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1933

LEGISLATION WILL COST CITY \$50,000

Vancouver Firms Would Pay Low License Fee Under New Proposals.

VICTORIA, March 31.—Vancouver City officials prepared here today to fight for amendments to city charter legislation when it goes into committee of the Legislature shortly. They will concentrate on an attempt to change the definition of "manufacturer" for licensing purposes, as adopted by the private bills committee.

"The definition now in the bill as it comes from the committee will cost the city \$50,000 in revenue," J. B. Williams, city solicitor, said. "We shall ask for our original definition of manufacturer to be reinstated." Under the new definition, it is explained, many firms which retail and wholesale goods would be classed as manufacturers and would pay reduced license fees.

Agricultural Estimates Passed by Legislature

VICTORIA, March 31.—(CP)—Speedy progress was made on estimates at the first night sitting of the B. C. Legislature last night. Hon. W. C. Atkinson, minister of agriculture, was absent through illness, and his estimates were handled by Hon. J. W. Jones and passed with little discussion.

The department of education estimates were passed, with the exception of the vote to the University of B. C.

With the public works estimates under consideration, Thomas Uphill voiced a strenuous plea for the Corbin road and gave a graphic picture of the wealth of the Flathead country. A million dollars in revenue had been taken out and only \$5000 put back, he said. He told of the oil possibilities and mineral wealth of the country.

Children Should Begin School at 8 Years, In Hinchliffe's View

VICTORIA, March 31.—(CP)—As Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe's amendment to the Public Schools Act was passing through committee stage, L. A. Hanns, Liberal, Alberni, deplored the fact that the department of education saw fit to economize at the expense of little children about to enter school. Mr. Hanns thought economies could be practiced in other ways, permitting children to begin their scholastic career at the age of six and would not permit the School Board the right to refuse entry until a year later.

Mr. Hinchliffe, volunteering the information that the suggested change emanated from the Vancouver School Board, said a difference of opinion existed as to the proper age for children beginning their education, and he personally believed eight years of age was young enough.

Bill Will Permit Fraser Valley Municipalities To Maintain Library

VICTORIA, March 31.—An amendment to the Public Libraries Act, passed in the Legislature, would permit municipalities of the Fraser Valley to combine for the purpose of maintaining a library service as a mill tax on assessed value of property in the area would defray the cost and a plebiscite to be held would be voted upon only by those who are qualified to vote on money by-law.

Log of the House

We Spend Fifteen Minutes of Pure Animal Delight—When the Premier and Mr. Pattullo Cease Their Diplomatic Sparring—And Hold Us Spellbound in Admiration—With Their Infighting—And Blow for Blow.

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

VICTORIA, April 1.—The fifteen glorious minutes before dinner time on Friday afternoon almost repaid us for fifteen years of pretty dull stuff in this Legislature. Of course you will wonder at our enthusiasm. You will never understand our unholo joy in this fevered passage, this sudden head-on collision between Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo, not as Premier and opposition leader, but as two men who were mad clear through. You will never realize, as you read of it in cold type,



how the usual veil of convention was suddenly dropped, how the hearts of our two chief politicians were instantly laid bare as by a sword stroke, how we glimpsed for once the workings of two minds which usually are hidden under the mask of civilization.

It was not as a matter of politics that we enjoyed this amazing scene, not as politicians interested in the outcome of the present political cyclone, but as spectators who were watching a life-and-death struggle, since, in the contest for the Prime Minister's seat at least, it is a life-and-death struggle indeed. We were interested, because underneath all our pious protestations and parliamentary manners, we were only men, and here were two men whom everyone likes and respects, fighting like gladiators at last, right in the open.

Gone were the exchanges of diplomatic letters of invitation and refusal. Gone were the Premier's two Pleni-potentiaries. Extraordinary. Pooley and Howe. Gone were the ordinary civilities of Parliament. Here were just Doc Tolmie, flushed and roused as we have never seen him before, and Duff Pattullo, several shades redder, telling us just what they thought of each other. It was poor in tangible results, but rich in the stuff of humanity.

Not that Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo don't like each other personally. Even in the heat of the duel, as angry words sped back and forth across the House, they expressed personal regard. But what they thought of each other as politicians was really distressing. And what effect all this would have on the prospects of union government we couldn't guess. Certainly it made union between Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo impossible, but probably it had been impossible from the start. Finally it only served to show the utter chaos of politics down here.

A verbatim report of this historic clash is printed elsewhere in the paper today, but no report can give you the feeling of the scene, the gasping surprise of the House, the pride of the Liberals in their leader, the fierce delight of the Conservatives in this unexpected burst of feeling from a man who has always left the leadership of the House to his aide, Mr. Pooley.

MR. PATTULLO EXPECTS TROUBLE.

Well, there stands Mr. Pattullo at the end of a jangling afternoon, asking the Premier for a statement about the reorganization of his government. Mr. Pattullo is very quiet, very courteous, but his flushed face shows that he expects trouble and would enjoy it.

Up stands the Premier, massive over his desk, arms folded behind him, jaw outthrust, looking squarely at Mr. Pattullo. The government, he says, will be reorganized after the House rises, but so far the matter has not been considered—a prepared parliamentary statement not to be taken too literally.

Trilly, but redder still, Mr. Pattullo accepts the Premier's statement that he doesn't know what he is going to do about anything. He says the country is seething with discontent, the Conservative members in revolt.

The Premier is on his feet again, still cool but getting warmer. He tells Mr. Pattullo sharply that it is the privilege of the Prime Minister to reorganize governments and decide election dates. He will do what seems best for the country. It is an optimistic statement and rather brave, for everyone knows that, with the Conservative party in its present uproar, no one can foresee what will happen next week. The Premier, however, keeps a tight upper lip and says that the votes of the Conservative members of the House do not show any discontent or seething—another parliamentary statement not to be taken too literally.

The Premier is getting warmer. Leaning out over his desk and thrusting his jaw out further, he tells Mr. Pattullo that he isn't in half the demand with the public that he imagines, for the public has not forgotten his old "meanderings," a jolly word, with a country flavor.

Mr. Pattullo is hot now, and no wonder. The answer to this is obvious. If he is so unpopular, so unqualified, he says, why is the Premier trying so desperately to get him into the government?

PREMIER IS HOT, TOO.

The Premier, quite as hot as Mr. Pattullo, makes a biting reply. He had asked Mr. Pattullo as leader of a party, not as an individual because personally he would be no asset to any government. And here the Premier lapses for a delicious moment into the good old language of the ranch which he loves—Mr. Pattullo would be a boon companion at a horse race or a dog fight, but in a cabinet?

Mr. Pattullo's next reply is obvious too. If the Premier didn't want him, then he wanted the Liberal party—a trap to ensnare the elect. And all the more discreditable since the Premier couldn't deliver his half of the bargain—couldn't deliver his party into the union. So Mr. Pattullo would be carrying Dr. Tolmie, the vision of which made us all laugh.

The Premier says, quite properly, that Mr. Pattullo would soon have to put so great a burden down. Mr. Pattullo, still scrupulous to the occasion, replies that he has done so already. But when he accuses the Premier of discourtesy, while he had been scrupulously polite in their recent correspondence, this accusation goes home. The Premier prides himself on old-fashioned courtesy. He says it is the unwritten law of the ranch. He

hopes he hasn't been impolite. Mr. Pattullo says he realizes now more than ever that there can be no union with the Premier. And, buzzing with talk and thrilled to the core, the House goes to dinner.

Before that the day was dull, with brief interludes of interest. Mr. Shelly started the afternoon by explaining that he had not referred to the Premier when he demanded in his recent speech the removal of all men who are obstacles to union. He had meant any members of the House at all. His generalization thus took in a good many gentlemen on both sides.

Mr. Manson stirred us with a fierce attack on the Vancouver police commission, there was a long wrangle over the perpetual problem of Okanagan irrigation, much delving into history, a resumption of the old feud between Mr. Jones and Mr. Pattullo, some references to Mr. McKenzie's scrapbook and not much progress.

By evening the political storm had blown itself out and we held a friendly round-table discussion of many things. The only information of interest came from Provincial Secretary Howe, who indicated that the government was about ready to provide for the sterilization of the insane, a reform vigorously advocated by Dr. L. E. Bordeau and supported by Mr. Pattullo. It was intimated pretty clearly that a sterilization law would come during the next year or so to halt, if possible, the increasing cost of insanity.

"Manson Is Lying," Say Commissioners

Charges Are 'Cowardly,' Dumaresqu and Charman Add.

CHARGES made by A. M. Manson, K.C., in the Legislature on Friday against two members of the Vancouver Police Commission were branded as lies by Commissioners A. J. Dumaresqu and E. M. Charman today.

Describing the onslaught as "cowardly and grossly improper," the commissioners challenge Mr. Manson to repeat his charges outside of the protection of the Legislature.

Although Mr. Manson did not refer to either Commissioners Dumaresqu or Charman by name in making his allegations—published in an adjacent column—he absolved the other two members of the board, Commissioners George Rush and Robert Wilkinson.

NO OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

In a joint statement issued today, Commissioners Dumaresqu and Charman declared:

"It was with great surprise that we read in the newspapers today of the attack upon us by Mr. A. M. Manson, M.L.A.

"We are of the opinion that this attack is cowardly and grossly improper, more so when it is made by a member of the bar and one who, through the act of God or the King's enemies, happened to have held the high office of attorney-general of the province.

"It is cowardly because it was an attack made upon us when we did not have the opportunity to defend ourselves. It was particularly cowardly because it is notorious that Mr. Manson has made a private brawl out of something that should be a matter of civic policy.

"Mr. Manson has appealed to the courts with what success is apparent to anyone who can read. He failed there as a lawyer, but his resources are not at an end: he is still a member of the Legislature. There he can make the statements (which did not impress the courts where they could be and were answered and explained) before an audience which did not know the facts and was not concerned with what it might think was a Vancouver quarrel.

PROPRIETIES ARE FORGOTTEN, THEY SAY.

"He vented his spleen, the spleen of a defeated man. He became hysterical. He so far forgot the proprieties that he used his high position as an M.L.A. to comment upon matters which were sub judice.

"If the meanest vessel in the Province of British Columbia had been guilty of such a breach of the proprieties and Mr. Manson happened to have been successful in his litigation there would have emanated from Mr. Manson a burst of virtuous hysteria, nicknamed oratory, protesting against the unseemliness of commenting on the actions and proceedings of people which were under consideration for decision by the courts.

"Since writing the above, we have had the advantage of reading fuller reports of Mr. Manson's speech. He says: 'On Union street and Keefer street are houses of prostitution. What do I find? I find that one of the police commissioners owns property after property on those streets. I have the card of one of the inmates of those institutions and, by enquiry at the land registry office, I find that the house in question is owned by that police commissioner.'

HIS CHARGES ARE UNEQUIVOCALLY DENIED.

"If he means to infer that we, or either of us, owns or did own houses on Union and Keefer streets, we say, and each of us says unequivocally and without reserve, that Mr. Manson, M.L.A. and former attorney-general, is a liar and we each of us defy him to make such a statement where he has not the protection of the privilege of the Legislature.

"We hold our character at least as reasonably dear to us as Mr. Manson holds law and order and if he will not make the same statement on the public platform as he made in the Legislature, we brand him as a liar and a coward.

"If we are wrong, Mr. Manson has his redress. Can a public man ignore this challenge?"

Manson Makes Hot Attack on Police Board

AUTO FEES ARE LISTED

Victoria Announces New Scale of Motor Licenses.

BASED ON WEIGHT

VICTORIA, April 1.—New motor license fees for British Columbia motorists were announced by the government today for the immediate approval of the Legislature. The new fees, based entirely on the weight of vehicles and taking no account of their age, are generally lower than those in effect now for new cars, but owners of old cars may find the scale increased in some cases. The new scale becomes effective March 1, 1934, when new licenses will be obtained. In future, March 1 will be the license date for all cars.

On the Coast there is no provision for part-time licenses, but east of the Cascade Mountains, where many people do not use their cars in winter, an owner may get a rebate of 25 per cent. of his license fee if he returns his license plates on December 1 and does not take out a new license until the following March 1.

The new scale of fees runs as follows:

1500 lbs. or less	.....\$ 12
1501 lbs. to 2000 lbs.	..... 16
2001 lbs. to 3000 lbs.	..... 20
3001 lbs. to 4000 lbs.	..... 25
4001 lbs. to 5000 lbs.	..... 30
5001 lbs. to 6000 lbs.	..... 35
6001 lbs. to 7000 lbs.	..... 40
7001 lbs. to 8000 lbs.	..... 45
8001 lbs. to 9000 lbs.	..... 50
9001 lbs. to 10,000 lbs.	..... 55
10,001 lbs. to 11,000 lbs.	..... 60
11,001 lbs. to 12,000 lbs.	..... 65
12,001 lbs. to 13,000 lbs.	..... 70
13,001 lbs. to 14,000 lbs.	..... 75
14,001 lbs. to 15,000 lbs.	..... 80
15,001 lbs. to 16,000 lbs.	..... 85
16,001 lbs. to 17,000 lbs.	..... 90
17,001 lbs. to 18,000 lbs.	..... 95
18,001 lbs. to 19,000 lbs.	..... 100
19,001 lbs. to 20,000 lbs.	..... 105
20,001 lbs. to 21,000 lbs.	..... 110
21,001 lbs. to 22,000 lbs.	..... 115
22,001 lbs. to 23,000 lbs.	..... 120
23,001 lbs. to 24,000 lbs.	..... 125
24,001 lbs. to 25,000 lbs.	..... 130
25,001 lbs. to 26,000 lbs.	..... 135
26,001 lbs. to 27,000 lbs.	..... 140
27,001 lbs. to 28,000 lbs.	..... 145
28,001 lbs. to 29,000 lbs.	..... 150
29,001 lbs. to 30,000 lbs.	..... 155
30,001 lbs. to 31,000 lbs.	..... 160

Disorderly Houses Owned by One Member, He Tells House.

CHANGE ORDERED FOR NEXT WEEK

Another Vancouver Commissioner Convicted Twice.

VICTORIA, April 1.—After hearing a fierce attack by A. M. Manson, K.C., on two unnamed members of the Vancouver Police Commission, the Legislature on Friday ordered the form of the commission altered as soon as the necessary legislation is signed by the Lieutenant-Governor. On that day the present commission will be removed and police affairs placed in the hands of the mayor, a County Court judge selected by the government, and the magistrate.

The House made this decision after listening to a sensational speech by Mr. Manson, who charged that one of the members of the Vancouver Police Commission had been twice convicted in the police courts of Vancouver, and that another owned numerous houses of prostitution on Keefer and Union streets. Mr. Manson did not name the two commissioners, but said they were not Commissioners Wilkinson and Rush, two gentlemen of excellent character. To make these charges Mr. Manson took issue with his leader, T. D. Pattullo, who had moved that the new form of Police Commission should not come into effect until July 1. Mr. Pattullo, after hearing his colleague's attack on the Vancouver police administration, explained that he had proposed the delay at the telegraphic request of Mayor Taylor, and was quite indifferent as to the decision of the House in the matter. The vote to make the change in the form of the commission immediately was not recorded, the House being in committee at the time.

WORTHY OF SOME AMERICAN CITIES.

Mr. Manson recalled that he and his predecessor as attorney-general had experienced constant trouble with the Vancouver police situation. He told how the form of the police commission had been altered at his suggestion, so that the council could place police affairs in the hands of leading citizens. This had worked out satisfactorily at first, but lately the council, for unknown reasons, had appointed a police commission, so far as some members were concerned, that was worthy of some American cities he could mention.

One of the commissioners, he asserted, had been twice convicted in the Police Court of the city.

"What," he demanded, "are we to think when the council chooses a man to enforce the law who has been convicted twice? It was notorious."

OWNED HOUSES OF PROSTITUTION.

"I think I hold law and order reasonably dear to my heart," Mr. Manson went on. "Do the honorable members here know about the red-light district of Vancouver? What do I find?"

"Oh, oh," came from the other side of the House.

"I am a citizen of this province and I will speak what I know," Mr. Manson retorted sharply. "On Union street and Keefer street are houses of prostitution. What do I find? I find that one of the police commissioners owns property after property on these streets. I have the card of one of the inmates of one of those institutions and, by enquiry at the land registry office, I find that the house in question is owned by the police commissioner."

Mr. Manson recalled that the City Council originally had asked the Legislature this year to bring the new form of commission into effect on the Lieutenant-Governor's assent to the bill. Now, by a majority vote, it had decided to ask postponement until July 1.

"The mayor," he added, "voted repeatedly with the man who owned these houses and the other who had been convicted twice. The mayor was able to persuade the council to compromise on the date of July 1. I didn't tell my leader of these facts before the bill came up. If I had known that an amendment to postpone the date would be introduced, perhaps it would not have been brought up at all."

Mr. Manson made it clear that his charges did not refer to Commissioners Wilkinson and Rush, who, he said, were men of excellent character. The trouble with police administration, he added, was that police commissioners insisted on "sticking their noses into police affairs." He could see no possible harm resulting from the immediate change in the form of police commission, nor any reason why a commission of the present character should be continued any longer than necessary.

Mr. Pattullo said he was not advising the House one way or the other, but had simply acted as he felt bound to do, at the request of the mayor and City Council. No one could accuse him, he declared, of not being in support of law and order.

CITY MEMBERS FOR QUICK CHANGE.

J. W. Cornett of South Vancouver, who had favored the date of July 1, after listening to Mr. Manson, altered his view and agreed that the commission should be changed forthwith, a course which was also advocated by Col. Nelson Spencer of Vancouver.

Originally the Vancouver bill provided for the County Court judge to be a member of the Police Commission. At Attorney-General Pooley's suggestion this was altered to read a County Court judge to be named by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, because there are several County Court judges in Vancouver.

STERILIZATION IS APPROVED

Howe to Bring Down Legislation at Present Session.

LIFE THREATENED

VICTORIA, April 1.—The great majority of members of the Legislature are now in favor of the sterilization of the mentally unfit, it was indicated in the Legislature last evening. The matter was brought up when discussion of the estimates for the provincial secretary's department was proceeding.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, asked Hon. S. L. Howe if, in view of various statistics throughout the world, dealing on the subject, the government did not deem the time at hand for such legislation.

Mr. Howe agreed that the time was ripe for such a law and that this province must enact a measure to meet a serious situation. He asked the members of the House if they were ready for such enactment, reminding them that the Legislature had not yet prorogued.

LEGISLATE AT ONCE.

Mr. Pattullo arose and said the government should be responsible for all legislation and not try to hide behind the members. Hon. Mr. Howe then said he would take the matter up with the government immediately.

Dr. L. E. Borden, Conservative, Nelson, solicited support for the idea, stating he had advocated such a course for the past five years and had been sneered at. There were 2600 inmates at Essondale now. Sterilization, he explained, did not mean what the lay mind thought. There was no disabling. It merely prevented pro-creation.

Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, apologized for his opposition of the past five years and would support such a bill.

HOWE'S LIFE THREATENED.

Reginald Hayward, Conservative, Victoria, a member of the royal commission on mental hospitals, was strongly of the opinion that such legislation was imperative. Other sections of the world had adopted such a course and the results were highly satisfactory. Public opinion must be educated to the value of such a measure.

Mr. Howe informed the House that he had long been in favor of sterilization and his life had thrice been threatened on account of his advocacy.

It appears that the Premier and Mr. Pattullo have the very highest respect for each other at dog shows and prize fights.

Mr. A. M. Manson has lost one round of his fight with Mayor Taylor in the courts, but he has certainly evened it up in the House.

If the minister of finance has any luck, and things look up a bit, then we shall get through this year in British Columbia without running farther into debt. But even at that we may have to raid the poor old sinking funds. Our repentance at the end of the primrose path has come a little late in the day.

TOLM CLAS PAT

Leaders Exc Before H

NO NEWS REORG

"Pleasant Dog Fight Value F

VICTORIA, flushed fac Premier T Pattullo, oppos out their quarrr emment openly Legislature Fri clusion.

Mr. Pattullo nouncement of future plans an All he got was that he had not organization of he would call t seemed best fo finally that Mr no asset, but a government, tho pleasant compan or a dog fight.

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TOLMIE IN CLASH WITH PATTULLO

Leaders Exchange Rebukes Before Astonished House.

NO NEWS OF REORGANIZATION

"Pleasant Companion for Dog Fight, But of No Value Politically."

VICTORIA, April 1. — With flushed faces and bitter words, Premier Tolmie and T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader, fought out their quarrel over union government openly before a breathless Legislature Friday, but to no conclusion.

Mr. Pattullo demanded an announcement of the government's future plans and an early election. All he got was the Premier's reply that he had not yet considered reorganization of his cabinet, but when he asks me to go into union with him, well, I think the proceedings today indicate the wisdom of my decision in refusing his invitation. I refused his invitation with courtesy. He has not paid me the same courtesy that I paid him. I think this is a mistake.

This stinging rebuke to the man whom he asked into his cabinet just a week ago, brought Mr. Pattullo to his feet with the retort that the Premier's invitation to him evidently had been designed to trap the Liberal party, which he controlled. And if it had been accepted, he would have found himself carrying the Premier, who could not control his party, whose members were seething with revolt. It was now clear, Mr. Pattullo added, that union between him and the Premier would only nullify efforts to revive the province.

The Premier remarked significantly that Mr. Pattullo was not the first Liberal to refuse such an invitation, but such refusals had not meant the end of union government by any means.

This extraordinary passage-at-arms occurred when the vote for the Premier's office came up just before 6 o'clock. Mr. Pattullo asked the Premier when he proposed to undertake the promised reorganization of his government.

"Some time ago," the Premier replied, "I stated that I would undertake reorganization when the House rose. I will stick strictly to my programme and carry it out at that time."

"It is an extraordinary thing to ask this House to vote money for departments which may be wiped out later," Mr. Pattullo asserted.

PREMIER HAS NOT YET REORGANIZED.

"You can understand that, not having taken up the work of reorganization, it is impossible for me to tell you what changes will be made, because they have not been taken under consideration," the Premier stated. "Any money voted for departments subsequently eliminated will not be spent."

"I accept," said Mr. Pattullo icily, "the Premier's statement that he has no idea what he is going to do. I tell him that this country is in dire circumstances and in a perilous condition which no one realizes more than the minister of finance—unless it be me. The people are waiting for something to happen and something is going to happen. The Premier should announce when he proposes to hold a general election. It should be held forthwith, at the earliest possible date."

"There is something unrest in this Chamber in the Premier's own party. In this opposition, we have complete unanimity. I believe it is the duty of the Premier to tell us when there will be an election."

"That, sir," said the Premier sharply, "is the privilege held by the Premier and I propose to give it very careful consideration when the House rises and call an election when I consider it best for the country, regardless of party. The leader of the opposition says there is a lot of seething and boiling among the Conservative members. The votes in the House so far this session have not indicated anything of the kind."

"The opposition leader," he added trenchantly, "thinks he is held in great demand by the people of British Columbia. I want to tell him he is not in nearly such great demand as he thinks!"

"The Premier says this," Mr. Pattullo shot back, "yet he has been trying to get me to join him in his government!"

"Simply because you are head of a party—not as an individual!" the Premier exclaimed. "I don't think you are any advantage at all!" This was greeted by desk thumping from the Conservative benches and amid the din the Premier added: "In my attempt to create union I was bound to make application to you as leader of your party. Beyond that, I don't know whether it would be an advantage or not. I hold you personally in high esteem. If I were going to a horse race or a dog fight I could think of no better companion, but the people's memories are too clear on what you did in the past!"

"That," said Mr. Pattullo, "is an extraordinary statement. The Premier, then, has asked me into his government not because of my qualifications. I am no good—"

"No, no," interjected the Premier. "He asks me to associate with him in a union government," Mr. Pattullo went on, ignoring the interjection.

"I would not mind going to a dog fight with the Premier, either, but when he asks me to go into union with him, well, I think the proceedings today indicate the wisdom of my decision in refusing his invitation. I refused his invitation with courtesy. He has not paid me the same courtesy that I paid him. I think this is a mistake."

PATTULLO OF NO VALUE POLITICALLY.

"I'm sorry," said the Premier, "if I have done anything impolite. I always try to act as a gentleman. That is the universal rule of the ranch. But I may say that much greater Liberals than my friend have refused to go into union, but that didn't stop union at all. I have great respect for the opposition leader. But I don't think he would be any value to us politically. The people's memories are too clear as to your meanderings in the past."

"The Premier," Mr. Pattullo insisted, "wants my party's support, which he admits that I have. But he can not offer me the support of the Conservative party. He just wants me to take him. He doesn't control the Conservative party. The Conservative party will meet two weeks after the rising of the House to see if it likes his government. Wouldn't it have been fine if I had joined the Premier in union, taking with me this great body of Liberal thought, and I would have carried the Premier in my arms, and then the Conservative party would have said, 'I don't like the color of the horse.' There I would be carrying Dr. Tolmie. No wonder the people think this is getting to be a burlesque."

"He wouldn't carry me far," the Premier replied, "and if he started to, he would very soon put me down."

"Yes, I did!" Mr. Pattullo exclaimed, amid laughter.

"I asked the parties to join and put the province above politics," the Premier repeated.

"If I thought that union with the Premier would be for the benefit of the country," Mr. Pattullo declared, "I would join it." But he explained that this plan would not benefit the country, that its best interests would be served by the policies laid down

New Tory Leader And New Cabinet May Solve Crisis

J. W. Berry or Hon. J. W. Jones Favored For Premiership.

UNION PROSPECTS NOT VERY BRIGHT

Tolmie May Get Senatorship If Vacated By Gen. McRae.

VICTORIA, April 1.—Whatever comes out of the bubbling pot of politics, one thing is certain—the government of this province is about to undergo a complete reorganization, and that soon.

As Conservative members of the Legislature went home for the week-end, having virtually taken charge of the government in the last week, no one could tell what would happen on their return Monday. These, however, appear to be the possibilities:

1. A union with the Liberals under the leadership of T. D. Pattullo, though the hope of any union at all is admittedly small.
2. The formation of a new Conservative government under J. W. Berry of Delta, or Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance.
3. A continuance of the government under Premier Tolmie with a completely altered cabinet.

Unless the Conservative members change their minds the second course, the appointment of a new leader and a new cabinet, seems the most likely. This expectation emerges from a week of secret negotiation and upheaval, such as the capital has not known in a quarter of a century; a week, which, though it failed to produce a union government, still helped to clarify the situation somewhat.

TOLMIE MAY GET SENATORSHIP.

In the first place, it made clear, finally, the fact that Premier Tolmie will not allow himself to be an obstacle either to a union or to any satisfactory plan of campaign which the caucus desires. It is now understood definitely that if the caucus wants to strike on new lines he will retire. As General A. D. McRae is reported about to accept a new office in the Canadian National Railway, politicians are discussing this week-end the possibility of the Premier taking the senatorship if it is thus vacated. This, it is pointed out should be attractive to him, because of his uncertain health, which, many believe, make it impossible for him to undertake an onerous political campaign.

Secondly, the week showed that union between the Premier and Mr. Pattullo under the Premier's leadership is out of the question, as every competent observer had known from the start. But even in the face of angry passages between the parties in the House, the possibility of bringing them together was being explored more intensively than ever this week-end. The advocates of union, while discouraged, have not given up all hope, but they realize that if there is to be any union with Mr. Pattullo it will have to be under his leadership.

This is not objectionable to many Conservative members, or to about half the cabinet, but they want to be assured of reasonable terms of union. That is to say, they feel that if they accept Mr. Pattullo he should be prepared to meet the Conservative party half-way in the formation of a government.

UNION PROSPECTS ARE NOT BRIGHT.

Mr. Pattullo's views will be ascertained finally during the next few days so that, if they are unacceptable, the union programme may be abandoned entirely next week and the Conservative party may strike out on a new line for itself. At the moment the prospects of union, in any form, are not very bright.

It is just possible in the end that the confusion of the Conservative caucus and the difficulty of reaching any decision may leave the present ministry in office in greatly altered form. But Conservative members for the most part will tell you that this is out of the question, that the party is going to be reorganized before they go home, and if it is reorganized, they say, it must be under an entirely new government not committed to the present ministry in personnel or policy.

Opposed by the Liberal party and the Bower party, such a government, it is admitted frankly, probably could not carry the country, but it might elect a substantial group, which would be a power in the next House where, most Conservatives expect, there will be no clear majority for anyone, and out of which some form of union is bound to evolve.

Numerous compromise leaders to succeed the Premier have been discussed, Hon. R. R. Bruce, General Victor Odium, Leon J. Ladner, K.C., and J. W. deB. Farris, K.C., among others, but all have been rejected by the caucus.

In the House itself Mr. Berry still leads in caucus support, but some members are demanding Mr. Jones because of his recognized experience and ability. All other cabinet ministers' names have been gone over carefully and dropped.

Hon. R. W. Bruhn, minister of public works, is acceptable to many, but he will not go into any ministry which is purely Conservative. Unlike many others, he is sticking to his union government principles and, if there is no union, will probably run as an independent in Salmon Arm. The Bower party, of course, would welcome him and can logically argue that it offers him a place in the only non-partisan group in the province, if the Conservative party adheres to party lines.

Bill for Private Bridge at Ladner Ready for House

Government to Share Half Profits or Half Deficits.

COST \$2,600,000; EMPLOY 1000 MEN

Structure to Provide New Direct Route To United States.

VICTORIA, April 3.—Construction of a \$2,600,000 privately-owned highway toll bridge across the Fraser River, from Ladner to Woodward's Landing, will follow immediately on the passage of legislation to be introduced in the Legislature by Hon. R. W. Bruhn, minister of public works, today.

According to Leon J. Ladner, K.C., counsel for the Ladner Bridge Co., the new bridge will be constructed by Dorman Long & Co. of London, England, which built the great Sydney, Australia, bridge and many other of the largest bridges in Great Britain and Europe. A representative of the British interests has been on the Coast for some time.

Under the terms of the proposed agreement between the government and the Ladner Bridge Company, the government will share half the profits of the bridge, and if there is a deficit, will pay half of it.

In reckoning profit and loss of the bridge, the tolls will be expected to cover interest on the original investment, sinking fund and cost of maintenance and operation. Amounts earned above that will be shared equally between the government and the company. The government will have to pay half of any amount required to make up these costs.

GOVERNMENT IS PROTECTED.

If the government has to provide any money to meet a deficit in a certain year, the company will be obliged to repay this money out of the first profits it makes afterwards. As the company's bonds will run for thirty years, the government will have this period in which to recoup itself from profits for any deficits that may be incurred, Mr. Ladner pointed out.

The government is given restrictions and control over plans and cost of construction, toll charges and the operation and auditing of the bridge company.

Road improvements necessary to provide satisfactory highway approaches to the bridge will be undertaken by the government at a cost of about \$120,000, which expense will be borne from the profits of the bridge. The London interests are prepared to finance the road improvements and in return will be ready to accept government bonds. But this work, being apart from the bridge project itself will be open to public tender.

GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE OVER BRIDGE.

Provision is made in the bill for the acquisition of the bridge by the government after a period of years, if the government desires the structure.

The project will take two years to complete, employing from 1000 to 1500 men. The government estimates that there will be a saving in unemployment costs of about \$400,000 during the construction period. Without the bridge the government would have to build a new ferry.

In addition, the scheme will take

unnecessary heavy expenses required to rebuild the New Westminster bridge on which there is a load limit with frequent long delays and which, in its present condition is inadequate to handle the existing travel. This amounts now to about 2,700,000 cars a year.

NEW DIRECT ROUTE TO STATES.

The Ladner bridge will create a new direct tourist route from the United States into Vancouver. This route will run to Vancouver from the Peace Arch at Douglas and will have a maximum grade of only 4 per cent, as against 18 per cent. on the present route. It will join the new concrete highway built to Douglas by the Washington State government. The beautiful natural summer resorts in and around Boundary Bay, so advantageous for children, will become more readily accessible to Vancouver.

The tolls to be charged on the bridge are subject to the control of the government.

PROVINCE PAYS HALF DEFICIT.

The proposed legislation provides as stated that in case the revenues from tolls are insufficient in any year to cover at maturity the sums required to pay the interest on the loan, sinking fund and cost of maintenance and operation, the government shall pay to the company one-half of the deficit which might result, the company being obliged to pay the other half. This is a policy that has been followed by the government of Quebec for several years, but in that province they pay 75 per cent of the deficit, and it is claimed the policy has proven successful.

TRAFFIC SURVEY SATISFACTORY.

The department of public works at Victoria has already carried out such a traffic survey and investigation. The company states that an extensive traffic survey, conducted by one of the best highway engineers on the United States Pacific coast, disclosed a potential traffic three times that required to meet the interest on the bonds, sinking fund and cost of maintenance and operation.

B.C. LIQUOR SALES ON NEW BASIS

Cost of Permits to Be Reduced to 25 Cents.

PARLORS TO SELL BOTTLED BEER

Brewers Agree to Substantial Reduction In Price.

VICTORIA, April 3.—Beer sale and beer prices in British Columbia will be put on an entirely new basis and the cost of liquor permits will be reduced from \$2 to 25 cents under legislation planned by the government for immediate introduction in the Legislature.

The government's plans, as outlined officially today, are as follows:

1. There will be only one form of liquor permit in future costing 25 cents and good for one year for all kinds of purchases.
2. Beer parlors will be allowed to sell bottled beer corked for consumption elsewhere.
3. Beer will be delivered to homes in answer to telephone orders and paid for on a C.O.D. basis.
4. As a result of these changes brewers will give the government a substantial reduction in price, which will be handed down on to the consumer. Prices of beer in government stores thus will be scaled down considerably in the near future.

The new policy which has been developed after a year's investigation and consideration by W. F. Kennedy, liquor commissioner, is designed to meet modern price and merchandising conditions. The view of the government is that beer sales have fallen off not so much because people are drinking less but because they are making homebrew and using home-made wine or hard liquor. A reduction in prices for government beer, therefore, is considered essential in fairness to consumers and to prevent the drop in government revenues.

B. C. TO MEET U. S. COMPETITION.

Secondly a change is regarded as necessary in view of the altered liquor conditions in the United States. With beer and light wines selling in the United States, with virtually no restriction, British Columbia must offer new facilities for beer sale if it is to hold its tourist business, experts declare. It is felt that these changes must be made immediately here if a serious drop in tourist business is to be avoided.

Besides, under present conditions, many residents in rural British Columbia have to drive long distances to liquor stores to buy beer, though there are beer parlors close to their homes. These parlors are not allowed to sell beer for consumption elsewhere. The government feels that this arrangement is unfair to these people, illogical and not in the interests of temperance.

Under the new law all beer parlors will be able to display the sign: "Licensed Premises" to indicate that beer is sold there. At present they can only use the cryptic word, "Open," which is not understood by many visitors from places outside British Columbia.

RAPID PROGRESS WITH MANY BILLS

Several Measures Passed By House Ready for Lt.-Governor to Sign.

VICTORIA, April 4.—(CP)—Quick progress was made with bills in the final stage in the Legislature Monday afternoon, contentious points having been debated earlier in the session. A dozen or so bills passed final reading and await the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor to become law. The following bills were read a third time:

- Bills to amend the Diking Assessment Act
- Adjust Act 1905: an act respecting an agreement between the city of New Westminster, C. F. R. and B. C. Electric Railway Company, relating to the diversion of Columbia street, New Westminster; amendment to the Security Fraud Prevention Act; a bill to extend the duration of the Insurance (Temporary Provisions) Act 1932; Sales on Consignment Act; Supreme Court Act; sale and inspection of forest and fruit containers; Vancouver Incorporated Act 1921; Shaughnessy Heights Building Restriction Act 1922; a bill to amend the Village Municipalities Act was given second and third readings.
- Bills to amend the Small Debt Court Act, Municipal Elections Act, Municipalities Aid Act, an act to limit the borrowing powers under certain loan acts of the province, and an act respecting the Lower Mainland Dairies Products Sales Adjustment Committee were read a second time.
- Bills to amend the Forest Act, Mineral Act, Community Regulations Act and Public Libraries Act were reported.

B. C. Hospitals May Get Larger Grants, S. L. Howe Announces

VICTORIA, April 4.—(CP)—Further grants for hospitals was indicated when Hon. S. L. Howe, provincial secretary, asked that the grant of \$555,000 be stood over until further legislation was brought down. The grant was cut from \$820,000.

J. W. Cornett, Vancouver, hoped Messrs. Howe and Jones would give the matter the fullest consideration. He stated that over \$100,000 had gone out of British Columbia in Irish sweepstakes tickets and hoped when sweepstakes became lawful that the government would safeguard the public.

A. M. Manson saw no hope of sweepstakes becoming legal as Prime Minister Bennett was opposed to them.

Doukhobor Children to Be Placed in Doukhobor Homes, Says S. L. Howe

VICTORIA, April 4.—(CP)—Hon. S. L. Howe, provincial secretary, told the House that plans were afoot to place all Doukhobor children in Doukhobor homes. The matter came under discussion when the vote of \$40,000 was taken up in estimates.

A. M. Manson, Omnesca, said \$17.24 per month for the keep of a Doukhobor child seemed high, compared with \$16.10 a month for a woman with one child. Hon. Mr. Howe said the Doukhobors were being taken care of at minimum cost in institutions.

Drugless Healers' Bill Is Again Turned Down

VICTORIA, April 4.—(CP)—By two votes Thomas Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, was refused permission to bring before the Legislature a drugless healers bill, which sought to give them control of their own affairs, apart from the medical profession. Against the admission of the bill were Messrs. McKenzie, Bruhn, Beatty, Schofield, Hayward, Twigg, Alward, Gillis, Manson, Sutherland, Kergin, Wrinch, Lester, Borden, Kingston, Carson, Mackenzie and Fitzsimmons.

Those voting in favor were Premier Tolmie, Messrs. Pooley, Hinchliffe, Jones, Howe, Loughheed, MacIntosh, MacNaughton, Macpherson, Pearson, Hanne, King, Uphill, Rutledge, Lou-tet and Pattullo.

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Log of the House

VICTORIA, April 4.—The House came back after the week-end in its working clothes. It had smelled the full flavor of spring on Sunday, and his first whiff of warmth and growth is always fatal to a session. After that a session quickly dies, and it is a matter of what prodigies of labor this House can perform when it wants to go home for good.



All afternoon we howled along at a terrific pace, accomplishing much more business than we had done in all the preceding days. Gladly we accepted the position co-operated in pushing ahead bill after bill, for there is still a good deal to do, and just a possibility that we may not finish this week. It will depend, not on the House proceedings, but on the secret agonies of the Conservative caucus, which is trying to build new governments and rear new policies, and having a pretty miserable time generally.

But none of these things appeared on the surface. To look at the Premier you would never imagine that he is on the eve of a cabinet re-organization which may very well recognize him out of the cabinet along with his other colleagues. To look at the complete composure of Mr. Berry you would hardly suppose that a large part of the Conservative caucus, possibly a majority, is determined to make his Premier before the month is out. As for Mr. Pattullo, he seemed like a man whose only object in life was to help the government get the country's business completed and then to go fishing. And the private members gave a remarkably lifelike imitation of men who know what it is all about.

The first business of the day was to reject by a vote of 18 to 16 Mr. Uphill's effort to introduce a drugless healers' bill. After that, we plowed through acres of minor legislation. No one objected when Mr. Pooley got his bill past three readings at one swoop, instead of taking three days as usual. No one objected when Mr. Pooley put the House into committee, found that he had forgotten something or other, moved that the committee report progress, when there had been none, and went on with something else.

OUT OF SOETS.
The first sign of a fight came on the second reading of a bill which would extend the present moratorium on mortgage principal for one year. Mr. Pooley said that it would be unfair to investors to make the moratorium include interest, which many members desire, that the war-time moratorium had led to many abuses, and that he was feeling out of sorts and didn't want to be interrupted lest he lose his temper. Many a Conservative does not agree with Mr. Pooley and will have an opportunity to record his view at a later stage.

Mr. Jones lunged boldly into the realm where angels fear to tread when he asked passage of his bill which takes the municipalities' share of betting taxes away from them, the first item in the government's intended raid on municipal treasuries. But at the same time Mr. Pooley was introducing a bill to compensate them somewhat by allowing the municipalities to waive their sinking fund provisions for this year.

Mr. Pattullo opposed Mr. Jones' plan, said nothing of the sort should be done without a full enquiry, called the government's plan for a royal commission simply a blind, which would leave responsibility for action on the next government, and divided the House. Only Mr. Loutet broke the solid Conservative phalanx, Mr. Dick and Mr. Walkem, who voted with the Liberals, having been written off by the government as a total loss long ago.

Mr. Pattullo objected also to Mr. Jones' bill which winds up a number of rag ends of old outstanding powers to borrow money, which were not used in the past. He objected to this summary end of the fund created by the Liberal government for industrial loans; and Mr. Pearson remarked pointedly that the government, having refused to abolish the industries department, despite the public accounts committee's recommendation for five years, had made what industrial loans it liked and now proposed to prevent its successors from doing anything of the sort. What Mr. Pattullo had in mind in demanding the retention of the power to borrow about \$1,000,000 for industrial undertakings he did not say. It might be necessary for "exigencies," was his cryptic explanation.

ABOUT MILK.
The only spirited argument of the day centred around Mr. Berry's bill which protects the committee of the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act from legal suits for enforcing that defunct statute. Mr. Loutet led a fierce attack on it, said it was "an act to protect the receivers of stolen goods" and rallied nine others to his support. But with Mr. Pattullo warmly backing Mr. Berry, the protecting act passed with twenty-nine affirmative votes and thus ended, in rather melancholy style the most radical legal experiment in the modern history of the province.

There was sign of future trouble just before dinner time when Mr. Pattullo demanded consideration of the opposition motion which calls for details of a certain large government bond transaction a few months ago. The Premier said Mr. Jones, who was absent, did not think it in the public interest to reveal these facts. Instantly Mr. Pattullo was ready to denounce this secrecy, for the opposition evidently sees something funny in the transaction, but he was not allowed to speak at this stage. We have not heard the last of it, however.

In the evening the tempo was slower. It took over an hour to put through one small item of supply, relating to the administration of mothers' pensions. Nearly everyone seemed to have ideas about mothers' pensions, and the opposition evidently considers its protest against the government's handling of these allowances as a major point of attack. Mr. Manson presented with vigor the Liberal viewpoint that the government is systematically whittling down mothers' pensions by bringing hardship on many deserving families and generally evading the spirit of the pension law. This Provincial Secretary Howe denied, and also that there had been any political tinge in his appointment of women who investigate pensions applications. Colonel Spencer uttered his former warning that British Columbia can not afford the luxuries of social legislation enjoyed by the richer provinces of Ontario and Quebec, but when he said we were heading straight for a provincial receivership, Mr. Pattullo seized the opportunity to announce Liberal policy. He said there would never be any receiver so far as he was concerned, that the power of the people was paramount, and that Colonel Spencer was using phraseology which he didn't understand. This was the Pattullonian and parliamentary way of saying he didn't know what he was talking about.

Justice, said Mr. Pattullo, must be tempered with mercy, the able horse must carry the load, and the able horse was the collective power of the people through government. To which the government listened without much comment, having its own views and being anxious chiefly to get the business of the session transacted.

Mr. Uphill was the only bright spot of the evening, with his racy description of the lady visitors who administer mothers' pensions. God bless the ladies, said Mr. Uphill; he loved them all—except these visitors with their "virtuous, vindictive look of girls that have never been tempted."

There was a brief flash of excitement when Mr. Pattullo demanded details of government well-known

F. G. E. sale negotiations, which the Premier firmly declined to reveal. He said he was dealing with large, reliable firms in London and New York, but premature publication of their names and plans would be damaging. When Mr. Pattullo opined that the government's great F. G. E. bubble had already burst, the Premier said Mr. Pattullo was something of an authority on such bubbles, having blown many in his time, one just before the last election, which had burst with a loud report as soon as the poll was over. Mr. Pattullo retorted that the old government had been sponsoring a worthwhile scheme and that there was no use the government co-operating with anyone who was not co-operating with the two big Canadian railways. And we got no real information about the F.G.E.

When the House was adjourned some time before midnight, it was with the consciousness of work well done and a feeling that it would be done by next week-end.

