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1914

PROFIT-SHARING SCHEME UPHOLD

Newspapers All Over American Continent and Many in Great Britain Congratulate Mr. Ross on Timber Royalties.

IDEA IS TRUE BASIS OF FOREST ADMINISTRATION

"New York Herald" Says It Is Singular That Principle Has Been So Tardy in Making Its Arrival.

Special to the News-Advertiser.
Victoria, B. C., Feb. 28.—Widespread interest has been shown in the Timber Royalty Bill introduced by the Hon. William R. Ross, Minister of Lands. Newspapers all over the American continent and many in the United Kingdom published despatches in which a feature was made of the recognition of the profit-sharing principle in handling public timber resources.

"The New York Times" in a lengthy editorial under the caption of "Profits for Governments," compliment the Hon. Mr. Ross on the idea. The New York paper said:

"The British Columbia Minister of Lands last week introduced a bill providing for a Government regulation of prices on lumber from the public property, and fixing the royalties to be paid by those working the timber lands in proportion to the prices. The lumbermen are said to approve the idea, and the government expects to get \$2,500,000 annually, while retaining the land from which the timber is taken."

Tardy in Arriving.

"It is singular that the idea of associating prices and profits from the proceeds of public resources has been so tardy in arriving. Hitherto the problem has been attacked from the point of reducing the excess of profits of such exploitation by taxation. That only makes the product more costly to the consumer, without reducing the profit to the exploiter."

"It is not too late to profit from the example of Canada."

"Praise for Mr. Ross and the new royalties" is the head under which several newspapers reprint an editorial from "The Mail and Empire" of Toronto referring to the new bill introduced by the Minister of Lands.

Watch Most Carefully.

"The Toronto Mail and Empire," says: "The magnificent forest areas of British Columbia are a heritage the people of that province ought to watch over most carefully. Few provinces or states are so bountifully endowed. The timber should be regarded, as far as practicable, as a trust, to be administered for the general benefit, not mainly as affording opportunity for privileged exploitation. Because, perhaps, the timber resources of the continent have been thought inexhaustible—a sadly mistaken view—this principle has never properly imbedded itself—as a matter of cardinal policy—in the public mind, either in the United States or Canada."

"The output from public or Crown lands under lease has been taxed by the several governments, but without any restrictions upon the price charged. The consequence has been, naturally, that the users of lumber have had to pay the government taxes, and there has been no regulation of the extent to which the public, the owner of the leased limits, could be bled for its own property."

Warmest Commendation.

"The Government of British Columbia, which has been foremost in forestry regulation, has taken a stand on this matter deserving of the warmest commendation. It is readjusting the terms of royalty upon which leases are grant-

ed. In making substantial increases in the amounts due to the Government, it is also undertaking to regulate the lumber prices. The scheme covers eight periods of five years each, the royalties being on a sliding scale. The principle upon which the measure, which has been laid before the Legislature by the Minister of Lands, is based, is that of profit-sharing by the Government in the exploitation of the timber. It proposes to obtain for the provincial treasury part of the regulated value of the timber, without permitting the amount thus diverted from the pockets of the timbermen to be taken out of the lumber consumers. That is the true basis of forest administration."

At the University of Washington, the new bill introduced by the Hon. William R. Ross was the subject of an address to the students in the forestry class by Mr. Overton W. Price, former associate forester of the United States under Mr. Gifford Pinchot, and now vice-president of the National Conservation Association of the United States, of which Mr. Pinchot is president.

Wholesome Stability.

The lecturer said: "Hon. William R. Ross, British Columbia's Minister of Lands, has insured, by his royalty measure, that the people of British Columbia get a fair share of the increasing value of their own timber, now held under lease by lumbermen. He has given a new and very wholesome stability to the lumber industry, and he has taken a step which makes straight toward practical forestry on all public timber lands."

"I expect to see great results from Mr. Ross's Royalty Bill—large public revenues from public timber, taken fairly as the people's share of the increase on lumber prices; practical forest conservation in the woods which will issue a second crop of timber, and the wider application by the British Columbia Government of the profit-sharing principles in other great public resources in public ownership. And one more result: I expect to see this royalty measure result in a much more rapid recovery from financial depression in the lumber industry in British Columbia than would otherwise have taken place."

