plan effective, and to seek out and give preference to the British Columbia and the Canadian article.

Premier Tolmie touched briefly on Saanich matters, telling of road work carried on in that district, and of the taking over of arterial highways, which were to be widened and brought up to full standard width and surfacing. He renewed his confidence in the benefits of the tourist trade, and foresaw great development in that new industry for British Columbia. At the close of the address the Premier was cheered to the echo.

## McKenzie Deals With Charges of Pattullo; Urges Buying at Home

**NEW WESTMINSTER, Oct. 20.**—Hon. W. A. McKenzie addressed a meeting under the auspices of the New Westminster Women's Conservative Association in St. George's Hall Monday night. He reviewed the work of the government and dealt with charges made by Hon. T. D. Pattullo during his tour of the province. In the past three years, Mr. McKenzie said, he had never heard Mr. Pattullo utter a single constructive thought. Concerning the expense of the present cabinet, the speaker said that there were nine paid cabinet ministers and two unpaid—one more than in the Brewster cabinet, with treble the work to do.

In urging the advisability of buying B. C. products, Mr. McKenzie said that there were 600,000 people in the province, and if they would but spend five cents a day on purchasing B. C. products, the payroll would be \$18,000 daily, \$10,000,000 yearly, and that would be \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 yearly, if the five cents was increased to twenty-five.

Arthur Davis, president of the New Westminster Conservative Association, was chairman.

Colonist  
Oct 22, 1931

## PREMIER AND PARTY RETURN

Hon. J. W. Jones Expected to Go to Ottawa, on B.C. Works Programme

Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, arrived in the city yesterday from Calgary, where he attended the conference of Western Provinces, in company with Premier Tolmie and Attorney-General Pooley, both of whom will return to the city today. Mr. Jones intimated that, while no express decision has been reached on the point, it was probable he would leave shortly for Ottawa in connection with final settlement of the British Columbia relief construction programme.

Premier Tolmie and Mr. Pooley stopped off at Revelstoke and Kamloops on their way back from Calgary, and are expected in the city this evening.

Direct contact with the Federal unemployment committee might be found of benefit in the final settlement of the British Columbia programme, Mr. Jones stated. Decision on the point is expected to be reached on the return of the Premier today.

## TOLMIE TELLS CONSTRUCTIVE

Premier and Attorney General Address Big In Revelstoke

**REVELSTOKE, Oct. 21.**—A largely-attended meeting day night, Premier Tolmie plans for unemployment to accommodate 574 unemployed. He told of over to the Federal Government, and in extending the P.veys made by his government scored the dilatoriness a gance of the previous government respect to this railway project, he said, had been left on of his administration.

He also told of the efforts ernment to secure a market Columbia's exportable surplus success that was meeting this respect. He referred to the Tr Highway and stated that \$1 expended in the construction and other projects in the Revelstoke. While his government attempting to place the in seasonal occupations on the saw no merit in the back-movement urged by the law opposition. "You can't put the land today and expect h himself on returns tomorrow the Prime Minister.

Attorney-General Pooley that the previous administration projected politics into the Liq to such an extent that the co was seriously handicapped in tering the department. He Mr. Pattullo for neglecting definite information in respect number of employees on t Instead of an increase of six had been a reduction of thirty. The attorney-general critic Pattullo's land settlement four hundred settlers had been at a cost of \$30,000 per claimed. To place British C unemployed on the land, as by Mr. Pattullo, would cost \$1 000, figured on the cost of tullo's previous experiences, Pooley.

Province  
Oct 22, 1931

## TOLMIE ADVOCATES BACK-TO-LAND

Would Materially Huge Imports of cultural Product

**KAMLOOPS, Oct. 22.**—Spe mass meeting here Wednesday Premier Tolmie stated that the-land movement is the c depression in this province, tries have all the employees absorb for some time. He said government was fostering l ment by means of reverted la had been surveyed and were at reasonable prices and on There would, he added, be reduction in the \$28,000,000 agricultural products imp British Columbia annually if time workers would settle families on small acreages.

The Premier said that on trip to Calgary he found that coming to the coast because berta authorities were slow road camps.

Attorney-General Pooley was largely to blame for the situation in the salmon, lumber, mining business in this Premier Bennett had been banning Russian imports could not compete against standards of living.