DAIRY OFFICIALS GET PROTECTION

Bill Safeguards Committee Against Threatened Litigation.

VICTORIA, April 4.—Members of the committee which administered the defunct Fraser Valley Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act will be protected from threatened legal suits, as a result of the Legislature's decision Monday. It passed by a vote of 29 to 10 a bill sponsored by J. W. Berry, of Delta, under which no such suits can be brought against the committee.

This followed a vigorous debate. After Mr. Berry had explained the need of the bill, Jack Loutet, Conservative of North Vancouver, denounced it as "an act to protect the receivers of stolen goods." He declared the original act had been passed, though neither party would sponsor it, because each was afraid of the farmer's vote. It had been a complete failure, had lost the farmers over \$1,000,000 and had disorganized the whole dairy industry.

Certainly the House should not validate the illegal acts of the committee, he said, until government auditors had checked all the disbursements had all been according to the act. He wondered especially who had paid for the legal test of the act before the Privy Council, and observed that the committee's auditors were of the same firm which audited the books of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association. Mr. Loutet moved to give the Berry bill a year's hoist. W. R. Rutledge, Conservative of Burnaby, said the act had simply taken the profits of many dairymen who could not afford to pay levies to the pool, and now they were on unemployment relief.

It was unthinkable to A. M. Manson, K.C., Liberal of Omineca, that men who had carried out the will of the Legislature, should be exposed to legal suits personally, but H. D. Twigg, Conservative of Victoria, explained that the committee had continued to enforce the act after the lower courts had rejected it, and had made no accounting for the money illegally spent.

Having carried out the milk act in good faith, the committee should be protected for all its work within the terms of that statute, said T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader, a view supported by Colonel Nelson Spencer, Conservative of Vancouver, but opposed by G. A. Walkem, Vancouver Independent.

In the end only Mr. Rutledge, L. A. Hanna, William Dick, T. W. Cornett, J. R. Mitchell, Dr. E. W. Alward, G. A. Walkem, Reginald Hayward and H. D. Twigg supported Mr. Loutet's attempt to kill the Berry bill.

New Tax On Meals To Aid Hospitals

VICTORIA, April 4.—All public meals in British Columbia costing more than 50 cents will be taxed by the Provincial Government at the rate of 5 per cent, and the resulting revenue will be handed over to the hospitals of the province.

NO PENSIONS FOR ONE-CHILD MOTHERS

Matter of Payment Completely Within Discretion Of Committee.

VICTORIA, April 4.—(CP)—Administration of the Mothers' Pension Act came in for sharp criticism in the Legislature on Monday evening, when Liberals quoted William Manson, superintendent of the department handling this branch of social service, as saying that he was following out the rule that a woman with one child was ineligible to mothers' pension unless she was unable to work.

Liberal members claimed the "visitors" were political friends of the administration. A. M. Manson, Omineca, said it would be advisable to leave Miss Charlotte Whitton in Ontario with her assistant; that any woman in B. C. with children could perform the duties equally competent as the eastern ladies who investigated the administration of the act here some time ago.

Hon. S. I. Howe, provincial secretary, claimed many women had been receiving aid who were not entitled to it. Severely women had been struck off the list aided during the year. Wells Gray, New Westminster, cited one case where a woman with a child was told to go on relief, and had to. Another instance was where a woman with seven children was out from \$72.50 to \$85 a month. Dr. J. J. Gillis, Yale, quoted a letter instructing all women with one child to be medically examined.

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, minister of education, stated that no woman had a right to a pension under the law. It was left to the entire discretion of the committee administering the act. The policy was an old one, and was in force under the Liberal government.

T. D. Pattullo—What is a woman with the child to do if she is cut off from the pension? You merely tell her to go and rustle. That is what it amounts to.

Tom Uphill—Ferne would rather have men investigators than women.

Moratorium On Mortgage Is Extended

Pooley Turns Down Plan To Include Taxes In Scheme.

VICTORIA, April 4.—(CP)—Extension for one year of the bill passed at the last session providing for a moratorium on mortgage payments, where the court approved, was called for in a bill before the Legislature for second reading. Attorney-General Pooley explained the bill extends the provision to thirty days after the termination of the next session with one extra provision; it gave a judge power to reopen a case after an extension had been given when the conditions might be changed. The mortgagor might secure a job after the extension had been granted, and be able to pay up.

Mr. Pooley mentioned many suggestions had been offered on the subject, including a moratorium should include taxes and interest. He had an estimate made of the small mortgages of \$3000 and under in the province, and they amounted to \$40,000,000. If those small investors were deprived of the use of their interest many of them would be forced on the unemployed list, he believed. Sixty days after the passage of the legislation last year, one old-established firm in the province lost \$250,000 of British money that was called back to England. Mr. Pooley also asked what would happen to the municipalities if taxes were included. There would be people who could well pay who would take advantage of such a moratorium.

ESS Y BILLS

Passed for Lt.-Sign.

(CP)—Quick bills in the future Monday points having the session. A final reading of the Lieutenancy bill, to become law, is read a third time.

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...Dairies Products...
...read a second...
...Mineral Act...
...Public Libraries...

...the end, of course, not on the House proceedings, but on the secret agonies of the Conservative caucus, which is trying to build new governments and rear new policies, and having a pretty miserable time generally.

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...To look at the complete composure of Mr. Berry you would hardly suppose that a large part of the Conservative caucus, possibly a majority, is determined to make his Premier before the month is out.

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A Bridge at Ladner

THE news from Victoria that the Ladner bridge is to become an actuality within two years is one of the best pieces of news that has come out of the capital in many a weary day. It would have been good news anytime during these several years, but is particularly opportune at this time when, as a community, we appear to be at the bottom of a trough of despondency and need something to pull us out.

The arguments in favor of a bridge across the main arm of the Fraser are well known. The bridge would make a large and fruitful area of the Delta more easily accessible to Vancouver. It would bring the Pacific Highway into Vancouver by an alternative and shorter route. It would relieve the congestion on the bridge at New Westminster, which ceased years ago to answer all the needs of a traffic artery across the Fraser.

Undoubtedly we could get along without the Ladner bridge for a time by putting up with the inconveniences we have known in the past—and we shall have to get along without it during the two years before it is ready for use. But, under the circumstances, there seems to be no good reason why action should be deferred. The province is required to assume certain liabilities in connection with the bridge, but these liabilities are not great and the benefits promised are substantial—benefits from the bridge itself, benefits from the expenditure of \$2,600,000, quite largely in the vicinity, and a saving in unemployment costs during the period of construction estimated at \$400,000.

We are still in the great depression, and for that reason there will, no doubt, be a serious shaking of heads in various quarters against the very idea of undertaking a project like the Ladner bridge. It has been apparent for a considerable time, however, that if we are not to remain in the depression indefinitely, we must take some steps to dig ourselves out. Australia is already on the way out. Great Britain, after a period of economizing until it hurt, is turning to a campaign of active construction and betterment. In the United States, as soon as the means can be found of financing them, important public works will be undertaken with a view to absorbing unemployment. Canada can not continue to lag behind.

The Ladner bridge project comes right to British Columbia's hand. If the province had to undertake the financing itself, the government would undoubtedly hesitate. The budget could not stand additions, and it is doubtful if a provincial bond issue could be floated on a satisfactory basis. But, under the plan offered, these difficulties are swept aside.

Doing Better About Beer

THE Liquor Control Board of British Columbia has seen a new light about the sale and consumption of beer, and the government proposes putting into effect a new set of regulations. Henceforth only one sort of permit will be necessary for the purchase of beer, wine or spirits in the Government Liquor Stores, and the price of it will be 25 cents a year. Beer parlors will be allowed to sell bottled beer for consumption off the premises as well as on. Beer will be delivered to homes on telephone call, and sold for cash on delivery. Beer parlors will be permitted to display the sign, "Licensed Premises," outside their doors. Beer will be lower in price.

We suppose there will be adverse criticism of this new policy about beer—but we also suppose that an angel could not descend from heaven and make regulations about beer to which someone would not object. On the whole, we think the Control Board and the government are to be commended. Surely the right way to view the regulation of liquor in this province is that the government has a mandate from the citizens neither to encourage unduly nor to prohibit unduly the consumption of strong drink, but to permit it and to provide for it under reasonably decent and orderly conditions. As far as beer is concerned, the new regulations seem to fulfill this principle rather better than the old; and to whatever extent they are calculated to do that, we can see no valid objection to them.

We can see no good reason, if beer drinking is lawful and respectable at all, why beer drinkers should not be able to buy a bottle or two of beer, to carry away with them as they want it, in the licensed beer houses. The new beer regulations, as they seem likely both to discourage resort to the bootlegger and to hard liquor, are demonstrably more sensible than the old, and ought therefore to be better business, in every decent sense, for the people of this province.

We are glad to note also that at least the government seems to have made up its mind to be a little more honest and a little less absurd about the existence of these licensed beer houses which are still so absurdly known as "beer parlors." If we are going to license houses for the sale and consumption of beer, on and off the premises, why in the name of all common sense and honesty shouldn't we permit those places to display a more descriptive sign than the silly and mysterious "Open"? Why, indeed, shouldn't the Control Board go as far in good sense as Quebec has gone in this business, and permit these places to style themselves in the good old name of "taverns"? And why shouldn't the lawful beer drinker be permitted to get his crust of bread and cheese or his slice of cold beef with his glass of beer?

Mr. Jones, finance minister of British Columbia, looks upon the municipal grants from the provincial treasury as hand-outs. Mr. Rhodes, finance minister of Canada, might be disposed to look on the subsidies to the provinces in the same light. The difference is that the subsidies are constitutional and Mr. Rhodes could not change them, however much he wished. The municipal grants, on the other hand, can be varied or cut off by the Legislature.

HEAVY TRUCKS TO PAY HEAVIER FEE

Commercial Vehicles Take Bigger Toll of B. C. Roads, Says Pooley.

VICTORIA, April 24.—(CP)—Heavy trucks in British Columbia will pay a substantial increase but many lighter cars will pay less under the new system of paying automobile licenses by weight, Attorney-General Pooley said in the Legislature today during second reading of the bill to amend the Motor Vehicle Act.

Mr. Pooley's mind trucks which took a heavy toll of the public roads, should pay more than called for in the new scale. One truck alone over the Cariboo did 17,000 miles in one year. Giving comparisons, Mr. Pooley showed a 7500-pound car in British Columbia paid \$90, in Quebec \$190, and in Saskatchewan \$228.

Mr. Pooley explained the bill provided for part year license beyond the extent stated in the press Saturday, when it was stated licenses for new cars could be taken out at any month during the year. This provision also

applies to new licenses on any car when the owner does not take out his license when they are first issued, which in future will be March 1. A difference is made east of the Cascades where, on account of snow, an owner who takes out his license at the beginning of the year may receive a rebate if he turns in his license plates and stores his car during November or December.

Some larger brands of old cars will have to pay more because no depreciation allowance will be written off in future. A new fee for light cars of \$12 had been set where they formerly paid \$16.50. There were 786 cars in the province which would come under that class. Cars of from 1500 lbs. to 2000 lbs. which now paid an average license of \$18.91 would pay \$15; in the class of 2000 to 3000 there was a small increase. The average license paid now was \$19.73. The new fee would be \$20.

PARI-MUTUEL GRANT TAKEN FROM CITIES

Bill Read Second Time as Pattullo Makes Vigorous Protest.

VICTORIA, April 4.—(CP)—A bill brought down by Finance Minister Jones, eliminating the pari-mutuel grants to municipalities, was given second reading by 24 votes to 15.

Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie; Jack Loutet, Conservative, North Vancouver; George A. Walkem and William Dick, Vancouver, Conservatives, voted with the Liberals against second reading of the measure.

The province had turned over to municipalities \$53,000,000 in the last eleven years, stated Mr. Jones, \$7,000,000 being their share last year. With falling revenues, it was found impossible to continue them to such an extent.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, retorted that one would think the municipalities were receiving charity. The money was actually earned in the municipalities, but without consulting the cities, the government autocratically took grants away and placed additional burdens upon the larger centres. A royal commission to investigate the situation was promised, but this was only a fact-finding body and could do no good. Relations between the Federal and Provincial and municipal governments were rapidly coming to the fore and the crisis had not yet been reached, he said.

G. E. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, supported Mr. Pattullo, saying elimination of grants was extremely unfair inasmuch as much of the revenues were obtained from cities, now being deprived of aid.

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Log of the House

We Get into the Dying Hours And, According to Old Custom, Grow More Lively than Ever—With a Blizzard of Last-minute Legislation—A Wrangle Over Bonds—And Another Diverting Interlude Between the Premier and Friend Pattullo.

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

VICTORIA, April 5.—As is the immemorial custom of this Legislature and the invariable habit of the government, the real business of this session is only becoming apparent now that the session is almost over. After weeks of interesting abstractions, the House will proceed to do all its concrete business between now and the end of the week at break-neck speed. But don't imagine that the weeks of abstractions have been useless. They have served the supremely useful purpose of tiring the House out, exhausting all its early protests, making it ready to pass everything without much trouble, in what we call the dying hours.



The dying hours began on Tuesday and the dying-hour atmosphere was heavy upon everything. But there was still a look of abstraction on the face of the Conservative delegation, for it knew that, just below the surface, the old volcano still heaved and rumbled, that besides the business of the House it had to decide in the next four days the fate of the government and the Conservative party.

Many a hotel bedroom conference, many a caucus, many a quiet word to the wise in the corridors marked the secret agonies of the Conservative delegation as it strove to build from the ground up a new government to replace the present one.

But as it still floundered, still looked in vain for a leader, still hoped for an agreement with Mr. Pattullo, the Conservative caucus did not show much more direction in its efforts than the government's lack of that very quality. Still, under the surface of the formal House proceedings, events were going forward, members were vowing that they would never return home, without a clear-cut policy and a new government, an egg of some sort was evidently in process of incubation.

FAR-AWAY LOOK.

You could not wonder, however, that the Conservative benches were a far-away look, even under stiff jolts from the opposition, which claims to have no worries of any sort, which says it is serene in its unsullied principles, which generously asks nothing more than election to office by a big majority. The first jolt came on Mr. Pearson's motion asking the government to reveal details of its last unhappy loan of \$4,000,000.

Finance Minister Jones, with the proper ministerial solemnity, did not think it in the public interest to reveal these facts, as the loan hadn't all been sold yet (though it has been on the market for months). The first opposition thrust came from Dr. Winch, whose cool, analytical and passionless remarks are often more effective than the poisoned arrows of the chief warriors.

Dr. Winch just couldn't see why the House shouldn't be told about the country's business, and observed with perfect equanimity that the government's silence about its bond deal raised the question whether there was something sinister about it. Nor could he understand why B. C. bonds

were selling at an interest rate 1.7 per cent. higher than Quebec's simultaneous issue, selling indeed to yield 6.69, couldn't be sold. Perhaps, he suggested, investors were not eager to loan money for old deficits, to pay for a dead horse. Well, Dr. Winch hoped there wasn't anything sinister in the loan, like secret commissions, and even this drew nothing from the Sphinx of the Treasury.

Mr. Pattullo was not so kind, as you would expect. He indicated that he had curbed his tongue until now lest he should be accused, in discussing governmental financing, of injuring the country's credit. But now it was time the House knew what was wrong when the government couldn't sell its bonds at an extraordinarily high interest rate. He finally asked Mr. Jones point-blank if it were true, as he had been told, that many responsible firms would not bid on the loan because the government had tied itself to another group, which demanded a commission on any bonds sold.

Mr. Jones looked at Mr. Pattullo amiably with another brilliant flash of silence. Evidently, however, the government feels that the bond business has got to be discussed and explained, for Mr. Hinchliffe adjourned the debate. He can discuss and explain more ably than any man in the House.

CAME THE STORM.

Next followed a veritable blizzard of legislation, nearly all the big bills of the session, on liquor, on taxation, on hospital finance on the budget proposals generally, ten potential statutes in all.

Captain Fitzsimmons scored another of his simple triumphs when he secured unanimous passage of a resolution calling on Canadian delegates to the World Economic Conference to work for the stabilization of silver prices. The captain, in a typical speech, told what stabilized silver prices would mean to British Columbia, and described efforts in various parts of the world to put silver mining on its feet.

Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Jones enjoyed another little spat—and how they do enjoy them!—over the bill which winds up the industries department and gives out the authority to make industrial loans. Mr. Jones frankly didn't trust government and political parties with this money and feared more losses.

Mr. Pattullo said Mr. Jones had evidently lost all confidence in government, which he didn't consider surprising, after all that had happened lately. He tried to lure Conservative members by saying that he would not consider defeat of Mr. Jones' plan the defeat of the government, but this constitutional bait attracted nobody. The industrial loan fund was closed up, and Mr. Pattullo retorted, "That's fine for union government!" This cryptic remark we could not interpret, but we all knew that nothing

lately has been fine for union government, that union government is at death's door, slain, or almost slain, by its friends.

There was another long argument in committee over the law protecting the Fraser Valley milk committee from legal suits. Mr. Berry took the opportunity to deliver an extremely able defense of that experiment, which, he said, had been a success in fact if not in law. Mr. Berry's protective bill passed finally over Mr. Loutet's undying protest.

STRANGE INTERLUDE.

In the evening the Premier and Mr. Pattullo resumed, in a mild way, the feud which they started last week. It was all over the work of Tom Coventry as fruit commissioner in London, a post to which he was appointed in the opinion of Mr. Pattullo, because he gave up his seat in Saanich to the Premier. The Premier sat back and coaxed Mr. Pattullo to say something he would regret and kept repeating "Come on with it." Mr. Pattullo, somewhat annoyed, protested against an unseemly wrangle, a colloquy between the Premier and him, but this only made the Premier more belligerent. Looking squarely at Mr. Pattullo, he said he had appointed Mr. Coventry on his merits, that he owed him nothing for the Saanich seat, which he had secured in full con-

vention. And now Mr. Coventry was doing well.

All this drew from Mr. Pattullo the solemn warning that we could not afford such luxuries as Mr. Coventry, that we were "on the brink" financially and that the worst was yet to come. The government, indeed, had brought in estimates, knowing full well it wouldn't have to provide the money, since it was going out of office, at which Mr. Hinchliffe laughed, but rather sadly. The Premier retorted boldly that Mr. Pattullo was the worst prophet he had ever seen, having prophesied certain victory for himself and his party in 1928 and been "kicked out of his boots." Mr. Pattullo observed that he still had his boots and was not impressed with the Premier's prediction that he would never wear them in office.

DAIRY BILL PASSES UNDER HEAVY FIRE

Mover Denies Dealers Are Deprived of Their Rights.

VICTORIA, April 5. — (CP)—The bill indemnifying the Lower Mainland Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Committee against suits for recoveries of assessments against independent milk producers of the Fraser Valley passed third reading in the Legislature, with several members on the government side of the House making caustic criticisms.

Jack Loutet, North Vancouver, said the bill meant that the Legislature was taking away from small dealers all means of redress for money improperly taken from them. The House should take a year and find out where the illegally collected levies went. The government should put in its own auditors and see that everything was straight. The bill before the House cleared the committee of misappropriating funds, if it had done so.

J. W. Berry, Delta, claimed Mr. Loutet had made statements not in accordance with the facts. After the first court decision, which found the act ultra vires, the committee had stopped compulsory collection of levies and only voluntary contributions were made. If any dealer had felt he had been unjustly dealt with, he had had nine months in which to secure redress from the courts.

George A. Walkem, Vancouver, said the House was putting out of court a lot of milk dealers who suffered through compulsory collections.

Mr. Berry returned that all contributions were voluntary after the first court decision.

Mr. Loutet charged that North Vancouver milkmen were billed and threatened when they could not be assessed. It was confiscatory legislation.

W. E. Rutledge, Burnaby, charged that milkmen in his district went out of business when the act went into force, because they could not afford the levies. Why should the committee come to the Legislature and have the House take away the rights of the oppressed?

Mr. Walkem thought the committee should go to the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association for indemnity and not attempt to put the independent in a position where they could not obtain redress.

H. D. Twigg, Victoria, said the money unquestionably had been collected illegally and there was no reason for the House to give the committee protection.

Hon. N. S. Lougheed, minister of lands, was the only member who spoke in support of Mr. Berry.

Corporations Must Furnish Share Lists To Tax Commissioner

VICTORIA, April 5.—(CP)—A bill to amend the Income Tax Act introduced in the House compels every corporation to furnish to the commissioner of taxation a return of all dividends and bonuses paid to its shareholders or members during the last preceding calendar year. This return must be made on or before the last day of February in each year.

B. C. Loan Boycotted By Financial Houses, Liberal Leader Says

VICTORIA, April 5.—(CP)—The loan of \$4,000,000 put out by the Provincial Government in February was only half sold on March 1, and it would not be in the public interest to table correspondence connected with the flotation, Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance, told the Legislature. Delicate negotiations were still pending and, if he were to make details public, it might be construed as a breach of confidence.

Dr. H. C. Winch, Liberal, Skeena, said that while B. C. was paying 6.79 per cent, Quebec at the same time had floated an issue at 4.60, and this province would be paying over a million and a half dollars more for the loan than the eastern province. B. C. was borrowing to pay money already spent, claimed Dr. Winch.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, said the blue ruin talk of the government was doing harm. He had purposely refrained from severe criticism of the government on its bond flotation in order to save embarrassment, but asked if it was not a fact that responsible firms refused to handle the issue because they would have to pay a commission to one special agent of the government. The opposition and the public had the right to know the truth about this loan.

Hon. J. Hinchliffe adjourned the debate.

COURT ACTION ON MORTGAGES URGED

William Dick Proposes Amendment to Mortatorium Bill.

VICTORIA, April 5.—William Dick, Independent, of Vancouver, prepared today to divide the Legislature on his proposal to leave the payment of mortgage principal and interest to the courts. Mr. Dick is giving notice of a motion amending the Mortatorium Bill now before the Legislature under which the courts would consider all phases of every mortgage which came before them and decide what amount the borrower could pay, both on interest and principal. The bill before the House now only allows the postponement of principal payments and does not affect interest.

Mr. Dick, with wide support, insists that the courts should have complete power over mortgage payments in cases of distress. He is encouraged by the statement of Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe in the House Tuesday, that he believed in the principle of wide court discretion. It is expected that this issue, of vital concern to thousands of home owners all over the province, will come to a vote tonight or Thursday.

Pattullo's Plea For Loans to Industries Is Rejected by House

VICTORIA, April 5.—(CP) — On straight party vote in the Legislature, T. D. Pattullo's amendment to retain the sum of \$1,000,000 in the loan acts of the province for the department of industries was defeated. Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance, thought it better to get rid of the sum. The province has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in bad loans.

Mr. Pattullo commented that the industries department was brought into being to aid returned men, and said that the present government had made bad loans. The present situation was comparable to that of 1920, when thousands of returned soldiers were thrown back into civilian life. He thought that, if the Liberal policy adopted at the last convention of permitting members freedom of voting action without unseating a government, except on a no-confidence motion, were in force, many members on the government side would support him.

Pooley Defends Police Action During Anyox Strike

Attorney-General Exhibits to House Weapons Used By Strikers.

Kergin Says Foreigners Got Jobs Because They Took Low Wages.

VICTORIA, April 5.—(CP)—A dozen lengths of weighted rubber hose and a couple of steel drills were produced by Attorney-General Pooley in the Legislature last night as samples of the weapons which striking miners carried as they marched into Anyox during the recent strike there.

In a lengthy debate on the subject, Attorney-General Pooley's reference to 400 armed miners, mostly foreigners, was scored by H. F. Kergin, Liberal member for Atlin, who said the fifteen weapons produced were no evidence that 400 miners were armed. Mr. Pooley's declaration that foreigners must obey Canadian laws drew fire from other members, who said corporations had invited Southern Europeans and other foreigners to come into the country, given them jobs in preference to English-speaking workmen, because they thought they were more docile and would work for lower wages. These firms must shoulder the responsibility themselves, the members claimed.

DEFENDS POLICE.

The debate arose when the vote of \$604,969 for the provincial police was under consideration. Attorney-General Pooley lauded the efficiency of the force and defended their actions during the strike, which had been criticized on a previous occasion by the member for Atlin. A small force of eighteen men had dealt with 400 armed miners. He produced the weapons and asked if they would be carried by peaceful strikers, as Mr. Kergin had called them.

The miners were also equipped with miners' helmets better than the steel helmets used during the war, he said, and planned to march to the town and take control. They threatened to throw a police officer over the bridge. Mr. Pooley produced photographs of the bridge and weapons.

84 PER CENT. FOREIGN.

Eighty-four per cent. of the men had foreign names, the attorney-general proceeded, and some of those with British and Scotch names could not speak a word of English. They changed their names to shield themselves from the police.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, took issue on this point, remarking that because a few men with foreign names had taken more license than they should, it was not a right attitude for the police to look with suspicion on all foreigners.

Had the miners gone the right way about things and applied to the minister of labor they might have secured a peaceful settlement of their dispute, Mr. Pooley said. But secret organization was carried on, and when a man named Bracey, said to be one of the worst agitators in the country, arrived, it only needed a spark to create trouble.

The presence of the fishing patrol boat was explained. Mr. Pooley said it happened to be in the district and he ordered it to stay there in case the police needed it.

ORGANIZED BY REDS.

Hon. W. A. McKenzie, minister of labor, said he sent his deputy minister to the scene. The main problem was that the price of copper was so low the company did not care whether it operated or not. The department of labor was not consulted by the men. The red element got in and organized the strike.

The deputy minister of labor had made a sympathetic report, said Pooley, who admitted that the men had grievances that could have been adjusted by the department of labor, had an opportunity been given. Mr. McKenzie also added that it was just possible conditions at Anyox could have been improved. Had there been closer co-operation between the men and company the strike might have been averted.

The minister of labor had a good word to say about the Granby Company, which had kept going for many months at Allenby, and Copper Mountain, notwithstanding the loss of \$22,000 a month. Of foreign capital in Canada, 61 per cent. was American, 35 per cent. British, and 4 per cent. other countries, stated the minister.

Tax On High Incomes Made Retroactive

May Apply to Any One Year Prior to September, 1932.

VICTORIA, April 5.—A bill providing for a surtax on higher incomes called for in the budget speech of Hon. J. W. Jones was brought down in the Legislature yesterday.

The new scale provides for a tax of one per cent. on incomes in excess of \$5000 a year and under \$7500; two per cent. on incomes from \$7500 to \$10,000; three per cent. from \$10,000 to \$12,500; four per cent. from \$12,500 to \$15,000; five per cent. from \$15,000 to \$17,500; six per cent. from \$17,500 to \$20,000; seven per cent. from \$20,000 to \$22,500; eight per cent. from \$22,500 to \$25,000; nine per cent. from \$25,000 to \$27,500; ten per cent. from \$27,500 to \$30,000; eleven per cent. from \$30,000 to \$32,500; twelve per cent. from \$32,500 to \$35,000; thirteen per cent. from \$35,000 to \$37,500; fourteen per cent. from \$37,500 to \$40,000; fifteen per cent. from \$40,000 to \$42,500; sixteen per cent. from \$42,500 to \$45,000; seventeen per cent. from \$45,000 to \$47,500, and eighteen per cent. on all incomes in excess of \$47,500.

The tax is made retroactive to incomes earned in any year which may have ended as early as September, 1932. An eight per cent. penalty is provided for tardy payments.

Another clause reads as follows: "Where the minister is of the opinion an accumulation of undivided and undistributed gains and profits of that corporation shall be deemed to be taxable income of the taxpayer, the minister may direct to what amount and in what fiscal year of the taxpayer the same shall be taxable."

Sinking Fund Used For Relief May Be Validated

VICTORIA, April 5.—The Legislature will be asked by the government to validate the action of former-Besse Fritchard of Burnaby and municipal officials in using sinking funds for unemployment relief purposes.

The government, after deciding not to approve this action, has now given notice of a bill which will free Mr. Fritchard and his colleagues from any possible penalty.

Mr. Justice Murphy declared, in trying a case which arose out of the transaction, that the officials had committed only a technical offense and that their act should be made legal. This House is expected to follow the court's view.

Conservative Members Ask Showdown From Tolmie

Private Conference Held With Premier to End Political Confusion.

General Victor Odlum In Conference With Tory Caucus at Victoria.

VICTORIA, April 5.—Conservative members of the Legislature met Premier Tolmie in a private conference today to demand definite action to end the present political confusion and uncertainty.

But the caucus, after numerous sessions with the cabinet excluded, is not sure what it wants, and in its present state of internal division may do nothing at all. Union with the Liberal party having got nowhere, it is quite possible now that the Tolmie government, altered in a few particulars, will be left to carry on after the House rises. And the Tolmie government, its supporters understand, may ask for another session of the House in the summer to ratify a Pacific Great Eastern Railway sale.

A new group of P. G. E. purchasers is pressing its proposals strongly, the English group brought here recently by F. P. Burden, agent-general, having gone home without any success.

DEMAND SHOWDOWN FROM TOLMIE.

The main purpose of today's crucial conference between the private members and the Premier is to secure from Dr. Tolmie an assurance that after the House rises he will do as the caucus decides.

At the same time, the members are anxious not to create a suitable successor in the House, but, on the other hand, do not want to go home leaving the situation in the hands of the government. So long as the House sits, they are in complete control, with their votes, but when it adjourns, the government can do as it pleases.

PREMIER IS READY TO RETIRE.

From high sources it was learned that the Premier has already indicated his willingness to retire if the caucus can agree on a suitable successor, but up to now, though many names have been considered, the caucus has been unable to decide on anyone. It would take T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, as head of a Union Government, but apparently insuperable obstacles to union with the Liberals have developed during the last few days. Chief of these is the inability of the Conservative members to guarantee the support of their party for any union.

Their difficulty in this particular is greatly aggravated by the fact that the Conservative party executive, which will meet within two weeks of prorogation to consider its position, is largely in the control of W. J. Bowser, K.C. The general belief of Conservative members is that the executive will reject any government formed by the Premier or his supporters.

For this and other reasons, conversations between Conservatives and Liberals looking to union have not succeeded, even though most Conservatives would take Mr. Pattullo for leader, in order to achieve union. A poll of the caucus reveals this surprising fact beyond question.

GEN. ODLUM MEETS TORIES.

Among Conservatives the only two men seriously considered are Hon. J. W. Jones and J. W. Berry, with the chances in favor of Mr. Berry. A new figure entered the picture this week when Brig-General Victor Odlum came here and spent two days in conference with committees from the Conservative caucus. The caucus would like to draft the general, a strong Liberal, into a new union government under Mr. Berry, or some other Conservative and then import some other outsiders, so as to present an entirely new front to the country. But none of these plans may come to anything.

B. C. Jobless To Mine Gold For Board

Training Camps to Be Established Under Terms of Bill.

VICTORIA, April 5.—Unemployed men are to be given an opportunity to go placer mining under terms of a bill brought down in the Legislature by Hon. W. A. McKenzie, minister of mines.

The plan is not to grubstake men, but to send them out under the supervision of experienced miners for a day's food and shelter.

The scheme provides for the creation of placer mining reserves, recommended by resident mining engineers. On these reserves will be located placer mining training camps. Regulations will be laid down for the conduct and work of those admitted to the camps, for their food and lodging and instructions in mining, disposition of minerals recovered and one month's food supply and necessary equipment for those showing an aptitude for mining who wish to try their luck outside the reserves.

FREE RENTALS.

On the recommendation of a resident engineer when no suitable vacant crown land is available, a training camp may be established on private placer mining ground with consent of the owner. No compensation would be paid the private holder, but an agreement may be reached relieving him from rentals, fees and the performance or development work; also for the division and application of the proceeds from all minerals recovered. The cost of such a scheme will be charged to the unemployment relief funds.

DRYS TO OPPOSE NEW BEER PLANS

Declare No Mandate Given To Sell Bottled Product In Parlors.

VICTORIA, April 5.—Opposition from temperance quarters to the proposal to bring down legislation permitting beer parlors to sell bottled beer, to be taken away from the premises, is forecast before the bill comes before the House.

The main objection likely to be offered is that there has been no mandate from the people for this course to be followed, and such action would be against the plebiscite approved by the people in 1924.

Probe Into Conditions At Anyox Mine Asked

PRINCE RUPERT, April 5.—Armed with sworn statements of former employees of the company, a delegation sponsored by the local unemployed left Tuesday for Victoria to demand of the Legislature an immediate investigation into allegedly dangerous working conditions in the Granby Mines at Anyox. The delegation is headed by Harvey Murphy, organizer of the Miners' Union of Canada. About 1000 unemployed took part in an orderly hunger march here Tuesday, demanding among other things a 25-per-cent. increase in relief allowances.

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TAX NO HELP TO HOSPITALS

Levy on Meals Will Not Compensate for Cut, Says Coady.

SOME MAY CLOSE.

Doubt that proceeds from a five-cent tax on meals costing 50 cents and more will materially help hospitals of British Columbia is expressed by Mr. J. M. Coady, president of B. C. Hospitals Association.

"I do not think that revenue from this source will compensate British Columbia hospitals for the reduction in provincial grants of 25 cents per patient-day," said Mr. Coady.

"Under the old scale grants amounted to approximately a quarter of a million dollars a year. In Quebec, where they have a tax on all meals costing 35 cents or more, the revenue does not exceed \$300,000 annually—and that with a population of nearly 3,000,000 and a tourist traffic much greater than that of British Columbia.

"The truth is that there are practically no meals costing more than 50 cents today. Even in the most expensive hotels, lunches are served for as little as 35 cents.

"Small hospitals are practically dependent on the government grant and many of them are considering closing. In Alberni and Smithers the hospitals have decided definitely to close."

DETAILS OF BILL.

VICTORIA, April 5.—(CP)—Some details of the new bill taxing meals costing over fifty cents are as follows: "Restaurant" means any railway train, ship, hotel restaurant, lunch room or other premises in the province where for monetary consideration food is served, but shall not include premises commonly known as private boarding houses, or any educational or charitable institution, or any public or private hospital or nursing home. The tax shall not be payable by or collected from employees of the restaurant keeper in respect of meals served in the restaurant to his employees.

In calculating the amount of the tax, a fraction of a cent shall be counted as a whole cent. Where a person pays for more than one meal, the duty shall be calculated upon the total amount paid by him, whatever may be the price payable for each meal.

Where the price of board is fixed at an amount per diem or otherwise (such as the so-called American plan in hotels), without distinguishing between the price of meals and that of sleeping accommodation, the price of sleeping accommodation as determined in accordance with the regulations shall be deducted from the total price and the duty collected on the balance.

The duty shall be collected at the rate of five centum on the price payable for each meal amounting to fifty cents or more (previous report had it more than fifty cents). The proceeds will go to B. C. hospitals.

DEPENDS ON SWEEPSTAKES BILL.

The new scheme may be altered later if Parliament legalizes hospital sweepstakes. There is a strong sentiment in the House in favor of adopting sweepstakes here for hospital and charitable purposes. J. W. Cornett, Conservative of South Vancouver, is the chief advocate of this programme. He told the House Monday he was not urging gambling, but if people insisted on buying sweepstake tickets in large numbers as they are doing now, that the state should share in the proceeds. If Parliament legalized sweeps, he said, the province should take advantage of this opportunity.

For the present, however, the meal tax will meet the situation. He advocates point out that it will not hit the poor man, who pays less than fifty cents for his meal. But a man who pays \$1 for a dinner should be able to pay five cents more for hospital purposes, which is less than the tip he would probably give the waiter, the government believes.

Mortgagors' Relief And Other Measures Endorsed by House

VICTORIA, April 5.—(CP)—A. M. Manson, Liberal, Omineca, in the Legislature today thought a judge should be given power to direct both parties in a mortgage dispute to appear before him, while he looked into the financial condition of each in order to render a just decision. The matter came up while second reading was given a bill to amend the Mortgagors' and Purchasers' Relief Act.

Other bills given second reading were: Bills to amend the Municipal Elections Act and Municipal Act.

Bills given third reading were: Bills to amend the Forest Act, Jury Act, Superannuation Act, Small Debts Courts Act, Municipalities' Aid Act, limit to borrowing powers under certain loan acts of the province and Lower Mainland Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Committee.

A bill to amend the Provincial Elections Act was reported complete, with amendments.

Vancouver Sheriff's Office Gives Poor Service, Says Manson

VICTORIA, April 5.—(CP)—Lack of service in the sheriff's office in Vancouver was a subject of complaint among members of the bar who were often forced to private agencies to get prompt service. A. M. Manson, K.C., complained when the vote for the office was under consideration in the Legislature.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., differed. The service in the sheriff's office had never been better since Confederation, he claimed.

Mr. Pattullo noted that the office of registrar of the Supreme Court in Prince Rupert had been eliminated. Informed the deputy had been appointed to the position, he questioned the fairness of asking him to do the same work at a much lower salary and without an increase.

Travelling Expenses Of County Members Too Small, Says Pattullo

VICTORIA, April 5.—(CP)—Appeal for consideration of travelling expenses for members in remote ridings was made in the House today by T. D. Pattullo; the matter came up when members' indemnities were under discussion.

Mr. Pattullo had no complaint on reduction of sessional allowances or salaries of ministers, but thought members in remote ridings should be given special consideration. Their expenses sometimes amounted to \$25 a day for hire of launches or cars, to make rail or steamship connections and 50 per cent. cut to 12-1-2 cents a mile was rather heavy, he thought.

Fitzsimmons Urges Silver Conference

VICTORIA, April 5.—(CP)—Captain James Fitzsimmons, Conservative, Kaslo-Slocan, made another appeal to the government to impress upon the Federal Government the absolute necessity for bringing the silver stabilization question to the attention of the Federal Government, with a view to an international conference on the subject. He presented a resolution to this effect which was unanimously endorsed by the Legislature.

Ladner Bridge Project Is Attacked and Defended

Bruhn Asserts New Westminster Span Can Not Sustain Heavy Traffic.

Royal City Port Menaced, Says Gray—Loutet Predicts Heavy Deficits.

VICTORIA, April 6.—Plans for the construction of a privately-owned bridge across the Fraser River at Ladner were defended and attacked by Conservatives in the Legislature Wednesday.

After Hon. R. W. Bruhn, minister of public works, had declared that the scheme, as covered by new legislation, was sound and would meet a vital provincial need, Jack Loutet, Conservative, North Vancouver, predicted that the project would be a continual loss and would cost the province \$140,000 a year for forty years. Finally, Wells Gray, Liberal of New Westminster, assailed the whole project as highly detrimental to navigation and commerce on the Fraser.

Mr. Gray said he would support a satisfactory bridge at Ladner, and offered to vote for a span built by the government if it were fifteen feet higher than the proposed span and fifteen feet wider. He moved a six months' hoist for the bridge scheme.

OLD BRIDGE INADEQUATE.

Mr. Bruhn argued that a Ladner bridge was an immediate necessity because of the condition of the New Westminster bridge, which was totally inadequate for the volume and weight of modern traffic. He told how it had been necessary to restrict the weight of vehicles using the bridge and to enforce speed regulations because the structure was unable to meet modern travel conditions. But as the province could not afford to build a new bridge of its own, Mr. Bruhn felt that the Ladner Bridge Company's proposition should be accepted. He explained that the bridge could cost up to \$2,500,000, but built under government supervision, should not cost anything like that.

Enough of the profits on operation would go to the government, he believed, to pay for the cost of connecting roads. The proportion of profits accruing to the province is not fixed in the bill, but will be settled by agreement.

Next year, Mr. Bruhn thought, would be time enough to start the necessary road programme, which the bridge builders were prepared to finance, accepting government bonds. This would absorb many unemployed men.

Mr. Bruhn emphasized the value of the project in employing many hundreds of men on actual bridge construction at this time. He explained that, while the province agreed to provide half the deficits on operation, after bond interest sinking fund and maintenance had been covered, it would not have to advance more than \$140,000 in any year on this account. It could acquire the bridge by arbitration, if it so desired.

Mr. Bruhn said a traffic of 550,000 cars a year would be necessary to pay the cost of the bridge and avoid deficits. At the present time his experts estimated that the traffic would be 500,000 cars, while the bridge company expected over 1,000,000.

"If the British interests which will finance this project are prepared to take a chance on this scheme we should have sufficient faith in our province to undertake it," he declared.

"BRITISH INTERESTS TAKE NO CHANCE."

Mr. Loutet retorted that the British interests would take no chance at all. They would sell the bonds to investors who would take some chance, but not much, for the reason that the government's contribution of \$140,000 a year towards deficits would just about pay the interest on their investment.

The great flaw in the scheme, Mr. Loutet said, was that it made no provision for paying the other half of the deficits. The province would pay its half, but no one would pay the other half. The government, he urged, should pay no more in any year than the company and security for this payment should be obtained.

ADD \$3,000,000 TO PUBLIC DEBT.

He predicted that traffic would continue to move over the New Westminster bridge chiefly, because there were no tolls there and because the roads by that route were the best available. For this reason he expected the government would have to pay the full amount of the deficit provided for annually, or the interest on over \$3,000,000. Over a period of forty years the bridge would thus add \$3,000,000 to the provincial debt, he declared, since, in a few years, the government would have to take over the span and operate it.

MENACE TO ROYAL CITY PORT.

New Westminster's opposition to the bridge, said Mr. Gray, was based on its attitude towards port development, and was not dictated by selfish desire to control traffic through its business section.

New Westminster, he said, was the fresh-water harbor of British Columbia, and was not in competition with Vancouver. To drive piles and wharves, as would be necessary for the proposed bridge, would create a change in the river channel and alter the whole position of Fraser River navigation, he warned. The proposed bridge site was at one of the most rapid and dangerous points on the river, so far as navigation was concerned, he said.

Mr. Gray gave the House a detailed history of New Westminster's port development. The whole future of the city, he said, depended on its export business and shipping, which would be seriously damaged by the proposed bridge.

If the bridge must be built, Mr. Gray asserted, it should be built by a Canadian, not a British firm.

CLEAR THE WATER BY 160 FEET.

Hon. W. C. Shelly said navigation questions had been considered by experts who knew better than the House. If they were satisfied with the scheme, there should be no objection by the House. The bridge would clear the water by 160 feet and have a span of 300 feet, which the federal marine department considered adequate.

J. W. Cornett, Conservative of South Vancouver, supported the bridge scheme as satisfactory with proper safeguards.

While Attorney-General Pooley announced that the government would not allow adjournment of the debate, after a vigorous exchange of argument, T. A. Kirk was finally allowed an adjournment.

A. M. Manson, K.C. Liberal of Omineca, objected to Hon. W. A. McKenzie talking to Leon Ladner, K.C., counsel for the bridge company, and Mr. Speaker agreed that this was an unsatisfactory practice. After Mr. Pooley had said Mr. Manson had often talked to lobbyists in the House and Mr. Manson had indignantly denied it, Mr. Ladner walked out.

Tax On Sports and Dances Under 65 Cents Reduced to 5 Per Cent.

VICTORIA, April 6.—Amusement taxes on amateur sports and dances will be reduced from 10 to 5 per cent, under legislation introduced in the Legislature by Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance. This makes the tax on these entertainments equal to that on professional entertainments. The 5 per cent rate applies on tickets costing up to 65 cents. Over that the tax will be 10 per cent. But by tightening up on administration and refusing exemptions, now freely granted, the government expects to avoid any drop in revenue as a result of the change.

Log of the House

We Bowl Along at High Speed—Pausing to Consider the Plight Of Parliamentarians in the Great Open Spaces—The Cost of Meals—The New Taxes—And the Determined Silence of Mr. Jones.

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

VICTORIA, April 6.—That paradoxical liveliness which always marks the dying hours of the session was obvious enough in the House Wednesday to make us confident that the session really was dying, that we should rush through the session programme and go home by the week-end. And as the Conservative caucus was in session most of the day, we also thought it might do something about questions that matter after all, might not go home leaving things in greater chaos than it found them. But we weren't sure by any means.

The first business of the House was to thank Mr. Howe formally for donating the cost of the four splendid murals which the able artist, George Hutchinson, had painted in the dome room of the Legislative Buildings. The House hoped with Mr. Pooley that someone as generous as Mr. Howe would donate money for some more pictures to fill other equally prominent spaces in the buildings.

