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# Legislature Opened This Afternoon With Cheerful Ceremonial

Peace-Time Pomp and Ceremony Revived—His Honor Performs His First Public Function in Presence of Distinguished Gathering

Peace time ceremonial was revived in all its resplendency on the occasion of the opening of the fourth session of the fourteenth Parliament of British Columbia by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Prior at 3 o'clock this afternoon. In striking contrast to last year's event, when all superfluous formality was eliminated out of respect for the memory of His Royal Highness Prince John, every available seat on the floor of the Legislature itself and in the Speaker's Gallery had been taken long before His Honor entered the chamber, while the public galleries began to present their customary animated appearance fully an hour before. Temporary dislocation of train services on the Mainland had prevented some of the private members from reaching the capital to take part in this afternoon's ceremony, although the attendance of legislators was but few short of the allotted number.

Immediately following an inspection of the guard of honor posted at the foot of the steps leading to the main entrance to the handsome pile His Honor, accompanied by his private secretary, H. J. S. Muskett, and his aides, Major Selden Humphreys and Captain Carew Martin, entered the chamber and proceeded to the dais to deliver his speech to the assembled ministers and members.

#### References in Speech

Suitable reference is made in His Honor's speech to the signing and ratification of the Peace Treaty during the interval between the third and fourth sessions of the present Parliament. The visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the belief that his tour of the country last Fall will strengthen and maintain the solidarity of the Empire similarly finds fitting expression. A second visit to this Province of Their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Duchess of Devonshire since the last session is referred to with satisfaction, as is also the part British Columbia played in the Empire tour of Admiral and Lady Jellicoe.

#### Legislation

Harmonizing very nearly with the forecast of legislative fare published in these columns yesterday, His Honor's speech refers to proposed changes in the British Columbia Prohibition Act and foreshadows a programme having for its object the conservation of British Columbia's timber. Irrigation matters, highway classification, the regulation of creameries and dairies, land development, changes to the Workmen's Compensation Act designed to increase the allowances to dependents of deceased workmen, and a number of other important amending bills are specially referred to by His Honor.

Following the reading of his speech—the full text of which appears below—His Honor withdrew from the Chamber relegating the control of the business of the House to Mr. Speaker. The constitutional formalities, such as the passing of resolutions in connection with the printing of the votes and proceedings, the appointment of standing committees, and so forth, were at once proceeded with and as soon as the Attorney-General had introduced the regular lone bill of the opening day—in this case a small Act to correct a section reference to the War Time Expiration Act, passed last session—the Premier moved that the House adjourn and stand adjourned until two-thirty on Monday afternoon next. Charles F. Nelson, member for Slocan, will then move the address in reply to His Honor's speech, to be seconded by Dr. W. H. Sutherland, member for Revelstoke.

#### His Honor's Speech.

The Speech from the Throne read by the Lieutenant-Governor is as follows:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I welcome you to the fourth session of the fourteenth Parliament of the Province of British Columbia.

Since last Session the peace negotiations which then were in progress have resulted in the signing of a Treaty of Peace, which I earnestly hope will long be maintained.

#### Royal Visit.

During the year last past Canada has been honored by a visit from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who was received most joyfully by the citizens of all classes, and who by the kindness and affability of his conduct, endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. I feel sure that this visit will strengthen and maintain the solidarity of the Empire, which the late war so amply demonstrated.

Since last Session, Their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Duchess of Devonshire revisited the Province, and I feel sure that every such visit gratifies the loyal subjects of His Majesty and enures to the benefit of the people as a whole.

The visit of Admiral and Lady Jellicoe, with the officers and crew of the flagship New Zealand, was the source of much gratification, and I sincerely hope that future developments may prove that the visit of the distinguished Admiral has not been without substantial and beneficial results.

#### Secretary Daniels.

The visit of the Secretary of War for the United States of America was welcomed and received as a courteous and friendly act tendered by the United States to the people of the Empire of Great Britain.

It is gratifying to know that the timber industry has enjoyed a prosperous year, and that the outlook for the ensuing year is of a very favorable character. The conservation in perpetuity of this asset is of the most vital importance, and you will be asked for special appropriation for this work.

You will be pleased to know that the careful consideration which has been given to the irrigation situation in the dry belt is having very beneficial results. The matter of thoroughly protecting the whole irrigation situation cannot be over-estimated, and a further measure to facilitate the solution of the complicated situation which exists in respect to many of the irrigation projects will be submitted for your consideration.

#### Pre-emption Records.

As compared with each of the two preceding years, more than double the number of pre-emption records have been issued, with fewer abandonments and cancellations. Applications for industrial sites have also shown considerable increase.