Referring to criticism re Liquor Board, Mr. Pooley said a considerable drop in there had been only a slight in profits, and material a been made in administration



Province  
October 21

## TOLMIE TELLS OF CONSTRUCTIVE ACTS

Premier and Attorney-General Address Big Meeting  
In Revelstoke.

REVELSTOKE, Oct. 21.—Speaking at a largely-attended meeting here Tuesday night, Premier Tolmie outlined the plans for unemployment relief, destined to accommodate 57,000 registered unemployed. He told of overtures made to the Federal Government for assistance in extending the P. G. E. surveys made by his government and scored the dilatoriness and extravagance of the previous government in respect to this railway project, which, he said, had been left on the doorstep of his administration.

He also told of the efforts of the government to secure a market for British Columbia's exportable surplus, and the success that was meeting its labors in this respect.

He referred to the Trans-Canada Highway and stated that \$750,000 was expended in the construction of this and other projects in the vicinity of Revelstoke. While his government was attempting to place the mail engaged in seasonal occupations on the land, he saw no merit in the back-to-the-land movement urged by the leader of the opposition. "You can't put a man on the land today and expect him to feed himself on returns tomorrow," observed the Prime Minister.

Attorney-General Pooley declared that the previous administration injected politics into the Liquor Board to such an extent that the commission was seriously handicapped in administering the department. He criticized Mr. Pattullo for neglecting to obtain definite information in respect to the number of employees on the board. Instead of an increase of sixty, there had been a reduction of thirty-one.

The attorney-general criticized Mr. Pattullo's land settlement schemes. Four hundred settlers had been located at a cost of \$30,000 per head, he claimed. To place British Columbia's unemployed on the land, as suggested by Mr. Pattullo, would cost \$1,500,000, 000, figured on the cost of Mr. Pattullo's previous experiences, said Mr. Pooley.

Province  
Oct 22, 1931

## TOLMIE ADVOCATES BACK-TO-LAND MOVE

Would Materially Reduce  
Huge Imports of Agricultural Products.

KAMLOOPS, Oct. 22.—Speaking at a mass meeting here Wednesday night, Premier Tolmie stated that a back-to-the-land movement is the cure for the depression in this province, as industries have all the employees they can absorb for some time. He said that the government was fostering land settlement by means of reverted lands, which had been surveyed and were being sold at reasonable prices and on easy terms. There would, he added, be a material reduction in the \$25,000,000 worth of agricultural products imported into British Columbia annually if more part time workers would settle with their families on small acreages.

The Premier said that on his recent trip to Calgary he found that men were coming to the coast because the Alberta authorities were slow in starting road camps.

Attorney-General Pooley said Russia was largely to blame for the present situation in the salmon, lumbering and mining business in this province. Premier Bennett had been right in banning Russian imports as Canada could not compete against Russian standards of living.

Referring to criticism regarding the Liquor Board, Mr. Pooley said that despite a considerable drop in business, there had been only a slight reduction in profits, and material savings had been made in administration.

Province  
Oct 22, 1931

## HINCHLIFFE REPLIES TO BOARD

Minister Says Vancouver  
Gets \$222,000 More for  
Teachers' Salaries.

GRANT \$1393  
FOR PRINCIPALS

Claims Limit of Attendance  
At School Classes Not  
Raised.

VICTORIA, Oct. 22.—Commenting that over \$500,000 additional will be paid out by the Provincial Government this year by way of increased aid to school districts in assistance with teaching salaries, Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe today replied to criticism by the Vancouver School Board, as to the new basis of these grants. Vancouver, he stated, receives \$222,000 more under the new plan than it would have under the former method of a flat grant per teacher employed.

"The only alternative to the percentage plan now in effect and under which Vancouver receives 33 1-3 per cent. of its teachers' salaries, would be a reversion to the old form of a flat grant, in which the city receives \$460 per teacher. The former method had certain advantages, and under the new system Vancouver receives an increased grant as against \$573,620 on a salary list that to the end of March, 1931, was given as \$2,387,000, Mr. Hinchliffe stated.

GRANT \$1393 FOR PRINCIPALS.