SECOND READING FOR C. N. R. BILL

Amendment to Legislature in Regard to C. N. R. Moved by Mr. Williams Is Defeated in Victoria House.

THIRD READING FOR MOVING PICTURE BILL

Owing to Recent Decision of Privy Council in Regard to Fisheries in B. C. Fishery Tax Bill Is Introduced.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Feb. 28.—The second reading of the bill giving further aid to the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway was passed at this morning's session of the Legislature. Mr. Parker Williams moved an amendment to the bill urging the appointment of a select committee to investigate the whole matter of the guarantees given to the company in British Columbia, and after a speech of more than an hour and a half's duration the question was put to the House. On a show of hands, the only supporter of Mr. Williams was Mr. Placé, Nainville. The second reading was then put and passed, the Socialists alone voted against it.

In the course of the speech of the member for Newcastle, in answer to a question from him, the Premier stated that the bridges being built by the Canadian Northern were all owned by that company and the province had a first mortgage on them.

Through Committee.

At the evening session of the Legislature, the C. N. P. R. Bill was advanced through committee and made ready for third reading on Monday.

The Attorney-General and Mr. Parker Williams discussed the amendment giving power to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to extend time. Mr. Bowser showed, by reference to statutes, that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council always had this power. Mr. Williams, however, took the view that it rendered any agreement impossible.

Hon. H. E. Young spoke on the second reading of the Public Schools Act, and said it made provision for the extension of technical education. It also defined qualifications for trustees, and he showed that it corrected previous measure in regard to the qualification of women to sit on school boards. The bill also provides for financial assistance. The bill passed its second reading.

Hon. W. R. Ross, in moving the second reading of the Water Act, explained its provisions briefly. He said it was proposed to have returns of all claims made, and also to limit the period of tenure of water rights to fifty years, and also to institute some control over capitalization of operating companies. In regard to clauses relating to irrigation, the Minister said it was proposed to create co-operative methods in irrigation areas.

The act to regulate theatres and cinematographs passed its third reading. Second readings were accorded the following measures: Deserted Wives' Maintenance Act; Act to Increase Revenue of the Crown; Act to amend the Provincial Fisheries Act; the Land Registry Act; the Public Schools Act; the Water Act; the Summary Convictions Act; the Sheriffs Act, and an Act respecting Municipalities, Drainage, Dyking and Irrigation Act.

Fisheries' Tax Bill.

Owing to the recent decision of the Privy Council regarding certain questions referred to them as to the respective rights of the province and the Dominion in the fisheries of British Columbia, a fishery tax bill has been drafted and was introduced by the Attorney-General.

"The right exercised in the past by the province has been in no wise curtailed by this judgment," said the Attorney-General in introducing the bill.

"To summarize the judgment recently delivered, I may say that it decides that the province possesses the property rights in the fish and fisheries above tidal waters, whether rivers are navigable or not above that point, provided of course that the beds of the rivers are not in the railway belt and owned by the Dominion. In tidal waters there is no property right vested in either the Dominion or the province, since under the Magna Charta this fishing was a common right of all the people. The Dominion and province may raise a revenue from those engaged in fishing, but exclusive privileges under the guise of regulations cannot be given by the province."

"The judgment further declares that with the transfer of the solum or property rights in the lands of the railway belt to the Dominion, the fisheries therein passed with them."

Ownership Undisturbed.

"With the exception of the fisheries within this belt, our ownership of the fish in our great rivers and lakes is undisturbed."

"We shall continue to raise a revenue from those engaged in the fisheries, and the money so realized will be devoted, as in the past, to the encouragement of the fisheries. The work of the Provincial Fisheries Department will be expanded instead of curtailed."

"In the past our sole licence fees have been collected from those engaged in the salmon fishing. We have no intention at the present time of extending that tax to other fisheries, but we want to have the power to do so when necessary. Of course, such taxes have fallen upon only the commercial fisheries. Anglers within the province are not affected. Under a provision in the Game Act we collect an angler's licence fee from non-residents of the province."