This progress in settlement and industrial activity will render necessary an additional appropriation for surveys in the B. C. Southern and Columbia and Western blocks and elsewhere in the Province.

Advantage has been taken of the terms of the "Better Housing Act" to the extent of a million and a quarter dollars, which is being used exclusively to provide homes for returned soldiers.

#### Grazing.

A definite system of administration, under the "Grazing Act" passed last session, has been established, and will make for the effective protection and encouragement of the stock raising industry.

Ordinary appropriations for public works purposes were augmented last year by an emergency appropriation with a view to providing employment and carrying on development works of a productive character. Necessary repairs have been effected to roads, trails and bridges throughout the Province. All available returned soldier labor being absorbed in employment on the various undertakings of the department.

An amendment to the Highway Act will be submitted for your consideration, providing for the segregation of roads in different classifications and apportionment of expenditure respectively borne by the Government and municipalities interested in primary and secondary highways.

The past year has witnessed the commencement of an extensive programme for the construction and improvement of a comprehensive system of trunk highways.

**Creameries and Dairies.**

A bill will be introduced to consolidate existing legislation relative to the regulation of creameries and dairies.

To further safe-guard the public against danger from bovine tuberculosis, amendments to the "Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act" will be submitted.

The colonization work being carried out through the operations of the Land Settlement Board under the provisions of the "Land Settlement and Development Act" will be continued as effectively as possible, particularly in large undeveloped areas of the interior. Amendments to this Act will be brought down to facilitate the further operations of the Board.

**Sub-normal Boys.**

Legislation will be submitted providing for the establishment of a school for sub-normal boys.

A bill providing for the legal adoption of children will be placed before you.

Amendments to the Public Schools Act will be submitted providing for the education of children whose parents live under communal conditions.

The construction of the Canadian National Railway terminals at Port Mann, New Westminster, Vancouver and Victoria has been in progress during the year. About fifty-two miles of steel has been laid on Vancouver Island, and satisfactory progress has been made with construction of Canadian National Railway branch line from Kamloops to Kelowna.

Construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway northward from Clinton has been prosecuted vigorously, and an agreement has been entered into looking to the completion of this railway to Fort George before the first of January next.

**Prohibition.**

Amendments to the Prohibition Act will be submitted, further regulating and limiting the issuance of prescriptions under this Act.

The Land Registry Act will be re-drafted in form to be submitted to you.

Amendments to the Game Act will be placed before you.

Amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act for the purposes of facilitating the enforcement of the same will be submitted for your consideration.

**Workmen's Compensation.**

Amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act will be introduced, and in particular increasing allowance to widows and children of deceased workmen.

The Public Accounts for the past year will be placed before you.

The Estimates for the next year will be submitted for your consideration.

I now leave you to your deliberations, feeling confident that you will discharge worthily the duties and responsibilities of the Session.

**SLOCAN DISTRICT  
RICH IN PROMISE**

Chas. F. Nelson, M. P.,  
Moves Address in Reply  
This Afternoon

Urges Roads For Constituency  
As Means to Economic  
Progress

Legislative Press Gallery,  
February 2.

Matters immediately affecting the Slocan district took a large share of the speech delivered by Charles F. Nelson, Liberal member for Slocan, in the Legislature this afternoon.

To Mr. Nelson fell the lot of moving the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne and in so doing he took his colleagues on an extensive survey of the various activities of the Government during the period which has transpired since the House last met. Referring particularly, however, to his own district, the Member for Slocan informed the House that mining development, owing to the high price of silver, had made steady progression, placing Slocan once again in the lead for the production of this metal. At the present time, he said, the output of the locality exceeded 52 per cent. of the total production of the Province, and he looks forward to an even greater development in the near future.

**Potential Riches.**

"The Slocan district," explained Mr. Nelson, "does not confine its activities to mining, as there is in the Slocan Valley an extensive agricultural section, not only producing excellent results at the present time, but also, capable of expansion as soon as additional roads are made to enhance the opportunities awaiting new settlers. Until there is better connection with the outside world and shipping points, however, it is difficult for the people of that country to do anything more than improve its present conditions by closer co-operation with the farming element."

The Member for Slocan was pleased to observe in the Speech from the Throne the mention of highway legislation, and in connection with the trunk road system, the contemplated trans-provincial highway particularly, he desired to draw to the attention of the House a proposal for a new route through the interior. Notwithstanding the prospect of opposition to his plan by advocates of other routes, Mr. Nelson voiced the opinion that a connecting link from Nelson to the Okanagan, thence to the Slocan district and on to Vernon would possess manifold advantages to which very little consideration appeared to have been given up to the present time.