Mr. Hinchliffe quoted figures to show how the new system works in first, second and third class school districts, taking the salaries of principals in each case. In Vancouver, a first class district, towards a principal receiving \$4180 annually the city would have received \$460 under the former plan and now receives \$1393. In Kelowna, a second class area, on a \$2400 salary, that city would have received \$530 and now gets \$980. In Enderby, a third class school area, on a \$1700 salary the corporation would have received \$565 and now secures \$850.

The new plan was adopted at the last session of the Legislature and was drawn up to give a fairer basis of distribution of grants in aid of teachers' salaries throughout the province.

LIMIT NOT RAISED.

Answering the charge that the government had encouraged the grouping of forty children in a class, Mr. Hinchliffe said the limit in this respect had not been raised, and that better observance of the existing provisions had shown that numbers of teaching appointments throughout the province had been found unnecessary. The general average in Vancouver schools, he stated, was 36.9 students per teacher.

In any event, Mr. Hinchliffe continued, the department had made no hard and fast rule, but had given leave to all boards to apply for ratification of any schedule that best fitted their requirements.

The regulations provided that in elementary schools of thirty-five students and under, one teacher would be required. Between thirty-six and eighty-two teachers, and from then on at the rate of one teacher to every forty students, or fraction thereof. In high schools the provision was one teacher for every thirty children, and the same ratio held in junior high schools.

Colony  
Oct 29, 1931

## C. H. DICKIE WINS INCREASED BONUS FOR ISLAND COAL

Nanaimo Member Informed by Ottawa That Sub-  
vention on Bunker Coal Will Be Raised to  
Fifty Cents and One Dollar Will Be  
Paid on Export Tonnage

PRESAGING a return of prosperity to the colliery districts of Vancouver Island, an announcement was made by C. H. Dickie, M.P., at a meeting of the Conservative Association at Nanaimo last night, to the effect that the Dominion Government had agreed to increase the subvention on bunker coal from Vancouver Island mines from twenty-five cents to fifty cents per ton, and from twenty-five cents to one dollar a ton on export coal except to the United States.

The announcement culminated months of untiring effort on the part of the Federal member, who succeeded in bringing the matter to the attention of the Ottawa Government with such good effect that yesterday an order-in-council was passed authorizing the adoption of the suggestions as outlined by Mr. Dickie in his representations to Hon. W. A. Gordon, Federal Minister of Mines.

WILL SEEK ORDERS

The immediate effect of the bonus on the coal industry will be most beneficial. Colonel C. W. Villiers, managing director of the Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir), Limited, the largest operating concern on the Island, stated: "It will permit of us going after several large orders, amounting to thousands of tons of coal annually, with a fair chance of success," he declared.

Colonel Villiers lost no time, on being informed of the increase in the bonus, and last night sent wires off in an effort to secure orders which, if he is successful in obtaining, will mean a great deal to the collieries.

PRAISES MEMBER

"I cannot speak too highly of the manner in which Mr. Dickie has worked, quietly, persistently and with such good effect to secure this measure of assistance for the industry," stated Colonel Villiers. "I am grateful also to the Government, which on examining the facts as laid before it by Mr. Dickie, have adopted his suggestions in a manner that will, I feel confident, do much toward reviving the coal industry on the Island."

The Nanaimo member has been working tirelessly for the securing of a bonus, or subvention, that would permit of British Columbia coal competing in world markets with that of other producing countries.

WIRED OTTAWA

Several days ago he again urged upon Ottawa the necessity for action in the matter. "Can not your Government see its way clear to increase the bonus of bunker coal from Vancouver Island mines to 50 cents per ton, and concede a bonus of \$1 per ton on exports except to United States?" he telegraphed. "This would have a splendid effect. It is unquestionably justifiable and will give an impetus to business that is now in the doldrums."

In answer to this telegraph he received a prompt reply from Hon. W. A. Gordon, Minister of Mines at Ottawa, who said:

"I am grateful to you for your exhaustive representations with respect to the working out of the present subvention. I am submitting to the Government tomorrow the proposal for further assistance substantially along the lines you suggest. I will do my best to see the representations are given effect to."

SUCCESS ANNOUNCED

Yesterday Hon. Mr. Gordon followed his telegram of the previous day with a short, but vital, wire, announcing the success that crowned Mr. Dickie's efforts for his constituents and for the prosperity of Vancouver Island.