A petition that the number of senators from this province be increased to six is contained in a motion to be introduced by the Premier at Monday's sitting of the Legislature, which proposes that the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to forward the prayer of the House increasing the present number to the Dominion Government.

THE DAILY TO STRENGTHEN TRUST

New Legislation Concerns Says Mr. B. Strengthen

Special to the News-Advertiser.
Victoria, March 1.—The Trust Companies of the means of retirement now operating but that it would be conducted by the rem sound basis, was by the Attorney-General the provisions of legislature today.

"The difficulty Bowser, "was that operating in the some were bad, conducting their that have aroused reckless and extortionant of the finance, and some lent."

"The Attorney-General time there companies doing Columbia, which was in excess of he said, "the pro to curtail the n it will, I believe among investors the recently prop framed along the now before the"

The bill passed for the House final stages a session will be row afternoon, take place.

TO STRENGTHEN TRUST COMPANIES

New Legislation Will Put Some Concerns Out of Business Says Mr. Bowser, But Will Strengthen Remainder.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, March 3.—That the passage of the Trust Companies Act might be the means of retiring some of the companies now operating in the province, but that it would put the business conducted by the remainder on a safe and sound basis, was the prediction made by the Attorney-General in discussing the provisions of the new bill in the legislature today.

"The difficulty in the past," said Mr. Bowser, "was that some trust companies operating in the province were good, some were bad, while some have been conducting their business on principles that have aroused suspicion. Some are reckless and extravagant, some are ignorant of the principles of sound finance, and some are almost fraudulent."

The Attorney-General said at the present time there were more than 430 companies doing business in British Columbia, which number, he believed, was in excess of requirements. "While," he said, "the proposed act was intended to curtail the number of requirements, it will, I believe, inspire confidence among investors." He explained that the recently proposed Dominion bill was framed along the same lines as the bill now before the legislature.

The bill passed its second reading.

The great bulk of the legislation before the House has been advanced to its final stages and the business of the session will be completed late tomorrow afternoon, when prorogation will take place.

AMENDMENT LOST BY ONE MAJORITY

Motion to Have Clause in Municipal Act Regarding Loans to Farmers Retained in New Legislation Defeated.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL OPPOSES PROPOSAL

Declares Clause Would Mean Introduction of Politics in the Financial Affairs of Municipalities.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, March 3.—The monotony of reading the Municipal Act which occupied the attention of the House for over five hours in today's session of the Legislature, was broken during the afternoon by Mr. F. Mackenzie of Delta, who proposed an amendment that the clause providing that rural municipalities should be allowed to invest their sinking funds in mortgages on farm lands which was a provision in the former act should be retained in the present bill.

The member for Delta pointed out that for the last twenty years this clause had been in operation and he had never heard of a single case where a rural municipality had lost a cent by loaning their funds to farmers. He said that in spite of this provision the financial standing of the rural municipalities stood about par today. He proposed that the clause should be retained in the present act for at least one year and that at the end of that time the inspector of municipalities who was to be appointed could make a further report on the advisability of continuing the provision permanently. He said that even if cities had abused the privilege of the investment of their sinking funds such a charge had never been levied against the rural municipalities and that the Royal Commission on agriculture had practically endorsed the proposal in their report.

Opposes Amendment.

The Attorney-General in opposing the amendment pointed to the fact that while the system might have worked well in the municipalities of Surrey, Langley, Delta and Matsqui with which the proposer of the amendment was acquainted there were other municipalities of the province that had not been so successful in their loans.

"The passage of this amendment would mean the introduction of politics into the financial affairs of the municipalities," said the Attorney-General and the commission which brought in its report a year ago voted unanimously against the clause.

The Attorney-General pointed out that the question of municipal credit was receiving more consideration every year and there was a growing tendency all over this continent to hedge the investment of the councils' funds with more safeguards. He took the converse view to the member for Delta and suggested that the new law should be passed as it stood and as it had been recommended by the committee and that if after the expiration of a year the inspector found it advisable to make any changes he could make recommendations to the next session of the Legislature to this effect.

Lost by One Vote.