We proceeded then to defy all the speed laws of Parliament in pushing ahead legislation. On the Motor Act amendments Mr. MacPherson of Cranbrook made an extremely well-thought-out speech to prove that motor licenses are being increased, despite government calculations to the contrary; that they are keeping cars off the road; and that if they were reduced, the government would encourage traffic, get more revenue, and help the motorist, who seemed to be the chief butt of tax collectors.

Mileage of another sort interested Mr. Manson. He made a feeling and politically bold speech against the government's plan to cut in half the allowance of 25 cents a mile made to members for their travelling expenses to and from sessions. Most members feel the same way as Mr. Manson, that they get little enough to cover their heavy travelling expenses, especially in the big country ridings, but few had the courage to say so.

Mr. Manson had the satisfaction, however, of hearing Mr. Hinchliffe agree with him in principle and offer to support Mr. Pattullo when the latter became Premier. In an arrangement by which members would be allowed some expenses for travelling about their districts. Whether Mr. Hinchliffe's offer to Mr. Pattullo was sardonic or prophetic we could not tell, but Mr. Pattullo said the minister wouldn't have the opportunity to support or oppose him in anything when the next House met. This was sardonic and prophetic, too.

Mr. Hanna managed, before the Speaker could stop him, to sandwich in an attack on the government for wiping out his Albert riding, and to predict that the unfortunate member for the new riding of Nanaimo would have to walk, fly and swim to cover his district. But even that prospect did not stop the House from the supreme sacrifice of cutting its mileage allowance, to which nearly everyone was privately opposed.

PARTY FREEDOM

That curious freedom which marks the Conservative party these days—that freedom which the Liberals consider such a virtue among themselves and a certain sign of ruin among their opponents—was apparent after Mr. Jones had explained and defended his Leader's speech when Mr. Jones, a fellow Conservative, was asked the question as to whether he would

money. The argument on the bridge scheme has only begun.

The government got second reading for its bill allowing it to secure park areas in trade for others, after Dr. McNaughton had outlined the aspirations of Vancouver Island people for a great national park, embracing Strathcona Park and the Forbidden Plateau. In committee there will be a strong fight to subject every trade of this sort to a vote of the House.

Still moving at this terrific speed, Mr. Jones pushed through his new income tax proposals, giving Mr. Pattullo the opportunity to deliver again his general financial criticism of the government. But Mr. Pattullo didn't see what could be done about it, with the government still in office, and the new tax on higher incomes was adopted.

The rest of the afternoon was spent on the new tax on meals for hospitals. Everyone eats and for this reason the meal tax is one of the most interesting matters of the session. Mr. Pattullo said he expected the government would soon attach some kind of meter to every citizen and tax the air he breathes, which would mean in some cases, he added, looking at his friend Mr. Pooley, that some people would pay a very heavy tax indeed; with which Mr. Pooley, looking at his friend Mr. Pattullo, warmly agreed.

Anyway, Mr. Pattullo called the meal tax an iniquitous arrangement, a death-bed confession and a desperate attempt to satisfy the hospitals. But after Dr. Wrinch had said anything was better for the hospitals than nothing, and after Mr. Maitland had complained that the rich men of the country scarcely ever leave money to the hospitals, Mr. Pattullo did not vote against the tax. It carried without dissenting voice. But the Liberals had no hope that it would save the hospitals.

MR. JONES UNSHAKEN

The evening produced a stubborn tug-of-war to dislodge Finance Minister Jones from his den of silence, but all in vain. Mr. Jones had made up his mind to refuse the House information about his last loan, of which part is still unsold, and nothing that the opposition could say could coax or bludgeon him into speech. But that the government realized the political dynamite hidden away in this innocent-looking matter was indicated by two strong ministerial speeches in defense of Mr. Jones' silence.

Mr. Hinchliffe was called in as the ablest defender of all. His argument was that the House knew the price of the loan and the interest rate, and had no real right to anything more. To reveal more would be unwise in a business way, said Mr. Hinchliffe, and there was nothing wrong about the loan, no secret commissions, nothing to conceal; in answer to which the opposition wondered why the government insisted on concealing it. As you would expect, Mr. Hinchliffe was not content to defend Mr. Jones. He assailed the opposition as well. He read at length from Mr. Pattullo's speeches to show that his honorable friend had gone a great deal to undermine provincial credit, and to account for the high interest paid on the last loan. Speech after speech was quoted by Mr. Hinchliffe, who is quite remorseless, who loves to turn the dagger around in the wound.

He told with relish how Mr. Pattullo had predicted the government's downfall a year ago, through inability to finance, how he had prophesied "temporary bankruptcy"—and this was the gentleman who now said he had refrained from saying anything detrimental to our credit! Mr. Pattullo said he had made none of these statements until after the credit of the province had already been destroyed, but this did not impress Mr. Hinchliffe.

Mr. Manson replied in kind. He said no wrongdoing was alleged, but the government's stubborn silence tended to create suspicion, and if Mr. Hinchliffe had known all the details of the loan he would never have made his speech. But he had to withdraw when he said Mr. Jones had filed financial statements calculated to deceive. A little setback like that never bothers Mr. Manson, however. He changed it to read that if the House relied on Mr. Jones' statements it would reach a wrong conclusion, which meant the same thing but was in order.

Mr. Maitland feared that if the House didn't prorogue pretty soon Mr. Manson would hit his old oratorical long-distance stride and prevent prorogation altogether. He made a strong defense of Mr. Jones; said it was impossible to reveal correspondence about loans when they were not all sold but promised, that when the bonds had been sold the House would get all the facts. After that, on a straight party vote, with even the rebels Dick and Walker, supporting it, the government re-

jected Mr. Pearson's motion asking for details of the loan. That is one of the numerous details that will be lost in the rush of the next four months.

The day ended in another wrangle over the Ladner bridge, in a sharp rebuke from Mr. Manson to Mr. McKenzie for talking to Leon Ladner, bridge company counsel, sitting beside him, in a sharper rebuke by Mr. Pooley to Mr. Manson, in Mr. Ladner retreating from the chamber in good order and finally as a midnight note of cheer, in the introduction of a \$10,000,000 loan bill, for general purposes, which means deficits for the most part. In all, quite a day's work.

LOUGHEED'S PARK BILL IS PASSED

Government Has Right to Trade Lands for Recreation Purposes.

VICTORIA, April 6.—The government flatly rejected today the opposition's proposal that all transfers and exchanges of park lands should be subject to the approval of the Legislature—a proposal which Attorney-General Pooley called "ridiculous."

The Lougheed Bill by which the government takes power to make exchanges of land for park purposes was passed unchanged, without formal division.

William Dick, independent of Vancouver Parks Board, objected to the act and urging that no government should have power, without consulting the Legislature, to alienate park areas. Mr. Dick said this was his view and he would oppose the bill.

"The government won't be here after the election—why not leave this to the people?" Mr. Dick demanded.

Jack Loutet, Conservative of North Vancouver, opposed the bill on the same ground.

J. H. Beatty, Conservative, said the government already had power to buy land for park purposes. Surely then the government could be trusted to trade lands for the same purpose. Reference of these matters to the Legislature would be too cumbersome, and the House, ignorant of land values, could not vote intelligently anyway.

Dr. C. Wrinch, Liberal of Skeena, wondered what was behind the Park Bill, whether it could not be revealed "in the public interest," and if it were, "in some other interest?"

The two previous governments had made large park purchases and exchanges without consulting the House, Attorney-General Pooley said. He called the proposal to refer such matters to the House "ridiculous."

TORIES READY TO ADMIT FAILURE

Unless New Leader Is Selected Today Nothing Before Prorogation.

VICTORIA, April 6.—After forty-eight hours of almost continual conference, the Conservative caucus was almost ready today to admit failure; to go home and leave the future of the party to the government. Unless a last-minute decision on the future party leadership can be reached today nothing will be done and the Legislature will prorogue Friday with politics in worse confusion than when it assembled.

On every side this morning was heard the admission that the caucus seemed incapable of agreement on future policy, even though Premier Tolmie has indicated his willingness to retire or to take any other action which would assure stable and satisfactory government. In a word, a caucus determined to remove the present government bodily can not agree on an alternative.

But a few hopeful spirits said something might be done before prorogation, now fixed for Friday night. Only an agreement on a successor to the Premier can effect any change in the situation.

NEW B.C. LOAN \$10,000,000

Object of Borrowing Described By Jones In House.

TO MEET DEFICIT

VICTORIA, April 6.—The government's new Loan Bill for \$10,000,000 does not represent any new borrowings, except for unemployment relief, Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance, informed the Legislature today. The bill takes care of the ordinary deficits of \$5,200,000 in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1932, and \$1,800,000 for unemployment relief in that period, the remaining \$3,000,000 will be used during the present year to finance unemployment and to take care of deficits during the last fiscal year.

"One-half the money covered by this Loan Bill has been spent on unemployment relief," Mr. Jones said. "Seventy per cent of the total has been spent and no new money will be borrowed this year except for unemployment relief."

T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader, declared the Loan Bill would be used to cover the government's heavy deficits, but added: "The bank won't be able to sell the bonds. The credit of the province is gone, we might as well face it. We must have a new deal entirely, as in the United States. There will be a considerable enhancement of our credit here when the government changes. That is why I asked the Premier, with his well-known patriotism, to go to the country right away. It is said \$5,000,000 of this loan is for unemployment. Actually there is nothing to prevent the bank taking all this money for past deficits!"

The Loan Bill was given second reading.

BURNABY OFFICIALS TO PAY \$1000 COSTS

Use of By-law Money for Relief Purposes Validated.

VICTORIA, April 6.—While validating the action of Reeve Pritchard of Burnaby and municipal officials in using by-law money for unemployment relief, the Legislature provided today that that gentleman must indemnify the plaintiffs for their costs in bringing legal suits against them. These amount to about \$1000, Attorney-General Pooley said.

Municipalities Must Have Water Trust Account When in Arrears

VICTORIA, April 6.—The bill amending the Greater Vancouver Water Act was given final reading in the House last night without opposition.

The amendment provides machinery, heretofore lacking, whereby municipalities in the district will in case of arrears of payment for water supplied, be called upon to set up in a trust account money collected for water rates, and from this account payment of the arrears will be made. The amendment is not retroactive, therefore does not apply to the special case of arrears for 1933 owing by North Vancouver and Burnaby, municipalities now under commission.

MEALS HOSPITAL ATT

Pattullo C Breathe Think

POOLEY E \$22

Tourists W Portion Attorn

VICTORIA, A 6 per cent, tax and over, to compensate B. C. grant reduction litigious and members and government me reading in the Attorney-Gen position compli plunge in the guarantee wha raised, by statin estimated the during the year the value of \$ revenue for th \$228,000.

E. L. Maitland tax on the gr people "hospit dicted every pe little better" a contributions t paid for a mea Hon. J. W. J said there wa The revenue fr paid into fr and paid out fr hospitals as th requested.

"The first t Pattullo oppo mented, "they air we breathe"

When the go something repu ed it with some effort to make instance, the b The best co thought, was f into consolidat made from the George S. F naimo, pointe necessary to co served to the v he doubted if l lected on \$1.0 the reduction quoted figures forty hospitals amounting to had a total of told of the h tital was facir accounted by that 60 per e cared for v than municipa Mr. Maitland tax would sta could receive e every three m lack of suppo wealthy peopl ation of effort He told of the eral Hospital re it had collect could pay. In provinces, the r generously sup CITIES TO CA A. M. Manson sympathy with like the form o Dr. H. C. W would not opp wished the gov possible to ass other manner. would be drop tions improv Fernie, favoro not affect him Hon. S. L. E tary, said the consideration o ordinary reven ets of the pr would affect la contribute in wards the up

MEALS TAX FOR HOSPITALS IS ATTACKED

Pattullo Charges "Air We Breathe Will Be Next Thing Taxed."

POOLEY EXPECTS \$228,000 RETURN

Tourists Will Pay Greater Portion of Tax, Says Attorney-General.

VICTORIA, April 6.—(CP)—The 5 per cent. tax on meals of 50 cents and over, to raise money to compensate B. C. hospitals for \$260,000 grant reduction, was described as iniquitous and uncertain by Liberal members and stoutly defended by government members during second reading in the Legislature.

Attorney-General Pooley met opposition complaints that it was a plunge in the dark, without any guarantee what amount would be raised, by stating the government had estimated the tax would be applied during the year on meals served to the value of \$4,868,800. Anticipated revenue for the hospitals would be \$228,000.

E. L. Matland, K.C., defended the tax on the grounds it would make people "hospital minded," and predicted every person would feel "just a little better" as he made his little contributions to hospitals when he paid for a meal.

Hon. J. W. Jones, finance minister, said there was a similar tax in Quebec. The revenue from the levy would be paid into the consolidated revenue and paid out from time to time to the hospitals as the provincial secretary requested.

"The first thing we know," T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader, commented, "they will be measuring the air we breathe and tax us on that."

When the government sought to do something pungent they surrounded it with something attractive, in an effort to make it palatable. In this instance, they used the hospitals. The best course to follow, he thought, was for revenue to be paid into consolidated revenue and grants made from that.

George S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, pointed out it would be necessary to collect the tax on meals served to the value of \$5,000,000, and he doubted if the tax would be collected on \$1,000,000. He regretted the reduction of hospitals and quoted figures to show that in 1931 forty hospitals in B. C. had deficits amounting to \$265,000, twenty-five had a total surplus of \$38,000. He told of the troubles Nanaimo hospital was facing, the troubles being accentuated by reason of the fact that 80 per cent. of the persons it cared for were provincial rather than municipal responsibilities.

Mr. Matland said collection of the tax would start May 1. Hospitals could receive grants from the fund every three months. He deplored a lack of support for hospitals from wealthy people, and lack of appreciation of efforts of hospital workers. He told of the abuse Vancouver General Hospital received and the trouble it had collecting from people who could pay. In comparison with other provinces, the B. C. Government was generously supporting hospitals.

CITIES TO CARRY LOAD.

A. M. Manson, K.C., said he was in sympathy with hospitals, but did not like the form of legislation.

Dr. H. C. Wrinch, Liberal, Skeena, would not oppose the measure, but wished the government had found it possible to assist the hospitals in some other manner. He hoped the tax would be dropped as soon as conditions improved. Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, favored the tax, as it would not affect him or anyone in his riding.

Hon. S. L. Howe, provincial secretary, said the tax had been under consideration for over a month. The ordinary revenue came from taxpayers of the province, but this impost would affect largely those people who contribute in no way whatever towards the upkeep of government. J.

M. Beatty, Conservative, Victoria, thought the people of Victoria and Vancouver would carry the load. It was a fair tax. The land was already carrying too heavy a burden.

Thomas King, Liberal, Columbia, said not more than 5 per cent. of the population, or 35,000, ate in restaurants, and of these not more than 10 per cent. ate meals costing 80 cents or more.

Hon. J. Hinchliffe, minister of education, thought any young man who could afford to take a girl out to dine in these days could well afford the tax. The other feature that appealed to him was that strangers would pay the greatest part of it.

Loutet Raps High Cost Of Government Printing

VICTORIA, April 6.—(CP)—The King's printer is doing too much work that should be given to outside firms verging on bankruptcy, Jack Loutet, Conservative, North Vancouver, told the House. The member believed that lower prices could be obtained by putting the work out on tender to private firms. He claimed that, considering the overhead expense of the King's printer, the work was costing the government more than commercial firms could turn it out for.

Urges Release of 37 Hunger Marchers In Jail for Rod-riding

VICTORIA, April 6.—(CP)—Tom Uphill, Labor, introduced a motion in the Legislature, calling for the unconditional release of thirty-seven men arrested under the Railway and Vagrancy Acts while riding freight trains to the Coast. The men, all from relief camps, were appointed delegates to the hunger marchers at the Parliament Buildings here.

Teachers' Pensions Act to Be Amended

VICTORIA, April 6.—(CP)—Second and third readings were given a bill to amend the Teachers' Pension Act in the Legislature. The amendment provides that when a teacher enters civil service and dies in that service, his relatives will receive, besides civil service superannuation, an additional allowance from the teachers' pension fund.

Howe Thanked For Murals.

VICTORIA, April 6.—(CP)—Thanks to Hon. S. L. Howe, provincial secretary, for supplying the murals, depicting the history of the province, in the rotunda of the Parliament Buildings was extended by the B. C. Legislature today.

Two Legislatures

A BILL before the Ontario Legislature proposes to cut the membership of the House from 112 to 90. The Ottawa Journal, commenting on the introduction of the measure, says the Conservative members have demonstrated a fine sense of public spirit in accepting Premier Henry's scheme, though the scheme means political extinction for many of them. The Toronto Telegram, however, is not satisfied. Political pressure on the part of self-interested members, it says, has apparently reduced the curtailment below the number originally planned. It was at first intended to cut off thirty members, reducing the Legislature to eighty-two, the size of the Ontario representation in the House of Commons. Even this, the Telegram insists, would leave an unnecessarily large Legislature.

Ontario may not be getting the curtailment that is desirable or that had been counted upon. But, at least, Ontario, through the self-denial of members who have put the interests of the province first, is getting a substantial measure of curtailment. The Legislature, when it meets after the next election, will be a smaller and a less costly body than it is now, and it should be a more capable body. In British Columbia, in spite of a realization that the Legislature is unduly large, not a finger has been raised, during the session, to bring it down to a size more conformable to the needs and finances of the province. Under the new Ontario redistribution bill, there will be one representative in the Toronto House for each 38,130 persons. Under last year's redistribution bill for British Columbia, there will be one representative in the Victoria House for each 14,772 persons.

What conclusions can one draw from a comparison of these figures? Is the average Ontario member almost three times as capable as the average British Columbia member? Or has he three times the public spirit?

One tax reduction comes from the laboring Legislature at Victoria. The amusement tax is to be lowered in certain respects. The cut is small, but perhaps it is a portent.

Soon, says Mr. Pattullo, there will be a tax on the air we breathe. Well, such a tax will at least meet the canon of universality.

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The Vancouver Transportation Situation

Statement of Mr. W. G. Murrin, president of the B. C. Electric Railway Company, before the Private Bills Committee of the Provincial Legislature.

At the last Vancouver civic elections, a plebiscite was taken in favor of seeking charter powers from the Provincial Legislature to enable the city to operate motor buses or give franchises to outside parties to operate such motor buses.

Believing that the information laid before the Private Bills Committee by Mr. Murrin is of interest to the people of Vancouver as indicating the condition of the street railway system as a whole, we are herewith reproducing the statement in full.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED

THE thing uppermost in the minds of all of us at the present time is the unprecedented state of economic chaos which exists throughout the world today. It is no longer an academic question which we can afford to consider leisurely and form opinions about and pass resolutions upon; it is a matter of intimate and vital concern to each one of us and to our institutions. We are all struggling with problems of such magnitude and difficulty that we are almost in despair of finding a solution, and the introduction of unnecessary difficulties at this time is unthinkable in any sane community.

While we may not be able to see our way clearly at this time to the end of things, yet I think we are all agreed that the first steps to this desirable end lie in the direction of co-ordination, conservation of resources, abandonment of duplication, elimination of waste, of time, money and energy of all kinds.

The proposal which we are here today to discuss involves a principle diametrically opposed to these ideas and to the trend of the best thought and best practice in these times, for it is a proposal to set up a form of direct competition and duplication which can only result in irretrievable damage to all concerned.

(1) DUPLICATION OF SERVICES.

I will ask you to take for granted for the moment this fact that it is impossible to indicate any practical bus service in Vancouver at the present time which would not directly compete with our existing services and most seriously affect the revenue from these services.

We are today in Canada faced with great difficulties many of which originate from mistakes which we have made in the past, and of these difficulties none are more serious or more difficult to correct than those which have resulted from the duplication of facilities for carrying on a limited volume of business. The outstanding and unquestionably most serious example of this duplication is in connection with our steam railways, and so serious has this issue become that a Royal Commission was appointed to find a solution.

The very first of the commission's findings as to the "contributory causes of the railway problem" are:

- (1) "The over-development of railways beyond the immediate needs of the country."
- (2) "Aggressive and uncontrolled competition between two nation-wide railway enterprises, a competition the more disastrous in that one of the competitors was publicly-owned and supported by the full resources of the Dominion."

If you pass this amendment you are giving power and encouragement to the City Council, a public body deriving its revenue from the taxpayer, to set up competition with a private company, which also happens to be one of the city's largest taxpayers.

The Royal Commission report also says: "As a result, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the largest taxpayer in Canada, has been subjected to the competition of publicly-owned and operated railway lines, supported by the financial resources of the country. They had honorably discharged their original contractual obligations with Parliament, and the company's lines had played a great part in binding together the western and eastern provinces of the Dominion. By common consent, the company's administration had brought faith, courage and industry to bear in the best of ways in building its lines through the roughest country and even beyond

miration of both railway operators and the public, and has been a material factor in causing Canada to be favorably known upon three continents. Their operations brought profit to shareholders, and the enterprise became a national asset of acknowledged value and importance to the Dominion."

I believe I am perfectly reasonable in claiming that the B. C. Electric Railway Company has occupied a relationship to the city of Vancouver somewhat similar to that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has occupied to the whole Dominion. I can fairly claim that we have discharged our contractual obligations and that our railway lines and other services have played an important part in building up the city. I believe I am not claiming too much when I say that the B. C. Electric Railway Company has been for over thirty years a material factor in causing Vancouver and the province of British Columbia to be favorably known outside our own borders and that this company is an asset of value and importance to the city and province.

I am going to show you that Vancouver has no real legitimate grievance against the company in this matter of transportation services.

I further suggest to you that the agreements existing between ourselves and the City of Vancouver are most comprehensive and provide a channel for the fair adjustment of any differences of opinion by means other than that of wasteful and ruinous duplication.

(2) PUBLIC INTEREST.

There is no excuse for this proposed legislation on the ground that the present company is not supplying satisfactory and adequate transportation service to the community, and as I proceed I will give you facts and figures which amply confirm this statement.

The system of transportation in Vancouver is thoroughly efficient and has a high reputation throughout Canada and the United States and may be favorably compared with any of the 500 or 600 street railway systems on this continent.

We can not please everybody, but on any basis of comparison in relation to the business offering, our service is known to be good and we are continually striving to make it better within the limits set by revenue and expense and even beyond

(3) MOTOR BUSES.

In such betterment of service the motor bus has its place, and we have already introduced motor buses in five different sections of the city and we expect that as time goes on the use of such buses will increase. In this we are following the general practice throughout the street railway industry in using the motor bus to build up a co-ordinated transportation system serving the outlying districts as they develop, till such time as rail extensions are warranted by the traffic offered. To force motor buses into a city adequately served by a street railway system, to parallel existing rail lines, over which satisfactory and more than adequate service is now being given will result in financial disaster to the existing railway, in great inconvenience and loss to the citizens, and in the retardation of the general development of the city.

(4) COMPETITION ABOLISHED.

Competition between two systems of surface transportation in large cities is practically unknown today. No such condition exists in any Canadian city. We have profited in Canada by the mistakes of those cities in the United States which have tried such a scheme as is now suggested by this bill, and failed. It is recognized that the transportation business must be a monopoly to satisfactorily serve any city. Only with a unified system can service be given to the public at a reasonable cost. The difficulties confronting street railway managements at the present time are almost overwhelming, and even with a unified system, transportation companies are being called upon to utilize everything in their power to cope with the continued decrease in revenues and, at the same time, provide a service which will meet the requirements of the communities which they serve.

Motor vehicles operating as a thing apart from the co-ordinated city transportation systems have been in evidence in the past, but they do not exist today. Several large cities, including Kansas City, Toledo, Akron, Ohio, Des Moines, Iowa; Bridgeport, Conn., and Oklahoma City, Okla., have street cars entirely for several months, but in every case the citizens demanded their restoration and forced the city councils to make terms with the companies. It is fully recognized that the motor bus has a place and an increasing place in the transportation system of a large city, but it is equally recognized that any bus service must be co-ordinated with the street railway service if it is to be really effective.

(5) CITY BUSES WILL BE COMPETITIVE.

If the City of Vancouver introduces a bus service it will be in direct competition with the street railway service. It will have to run into the centre of the city over the same streets as the street car lines, or on streets immediately parallel with them, and most, if not all, the business it gets will be directly taken away from the street cars. The slightest examination of a map of the city would indicate this.

Under present conditions, the revenue received by the street railway from all the business available is not sufficient to pay the bare operating expenses of the system, in spite of the most rigid economies which have been effected, and if there were no other reason this fact should make it unthinkable that powers should be given at this time for the establishment of a duplicate transportation system which would inevitably result in the complete disorganization of the present services and would produce damage, loss and inconvenience to the general public and the city business and social life.

(6) DIVIDED RESPONSIBILITY.

The street car company must under its agreements with the city charge a single fare for the whole city area. It also has the responsibility of dealing not only with the rush hour periods; it has to cater not only to the busy districts, but to the outlying points, where service is provided at a heavy loss owing to the low density of traffic.

The whole agreement under which we operate becomes meaningless unless the company making the agreement has the responsibility and opportunity of catering for all the traffic available.

Just a moment's thought will convince you that there must be complete responsibility or no one is responsible for the services given. It is impossible to conceive any competitive system of surface transportation in a city like Vancouver which would not threaten the disruption of the whole fabric.

(7) NOTHING IN SIGHT TO REPLACE STREET CAR.

No doubt some members of the City Council believe, as do many other people, that the street car system is more or less rapidly giving place to other forms of transportation, but it only needs a very superficial study of the problems of city transportation to be convinced that, up to the present, there is nothing in sight to replace the street car as the principal means of mass transportation.

Of all passengers carried by electric railway companies in 1931, 80 per cent. were carried by street cars and 10 per cent. by buses. The buses in city service are practically all operated by the street railway systems, therefore the bus traffic outside these figures is negligible. These figures are based on 13 billion passengers carried by all street car systems in the United States and Canada in cities of over 25,000 population.

This 10 per cent. has grown gradually from 1 1/2 per cent. in 1924, and in no large city is there observed any tendency to replace street cars and heavy traffic lines. Buses have been gradually introduced as feeders to the street railway systems serving districts where the traffic is not sufficient at the present time to justify the large capital expenditure of the construction of rail and distribution system. In some large cities, buses have operated into the heart of the downtown area. In these cases, a higher fare is charged than is charged by the street railway, and no transfer privilege is given. In Toronto two such routes operated in 1930. Owing to the lack of patronage, however, one route was discontinued after a year's trial, as it was operating at a loss. The remaining route operates only twelve hours a day, does not operate on Sundays and holidays and is not more than breaking even. This in a city with a population of three times that of Vancouver. If there were no other evidence, Toronto's experience alone with the bus operation under the most favorable conditions and by the existing street railway, would be sufficient to condemn the present proposal.

(8) VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CITY AND COMPANY.

The introduction of competition such as that suggested is contrary to the whole spirit of the agreements under which we operate and upon which the security of our investment is based.

It is only necessary to read the agreement of 1901, between the company and the city, and subsequent additions, with their obligations on ourselves to give service, with their penalties if we fail to carry out our obligations, with the contributions we have to make to the city funds, with the franchise transportation we have to give to city employees, etc., to come to the conclusion that the only thought in minds of both parties to the agreement was that upon the company would fall the whole responsibility of providing all the transportation requirements within the district.

The motor bus was at that time unknown, but its effect is exactly the same as if it were a competitive street car line, which of course would be unthinkable.

On any other basis than that outlined in the agreement is meaningless and affords no protection for the investment of the large sums of capital which were originally expended and which have been continued to be expended from time to time.

Consider for a minute what meaning there would attach to any penalties provided for our not living up to our obligations.

Under the competitive conditions suggested, for what demand for transportation could we be expected to provide? Obviously not the whole, as there would be other vehicles operating through the middle of our territory. For what then? For what is left over? Obviously an absurdity, seeing that we would be carrying the responsibility for the shortcomings of our competitors.

Divided responsibility means no responsibility, neither would any payment for a protective privilege be justified, seeing that the protection afforded by the city which would justify the payment had been taken away.

(9) FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS—OTHER CITIES.

Ottawa Franchise—In the recent agreement made in Ottawa between the city and the street railway company, this principle is recognized. Their new franchise contains the following clause:

"It being the intention of the parties hereto that the company was not to be subject to competition in its business of transporting passengers, whether such competition be in the nature of motor buses or otherwise."

Hull—The City Council recently renewed the Electric Railway Franchise under a new clause allowing clause to be amended.

"The city, by agreement, will co-operate with the electric railway to protect it from competition, and will not, during the term of the agreement, grant the right to any railway or bus line to operate in these two recognized areas of street railway under agreement, made before the war. The only protection was implied in that it is due to obviously important factory services conditions.

Other Cities—know, the city is owned by the city and handed over to the transportation Commission entirely in the Council. In the very definite of transportation motor buses, the method of under local transportation I could quote franchise agreements of Toledo, dena, and other the company has competition; as decisions by public officials refusing operations that territory served.

The above a statement that by the City Council opposition to the principles which cities.

(10) SHORTTT

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Hull—The City of Hull has recently renewed a franchise with the Hull Electric Company and the following clause has been added:

"The city, during the life of the agreement, will not operate any electric railway or bus system, and will co-operate with the company to protect it, so far as the law allows, from competition. The city will not, during the life of the agreement, grant any other interests the right to operate an electric railway or bus system."

The principle specifically expressed in these two revised agreements is recognized and acted upon in hundreds of street railway systems operating under agreements similar to our own, made before the motor bus was known. The only reason for making this protection more specific than was implied in the original agreement is due to the fact that it was obviously impossible to give satisfactory services under any other conditions.

Other Cities—In Toronto, as you know, the city transportation system is owned by the city, but it is handed over to the Toronto Transportation Commission, which functions entirely independent of the City Council. In the commission is vested a very definite monopoly of all forms of transportation, including car lines, motor buses, subways, or any other method of underground or overhead local transportation.

I could quote you clauses from franchise agreements granted by the cities of Toledo, Kansas City, Pasadena, and others which provide that the company shall not be subject to competition; also a large number of decisions by public utility commissions refusing applications for bus operations that would encroach on territory served by electric railways.

The above amply confirms my statement that the proposals made by the City Council are in direct opposition to the best practices and principles which now exist in other cities.

(10) SHORTT COMMISSION.

This question of competition with the street railway was the main issue that led up to the appointment of the Provincial Commission in 1917, with Dr. Adam Shortt as sole commissioner, "for the purpose of making a full investigation of the economic conditions and operations of the B. C. Electric Railway Company and Subsidiary Companies."

Motor competition had extensively developed in Vancouver in many other cities; the company was faced with increasing expenses and declining revenue and the issue became so serious that the system was brought to a standstill. The City Council and the company jointly requested the Lieutenant-Governor's Council to appoint a commissioner "for the purpose of thoroughly investigating in all its phases the question of transportation in the city of Vancouver and surrounding districts." Both parties agreed to abide by the decision arrived at.

(11) DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

The decision of the commission was "That an efficient street car service in the city of Vancouver and between the city of Vancouver and the city of New Westminster can not be maintained under the present conditions of competition with the jitneys or public automobile service."

In the body of the report, Dr. Shortt has this to say in regard to transportation: "The urban and interurban street railway business, as proved by long and wide experience, can not be conducted upon a basis of free competition. It is a public utility and as such essentially a natural monopoly, to be conducted on well recognized principles as a unified service, the various portions furnishing mutual support. In the case of public utilities, free competition has never proved a permanent protection to public interests—quite the reverse."

(12) RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

To enable the by-law to be passed and the decisions of the Shortt Commission to be put into effect, the City Council required certain powers of classification of motor vehicles, with the right to prohibit the operation of certain classes of such vehicles, and these enabling powers were granted to the city by the Provincial Government by the Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1921, Section 135.

To that extent, therefore, the Provincial Government is a party to the measures which were taken to abolish this wasteful competition, and I can not believe that the Provincial Government will now grant these further powers to the city, which will enable them to undo the effect of the previous legislation, to bring back the motor bus competition and to destroy the investments made by the company on the strength of the legislation passed for the express purpose of carrying out the commission's recommendations.

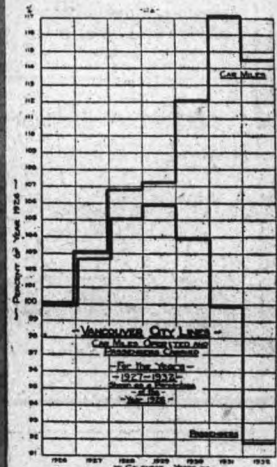
The powers asked for are entirely inconsistent with the principle laid down by the provincial commissioner and the powers obtained by the city from the Provincial Government to put those principles into effect.

(13) CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

In the last four years we have spent \$1,800,000 of additional capital on the Vancouver street railway system, which brings our total capital invested in that system up to \$11,770,000, and it was an outstanding feature of our discussions with the City Council that we should make these additional capital expenditures. Surely there is a moral obligation on the council to give the company an opportunity to earn a fair return on that expenditure.

(14) ADEQUATE SERVICE.

We have conscientiously increased our service as traffic increased and have always more than kept pace with such increases.



The chart above shows the picture for the last six years—passengers and car miles. From 1926 to 1929 the passengers increased 6 per cent, and the car miles 7 per cent. From 1929 to 1931 the passengers dropped 6 per cent, but the car miles actually increased a further 9 per cent. From 1931 to 1932 the passengers dropped 3 per cent, but the car miles only dropped 2 per cent.

If we relate the car miles to the passengers carried, and call that the measure of the service given, we find that, starting with 1926 as a base and calling it 100, then

- 1926 showed an improvement of 2 per cent. in service;
- 1929 showed an improvement of 8 per cent. in service;
- 1931 showed an improvement of 18 per cent. in service;
- 1932 showed an improvement of 25 per cent. in service.

In other words, the service in relation to the traffic offered, was 25 per cent. better in 1932 than in 1926. In the face of such figures, how can there be any legitimate demand for increases in service?

The following are the detailed figures—

Year	Passengers Carried	Revenue
1926	54,985,849	83,231,896
1929	58,217,984	3,820,811
1932	50,460,778	3,065,667

(15) EARNINGS INADEQUATE—CAR MILE EARNINGS COMPARED.

Perhaps the best way of showing whether or not we are giving good service is to compare our earnings per car mile with the earnings of other companies. The car mile unit is a universal standard of measurement in the street railway industry and the earnings per car mile is a

measure of the adequacy of the service or otherwise. This figure is just as positive to those who understand as the weight of an object in pounds, or the capacity of a vessel in gallons, is to the man in the street. Take it for the moment that this figure, in cities similar to Vancouver, is about 40 cents per car mile. The B. C. Electric earnings

- In 1926 were 34.5 cents per car mile.
- In 1929 were 35.4 cents per car mile.
- In 1930 were 33.7 cents per car mile.
- In 1931 were 31.1 cents per car mile.
- In 1932 were 28.9 cents per car mile.
- Last six months of 1932 were 28.3 cents per car mile.

These earnings are impossibly low and in the year 1932 do not cover the expense of operation and leave nothing for a return on either the company's original investment or on the investment which, in good faith, it has put into the railway system during the past four years. The low earnings of the company will be more fully realized by a study of the following table, which figures cover 1931 operations:

- Montreal earnings are 42.8 cents per car mile.
- Toronto earnings are 41.4 cents per car mile.
- An average of 118 companies in the United States shows 40.1 cents per car mile.
- An average of 48 companies operating city service only, shows 40.5 cents per car mile.
- Vancouver for 1931 shows 31.1 cents per car mile.

The above figures demonstrate, beyond a doubt, that the average earnings in all the large cities of the United States is over 40 cents per car mile. The car mile earnings in Montreal and Toronto are 42 cents and 41 cents respectively. The B. C. Electric earnings, even in its peak year, were only 35.4 cents and have now dropped to the alarming figure of 28.9 in 1932.

This comparison is a conclusive answer to any criticism that we are not giving a good and adequate service. We are obviously giving a better service than the traffic warrants and it is also obvious that the introduction of competition would demoralize the whole system.

(16) AREAS AND POPULATIONS.

A very important factor in any street railway system is the area of the city in relation to the population. It is obvious that 250,000 people, spread over ten square miles, can be served more economically than the same number spread over forty square miles.

In Vancouver we have a very difficult problem under this head. Compared with other Canadian cities, the area of Vancouver is very large in relation to the population. For example, as compared with Montreal we have almost the same city area with little more than one-fourth of the population.

Comparison can be made with the city of Toronto on similar lines, and I attach a map showing the boundaries of the city of Toronto, and imposed upon it there is an outline of the Vancouver city boundaries.

The centre point is the postoffice in Vancouver and King and Yonge streets in Toronto. The area bounded by the dark line is the city of Vancouver and the cash fare for service given within this area is 7 cents. This area is 43.7 square miles. The area bounded by the thin line and shaded is the city of Toronto. This is 32.3 square miles, or only three-quarters of the Vancouver area. The population within this area is 631,000 as against Vancouver 246,000, the cash fare charged within this area being 10 cents with an extra charge for travel outside this area, whereas the fare charged in the city of Vancouver is 7 cents.

I do not think it would be possible to place before you, diagrammatically, anything which would indicate more clearly how much greater are the difficulties under which we operate in giving service than prevail in other cities. I might mention incidentally that this adds not only to the cost of giving transportation service but to the giving of all our services—light, power and gas.

(17) VANCOUVER STREET RAILWAY SERVICE COMPARED WITH OTHER COMPANIES.

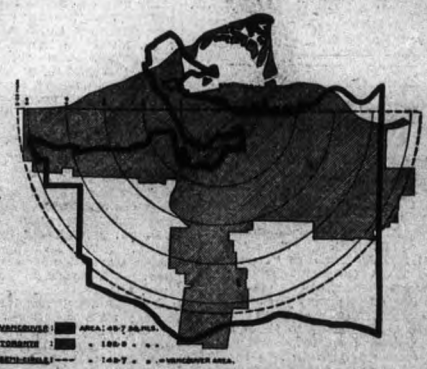
I have said that I do not fear comparison of the street railway service in Vancouver with that of any other similar company. I would like to give you a few of the figures on which I rely when making that statement.

First, in regard to fares. We are among the lowest on the continent. Our cash fare is 7 cents and our ticket fare is 6 1/4 cents, with still lower fares for off-peak riding and by means of weekly passes. Out of 340 American cities with a population of 25,000 or over, there are 190 charging a 10-cent cash fare, 46 charging 8 cents or 9 cents—altogether, 296 charging more than 7 cents. The average cash fare in all cities is 8.18 cents. In Canada we have Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Regina, and several other smaller cities with a 10-cent cash fare, some of them with tickets at 8 1/2 cents, some at 7 1/2 cents and some at 6 1/4 cents.

The average fare paid by all car riders in the city of Vancouver for the year 1932 was 6.18 cents, whereas the average fare of all electric railways on this continent in cities with 50,000 population and over, was 7.88 cents for the same year, and consequently had the citizens of Vancouver even paid the average fare as existing on other transportation systems, they would have paid an additional \$685,000 for their transportation in the year 1932.

I have no hesitation in saying that the service given is too great, economically, for the fare charged.

In the face of these figures given, in the statement I have made that our operations in the city of Vancouver do not today cover our operating expenses a surprising one, and does not this picture indicate the impossibility of operating with a competitive service?



City	Area (Square Miles)	Population
Vancouver	43.7	246,000
Toronto	32.3	631,000

(18) GENERAL OUTLINE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CITY AND COMPANY.

The agreements which control the relations between ourselves and the city in connection with the city transportation speak for themselves. Under these agreements, the company provides all the public transportation in the city of Vancouver. The principal agreement between the city and the company was entered into in 1901, and under it, the city has the right to buy out the company at an arbitrated price every five years.

Another agreement was made in 1922, establishing a 6-cent fare in place of the maximum of 5 cents in the original agreement. This 1922 agreement was for three years, and renewed itself as regards the fare for three-year periods unless a change was made by mutual agreement or arbitration at the end of each period. The 6-cent fare continued until 1929, which was just after the amalgamation of South Vancouver and Point Grey with the city. The City Council were extremely anxious to have a uniform fare over the whole new city area, and the company agreed to a ticket fare of 6 1/4 cents and a cash fare of 7 cents. This represented an increase of a quarter of a cent in the city and a decrease of three-quarters of a cent in South Vancouver and Point Grey, and this brought us up to the same rate of fare as had prevailed in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg for seven years, and which, as previously mentioned, was subsequently increased to 10 cents cash in Toronto and Winnipeg.

(19) NEW CITY AGREEMENT.

Since the last session of Parliament, we have entered into a new agreement with the City Council in regard to fares, after very protracted negotiations.

In spite of falling revenues and the serious financial condition of our street railway system, we agreed to reduce the price of school children's tickets by 20 per cent., non-rush hour tickets, 17 for \$1, we reduced to 18 for \$1; and we introduced a weekly pass, which is used by over 3500 customers every week, undoubtedly because they find it cheaper.

We looked upon these concessions purely as a voluntary contribution towards relieving the pressure of the hard times affecting large classes of citizens. They were not warranted by the company's financial condition.

(20) AGREEMENTS FURNISH AMPLE PROTECTION TO CITY.

These agreements give the city a very large measure of control over the company. We have the authority to fix fares. If the fares suggested do not seem equitable according to the facts, the matter can be referred to arbitration and we are bound by the results of that arbitration. Surely nothing can be fairer than this.

Also, in regard to motor buses, under these agreements the City Council may demand that we put on motor buses to serve any particular district which is not being adequately served by the existing system, and the only protection the company has against the city making unreasonable demands under this clause is that the city agrees to pay one-half the loss on the operation of such new service. On the other hand, if there should be a profit on the operation of such service, the city would become entitled to 40 per cent of such profit. Notwithstanding the perfectly fair and reasonable provision we have recently agreed to absorb all the losses on the feeder bus routes now in operation, although not one of them is meeting expenses.

We have more than lived up to these agreements and large sums of money have been expended on the strength of the security afforded by them.

(21) CREDIT OF THE COMPANY.

These proposals are aimed directly at the operations of the B. C. Electric Railway Company and the mere fact that they are asked for is sufficient to cause injury to the credit of that company.

I do not need to tell you that any legislation which threatens injury to the earning power or the credit standing of any reputable industry in this province is a matter that seriously affects the province as a whole. It can not affect one industry without affecting others.

The standing of this province in financial centres is to a large extent judged by the standing of its large industries.

It is probably not too much to say that the operations and results of the B. C. Electric Railway Company are looked upon in financial quarters as a barometer indicating approximately the general conditions throughout the province.

This legislation, if it should pass, will be taken by the centres of finance at its face value, viz. that the Vancouver City Council intends, deliberately, to do something which will seriously injure the railway investment.

It has never been more difficult than it is today to interest the outside investor in British Columbia securities, including government securities, and it is surely not worth while to run any unnecessary risk of making that situation worse.

(22) THE PLEBISCITE.

The only new point in the city's case, as compared with last year, is that they have supported it this time by the result of a plebiscite taken up on the question at the municipal elections in December, when 23,672 citizens voted in favor of the city obtaining these powers and 10,318 voted against the proposal.

It is not at all remarkable that a majority of votes should have been secured for the plebiscite. You, Gentlemen, know something about public affairs and I think can picture a little more accurately than I can tell you the conditions under which this vote was taken.

To ask any man if he would like additional service is to get the answer you expect. Of course the majority will say "Yes."

Suppose the City Council were to ask the citizens, by plebiscite, whether they were in favor of the Provincial Government taking over all the expenses of the schools in the city or all the deficits on the hospital, or all the unemployment expenses. You know what the answer would be. You might almost as reasonably ask them whether they were in favor of taxes or no taxes, but I am not going to labor this point, because I am quite sure that your knowledge will guide you as to what weight to attach to this plebiscite.

The man in the street is not in a position to adequately weigh all the factors which govern the settlement of a question such as this, and this must be quite obvious from an examination of the nature of these controlling factors which I have given you in detail in my preceding remarks.

(23) MEETING THE DEPRESSION.

We are all in the same boat in relation to this depression. I realize that this government is straining every nerve to meet the situation. So is the City Council. So are all public bodies. You ask your public utility companies and your big industries to co-operate with you, to avoid unemployment, to pay taxes, to make local purchases. So far as my company is concerned we are doing these things to the limit of our ability, realizing that our welfare is bound up in the general welfare of the city and the province. Why should we, at this time, be subjected to an attack of this kind, the very mention of which suggests that we are falling down in our duty to the city and injures our credit in financial centres.