**Concerning Mr. Bowser.**

Craving the indulgence of Mr. Speaker while he devoted a little attention to the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Slocan made it clear to the House that he had not been alarmed by any of the speeches with which Mr. Bowser had regaled many audiences during his various tours of the Province since the Legislature last met. If the Leader of the Opposition had failed to interest his audiences in many cases, observed Mr. Nelson, he presumed he had been able to entertain himself.

"To the casual listener," tritely suggested the speaker, "who may not have been in possession of a true knowledge of the facts, this Government must seem a pretty bad lot. Of course Mr. Bowser's lament was a virtual repetition of what already had been heard on more than one occasion on the floor of the House. Even his old statements," Mr. Nelson rubbed in, "were trotted out absolutely regardless of corrections which had been made."

**The Old Yarns.**

The speaker then went on to deal with a number of Mr. Bowser's public utterances, deploring the fact that the leader of a great party should still find it entertaining to exhume the old stories of furniture and carpets

in the offices of cabinet ministers, the purchase of automobiles, and various items from an apparently limitless catalogue of the alleged sins of omission and commission which the Opposition Leader sought to plant on the doorstep of the present Government.

**More Interesting Topic.**

Scanting the question of prohibition as a topic which he felt sure would be one of absorbing interest during the present session, Mr. Nelson vaulted from the "wings" on to a limitless controversial stage. He traversed his views of dry or semi-dry conditions back to the advent of the British Columbia Prohibition Act and the noticeable improvement in social conditions which its operation had brought about.

In Mr. Nelson's opinion, however, the influenza epidemic had assumed the proportion of a second advent of very peculiar conditions which in themselves had imposed an unusual test upon the statutory limitations of the present prohibition law. The speaker referred to the urgent demand for liquor from all quarters under his opinion, the mistaken belief that it was a specific whose liberal use would render immunity to the subject or cure the afflicted.

**When the "Bars" Dropped.**

"The great majority of medical men," he declared "had been able to handle the request for prescriptions previous to that, and to limit their issuance to a reasonable quantity, but as soon as the 'bars' were lowered a flood tide set in, which has failed to recede in the meantime. The result is, that although conditions are not nearly as bad as they were before, they are not nearly as good as we have a right to expect them to be. It is a trite saying," observed the Member on reflection, "that you cannot legislate a man into being good, but you can educate him."

**Land Settlement.**

Devoting a little time to land settlement matters, Mr. Nelson reminded the House that notwithstanding the scoffers, eight settlement areas already had been established in Central British Columbia and additional ones were to be established. He quoted figures to show that over 100,000 acres had been cruised and valued, 13,763 acres actually acquired by purchase, and of this quantity over 10,000 acres had been allotted and sold to settlers.

Nor did Mr. Nelson omit a suitable reference to the more effective operation of the machinery of the Land Settlement Board which had been set up by the amendments vesting it with powers of compulsory purchase.

**Soldier Settlement.**

Referring particularly to the soldier community plans of the Land Settlement Board, Mr. Nelson relied upon a report of the progress and prospects at the settlement near C. Aton, culled from the Nelson Daily News of January 20 last. Briefly citing the eulogy and prediction of success contained in the journal referred to, the speaker went on to congratulate the Government on the excellent work that had been carried out in this new field of agricultural development.

**Mining.**

The Member was of the opinion that the Mineral Survey, and Development Act had proved a great boon to the prospector and had given a spirited stimulus to the mining industry of the Province. Operators and prospectors, he declared, had found it a marked convenience to have a qualified technical officer of the Government available for consultation in connection with the problems with which they were constantly confronted.

**Memorable Visits.**

Suitable reference was made by Mr. Nelson to the visit of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, the receptions tendered to Their Excellencies The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, the visits of Admiral and Lady Jellicoe, and of Secretary Daniels of the United States Navy Department, while the Member's congratulations to Mr. Speaker Keen on his recovery from his recent serious illness provoked warm applause from every member of the House.

**Good Financing.**

Nor did the Member omit reference to the wise administration of the Department of Finance which had resulted in rehabilitating the credit of the Province. He hoped it would be the policy of the Minister in charge to balance current expenditure with current revenue and to continue the practice of borrowing only on capital account.

**JAN**

**1920**

INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT.

## LEGISLATURE IS NOW IN SESSION

Formal Opening Ceremonies  
Took Place Yesterday  
Afternoon in Presence of a  
Large Assemblage.