Mr. Cawley, Chilliwack, continued the debate in support of the amendment and pointed out that at present the farm lands of the province were assessed at only fifty per cent. of their value and that the present provision only allowed loans to be made to within 50 per cent. of their assessed value so that the risk of loss was very small. The amendment was lost by a majority of one.

The report of the Hon. W. J. Bowser, commissioner of fisheries, was presented today. Presenting an outline of the work of the department during 1913, the main body of the report gives the value of fishery products of British Columbia and compares these with those of other provinces showing that British Columbia produced \$14,455,488 out of a total for Canada of \$32,388,464, more than equalling the products for the same period of the three Maritime Provinces.

Salmon Pack.

The salmon pack was the chief component factor in this although owing to the increased demand for cheaper varieties of the canned article it shows a slight falling off from the previous year. Halibut and herring on the other hand show increases. The added impetus to fishing which has followed the removal of the duty on fresh fish entering the United States, the expected benefits which the fisheries will derive from the completion of the Panama canal and of the G. T. P., which latter it is believed will attract much of the product of Alaska to Prince Rupert, are dealt with, and for additional scientific study and investigation of the food fishes, the modes of curing and other details are referred to in the report.

Reference is made at length to the blockade in the canyon of the Fraser River above Yale, which has prevented millions of sockeye spawning in the upper reaches of the river and which Mr. J. P. Babcock is of the opinion will prejudicially affect the run four years from now up the river.

19.

VICTORIA HOUSE IS PROROGUED

Lieutenant-Governor Reads
Speech From Throne in Pro-
vincial House Relieving the
Members of Their Duties.

TRIBUTE IS PAID TO LATE EARL OF MINTO

Objections to Land Registry
Bill Find Expression in Leg-
islature During the Morning
Session.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, March 4.—Shorn of the pomp and ceremony that marked the opening of the session the legislature prorogued tonight after hearing the message from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, thanking the members for their labor.

The routine work had been finished during the two earlier sessions of the day, and when Governor Paterson entered the chamber the labors of the sessions were recapitulated in a list of the bills passed, which was read by the clerk of the House.

At the close of this recital the supply bill was presented to His Honor by the Speaker, who thereupon read the following address:

Speech From Throne.

Victoria, March 4.—The speech from the throne at the prorogation of the legislature this evening reads as follows:

"In relieving you of your legislative duties I am convinced I voice the sentiments of yourselves and the people of British Columbia in expressing deep regret at the great loss the Empire has sustained by the death of the Earl of Minto. As Governor-General of Canada and in his long connection with the Dominion, he was universally respected for his high sense of duty, his devotion to his country and his abilities as a statesman. The qualities were recognized by the many honors conferred on him by his Sovereign and the important positions he was called upon to fill.

"It affords me pleasure to convey to you my high appreciation of the careful attention you have given to the important questions submitted for your consideration.

Due Regard for Economy.

"The authority given for the raising of a provincial loan will be exercised with due regard for economy and so as to enable works already under way to be prosecuted, as well as others necessary for the continued growth of the province to be undertaken.

"In furtherance of the engagements already entered into with respect to the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway and the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and the Kettle Valley Railway, the measures approved by you will, I trust, insure to the benefit of the people of the province.

"Other important enactments in the public interest are those dealing with the Municipal Act and for the better control of companies dealing with trust funds.

Assist Legislature.

"The conclusions arrived at after careful investigation by the Royal Commissions on Agriculture and Labor will, no doubt, greatly assist the Legislature in its consideration in the near future of these all-important interests.

"The prompt steps taken to encourage the discovery of radium and to make the stores of the mineral as far as pos-

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sible available for the benefit of humanity must meet with general approval.

"The amendments to the School Act, extending the scope of education and providing for the teaching of technical subjects, are intended to keep pace with the demands of modern life.

"I thank you for the liberal supply granted, for the administration of public affairs, and in taking leave of you, venture to express the hope that your labors may prove of the greatest benefit to the province of British Columbia."

Speaker Occupies Chair.

At the conclusion of the address, the Lieutenant-Governor left the chair and Mr. Speaker occupied the chair of office on which he has sat through many tedious hours during the last six weeks.