We have probably kept employed, during this depression, more men, proportionately, than any other large concern in the province, at the same time our taxation has been enormously increased, we are barely able to pay the fixed charges on our whole undertaking, and the railway department, as I have shown you, is actually not earning operating expenses.

I suggest to you that some of us would be in British Columbia at all if it were not for the industries and the commercial enterprise which provide the payroll for our citizens and are the basis of all the money available by the province and the municipalities. Those who are responsible for the operation and development of these enterprises are today facing difficulties and are subjected to strain hardly less than those responsible for government.

There never was a time when, in the interests of the city and the province, there was a greater need for a sympathetic attitude for co-operation and assistance on the part of public bodies towards enterprises such as ours. I would suggest to you, as a matter of common sense, that we should be relieved of the necessity of wasting energy and effort and money in directions which, however interesting at normal times, must be considered today as non-essential; on the other hand, that enterprises such as ours should be encouraged to make the maximum contribution of which they are capable towards the solution of the very great difficulties with which we are today all faced.

(24) PAST MISTAKES.

Gentlemen:

I am not a pessimist, but what possible hope can there be for the future of Vancouver, British Columbia or Canada if we refuse to be guided by the results of past mistakes. Here we are today all of us facing a tragic crisis resulting from the duplication of facilities and particularly railway facilities. There is scarcely anyone who does not realize the nature of the mistakes which have been made, and whatever differences of opinion do exist are as to the possible means of lessening the penalties of these mistakes and re-establishing with great sacrifice possible new bases of operation.

Now, at this time, the City Council comes to you, asking you to give them powers to enable them to do in the city transportation in Vancouver just that thing which has had such tragic results all over the country, and particularly in the field of railway transportation.

I have placed before you a number of arguments, any one of which is sufficient in itself to condemn this proposal, but I maintain that on the grounds which I have just stated and within the scope of your own experience, this proposal condemns itself.

W. G. MURRIN.

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Log of the House

It Is Almost Over at Last—And We Are Getting Ready to Go Home Thoroughly Disillusioned and Disgusted with Ourselves—But a Little Life Is Still Left in This Dying Session of a Dying Legislature.

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

VICTORIA, April 7.—These are the dying hours indeed, and with them all hope is dying, too. There was on the face of this Legislature on Thursday the look of men who realize that the grim reaper of politics is just around the corner; that they are near the end not only of the session, but of public life. There was more than that. There was the look of men who are going home utterly weary and disgusted, whose fondest hopes have been dashed to the ground, who

don't know what is going to happen but expect it will be pretty bad.

In the House business went along at top speed, because no one wants to stay here beyond Saturday morning; but behind the scenes the real business of the session was not going forward at all. As this is written, at the end of the hardest, bitterest and most disappointing day since the last election, there is no member bold enough to believe that anything worth while will come out of the present political turmoil. Unless a last-minute miracle saves it, the Conservative caucus which last week was going to build a new government, a new policy, a new heaven and a new earth, will go home with its tail between its legs. It will go home and leave Premier Tolmie to work out what he can. And a goodly part of it, according to its own statement, will quietly speak through the back door into Mr. Bowser's party.



What will develop from this glorious mess, what the Premier can do about it, no one knows. The average Conservative member has just thrown up his hands in despair and wants only to get home, away from it all, away from shattered illusions and lost faith. This, while it is a melancholy end to a session, which was to produce a union of best minds, an end of politics and a shining rebirth of statesmanship—this was the best possible atmosphere for concluding the business of the session, for ending this sorry show and putting the toys away.

We sat all day, with two futile Conservative caucuses intervening, and passed enough laws to keep the people of British Columbia virtuous for the rest of their lives. To listen to this endless procession of new statutes, from beer to bridges, from lunacy to income taxes, would make the unseasoned head swim.

OUR OLD FRIEND BEER.

We came at last, after a long day, to our dear old friend, beer, who used to hold us in these premises by the week but lately has been out of public life. Mr. Pooley announced the glad news that beer prices were coming down to \$1.50 a dozen, admitted that he never drank the stuff but believed government beer was "reasonably good," a comprehensive expression which made the House smile. Dr. Winch, who never drank the stuff either, didn't agree, but we could get no testimony from anyone who knew from experience. Apparently no one drank the stuff. Even Mr. Uphill said he knew of it only by hearsay. Anyway, we passed the new beer policy, including capped bottled beer in beer parlors, without strenuous opposition and without discussion.

We also passed the new bill ordering sterilization for the insane, with strong support in some directions but against the protest of Dr. Gillis, who made an able speech against it, and of Mr. Pattullo, who said the bill was innocuous and brought in too late. This surprised the government, since it was Mr. Pattullo who first raised the question a few days ago and demanded action.

When we came to the bill giving the government wide power to administer unemployment relief, Mr. Pattullo grasped the opportunity to make a final declaration of Liberal policy—concerted action by the people through government to solve unemployment—and to make a final gesture of disgust at the record of the government. He didn't like to give this government the wide-open powers of the new bill, but was comforted mightily with the thought that a new government, probably under his leadership, would use them before the summer was over. Still, if he were not elected, he said in this unexpected sessional valedictory, he would make no murmur; for he confessed with humility, that it was a terrible job, being premier just now if a man wanted to accomplish anything, and he would not take it on any other basis.

CUT THEM DOWN.

In the evening we began to grapple with some realities in a big way. After weeks of stubborn fighting behind the scenes, E. C. Carson, a determined young fellow from the bunch-grass country, managed to get action on his resolution which calls for a national writing down of interest rates on all governmental borrowings, federal, provincial and municipal—probably the biggest chunk of economies which the House has tried to bite off this year.

A lot of powerful people would have liked to see the Carson resolution die on the order paper, the fate, usually reserved for unpleasant proposals of this sort. The resolution seemed all set for this fate when Mr. Carson insisted that it be voted on, and he resisted all attempts to tone it down. In the end he succeeded handsomely in his fight, for not a single vote was recorded against it. The Legislature thus decided unanimously that it was in favor of scaling down interest rates according to the country's ability to pay—a decision which would have been impossible a year ago.

Mr. Dick of Vancouver made a lone and gallant fight for his plan to extend the present mortgage moratorium to interest as well as principal, within the discretion of the courts. He declared that hundreds of Vancouver people were losing their homes through foreclosure, that no abuses could occur if the courts were made solely responsible, and that request was ungraciously refused. Mr. Pooley, who has consistently opposed this plan as dangerous, denounced it again, but it got support from Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Pearson.

But unhappily for Mr. Dick, he had

got himself into the hands of lawyers. His amendments to the mortgage law were so involved, having been drafted by a lawyer, that all the lawyers in the House couldn't understand them at first. And just as Mr. Dick was demanding a division on the principle involved, a legal slip in his proposal was discovered conveniently. At once opponents of his plan viewed it with great alarm and before Mr. Dick knew what had happened, he had been turned down cold, without any support at all. Well, Mr. Dick said he wanted to put the Vancouver members on record, and he did so. He was the only member in the House who was heard to vote for a moratorium on interest.

For the rest of the night the House operated like a mighty machine, turning out bill after bill with monotonous regularity. Mr. Pooley watched with eagle eye and with hand on the throttle, for it is his job to see that no bills die on the order paper of neglect, a formidable job indeed when you have nearly a hundred bills, all in different stages of growth and amendment, to keep in order. Somehow Mr. Pooley will manage it. Somehow everything that Mr. Pooley wants done will be done by tonight, and all those things that he doesn't want done, won't be, and the Seventeenth Legislature will come to its latter end according to the best traditions.

Sterilization Measure Passed By Legislature

VICTORIA, April 7.—Legislation providing for the sterilization of the insane under safeguards was finally passed by the Legislature today without formal division. T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, voted against it verbally.

TOLMIE AND PATTULLO CLASH AGAIN

Battle Over Park Act Changes Makes Union Remote.

SPEAKER HALTS SUDDEN FLARE-UP

Liberal Land Deals and Tory Bond Transactions Assailed.

VICTORIA, April 7.—The proposed union of the Conservative and Liberal parties was accepted as finally impossible in the Legislature today when Premier Tolmie and T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, clashed for the second time with evident feeling.

This last-minute flareup occurred when the government rejected flatly but with some division in the Conservative party, Mr. Pattullo's Park Act amendments. These amendments would have forced the government to secure the approval of the House for any exchanges of park lands with private interests.

TORIES VOTE WITH OPPOSITION.

Three Conservatives, Messrs. Loutet, Rutledge and Macintosh, as well as William Dick, independent, voted with Mr. Pattullo against the government.

Glaring across at the Premier, Mr. Pattullo said emphatically: "This government talks of union government and co-operation, and yet it won't accept even a reasonable suggestion from me! What would have happened to me if I had accepted the Premier's invitation into his government, I being in a minority?"

"Did you submit all your land deals to the Legislature?" the Premier demanded sharply. "I'm not responsible for your bond deals," Mr. Pattullo retorted. "For our land deals I take full responsibility. At least we had a run for our money. We didn't spend millions herding men into camps."

"We're paying for your land deals now—that's one of the reasons for our heavy debt."

DOUBLED DEBT IN FIVE YEARS.

"Why, this government has nearly doubled debt charges in five years," Mr. Pattullo shot back.

The two leaders seemed disposed to continue their dispute, but Mr. Speaker Davis stopped them. Discussing the park situation Mr. Pattullo said the government should have no objection to securing the approval of the House for park land transfers and particularly for the proposed extension of Garibaldi Park.

Hon. N. S. Loughheed, minister of lands, made a vigorous defense of the new legislation. He said it was impossible for any government to secure approval of the House for every small transaction such as the removal of a settler from a park area. He explained that the government already had power, and the former ministry had frequently used it to acquire park land for cash. Now it only asked power to trade area for area.

GARIBALDI MAY GO TO DOMINION.

As for Garibaldi Park it was hoped to turn it over to the Dominion Government but without the new legislation this deal would be impossible and would immediately collapse.

The plan would add to the park a fine area of virgin timber north of the Fraser River, the only remaining stand in the whole valley. Without the new legislation the timber would be cut.

Under the new plan Vancouver people would have quick access to the most wonderful park area in America, including the forest and a vast area of Alpine scenery.

Mr. Loughheed said a whispering campaign had been conducted to suggest that he was personally interested in the addition of a timber area to Garibaldi.

"I haven't one dollar in any company cutting timber there!" he said. "When I entered public life I resigned all directorships of this sort. I have only some common stocks in some lumber companies which under present conditions I would gladly sell for 50 cents. I went into public life clean, and I'll leave it clean."

B. C. ASKS CUT IN INTEREST RATES

House Is Unanimous In Asking Federal Plan Be Devised.

VICTORIA, April 7.—E. C. Carson of Lillooet secured the unanimous endorsement of the Legislature on Thursday for his drastic resolution calling for a nation-wide writing down of interest rates on all governmental borrowings, federal, provincial and municipal. This resolution, the first of the sort passed by any Canadian Legislature so far as members here know, will be forwarded to Ottawa immediately, with the support of both parties.

Mr. Carson's resolution, which has been on the order paper for some time and facing considerable private opposition, from powerful members, came to vote early Thursday evening, when Mr. Carson insisted on a decision, having refused to accept amendments which would limit the effect of his proposal.

SCORES CAPITALISTS.

Thomas Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, spoke briefly in support of the Carson resolution. He said capitalists had "unmuzzled galls" to expect the present high rate of interest when wage and salary earners were taking less income all the time.

No voice opposed the resolution when it finally came to a vote.

Mr. Carson's resolution recites that the "burden of public debt charges in Canada, federal, provincial and municipal, has become greater than the present ability of the taxpayers to carry; that high rates on governmental borrowings are keeping money out of business investment; that investors in government securities can best be protected if interest is brought within the ability of governments to pay; that the present debt charges threaten seriously to impair the financial structure of government finance in Canada to the great loss not only of the citizens at large, but also of the bondholders."

WATCH THE DOLLAR.

The resolution then calls on the Government of Canada to "devise a plan for the scaling down of interest rates on governmental borrowings, federal, provincial and municipal, having regard to the present purchasing power of the dollar and the ability of the country to pay."

Amendment Speeds Up Succession Duty Act

VICTORIA, April 7.—(GP)—An amendment to the Succession Duty Act brought down in the Legislature today by Hon. R. L. Maitland gives administrators powers to expedite the windup of estates by speeding up appraisal of values. As the act now stands, six months or more elapses before the fixation of values for succession duties, and as a consequence administration has been held back for that length of time. The clause dealing with the widows' exemptions is also clarified in the amendment.

B. C. Liquor Stores Cut Price of Beer 25 Per Cent

Net Cost to Consumer Will Be \$1.50 a Dozen Bottles.

VICTORIA, April 7.—Beer prices in government liquor stores will be reduced 25 per cent., Attorney-General Pooley announced in the Legislature Thursday.

Following the inauguration of the government's new policy to facilitate beer sales, the price of beer will be cut from \$2 to \$1.75 a dozen, but a refund of 25 cents a dozen will be given on bottles, so that the net price to the consumer will be \$1.50 a dozen.

Government Aims to Curb Bootlegging of Homebrew.

While beer will be sold to householders C.O.D. for \$1.50 a dozen net, the price will be \$1.75 at liquor stores, it was announced today. It was explained that the price generally will be \$1.75, but on C.O.D. orders the breweries will make a rebate of 25 cents a dozen on bottles. The government will not make a refund on bottles sold in its stores.

The new prices will be effective as soon as the beer legislation now before the Legislature is assented to, probably today or Saturday.

New twenty-five-cent liquor permits will be effective April 18.

Mr. Pooley said the government saw no reason, particularly with beer being sold openly in the United States, why beer parlors should not sell bottled beer, and he emphasized that under this new plan the principle of government liquor control was not being violated. Beer sold thus would still be under the direction and control of the government.

To explain the need of liberalizing the beer sale system, Mr. Pooley traced the decline in beer sales at government stores from 159,290 barrels in 1929 to 65,270 barrels last year, or a decrease of two-thirds.

While admitting that he did not drink it, Mr. Pooley said he believed that government beer was "reasonably good" in quality and would be sold at a "reasonable price." He said homebrewing was proceeding on a large scale, and much homebrew was bootlegged. The new plan would help to counteract this.

When Capt. MacGregor Macintosh, Conservative of the Islands, warmly defended the homebrewer, being one himself, Mr. Pooley said he had no objection to homebrewing, if the homebrewer did not sell his product. The government had no control over homebrewing anyway, he added. One store sold three carloads of homebrew equipment in Vancouver in one month, he said.

Dr. H. C. Wrinch, Liberal of Skeena, protested that the new programme went far beyond the mandate of the electors at beer plebiscites and a new mandate should be obtained before this plan was adopted. He said his beer-drinking friends were highly dissatisfied with the quality of government beer and regarded it as made too fast and with the use of too many chemicals.

This view was shared by Dr. G. K. MacNaughton, Conservative of Comox, who announced that he would break with his party to oppose the bill.

DON'T ENCOURAGE DRINKING.

A. M. Manson, K.C., Liberal of Omikame, declared that the government's duty was to provide reasonable facilities for liquor sale; to make only a reasonable profit, and not to encourage the consumption of intoxicants. The new beer plan appeared to be designed to encourage beer sale. Incidentally he saw no use in continuing the use of liquor permits, now reduced to 25 cents in price, as liquor vendors no longer bothered to endorse them.

The new beer plan was defended by Thomas Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, as reasonable and just to all concerned.

The bill was given second reading.

EMPLOYEES CLAIM ANYOX MINE UNSAFE

Tom Uphill Reads Affidavits In House—Demands Enquiry.

VICTORIA, April 7.—Sworn charges that conditions in the Anyox mine of the Granby Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company are highly dangerous to human life were flung across the floor of the Legislature in an unexpected debate today.

Thomas Uphill presented these allegations in the form of affidavits from Anyox miners when he demanded a full enquiry into conditions at Anyox by a commissioner. H. F. Kergin, Liberal, of Atlin, had moved a motion to this effect and Attorney-General Pooley had opposed it. But when Hon. W. A. McKenzie, minister of mines, adjourned debate the fate of the Kergin resolution was not clear.

Attorney-General Pooley said the Anyox situation had been fully discussed and the labor department had investigated it. He saw no reason for the suggested investigation.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, said he was informed that working conditions at Anyox were unsafe. In the north, he said, labor was seething with discontent, and, poor as the workmen were, they had sent a delegation here to protest against conditions at Anyox. An enquiry was urgently required, he said.

The affidavits were numerous and Mr. Uphill, to save time, did not read them all. A man named Lars Larsen swore in his affidavit that conditions in the mine were unsafe, that the bosses had known that certain workings were extremely dangerous, but had insisted that they were safe. There were many such dangerous places, Larsen said.

One affidavit said that pillars in the mine were incapable of carrying the load placed on them. Another told of dangerous slides of "muck" in the mine from which miners had narrowly escaped. Another said that men were told that if they got caught in these slides it was their own fault. If they refused to go into these dangerous places they were fired.

Mr. Uphill demanded enquiry into these conditions, declaring that even if it were necessary to accept low wages all men had a right to protection of their lives.

A. M. Manson, K.C., supported Mr. Uphill, urging that under present conditions it would be wise to go into the whole Anyox situation and satisfy the miners that their case was being heard. No man, he added, should be dismissed for telling what he believed to be the truth about conditions.

MAY BE NO LADNER LINK

Bruhn Restrictions Must Be Endorsed By His Principals, Says Ladner.

PROTECTING PUBLIC

VICTORIA, April 7.—The proposed Ladner bridge may not be built at all under the restrictions imposed on the bridge company by Hon. R. W. Bruhn, minister of public works, today. While he could not express an opinion one way or the other, Leon Ladner, K.C., counsel for the company, said his principals had not agreed to build a bridge on the basis now proposed by Mr. Bruhn. It would be for them to decide whether they cared to go ahead on the new conditions or not.

PATTULLO PROTESTS.

Mr. Bruhn declared that whatever the result, he would not sponsor any measure which did not fully protect the public as his new proposals did. An effort may be made in the House today to relax the Bruhn proposals.

In committee today Mr. Pattullo denounced the government for introducing projects of this sort in the dying hours of the session.

"The government, incapable, incompetent and unable to cope with the situation, has no right to enter into such major contracts and if the power is mine I don't propose to recognize them," he said.

"Well, well, well," jibed Attorney-General Pooley.

MUST CREDIT DEFICITS.

Mr. Bruhn's amendments provide that any money paid by the government as deficits on operation of the bridge shall be credited on the purchase price should the government take over the bridge.

The amendments also provide that in the event of a deficit the company must pay dollar for dollar with the government. If the company fails to pay the government will not pay either.

Debate on the new amendments will take place this afternoon.

"FULL DINNER PAIL" SCORED BY PATTULLO

B. C. and Ottawa Policies On Relief Under Liberal Leader's Fire.

VICTORIA, April 7.—(CP)—Final reading was given in the Legislature to the bill giving power to the government to enter into similar agreements with the Dominion Government and the municipalities for unemployment relief, as those that prevailed to the end of the fiscal year. The bill also gives power to the government to assist in a back-to-land policy.

The wide provisions of the bill were commented upon by Mr. Pattullo, who remarked he thought they were extraordinary. He claimed the government had shown no initiative; it had stagnated. They had evidence the government itself was dissatisfied with Ottawa's policy on relief camps and other phases of unemployment relief, but apparently it had tried to do nothing about it. Mr. Pattullo also disagreed with the Federal policy. The country had been told of the full dinner pail, and employment for everybody, but if the government had tried to adopt measures to bring about the reverse of that condition, it could not have adopted more effective means than it had done.

GOLD PANNERS WILL BE TRAINED BY B.C.

Bill Is Given Second Reading; Barkerville Town-site Bill Is Passed.

VICTORIA, April 7.—(CP)—Second reading was given a bill amending the provisional free miners' certificate (Placer Act) in the Legislature.

Hon. W. A. McKenzie, minister of mines, said the original bill had been instrumental in sending several hundred unemployed men into the hills and on creeks throughout the province in search of gold last year, and the amendment will provide elementary training for British subjects unfamiliar with mining.

Second and third reading were given to a bill to create a townsite at Barkerville, where snow staking had been recorded on the original townsite.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, remarked that the bill takes away some rights already acquired by miners without giving them compensation, but Hon. N. S. Loughheed, minister of lands, declared bona fide mineral claims would not be affected.

The amended Motor Vehicle Act was given second reading. Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, asked that the license year begin on November 1, instead of March. November, he explained, would greatly assist car owners in the interior who were snowbound four or five months a year and had to lay up their cars.

A bill to amend the Coal and Petroleum Act extends the time for licensees to take out leases thirty days to one year.

\$7,500,000 DEFICIT, PATTULLO FORECAST

Jones Says \$9,000,000 Cost of Relief Boosted Provincial Debt.

VICTORIA, April 7.—A government deficit in the next fiscal year of \$7,500,000 was predicted in the Legislature by T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader, Thursday night. He said the government's provision of \$6,980,377 for debt interest was \$500,000 short.

The interest cost, when the Liberal government left office, had been only \$4,036,000, he said. The gross debt now was \$165,000,000, not \$154,000,000 as stated.

Hon. J. W. Jones said the government accepted responsibility for increasing the debt from \$120,000,000 to \$154,000,000, of which \$9,000,000 was for unemployment relief.

Ottawa Refuses to Co-operate With B. C. To Cut Tax Forms

VICTORIA, April 7.—(CP)—The number of government returns companies were called upon to make was commented by A. M. Manson, K.C., before final reading was given in the Legislature to the bill providing for the surtax on incomes over \$500. Firms were being pestered with these returns, Mr. Manson commented, and it was adding to the cost of operation. Was there no way the Dominion Government and Provincial Government would exchange forms? he asked.

Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance, remarked that up to the present the Dominion Government had refused, although they were co-operating to a far greater extent now than before.

Mr. Manson also remarked that the Dominion Government was collecting income tax far more thoroughly than the Provincial Government. His sympathy would be with the minister if he enforced more thorough collection in British Columbia.

Prorogation of B.C. House Is Expected Tonight

VICTORIA, April 7.—The Legislature hopes to wind up its final session some time tonight. It may be necessary to hold a formal prorogation meeting Saturday morning, but whips are confident it will be possible to call the Lieutenant-Governor in to close the House this evening after thirty-two working days. It was February 22.

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HOTEL ME TO TA

VICTORIA, Ap gation of six ho by T. E. Chest Hotel, met Hon. ter of finance, in pending bill to cents and over.

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With the high cafes it means h checks, extra ac help. The tax lowering the cost cents to 49 and a box of matches Hon. J. W. Jo tion that the bil but gave the hot that the govern to lighten the co in this connecti meal tax stamps attachment to ch new law.

The delegatio son, Hotel Ge proprietor of P Baynes, Hotel G couver; J. K. Ho and Steve Jones Victoria.

The Ladner Bridge

WE are in favor of building the Ladner bridge—but not at an exorbitant figure.

In the Legislature the question of cost has been raised and there is information that another independent contractor estimates the bridge can be built for \$1,500,000 or less. The project as outlined at Victoria calls for an expenditure of \$2,600,000 as the outside figure.

No special engineering problem is involved in this bridge and costs of materials and labor may be accurately estimated. The Legislature may put its O.K. on the deal today or tomorrow, but there must be provision protecting the public from any water in the project. If the Legislature decides to authorize the structure, it should be with the clear proviso that engineers of the public works department must certify the costs are fair and that the total of the contract is substantially the correct figure of actual investment in the structure.

The B. C. Legislature has unanimously passed a resolution urging Dominion legislation to reduce interest rates. Now watch the rates go down.

That ten-million-dollar loan bill in the Legislature says more about the state of provincial finances than a hundred conventional budget speeches.

HOTEL MEN OBJECT TO TAX ON MEALS

VICTORIA, April 7.—(CP)—A delegation of six hotel operators, headed by T. E. Chester of the Vancouver Hotel, met Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance, in connection with the pending bill to tax meals costing 50 cents and over.

The delegation claimed the measure was unfair and discriminated against the better class of eating houses where overhead expenses were extremely high and business conditions poor. The hotelmen and cafe owners were now asked to become collection agencies for the government without any provision for meeting the cost of collection.

Caterias escape provisions of the tax by reason that no checks are issued and a diner may escape the tax by walking a few feet and getting another dish and another price marker.

With the higher-class hotels and cafes it means hundreds of extra safe checks, extra accounting and extra help. The tax can be avoided by lowering the cost of a meal from 50 cents to 49 and selling the customer a box of matches for one cent.

Hon. J. W. Jones told the delegation that the bill would go through, but gave the hotelmen the assurance that the government would endeavor to lighten the cost of collection, and in this connection intimated that meal tax stamps would be issued for attachment to checks covered by the new law.

The delegation included: W. Hudson, Hotel Georgia; R. G. Hunter, proprietor of Purdy's Cafe; A. W. Baynes, Hotel Grosvenor; all of Vancouver; J. K. Hodges, Empress Hotel, and Steve Jones, Dominion Hotel, Victoria.

DICK PLEADS FOR TAX MORATORIUM

Says 2700 Property Owners Can Not Pay Interest Or Taxes.

VICTORIA, April 7.—(CP)—In the Legislature, William Dick, Vancouver, moved an amendment to the Moratorium Bill covering interest and taxes, as well as principal. He told the House that there were 35,000 in the bread line in Vancouver, and 2700 property owners who had no money to pay taxes, interest or even a loaf of bread. He asked that the judge be given discretionary powers, and if a man was able to pay, make him do so; if unable to pay, not to take away his property.

G. S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, was in sympathy with Mr. Dick's motion, although he knew the difficulties confronting holders of mortgages. Mr. Pooley stated that there had been very few foreclosures in B. C. and not one man in a hundred wanted to take over property. The wider moratorium had worked havoc during the year, and the bill, as it stood, went far enough.

Hon. R. L. Maitland told the House that a judge's consent must now be obtained before a foreclosure action is started, and the foreclosure takes about eight months to put through. The bill was reported complete, with amendments.

BRIDGE BILL PASSES WITH RESTRICTIONS

Company Must Pay Dollar For Dollar Deficits On Ladner Project.

OPPOSED BY PATTULLO

Government Losses to Be Paid First Out of Profits From Operation.

VICTORIA, April 8.—With restrictions, which many expect will halt the project altogether the Legislature on Friday approved the new Ladner bridge scheme, after an argument lasting two hours.

Hon. R. W. Bruhn, minister of public works, admitting that his original bridge bill did not sufficiently safeguard the public interest, put such teeth into it that it was considered highly doubtful in some quarters that the Ladner Bridge Company would care to undertake the scheme, but the company has not yet had time to consider its position.

Mr. Bruhn's amendments, as drafted in co-operation with T. H. Kirk, chief critic of the original bill, and finally adopted, provide:

That the government shall not have to advance as its share of deficits on bridge operation, more than the company advances.

That in computing deficits, interest on any loans floated by the company shall not be in excess of 6 per cent.

PAY DEFICITS DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR.

That the government shall not be liable for more than \$140,000 in deficits in any year and shall be obligated to pay half the deficits, dollar for dollar with the company, for five years only.

That any deficits paid by the government in one year shall be repaid to it out of the first profits made thereafter. The government's payments will be a first charge against the company in the event of it going into receivership.

That the company must start construction within six months after an agreement is signed.

That the whole work shall be subject to the supervision of the government through its engineers.

In the end, the Bridge Bill carried on almost a straight party vote, the opposition lining up solidly against it.

W. R. Rutledge of Burnaby was the only Conservative to vote against it. Col. Nelson Spencer of Vancouver, who had spoken against the scheme, on the ground that the amendments made it impossible for the company to proceed, was not in the House when the vote was taken.

KIRK BELIEVES PRICE TOO HIGH.

T. H. Kirk, Conservative, of Vancouver, made a careful analysis of the whole project, and while there were features of it which he did not like, he believed, on the whole, that it was satisfactory, with Mr. Bruhn's amendments. Without these safeguards, however, the bill would be the "valedictory of the government." If the promoters of the company would not go ahead under the terms proposed by Mr. Bruhn, then the Bridge

Bill should be withdrawn entirely, Mr. Kirk said.

He had been told, he said, that a Vancouver contracting firm had expressed willingness to build the proposed bridge for \$1,500,000, but the government proposed to allow the Ladner company to spend up to \$2,600,000. He emphasized the importance, through strict government supervision, of keeping costs to a minimum.

After Mr. Kirk's lengthy speech, many members placed themselves on record, without altering the final result.

Dr. W. H. Sutherland, Liberal of Revelstoke and former minister of public works, said the whole project, making it impossible for the company to finance. It was useless to proceed with the bridge. The government should consider constructing itself a high-level suspension bridge near New Westminster or at Ladner. Fifty per cent. of the cost of the bridge would be in materials and the government proposed to allow them to be manufactured in England instead of Canada.

Jack Loutet, Conservative of North Vancouver, said the company could easily finance by a common stock issue, the stockholders paying the deficits.

SPENCER ASSERTS PUBLIC PROTECTED.

Colonel Nelson Spencer, Conservative of Vancouver, stated that the province had reached a stage financially where the users of roads and bridges must be prepared to pay for them. The Bruhn amendments so crippled the whole project that it was useless to proceed with the bill, without the amendments the scheme would still protect the public, and with ordinary traffic, would be a financial success. Other opinions were given as follows:

L. A. Hanna, Liberal, of Alberni—"The country couldn't afford such luxuries as the bridge. It should get along, as it had done to date, without a new span.

W. R. Rutledge, Conservative of Burnaby—"The bridge, if any, should be built further up the river nearer New Westminster, to serve the greatest number of people.

PATTULLO SAYS B.C. SHOULD BUILD BRIDGE.

T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader—If the New Westminster Bridge were so inadequate as represented, the government should have acted long ago. A new bridge could have been built out of the money spent on unemployment without any resulting asset. If a bridge must be built, the government should build, and should have no difficulty financing if it agreed with the bondholders to give them the bridge in the event that it defaulted on its bond payments.

The world depression and Canadian economic difficulties could only be solved by large-scale public works, financed by the national credit. British Columbia could do something toward this end by building the Ladner Bridge itself.

"I propose, within the limit of my authority," he said, "to see that there is a proper egress and ingress to and from Vancouver. But this moribund government has no right to pledge the credit of this province in this way. I do not propose to recognize any such legislation."

Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C.—The bridge scheme was started under a law passed by the old government. The execution of the project could safely be left to Mr. Bruhn, a man of proven ability and integrity, and to his engineers.

G. S. Pearson, Liberal, of Nanaimo—British Columbia was not in shape to undertake any major guarantee like that proposed.

Hon. W. A. McKenzie—Any accident to the New Westminster bridge, without an alternative crossing, would be a provincial disaster. A new bridge was needed. The province could not afford to undertake the project alone.

Wells Gray, Liberal of New Westminster—The New Westminster bridge was perfectly safe.

Inspector to Report On Anyox Mines

VICTORIA, April 8.—An inspector will be sent to Anyox to report on living and working conditions of mines at the Granby plant there, it was announced by Hon. W. A. McKenzie, minister of mines, in the House late Friday afternoon. A motion by H. F. Eargin, Liberal, Astle, to have an independent investigation made, was voted down on a straight party vote with Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, voting with the Liberals.

Session Missed Big Chance to Attain Union

Attempted Divorce From Politics Bungled From the Start.

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

VICTORIA, April 8.—After life's fitful fever, the Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia, as a maker of laws, as a factor in politics, is mercifully dead. Mercifully? Yes, after the lingering tortures of the last month, no one could be hard-hearted enough to keep it alive.

The Legislature is dead, and in circumstances of peculiar melancholy. It is dead, without friends, dis-

gusted even with itself; and yet, looking back on it at the end of its little life, we realize here that it was a good Legislature—good, I mean, in the quality and honesty of its men. Probably the next election, or any other, will not send a more upright lot of men to Victoria.

There was little to complain of in the average intelligence and the average honesty of the Seventeenth. Members and their motives, at the end, were high. But, despite all that, despite their desire to do something, they go home thoroughly unhappy men, all their hopes frustrated, and politics in chaos. There is no other word for it.

One sees now more clearly than was possible during the hurly-burly that there was a big chance to do something big this session. There was a full opportunity of union which would have wiped out party politics. A great majority of the House wanted it. No one is more sick of politics than the politicians. But the thing was bungled from the start, and every day of procrastination made it worse, until by the end of the session there wasn't even union in the Conservative caucus. In place of two parties there were half a dozen different groups in the House, all looking for somewhere to go.

WHERE TO?

Well, when they left here at the end of a hard Friday they didn't know where they were going. Many of them felt pretty sure they were going into the wilderness. Many Conservatives were going to run as independents. Others were going to join Mr. Bower. Many were going to stay home and listen to politics on the radio. Only Mr. Pattullo really thought he knew where he was going, and perhaps even he wasn't entirely sure of the road back.

As for the Premier, whom everybody loves as much as ever despite everything, he has been left here to do what he could, to pull things together as well as might be. And like all premiers, he bore the departure of the Legislature with his grief well disguised.

Yet this last day of a last session is always a wistful sort of day for everybody. Even the opposition, which expects to return unannounced and with vastly-increased numbers next year, felt that another big milestone had been passed, that a period not altogether without happiness for all of us was finally closed. For, despite the present confusion and dismay, this has been a friendly, kindly House. The unquenchable radiance of the Premier's disposition has penetrated to nearly every corner of the chamber. There has been a better feeling between government and opposition than at any previous time. And Mr. Pattullo, grown wonderfully human and tolerant of human weakness, has no enemy in his heart for



Five years, now closed, have changed us all down here, made everybody more human. This Legislature has been through a lot together, has plunged from the height of prosperity down to the depths of poverty, has been forced to change nearly all its basic ideas on economics, has become very humble in its old age. It goes away for the last time realizing that it made a pretty bad mess of many things, but comforted by the thought that its madness was the madness of the public which sent it there. It goes away hoping that the next Legislature, born in adversity and not handicapped by youthful riches, will do a better job.

THE LAST HOURS.

Our last hours were like the last hours of all legislatures about to die, like the parting hours of good friends who may never meet again. Every man bid his neighbor adieu with real regret, for the personal friendliness of this House, from the leaders to the most humble back benches seems to grow with growth of official disagreement.

The last day was the usual monotonous drone of legislation going through the mill, the driving forward of the last bill to finality, lest it be left on the order paper, the final granting of supply to His Majesty, the customary big issue left to the final moments.

In this case the big issue was the Ladner bridge. All afternoon we argued about the Ladner bridge and finally agreed to the proposals of Mr. Bruhn, who safeguarded the government in the project to such an extent that many don't expect the bridge to be built at all. Anyway, everybody wanted to talk about the Ladner bridge and about a lot of other things. The Ladner bridge, indeed, was forced to carry such a load of oratory and extraneous argument that its utmost capacity was tested.

This was the last debate of the Seventeenth Legislature and the old-time warriors couldn't resist the temptation to strike a few last blows—Mr. Pattullo to reiterate his general Liberal policy of restoring prosperity and to denounce the government for introducing important project in its last hours; Mr. Maitland to remark that Mr. Pattullo's evidence didn't want the government to do anything in its last session except to sit and admire Mr. Pattullo; Mr. McKenzie to discuss the next election campaign and predict a torrent of abuse and falsification; Mr. Pooley to take a few parting shots at his good friend, Duff; Mr. Speaker to make everyone behave.

Little else remained. After spirited debate and many serious allegations, Mr. Kergin lost his motion calling for an independent investigation into conditions in the mines and smelter of Anox, but not before Mr. McKenzie had promised an enquiry by officials of his department into the sworn statement of miners that the workings were highly dangerous to human life.

Mr. Uphill lost his motion calling for the release of thirty-seven freight marchers who stole a ride on freight trains, after Mr. Pooley had made an indignant and general denunciation of paid agitators, who wanted to establish Communism here.

Colonel Spencer lost his motion calling for a shorter day in industry because he brought it in fifteen minutes before prorogation and no one wanted to consider it then.

LAST SAD RITES.

It was a House of parting friends as the seventeenth Parliament assembled for the last sad rites. But first it made a rather poignant presentation to that dear old friend of everyone, our Elder Statesman, Jim Schofield of Rossland-Trail, the best-loved figure in provincial politics. When the Speaker had gone to escort the Lieutenant-Governor into the chamber, Attorney-General Pooley, second in seniority only to Mr. Schofield, took charge. Under his direction the Premier and Mr. Pattullo walked together to Mr. Schofield's desk bearing a huge silver plate, the gift of all the members. Mr. Pooley called his old friend the "whitest man British Columbia has ever seen"; the Premier said, "Long may our Jimmy live"; Mr. Pattullo thanked him for his long and splendid service to British Columbia.

For Mr. Schofield, who came into this assembly in 1907, who has seen governments come and go, who has watched all his old comrades pass beyond the bar of the House, this was a crowning moment, for he will not run again. This was his last night in a Legislature which has been his spiritual home for most of a lifetime. Probably no tribute ever rendered here had more in it of friendship and sincerity.

The Lieutenant-Governor came. The seventy-odd bills passed this session were droned out by Clerk Langley, making an impressive record in volume at least. The Lieutenant-Governor read his speech, appreciating our labors. It was announced that he had graciously assented to our legislation. Mr. Speaker Dave approached him with the historic sentiments of unfeigned devotion and got approval for our appropriations. The members stood about in a circle, joined hands and shouted out the words of "Auld Lang Syne." The old spring blizzard of sessional papers, pillows and wastepaper baskets swept the chamber. Mr. Howe demonstrated how he could leap over his desk like a two-year-old. Everybody said goodbye to everybody else. The seventeenth Legislature belonged to the Ages. We hoped the ages would appreciate it more than the electors have.

LEGISLATURE PROROGUED

House Sat for Six Weeks And Passed Over Eighty Bills.

THREE-PARTY FIGHT

VICTORIA, April 8.—(CP)—After sitting for thirty-two working days spread over a period of six weeks and passing over eighty bills, nearly every one of which amends some statute on the books, the B. C. Legislature prorogued on Friday night with the next provincial election uppermost in the minds of most of them.

After prorogation the usual felicitations took place with the added touch that, this being the last session of the Legislature, the members joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne." Then followed the time-honored custom of throwing papers at one another until the stately Legislative Chamber looked like a wastepaper bin.

CHANGES EXPECTED.

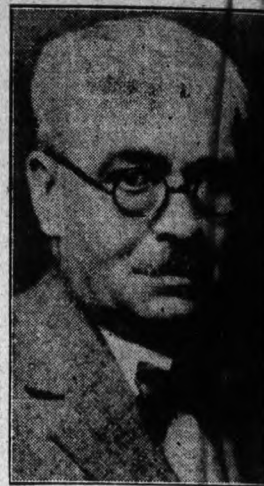
The session was the fifth and last of the present Legislature. The members' time will expire by next September. Elected in July of 1928 at a contest that ended twelve years of Liberal administration to give Premier Tolmie an overwhelming majority in the House, the present Legislature prorogued with the certainty that its complexion will be vastly changed.

All negotiations on union government having failed, however, members returned to their homes, waiting for the announcement that Premier Tolmie had been called upon to make by the executive of the B. C. Conservative Association, fifteen days after the session closes.

THREE PARTIES IN FIELD.

Out of all the discussion what is regarded as the most likely outcome in many quarters, at present reading, is that within a few weeks Premier Tolmie will announce a reorganization of his cabinet, possibly bringing in some men, outside the ranks at present. Then he will announce the date of the election. Three parties, one led by the Premier, one by W. J. Bower, K.C., and Liberals, under the leadership of Mr. Pattullo, will be the main factors in the battle for control of the next government. It is anticipated there will be a more than usual number of independent candidates or representing other smaller parties in the field.

Honored



J. H. SCHOFIELD
Rossland-Trail, Conservative.

VICTORIA, April 8.—While waiting for the arrival of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to prorogue the House last night, Attorney-General R. H. Pooley mounted the Speaker's dais and announced that Premier Tolmie and T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader, on behalf of the House, were about to make a presentation to one of the "white-est men who ever served the people of B. C., J. H. (Jim) Schofield, who has been a member of the House for twenty-one years.

The two leaders then walked to Mr. Schofield's desk and in a most appropriate speech presented him with a silver tray.

An engraved silver cigarette case also was presented to Col. Wood, D.S.O., sergeant-at-arms, with the best wishes of all.

Uphill Wears Derby, Spats and Cane Before Camera For a Dare!

VICTORIA, April 8.—(CP)—When the members of the House were photographed, amazement spread over the faces of Victorians upon seeing Tom Uphill, popular Labor member for Fernie, decked out in spats, a gold-headed cane, and a "Christy stiff."

Explaining the incident, however, Tom said he had been dared to wear Alec Manson's spats and carry Tommy Kirk's cane, while some stranger's derby was commandeered. Tom said he never took a dare from a Liberal or Conservative in the House, and why should he on parade?

Meal Tax and Other Bills Passed By House

VICTORIA, April 8.—(CP)—The following bills were given assent Friday and will become law upon assent of the Lieutenant-Governor:

Bills to amend the Mortgagees' and Purchasers' Relief Act, Government Liquor Act, Imposition of Meal Tax in Aid of Hospitals, Municipal Act, Mount Robson Park Act, and Provisional Free Miners' Certificate (Placer Act).

CABINET WOMEN

Howe's Spats
Applicable
Says As

VICTORIA.

got its last session now closed sent to members son of Ashcroft executive of the Association, with the new tax on

"The consensus of the counts ministers and crazy. Presumably to boarding-house to pay that Howe's Spats commence at quit

Sunday, April 9, 1933.

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CABINET IS CRAZY, WOMAN BELIEVES

Howe's Sterilization Bill Applicable to Victoria, Says Ashcroft Voter.

VICTORIA, April 8.—The capital got its last laugh of the legislative session now closed from a telegram sent to members by Mrs. Agnes Johnson of Ashcroft, a member of the executive of the Provincial Conservative Association, who protested against the new tax on meals as follows:

"The consensus of opinion throughout the country is that all cabinet ministers and members have gone crazy. Presume all hotels will turn into boarding-houses (which do not have to pay the new tax). It appears that Howe's Sterilization Bill for the Insane is quite applicable. Why not commence at Victoria?"

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Manson Denounces

Police Board

Commission Will Change Personnel Within One Week

House Rejects Plea of Mayor Taylor for Alteration in Board to Be Effective in July

Former Attorney - General Criticizes Vancouver Council's Choice of Certain Members

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, March 31.—In a scathing denunciation of the police commission situation in Vancouver, A. M. Manson in the House today opposed his leader, T. D. Pattullo, in the proposed amendment to the Vancouver City Charter Bill, to postpone the date of the police commission change to the Ontario system to July 1, and won the House over to vote the amendment out, making the new form effective immediately the bill receives Royal assent.

"The police situation in Vancouver has been the thorn in the flesh for many years," declared Mr. Manson. "When the first change was made giving the city council the right to appoint the commission, all went well for the first year, when they appointed men of highest standing and integrity in the community. The following year, in spite of the fact that they made a change, the men they appointed were still honest citizens."

"During the past year trouble arose because of the mayor's insistence in interfering in the matters of police administration, until finally the commission passed a resolution to the effect that the police chief would act only on the written authority of the entire commission."

"After the last election, to the eternal discredit of the province, the city council chose two men as police commissioners who were just worthy of certain United States cities I could mention. Time after time the mayor voted with these two men. As a result of conflict between the mayor and the commission, the city council asked in its charter amendments for a change in the police commission to be made."

"I am talking plainly, but feel that it is necessary under present circumstances. I must admit in all fairness that the two members of the police commission, Mr. Rush and Mr. Wilkinson, are fine citizens, and they are not the ones to whom I am referring."

"I did not want to bring this up. If I had known that my honorable leader was going to bring this amendment in, I would have given him this information, and I feel sure he would never have brought it in. I went into all this detail in the private bills committee, and regret very much that it had to be repeated here. But much as I respect the City of Vancouver, I respect law and order more."

Mr. Pattullo stated that he had known nothing about these details and had merely brought in the amendment in compliance with a telegraphic request purported to come from the mayor in Vancouver, asking that the new form be not active until July 1. "It seemed to me a reasonable request at the time," he said.