"The order-in-council was passed today following your suggestions," was the terse announcement of a policy that will mean a great deal to Vancouver Island, which Hon. Gordon telegraphed yesterday.

49 Colonist Oct 15, 1931

## URGES PARTIES TO CO-OPERATE

H. Despard Twigg, M.P.P., Discusses Importance of Disinterested Patriotism

"In the whole history of British Columbia there has never been a time when Conservatives and Lib-

erals have had greater need to come closely together than at the present moment," said H. Despard Twigg, M.P.P., in the course of a thoughtful, rallying address which he gave last evening before the annual meeting of the Oak Bay Conservative Association in the Conservative rooms, Campbell Building.

Mr. Twigg was one of three speakers who addressed the gathering, the others being James H. Beatty, M.P.P., and Reginald Hayward, M.P.P.

Mr. Beatty dealt with some of the problems left by the previous administration for the Conservatives to shoulder. He stated that the total reserve left for the Conservatives for the administration of the Province was only about six and a half millions. About eighty-five cents in every dollar, at the present time, went to the payment of sinking fund and interest on funded debt. Mr. Beatty also touched on unemployment relief measures, which, he said, were progressing well under the circumstances. On the Island alone, about 800 men were being employed under the scheme.

"I think Mr. Bruhn is working as hard as any man could possibly work to bring about the best results," said the speaker, who then reviewed the road construction programme on the Island, with a word of special praise for the progress on the scheme in the Sooke district.

### HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY

Some idea of the very heavy responsibilities and liabilities which the Conservative Government had had to shoulder when it came into office was given by Reginald Hayward. Among the latter were the P.G.E., "which was not a Conservative baby, although born under the regime of Sir Richard McBride."

Among the responsibilities assumed by the present Government were the Sumas construction scheme entailing very heavy expenditures for relief among the farmers; also it had been found that enormous expenditures had been made by the Liberals in public buildings and roads throughout the province, debts, which had to be shouldered; and there were bad investments in the soldier settlement schemes.

### ONE PER CENT TAX

The 1 per cent tax instituted at the last session of the Legislature was as fair a tax as could be put on, said the speaker, although he admitted that it was a "pin prick" which many people resented who would have thought nothing of a heavier tax. The Liberals had put on more than 100 new impositions. People were apt to forget this. The Conservatives had found financial conditions in a very deplorable state and world-wide conditions could not be laid at the door of the Conservative Government. It had been impossible to reduce taxes, the revenue of the province must be kept up.

"Personally, as I see it, the two main things the city members after are the Courthouse and the West Coast Road," said Mr. Hayward. "We are endeavoring to see that the road is completed as far as Bamfield. People ask us what there is out there; the answer is, of course, timber. How are we going to get any industries in the hinterland of Victoria unless we open up roads to them?" He recapitulated some of Mr. Bruhn's reasons for not attempting to join the two roads, but as a member for Victoria he

should be a West Coast road but a complete circular route, which would attract tourists.

"Undoubtedly the whole world is going through an economic crisis at the present time; democracy is un-

dergoing a great test," said H. Despard Twigg, who reminded his audience of the unusual conditions in England which have brought about the coalition of two great parties. British Columbia required party co-operation also, and he predicted the probability that in the course of the next year an independent party would be found in its genesis.

"At the next election it is more than possible that something except Liberals and Conservatives may have to be considered." Thought traveled quickly; political feeling traveled quickly; British Columbia was very British in feeling, and it was just possible that it might reflect political attitudes in Britain more quickly than any other province in Canada. With this in view, Conservatives were urged to knit themselves more closely together than ever before, for it would be disastrous indeed if the Conservative Government went out and the Liberals came in.

Colonist Oct 30, 1931

## LEGISLATION IS FORECAST

New B.C. Coal and Petroleum Act May Go Before Next Session

Introduction of a new Coal and Petroleum Lands Act, removing control of these areas from under the general terms of the Lands Act and placing it under a special set of regulations, was forecast by Hon. N. S. Loughheed yesterday.

Mr. Loughheed said he planned to introduce nine or ten bills at the next session of the Legislature dealing with land matters. The coal and petroleum measure would follow the lines of Federal legislation, and would be uniform with provisions in other provinces, touching on taxation, licensing and other matters, he indicated.