The Hon. H. E. Young then rose in his place and read the following declaration:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

"It is His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's will and pleasure that the Legislative Assembly be prorogued until it shall please His Honor to summon the same for dispatch of business, and this Provincial Legislative Assembly is hereby prorogued accordingly."

At the close of this announcement the House rose and sang God Save the King, thus ending the second session of the thirteenth Parliament of British Columbia.

Victoria, March 4.—Objections to the Land Registry Act which have been fermenting for several days found expression in the House at this morning's session of the Legislature, when Mr. Hayward, member for Cowichan moved that the entire act should be held over

until the next session of the Legislature. He argued that owing to the late date at which the legislation had been introduced it had been impossible to give the measure adequate discussion. He said that thirty-five amendments had been submitted to the House since the printing of the bill but that the members had been afforded no opportunity of digesting the provisions proposed.

Mr. Hayward said that he knew of no act on the statute books that had caused more irritation than the act under discussion and he was sure that while the Attorney-General might understand its meaning that none of the members of the Legislature knew them.

Mr. Bowser Replies.

Hon. W. J. Bowser in reply said that it was a popular thing to attack the administration of his department and he quoted large folios of statistics to show the results achieved by the officials of the Land Registry Department in the branches throughout the province. He paid a tribute to the subordinates of his office for whom he said he was glad to hold a brief as they were not able to refute the charges of incompetency and laxity levied against them as they were not members of the House and he said that when the time came that he could not attend to the business of his own department without outside interference he would resign his portfolio.

The bill was finally read a third time, the member for Cowichan still objecting to the bill when the final reading was put.

The next act to be discussed was the Water Act and Mr. Williams offered an amendment which would have practically defeated the main provisions of the bill. He raised the question of the rights of riparian owners which he said were injuriously affected by the new bill.

Hon. W. R. Ross in reply said that all holders of riparian rights under the act would be allowed until June 1916 in which to record their claims and that he was opposed to the amendment which he said would defeat the main principle of the bill.

A division was called and on a straight party vote the amendment was defeated.

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some system of technical instruction. As yet there has been no definite outline of the plans proposed by the Government, but we hope that they will not only extend to the existing schools of the Province, but that also night schools and continuation classes will be formed, so that every opportunity will be available for the pursuit of vocational studies. The new municipal department is one of the provisions of the bill now before the Legislature. Its duties have been outlined before. The appropriation for its creation is an earnest of the intention of the Government to put into practice the new legislation as soon as possible after it receives the sanction of the Legislature.

The amount to be spent on roads on Vancouver Island will exceed \$300,000, exclusive of the sum which will be utilized for the Johnson Street-Esquamalt Road connection. This is a substantial figure in view of the general reductions effected on road work throughout the Province. We are glad to notice that there is an increased appropriation for the work of the Forestry Branch. This department of conservation has done excellent service since its institution a few years ago. In respect to whatever sums are expended to increase its efficiency there will be no criticism, for the people recognize that a wise policy of conservation of the Province's greatest natural resource is necessary and in the nature of an insurance which it would be folly to neglect.

FISHERY TAX BILL INTRODUCED

Hon. W. J. Bowser Explains Effect of Recent Privy Council Decision—Province to Encourage Industry,

Owing to the recent decision of the Privy Council regarding certain questions referred to them as to the respective rights of the Province and the Dominion in the fisheries of British Columbia, a Fishery Tax Act has been drafted and was introduced last evening in the Legislature by the Attorney-General.

"The right exercised in the past by the Province," have been in no wise curtailed by this judgment," said the Attorney-General in introducing the bill, "but we have felt that it is more in accordance with the spirit of the judgment referred to, to collect the revenue, which in the past we have done by regulation under powers conferred by a section of the Provincial Fisheries Act, under and by means of regulations based upon a formal revenue act.

"We have always recognized the fact that the power of regulation of the fisheries is vested in the Dominion under section 91 of the British North America Act. Under a judgment of the Privy Council in 1898 the property right in the fish caught in Provincial waters was declared to be vested in the Province. Since 1898 there have been differences of opinion as to the exact definition of the two jurisdictions and the recent judgment removes some of these.