One other amendment was added to this section of the bill introduced by Mr. Pooley. It merely ensures that the county court judge, one of three to form the commission, will be designated by the Lieutenant Governor in council.

DELETE CLAUSE

City Wins in Amendment to Charter Bill

VICTORIA, March 31.—After a heated debate in which many members took part, the legislature today deleted from the City of Vancouver's charter amendments bill a clause which would have widened the definition of a manufacturer for purposes of licensing.

The striking out of the clause was a victory for the city, as the effect of the definition, in the opinion of the city's legal advisers, would have been to enable many firms now licensed as retailers and wholesalers to take advantage of the lower license fees charged to manufacturers under the city charter.

Shelly's Famous Speech Misquoted, Declares Member

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, March 31.—The Hon. W. C. Shelly explained his now famous Union government speech today, declaring that he had been willfully misquoted by the press, and maintaining that his remarks could apply to any member of the Assembly. He said that anyone who stood in the way of Union government should step aside, not meaning any particular person.

THE GAME BOARD

Editor, The Vancouver News.

Sir: In connection with the attorney general's defense of the Game Board there are certain features which require an explanation from him.

If Naphthalene is so successful in repelling the ravages of deer why then was it not used at Naramata where hundreds of dollars were spent in endeavoring to trap the elk which were supposed to be devastating the orchards?

Mr. Pooley states that every trapper organization is solidly behind the Game Board.

What trappers' organizations are there?

If Mr. Pooley would travel through the northern portion of this province he would very soon learn that the trappers are highly antagonistic to the board.

If as Mr. Pooley states the sportsmen pay for the whole administration of the board, why then should wardens be used on the sportsmen's money as fire rangers; forest patrolmen, etc.?

These wardens should be used wholly in the exercise of their duties as game wardens.

If a couple of wardens were told to do their duty in the Delta section they would kill at least 100 cats per week and we might get once more some pheasant shooting. But do they do it? No!

Still it takes four game wardens to stop and search a lone duck hunter's car. Is this efficiency?

Why is the game farm located at Victoria? Anyone who has raised game birds knows that the Okanagan is the ideal location for a game farm.

Why are all big game parties coming into this province sent to the Cassiar or, as Mr. Pooley states, to the Peace River, when within two hundred miles of Vancouver in the Cariboo is one of the grandest big game sections in North America?

There are no finer woodland Caribou than those at Quesnel Lake. Why? The Caribou guides are not so highly organized and do not co-operate with the game powers that be.

Mr. Pooley knows what game is in the Cariboo, but as he goes up and gets his share every autumn he does not advertise it.

In the game sanctuary north-east of Barkerville the wolves this winter have been playing havoc with the moose.

When this was brought to the attention of the Game Commissioner he said it was a good thing to keep the game moving.

A moose can move a long way in twenty feet of snow, with a pack of wolves in pursuit, can't he?

The whole game board needs a thorough re-organization and the "higher-ups" should be made to do their work conscientiously and honestly and not picnic at the government's expense.

EX-TRAPPER.

\$250,000 GRANT

U.B.C. Allocation Passes Committee of Supply

(By News Correspondent)

VICTORIA, March 31.—The grant of \$250,000 for the University of British Columbia which was held up for further information by members of the opposition in the Department of Education estimates yesterday, passed the committee of supply today. Estimated income of the University as given by Mr. Hinebliffe in the House today aside from government grants, was \$243,500 made up as follows: sessional fees, \$216,000; graduation fees, \$1,600; summer session fees, \$16,500; supplementary examinations, \$4,000; bookstore, \$1,500; grill, \$500; and Theological College, \$3,000.

President L. S. Kilnick will shortly call a special meeting of the Board of Governors to consider the annual University budget, it has been announced in the administration office. Although no official information has been forthcoming, it is believed that the amounts granted to each faculty will vary little from last year as the provincial government grant of \$250,000 has not been changed.

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Sterilization Law May Be Introduced Shortly

House Likely to Bring in Legislation This Session

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, March 31.—Possibility that legislation may be introduced before prorogation of the present session, providing for sterilization of mentally unfit, loomed tonight after several members had spoken in favor of such measures. "I am absolutely convinced that the time has arrived for such legislation," declared Hon. L. S. Howe, "and if the House is ready to receive it the bill could yet be introduced at this session. We have not adjourned yet."

Discussion was opened by T. D. Pattullo when mental hospital estimates were under review. He stated sterilization should be adopted in this province.

Dr. L. E. Borden said the main trouble was that the word "sterilization" was never properly explained to the layman. "There is no disabling condition to either sex," he explained, "the only thing is that it prevents procreation under circumstances where the only possible result would be production of mentally unbalanced persons."

He declared that millions could have been saved in mental institutions had there been sterilization years ago. "We should have had it long ago and now we are paying for it," he said.

Mr. Pooley's Pet Law

The tone of Mr. Pooley's recent exposition of the bill to amend the Security Frauds Prevention Act discloses the attitude of mind in which he met the very reasonable requests that have been made for a modification of the measure.

As has been stated in these columns, the act, as it stands at present, is seriously handicapping the development of new mining properties in British Columbia.

Despite the representations that have been made on behalf of persons and companies actively engaged in mining, however, Mr. Pooley firmly dismisses the protests against the act as coming from mere promoters.

Apparently to be a promoter, so far as Mr. Pooley is concerned, is to be quite without the pale.

There are, of course, promoters and promoters, but Mr. Pooley apparently forgets that the promoter fulfills a very useful function in the development of mining and other properties.

In complaining of the act, the promoter speaks not only for himself but for the owners of mines who are looking for capital to assist them in the development thereof.

A mining syndicate, say, has put a certain amount of money, time and effort into the development of a prospect. The point is reached where the means of the members of the syndicate, several of whom, usually, have been engaged in the actual work on the ground, become inadequate for an operation that is constantly expanding.

Believing that they have a real mine and having given evidence of their faith by their own investment in it, they decide to appeal to the public for further funds.

It is here that the promoter comes in, for promotion is a business in itself.

That some lucky promoters have been excessively overpaid for their services in the past is no argument against the necessity and wisdom of putting the business of promotion in the hands of those who understand it.

The act, Mr. Pooley says, and he says it with conscious and stiff-necked rectitude, has put a brake on the operations of promoters. With this most promoters who have had practical acquaintance with the working of the act will candidly agree.

It has indeed put a brake on their operations, so serious a brake that the developments of properties in the mining field has been brought to a standstill.

The mining engineer, says Mr. Pooley, while competent to speak on mining conditions, is no judge of a financial structure.

One may agree with this, but assuredly the gentlemen who sit in judgment on mining promotions in Victoria are quite incompetent to speak on mining conditions.

And it is because, although these officials have no technical knowledge of the subject, they hamper mining companies seeking registration, by virtually undertaking the functions of managing directors, that the revival of mining in British Columbia, so promising a few months ago, is being strangled in red tape at its birth.

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPECKER

PRESS GALLERY, VICTORIA, March 31.—The session becomes more exciting as it draws to an end. As far as the House itself is concerned, it has come to the point where we would be broken-hearted if there were not a pitched battle between prominent members on both sides of the chamber every day.

We were certainly not disappointed today, because the leaders of the House thoroughly enjoyed themselves for the space of twenty minutes this afternoon in one of the sorriest exhibitions of personalities we have yet been treated to.

The opening was honest enough, when the Leader of the Opposition wanted the premier to tell the House when he was going to reorganize his cabinet and call a general election, but when the Doctor became personal it was a horse of a distinctly different color.

It was plain to anyone that knew anything of what was going on behind the scenes, that union of the parties with these two men at their heads was an impossible accomplishment. After today's plain speaking, there can never be any coalition in this House, at least, between Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo.

Perhaps this explains the fact that all day long and for several days past, the halls of the buildings have been crowded with outside interests, and the rumor that the Conservatives in the House are now definitely split in two, the one group maintaining that Dr. Tolmie is ready to listen to their suggestions, while the other has determined to see a union consummated even at the expense of the present leaders in the House.

Their attitude seems to be that union is the only hope, and if union is not possible with Mr. Pattullo and Dr. Tolmie, then let's have union without them.

Mr. Shelly's famous Union government speech of two days ago was thrown into our faces again today, when the president of the council made some rather unkind remarks about the press, who he claimed had printed "despicable lies" and put words into his mouth.

He quoted at length and would have launched into another speech of equal length and the same doubtful value as before, had not the Leader of the Opposition brought him to a dead stop.

Mr. Shelly's fatal mistake, however, was his habit of making re-

peated references to the press gallery and members thereof, when it is a generally known fact that members of parliament are not supposed to be aware that the press is in the same room.

Almost before this unfortunate occurrence had ceased to occupy the minds of the members, the Vancouver Charter Amendment Bill appeared in our midst and we were treated to the unique spectacle of Mr. Manson sharply disagreeing with his leader.

This police commission matter appears to be a very bad influence on the member from Omineca, and the mere mention of postponing the execution of the amendment creating a new form of commission for three months, had much the same effect on him as waving a red flag before a bull.

By the time he had finished, the mayor of Vancouver and at least two police commissioners now in there, although in the eyes of Mr. Manson they probably never had any, for when this honorable member rises to his feet to attack anybody, in the words of somebody whose name I have forgotten, "they stay attacked."

A pleasant little interlude was provided for us soon after this, when Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Jones spoke unkindly to one another for some minutes on the subject of repaying loans made to irrigation districts.

W. A. MacKenzie, with his tongue in his cheek, started the argument by referring to the form of legislation making these loans possible which, as he pointed out, Mr. Pattullo had brought into effect when he was minister of lands.

From that point on he was content to sit back and watch while the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister of Finance finished the argument he had started. Which they did to the entire satisfaction of themselves, although nobody else was quite sure just who won.

BUSINESS DONE:

First readings: Amendments to Municipal Aid Act; Motor Vehicles Act. Second readings: Amendments to Shaughnessy Heights and Vancouver Acts. Third readings: Amendments to Public Schools; Powers of Attorney; Sumas Dyrking; Coal and Petroleum; Dewdney Dyrking and Water Acts.

Leaders Of House Stage Wordy Show

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, March 31.—First clash between leaders of the House came late this afternoon, when T. D. Pattullo, Opposition leader, demanded statements from Premier Tolmie in regard to reorganization of the cabinet, and date of the general election.

Amid applause and laughter from the House, a wordy battle waged for several minutes, taking in its course union government, and some very straight spoken personalities.

"Some months ago I made a statement that I would reorganize the cabinet after the House rose," stated the premier in reply to the first question of Mr. Pattullo. "This I intend to do, and I will not change my program in this respect in anyway."

Mr. Pattullo: This House has a right to know now.

Dr. Tolmie: I cannot tell you when, as the work of reorganization has not yet started.

Mr. Pattullo: I accept the statement of my honorable friend that he doesn't know what he is doing, but I suggest that he should tell this House now when the general election is to be held. He well knows that unrest is general throughout the province, there is even unrest in this House, except on this side, where we are fortunately of an united front. His duty is to tell us when we are to go to the people.

Dr. Tolmie: I will tell the country when the general election is to be held, after the prorogation of the House. As head of your party I asked you to join the union government, but as an individual I do not think you are worth a great deal. (Laughter.) As companion at a dog show, or a prize fight you might be all right, but beyond that I would not say that your individuality would be worth much. While I have the greatest personal respect for you, I think the public memory is too fresh for them to forget things you did when in office.

Mr. Pattullo: I notice my honorable friend has not paid me the same courtesy in replying to me as I did in replying to him. He admits he wants me because I have the support of the Liberal party. But can he offer me the Conservative party. He invites me to join with him in union government, that I may carry him around in my arms, and then when the Conservatives see the color of the horse and reject it, there I would be left carrying him about indefinitely. (Laughter.)

Dr. Tolmie: I asked my honorable friend to join union government because I believed it would be for the good of the country, but because he could not place the country before the party he saw fit to reject it. (Applause from government benches.)

Mr. Pattullo: If I thought for a moment a union of this sort would be of benefit to the country I would acquiesce in a moment. But I believe union such as he suggested would nullify progressive Liberal policies, which have been formulated for the good of this country.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

By DICK DIESPE

VICTORIA, April 2.—the fact that there deaths of major impo last week; the sad pas government; the bu budget debate and the mise of the governm thing is much as usual

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CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPECKER

VICTORIA, April 2.—Apart from the fact that there were three deaths of major importance here last week; the sad passing of union government; the burial of the budget debate and the moral demise of the government, everything is much as usual.

Business is still being carried on at the old stand, not with a great deal of enthusiasm it is true, since the operators are fully aware that the lease has expired and since they haven't the money for the next five years' rent, they will have to vacate.

Probably the most interesting aspect of the present situation is the fact that while the private members on the Conservative side of the House persist in keeping the grave of union government open and are still straining every muscle to bring the two parties together, private members on the Liberal side want nothing to do with it.

During the latter part of the week legislators bustled about the chamber holding solemn conferences and undoubtedly coming to momentous decisions, but in every case they were legislators of the same political family.

At odd moments gentlemen of opposing political persuasion were discovered talking outside the House, sometimes in the corridors and sometimes in committee rooms, but the results of their deliberations appear to add up to the magnificent total of nil.

In the meantime the events that have taken place in the House during the latter part of the week, make one wonder just why anyone is bothering their heads about this union question any longer.

Mr. Shelly made the most appalling speech from the floor of the House that has ever been made in the memory of any of the members. He did everything but tell his chief to remove himself from the field of politics, notwithstanding the fact that he afterwards denied any such implication.

Mr. Manson and Mr. Bruhn stood and yelled epithets at one another for half an hour on another occasion; Mr. Pooley and Mr. Pattullo had it out not many hours afterwards and on Friday the real showdown came when the premier and the leader of the Opposition made it plain to everyone that they had absolutely no use for one another. And yet in the face of happenings like this there are still men in the House who are insane enough to talk about union government. They certainly must be optimists in the broadest sense of the word!

In the face of all this, Friday afternoon and Friday night, brought some very interesting points to light. Manson in his denunciation of the police board in Vancouver plainly had the sympathy of the entire House. That he must have been sincere is shown by the fact that he even went so far as to oppose his own leader in swinging the House to defeat Mr. Pattullo's amendment to the Vancouver bill.

When the House went into committee of supply on Friday night we were again treated to some strange happenings. A subject which I understand has been brought up year after year, namely, the salary of the provincial librarian and archivist, John Hosie, came before the members again.

Sterilization Law Lauded By Doctors

Members of Ministry Also Endorse Proposed Measure

With possibly one or two exceptions, every man in the assembly agreed that this gentlemen was grossly underpaid, and even the provincial secretary got on his feet and said that he too thought Mr. Hosie should receive more. Liberals and Conservatives alike urged an immediate increase for him, but after 15 minutes of pleading the vote was passed without any change being made.

State health insurance also came under discussion and not one speaker talked against it, but aside from a vague promise on the part of Mr. Howe, nothing was done.

Then we came to the subject of sterilization for the mentally unfit, and on this point there was no doubt that government and opposition alike wanted legislation introduced. Mr. Howe made the significant remark that it was not too late to introduce it this session, and declared that he was convinced the time had come for some action on it.

But will the legislation be introduced before we go home? Talking to members outside the House it appears that there is very little hope.

Sterilization of the mentally unfit, as proposed in a measure now before the Legislature at Victoria, can not come any too soon, in the opinion of leading medical men of the Lower Mainland.

"Provided the subject is properly guarded, I would go farther, to include habitual criminals," said Dr. R. E. McKechnie, in mentioning his complete approval of the proposal. "I am certainly very much in favor of it, provided it is always kept under proper control."

"Sterilization of this sort is long overdue, in my opinion," stated Dr. W. B. Burnett. "There is no objection in the world, that I know of. I am sure every medical man in this province is in favor of it. The expense at the Essondale Mental Hospital is now so great that everybody is beginning to feel the necessity for it. There has been considerable education on the subject and its value, both physically and economically, is now becoming better understood."

The belief that sterilization of this sort should have been put into effect years ago was strongly expressed by Dr. J. G. McKay, of New Westminster, noted psychiatrist.

"I have been working on this subject for the past 15 years," he said, when interviewed on Sunday, "and any boost that can be given to the proposal will do a world of good."

Dr. McKay, who is noted for his work on mental diseases, is an associate director of Canadian National Mental Hygiene. "Sterilization is very much desired," he added, "but it must be properly guarded."

"My feelings on the subject are too strong to express in words," said Dr. Edwin D. Carder, when his opinion was asked.

"I can only say that it certainly should have been done years ago as an economic procedure," he added.

That there is no question of the advisability of sterilization in all properly selected cases, was the opinion expressed by Dr. Frederic Brodie.

"Once this is done, it will be a great benefit to the community as a whole," he said.

Definite endorsement of the proposal comes also from a number of sources outside the medical profession.

From members of the ministry and women's social organizations comes the opinion that sterilization of the mentally deficient is very much needed. The Local Council of Women, the National Council of that organization, and a number of other women's groups in the province have been urging legislation of this nature for some years past.

FERNIE'S PLIGHT

Temporary Measures Are Adopted for Relief

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 2.—Government relief officials at Fernie have been instructed to extend their relief distributions, so that inhabitants of the stricken town will not suffer through dismantling of the mines Monday, it was announced by Hon. J. W. Jones tonight.

"What will develop in the future, we do not know, but for the time being we will provide for these people and see to it that they do not starve," he assured The Vancouver News representative. "We have also wired the Federal government asking for assistance in that direction."

Mr. Jones also stated that he understood that an eleventh hour protest had been made by the miners against the closing down of the plant, and dismantling of the plant, and that they had appealed to the C.P.R. to assist by the purchase of fuel.

Mortgagee's Extension Will Continue For 12 Months

Moratorium Only On Principal Sums

Government Will Not Cover Interest and Taxes

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 3.—Extension of the moratorium on principal payments for one year, and granting powers to the court to give assistance by way of additional extension in certain cases on interest and tax payments, are the main features of amendments to the Moratorium Bill, which passed its second reading in the Legislature today.

Hon. R. H. Pooley stated that numerous requests had been received to extend the bill to cover interest and taxes, as well, but he pointed out that since there was over \$40,000,000 in small mortgages in British Columbia, if such steps were taken, holders of these mortgages would soon be on the bread line themselves.

In addition to this, he said, there was also the fact that the law would probably be misused, and many people in position to make payments would take advantage of the situation, and make the general situation worse.

For these reasons, he said, suspension of payments on the principal had been extended for one year, while power had been given to the judges that where a decree had been granted, they might reopen the case, and grant an extension of three months to the mortgagee, so that he would have nine months in all to redeem his mortgage.

Doukhobor Cases Contrasted With Other Allowance

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 3.—Keeping of 384 Doukhobor children at an annual cost of \$40,000 was criticized by opposition members tonight, who declared that these children were allowed \$17.50 each for maintenance, while a widow with family who could not come under the mother pensions could at best only hope for about \$16.

Hon. S. L. Howe stated that over 70 of these Doukhobor children had already been placed in Doukhobor homes in communities, and that in a short time they hoped to have all of them off their hands, thus eliminating this item entirely. In the meantime, he said, they were wards of the province, and had to be provided for.

MOTOR LICENSE CHANGES ARE TOLD TO HOUSE

Hereafter Owner May Protect Car During Actual Use

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 3.—Changing the motor license year from Jan. 1 to March 1, making provision for taking out licenses from month to month, and initiating a general reduction in license fees, except in the case of heavier cars and large trucks, amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act passed second reading in the Legislature today.

Hon. R. H. Pooley, in moving the second reading, stated that stories already published in the press had given a wrong impression on these amendments, saying that they did not mean an increase in licenses, particularly in so far as small cars were concerned. Big cars and very heavy trucks and busses, however, he stated, would suffer a considerable increase on the new method of setting the cost of license according to weight.

He pointed out that even so the fees were considerably lower than in other provinces in the Dominion, while in some of them trucks weighing 7,500 pounds and 10,000 pounds were not even allowed on the roads.

The Attorney-General stated that owing to the people being hard up after Christmas the license year would in future commence March 1. It had been suggested, he said, that the year be changed to July 1, but that would entail collection of two licenses in one year, none next year, so the plan was abandoned.

Under new amendments to bill it will also be possible to take out license at any time of year, paying only for the period for which the license is actually in force, according to Mr. Pooley.

He illustrated this by stating that if a driver wished to use his car for only six months of the year he would pay only 50 per cent of the fee.

VICTORIA, April 3.—Third reading was given in the House today to the Securities Act, which replaces the Security Frauds Prevention Act, and to the Shaughnessy Act, which deals with the town planning and development of the Shaughnessy area and its annexed subdivisions.

P.G.E. Sale Is Possible, Premier Informs House

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 3.—Premier Toimle and T. D. Pattullo again exchanged biting remarks on the floor of the House tonight on the subject of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway after Mr. Pattullo had asked for information on any deals which might be pending for its sale.

He stated that press reports had been to the effect that the government were always on the eve of selling it, yet nothing definite had ever been disclosed. It was only fair, he thought, to take the people into their confidence.

Dr. Toimle: "I might inform my friend that we have made a number of efforts in this direc-

tion, and have at various times interested British, American and Canadian capital. There are certain deals on at the present moment with both British and American capital, but it must be understood that capital is very shy these days, and any such projects are hard to do anything with. This proposition, however, is well known and we have good prospects."

Mr. Pattullo: "I think people are entitled to know what kind of offers have been made."

Dr. Toimle: "That would be dangerous at this time, but when the time is ripe the people will be informed."

REMEDIAL ACT PASSES HOUSE BY MAJORITY

Clash of Opinion on Protection of Dairy Sales' Board

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 3.—An attempt by J. Loutet to give 12 months hoist to the bill to wind up the committee of adjustment under the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act, failed in the Legislature today, on a recorded division by a vote of 29 to 10.

The attempt, which was made after J. W. Berry had moved the second reading of the bill, precipitated a hot debate which was participated in by ten members, and completely cut party lines, particularly as far as the Conservatives were concerned.

Mr. Loutet, in moving an amendment to give the bill a year's hoist, described it as "an act to protect receivers of stolen goods," and declared that if it passed, it would be giving back to the members of the committee money that was not theirs in the first place.

Mr. Manson maintained that men on the committee acted in good faith under the original act, and that the present bill is logical course to take in order to protect them from suits being brought against them, just as the stipendiary magistrates and judges are protected in carrying out the laws of the country.

Mr. Twigg stated these men had collected money from a large number of farmers, who object to the original bill, and that they were now asking for protection so that they would not have to pay it back.

BY TEN MAJORITY

Pari-Mutuel Share Taken From Municipalities

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 3.—Municipal aid act amendments, withdrawing the municipalities' share of pari-mutuel taxes, passed the second reading today only after determined opposition, necessitating a recorded division, the House dividing 25 to 15.

Hon. J. W. Jones, in recommending the second reading, again drew attention to the fact that the government had paid the municipalities a matter of \$7,000,000 last year in grants and over \$53,000,000 in the past 10 years.

Owing to reduced revenue the government had found it necessary to take certain grants from the municipalities, he said.

Mr. Pattullo maintained that the grants were not charity, as Mr. Jones would lead one to believe, but were in many cases the municipalities' rightful share of taxation earned within their confines, and collected by the government.

He stated that municipalities could not be shifted from one tradition to another, and still be expected to carry on rationally.

The royal commission, he deplored, as coming too late to do any good, and declared that the government had only decided to appoint one because they were forced to do so.

"Relations of dominion, provinces and municipalities are rapidly coming to the fore," he said, "and it will require every effort to solve this difficult problem to the satisfaction of all concerned."

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

By DICK DIESP

PRESS GALLERY

April 3.—For the first many days the House to play politics today Blue Monday spirit work to try and clean paper.

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CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPECKER

PRESS GALLERY, Victoria, April 3.—For the first time in many days the House almost forgot to play politics today and with a Blue Monday spirit went sourly to work to try and clean up the order paper.

Apart from a few healthy arguments and one delightful free-for-all, they did very well, and while we gazed spellbound at the hive of industry below us, laws were made thick and fast.

Mr. Pooley waxed sarcastic at the expense of the press and told the House with great glee that his amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act were not bad at all, as some cunning newspapers had done their best to convince the public. In fact, by the time he had finished he rather gathered the impression that he was more than a little pleased with the results of his efforts.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Pattullo staged their usual bout on the matter of municipal grants. Mr. Jones insisted that they were handouts which could only continue as long as the government had plenty of money to throw away, but when finances became tight, then municipalities being very much in the same position as poor relations, had to suffer.

Mr. Pattullo, of course, could not possibly accept this viewpoint and proceeded to show Mr. Jones that he was nothing but a tax collector for municipalities and that where he once took quite a large percentage as his commission, he was now taking the entire amount and leaving his client out in the cold to fend for himself.

He was supported in this contention by G. S. Pearson, who went even further by accusing Mr. Jones of taking several lucrative sources of taxation away from the municipalities, and that now having taken it from them he was proceeding to steal the proceeds.

It was a valiant fight, but with the assistance of the two-thirds majority which Mr. Pooley threatened to use the other day, Mr. Jones had his way for the time being.

We were again becoming concentrated on the dull and routine work of passing legislation when the milk situation rolled into the centre of the arena and the battle was on for fair.

J. W. Berry precipitated it by moving the second reading of his bill to wind up the affairs of the committee of direction. His motion was made to the accompaniment of groans from the members, who like nothing about the milk bill or any of its children. And Mr. Berry having moved the second reading and said very little when doing so, was forced to sit in an agony of suspense whilst everyone else argued about its good and bad qualities.

Jack Loutet confined most of his address to variations of the old saying, "I told you so," with an occasional uncomplimentary remark about the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association. He was stoutly supported in his ideas by W. P. Rutledge, D. Twigg and G. Walkem, but all to no avail.

We witnessed a short flash of political fencing when Mr. Pattullo asked the premier if and when Mr. Jones was going to table letters, telegrams and other correspondence regarding the last sale of \$4,000,000 of B. C. bonds. He didn't like the idea of going into estimates without this information.

After some delay the premier eventually admitted that it was not considered to be in the best interests of the people of the province to make this information public at this time, which for some obscure reason appeared to please Mr. Pattullo immensely.

BUSINESS DONE

First readings of amendments to Constitution and Municipal acts; second readings to amendments to Village Municipalities Aid, Limiting of Borrowing Powers Under Certain Loan Acts and Dairy Products Sales Adjustments Act Committee acts; third readings of amendments to Dyking Assessments, Agreement Between New Westminster and C. P. R., Security Frauds Prevention, Duration of Insurance, Sales on Consignment, Supreme Court, Sale and Inspection of Fruit and Fruit Containers, Village Municipalities, Vancouver Incorporation and Shaughnessy Heights acts.

DRUGLESS HEALING

Bill Rejected by Majority of Two on First Reading

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 3.—The Drugless Physicians' Bill, sponsored by T. Uphill, fell by the wayside here today, without passing first reading. Determined opposition made itself evident when the Fernie member asked leave to introduce the bill. This action forced him to ask for a recorded division.

Results of the division were indication of how the House is split in opinion on the matter of the bill, losing out by two votes by a count of 18 to 16.

Those favoring the bill were as follows: J. Loutet, W. P. Rutledge, T. Uphill, T. King, L. R. Hanna, G. S. Pearson, T. D. Pattullo, Hon. S. S. Pearson, F. M. Macpherson, T. D. Pattullo, Hon. S. L. Howe, Hon. J. W. Jones, Hon. S. F. Tolmie, Hon. R. H. Pooley, Hon. J. Hinchliffe, Capt. MacIntosh, Dr. G. K. MacNaughton and Hon. N. S. Loughheed.

E. C. Carson, R. MacKenzie, J. Fitzsimmons, Dr. J. J. Gillis, Dr. C. M. Kingston, Dr. L. E. Borden, Col. Lister, Dr. H. C. Wrinch, H. F. Kergin, Dr. W. H. Sutherland, A. M. Manson, Dr. R. W. Alward, R. Hayward, H. D. Twigg, J. H. Schofield, J. H. Besty, Hon. R. W. Bruhn and Hon. W. A. MacKenzie voted against the bill.

Hospital Grants May Be Aided By Legislation

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 3.—The debate on hospital sweepstakes was cut short tonight when Hon. S. L. Howe asked that the question of hospital grants be stood over, as legislation affecting it would probably be introduced before the House closed.

Although questioned, he refused to give any inkling of what this legislation might be, but it is generally thought that as hospitals have protested to such an extent against cutting off these grants that some new measure will be introduced to take their place.

J. W. Cornett urged that in the event of Ottawa favoring sweepstakes by passing the bill now before the House, the Provincial government empower hospitals to avail themselves of that method of assistance.

Timber Royalties Reduced

The announcement from Victoria that the government is bringing in legislation reducing by fifteen per cent the timber royalties payable to the Crown, will meet with general approval.

The lumber business is one of the major industries of British Columbia, possibly, in respect of circulation of money within the province in payment of wages and of accounts for equipment and supplies, the most important.

Almost all the cost of production, in fact is labor cost.

The reduction may not satisfy the operator, but then no concession or reduction of taxation is ever held sufficient by those who have to pay.

Since, however, their burdens are increased rather than decreased, the cutting down of timber royalties may be considered, in so far as the other taxpayers willingly consent to it, a gesture of goodwill to the industry on their part.

It is to be expected that the concession will bring about increased activity in the lumber camps and sawmills of the province.

The news, therefore, will be welcomed by many men in the unemployment camps, the great majority of whom want work and do not want charity.

Fortunately, it is now beginning to be evident that by steady application and intelligent work, the offshore lumber trade can be gradually built up, to which end the Imperial Preference will help materially.

In this connection it should be noted that the British government has already carried out its undertakings at Ottawa by giving Russia notice of denunciation of the existing trade treaty with that country.

This, of course, has nothing to do with the power taken by the British government, in legislation brought down yesterday, to close United Kingdom ports against all Russian trade, an unforeseen development that should make it easier for British Columbia lumber to obtain a fair share of the British market.

To win the British market, however, and to hold it when won, the lumber manufacturers will have to pay close attention to the requirements of the buyers as to size and quality.

Each shipment should be so prepared as to act as an inducement for a repeat order.

How quality and standardization count in the increase and expansion of trade has been demonstrated by the producers of New Zealand butter and of Canadian cheese.

The successes of these commodities in the British market have been brought about by determined maintenance of quality and standardization of product.

For the sake, not only of the lumber business itself, but of that of the whole province, it is to be hoped that the reduction of royalties, constituting an addition to the burden of the general taxpayer, will do much to give this great industry an impetus that will carry it on to the high road that leads to prosperity.

A Tax on Meals

The only justification for the provincial government's proposal to levy a tax of 5 per cent on restaurant meals costing more than 50 cents is the administration's imperative need of obtaining money from one source or another for the maintenance of hospitals.

It is hoped by this means to provide about \$250,000, which is to compensate the hospitals for the loss of their present grants.

A tax on meals most emphatically belongs to the category of nuisance taxes. That is to say, the amount to be realized from it is not proportionate to the irritation it will cause and to the cost of collection.

That the public will pay the tax need not be doubted, but that the whole of the amount collected from the public will reach the treasury is by no means so certain.

It not infrequently happens that when failures in industry and business occur, the government figures as a creditor for unpaid sums actually received on its account by the concern in default and not paid over.

Such losses can be obviated, of course, by maintaining a close watch on the accounts of restaurants and by requiring frequent settlements.

This, however, involves the employment of still more government officials, the remuneration of whom will seriously reduce the net receipts of the Department of Finance.

UPHILL TO ASK JOBLESS RELEASE

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 4.—T. Uphill announced that he will introduce a resolution in the House, asking that they take some action to secure the unconditional release of 37 delegates from relief camps who, in endeavoring to reach Victoria to make an appeal to the government against the present scale of relief, were arrested in attempting to ride the freights to this point.

Tax Imposed On Meals In Hotels, Restaurants

Checks for 50 Cents and Upwards Subject of Impost

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 4.—The Hospitals Aid Act, placing a five per cent tax on all meals sold in restaurants for fifty cents or more, was brought down in the legislature today by Hon. J. W. Jones.

Restaurants, according to the act, includes railway trains, ships, hotels and lunch counters, but excludes boarding houses, and educational and charitable institutions. Under the act, restaurant keepers will be compelled to make returns to the government every month, and will impose a tax on all except their own employees.

Besides the new tax, including a fifty cent meal, the act also states that where more than one meal is paid for on a single check, the tax must be calculated on the entire amount, regardless of the price of individual meals.

The act will come into operation on May 1.

Although it is difficult to estimate exactly the revenue to be raised by such a tax, it has been estimated that the income from this source will amount to about \$250,000, which would balance the cuts in hospital grants. It is understood, of course, that this legislation is merely an emergency measure, and that when economic conditions warrant, the tax will be removed.

Some intimation that legislation of this type would be brought down was given Monday night by Hon. S. L. Howe when hospital grants were under discussion, and it is believed the bill will be introduced on Wednesday.

Collection of the tax will be made in the same manner as amusement tax, and one per cent tax at present in force.

If hospital sweepstakes are legalized this legislation would be probably eliminated entirely, but for the time being it will compensate hospitals for the loss of their grants.

The provincial government's new 5 per cent tax on meals served in restaurants at 50 cents or over will react unfavorably on the wages of restaurant employees, in the opinion of Colin McDonald, president of the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and Labor Council, who drew this conclusion from conversations with restaurant owners Tuesday.

"The restaurant keepers have already been hard hit by the tax on sugar and the increase in the price of milk and this additional tax is a staggering blow to most of them," he said.

"The majority of the restaurants in the city are already practically broke, and from what I have learned, apparently the only course open to them to meet the tax is to lower wages."

PREMIER DEFENDS MARKETS OFFICIAL

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 4.—Abolition of the overseas market branch and handling of this work by the agent general in London was urged by T. D. Pattullo in the House tonight, when department of finance estimates were under review. Dr. Tolmie pointed out that trade relations with Britain were steadily improving under the direction of the present market commissioner in London, and that under the circumstances withdrawing of such office would be detrimental to the province.

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPECKER

PRESS GALLERY, VICTORIA, April 4.—We were treated after lunch today to the rather unnecessary spectacle of over a hundred husky policemen acting as a reception committee to about 350 "hunger marchers." Their delegation saw the government and the government listened sympathetically and intimated that they would like to sleep on the matter.

By the time we had finished with our unemployed fellow citizens and returned to the House we found that the mighty machine of government was functioning to its full capacity.

The wiping off of certain outstanding balances under the old loan acts resulted in an impassioned speech by Mr. Pattullo in a desperate endeavor to save for the government the power to lend money to indigent industries which, as Mr. Jones so aptly put it, could not secure financial assistance from private interests or from banks.

Mr. Pattullo, however, persisted in his efforts to save the indigent industries and when he suggested that certain loans under the department of industries should never have been made by this government the minister of finance challenged him to name some of them.

The leader of the opposition appeared to be shocked at the insinuation that he was not willing to do so and declared with some little dignity that "anything I talk about I don't mind talking about."

Having settled this point to the satisfaction of everyone but Mr. Pattullo, we turned to the business of law making and the moratorium bill brought Mr. Manson to his feet with the suggestion that more power should be given to judges in cases where principal payments were to be suspended for the time being.

He thought that too many were taking an unfair advantage of the law as it now stood and that in order to prevent unnecessary suffering on the part of the mortgagor the courts should have something to say in the matter before a mortgagee was allowed to forego these payments.

To the amazement of the entire House, Mr. Hinchliffe, a minister of the crown, actually rose to his feet and declared that he was in accord with the views of his distinguished opponent. Which all goes to prove

that perhaps union government is not as dead as we thought it was.

The second debate on the milk question provided us with little that was new. In the main all who took part in it said very much the same as they did yesterday with a minor variation in words.

It was the final outcome of the matter, however, which took our breaths away. That the bill was railroaded through third reading I don't think anyone could deny.

Regardless of its merits, of the ethics of the case or of the arguments advanced by members on both sides of the House, I can see no reason why the rules which apply to any legislative body in the British Empire should be broken for the sake of putting a bill through third reading immediately after it has passed the committee stage rather than wait until the next sitting of the House.

The ruling, I have been told, is that when this action is taken it must have the unanimous consent of the House, yet the voice of Jack Loutet was drowned out as he stood on his feet protesting today while the speaker intoned the words that made the bill law subject to the signature of the lieutenant-governor.

We were introduced very formally to a new form of taxation, known as the Hospitals Aid Act, and which means roughly that every time we eat a meal in a restaurant and pay 50 cents or more for it, we must also pay a tax.

The act was designed, optimistically it seems, for the purpose of replacing the \$250,000 taken from the hospital grants. What its success will be I shudder to think since I am reliably informed that a similar act in force in Quebec, a province with a population of over 2,000,000, produces only about \$300,000 in revenue each year.

BUSINESS DONE

First readings hospitals aid, amendments to income tax, taxation, succession duties, Ladner bridge, liquor, B. C. university and teachers' pensions acts; second readings, amendments to moratorium, municipal elections, municipal acts; third readings to forest, jury, laws declaratory, superannuation, small debts court, provincial elections, municipalities aid, community regulations and dairy committee acts.

"Spilt Milk"

(From the Victoria)

Mr. J. W. Berry has introduced a bill in the legislature to amend the Dairy Products Act. The bill is being introduced by the Dairy Products Sales Committee from the committee from the legislature to arise because under which they operate adjudged ultra vires.

In other words, are seemingly unwilling to legislate.

Their propaganda Dairy Products Act in the legislature. It was known at the competent legal opinion ultra vires. When it is considered by the legislature W. Berry gave his the highest court and that its prototype the bill. Now Mr. Berry legislation which these very protagonists an expense to committed them.

One question that measure of faith that posed in the state.

The more serious whether or not the milk producers of the ley, who from the frantically opposed to the ducts Sales Adjustments have no power to which was taken in used in fighting the who believed in the substitutionality of the

The provincial legislature occasion, registers are cause for ama public opinion. In the case of Mr. it were passed, it would be flying in dealing and sportsmen.

Mr. Berry himself is to receive public not be susceptible inution.

DEFENDS ACTION

Anyox Strike Move By Police Aired

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 4.—The Anyox strike was accorded the centre of the stage tonight in a debate precipitated when the vote for the provincial police came under consideration. Mr. Pooley defended the policy of the force in controlling the recent strike in that town.

To add reality to his arguments the attorney-general brought murderous looking weapons into the House and displayed them, stating that they had been in the hands of striking miners bent on doing material damage in the town of Anyox. He maintained that 400 strikers were armed with these weapons which ranged from steel drills to lengths of hose pipes with lead weights attached.

Hon. W. A. Mackenzie entered the debate, claiming that the company was in a frame of mind where they would just as soon have closed down the plant and mine entirely and that, under those circumstances, to try and effect conciliation would have been very difficult. In any event, he contended, there had been no opportunity for them to negotiate for a settlement as they had never been approached by the men or told of their grievances.

J. Bennett Again Asks Government To Cut His Pay

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 4.—John Bennett, commissioner of Burnaby, today made a further request to the government for a cut in his salary. It was announced here tonight.

Shortly after his appointment Commissioner Bennett asked the government to reduce the amount being paid him in the interests of economy and today the Hon. R. H. Pooley received another letter from him asking that a further reduction be made.

Loan Bill for \$10,000,000

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 4.—Calling for \$3,000,000 in relief, and \$7,000,000 in the current introduced into the night by Hon. J. W. Of the deficit a \$5,000,000 was ordered and almost \$2,000,000 in employment relief.

Amusement Cut for Entert

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 4.—Proposed to amend the Tax Act by reducing tickets of admission to sports and dances from 10 per cent. A bill was introduced this afternoon.

"Spilt Milk"

(From the Victoria Colonist)

Mr. J. W. Berry has introduced a bill in the legislature to absolve members of the Lower Mainland Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Committee from consequences likely to arise because the legislation under which they operated has been adjudged ultra vires of the province.

In other words, those members are seemingly unwilling to face the music.

Their propaganda led to the Dairy Products Act being passed by the legislature.

It was known at the time by all competent legal opinion that it was ultra vires. When it was being considered by the legislature Mr. J. W. Berry gave his assurance that the legislation would be tested in the highest court of the Empire and that its protagonists "would pay the bill."

Now Mr. Berry has introduced legislation which would absolve those very protagonists from footing an expense to which he had committed them.

One question that arises is the measure of faith that can be reposed in the statements of politicians.

The more serious matter is whether or not the independent milk producers of the Fraser Valley, who from the first were strenuously opposed to the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act, are to have no power to recover money which was taken from them and used in fighting the case of those who believed in the virtues and constitutionality of the legislation.

The provincial legislature, upon occasion, registers decisions that are cause for amazement to sane public opinion.

In the case of Mr. Berry's bill, if it were passed, that legislature would be flying in the face of fair dealing and sportsmanship.

Mr. Berry himself should appreciate that political virtue, if it is to receive public approval, should not be susceptible to partial diminution.

The Will O' The Wisp Again

The well-informed Victoria correspondent of the Vancouver Province says that it is now on the cards that the present government will be patched up to last some months longer.

Still more surprising, it is suggested that another session of the present Legislature shall be held, at which ratification is to be sought of a deal with a new group of Pacific Great Eastern purchasers who are said to be pressing their proposals strongly.

It is stated that the English party, brought out with a great air of mystery by Mr. F. P. Burden, has gone home after shaking the dust of the railway carefully off its shoes.

It is necessary to speak very plainly about this matter. There has been more political humbug over the Pacific Great Eastern Railway than over any other governmental activity.

The present government began its efforts to sell the line five years ago and again and again it has been reported that those efforts were on the verge of success.

No hint, however, has been afforded the public of the nature of any of the offers and it is safe to assume that they have been of such a nature that the government dare not present them to the Legislature and the people of this province.

In short, there has never been any real chance of disposing of the road on terms that would relieve the Province of its heavy obligations without, at the same time, giving in return either vast natural resources or further guarantees of credit.

At this time of day, Pacific Great Eastern proposals are simply a red herring drawn across the trail, a device to deflect public attention from the real business of the hour, the reorganization of the administration of the province.

On the whole, it was to have been expected that a new P. G. E. offer would loom on the political horizon just at this time, for P. G. E. offers can always be conjured out of that vasty deep where speculative spirits dwell to be a very present stay and comfort to a distressed ministry.

It won't do, however. Unless The Vancouver News greatly mistakes the temper of both the House and the public, there will be no granting of a further lease of life to the present government, slightly rehabilitated, that it may spend the summer chasing P. G. E. will-o'-the-wisps when the country is anxious above all things, to bring about a new political deal at the earliest possible moment.

Of course one can never tell, but surely the members of the Legislature are not going to allow themselves to be led up a side-alley on such a futile quest.

STERILIZATION TO COME INTO FORCE JULY 1

New Legislation to Call for Board of Eugenics

BILL INTRODUCED

Consent of Patient to Be Required Before Operation

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 5.—The long-awaited sterilization bill was introduced into the Legislature today by the Hon. L. S. Howe, provincial secretary, providing for the sterilization of the mentally unfit. After passage in the House, the bill will come into force on July 1, this year.

New legislation calls for the establishment of board of eugenics, composed of a judge of a court of record, a psychiatrist, and a social welfare worker.

The act invests the board with power to give a written order for the sterilizing operation to be performed on the inmate of an insane asylum who has been discharged, and who, in the opinion of superintendent of that institution, was capable of bringing children into the world, who through inheritance would have a tendency to serious mental disease or mental deficiency. Full particulars of the case must be given to the board in writing by the superintendent, and before an order for the operation is given the board of eugenics must be unanimous in their opinion.

Should the inmate, or any person acting on his or her behalf, wish to have the operation performed by some particular doctor, the act provides that their wishes may be met, provided they pay the expenses.

One of the most important clauses in the act is that which provides that the operation may only be performed if the inmate has given consent in writing, or if not considered capable of doing so, then the consent of husband, wife, parent or guardian has been obtained. If they have no relatives or guardian, then consent must be given by the provincial secretary.

To Enable Town Of Barkerville To Be Extended

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 5.—Hon. N. S. Loughheed introduced a bill into the Legislature today, giving power to the government to set aside land at Barkerville for townsite purposes.