The several amendments proposed to the Lands Act include suggested provision whereby Provincial lands could be sold by all real estate dealers on a suitable basis.

### TIMBER LICENCES

Revision of charges paid by timber holders is also contemplated to meet the condition whereby there has been a 20 per cent reversion this year of undeveloped timber holdings. Amelioration of the conditions under which timber licensees at present operate might be necessary in some form, and would eventually conserve the revenues of the Province from this source, Mr. Loughheed affirmed.

Touching on land settlement, the Minister of Lands said the Government was at work on plans whereby areas of suitable lands in the southern portion of the province would be made available for sale to the public through all Government offices.

### NO LAND ORGY

The Government did not propose, he said, to embark on any exaggerated land scheme, such as had cost the people of the province millions of dollars in wasted money under a former regime. It was likely, however, that suitable land, including 8,000 acres of reverted timber lands in the Fraser Valley and between 6,000 and 7,000 acres of reverted lands in the Vancouver district, would be made available at prices that would attract private enterprise and settlement.

Colonist Oct 18, 1931

## Government Calls By-Election for Columbia Riding

Writ of Election Issued for Nominations on December 12 and Polling to Follow on December 19—Is Fifth Contest Since 1928

A BY-ELECTION to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John A. Buckham, former Liberal member for Columbia in the Provincial Legislature, will be held on December 19, with nominations to take place on December 12, it was announced by Premier Tolmie late yesterday. The Government acted unexpectedly to set the date for the election, before three members of the Cabinet left for Calgary, to be away for a week or ten days.

Writ of election was issued yesterday, naming H. C. Rayson, of Golden, as returning officer. No announcement was made as to the candidate to carry the Government's colors in the test, which is the fifth since the present administration took office.

### TO REVISE LIST

Under 1931 amendments to the Provincial Elections Act, revision of the voters' list must be conducted in the district prior to the poll, and thirty days must be allowed for the filing of names of eligible voters, it was explained at the Provincial Secretary's Department. This provision precipitated the Government's announcement, to permit time for proper arrangements for the revision and registration in the area.

The last election held in the Columbia Electoral District was in 1928, when there were 1,500 voters on the list, 1,335 of whom recorded their ballots in the twenty-three polling divisions of the riding. There are said to be 1,609 voters on the present list, subject to the revision now to be carried out, and any fresh registrations.

### STANDING IN 1928

In the last election Mr. Buckham, Speaker in the former administration, secured 659 votes; E. J. Scoville, the Conservative candidate, polled 627, while twenty-six votes went to G. E. Cross on an Independent ticket.

The Columbia by-election is the fifth since the Tolmie administration was elected. The others were held at Vernon, The Islands, Fort George and North Vancouver, all resulting in Conservative victories, either by acclamation or else in straight contests between the two major parties.

Government forces are confident of the issue in the present instance, it was intimated, and will announce the name of the Conservative candidate after Premier Tolmie has conferred with party organizers in the area, on his return from Calgary.

Last year 403,000 acres of reverted lands had been reclassified in the northern areas, and a good demand had sprung up for this land. Reclassification was proceeding on the Lower Mainland, and the lands reclassified would be placed on sale through all Government agencies as fast as this work is carried ahead. It would remain largely for private enterprise to embark on settlement schemes, and the Province would be wary of accepting any heavy responsibilities in this connection in future, he said.

Mr. Loughheed said a meeting of the reverted lands committee would be summoned shortly, when the Government plans would be laid before that body.



Colanist  
Nov 5, 1931

## CANDIDATE IS CHOSEN

F. W. Jones Conservative  
Nominee in By-Election  
for Columbia Riding

Fred W. Jones, owner of the Canyon Creek Ranch, near Golden, will carry the Government's colors in the December by-election in the Columbia electoral district, it was stated yesterday by Premier Tolmie, on receipt of word from the nomination convention of the party held this week. Mr. Jones is an outstanding British Columbia livestock breeder.

"If Mr. Jones is elected, he will be a decided acquisition to the Provincial Legislature," Premier Tolmie declared. The Premier recalled splendid service given by Mr. Jones in connection with the Red Cross during the war, and mentioned his keen interest in agricultural matters in later years.