Power of Province

"Pending the settlement of this case, the sole right exercised by the Province has been that of collecting a revenue by the issuance of fishing licenses. In the recent judgment the law lords were very careful to refrain from expressing an opinion or judgment which would limit our right to tax those engaged in fishing whether in tidal or non-tidal waters. This we will continue to do. But we believe that instead of doing so by regulations made under authority of section 30, of the Provincial Fisheries Act, we should do it by regulations made under a formal taxation act.

"To summarize the judgment recently delivered, I may say that it decides that the Province possesses the property rights in the fish and fisheries above tidal waters, whether rivers are navigable or not above that point, provided of course that the beds of the rivers are not in the Railway Belt, and owned by the Dominion. In tidal waters there is no property right vested in either the Dominion or the Province, since under Magna Charta, this fishing was a common right of all the people. The Dominion and Province may raise a revenue from those engaged in fishing, but exclusive privileges under the guise of regulations cannot be given by the Province.

"The judgment further declares that with the transfer of the solum or property rights in the lands of the Railway Belt to the Dominion, the fisheries therein passed with them.

"With the exception of the fisheries within this belt, our ownership of the fish in our great rivers and lakes is undisturbed.

Encouraging Fisheries

"We shall continue to raise a revenue from those engaged in the fisheries, and the money so realized will be devoted as in the past, to the encouragement of the fisheries. The work of the Provincial Fisheries Department will be expanded instead of curtailed. I may state that the value of this work is recognized both by those engaged in the industry, and by the Dominion Department of Fisheries as well.

"We have retained scientists to work out the life history of important food fishes, to chart our shell fish beds and to study animal life inimical to the fishers. We have been enabled not only

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to give valuable advice to the Dominion in this direction and to blaze the way along lines of this nature, but to place in the hands of the cannery and fishermen information of great value to them in their industry and business.

"In the past our sole license fees have been collected from those engaged in the salmon fishing. We have no intention at the present time of extending that tax to other fisheries, but we want to have the power to do so when necessary. Of course such taxes have fallen upon only the commercial fisheries. Anglers within the Province are not affected. Under a provision in the Game Act we collect an angler's license fee from non-residents of the Province."

DOUKHOBORS TO OBSERVE LAWS

Bill Relating to Government of Communal Settlements Is Introduced—Must Register Births and Deaths.

CHILDREN WILL HAVE TO ATTEND SCHOOL

Property of Community Liable for the Penalties That Will Be Imposed by New Legislation.

A bill which is intended to regulate the Government of communal settlements in the Province and which will directly affect the Doukhobor colony was introduced last night by the Attorney-General.

The bill provides that every person who is a member of the community shall be under obligation to register the birth of a child born in the community and to give notice of death in any case of which he may have knowledge.

It also obligates upon every member of the settlement or community the duty of seeing that every child in the settlement between the ages of seven and fourteen shall attend school, and provides that every member shall be liable for the enforcement of the Health Act in the same way that the owners or occupants of houses are now liable.

The penalty for infringement of any of these provisions shall be not less than \$25 and not more than \$100, which may be levied upon the goods and chattels by distress and sale. It further provides that for offences under the act the property of the community shall be liable to distress and sale to the same extent as the property of individuals in ordinary procedure.

BILL TO REGULATE TRUST COMPANIES

Provision Is Made to Super-vise Investment of Funds—Must Deposit Security With Minister of Finance.

Hon. W. J. Bowser, at last night's session of the Legislature, introduced an act relating to trust companies which was read a first time. The bill proposes to deal in a thoroughly up-to-date manner with the incorporation of trust companies in the Province, and contains special provisions regarding their registration, the management of trust funds, inspection and other matters.

The leading section in the new bill provides that notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no company shall after the first day of July continue to carry on a trust business in the Province unless it has deposited with the Minister of Finance a sum of not less than \$25,000.

Careful provision is made for the identification of all funds so that by the system of inspection, which the bill proposes to inaugurate, it will be easily possible to tell at a glance how the various moneys handled are being invested.

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BILL PASSES ITS SECOND READING

Legislation to Provide Further
Aid to Canadian Northern
Pacific Railway Is Advanced
to Final Stage.