The present area of the townsite is inadequate for immediate developments, and it is proposed to safeguard the situation in view of the mining activity in the neighborhood.

Loan Bill for \$10,000,000 Is Before House

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 5.—A loan bill calling for \$3,000,000 for unemployment relief, and \$7,000,000 to cover deficits of the current year was introduced into the legislature tonight by Hon. J. W. Jones.

Of the deficit a little more than \$5,000,000 was ordinary deficit, and almost \$2,000,000 for unemployment relief.

WANT DATA ON RECENT LOAN

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 5.—A resolution asking for the return of all correspondence in regard to the recent \$4,000,000 loan of the province was defeated tonight in a straight party vote by 30 to 11.

After some discussion Hon. R. L. Maitland closed the debate by stating that making such information public while the issue was still in process of being sold was an unheard of thing and would be considered a breach of confidence on the part of the government.

Owing to the insistence of Liberals, however, that the government give such information to members of the House, he stated that Hon. J. W. Jones would be pleased to allow Mr. Patullo, as leader of the opposition, to see all correspondence on this matter.

CUT SALARIES

Ministers to Receive Less As Well As Members

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 5.—Amendments to the Constitution Act will cut the ministers' salaries to \$6,000 yearly, and members' indemnities to \$1,600.

It is proposed to cut the mileage allowance for members from 25 cents per mile to 12 1/2 cents per mile.

Amendments to the Greater Vancouver Water District Act enables the board to bill and collect from consumers in municipalities which are in default. This measure will apply particularly to Burnaby and North Vancouver.

Amusement Tax Cut for Some Entertainments

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 5.—It is proposed to amend the Amusement Tax Act by reducing the charge for tickets of admission to amateur sports and community dances from 10 per cent to five per cent. A bill to this effect was introduced in the House this afternoon.

very formally taxation, known Act, and which every time we want and pay for it, we must

igned, optimistic purpose of re-taken from the hat its success to think since I d that a similar bec, a province of over 2,000,000, \$300,000 in rev-

hospitals aid, some tax, taxa- duties, Ladner university and acts; second ts to moraliza- tions, municipal s to forest, jury, superannuation, provincial elec- aid, community airy committee

ACTION

Move By Aired

(By Staff Correspondent)

4.—The Anyox d the centre of n a debate pre- vote for the pre- under consid- defended the e in controlling that town. p his arguments l brought mur- apions into the ed them, stating n the hands of t on doing ma- town of Anyox, at 400 strikers these weapons steel drills to pipes with lead

ckenzie entered g that the com- e of mind where soon have closed d mine entirely ose circumstan- ffect conciliation ery difficult. In ended, there had ty for them to tlement as they roached by the r grievances.

Again Government His Pay

(By Staff Correspondent)

April 4.—John oner of Burn- a further re- nment for a y it was an- ight. s appointment ennett asked to reduce the d him in the my and today ooley received m him asking reduction be

Span To Add \$3,000,000 To Debt

Ladner Bridge to Increase Burden

Loutet Criticizes Government Guarantee; May Change Bill

(By Staff Correspondent)
VICTORIA, April 5.—Ladner bridge bill precipitated a debate today when it came up for second reading, and met with some opposition on the part of at least one Conservative member, with the result that it is considered likely that some slight changes may be made before it completes its passage through the House.

Hon. R. W. Bruhn explained that the bridge company had estimated traffic passing over the new bridge at 1,000,000 cars per year, but that the department of public works in their own survey had only allowed 500,000 cars.

He stated that it would be necessary for 550,000 cars to pass over the bridge in order that the company make a profit in which the government could participate. The proposed tolls for the new bridge would be 35 cents per car and five cents per passenger.

The government's half of deficit in any one year, said Mr. Bruhn, was not to exceed \$140,000, according to the terms of the act.

J. Loutet voiced strenuous protest to the act as it now stood, declaring that it was a new obligation for the government, and in spite of what the minister of finance had said about the British company taking the risk, he maintained that they were taking no risk, because they would finance the project by making a bond issue.

He believed that the government should insist on provision being made by the company to ensure payment by them of their half of deficit, if and when such deficits occurred.

He also maintained that the government should not guarantee anything like \$140,000 in respect to deficits, but should only agree to put up dollar for dollar with the company.

In the final analysis, he stated, the entire cost of building and operating the bridge would evolve upon the government, and mean a further \$3,000,000 added to the debt burdens of the province.

A. Wells Gray resumed the debate on the bill tonight, stating that the chief opposition to building such a bridge was that it would be detrimental to the harbor development of New Westminster, which notwithstanding certain handicaps, had become the third largest port in Canada. The proposed bridge, he claimed, would be built at a most dangerous part of the river as far as navigation was concerned.

Gray continued by declaring the Ladner bridge was a promotion under which the government would be called upon to pay \$3,600,000 over 60 years at \$140,000 a year it could not pay, and would not relieve vehicular traffic at Vancouver. If the province wanted to have a bridge built it should issue bonds itself and let the contract to a Canadian company.

He moved six months' holdst and precipitated a violent argument when his seconder wished to adjourn the debate to the next sitting of the House.

W. C. Shelly and Jack Cornett, both supported the bill, and after considerable argument the government allowed the debate to be adjourned by T. H. Kirk with an amendment asking for six months' holdst still hanging over the head of the government bill.

Shortly before adjournment a heated discussion arose as a result of A. M. Manson objecting to a "minister of the crown talking all evening with lobbyist," explaining when asked that the minister of mines had been carrying on a conversation all evening with the solicitor of the bridge company, who was a visitor on the floor of the House.

In midst of argument, which was joined by Hon. R. H. Pooley and Mr. Speaker, the visitor under discussion rose and left the House.

Mr. Speaker said he could do nothing about the matter since he had no knowledge of what they were discussing, and the man in question was a visitor not a "stranger."

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPECKER

PRESS GALLERY, VICTORIA, April 5.—With the end in sight, our little group of unionists are becoming desperate. They can make no headway with the Liberals, and judging by appearances, they are not much more successful with the premier. A group of 15 waited on the doctor today, why, we know not, and with what success we hardly care.

While information is becoming harder to get it is reasonable to suppose by this time that the line of least resistance will be the chosen one. To say that the Conservatives are caucus conscious would be to fall far short of the truth.

It is no exaggeration to say that they are living in the caucus these days. They caucus in the morning, they caucus before the House in the afternoon, before and after dinner and then after the House has risen in the evening they continue to caucus far into the night.

And the sad part of it all is that they might better be at home in bed for all the good it is doing them. I say this because from all I can hear, we shall close up the session still under its present management, except for a few who will leap overboard.

The premier will then carry on until he feels that an election would be good for our souls and when the smoke of battle has rolled away we will find ourselves blessed with the prettiest looking mixture of parties the British Columbia Legislature has ever seen. From then on it is quite on the cards that the government will be defeated regularly and that we shall have a new premier every Monday morning.

Which brings me to the point that apparently the government acted a little too rapidly when it framed the amendments to the Ladner Bridge Company Act and the Constitution Act.

Both of them met with opposition in the House today and in spite of the fact that the honorable members occupying the seats of the mighty kept a stiff upper lip and outwardly refused to budge an inch, I understand the acts are to be changed so as to come into line with the suggestions made by their critics.

Mr. Jones told us that his new surtax on the higher incomes would place the burden upon those who could best afford to make a few sacrifices in a time like the present, and that there was no intention of keeping the tax in force after the depression was over.

Whether Mr. Pattullo objected to the tax on principle or because Mr. Jones, in his remarks, had referred to a similar tax being imposed by the administration which came into power in 1916, we could not quite make out. Whatever it was, however, the bill passed second reading, the "nays" of the opposition echoing hollowly through the chamber.

We learned about hospitals from G. S. Pearson shortly after this. His figures were interesting but not particularly pleasant. Nobody could quite make out why the honorable member from Nanaimo, who admits he is the president of a hospital which is suffering like all the rest of these institutions in the province, should oppose a bill framed in an attempt to assist the hospitals.

But those are things apparently which are entirely unexplainable.

Tom Uphill generously gave the government his support on the bill because, he said, none of his family would be affected by it since they never ate meals that cost more than 50 cents each. This also appeared to be the case with A. M. Manson, but it did not make him any more friendly to the new tax.

F. M. McPherson made what seemed to me to be a rather sensible suggestion when he urged the government to reconsider its new scale of automobile license fees as far as small cars were concerned.

Large cars, he said, were owned by people who could well afford to take their licenses out at the beginning of the year and who could also afford to pay a higher fee; but the small car owner was not in such a fortunate position. If the government scaled down the average cost of licenses on small cars he thought they would find that the difference would more than be made up by the number of licenses taken out.

BUSINESS DONE
First readings Sterilization, Townsite and Relief Acts and amendments to Greater Vancouver Water and Amusement Tax Acts; second readings amendments to Provincial Parks, Constitution, Income Tax, Taxation Acts; third readings B. C. Universities, Teachers' Pensions Acts.

MEALS IMPOST YIELD MAY BE ABOUT \$225,000

Admitted to Be Tax in Nuisance Class, Though Urgent

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 5.—The Hospitals Aid Bill, which places a tax of five per cent on all meals of 50 cents and over, passed second reading in the House today with considerable opposition from Liberal benches.

T. D. Pattullo called it "iniquitous legislation," and G. S. Pearson declared it would require \$5,000,000 worth of meals to raise sufficient to replace the grants taken from the hospitals of the province. He contended that the hospitals would get little or nothing from it, and that it had been brought in merely to give hope to the hospitals.

Hon. R. L. Maitland, although agreeing that it was a nuisance tax, declared such things were necessary these days and pointed out that cutting of grants and this type of legislation would not be necessary if the people of British Columbia were as generous to the hospitals as they could afford to be. The wealthy people of the province, he stated, did not contribute as they should. He declared that there was no more abused institution in the province than the Vancouver General Hospital, because of "people who don't want to pay their bills when they should, and those who won't pay when they can."

Hon. R. M. Pooley replied to assertions on the part of Liberals that the government had not made any estimate of the possible revenue from this new form of taxation by stating that it had been estimated that 25,000 meals a day were consumed at an average cost of 50 cents, providing a possible daily revenue of \$12,500. This, he said, would amount to \$4,500,000 a year, on which new tax would amount to approximately \$225,000, all of which would go to hospitals.

The bill also found support from Dr. H. C. Wrinch, Liberal; Tom Uphill, Labor; J. H. Beatty and Hon. J. Hinchliffe. The latter stated that the majority of the revenue from this form of taxation would come from tourists not citizens of British Columbia.

By DICK DIESPECKER

PRESS GALLERY April 5.—The last seventeenth legislative session and go home Friday we hit a snag. Things in these parts will spill any tears; that Conservatives alike are thorough with the whole business welcome the escape fast becoming, if it for some time past, situation.

So in these last few days the existence of the Legislature and the business possibly handle. It's a late hour last night back again at 11 o'clock tacking the mass which still confronts.

We plunged headlong this morning and the existence of the Legislature and the business possibly handle. It's a late hour last night back again at 11 o'clock tacking the mass which still confronts.

He stressed the fact that the mental way effected their that while the nearly as far as he see it go, it was and as time went on became more education for such action added to the bill stronger.

Later on we heard argument against Dr. Gillis, who, although frankly admitted that stood was rather not see this type of a step forward. He too important a present innocuous on to the statute consulting the people.

Ex-Reeve Mitchel and former member of the council were exonerated for spending bylaw employment relief. There is only one the woodpile of passed third reading ever, and that is men in question the sum of \$900 which plaintiffs in forced to pay, before validated.

Hon. R. H. Pooley changes plunged into atmosphere of the time we had finished the entire gathering a raging thirder.

The Attorney-General the home brew thing in the nature and seemed to result in which it had sales from the stores.

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Debt CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPECKER

PRESS GALLERY, Victoria, April 5.—The last session of the seventeenth legislature will lock up and go home Friday night unless we hit a snag. The general feeling in these parts is that nobody will spill any tears over the matter; that Conservatives and Liberals alike are thoroughly fed up with the whole business and will welcome the escape from what is fast becoming, if it has not been for some time past, an intolerable situation.

So in these last few hours of its existence the Legislature is cramming all the business in that it can possibly handle. Hard at it until a late hour last night, they were back again at 11 this morning attacking the mass of legislation which still confronts them.

We plunged headlong into a discussion of the new sterilization bill this morning and listened with considerable interest to the sage observations of Dr. Borden, who has quite evidently devoted considerable time to this subject and knows what he is talking about.

He stressed the fact that sterilization of the mentally unfit in no way effected their health and said that while the bill did not go nearly as far as he would like to see it go, it was a step forward, and as time went on and the people became more educated to the need for such action teeth could be added to the bill to make it a little stronger.

Later on we heard a very able argument against the measure by Dr. Gillis, who, although he quite frankly admitted that the bill as it stood was rather harmless, could not see this type of legislation as a step forward. He thought it was too important a bill even in its present innocuous form to be rushed on to the statute books without consulting the people.

Ex-Reeve Pritchard of Burnaby and former members of that council were exonerated by legislation for spending bylaw moneys for unemployment relief purposes.

There is only one little nigger in the woodpile of this bill which passed third reading tonight, however, and that is that the gentlemen in question must make good the sum of \$900 for court costs which plaintiffs in the case were forced to pay, before their actions are validated.

Hon. R. H. Pooley's Liquor Act changes plunged us into such an atmosphere of beer that by the time we had finished discussing it the entire gathering had developed a raging thirst.

The Attorney-General thought the home brew craze was something in the nature of a plague and seemed to resent the manner in which it had cut into the beer sales from the government liquor stores.

So, he said, he had provided these measures to place good beer within easy reach of all the people and seemed to convey that he hoped all good beer drinkers would give up making it at home and phone the liquor vendors whenever they felt thirsty.

Some members of the House could not quite see eye to eye with the Attorney-General in the matter of the quality of the beer, insisting that theirs, and they shamelessly admitted that they brewed it at home, was far superior. Mr. Pooley replied that he was no judge since he had never sampled either variety and let it go at that.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Pattullo became tangled in each other's hair as they invariably do whenever the question of provincial finances or relief administration appears on the horizon, when Mr. Jones was explaining the intricacies of his unemployment relief bill.

The leader of the Opposition expressed the opinion that it gave powers for the province to do much as they pleased in the matter, although it differs little from last year's bill. However, since he is quite confident that he will be sitting in Premier Tolmie's place at the next session and the bill applies to any government that happens to be in power, he very magnanimously gave it his support.

The Ladner bridge bill did not enter the discussions in the afternoon so the atmosphere was comparatively peaceful. But I am told that the government in the face of very stiff opposition in the caucus have decided to withdraw the bill as it stands and introduce it in a completely revamped form tonight. And that may be just the snag that will hold the proceedings up when we were so confident of going home tomorrow.

BUSINESS DONE

Second readings: Sterilization, Liquor, Free Miners' Licenses; third readings to Barkerville Townsite, Unemployment Relief, Public Libraries and Placer Mining acts.

Span Guarantees To Be Wiped Out In New Bill Today

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 6.—Amendments practically changing the financial agreements in regard to the Ladner bridge will be introduced in the Legislature tomorrow, it was announced tonight.

Although no definite information can yet be obtained, it is understood that all question of the government making guarantees in the matter will be eliminated.

The bill has met with considerable opposition because of financial arrangements.

STERILIZATION

Bill to Get Third Reading in House Today

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 6.—The sterilization bill was completed in committee stage tonight after a strenuous and extensive debate during its passage, and will come up for third reading tomorrow morning.

Hon. S. L. Howe and R. Hayward censured T. D. Pattullo tonight for encouraging introduction of this legislation last Friday night and taking an opposing attitude today during passage of the bill.

Mr. Pattullo insisted his remarks last week had been misunderstood, but government members would not accept his explanations and declared he had about faced on the issue.

Moratorium Bill Change Rejected

Taxes and Interest Aid Refused for Mortgagor

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 6.—The government continued to give resistance to any further latitude in the matter of a moratorium bill, and turned down an amendment moved by William Dick to cover taxes and interest, as well as principal, and to give a judge discretionary powers in deciding whether a man could pay or not.

The bill was not put through final stages, however, being held over in order that the attorney-general might consider suggestions of A. M. Manson that the courts be allowed to decide in cases where a man could well afford to pay, and also to have the act extended to cover principal payments on agreements of sale.

Mr. Manson urged that the judge be allowed to call the parties together before him where there was reasonable evidence that the mortgagor was deliberately taking cover under the act, when he could well afford to make interest payments.

BOTTLED BEER TO BE CHEAPER AT EARLY DATE

Changes in Liquor Act Explained to House By Mr. Pooley

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 6.—Bottled beer purchased in a liquor store or delivered to the consumer's home on a C.O.D. basis, will cost \$1.50 per dozen, instead of \$2.00 as formerly, it was announced by Hon. R. H. Pooley today, speaking of the sweeping changes in Government Liquor Act when it was given second reading in its passage in the Legislature.

The Attorney-General explained the price reduction by saying that the first order would cost \$1.75 per dozen, second dozen the same, but 25 cents rebate would be allowed for return of the bottles.

Amendments were introduced tonight in committee which make a change in permit prices from \$2.00 to 25 cents, effective April 18, all other clauses being effective when bill receives the Royal assent.

Some slight opposition was voiced to the measure by Dr. H. C. Wrinch and G. S. Pearson, while Capt. Macintosh and T. Uphill came to the support of the home brewers, who according to Mr. Pooley, were cutting into government sales.

CARSON MOTION APPROVED BY LOCAL HOUSE

Dominion Asked to Scale Down Interest Charges on Borrowings

NO OPPOSITION

Contrary to Expectation, B.C. Assembly Deals With Resolution

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 6.—Without a dissenting voice being raised, the Legislature tonight passed a resolution urging the Dominion government immediately to inaugurate legislation to scale down interest charges on federal, provincial, and municipal borrowings.

The resolution, moved more than a month ago by E. C. Carson, member for Lillooet, declares emphatically that the burden of public debt charges in Canada has become greater than the ability of the taxpayers to carry, that the appreciation of the purchasing power of the Canadian dollar is reaping a substantial harvest in added profit for the bondholders, and that the financial structure of government finance, particularly of municipal finance, is seriously threatened. It asks that interest charges be scaled down with regard to the present purchasing power of the dollar, and the ability of the taxpayers to pay.

Since the motion was left standing on the order paper on March 9 the general feeling of the House has been that it would be allowed to die a natural death; but when the Speaker put it to the House, after a brief and favorable comment by Tom Uphill, labor member from Fernie, no voice was raised, either in assent or dissent, and the motion was declared to have carried.

According to the terms of the motion as it appears on the order paper, copies will be forwarded to the proper authorities in Ottawa, with the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Vancouver Transportation Situation

Statement of Mr. W. G. Murrin, President of the B. C. Electric Railway Company, before the private bills committee of the Provincial Legislature:

At the last Vancouver civic elections, a plebiscite was taken in favor of seeking charter powers from the provincial legislature to enable the city to operate motor buses or give franchises to outside parties to operate such motor buses.

Believing that the information laid before the private bills committee by Mr. Murrin is of interest to the people of Vancouver, as indicating the condition of the street railway system as a whole, we are herewith reproducing the statement in full.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE thing uppermost in the minds of all of us at the present time is the unprecedented state of economic chaos which exists throughout the world today. It is no longer an academic question which we can afford to consider leisurely and form opinions about and pass resolutions upon; it is a matter of intimate and vital concern to each one of us and to our institutions. We are all struggling with problems of such magnitude and difficulty that we are almost in despair of finding a solution, and the introduction of unnecessary difficulties at this time is unthinkable in any sane community.

While we may not be able to see our way clearly at this time to the end of things, yet I think we are all agreed that the first steps to this desirable end lie in the direction of co-ordination, conservation of resources, abandonment of duplications, elimination of waste, of time, money and energy of all kinds.

The proposal which we are here today to discuss involves a principle diametrically opposed to these ideas and to the trend of the best thought and best practice in these times, for it is a proposal to set up a form of direct competition and duplication which can only result in irretrievable damage to all concerned.

(1) DUPLICATION OF SERVICES

I will ask you to take for granted for the moment this fact that it is impossible to indicate any practical bus service in Vancouver at the present time which would not directly compete with our existing services and most seriously affect the revenue from these services.

We are today in Canada faced with great difficulties, many of which originate from mistakes which we have made in the past, and of these difficulties none are more serious or more difficult to correct than those which have resulted from the duplication of facilities for carrying on a limited volume of business. The outstanding and unquestionably most serious example of this duplication is in connection with our steam railways, and so serious has this issue become that a Royal Commission was appointed to find a solution.

The very first of the commission's findings as to the "contributory causes of the railway problem" are:

- (1) "The over-development of railways beyond the immediate needs of the country."
- (2) "Aggressive and uncontrolled competition between two nationwide railway enterprises, a competition the more disastrous in that one of the competitors was publicly-owned and supported by the full resources of the Dominion."

If you pass this amendment you are giving power and encouragement to the city council, a public body deriving its revenues from the tax-payer, to set up competition with a private company, which also happens to be one of the city's largest tax-payers.

The Royal Commission report also says:

25. "As a result, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the largest tax-payer in Canada, has been subjected to the competition of publicly-owned and operated railway lines, supported by the financial resources of the country. They had honorably discharged their original contractual obligations with Parliament, and the company's lines had played a great part in binding together the western and eastern provinces of the Dominion. By common consent, the company's administrators had brought faith, courage and invincible energy to the task of building its lines through the undeveloped west. The company's achievement commanded the admiration of both railway operators and the public, and has been a material factor in causing Canada to be favorably known upon three continents. Their operations brought profit to shareholders and the enterprise became a national asset of acknowledged value and importance to the Dominion."

I believe I am perfectly reasonable in claiming that the B. C. Electric Railway company has occupied a relationship to the city of Vancouver somewhat similar to that the Canadian Pacific Railway company has occupied to the whole Dominion. I can fairly claim that we have discharged our contractual obligations and that our railway lines and other services have played an important part in building up the city. I believe I am not claiming too much when I say that the B. C. Electric Railway company has been for over 30 years a material factor in causing Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia to be favorably known outside our own borders and that this company is an asset of value and importance to the city and province.

I am going to show you that Vancouver has no real legitimate grievance against the company in this matter of transportation services. I further suggest to you that the agreements existing between ourselves and the City of Vancouver are most comprehensive and provide a channel for the fair adjustment of any differences of opinion by means other than that of wasteful and ruinous duplication.

(2) PUBLIC INTEREST

There is no excuse for this proposed legislation on the ground that the present company is not supplying a satisfactory and adequate transportation service to the community, and as I proceed I will give you facts and figures which amply confirm this statement.

The system of transportation in Vancouver is thoroughly efficient and has a high reputation throughout Canada and the United States and may be favorably compared with any of the 500 or 600 street railway systems on this continent.

We cannot please everybody, but on any basis of comparison in re-

lation to the business offering, our service is known to be good and we are continually striving to make it better within the limits set by revenue and expenses and even beyond these limits.

(3) MOTOR BUSES

In such betterment of service the motor bus has its place, and we have already introduced motor buses in five different sections of the city and we expect that as time goes on the use of such buses will increase. In this we are following the general practice throughout the street railway industry in using the motor bus to build up a co-ordinated transportation system serving the outlying districts as they develop, till such time as rail extensions are warranted by the traffic offered. To force motor buses into a city adequately served by a street railway system, to parallel existing rail lines, over which satisfactory and more than adequate service is now being given will result in financial disaster to the existing railway in great inconvenience and loss to the citizens, and in the retardation of the general development of the city.

(4) COMPETITION ABOLISHED

Competition between two systems of surface transportation in large cities is practically unknown today. No such condition exists in any Canadian city. We have profited in Canada by the mistakes of those cities in the United States which have tried such a scheme as is now suggested by this bill, and failed. It is recognized that the transportation business must be a monopoly to satisfactorily serve any city. Only with a unified system can service be given to the public at a reasonable cost. The difficulties confronting street railway managements at the present time are almost overwhelming, and even with a unified system, transportation companies are being called upon to utilize everything in their power to cope with the continued decrease in revenues and, at the same time, provide a service which will meet the requirements of the communities which they serve.

Motor vehicles operating as a thing apart from the co-ordinated city transportation systems have been in evidence in the past, but they do not exist today. Several large cities, including Kansas City, Toledo, Akron, Ohio, Des Moines, Iowa, Bridgeport, Conn., and Oklahoma, did without street cars entirely for several months, but in every case the citizens demanded their restoration and forced the city councils to make terms with the companies. It is fully recognized that the motor bus has a place and an increasing place in the transportation system of a large city, but it is equally recognized that any bus service must be co-ordinated with the street railway service if it is to be really effective.

(5) CITY BUSES WILL BE COMPETITIVE

If the City of Vancouver introduces a bus service it will be in direct competition with the street railway service. It will have to run into the centre of the city over the same streets as the street car line, or on streets immediately parallel with them, and most, if not all, the business it gets will be directly taken away from the street cars. The slightest examination of a map of the city would indicate this.

Under present conditions, the revenue received by the street railway from all the business available is not sufficient to pay the bare operating expenses of the system, in spite of the most rigid economies which have been effected, and if there were no other reason this fact should make it unthinkable that powers should be given at this time for the establishment of a duplicate transportation system which would inevitably result in the complete disorganization of the present services and would produce damage, loss and inconvenience to the general public and the city business and social life.

(6) DIVIDED RESPONSIBILITY

The street car company must under its agreements with the city charge a single fare for the whole city area. It also has the responsibility of dealing not only with the rush hour traffic, but with the travel at slack periods; it has to cater not only to the busy districts, but to the outlying points, where service is provided at a heavy loss owing to the low density of traffic.

The whole agreement under which we operate becomes meaningless unless the company making the agreement has the responsibility and opportunity of catering for all the traffic available.

Just a moment's thought will convince you that there must be complete responsibility or no one is responsible for the services given.

It is impossible to conceive any competitive system of surface transportation in a city like Vancouver which would not threaten the disruption of the whole fabric.

(7) NOTHING IN SIGHT TO REPLACE STREET CAR

No doubt some members of the city council believe, as do many other people, that the street car system is more or less rapidly giving place to other forms of transportation, but it only needs a very superficial study of the problems of city transportation to be convinced that, up to the present, there is nothing in sight to replace the street car as the principal means of mass transportation.

Of all passengers carried by electric railway companies in 1931, 90% were carried by street cars and 10% by buses. The buses in city service are practically all operated by the street railway systems, therefore the bus traffic outside these figures is negligible. These figures are based on 13 billion passengers carried by all street car systems in the United States and Canada in cities of over 25,000 population.

This 10% has grown gradually from 1 1/2% in 1924, and in no large city is there any tendency to replace street cars on heavy traffic lines. Buses have been gradually introduced as feeders to the street railway systems serving districts where the traffic is not sufficient at the present time to justify the large capital expenditure of the construction of rail and distribution system. In some large cities, buses owned by the street railway system have operated into the heart of the downtown area. In these cases, a higher fare is charged than is charged by the street railway, and no transfer privilege is given. In Toronto two such routes operated in 1930. Owing to the lack of patronage, however, one route was discontinued after a year's trial, as it was operating at a loss. The remaining route operates only 12 hours a day, does not operate on Sundays and holidays and is not more than breaking even. This in a city with a population of three times that of Vancouver. If there were no other evidence, Toronto's experience alone with the bus operation under the most favourable conditions and by the existing street railway, would be sufficient to condemn the present proposal.

(8) VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CITY AND COMPANY

The introduction of competition such as that suggested is contrary to the whole spirit of the agreements under which we operate and upon which the security of our investment is based.

It is only necessary to read the agreement of 1901, between the company and the city, and subsequent additions, with their obligations on ourselves to give service, with their penalties if we fail to carry out our obligations, with the contributions we have to make to the city funds, with the free transportation we have to give to city employees, etc., to come to the conclusion that the only thought in the minds of both parties to the agreement was that upon the company would fall the whole responsibility of providing all the transportation requirements within the district.

The motor bus was at that time unknown, but its effect is exactly the same as if it were a competitive street car line, which of course would be unthinkable.

On any other basis than that outlined, the agreement is meaningless and affords no protection for the investment of the large sums of capital which were originally expended and which have been continued to be expended from time to time.

Consider for a minute what meaning there would attach to any penalties provided for our not living up to our obligations. Under the competitive conditions suggested, for what demand for transportation could we be expected to provide? Obviously not the whole, as there would be other vehicles operating through the middle of our territory. For what then? For what is left over? Obviously an absurdity, seeing that we would be carrying the responsibility for the shortcomings of our competitors.

Divided responsibility means no responsibility, neither would any payment for a protective privilege be justified, seeing that the protection afforded by the city which would justify the payment had been taken away.

(9) FRANCHISE AGREEMENT—OTHER CITIES

Ottawa Franchise Agreement made in 1901, this principle. The new franchise following clause:

"It being the intention of the parties hereto that the street railway was not to be subjected in its business to competition by the motor buses or other means of transportation."

Hull—The City of Hull recently renewed a franchise with Hull Electric Company following clause has been:

"The city, during the term of the agreement, will not operate an electric railway or bus which will co-operate with the street railway to protect it, so far as the street railway allows, from competition by the motor buses or other means of transportation. The agreement, grants interests in the right to the electric railway or bus."

The principle specified in these two revised agreements is recognized, and a number of street railways operating under agreements of our own, made before the present bus was known. The fact that it was obvious for making this proposal specific than was in original agreements, is fact that it was obvious to give satisfactory results under any other conditions.

Other Cities—In Toronto, the city transportation is owned by the Toronto Transportation Commission, entirely independent of the city council. In the city of Toronto, a very definite all forms of transportation car lines, motor bus or any other method of ground or overhead transportation.

I could quote you the franchise agreement of the cities of Toledo, Pasadena, and others, that the company should be subject to competition; number of decisions by city Commissions regarding encroachment on territory of electric railways.

The above is a statement that the city council has no objection to the best principles which now obtain.

(10) SHORT COMINGS

This question of the street railway was the subject of the Provincial Council of 1917, with Dr. Adam as commissioner, "for the making a full investigation of the economic conditions of the B. C. Electric Railway and Subsidiary Companies."

Motor competition developed in Vancouver and in many other cities; it was faced with increasing declining revenue and came so serious that it brought to a standstill the council and the city requested the Lieutenant-Governor in-Council to appoint a commission "for the purpose of investigating the question of transportation in the City of Vancouver and its surrounding districts. It is agreed to abide by the report of the commission."

(11) DECISION OF COMMISSION

The decision of the commission was: "That an efficient service in the City of Vancouver between the City of Vancouver and the City of New Westminster not be maintained under conditions of competition by the jitneys or public service."

In the body of the report it is stated: "The interurban street railway as proved by long experience, cannot be operated on a basis of free competition with a natural monopoly, on well-recognized, unwell-served, the furnishing mutual cases of public utility which has never present protection to quite the reverse."

(9) FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS—OTHER CITIES

Ottawa Franchise—In the recent agreement made in Ottawa between the city and the street railway company, this principle is recognized. The new franchise contains the following clause:

"It being the intention of the parties hereto that the company was not to be subject to competition in its business of transporting passengers, whether such competition be in the nature of motor buses or otherwise."

Hull—The City of Hull has recently renewed a franchise with the Hull Electric Company and the following clause has been added:

"The city, during the life of the agreement, will not operate any electric railway or bus system, and will co-operate with the company to protect it, so far as the law allows, from competition. The city will not, during the life of the agreement, grant any other interests the right to operate an electric railway or bus system."

The principle specifically expressed in these two revised agreements is recognized and acted upon in hundreds of street railway systems operating under agreements similar to our own, made before the motor bus was known. The only reason for making this protection more specific than was implied in the original agreements is due to the fact that it was obviously impossible to give satisfactory services under any other conditions.

Other Cities—In Toronto, as you know, the city transportation system is owned by the city, but it is handed over to the Toronto Transportation Commission, which functions entirely independent of the city council. In the commission is vested a very definite monopoly of all forms of transportation, including car lines, motor buses, subways, or any other method of underground or overhead local transportation.

I could quote you clauses from franchise agreements granted by the cities of Toledo, Kansas City, Pasadena, and others which provide that the company shall not be subject to competition; also a large number of decisions by Public Utility Commissions refusing applications for bus operations that would encroach on territory served by electric railways.

The above simply confirms my statement that the proposals made by the city council are in direct opposition to the best practices and principles which now exist in other cities.

(10) SHORTIT COMMISSION

This question of competition with the street railway was the main issue that led up to the appointment of the Provincial Commission in 1917, with Dr. Adam Shortt as sole commissioner, "for the purpose of making a full investigation of the economic conditions and operations of the B. C. Electric Railway Company and Subsidiary Companies."

Motor competition had extensively developed in Vancouver, as in many other cities; the company was faced with increasing expenses and declining revenue and the issue became so serious that the system was brought to a standstill. The city council and the company jointly requested the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to appoint a Commissioner "for the purpose of thoroughly investigating in all its phases the question of transportation in the City of Vancouver and surrounding districts." Both parties agreed to abide by the decision arrived at.

(11) DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

The decision of the commission was: "That an efficient street car service in the City of Vancouver and between the City of Vancouver and the City of New Westminster cannot be maintained under the present conditions of competition with the jitneys or public automobile service."

In the body of the report, Dr. Shortt has this to say in regard to transportation: "The urban and interurban street railway business, as proved by long and wide experience, cannot be conducted upon a basis of free competition. It is a public utility and as such essentially a natural monopoly, to be conducted on well-recognized principles as a unified service, the various portions furnishing mutual support. In the case of public utilities, free competition has never proved a permanent protection to public interests—quite the reverse."

The decision of the Shortt Commission was made effective by a bylaw, and on the strength of the protection afforded by that bylaw, millions of capital have subsequently been spent by my company on the development of street car and motor bus services.

(12) RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

To enable the bylaw to be passed and the decision of the Shortt Commission to be put into effect, the city council required certain powers of classification of motor vehicles, with the right to prohibit the operation of certain classes of such vehicles, and these enabling powers were granted to the city by the provincial government by the Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1921, Section 135.

To that extent, therefore, the provincial government is a party to the measures which were taken to abolish this wasteful competition, and I cannot believe that the provincial government will now grant these further powers to the city, which will enable them to undo the effect of the previous legislation, to bring back the motor bus competition and to destroy the investments made by the company on the strength of the legislation passed for the express purpose of carrying out the commission's recommendations.

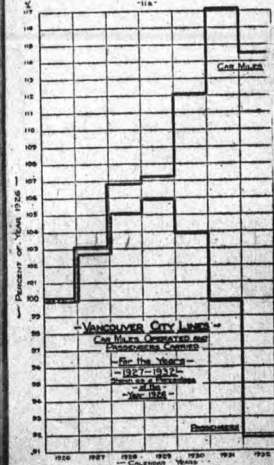
The powers asked for are entirely inconsistent with the principle laid down by the provincial commissioner and the powers obtained by the city from the provincial government to put those principles into effect.

(13) CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

In the last 4 years we have spent \$1,600,000 of additional capital on the Vancouver Street Railway system, which brings our total capital invested in that system up to \$11,770,000 and it was an outstanding feature of our discussions with the city council that we should make these additional capital expenditures. Surely there is a moral obligation on the council to give the company an opportunity to earn a fair return on that expenditure.

(14) ADEQUATE SERVICE

We have consistently increased our service as traffic increased and have always more than kept pace with such increases.



The chart above shows the picture for the last six years—passengers and car miles. From 1926 to 1929 the passengers increased 6% and the car miles 7%. From 1929 to 1931 the passengers dropped 6% but the car miles actually increased a further 9%. From 1931 to 1932 the passengers dropped 8%, but the car miles only dropped 2%.

If we relate the car miles to the passengers carried, and call that the measure of service given, we find that, starting with 1926 as a base and calling it 100, then 1928 showed an improvement of ... 2% in service 1930 showed an improvement of ... 8% in service 1931 showed an improvement of ... 18% in service 1932 showed an improvement of ... 25% in service

In other words, the service in relation to the traffic offered, was 25% better in 1932 than in 1926. In the face of such figures, how can there be any legitimate demand for increases in service?

The following are the detailed figures:

PASSENGERS CARRIED

1926	54,985,549
1929	58,217,984
1932	50,460,775

SERVICE (CAR MILES)

1926	9,264,123
1929	9,934,705
1932	10,608,507

REVENUE

1926	\$3,231,896
1929	3,520,311
1932	3,065,667

(15) EARNINGS INADEQUATE—CAR MILE EARNINGS COMPARED

Perhaps the best way of showing whether or not we are giving good service is to compare our earnings per car mile with the earnings of other companies. The car mile unit is a universal standard of measurement in the street railway industry and the earnings per car mile is a measure of the adequacy of the service or otherwise. This figure is just as positive to those who understand as the weight of an object in pounds, or the capacity of a vessel in gallons, is to the man in the street. Take it for the moment that this figure, in cities similar to Vancouver, is about 40c per car mile.

The B. C. Electric earnings in— 1928 were ... 34.5c per car mile. 1929 were ... 35.4c per car mile. 1930 were ... 33.7c per car mile. 1931 were ... 31.1c per car mile. 1932 were ... 28.9c per car mile. Last 6 months of 1932 were ... 28.3c per car mile.

These earnings are impossibly low and in the year 1932 do not cover the expense of operation and leave nothing for a return on either the company's original investment or on the investment which, in good faith, it has put into the railway system during the past 4 years. The low earnings of the company will be more fully realized by a study of the following table, which figures cover 1931 operations:

Montreal earnings are ... 42.8c per car mile. Toronto ... 41.4c per car mile. An average of 116 companies in the United States show ... 40.1c per car mile. An average of 48 companies operating city service only shows ... 40.3c per car mile. Vancouver for 1931 ... 31.1c per car mile.

The above figures demonstrate, beyond a doubt, that the average earnings in all the large cities of the United States is over 40c per car mile. The car mile earnings in Montreal and Toronto are 42c and 41c respectively. The B. C. Electric earnings, even in its peak years, were only 35.4c and have now dropped to the alarming figure of 28.9c in 1932.

This comparison is a conclusive answer to any criticism that we are not giving a good and adequate service. We are obviously giving a better service than the traffic warrants and it is also obvious that the introduction of competition would demoralize the whole system.

(16) AREAS AND POPULATIONS

A very important factor in any street railway system is the area of the city in relation to the population. It is obvious that 250,000 people, spread over 10 square miles, can be served more economically than the same number spread over 40 square miles.

In Vancouver we have a very difficult problem under this head. Compared with other Canadian cities, the area of Vancouver is very large in relation to the population. For example, as compared with Montreal we have almost the same city area with little more than one-fourth of the population.

Comparison can be made with the City of Toronto on similar lines, and I attach a map showing the boundaries of the City of Toronto, and imposed upon it there is an outline of the Vancouver city boundaries.

The centre point is the Post Office in Vancouver and King and Yonge Streets in Toronto. The area bounded by the dark line is the City of Vancouver and the cash fare for service given within this area is 7c. This area is 43.7 square miles. The area bounded by the thin line and shaded is the City of Toronto. This is 82.3 square miles, or only three-quarters of the Vancouver area. The population within this area is 631,000 as against Vancouver 246,000, the cash fare charged within this area being 10c with an extra charge for travel outside this area, whereas the fare charged in the City of Vancouver is 7c.

I do not think it would be possible to place before you, diagrammatically, anything which would indicate more clearly how much greater are the difficulties under which we operate in giving service than prevail in other cities. I might mention incidentally that this adds not only to the cost of giving transportation service but to the giving of all our services—light, power and gas.

(17) VANCOUVER STREET RAILWAY SERVICE COMPARED WITH OTHER COMPANIES

I have said that I do not fear comparison of the street railway service in Vancouver with that of any other similar company. I would like to give you a few of the figures on which I rely when making that statement.

First, in regard to fares. We are among the lowest on the continent. Our cash fare is 7c and our ticket fare is 8½c, with still lower fares for off-peak riding and by means of weekly passes. Out of 340 American cities with a population of 25,000 or over, there are 160 charging a 10c cash fare, 46 charging 8c or 9c—altogether, 206 charging more than 7c. The average cash fare in all cities is 8.18c. In Canada we have Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Regina, and several other smaller cities with a 10c cash fare, some of them with tickets at 8-1-3c, some at 7½c, and some at 6½c.

The average fare paid by all car riders in the City of Vancouver for the year 1932 was 6.13c, whereas the average fare of all electric railways on this continent in cities with 50,000 population and over, was 7.82c for the same year, and consequently, had the citizens of Vancouver even paid the average fare existing on other transportation systems, they would have paid an additional \$825,000 for their transportation in the year 1932.

I have no hesitation in saying that the service given is too great, economically, for the fare charged. In the face of these figures given in the statement I have made that our operations in the city of Vancouver do not today cover our operating expenses a surprising one, and does not this picture indicate the impossibility of operating with a competitive service?

(18) GENERAL OUTLINE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CITY AND COMPANY

The agreements which control the relations between ourselves and the city in connection with the city transportation speak for themselves. Under these agreements, the company provides all the public transportation in the city of Vancouver.

The principal agreement between the city and the company was entered into in 1901, and under it the city has the right to buy out the company at an arbitrated price every five years.

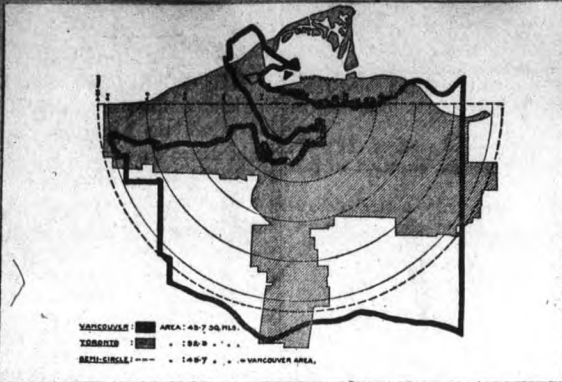
Another agreement was made in 1922, establishing a 6c fare in place of the maximum of 5c in the original agreement. This 1922 agreement was for three years, and renewed itself as regards the fare for three-year periods unless a change was made by mutual agreement or arbitration at the end of each period. The 6c fare continued until 1929, which was just after the amalgamation of South Vancouver and Point Grey with the city. The city council were extremely anxious to have a uniform fare over the whole new city area, and the company agreed to a ticket fare of 6½c and a cash fare of 7c. This represented an increase of a quarter of a cent in the city and a decrease of three-quarters of a cent in South Vancouver and Point Grey, and this brought us up to the same rate of fare as had prevailed in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg for seven years, and which, as previously mentioned, was subsequently increased to 10c cash in Toronto and Winnipeg.

(19) NEW CITY AGREEMENT

Since the last session of parliament, we have entered into a new agreement with the city council in regard to fares, after very protracted negotiations.

In spite of falling revenues and the serious financial condition of our street railway system, we agreed to reduce the price of school children's tickets by 20%, non-rush-hour tickets, 17 for \$1, were reduced to 18 for \$1, and we introduced a weekly pass, which is used by over 3500 customers every week, undoubtedly because they find it cheaper.

We looked upon these concessions purely as a voluntary contribution towards relieving the pressure of the hard times affecting large classes of citizens. They were not warranted by the company's financial condition.



(20) AGREEMENTS FURNISH AMPLE PROTECTION TO CITY

These agreements give the city a very large measure of control over the company. We have not the authority to fix fares. If the fares suggested do not seem equitable according to the facts, the matter can be referred to arbitration and we are bound by the results of that arbitration. Surely nothing can be fairer than this.

Also, in regard to motor buses, under these agreements the city council may demand that we put on motor buses to serve any particular district which is not being adequately served by the existing system, and the only protection the company has against the city making unreasonable demands under this clause is that the city agrees to pay one-half the loss on the operation of such new service. On the other hand, if there should be a profit on the operation of such service, the city would become entitled to 50% of such profit. Notwithstanding this perfectly fair and reasonable provision we have recently agreed to absorb all the losses on the feeder bus routes now in operation, although not one of them is meeting expenses.

We have more than lived up to these agreements and large sums of money have been expended on the strength of the security afforded by them.

(21) CREDIT OF THE COMPANY

These proposals are aimed directly at the operations of the B. C. Electric Railway company and the mere fact that they are asked for is sufficient to cause injury to the credit of that company.