Widely known in the Columbia riding, Mr. Jones has one of the finest herds of shorthorn cattle in Canada, and has been a frequent prize winner at provincial exhibitions in recent years. He is very popular throughout the area, as well as being widely known in British Columbia livestock circles. His wartime services in the Red Cross brought Mr. Jones in contact with many in this city, who gratefully recall his contribution to the movement at that time.

The Columbia seat in the Legislature will be contested by the Liberals, T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, announced recently. So far, the name of the Liberal candidate has not been disclosed.

Colanist  
Nov 3, 1931

## TAX INCREASE RUMOR DENIED

Hon. R. H. Pooley, Acting  
Finance Minister, Brands  
Report as False

Short but emphatic denial was given by Attorney-General Pooley yesterday to reports that the British Columbia Government was considering presenting legislation at the next session of the Legislature to raise the special revenue tax from 1 to 3 per cent.

"There is absolutely no truth to the suggestion. The 1 per cent special revenue tax, moreover, was not at any time intended to raise \$5,000,000," as the same report suggests," Mr. Pooley affirmed.

The attention of Mr. Pooley was drawn to the reports in his capacity as acting Minister of Finance, and led to a firm denial.

Province  
Nov 13, 1931

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1931.

### BACK TO SANE FINANCE.

The Provincial Government very much requires the services of a financial dictator who will perform the simple, but difficult, job of balancing the budget.

Recent misunderstandings between Ottawa and Victoria, which opened unemployment camps and then closed them, emphasize the need for a fundamental revision in our methods of financing. This is not to charge that the situation is critical today. The fact is that it can well be taken care of. But we are looking ahead to another six months or year of slackened income; and we believe that every British Columbian will agree that now is the time to abandon the old political viewpoint about public expenditures, to replace it with a reduction in overhead and an increase of efficiency such as characterizes every successful business enterprise in the country. No mercantile firm today that is awake to conditions will condone slack methods or antiquated management.

We are blaming Victoria no more than Ottawa—certainly we have no complaint against any particular minister. But we should say that such a tangle as obtains today in the relief camp service is an extremely strong indictment of the present system of financial control.

What have the taxpayers got in return for \$3,500,000 spent in eight weeks erecting these scores of camps, with work practically discontinued because Ottawa regards the scheme developed here as far too extravagant? The public should give the ministers credit for every honest intention and much hard work, but lack of cohesion between different departments of government is responsible for part of the trouble; and unpleasant reports reach us of hasty purchase of equipment, of small losses here and larger ones somewhere else by the interference of grasping ward heelers and village politicians throughout the province. The result, a total bill of rather amazing proportions, run up so rapidly that Ottawa demands a 50 per cent. downward revision of the whole plan. Public Works Minister Bruhn joined Finance Minister Jones in Ottawa today to plead for a more generous deal and we sincerely hope they win out in their arguments.

How can we escape this dilemma? We should think that, broadly, the cause of the trouble is the absence of a centralized financial authority in the government whose sole business it is to pass upon every spending programme with the idea of making certain that the final bills shall not exceed the appropriations. One hears of a government where no deputy minister can retain his job if his department fails to stay within prescribed limits. In Victoria they might do worse than name a committee of deputy ministers to sit on the lid. These officials would presumably be free from political pressure, and such freedom is the chief desideratum.

We have said that British Columbia is in a bit of a dilemma. We do not wish to see its position develop into a crisis a year from now because public expenditures have not been sanely held down. This province has been borrowing freely for new works. Our budget has been exceeding our tax income. Borrowing is becoming harder, costlier each year. Our job—politician and public—is to eliminate our deficits. Taxes are already so high as to be burdensome. The one solution is to save, to revise heavy-spending social services that have run miles beyond the original intention, to reduce drastically overloaded departments like that of agriculture, to establish a non-political cabinet committee or treasury board "from Missouri"—that, come what may, will not spend money that is not earned. Only by prompt action somewhere along these lines will Premier Tolmie silence the public discussion that one already hears on the subject of coalition government.

## Economy Movement Is Under Review by Provincial Gov't

British Columbia Finances Are Sound but Lessened Revenues Will Mean Material Reduction in Public Services, It Is Intimated

DETERMINED efforts to reduce public expenditures for the balance of the present fiscal year, to bring British Columbia costs closer to what known and expected revenues will produce, will be made by the Provincial Government shortly, in continuance of economy plans started before Hon. J. W. Jones went to Ottawa, it was learned at the Legislative Buildings yesterday. Financial officials and deputy ministers have been asked for their suggestions as to where cuts can be made.