MR. P. WILLIAMS MOVES AMENDMENT

Motion of Socialist Member for
Investigation of Guarantees
Is Defeated on a Straight
Party Vote.

The second reading of the bill giving further aid to the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway was passed at yesterday morning's session of the Legislature.

Mr. Parker Williams moved an amendment to the bill, urging the appointment of a select committee to investigate the whole matter of the guarantees given to this company in British Columbia, and after a speech of more than an hour and a half's duration the question was put to the House. On a show of hands, the only supporter of Mr. Williams in his amendment, which practically meant the condemnation of the bill to provide further aid, was Mr. Place, the Member for Newcastle.

After the amendment was lost the bill passed its second reading on a straight party vote.

Socialist Doubts

Mr. Parker Williams, Member for Newcastle, in speaking to the motion for the second reading of the bill, introduced a resolution calling for an investigation by a committee of the House into the operations of the Canadian Northern Pacific in British Columbia, and warned the House that there was a great deal of doubt felt in regard to the operations of the company, and said that the public had a right to know whether the rumors being circulated were true.

In answer to a question of Mr. Williams, the Premier stated that the bridges being built by the Canadian Northern were all owned by that company, and that the Province had a first mortgage on them.

Ready for Third Reading

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The act to regulate theatres and cinematographs passed its third reading. Second readings were accorded the

following measures: Deserted Wives Maintenance Act; Act to Increase Revenue of the Crown; Act to Amend the Provincial Fisheries Act; the Land Registry Act; the Public Schools Act; the Water Act; the Summary Convictions Act; the Sheriff's Act, and an act respecting municipalities, drainage, dyking and irrigation.

The following bills were given a third reading: The Trespass Act, the act validating the by-laws and proceedings of the North Vancouver Council for last year; the act respecting the Methodist Church; the act respecting the City of New Westminster; the act conferring upon Saanich certain powers in regard to water, light and sewers; the act readjusting the boundary between Burnaby and Richmond; the act respecting a certain local improvement by-law of Cumberland; and the act respecting the Line Fences Act.

Second reading was given to the following bills: To incorporate the Northern Telephone Co.; to incorporate the Congregational College of B. C.; to grant power to the Corporation of Alberni to enter into an agreement with the Ritchie-Agnew Power Company, Ltd.; and to amend the Sumas Development Company.

The reports on the bill respecting the corporation of Penticton, and amending the Columbian Methodist College Act, 1893, were adopted.

The House rose at 11:50 p.m.

JANUARY 21, 1914

OPENING CEREMONY THIS AFTERNOON

Impressive Function at
3 o'Clock of Formal
Sessions to Legislature
in British Columbia.

Nearly all the Members of the Legislature are already in the city today to the formal opening of session this afternoon at 3 o'clock. It is also quite a gathering of from out-of-town points, who received invitations issued. Speaker, the Hon. D. M. Ebner, and the attendance is expected to be large.

Both in respect to the work of the departmental heads and the sessions made by Sergeant-at-Arms Charles L. Cullin, everything is in readiness for the commencement of session. The large staff of keepers, janitors, stenographers, pages necessary to properly conduct the work of the House, are coached to a state of efficiency and on duty for some days.

The ceremony of the opening of the session will be taken up before taking up the serious business of the session.

The guard of honor will be presented by the army and military units being chosen. Ogilvie and the naval squad, in charge of Rear-Admiral Commander Hesse.

The social feature of the session is expected to prove more than interesting from the fact that Lieutenant-Governor Barnard will make his first public appearance since he was invested with the high office.

The anticipation that the session will, during the session, make for a moratorium has aroused interest in financial and business circles. This has been reflected in the communications which have been received from Ministers and in the variations who have sent reports. Yesterday another deputation, Sir Richard McBride and Mr. J. Bowser.

It is considered improbable that the House will be asked more than a measure planning some protection to a certain debtor who might be the harsh and unjust action on creditors; that no moratorium of general acceptance of the session is arranged for, and that in any case may be devised every care will be taken to avoid imperilling the session of the Province.

Should weather conditions be favorable, the ceremony of opening should prove an impressive spectacle, the presence in such large numbers of the members of the Legislature, tending to centre interest which typifies Parliaments throughout the British Empire.