I do not need to tell you that any legislation which threatens injury to the earning power or the credit standing of any reputable industry in this province is a matter that seriously affects the province as a whole. It cannot affect one industry without affecting others.

The standing of this province in financial centres is to a large extent judged by the standing of its large industries.

It is probably not too much to say that the operations and results of the B. C. Electric Railway company are looked upon in financial quarters as a barometer indicating approximately the general conditions throughout the province.

This legislation, if it should pass, will be taken by the centres of finance at its face value, viz., that the Vancouver City Council intends, deliberately, to do something which will seriously injure the railway investment.

It has never been more difficult than it is today to interest the outside investor in British Columbia securities, including government securities, and it is surely not worth while to run any unnecessary risk of making that situation worse.

(22) THE PLEBISCITE

The only new point in the city's case, as compared with last year is that they have supported it this time by the result of a plebiscite taken up on the question at the municipal elections in December, when 23,872 citizens voted in favour of the city obtaining these powers and 10,218 voted against the proposal.

It is not at all remarkable that a majority of votes should have been secured for the plebiscite. You, gentlemen, know something about public affairs and I think can picture a little more accurately than I can tell you the conditions under which this vote was taken.

To ask any man if he would like additional service is to get the answer you expect. Of course the majority will say "Yes."

Suppose the city council were to ask the citizens, by plebiscite, whether they were in favour of the provincial government taking over all the expenses of the schools in the city or all the deficits on the hospital, or all the unemployment expenses. You know what the answer would be. You might almost as reasonably ask them whether they were in favour of taxes or no taxes, but I am not going to labour this point, because I am quite sure that your knowledge will guide you as to what weight to attach to this plebiscite.

The man in the street is not in a position to adequately weigh all the factors which govern the settlement of a question such as this, and this must be quite obvious from an examination of the nature of these controlling factors which I have given you in detail in my preceding remarks.

(23) MEETING THE DEPRESSION

We are all in the same boat in relation to this depression. I realize that this government's straining every nerve to meet the situation. So is the city council. So are all public bodies. You ask your public utility companies and your big industries to co-operate with you, to avoid unemployment, to pay taxes, to make local purchases. So far as my company is concerned we

are doing these things to the limit of our ability, realising that our welfare is bound up in the general welfare of the city and the province. Why should we, at this time, be subjected to an attack of this kind, the very mention of which suggests that we are falling down in our duty to the city and injures our credit in financial centres.

We have probably kept employed, during this depression, more men, proportionately, than any other large concern in the province, at the same time our taxation has been enormously increased, we are barely able to pay the fixed charges on our whole undertaking, and the railway department, as I have shown you, is actually not earning operating expenses.

I suggest to you that none of us would be in British Columbia at all if it were not for the industries and the commercial enterprises which provide the payroll for our citizens and are the basis of all the money available by the province and the municipalities. Those who are responsible for the operation and development of these enterprises are today facing difficulties and are subjected to strain hardly less than those responsible for government.

There never was a time when, in the interests of the city and the province, there was a greater need for a sympathetic attitude for co-operation and assistance on the part of public bodies towards enterprises such as ours. I would suggest to you, as a matter of common sense, that we should be relieved of the necessity of wasting energy and effort and money in directions which, however interesting at normal times, must be considered today as non-essential; on the other hand, that enterprises such as ours should be encouraged to make the maximum contribution of which they are capable towards the solution of the very great difficulties with which we are today faced.

(24) PAST MISTAKES

Gentlemen: I am not a pessimist, but what possible hope can there be for the future of Vancouver, British Columbia or Canada if we refuse to be guided by the results of past mistakes. Here we are today all of us facing a tragic crisis resulting from the duplication of facilities and particularly railway facilities. There is scarcely anyone who does not realize the nature of the mistakes which have been made, and whatever differences of opinion do exist are as to the possible means of lessening the penalties of these mistakes and re-establishing with great sacrifice possible new bases of operation.

Now, at this time, the city council comes to you, asking you to give them powers to enable them to do in the city transportation in Vancouver just that thing which has had such tragic results all over the country, and particularly in the field of railway transportation.

I have placed before you a number of arguments, any one of which is sufficient in itself to condemn the proposal, but I maintain that the grounds which I have just stated and within the scope of your own experience, this proposal condemns itself.

W. G. MURRIN.

TO EASE DELAY

Technical Changes in Administration of Estates

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 6.—Elimination of delay in administration of estates by giving power to proceed with administration pending settlement of values of estates by the province was assured in further amendments to the Succession Duty Act amendments introduced today by Hon. R. L. Maitland.

Up to the present, it was explained, a delay of six months or more while the taxation department arrived at assessable value for fixing of succession duties, has caused considerable embarrassment to beneficiaries of estates, since administration of the estate could not proceed until this matter had been settled.

The new amendments, it is understood, will do away with this unnecessary delay altogether, and generally speed up the closing out of estates in the province.

Further amendments provide protection for widows' exemptions, means for which under the old act were somewhat obscure.

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B.C. LEGISLATURE

PROROGUES

Eighty Bills Are Passed By House In Hectic Session

Seven Weeks of Legislative Toil Ends With Prorogation—Moratorium Bill Finally Through

Stamp Tax to Pay for Meal Levies—Presentation Is Made to J. H. Schofield, Father of the House

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 7.—After seven gruelling weeks of strife and unrest, the British Columbia Legislature was prorogued tonight by Lieutenant-Governor J. W. Fordham Johnson at 9.15 p.m.

Members, relieved of burdens and worries of the past two months, threw sessional papers into the air, and cheered wildly.

With a total of 31 working days behind them, and the passage of over 80 bills, a general exodus from the Capital started after prorogation, as many of the mainland members took the midnight boat for Vancouver.

The afternoon session today saw one of the hottest debates of the session, when the Ladner bridge bill was put through its final stages.

The moratorium bill extended without change for another year, was given a third reading, and the Municipal Act changes also received final ratification.

MEALS' TAX

Hospitals' bill, providing a tax on meals in restaurants, passed its final reading with government-introduced amendments providing for the attachment of stamps to restaurant checks in order to eliminate unnecessary bookkeeping on part of hotel and restaurant owners.

Stamps, it was explained by Hon. J. W. Jones, will be purchased from government, and affixed when checks are presented for payment by customers.

A new government bill, introduced and rushed through on the final day of the session, gave the government same powers in respect to Mount Robson Park as two bills for other provincial parks and Garibaldi Park had provided.

Final reading of amendments to Liquor Act, which makes several drastic changes in government policy in regard to administration, was also given.

PRESENTATION TO SCHOFIELD

Dr. Tolmie and T. D. Pattullo, on behalf of all members of the House, made a presentation to J. H. Schofield, oldest member, and to the sergeant-at-arms, Col. Woods.

Members gathered in the centre of the chamber and sang "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem.

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

By DICK DIESPECKER

PRESS GALLERY, VICTORIA.

April 7.—With a very audible sigh of relief, the House dotted the last "i" and crossed the final "t" tonight at 9 p.m. and made their various ways home.

Few sessions I am told have been as strange as this one. For seven weeks we have battled and bickered; attempted to unionize and failed; put through an inordinate amount of legislation and arrived in the last analysis absolutely nowhere.

Of the real problems which confront the province nothing whatever in the nature of a solution was put forward. Union government in any shape or form proved to be a miserable failure; redistribution was sidetracked; reorganization of the cabinet was not announced as had been expected and the future course of the government and of the Conservative party when the House closed this evening was hidden in the mists of uncertainty and strife.

Just how many of the members who have so consistently voted with the government throughout the session, will spurn allegiance to the cause of Premier Tolmie, nobody knows, but it is safe to assume that the Conservative membership of the House as it stands at the present time will have many gaps in its ranks before another day dawns.

In the dying hours of the session today some of the most important legislation of recent years reached, and passed its final stage. The sterilization bill, the meal tax, the Ladner bridge act and the sweeping changes in the liquor act all found their way on to the statute books of the province.

N. S. Lougheed's bill dealing with the purchase or transfer of park lands also received the assent of the legislature in spite of the earnest protestations of Mr. Pattullo. His amendments making the completion of all such transactions dependent on the consent of the legislature were defeated.

But he had asked for divisions on them and the standing votes brought the interesting information that Messrs. Loutet, Rutledge, Dick and MacIntosh all agreed with the Liberals.

During the discussion on the amendments, Mr. Lougheed in his inimitable manner, went to great length to explain that there was nothing sinister in the proposed bill and that he himself did not have a dollar of interest in any of the transactions. His haste to assure the House of this fact was somewhat out of place after Mr. Manson had explained that no one had yet made any suggestion that Mr. Lougheed had any monetary interest in the matter.

In the afternoon the Ladner bridge bill, bedecked in its brand new amendments, precipitated a bitter debate of far greater length than interest. T. H. Kirk caused us all to wonder by opposing the bill as amended and then proceeding to vote for it when it came to the show-down. Col. N. Spencer followed the same trail but W. R. Rutledge stayed true to his colors and after a very short speech on the subject in which he voiced his objections to the measure, voted against the government.

"Battling Bill" MacKenzie went to great length to show the House how wrong they were in entertaining any gloomy ideas about the outcome of the bridge proposition and with many "very wells," "so much for that," "what would be the positions" and "by and larges" plunged fearlessly into a dissertation on the greatness and the future hopes of our province.

Unfortunately nobody, not even the Speaker, appreciated his glowing tributes to the country and insisted that he stick to the matter in hand. Which he did with great reluctance and very apparent disappointment.

But they say you can't keep a good man down so our Bill popped up once more when H. F. Kergin's resolution asking for an enquiry into the conditions at Anyox came before the House a little later. The motion was lost after the minister of mines had given the House a very exhaustive history of the mining industry in the province of British Columbia.

Ladner Bridge Act Passed

Drastic Change Is Made In Financial Structure Of Bill

'Public Interest Must Be Protected,' Says City Member

(By Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 7.—After several hot debates, and a recorded division on second reading, the Ladner Bridge bill finally passed the Legislature this afternoon with amendments materially changing the financial aspect of the agreement to be entered into between the government and the bridge company.

The amendments to the bill provide safeguards in the matter of financing by insisting that the company must put up dollar for dollar with the government in the matter of deficits and also giving the government the prior right on entire assets of the company in the event of bankruptcy or other financial difficulty. Moneys paid by government for deficits must be repaid by the company out of profits, with interest at 6 per cent.

T. H. Kirk, who opened the debate this afternoon, stated that he did not consider this the proper time to bring in such a measure.

As the bill stood he said it simply meant that the province was guaranteeing interest and sinking funds on a proposition which no bank or financial institution would have anything to do with unless they had some reasonable assurance of security.

"ALL IN THEIR FAVOR"

It had been stated, he said, that the company was satisfied with the bill as it was originally framed. This was only natural, he thought, since it was all in their favor. There was a great profit to be made in this type of financing, and the promoters would probably make a million dollars out of the deal.

"The public interest must be protected," he declared. "If this bill passes without the safeguarding amendment it will be the valedictory of this government."

Dr. W. H. Sutherland asked why it was necessary to proceed with the bill at all since the amendment would make it practically impossible to sell bonds. He advocated the government undertaking the work and building a high level suspension bridge themselves. A government built bridge would save at least \$500,000 in promotion costs.

Col. Spencer was definitely opposed to the amendments. If the bridge had to be built, he said, then the government would have to assist the company. The restrictions withdrew this support, therefore he considered the bill should be scrapped.

THE PRESENT BRIDGE

Mr. Pattullo asked why if the situation at New Westminster was known to be so serious this government had not done something about that bridge long ago.

They had wasted millions, he declared, in keeping men in camps when they could have spent part of those millions in building a bridge across the Fraser River or repairing the Westminster bridge.

Hon. R. L. Maitland declared the original franchise had been granted by the Liberal government, that safeguards had been put in the present bill and that if the company did not like it, they could withdraw.

When the question was put on second reading a division was called, with a straight party vote resulting, except for W. R. Rutledge, who voted with the Liberals.

A P R

1933

Vancouver Asked School Age Limit

VICTORIA, March 31.—It was the Vancouver School Board that introduced the proposal to give school boards power to exclude children under seven years of age as a temporary measure of economy, Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe informed the Legislature Thursday as the amendment to the Schools Act went through committee.

FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

With impassioned eloquence the Province newspaper concludes a political editorial with these burning words:

A fire threatens our house, Mr. Premier; a fire threatens our house, Mr. Pattullo! Will you turn to together, you with your fellow citizens to save it? Or will you stand by, sparring for points in your party game, watching it burn?

There is something almost heartrending in this appeal.

And it comes with peculiar grace from that old fireman, the Province, which has been putting out political fires for many dreary years.

As a matter of fact, the Province newspaper has cultivated the ability of handling the wet blanket with almost consummate skill.

We feel that the Province, however, is a little unfair to leave the whole thing up to Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo.

Are we to infer that Mr. Bowser and Dugald Donaghy are not going to be allowed to have their little squirt too? Perhaps just a hoseful of beer?

MOTOR License By WEIGHT

NEW PRINCIPLE FOR AUTOS

REDUCTION FOR WINTER TIE-UP

Special to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, April 1.—A new scale of motor license fees is announced in the text of the Motor Act Amendments tabled in the Legislature.

Generally speaking there appears to be a slight reduction, particularly on new cars.

The scale is based entirely on weight, with no allowance for age of the car. Thus:

- Cars under 1500 pounds pay \$12;
- Up to 2000 pounds pay \$16;
- Up to 3000 pounds pay \$20;
- Up to 4000 pounds pay \$25;
- Up to 5000 pay \$35;
- Up to 7000 pounds pay \$65;
- Up to 8000 pay \$80;
- Up to 9000 pay \$95;
- Up to 10,000 pay \$110;
- Up to 11,000 pay \$120.

The scale actually goes up to 31,000 pounds at which the fee is \$530.

The biggest trucks and busses now on the road are about 20,000 pounds, it is stated and these are to pay \$310.

One-twelfth of the fee is deductible for each month that has elapsed when a new license is taken out.

The license year begins at March 1 and existing licenses taken out before March 1, 1933, remain in effect until Feb. 28, 1934, provided owners obtain a sticker on January 1 next year.

Owners east of the Cascades where the winter is severe are permitted to turn in their licenses on Nov. 1 and obtain a rebate of one-third of the license fee paid or on Dec. 1 and obtain a rebate of one-quarter.

The Bill contains a number of other amendments which the Attorney General will explain when the Bill comes up for debate.

FRAUD ACT PROTESTED

VICTORIA, April 1.—Trenchant criticism again was levelled against the administration of the Security Frauds Prevention Act in the House Friday when the amendment to the measure was reported complete with amendments. A. M. Manson, Liberal, Omicameca, would exempt private companies.

G. A. Walkem, Conservative, Vancouver, spoke of the undue delay in having prospectuses and other company literature returned by the department.

H. F. Kergin, Liberal, Atlin, had lost thousands in mining ventures, but still would rather the Act had never been passed.

Dr. R. W. Alward, Conservative, Prince George, said the registrar was given entirely too much authority.

A mining company must secure the OK of that official before they could move in any direction.

The registrar constituted himself a sort of business manager of a mining company.

Attorney General Pooley informed the House he had instructed the official administering the Act that he should not go too deeply into details of companies.

A mining boom was on and he only wished to protect the public.

NEW POLICE BOARD

DELAY UNTIL JULY REFUSED BY LEGISLATURE

VICTORIA, April 1.—Vancouver's new police commission will take office the moment the Lieutenant-Governor assents to the bills enacted at the present session of the Legislature.

The House on Friday rejected Mayor L. D. Taylor's appeal to postpone the change until July 1 after hearing a powerful plea from A. M. Manson, K.C., former Attorney-General, who made serious charges against two of the present commissioners.

One of them, he stated, had been twice convicted in Vancouver police court.

Another, he said, was the owner of "property after property in the red light district of Union and Keefer Streets."

WORTHY OF U.S. CITIES

They were men, he said, worthy of cities across the line at which "we point the finger of scorn."

Mr. Manson identified these two commission change until July 1, both sioners Wilkinson and Rush, for whom he said he had the highest respect.

He also said that Mayor Taylor, whose telegram asking for postponement of the change was before the House, had consistently voted with the commissioner who had been convicted and with the commissioner who with his wife was the owner of these properties.

By a coincidence it was Mr. Manson's leader, T. D. Pattullo, who brought the Mayor's request before the House.

AT ODDS WITH LEADER

"Unfortunately I did not lay this information before my leader," said Mr. Manson, in opposing the change.

"I did, however, put it before the private bills committee."

Mr. Pattullo and J. W. Cornett, who sponsored the postponement of the commission change until July 1, both stated that they were simply laying the Mayor's telegram before the House.

SEARCHED LAND TITLES

Mr. Pattullo formally moved the amendment, but when the question was put nobody was heard to vote for it.

Mr. Manson said he had searched the land registry office for titles of the property.

He said he had obtained the card of a woman occupying a house of prostitution in the district mentioned, and had found the property was owned by the commissioner in question.

He pleaded with Attorney General Pooley to back him up.

COUNTY JUDGE SELECTION

Another amendment to the police commission clause was inserted by Attorney General Pooley.

It provides that the county court judge shall be selected by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

Mr. Pooley said he had no objection to the senior judge, but thought the law should be the same as for the rest of the province, where it was provided that the Lieutenant Governor should decide which judge was to go on the Police Board.

LICENSE CLAUSE THROWN OUT

The House settled the difference of opinion between the City Council and the manufacturers as to who should be considered a manufacturer for licensing purposes by throwing out the whole clause.

Thus, neither the original request of the city for power to raise the license fee on manufacturers, nor the definition of "manufacturer" inserted by the Private Bills Committee on representations by the C. M. A., goes into the charter this year.

The act remains as it was last year.

The proposed definition would have deprived the city of \$50,000 revenue.

STERILIZE UNFIT

NO DISABLING CONDITION OF PATIENTS

Special to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, April 1.—Announcement that if the House was ready to receive it, the Government could yet introduce a bill providing for sterilization of the mentally unfit, was made to the Legislature Friday night by Hon. S. L. Howe, provincial secretary, after a number of members had urged the economic and moral necessity of such a law.

"I am absolutely convinced that the time has arrived," said Mr. Howe. T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, opened the discussion when the appropriation for mental hospitals came under review. He said that sterilization should be adopted.

The feature address on the subject was given by Dr. L. E. Borden, a member of the medical profession, who said that the great trouble was that the word "sterilization" was not properly understood by the lay mind.

"There is no disabling condition," he said, "it does not incapacitate members of either sex. The only thing is the lack of procreation under circumstances where the only possible result could be the production of persons mentally unbalanced."

Essondale had 2,600 patients, he said. If there were sterilization years ago the number would not exceed 600.

"We should have had it long ago, and we are paying for it now," said the medical member.

Reginald Hayward, a member of the Mental Hygiene Commission of some years ago, said the Commission had recommended public education leading to gradual introduction of sterilization.

BERRY FAVORED

M.L.A.'S DETERMINED TO OUST TOLMIE

VICTORIA, April 1.—Fate of the Tolmie Government rests with the Conservative members of the Legislature, who want home for the weekend still undecided on the next move, but determined to force an issue next week before the House prorogues.

Whether Premier Tolmie will consent to resign without being defeated in the House is the burning question.

The members have canvassed a number of possible Conservative leaders, J. W. Berry, Leon J. Ladner, E. L. Maitland, and others, the latest of whom is Lindley Crease, K.C.

Berry is the most favored.

If the Premier refuses to give way it is still among the possibilities that the members will force the situation by defeating the Government in the House at the last minute.

This, of course, would place T. D. Pattullo in office. He would then have a free hand in calling into his Government any man of character and ability regardless of political antecedents who would be willing to support the Liberal policy.

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31.—British 12-year life of issue sold on a million and the Province of a similar issue me, said George member for Na- a return of all g on the tran- ad to pay 6.31 uebec sold its said Mr. Pear- County of Lin- money for 5½ onds above par. at Hon. J. W. he time money ince too much the correspond- out what the ay. Attorney ned the debate, in the House at

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31.—The Legis- her opportunity on of medical Labor member notice of Inten- tugless Healers' re defeated on e session on a em control of ers' Bill has so that if it ors can come one classifi- cians. an examining members of the d stipulates for a wide variety anatomy, path- sis, gynecology, etc.

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31.—Supreme ting upon dis- same power as p, adjust and lements where under a bill eading in the on the motion of y.

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31.—Occupants te in the com- nant domi- ncial election, ts to the elec- y Hon. Joshua legislature Thurs-

ospital ay

31.—Col. Fred ure Thursday eading a bill he Donkhorob responsible for members.

TOLMIE REFUSES TO SET LIBERAL LEADER VS. PREMIER ELECTION DATE

GOV'T REORGANIZATION NOT YET BEGUN, STATES CABINET CHIEF—WARM CLASH IN LEGISLATURE

By C. NORMAN SENIOR
VICTORIA, April 1. — Premier Tolmie, told the Legislature Friday, in a sly passage-at-arms with T. D. Pattullo, Opposition leader, that he had not yet begun the work of re-organization of his government and that the provincial election would be held when he considered it in the public interest.

The discussion dragged in the inevitable discussion of Union Government and Mr. Pattullo declared his refusal to join with the Premier was because he believed doing so would nullify the power of the Liberal party to further its constructive program for the benefit of the people—a program very similar to that already launched in the United States by President Roosevelt.

The Premier's statement was given in reply to questions that Mr. Pattullo has been pressing for several days past regarding his demand for an election.

STICKS TO PROGRAM

Mr. Pattullo—Will the Premier mind informing the House what he intends to do about re-organizing his cabinet.

Dr. Tolmie—Some time ago I announced that I would take up re-organization of the Government when this House rises. I have not done so yet. I am sticking to my program.

Mr. Pattullo—This House is being asked to vote money for departments that may be abolished. Out of respect to the House the Premier should tell us what he proposes to do.

Dr. Tolmie—Not having taken up the work of re-organization yet I can't give the information.

"SEETHING WITH UNREST"

Mr. Pattullo—I accept the Premier's statement that he doesn't know what he is going to do. Now there is another matter.

This province is in a perilous condition, seething with unrest.

Something serious is going to happen. I ask for a definite statement when the election is to be held.

I suggest that the Government should go to the country at once.

The unrest is right in this House, among the members on the other side. It is the duty of the Prime Minister to tell us when he is calling the election.

NOT SHOWN BY VOTES

Dr. Tolmie: The Government will give the matter serious consideration and will call the election at the moment when it is deemed to be in the public interest.

The "seething unrest" on this side of the House is not shown by the votes.

The Government has been strongly supported.

The demand for my honorable friend to get into the government is not as great as he thinks.

Mr. Pattullo: The Prime Minister thought so a few days ago.

GOOD COMPANY AT DOG FIGHT

Dr. Tolmie: Not as an individual, simply as leader of a party. He is of no strength politically. I hold him in high esteem personally and at a horse race or a dog fight he would be good company, but not as Prime Minister; people's memories are too fresh.

Mr. Pattullo: He did not ask me as an individual. I should not mind going to a dog fight with the Prime Minister, but I think this shows my judgment was right in not going into Union Government with the present Premier. I declined that invitation respectfully, but the Premier has not shown me equal courtesy.

Dr. Tolmie: I am sorry. I have tried to act as a gentleman. But I would remind him that greater men than he have declined to go into Union Governments and they have been formed anyway. The honorable leader would be no strength.

WANTS THE PARTY

Mr. Pattullo: Maybe I would be of no advantage, but he wants the party and he can't get the party without me, because the Liberal Party is united and loyal.

But the Premier is not in the same position.

The Conservative Association has refused to commit itself in advance to support his Union Government.

I would be in a fine position to take the Premier in my arms—what a load he would be—only to find the Conservative party did not like the color of the horse.

Dr. Tolmie: You'd soon have to put me down.

Mr. Pattullo—That's what I did. But the public of this country should be advised when there is to be a general election.

Dr. Tolmie—The election will be called after due consideration. All I asked was that the honorable leader place the province ahead of his party, but he was not big enough.

Mr. Pattullo—If I thought Union Government would benefit the province I would join. But the Liberal party, representing a great body of advanced progressive thought, has laid down a program, very similar to that which President Roosevelt is now putting into effect, a policy that is endorsed by the greatest economists in the world.

The Premier suggests I am not willing to forget party. But I believe Union would nullify the power of the Liberal Party for the furtherance of those policies which are for the benefit of the people of this province.

Dead Budget

Editor, Vancouver Sun: Dear Sir,—Your editorial on March 16th and Mr. Pattullo's address in the house on the same day should be read by every citizen no matter what his political faith may have been in the past years.

"A dead budget" properly describes it and it is high time that the three would-be statesmen from the Okanagan were handed their passports to that valley and warned to keep away from the people's business for all time.

The same applies to every one of this, the most discredited government that ever disgraced our legislative chambers. Mr. Bruhn wishes to co-operate after having spent five years in the pork barrel; he is willing to sign on with any or every party that will guarantee him another five years in the ram pasture under any leader. Your reference to the Bowser government of 1916 is particularly well timed seeing that Billy Dick and his clique are trying to foist upon an exhausted and suffering electorate the man mainly responsible for hanging the seventy million dollar P.G.E. around the neck of the people of this province.

Bowser and McBride pledged their reputation that the P.G.E. would not cost the people of B.C. one dollar and today it represents a charge of over one hundred dollars on every man, woman and child in B.C.

Billy Dick emulated Mark Twain a few days ago by announcing that the report of his suicide was greatly exaggerated. The joke is on Billy because he is as dead as the Dodo and does not know it. The eleventh hour repentances of Bruhn, Dick and the rest are too late. They should have announced their stand two or three years ago when they well knew the Tolmie government was the biggest dud ever bursted in this province.

The writer read a report of a Surrey council meeting some weeks ago at which one of the councillors bitterly complained of the fact that the Hon. Mr. Lougheed owed them \$3000 in taxes, and he remarked that Mr. Lougheed had been getting amounts similar to a king's ransom for the rental of his discarded and finished logging camps. I also noted that a letter was read from Mr. Lougheed at the next meeting in which he stated he had withdrawn from the company, which to say the least seems to be very small business.

The Minister without Portfolio finished off a nonsensical speech by stating that no government ever concluded its labors with a cleaner record than the Tolmie government, to which the people will reply as one man "apple sauce." The one thing needed to banish every supporter of the present government from the next legislature is to bring Mr. McGeough before an impartial tribunal to explain just where the million dollars was squandered shamefully.

The Hon. Mr. Maitland must take his share of the blame for demanding that Ottawa take him away from Victoria last year when he was to appear before the public accounts committee. It is most significant that he was fired on reaching Ottawa for being prepared to tell the truth and protect the taxpayers of this province.

RONALD M. GALBRAITH.

5324 Prince Albert St.

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By C. M. VICTORIA. ture enters its formidable v before it, and Thursday at Hon. J. W. has yet to im menting his changes in S come Tax. An amendm Hon. N. S. Lo the budget ar by 15 per cen Little oppo D. Pattullo, pressed the debate that entitled to co

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NEW LOAN

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SECRET DEBATE ON 'STERILIZATION BILL'

HOUSE HOPES TO CLOSE THURSDAY

"THE DEVIL A SAINT WOULD BE"—JONES' NEW LOAN BILL AROUSES MANY OBJECTIONS

By C. NORMAN SENIOR

VICTORIA, April 3.—The Legislature enters its last week today with a formidable volume of legislation still before it, and a hope of prorogation Thursday at latest.

Hon. J. W. Jones, Finance Minister, has yet to introduce the Bills implementing his budget, such as the changes in Succession Duty and Income Tax.

An amendment brought down by Hon. N. S. Loughheed has a bearing on the budget and also on industry. Timber royalties are to be reduced by 15 per cent all round.

Little opposition is expected as T. D. Pettullo, opposition leader, expressed the opinion in the budget debate that the loggers' claim was entitled to consideration.

The object of the Bill is to stimulate production, thereby increasing employment and the circulation of money.

CATHOLIC OBJECTION

As the result of Friday night's debate on sterilization of the mentally unfit, a Bill to this effect is in preparation in the Provincial Secretary's department.

The House warmly applauded observations in favor of the measure on Friday and the only opposition is expected to come from Roman Catholics, who object on religious grounds to any use of medical knowledge which interferes with the natural processes of life.

Since sponsors of sterilization advocate that the measure should be introduced by easy stages, a suggestion is under consideration of enacting safeguards which would require the assent of a patient's clergyman.

It has also suggested that the debate on the Bill be held in camera, with the galleries cleared. Dr. L. R. Borden, who went a long way in the matter of frankness Friday night spoke before galleries in which men and women were about equal in numbers.

It is felt that greater candor would be possible if the galleries were entirely cleared.

NEW LOAN BILL

Mr. Jones has introduced one finance bill which may evoke debate. It cancels the power to borrow under about a dozen old loan acts in which the borrowing power has been very nearly exhausted and yet under which there may still be power to borrow a million or two.

The nature of the criticism likely to arise is obvious: The present minister is about to leave office. There is little danger of his exercising the old borrowing power, but he is seeking to tie the hands of his successor.

The present Government has been a flagrant offender in using old borrowing powers and now, as critics will undoubtedly say—"the devil a saint would be."

The outstanding offence of the present Government has been with the P.G.E. Construction Loan Act of 1928. This bill was coupled with former Premier J. D. McLean's pledge that if he did not sell the railway within the year he would complete it to Prince George and North Vancouver.

It has been used by the present Government to borrow money for renewals and replacements of bridges, etc., to the extent of \$2,500,000. This is the device by which operating deficits as high as \$700,000 in a single year have been represented as comparatively insignificant amounts, the difference being covered up by borrowing.

DAIRY ADJUSTMENTS

The Victoria Colonist has opened an attack on J. W. Berry's bill to free C. A. Welsh and the Committee of Adjustment under the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act from the liability for damage suits arising from their acts as administrators of that Act.

The Colonist contends that the committee members should face the music.

The theory of the sponsors of the bill is that until the courts held it ultra vires the committee was acting in good faith under the presumed law of the land and should not be left open to damage suits.

The fact that the bill was brought in by a private member raises a doubt as to whether the Government favors it.

LADNER BRIDGE BILL

There are rumors also of a Ladner bridge bill.

The company holding the charter has asked the Government to build some highway approaches, which will cost about \$200,000 and also to guarantee the bridge company to the extent of 50 per cent of any operating deficit which may arise. The company proposes to operate it as a toll bridge, of course.

This measure will be open to attack on three grounds.

1. That it savors of "lame duck" legislation by a dying government to take care of some of its friends.

2. That the time for Governmental guarantees of private enterprises is past and gone. The answer to the latter will undoubtedly be that the public will never get a second bridge across the Fraser, the need for which is universally admitted, on cheaper terms.

3. New Westminster's objection to any obstruction to free navigation of the Fraser.

Despite these numerous measures, and the probability that there may be others of which no rumor has yet emerged, the general opinion among members is that the House will manage to prorogue about Wednesday or Thursday.

LIQUOR Permits 25 CENTS

CASH AND CARRY IN BEER PARLORS

LOWER PRICES LIKELY

By Canadian Press

VICTORIA, April 3.—Liquor permits henceforth will cost 25 cents instead of \$2.

Legislation bringing about this change will be brought down by the Government immediately, it was learned at the Parliament Buildings today.

The 25-cent permit will cover everything sold in Government vendors' stores, there being no other form issued by the Liquor Control Board.

Bottled beer may be also purchased in beer parlors for consumption outside the premises.

Delivery of beer to homes c.o.d. on receipt of orders by telephone is also provided for.

Lower beer prices to the consumer is forecast in a short time by virtue of reduced cost, brewers having agreed to a substantial drop in their price to the Liquor Control Board.

THE TOURIST TRAFFIC

Another change made provides for the sign "Licensed Premises" outside beer parlors instead of the "open" sign now displayed.

The Government feels that such changes are made necessary in view of the changed conditions in the United States with an expected drop in revenue heretofore derived from tourists spending their vacations in British Columbia, also to the fact that home brew beer and stills have cut considerably into liquor store sales.

It is felt that the changes being made will result in greater sales and a consequent increased revenue, at the same time limiting bootlegging, holding the tourist traffic and making it unnecessary for home brew beer or home-distilled wines.

POLICE Board's Swan SONG

HARSH NOTES OF TWO IRATE MEMBERS

Defy Manson's Allegations

Harsh and discordant notes emanated today from the City Hall as the Police Commission gathered in Mayor L. D. Taylor's office to sing its swan song.

Cut down in full career by the Provincial Legislature at the request of the City Council, one of the two most sensational Police Board's in Vancouver's history assembled at 10 a.m. to clear up details of its administration before yielding office to its successor.

Routine third-reading of a bill to make the Board a continuous body consisting of the Mayor, senior Police Magistrate and County Court judge, instead of an annual aggregation of four citizens appointed by the Council and the Mayor, was scheduled on the floor of the Victoria House today. The change will be effective as soon as Royal assent is given.

GRAVE CHARGES

Debate on second reading, Friday, was featured by grave charges against two commissioners by A. M. Manson, K.C., M.L.A., and ex-Attorney General, to the effect that one had been twice convicted in Police Court and the other owns property on Union and Keefer Streets, used for illicit purposes.

Although Mr. Manson did not say which was which, he exonerated Commissioners George Rush and Robert Wilkinson. Commissioners A. J. Dumaresq and E. M. Charman, the only two left, issued a joint statement over the week-end defying their assailant to repeat his charges outside the House.

They said it was a "cowardly and grossly improper attack—particularly because it was (made) upon us when we did not have the opportunity to defend ourselves."

Mr. Manson retorted that he will not discuss the question further. "The matter is finished," he said. "The House has decided it and that has ended it."

MANSON DEFIED

"If he means to infer that we, or either of us, own, or did own property on Union and Keefer Streets, we say, and each of us says unequivocally and without reserve, that Mr. Manson is a liar, and we each of us defy him to make such a statement where he has not the protection of the privilege of the Legislature," the Commissioners declared.

"We hold our characters at least as reasonably dear to us as Mr. Manson holds law and order. And if he will not make the same statement on the public platform as he made in the Legislature, we brand him as a liar and a coward."

STERILIZING THE UNFIT

It is forecast from Victoria that the Legislature will pass a bill providing for the sterilization of the unfit before the present session ends.

It is a good sane scientific idea. It is the millions of unfit in the world that constitute the greatest burden on the back of civilization.

That they should be permitted to propagate their kind is the sorriest kind of a crime against humanity.

But if the measure is passed, as it should be, the administration of it should be most carefully guarded.

It should not be made a prerogative of the medical profession.

Only the highest and most competent courts should be permitted to order sterilization.

Properly safeguarded and intelligently administered, the measure could be made of real value to civilization in this province.

LADNER Bridge Bill IN HOUSE

GOV'T SPONSORS PROJECT GUARANTEE TO HALVE DEFICITS

Special to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, B. C., April 3.—Hon. R. W. Bruhn, Minister of Public Works, will introduce in the Legislature today or Tuesday a Government Bill to assist the construction of a privately owned, highway toll bridge across the Fraser from Ladner to Woodward's Landing.

The Bill empowers the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to enter into an agreement with the Ladner Bridge Co. The Government is to have the right to pass on the structural plans, the toll charges, and the auditing of the books.

It is provided that the Government is to share in any net profits of the operation, or if the toll revenues are insufficient to meet interest, sinking fund and operating charges, the Government is to meet half the deficit.

REIMBURSE GOV'T.

It is also provided that if the Government has to meet deficit any year the company shall be obliged to reimburse the Government out of the first profits it makes afterwards.

The Government is to finance the construction of necessary road connections, and it is explained that the provision for the Government sharing in the profits is to cover this cost.

Leon J. Ladner, K.C., who represents the Ladner Bridge Co., states that the bridge will cost \$2,600,000 and will provide employment for from 1000 to 1500 men for nearly two years. The company has entered into a contract with Dorman Long & Co., of London, world famous bridge contractors who built the Great Sydney Harbour Bridge.

It is also stated that Dorman Long are willing to accept Provincial Government bonds for the road construction, but this work will be open to public tender, as it is not included in the bridge contract.

Traffic surveys by experts representing the private interests and the

department of public works have established that there is adequate traffic to make the bridge pay, it is claimed by the promoters.

One such survey reported three times the potential traffic required to make the bridge pay.

GOV'T OWNERSHIP

There is a provision in the Bill for the Government to take over and own the bridge after a period of years if it wishes to do so.

The policy of absorbing half the deficit says Mr. Ladner, has been followed in Quebec, where the Province pays 75 per cent of the deficit on privately owned bridges. The plan enables the Government to acquire useful public works without capital outlay.

In the present instance it is argued that the Government makes an added saving of about \$400,000 in relief charges during the period of construction and of early extensive repairs on the New Westminster Bridge unless its traffic burden is lightened. Already a load limit has been placed on that bridge.

The shorter route and better grade from Vancouver to Blaine for tourist traffic, and the bringing into closer contact of Vancouver with the agricultural area at Delta and the summer resorts at Boundary Bay are emphasized by the sponsors of the Bill. The main highway in United States has been built to the peace arch in anticipation of the Ladner Bridge and part of the road work in B. C. has already been done as unemployment relief work, it is stated.

FERNIE AIDED

B. C. GOV'T RELIEF CHEQUES SENT TO MINERS

FERNIE, B. C., April 3.—The Government of British Columbia came to the assistance of the City of Fernie, which, with its mining population, is in a precarious condition following Wednesday's statement by President W. R. Wilson that mines of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company would be closed and machinery dismantled.

A resolution passed at a mass meeting of miners asking increased relief allowance and that the April allowance be paid in advance, brought an immediate answer from Victoria.

On authority of the Department of Finance cheques for five dollars each were distributed to 270 persons as an advance on the month's allowance which is ordinarily paid on the seventh of each month.

Despite the refusal of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to increase its purchase of fuel from the Fernie mines to be affected by the shutdown, civic leaders are still hopeful of finding some solution for the problem.

Stating its inability to increase its orders from the Fernie mines the C.P.R. answer pointed out that for years it had been getting its fuel from other mines in the district.

These mines had been established relying on the railway company's orders.

For some time these mines have been on short time, the statement continued, and conditions in the communities surrounding these mines were distressing at the present time.

A further reduction in orders to them by switching of the railway's orders would only add further to their distress and suffering.

SAVE AT Orphans' EXPENSE

PENSIONS BATTLE IN LEGISLATURE

'DISGUSTING' SAYS PEARSON

Special to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, April 4.—"The plain fact is that this Government has decided upon a policy of cutting down on Mothers' Pensions and it ought to be brave enough to admit it," declared George S. Pearson, Liberal member of Nanaimo, in the Legislature Monday night.

A full dress debate on Mothers' Pensions was precipitated when the attenuated vote for that purpose came up.

Last year the sum was \$850,000 this year it is \$615,000.

"You are cutting down at the expense of the women and children," declared Mr. Pearson. "It is disgusting."

Two main criticisms were advanced. One was that the Government had rejected social service graduates from the University of British Columbia in appointing visitors under the Act, in favor of less expert officials.

The other was that widows with one child were not being granted the pension.

COOPIING WEALTHY EAST

"Not in every case," said Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary.

Several members said the visitors and officials all said it was the policy not to grant pension to mothers with one child.

Col. Nelson Spencer said a province that dug down its pocket for \$600,000 for pensions for widows was doing pretty well. Many not getting \$55 a month were contributing.

"The trouble is we are trying to copy big rich provinces like Ontario and Quebec, but I warn you British Columbia has pretty nearly reached the limit of its financing.

Our duty is to guard these expenditures.

Soon we'll have a receiver in this province and then there will not be as much sentiment in administering these matters as there is in this House," said Col. Spencer. "I have as big a heart as anybody, but when we give out money in one direction we should consider where we get it."

'CAN'T GET A JOB TODAY'

T. D. Pattullo told Col. Spencer he was talking in phraseology that he did not understand as there could be no receiver in the Province.

The power of the people was paramount.

"It is true we should not allow sentimentality to go too far," said the Opposition Leader. "Neither should we squeeze the almighty dollar too hard. Government is not just cheese-paring. There are humanitarian considerations that governments must consider.

"Reduced to practical terms the government is telling the widow with one child to go and provide for herself. What is she going to do? We know she can't get a job today.

"They say the willing horse carries the load. I say the able horse has got to carry the load and the only able horse in these days is the collective power of the people through government."

A. Wells Gray said the municipalities did not ask for cheese-paring in individual cases.

They asked for a reasonable administration. Women were being out of pensions and came under public relief.

"There are members opposite talking of bringing in a Bill to guarantee the Ladner Bridge Company against losses," he said. "I suggest before they do that they take care of the widows and orphans."

\$17.50 FOR DOUK CHILD

Mr. Howe defended the appointment of visitors, saying they had been selected by an expert sent out by Miss Charlotte Whitton for the purpose.

A. M. Manson suggested that Miss Whitton, whose expertness he considered existed largely in her own mind, be left in Ontario.

Manson pointed out that \$17.50 a month was being allowed to maintain a single Doukhobor child in public institutions, whereas the widow with one child, deprived of mother's pension, could obtain only \$16.10 a month relief allowance for both.

B. C. TO TAX MEALS

REVENUE TO BE ALLOTTED TO HOSPITALS

OTTAWA, April 4.—The "Charity Sweepstakes Act" with its title changed to "Hospital Sweepstakes Act" passed the Senate committee stage today.

The change limits the sweepstakes to hospitals only and only one sweepstake each year in each Province. The Bill comes up for third reading tomorrow.

VICTORIA, April 4.—Restaurant and hotel meals costing 50 cents and upwards are to be taxed 5 per cent by the Provincial Government.

The proceeds are to go to hospitals. This is the measure of hospital relief foreshadowed by Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary in the Legislature Monday evening.

Proprietors of public eating places are to be appointed collectors of the tax, the same as gasoline stations. The system is modelled after Quebec, it is stated.

The Government has reduced its grants for hospitals by about \$250,000 this session and the tax on meals in public places has been devised to prevent many hospitals from closing as a result of this loss of revenue.

TAX PENALTIES HALVED

VICTORIA, April 4.—Municipal councils are to be given legal authority to waive putting aside sinking funds during 1933.

The annual Municipal Act amendments were tabled in the Legislature Monday by Attorney General Pooley.

The Municipal Act governs all cities and municipalities in British Columbia except Vancouver.

Other amendments are as follows: Penalties for arrears of taxes shall not exceed 10 per cent henceforth.

The present Act provides for 15 per cent.

Penalties on existing arrears may be cut in half if councils so decide.

Councils may extend by one year the time for redemption of property reverted to the municipality by tax sale.

Councils are given power to prohibit parades, processions and demonstrations on streets, squares and parks.

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B.C. MORATORIUM ACT EXTENDED

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INTEREST, TAXES MUST BE PAID

INCLUSION IN "DEBT HOLIDAY" LEGISLATION REFUSED—DRUGLESS HEALERS' BILL REJECTED—GOV'T BOND SALES SECRECY

By C. NORMAN SEITOR
 VICTORIA, April 4.—The Mortgage Moratorium Act of British Columbia is to be continued as it stands for another year.

In the Legislature Monday, Hon. R. H. Pooley stated that the government had decided against extending the act to make it cover interest and taxes as well as principle as had been urged.

The courts would, however, be able to extend the present allowance of a year for redemption of foreclosure properties if circumstances seemed to warrant such a course.

Mr. Pooley stated that there was \$40,000,000 invested in small mortgages of \$3000 or less in British Columbia, he said, and if the small lenders of this money were deprived of their bit of income they would be added to the relief lists along with those whom it was proposed to assist.

Even the present act had caused one sum of \$250,000 of English money to be withdrawn from investment in the province, he said.

The war-time moratorium, he said, had cost many small investors practically everything they owned.

MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Taking the stand that the Government should not first deprive the municipalities of their revenues and then hold an investigation, the Opposition forced a division on the bill implementing the Jones' budget by striking out the pari-mutuel tax grants to the municipalities.

Three Conservative members, Jack Loutet, G. A. Walkem and William Dick, voted with the opposition, while J. W. Cornett and R. W. Rutledge absented themselves from the House, making the vote 24 to 15.