With the customary pomp and ceremony attendant upon such occasions, the fourth session of the Fourteenth Parliament of British Columbia was formally opened yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock. As the guns boomed a salute His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Prior entered the Chamber attended by his naval and military escort, and before a throng which filled the floor of the Chamber and crowded to the utmost capacity the galleries, read the Speech from the Throne. It was His Honor's first official appearance at a House opening.

This year's opening is the first to be held since peace was declared, and there was more ceremonial attached thereto than was the case last year when, owing to the official mourning on account of the death of Prince John, the ceremonies were curtailed to the utmost. But an echo of wartime openings was heard in the military and naval atmosphere created by the presence of His Honor's escort, the members of which had all with but a few exceptions seen service overseas, a fact evidenced by the display of service ribbons borne.

### His Honor Arrives

Promptly at 3 o'clock the first gun of the salute roared out, and shortly afterwards His Honor, accompanied by his private secretary,

Continued on Page 3

Mr. H. J. S. Muskett, and his aides, Major Sheldon Humphries and Capt. Carew Martin, drove up to the main entrance of the Legislative pile. Here was drawn up a guard of honor composed of 100 men, most of them veterans of the great war. After inspecting the guard His Honor ascended the main stairs to the rotunda, where he was met by his escort, which fell in behind him as he entered the Chamber. His Honor, attired in the customary official dress, wearing plume-decorated hat, and sword, proceeded straight to the Speaker's dais, his entry being the signal for all in the Chamber and galleries to rise. Seating himself, His Honor read the Speech from the Throne, the full text of which is given below.

His Honor's escort was composed of the following officers: For the Navy, Capt. Martin, C.M.G., senior naval officer on this station; Commander Nixon, Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander Rousseau, Lieut-Commander Musgrave, Engineer Lieutenant Wood, Lieutenants Thomas, Gouvreau, Grant and Maud, and Paymaster Lieutenant Heal. For the Military: Brig-Gen. J. M. Ross, C.M.G., D.S.O., G.O.C.; Col. Humble, C.M.G., D.S.O.; Colonel W. J. H. Holmes, D.S.O.; Lieut.-Col. C. C. Bennett, D.S.O.; Lieut.-Col. S. Homer Dixon, D.S.O.; Lieut.-Col. A. E. Hodgins; Lieut.-Col. C. B. Russell, D.S.O.; Lieut.-Col. G. C. Johnson, D.S.O.; Lieut.-Col. J. S. Tait, O.B.E.; Lieut.-Col. W. W. Foster, D.S.O., M.C.; Lieut.-Col. E. J. Renaud, O.B.E.; Lieut.-Col. H. C. Greer, Lieut.-Col. Donald, M.D.; Lieut.-Col. R. Angus, Major C. E. Prideaux, Major F. G. Bacon, Major L. W. S. Cockburn, Major G. S. Lawrence, Major G. Sisman and Major N. C. Sherman.

### Distinguished Assemblage

There was a distinguished assemblage present at the function. In distinguished visitors' seats were the consuls representing foreign countries, members of the Federal Cabinet and House, dignitaries of the church, members of the judiciary and bar, and others. On the floor of the Chamber the members were seated at their desks which were crowded into a comparatively small space to give room for seats occupied by invited guests. In the speaker's gallery were many ladies, invited for the ceremony. The general public thronged the public galleries to capacity.

Formally declaring the session of the House open, His Honor descended the axis and left the chamber, his escort falling in behind him and retiring with him.

The announcement by the Sergeant-at-Arms "Make way for the Speaker," brought forth a hearty round of applause as the veteran Speaker, Hon. John Keen, entered and took the chair, a welcome tendered to him by his many friends who thus expressed their pleasure at his resumption of his duties following his recent severe illness.

### Formal Proceedings

Prayers were read by Rev. W. Leslie Clay, D.D., following which formal motions, always presented at the opening session, were moved by Premier Oliver and approved by the Members. One was to the effect that the House take into consideration the Speech from the Throne on Monday next; the second, a formal motion regarding the printing of the votes and proceedings of the session; a third, authorizing the appointment of the standing committees of the House, and the fourth, the threat of proceedings against any member whose election to the House was secured through bribery or corrupt means.

Attorney-General Farris introduced a minor bill, one to amend the War Statutes Expiration Act, passed last year, a minor correction therein being provided for.

Premier Oliver presented the annual report of the Department of Railways; Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, the preliminary report of the Department of Mines and also the memorandum recently sent to Ottawa bearing upon the salmon fisheries of the province, and Hon. T. D. Pattullo submitted a report showing that since last session the Province has not parted with its revisionary interest in any of the Indian reserves of the Province.

The House adjourned until 2:30 o'clock Monday afternoon. Then the debate upon the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne will