The first move in this direction, not counting incidental cuts in current appropriations for fire fighting, log scaling and in other ways, was taken recently when the Government reduced Civil Service salaries by approximately \$250,000 on a schedule of graded pay cuts. The Cabinet shared fully in the cuts at their largest measure.

Other steps are believed now in contemplation and are expected to involve not alone the whittling down of all departmental appropriations, but definite abandonment of certain services which were once deemed necessary, but which, in the light of recent experiences, may have to be done without.

### HON. J. W. JONES ACTIVE

While no clear-cut Government statement has been issued on the matter, Mr. Jones has let it be known that he will insist on immediate and direct action to lessen the cost of public expenditures for the balance of the current fiscal year, and will aim at bringing the year to a close without a deficit, if this can be achieved.

Colanist Nov 20, 1931

## FRED W. JONES IS NOMINATED

Will Be Conservative Candidate in By-Election in Columbia Riding

Fred W. Jones, prominent in Red Cross and business circles in Victoria during war and postwar years, received the unanimous choice of the Conservative nominating convention in Columbia riding last evening, and will carry the Government's colors at the December by-election, members of the Government were advised in wires from Golden, following an enthusiastic meeting, which passed a hearty vote of confidence in Premier Tolmie and his ministry.

The convention was a well-attended and representative gathering, which gave enthusiastic support to Mr. Jones, who is well known in the district, where he has operated one of the most successful cattle ranches for years. Mr. Jones has divided his time between his ranch at Golden and business interests in Victoria for some years, and is well known and extremely popular throughout the province.

### MAKES STATEMENT

In a statement issued after his nomination, Mr. Jones said if successful, in the coming by-election he would stand for economy and efficiency in public business.

"I have taken an active part in the industrial life of this province for more than thirty-two years. I have accepted the nomination believing that with my business, farming and stockbreeding experience there is a definite service I can

The reduction in Civil Service salaries, while it means a cut of one-quarter of a million, was stated at the time it was made to be only a "drop in the bucket" to what is required. From this it is argued that cuts now under contemplation will be far-reaching and may involve drastic curtailment of some services.

As public demand is ever close to Government expense, a general appeal for lessened demand on the provincial treasury has been mooted for some time.

Mr. Jones stated yesterday that British Columbia finances are sound, and relatively sounder than some other provinces. At the same time, falling revenues have played havoc with services attuned to normal conditions, and this state of affairs must be met. Announcement of the Government's policy is looked for at an early date.

render to the Province of British Columbia, and particularly to Columbia district.

"My political gospel is simple. I am for economy and efficiency in government, and the elimination of all overhead not absolutely necessary, and I am for a square deal for all the people of the district. I have no personal ends to serve, and have time to devote to the interests of Columbia and other parts of the province," Mr. Jones concluded.

### SPLENDID RECORD

Educated at Upper Canada College, Toronto, Mr. Jones joined the staff of the Ontario & Quebec Railway in 1882, the line afterwards being taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway. He was secretary, for a time, to Sir William Whyte, going to Winnipeg with him in 1886, and later becoming assistant general superintendent of the Western Division of the C.P.R. at that city.

In April, 1899, Mr. Jones left the service of the railway to take over the business management of the Columbia River Lumber Company at Golden. He sold out his lumber interests in 1907 to Sir William McKenzie. He has operated the well-known Canyon Creek Ranch, near Golden, continuously since 1907.

In Victoria Mr. Jones will be remembered by a large circle of friends, who will be glad to hear of his present honors. He acted as active president of the Victoria Branch of the Red Cross during the war and was indefatigable in his efforts in that cause.

### HAS FINE HERDS

In more recent years Mr. Jones has given great attention to the development of dual purpose shorthorn cattle in the Interior and has developed one of the acknowledged leading herds of purebred animals in the West. His Shorthorns have been repeated and consistent winners of prizes at Coast and Interior fairs, taking Vancouver and Victoria championship honors in their class this year.

Mr. Jones was also connected for a time with the Producers' Band & Gravel Company, Victoria, selling out his interests later to devote time to the Canyon Creek Ranch.