Flat refusal to permit introduction of the Drugless Physicians' bill by a recorded division of 18 to 16 was the first event of a strenuous working day for the House.

RELIEF CAMPS VOTERS

The 15 per cent all round reduction in timber royalties was given approval without debate.

Amendments to the elections act providing that inmates of relief camps may not acquire domicile enabling them to register on the voters' list in the constituency where the camp is situated were passed through second reading, but T. D. Pattullo, Opposition leader, said there would be some points to discuss on the committee stage.

Attorney-General Pooley explained at some length the new provisions for the Motor Vehicles Act, claiming that there was no increase in fees, except on heavy trucks.

He also explained the slight extension of the Moratorium Act.

MOUSHIES ACT TO GO

A measure by Hon. J. W. Jones to cancel a dozen old loan acts with small unexpired balances in them was found to include the Department of Industries Act in which there is \$1,000,000 of unexercised borrowing power.

The opposition held this was not a good time to cancel the Industries Act and intimated they would move to exempt this act from the bill as it stands.

T. D. Pattullo claimed conditions today were so similar to those after

the war when industrial loans had helped to revive production that the act might be very useful at this time.

DRUGLESS BILL VOTE

The rejection of the Drugless Physicians' bill was abrupt and under circumstances that permitted no debate. Tom Uphill asked leave to introduce the bill. There was a chorus of "No's" and Mr. Uphill asked for a vote. The refusal was upheld on the following division:

Against the bill: W. A. McKenzie, Bruhn, Beatty, Schofield, Hayward, Twigg, Alward, Gillis, Manson, Sutherland, Kergin, Wrinch, Lister, Borden, Kingston, Carson, R. Mackenzie, Fitzsimmons—18.

For the bill: Hinchliffe, Pooley, Tolmie, Pattullo, Uphill, Jones, Howe, Macintosh, MacNaughton, Longhead, MacPherson, Pearson, Hanna, King, Rutledge, Loutet—16.

Mr. Uphill drew attention to the fact that the three party leaders (himself being the third) had voted for the bill.

MUNICIPAL GRANTS NOT CHARITY

In defending abolition of grants from the pari-mutuel tax to the municipalities, Mr. Jones said falling revenue did not permit the government to continue its past "generosity" to municipalities.

Last year the government had paid out \$7,000,000 to municipalities and in the past 11 years \$53,000,000.

T. D. Pattullo repudiated the suggestion that these grants were in the nature of charity.

The allotments were made because it was deemed in the public interest. The municipalities required the revenue.

MOTOR CAR FEES

In explaining the Motor Act amendments Mr. Pooley said the license year had been changed from Jan. 1 to March 1 because so many people were hard up after Christmas.

The new weight system of fixing motor license fees might involve some increase on people driving old and rather heavy cars, as there was no allowance for depreciation, but on most private cars the change was a reduction.

Cars weighing up to 1500 pounds will pay \$12.

There were 786 such cars in the province, he said, and the average license paid last year on them was \$18.50.

Cars from 1500 to 2000 pounds would now pay \$16, whereas the former average was \$18.91.

Cars from 2000 to 3000 pounds would now pay \$20, whereas the former fee averaged \$19.73.

This increase of 27 cents was the only one in the Act affecting private cars.

TRUCKS TO PAY MORE

But heavy trucks, doing great damage to the roads, would have to pay more.

One such truck had done \$17,000 damage to the Cariboo highway in a single trip.

Trucks of 7500 pound weight would pay \$80, he said.

In Quebec the fee was \$190 and in Saskatchewan \$228.

Trucks of 10,000 pounds would pay \$130.

In Ontario the fee was \$160, in Quebec \$262, while New Brunswick and

Saskatchewan would not allow trucks of that weight on the roads at all.

BOND SALES HELD SECRET

The old issue, suppression of public documents, bobbed up again Monday. The Opposition has on the order paper a motion for a return of the correspondence regarding the government's sale of \$4,000,000 of bonds in February last.

A minister adjourned the debate in the absence of Hon. J. W. Jones and no effort to bring up the matter has been made by the Government.

T. D. Pattullo pressed twice Monday to have the resolution dealt with and was put off both times because Mr. Jones was out of the House.

"The Minister of Finance has advised me that it would not be in the public interest to give this information at the present time," said Premier Tolmie.

DAIRY ACT PROTECTION

Strong language and a sharp difference of opinion in no way associated with party lines marked the second reading of J. W. Berry's bill to wind up the Committee of Adjustment under the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act.

Jack Loutet, describing the measure as "an act to protect the receivers of stolen property," moved a 12 months' hoist.

This was voted down by 29 to 10 on recorded division.

The 10 opponents of the bill were: Loutet, Rutledge, Hanna, Dick, Cornett, Michell, Alward, Walkem, Hayward, Twigg.

J. W. Berry and A. M. Manson were the chief speakers for the bill.

They explained it had two provisions.

It provided for winding up the committee under the Companies Act and the Supreme Court.

It also indemnified the members of the committee against lawsuits which might be brought against them for deeds performed in their official capacity under the act, which has, of course, been declared null and void by the courts on constitutional grounds.

The difference of opinion was with regard to indemnification of the members of the committee of adjustment.

ment, of which C. A. Welsh, New Westminster merchant, was chairman.

WHO PAID FOR APPEALS?

R. W. Rutledge said the bill deprived independent milk producers of the right to obtain repayment of moneys "illegally gouged out of them" by the committee.

Jack Loutet said the government should audit the committee's books before allowing the bill to pass, to see if all the money was collected and disbursed in accordance with the act, which the member said he doubted.

"Who paid the costs of the court appeal?" he asked.

Vancouver Charter Bill Passes

VICTORIA, April 4.—Vancouver Incorporation Act amendments, occasion of lively passages during their committee stage in the Legislature last Friday were given their third reading by the House Monday afternoon without comment.

The Shaughnessy Heights Act, concerning which two groups of property owners, waged a strenuous contest before the private bills committee, was also given its committee stage and third reading at the one sitting of the House without debate.

TWO OFFERS FOR P. G. E.

VICTORIA, April 4.—In response to a demand from T. D. Pattullo for a Frank statement as to where the negotiations for sale of the P. G. E. stood Premier Tolmie told the legislature Monday that he had before him at the present time offers from two responsible firms of the highest standing, one in London and one in New York, which were being investigated.

He declined to give their names or the nature of the terms under consideration, although Mr. Pattullo said the public had a right to the information.

Douk Children To Be Liberated

VICTORIA, April 4.—Hon. S. L. Howe, provincial secretary, stated in the Legislature Monday that the 300 to 400 children of convicted Doukhobors would shortly be removed from government institutions and sent back to their homes in Doukhobor communities.

Arrangements for 78 had already been made, he said.

The sum of \$40,000 for the care of the children was voted.

'Validate Illegal Expenditures'

VICTORIA, April 4.—After some weeks of suspense Attorney General Pooley has at last given notice to the Legislature of a bill "to validate certain illegal expenditures by the Corporation of Burnaby."

B. C. MORATORIUM ACT MAY BE BROADENED

MORTGAGE POWERS OF COURTS

MAY BE GIVEN GREATER AUTHORITY TO PREVENT FORECLOSURE — LEGISLATURE HEARS BOND DEAL SECRECY ASSAILED—ONE FIRM FAVORED?

By C. NORMAN SENIOR
VICTORIA, April 5.—Beginning the home stretch dash to prorogation the Legislature found itself deluged Tuesday afternoon by the introduction of no fewer than 10 new Government bills.

The contents of most of them, however, had been pretty well known in advance, such as the taxation measures, Liquor Act and Ladner Bridge Bill.

Second reading of the Moratorium Bill disclosed within the Government ranks a surprising sympathy with the suggestion from A. M. Manson that instead of circumscribing the court's discretion the Act should give the courts full authority to examine mortgage and mortgagee and make whatever order seemed just and proper having regard to their circumstances.

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, without going quite so far as to disagree with his colleague, Attorney General Pooley, sponsor of the measure, expressed personal agreement with Mr. Manson's viewpoint.

The possibility of an amendment in the committee stage occurred to many minds, as members applauded these suggestions.

STABILIZE SILVER
 Adoption of a resolution urging that stabilization of silver prices be brought by Canadian delegates before the World Economic Conference and an attack on the manner in which the Government made its last bond sale were outstanding events of the day's sitting.

The Bill to wind up the Dairy Sales Adjustment Act was given its third reading.

INFORMATION REFUSED
 "What is there to conceal in this transaction?" asked Dr. H. C. Wrinch, Liberal member for Skeena, when Hon. J. W. Jones, Finance Minister, declined to give the Legislature detailed information about the \$4,000,000 bond issue of February 1.

G. S. Pearson moved several days ago for a return of all correspondence connected with the flotation. After several postponements, Mr. Jones told the House Tuesday that the bonds were not yet sold, that there were delicate negotiations still in progress and that if he were to make the details public it might be considered a breach of confidence.

T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, threw a broad hint as to the nature of the information sought.

THROUGH ONE FIRM
 "Is it not a fact," he asked, "that some responsible firms have refused to participate because of special arrangements made by the Government with one particular firm whereby these others would have to pay a commission through that firm and that they have refused to pay this commission?"

There was no answer to this question.

"The Minister knows whether this is a fact," said Mr. Pattullo. "I do not suggest there is anything sinister in it, although I may disagree with that way of doing business. But if it is a fact the Minister should say so and give his reasons."

QUEBEC PAYS 4.6 PER CENT
 Both Dr. Drinch and Mr. Pattullo said it was remarkable that a B. C. loan carrying 5 1/2 per cent interest could not be sold at 92, giving investors a net yield of 6.69 per cent, when Quebec had just sold bonds yielding 4.6 and the County of Lincoln had obtained a premium on a 5 1/2 per cent issue.

The reason for the slow sale might have to do with the nature of the transaction as between the Government and the bond dealers, rather than with the rate of yield or any lack of confidence in the security of

LAWSUIT PROTECTION

Assurances which met the objections of all but the most strenuous opponents were given to the Legislature by J. W. Berry, member for Delta, prior to the third reading of the Bill winding up the Committee of Adjustment under the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act and indemnifying the members of the committee against possible lawsuits.

Jack Loutet led a small but vigorous opposition to the Bill and was on his feet to make further protest when the third reading was passed.

Mr. Loutet claimed that sums as high as \$160 a month had been levied on some farmers under the Act, which was held by the courts to be unconstitutional and he claimed these farmers were entitled to collect the money wrongfully taken from them.

MEMBERS' MILEAGE CUT

While assenting to the reduction of members' indemnities from \$1800 to \$1600 a session, the Opposition indicated objection to the reduction in mileage from 25 cents to 12 1/2 cents.

Members for such remote and far-flung constituencies as Atlin, Fort George and other districts were put to enormous expense in making the annual tour of their districts, said T. D. Pattullo.

A. M. Manson adjourned the debate on second reading.

SILVER PRICES DEBATED

Stabilization of silver prices was the objective of a resolution which obtained unanimous approval of the Legislature. Capt. James Fitzsimmons, Conservative, and H. F. Kergin, Liberal, combined to sponsor the motion.

It calls upon the Government to ask the Dominion Government to instruct its representatives to raise the silver question at the World Economic Conference.

Supporters of the motion, who included Dr. H. C. Wrinch, emphasized the importance of silver mining as a basic industry of British Columbia and the part it played in providing not only employment for the workers but a market for the produce of the farmers.

MINING RELIEF

JOBLESS TO BE PLACED ON PLACER PROPERTIES

VICTORIA, April 5.—Unemployed men are to be given an opportunity to go placer mining under terms of a Bill brought down in the Legislature Tuesday by Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Minister of Mines.

The plan is not to grubstake men, but to send them out under the supervision of experienced miners for a day's food and shelter.

The scheme provides for the creation of placer mining reserves recommended by resident mining engineers. On these reserves will be located placer mining training camps. On the recommendation of a resident engineer, when no suitable vacant Crown land is available, a training camp may be established on private placer mining ground with consent of the owner.

No compensation would be paid the private holder but an agreement may be reached relieving him from rentals, fees and the performance of development work.

TORY DEADLOCK

TOLMIE TO QUIT IF NEW LEADER CHOSEN

Special to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, April 5.—Members of the Conservative caucus met Premier Tolmie in the executive council room this morning to discuss the political situation.

After a long series of discussion among themselves without the cabinet they have failed to arrive at any formula for government re-organization on which they can agree.

A limited few want to support Pattullo and turn the government out neck and crop before the House adjourns but they cannot get a majority to do it.

Some want to be nominated in their own constituencies as Bowser candidates.

Some want J. W. Berry as a Conservative or Unionist leader and these have had Gen. V. W. Odlum in the city for the past two days in a series of inconclusive interviews.

WILLING TO QUIT

But the differences among them have prevented any final decision and as they are under compact not to break up the present session they are demanding from the Premier a confidential statement as to what he intends.

He is said to have told them that he is willing to retire if they can agree on anybody else, but this led nowhere as the members can't agree.

The Premier has been throwing out suggestions of letting the whole issue stand for some months on the understanding that there may be a special session in the summer to consider A. P. G. E. deal, but this is regarded as a mere ruse to get the members away without disturbing the present cabinet's position.

JUST "UNIONIST"

The formula adopted by Capt. James Fitzsimmons in Kaslo-Slocan is proving popular.

His Conservative Association has nominated him as a Unionist.

This leaves him free to support Bowser, Tolmie, Berry, or any combination that may be formed after the election.

MEAL TAX ON MAY 1

CAFES MUST KEEP BOOKS FOR GOVERNMENT

VICTORIA, April 5.—Text of the bill announced Tuesday introducing the new tax on meals in public eating places for the benefit of hospitals makes interesting reading.

The tax is 5 per cent on any meal costing 50 cents or more.

Fractions of a cent count as a whole cent.

Where a person pays for more than one meal the tax shall be payable on the total amount of the bill, regardless of the price paid for each meal.

Restaurant keepers are required to collect the tax and keep accounts and records for the Finance Department.

NO MENTION OF CLUBS

Restaurant is defined as any railway train, ship, hotel, restaurant, lunch-room, or other premises where for monetary consideration food is served, but the definition specifically excludes premises commonly known as private boarding houses, or educational or charitable institutions, or any public or private hospital or nursing home.

Nothing is said about clubs. The tax, it is learned, unquestionably applies to all service club luncheons, etc., and also to all organizations giving luncheons but only renting the dining rooms for the occasion.

It will also apply to regular clubs, such as the Vancouver and Terminal City.

Where the price of board is fixed at an amount per day without distinguishing between the price of meals and sleeping accommodation the price of the sleeping accommodation will be determined under regulations to be made by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council and deducted from the total.

The tax will apply on the balance. The act is to come into effect on May 1.

King's Printer 'Costs Too Much'

VICTORIA, April 5.—Some of the work that is being done by the King's Printer should go to outside printing firms some of which are verging on bankruptcy through the lack of business, Jack Loutet, Conservative, North Vancouver, stated in the Legislature when estimates were under discussion. He thought lower prices could be obtained by putting the work out on tender to private firms. He claimed that considering the overhead expense of the King's Printer the work was costing the Government more than commercial firms could turn it out for.

Sheriff's Office Criticized

VICTORIA, April 5.—Lack of service in the sheriff's office in Vancouver was a subject of complaint among members of the bar, who were often forced to private agencies to get prompt service, A. M. Manson, K.C., complained when the vote for the office was under consideration in the Legislature Tuesday.

R. L. Mattland, K.C., differed. The service in the sheriff's office has never been better since Confederation, he said.

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VICTORIA, General Pooley member for Atlin the "Battle of the Legislature" when the police for the House.

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The Attorney put this ass were hundreds clared that un stances he would again.

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"It is true th unaccustomed occasionally ta we ever to mak people whom v country if th the Crown tre ion?" said Mr

'BATTLE Of Anyox' REFOUGHT

'CROWD OF
FOREIGNERS'
—Pooley

'Police Struck
First'

—H. F. Kergin

VICTORIA, April 5. — Attorney General Pooley and H. F. Kergin, member for Atlin, fought over again the "Battle of Anyox" on the floor of the Legislature Tuesday night, when the police estimates were before the House.

Color was lent to the scene by Mr. Pooley's dramatic production from a huge sack of about a dozen improvised weapons made of bolts, rubber hose and other articles, which he said the police had seized from rioters.

Mr. Kergin declared that the police were rushed to the scene before the strike ever occurred and that in the one clash that occurred the police had been the provocative agents, striking the first blow. He also said there were only a few weapons in a large crowd of men.

'CROWD OF FOREIGNERS'
The Attorney General heatedly disputed this assertion, saying there were hundreds of weapons, and declared that under similar circumstances he would take the same steps again.

Former Attorney General Manson said the police had been put on the scene to enable the company to handle an expected strike when the proper action would have been for the Department of Labor to take a strong stand with the company to get reasonable redress of the men's just grievances.

Mr. Pooley admitted the men had a grievance, but said he could not allow "any crowd of foreigners" to take possession of a peaceful town. He said 84 per cent of the strikers had foreign names.

COMPANY HIRED THEM

Tom Uphill and Mr. Kergin took the stand that if there were "foreigners" among the workmen at Anyox they were deliberately engaged by a foreign company.

Mr. Uphill said the reason was that they would work for lower pay than Canadians and British subjects.

T. D. Pattullo also criticized Mr. Pooley for casting slurs on the country's newer citizens by his manner of using the word "foreigner."

"It is true that some of them being unaccustomed to their new liberties occasionally take license, but how are we ever to make good citizens of these people whom we have invited into the country if the chief law officer of the Crown treats them in this fashion?" said Mr. Pattullo.

INCOME SURTAX

NEW LEVIES APPLY
TO SALARIES
EARNED IN 1931

VICTORIA, April 5.—The Tolmie Government's new surtax on incomes exceeding \$5000 will apply to incomes earned in any taxation year ending since Sept. 29, 1932, it was disclosed to the Legislature when the text of the bill was laid before the members.

The tax, therefore, applies to some incomes earned partly in 1931.

Another new provision is that where a company sets aside a reserve or is accumulating undivided profits and earnings in an amount considered by the Minister of Finance to be an evasion of taxation the shareholders' interest in such undivided earnings shall be taxed as income.

A series of clauses carry out the same principle into a variety of transactions of a type which may be considered to be evasions.

The actual schedule of the surtax rates proved to be slightly different from that anticipated from the budget speech.

The schedule follows:

Between	Rate
\$ 5,000 and \$ 7,500....	1 per cent
7,500 and 10,000....	2 per cent
10,000 and 12,500....	3 per cent
12,500 and 15,000....	4 per cent
15,000 and 17,500....	5 per cent
17,500 and 20,000....	6 per cent
20,000 and 22,500....	7 per cent
22,500 and 25,000....	8 per cent
25,000 and 27,500....	9 per cent
27,500 and 30,000....	10 per cent
30,000 and 32,500....	11 per cent
32,500 and 35,000....	12 per cent
35,000 and 37,500....	13 per cent
37,500 and 40,000....	14 per cent
40,000 and 42,500....	15 per cent
42,500 and 45,000....	16 per cent
45,000 and 47,500....	17 per cent
47,500	18 per cent

Sterilization Bill In Legislature

VICTORIA, April 5.—Hon. S. I. Howe's bill for sterilization of the mentally unfit is expected to reach the House today.

It will place decisions in each case up to a board consisting of a supreme court judge, a psychiatrist and a social service worker. Where the family of patient objects to sterilization on religious grounds the objection is to be valid.

'CONFISCATION' —Says Victoria Times

SHAUGHNESSY BILL ABROGATES RIGHTS
OF PROPERTY OWNERS WITHOUT
COMPENSATION

VICTORIA, April 5.—"Confiscation" is the verdict of the Victoria Times on the Shaughnessy Bill, which was given third reading in the Legislature Monday.

As the Times points out, the bill abrogates, without compensation, the rights of owners of property on Granville Street, which have been zoned for business.

The Town Planning Commission originally decided that the corners of Granville and 25th Avenue should be commercial zone after 1935. The Shaughnessy Bill suspends this provision until 1945.

The Times says editorially: "To the underlying principle of the Shaughnessy Heights Extension legislation, which is about to go before the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature, there can be no objection, since the purpose of the measure is to preserve the residential character of this very attractive district for another decade. But

measures of this kind, while praiseworthy in spirit, sometimes impose restrictions which operate unfairly against people who have invested money in good faith for other than purely residential purposes.

"In the present case the bill affects certain property on Granville Street which was allotted for business purposes under Town Planning regulations subject to the approval of the Point Grey Council and, later, the Vancouver City Council, which was given.

"The abrogation of these rights now would be a form of confiscation which the Legislature, we are sure, would not knowingly favor.

"This is a Vancouver matter, but it embodies a moral for other communities, because, while town planning is an excellent thing, there is a limit to which it can be applied in a young country, particularly at a time when business investment and enterprise should be encouraged to the utmost."

SIMON TOLMIE ET AL

So wretched has been the failure of Simon Tolmie that attention is usually diverted from what has happened to the "et al."

But when one thinks about it, the past four years have wrought no sadder transformation than that which has been effected in that part of the "et al" known as Thomas Kirk, William Dick, W. C. Shelly and Samuel Howe, etc., etc., etc.

These lusty gentlemen went over to Victoria in 1928 bloated with wealth and flushed with confidence.

They admitted that they were going to father legislation over there that would put British Columbia and British Columbians on easy street.

What they did was try to protect their own fortunes. Every legislative act of theirs was directed towards the protection of money and the perpetuation of interest, until Dame Fortune called their names. It was only then that they remembered those who elected them to office.

Today Kirk is back at his laundry business; Dick is back at his clothing shop and Shelly is back at his bakery, all sadder, but not necessarily wiser men.

Failure has swept through Simon Tolmie et al like a very epidemic.

It is rumored that all these men propose to run in Vancouver again, as independents or under any banner that will vouchsafe them shelter.

How can they think of it? How can they believe that the public will accept them?

Simon Tolmie et al is a brand that has defiled all that it has touched.

New blood, young blood, with Liberal ideas is the only formula for pulling British Columbia or any other place out of the morass.

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TENSE POLITICAL FIGHT OVER LADNER BRIDGE

UNPRECEDENTED SCENE IN HOUSE

WELLS GRAY MOVES SIX MONTHS' HOIST

PUBLIC WANTS A BRIDGE TO TRAVEL ON; POLITICIANS FIND IT A HANDY PLACE TO FIGHT

The long-agitated question of a bridge over the Fraser River had come to a political head in Victoria today. The traveling public has long urged the need for more bridge facilities, either at Ladner or at New Westminster, or both. Hence the keen interest with which it watches the political fight in the Legislature.

By C. NORMAN SENIOR

VICTORIA, B. C., April 6.—For the first time in the memory of the oldest timer in the British Columbia Legislature the House was permitted by the Government, Wednesday evening, to adjourn with a want of confidence motion hanging over its head, undecided.

The Ladner Bridge Bill was the occasion of this tensely dramatic development.

After hearing arguments for and against the Bill in which Conservatives as well as Liberal members appeared as critics of the Government's proposal to guarantee a private enterprise, Mayor A. Wells Gray of New Westminster, moved the six months' hoist.

L. A. Hanna of Alberni, his seconder, moved adjournment of the debate.

Attorney-General Pooley opposed the adjournment. He and Premier Tolmie, in a heated exchange with T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, took the traditional position that the six months' hoist to a Government measure was a vote of want of confidence involving defeat of the Government, and insisted that the motion must be disposed of before the House adjourned.

"We'll sit here till morning," said Attorney-General Pooley. Mr. Hanna, accordingly withdrew his motion to adjourn, but said he was unprepared to speak.

Mr. Pattullo, supported by William Dick, took the position that members should be permitted time to consider so important a measure, but the Government would hear none of it.

KIRK'S APPARENT DEFIANCE

The debate continued. Half an hour later T. H. Kirk, Vancouver Conservative, was told that if he moved the adjournment and his motion was defeated he would lose his right to speak.

Accepting the situation he looked towards the Premier grimly and said:

"I move the adjournment of the debate to the next sitting of the House."

The Speaker called for the "ayes" and the opposition members responded. He called for the "nays" and the Government sat silent.

"Carried!" said Mr. Speaker, and the Opposition broke into ironical laughter, as the Government granted to a Conservative member the concession it had so heatedly refused to a Liberal.

Amendment to the Bill, however, was agreed on in Conservative caucus this morning.

It provides that if the Government ever has to take over the bridge, any sums previously paid on deficits shall be credited on the purchase price.

This concession is said to have quelled the incipient revolt of at least some of the Conservative members and the Government is prepared to force the Bill ahead.

It was made apparent right from the outset of the debate Wednesday that the Government members were not in harmony in support of the measure.

Hardly had Hon. R. W. Bruhn taken his seat after introducing the Bill for second reading when Jack Loutet, North Vancouver Conservative, rose to denounce it.

The promoters, he said, were not putting up a dollar of capital. They had no assets with which to pay their half of the deficit, and the Government would have to put up its \$140,000 guarantee for a good many years.

Counting \$500,000 for roads and capitalizing the \$140,000 a year at \$2,500,000, he said the Bill was equivalent to adding \$3,000,000 to the debt of the Province.

'CRUDEST PROMOTION SCHEME'

Mr. Gray made the chief attack on the Bill, however, describing it as a "promotion scheme pure and simple," and the "crudest thing ever brought before the legislature."

If tenders were called he said, the bridge could be built for less than half the proposed \$2,600,000.

Not only did he move the six months' hoist but he filed a separate want of confidence motion on the subject.

This motion set up in contrast the Government's willingness to guarantee the financial operations of a private company up to \$140,000 a year along with its curtailment of:

1. Grants to municipalities.
2. Grants to hospitals.
3. Mothers' pensions.

On these grounds coupled with the Finance Minister's warning of the serious financial position of the Government, Mr. Gray moved that the House refuse to continue its support of the Government.

In the debate on the Bill he expressed amazement that the promoters had ever got it past the Finance Minister.

The effect of the guarantee of half the deficit up to \$140,000 a year for 40 years was to commit the Province to an expenditure of \$5,600,000, which was the principal sum of \$2,600,000 with interest at 3 per cent compounded and still at the end of the time the bond holders, having collected all this money, would still be entitled to their principal.

Hon. R. W. Bruhn in moving the second reading explained that this was only an enabling bill. The agreement was not signed.

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Mr. Bruhn... New Westminster the public was anxious, it was volume or was and engineers was already of safety was Hence an a quired. The ter route to V hence would a

It would year he ex cents per passenger on charges per While the mated the tr a year, the ment survey traffic at 500 He believed, fic could be v Government w to pay very m But, he sal necessary to a tallies who v money.

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Tax O Be VICTORIA cial ten per sports is to according to finance min Wednesday.

The maximum cost of \$2,600,000 was not likely to be reached he said, but an outside figure was used because in the absence of borings the exact cost could not be estimated.

PRESENT BRIDGE PROBLEM

Mr. Bruhn said the condition of the New Westminster bridge was giving the public works department serious anxiety, it was not built for the speed, volume or weight of present traffic and engineers reported that the bridge was already overloaded and its factor of safety was steadily diminishing. Hence an alternative route was required. The Ladner route was a better route to Vancouver, he said, and hence would attract much traffic.

It would require 550,000 cars a year he explained, with tolls of 35 cents per car and five cents per passenger on an average of two passengers per car to meet the fixed charges.

While the promoters had estimated the traffic at 1,000,000 cars a year, the Public Works Department survey placed the probable traffic at 600,000 cars a year.

He believed, however, that the traffic could be worked up so that the Government would not for long have to pay very much on its guarantee.

But, he said, the guarantee was necessary to assure the British capitalists who were providing all the money.

JACK LOUET'S VIEW

Mr. Louet urged that the bill should not go through unless the promoters put up at least a million for common stock as it was not right that the whole cost, including promotion charges, should be covered by the bond issue.

On this basis the bridge company would have no funds to meet its half of the deficit and urged that the Government guarantee should be on a basis that the Government would have to put up only dollar for dollar with the company to meet these deficits.

Messrs. Cornett, Shelly and Beatty emphasized the traffic need for the bridge. Mr. Gray emphasized the probable damage to the growing Port of New Westminster, and stressed the failure to call for tenders.

FOR HALF THE COST

There was no reference to the interest rate to be paid and no particulars of the agreement in the Bill, he said.

He had been informed by competent engineers that the bridge could be built for \$1,200,000.

However, if the Government would build it as a Government enterprise and call for tenders, raise the level by 15 feet and widen the opening by 50 feet he would support the venture in his own constituency of New Westminster.

A dramatic incident in the course of the debate was Alex. Manson's drawing Mr. Speaker's attention to the fact of Leon J. Ladner, solicitor for the Bridge Company, sitting on the floor of the House in consultation with a Minister of the Crown. It was improper for lobbyists to do this, he said.

Attorney General Pooley said Mr. Manson had done the same when he was in the Government.

"That is a gratuitous insult," said Mr. Manson. "The Attorney General cannot name a single instance."

The Speaker said he agreed that members should not converse with strangers on the floor, but the practice had grown up and he could not stop it unless a member "saw strangers." This Mr. Manson declined to do, but Mr. Ladner moved his seat away from the Government benches.

The Speaker's suggestion to Mr. Manson had reference to a custom of the House in which any member, formally addressing the Speaker with "I spy strangers" may have the galleries cleared and the session continue in camera.

Tax On Sports to Be Reduced

VICTORIA, April 6.—The provincial ten per cent tax on amateur sports is to be cut to five per cent according to an announcement by the finance minister in the legislature Wednesday.

'EATING Tax Won't WORK'
—Cafe, Opinion

'COST MORE TO COLLECT THAN IT YIELDS'

(Cartoon on Page 6)

"It's going to cost the Government more to collect this five cent tax on meals of 50 cents and over than the tax is likely to total."

That's the opinion of the manager of one of Vancouver's more expensive-priced restaurants.

"How are they going to check up? The dispatches from Victoria say that the proprietors of public eating places are to be the collectors, but they'll have to appoint someone to check on the proprietors. And the way I figure it out it's going to take them about three months to check on six months' business."

DISCRIMINATION?

The fact that the proposed tax means discrimination between higher class and cheap restaurants, was also pointed out.

"The way I look upon it, it is absolutely unfair," the restaurant manager declared.

J. M. Coady, president of the B. C. Hospital Association, expressed the doubt that proceeds from the tax would materially help British Columbia Hospitals. He pointed out that in Quebec where there is a tax on meals costing 35 cents and over, the revenue does not exceed \$300,000 despite the fact that Quebec has a population of nearly 3,000,000 and a tourist traffic much greater than this province.

"The truth is there are practically no meals costing more than 50 cents today," he said. "Even in the most expensive hotels, lunches are served for as little as 35 cents."

"MOST RIDICULOUS"

"The most ridiculous tax we've had yet," is the way one restaurant manager characterized the proposed levy.

"Though Vancouver consumes millions of meals a day, there is only a small proportion of them that cost 50 cents and over. It looks as though the tax will therefore be simply a nuisance to the hotel and restaurant proprietors who have to check up on all their 50 cents-and-over meals, a bogey to the public and not much help to the hospitals."

POOLEY'S DEFENSE

Attorney General Pooley told the Legislature Wednesday in defending the new hospital tax of 5 per cent on meals costing 50 cents and up that 25,000 meals costing 50 cents and more were eaten in British Columbia every day.

That means an expenditure of \$4,562,500 a year on 50 cent meals and a tax yield of \$223,000, he said, which was approximately equal to the cost in hospital grants already made.

George S. Pearson, Nanaimo, doubted that more than \$1,000,000 a year was spent in 50 cent meals, and Thomas King, Columbia, estimated the tax yield at \$36,000. A. Hanna, Alberni, said the tax would be avoided by cutting meals to 45 cents.

'GLOW OF PRIDE'

Hon. R. L. Matland said everybody paying the tax would feel a glow of pride at helping out the hospitals. It would make people "hospital conscious" he said, which was a very good thing.

Dr. H. C. Wrinch said it would make people hospital conscious all right, but in an adverse rather than a favorable way.

Mr. Pearson said the Nanaimo Hospital, of which he is president, would close if it went behind another \$3000 this year.

L. A. Hanna, Alberni, said Alberni Hospital had already given notice to its staff.

Tom Uphill, the Labor member, said this was one tax he could support as nobody in his constituency (Ferreale) would ever pay it.

\$15 AUTO FEE

FLAT CHARGE FOR ALL CARS URGED IN LEGISLATURE

VICTORIA, April 6.—Weight tests made on a number of cars of various sizes and makes did not bear out Attorney General Pooley's claim that the new scale of motor license fees was reduction, said F. M. MacPherson, continuing the debate on the Motor Act amendments in the Legislature Wednesday.

He cited a number of examples of new types of car now on the market which would experience increases.

Mr. MacPherson advocated a flat \$15 fee for all passenger cars.

The number of cars licensed this year so far is only 45,000 as against 72,000 last year, and if the \$15 fee were granted it was reasonable to expect that two-thirds of the remaining 27,000 cars would take out licenses.

The sum total of fees they would pay, as well as gasoline tax, would actually yield the province more revenue than the new scale, which would cause many cars to be laid up, the member contended. He submitted a table of figures to prove his point.

The member urged that the rebate privilege for interior car owners enabling them to turn in their licenses on Nov. 1 or Dec. 1 and obtain refund of one-third or one quarter of the license fee be made applicable to 1933 as well as to 1934.

TRUCK LICENSE FEES PROTESTED

Protest against increased license fees for auto trucks, on the basis of weight of the vehicle, as brought down in recent amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, has been telegraphed by E. Ames, president of the General Cartage and Storage Association of B. C., to Attorney General R. H. Pooley.

The increases were termed inequitable and would react in a decrease in licenses taken out and gasoline consumption, it was argued.

According to the recently revised scale of automobile licenses, trucks over 5000 pounds in weight pay \$35, graded up to \$130 for trucks weighing up to 11,000 pounds, the scale of licenses increasing with each thousand pounds of weight.

The scale actually goes up to 31,000 pounds at which the fee is \$530.

The biggest trucks and buses now on the road average 20,000 pounds in weight, making the license fee for this class of vehicle \$310 per year.

PARK BILL OPPOSED

GOV'T POWER TO EXCHANGE LAND

VICTORIA, April 6.—Determined opposition to granting the government power to transfer valuable crown lands in Exchange for privately-owned lands that may be required to augment the area of Garibaldi Park was voiced in the Legislature Thursday.

William Dick and Jack Louet, Conservatives, joined in the protest. Hon. H. S. Loughheed's bill went through second reading, but an amendment of which D. Pattullo has given notice will evidently receive considerable support from both sides of the House in the committee stage.

Mr. Louet said the public assets to be exchanged might be worth a million dollars or more and the Legislature should have the right to pass on the question.

Mr. Dick took the same stand and referred to the coming election. "Why not leave this question for the people to decide," he asked.

"We don't know what areas or with whom the exchange is to be made," said Dr. H. C. Wrinch.

EUGENIC SURGERY

STERILIZATION BILL PROTESTED BY WOMEN

Strong condemnation of legislation now before the B. C. Legislature as a Government measure was voiced in a resolution adopted unanimously at a meeting of the Catholic Women's League in the Women's Building on Wednesday.

The resolution is directed against "the attitude of the Provincial Government in introducing the proposed sterilization legislation," and reads as follows:

"The Catholic Women's League, in the name of Catholic women of British Columbia, supported in their views by 80,000 Catholics of this province, protest strongly suggested sterilization legislation and an ill-ordered attack on a primary right of the individual and a act of violence against human nature and Almighty God.

No end, social or economic, could justify such immoral legislation."

SECOND READING OF BILL ADJOURNED

VICTORIA, April 6.—Hon. S. L. Howe moved second reading of the sterilization bill at this morning's session of the Legislature. Public education had reached the point where a moderate bill could be accepted, he said.

The present measure provided that where an inmate of an institution was ready for discharge and the superintendent recommended sterilization, the operation could be performed by direction of a board of eugenics, consisting of a judge, a psychiatrist and a social worker.

Consent of the patient, his guardian, husband or wife must be obtained. Where there was a valid objection, such as by a religious body, the operation would not be performed.

Dr. W. H. Sutherland said the bill was meaningless as doctors already had the right to perform the operation with consent and frequently did so.

Dr. L. E. Borden explained the two ways of sterilization of the male, one of which involved a serious surgical operation.

The other here advocated was a very minor one that could be performed with a local anesthetic.

In females both types of operation were of a more severe type, involving an abdominal incision, he said nevertheless it was the female operation that was more often performed by consent at the present time.

The operation did not interfere with a patient's health, he said, and in the case of some women actually improved their health.

Anything that would save the public the tremendous cost of caring for criminals and feeble-minded was worth while, said Dr. Borden, but he would have preferred to see a much stronger bill.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, an opponent of the bill, adjourned the debate.

SECRECY IN BOND DEAL ASSAILED

INFORMATION WITHHELD BY GOVERNMENT FROM KIDD COMMITTEE—HIDDEN COMMISSION HINTED

VICTORIA, April 6.—Refusal of the Government to let the Kidd committee have access to public accounts for the year which had closed three or four months before they made their enquiry into Provincial finances was commented upon by A. M. Manson, K.C. in the Legislature Wednesday night as further evidence of the policy of the Toome administration in concealing public information.

"What public purpose is served by this concealment?" he asked.

The observation was made in the final phase of the debate on G. S. Pearson's resolution asking for a return of the correspondence regarding the recent sale of \$4,000,000 of bonds at 6.3 per cent. The motion was voted down on a straight party division.

DOUBTS STATEMENT

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe and Hon. R. L. Maitland both defended the Minister's refusal to give the information.

Mr. Maitland said it was an unheard of thing to publish the details of a transaction before the deal was closed and in this case the bonds were not all sold.

Mr. Hinchliffe also made the statement that there was no secret commission.

Mr. Manson expressed the doubt that he would have made this statement if he had seen the correspondence himself.

THREE QUESTIONS

The questions which the opposition wanted answered said Mr. Manson were:

"Is the government's policy in handling the loan responsible for the fact that so many of the bonds are still on the shelves?"

"Did the Minister alienate the sympathy of financial houses that have been doing business with the Province for years?"

"Did one firm seek to exact a commission from the other distributing houses?"

Mr. Manson said the Minister may have followed the course he did with the best of intentions, but if there had been a mistake the representatives of the people were entitled to know.

SAYS B. C. SUFFERING

He also asked why if there was nothing to conceal the Government was so anxious to conceal it.

Mr. Hinchliffe claimed the credit of the Province was suffering from attacks on the government's financial administration by T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, and Mr. Manson said it was not the reputation of the Province but the reputation of the government that he was worrying about.

INCOME SURTAX BILL

The surtax which starts at one per cent on incomes over \$5,000 and goes up to 18 per cent on incomes in excess of \$47,000 is a temporary measure to help the Government during the present crisis, Hon. J. W. Jones said during the second reading of the bill amending the Income Tax in the Legislature Wednesday.

PARK LAND DEALS

After lying on the order paper for weeks the Provincial Parks Act, giving the Government power to trade other crown land for privately-owned land needed for park purposes was called Wednesday and passed second reading.

L. A. Hanna, Alberni, urged that the Pattullo amendment requiring the sanction of the Legislature for such transfers be adopted, as otherwise the minister of lands would be deluged with applications to trade undesirable land to the crown for more desirable tracts.

Safeguards were needed, he said.

WATER BOARD ARREARS

The Greater Vancouver Water District Board is authorized by another bill to take steps for collection of arrears of dues from any municipality, a member of the Corporation.

When dues are in arrears for 30 days the Board may serve a notice which will compel the municipality to put all its water rate collections in a separate trust account on which the Board's claim shall be a first charge.

M. L. A.'s MILEAGE

Probability loomed Wednesday of alterations in the bill reducing Ministers' salaries from \$7500 to \$6000, members' indemnities from \$2000 to \$1600 and members' mileage from 25 to 12½ cents a mile.

A. M. Manson, K.C., protested that the mileage allowance should be increased rather than reduced for up-country members covering territory hundreds of miles in extent.

The Conservative members decided to caucus the measure again before the committee stage and it is likely that the mileage will be restored to its original level of 25 cents.

LOAN: TEN MILLIONS

JONES' PROPOSAL SHOCKS MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE

VICTORIA, April 6.—Audible expressions of dismay fell from the lips of members of the Legislature when shortly before midnight Wednesday, Hon. J. W. Jones, Finance Minister, introduced his annual loan bill.

It was for ten million dollars. "What?" exclaimed one member. "Well, I'll be d—d," said another. "Order," shouted the Speaker.

The Bill is a record amount for a loan bill for deficit purposes. The entire proceeds are marked for consolidated revenue.

It is provided that part may be used for unemployment relief and part for the general service of the province.

Second reading was given during the day to the sharp increase in succession duties on larger estates.

T. D. Pattullo contrasted this with the Conservative pre-election pledges to do away with succession duties, but he said he personally believed succession duties to be one of the fairest methods of taxation and his only criticism was the Conservative departure from election pledges.

\$3,000,000 TO GO ON WITH

Hon. J. W. Jones informed the Legislature today that the new ten million dollar loan bill provides for last year's deficit of seven million dollars and gave another three millions to go on with.

T. D. Pattullo said this covered only the deficit up to March 31, 1932, and did not cover the \$5,000,000 deficit for the year just closed and made no provision for the future.

"The trouble is that the bank won't be able to sell the bonds," said Mr. Pattullo. "I have refrained from commenting on the credit of the Province until it was actually gone, but I believe there will be an improvement once there is a change of government and that is why I have asked the Prime Minister to be patriotic enough to hold an election at the earliest possible moment."

The bill passed second reading.

The Vancouver Transportation Situation

Statement of Mr. W. G. Murrin, president of the B. C. Electric Railway Company, before the private bills committee of the Provincial legislature.

At the last Vancouver civic elections, a plebiscite was taken in favor of seeking charter powers from the provincial legislature to enable the city to operate motor buses or give franchises to outside parties to operate such motor buses.

Believing that the information laid before the private bills committee by Mr. Murrin is of interest to the people of Vancouver as indicating the condition of the street railway system as a whole, we are herewith reproducing the statement in full.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED

The thing uppermost in the minds of all of us at the present time is the unprecedented state of economic chaos which exists throughout the world today. It is no longer an academic question which we can afford to consider leisurely and form opinions about and pass resolutions upon; it is a matter of intimate and vital concern to each one of us and to our institutions. We are all struggling with problems of such magnitude and difficulty that we are almost in despair of finding a solution, and the introduction of unnecessary difficulties at this time is unthinkable in any sane community.

While we may not be able to see our way clearly at this time to the end of things, yet I think we are all agreed that the first steps to this desirable end lie in the direction of coordination, conservation of resources, abandonment of duplication, elimination of waste, of time, money and energy of all kinds.

The proposal which we are here today to discuss involves a principle diametrically opposed to these ideas and to the trend of the best thought and best practice in these times, for it is a proposal to set up a form of direct competition and duplication which can only result in irretrievable damage to all concerned.

(1) DUPLICATION OF SERVICES

I will ask you to take for granted for the moment this fact that it is impossible to indicate any practical bus service in Vancouver at the present time which would not directly compete with our existing services and most seriously affect the revenue from these services.

We are today in Canada faced with great difficulties, many of which originate from mistakes which we have made in the past, and of these difficulties none are more serious or more difficult to correct than those which have resulted from the duplication of facilities for carrying on a limited volume of business. The outstanding and unquestionably most serious example of this duplication is in connection with our steam railways, and so serious has this issue become that a Royal Commission was appointed to find a solution.

The very first of the commission's findings as to the "contributory causes of the railway problem" are:

1. "The over-development of railways beyond the immediate needs of the country."

2. "Aggressive and uncontrolled competition between two nation-wide railway enterprises, a competition the more disastrous in that one of the competitors was publicly-owned and supported by the full resources of the Dominion."

If you pass this amendment you are giving power and encouragement to the City Council, a public body deriving its revenues from the taxpayer, to set up competition with a private company, which also happens to be one of the city's largest taxpayers.

The Royal Commission report also says:

25. "As a result, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the largest taxpayer in Canada, has been subjected to the competition of publicly-owned and operated railway lines, supported by the financial resources of the country. They had honorably discharged their original contractual obligations with Parliament, and the company's lines had played a great part in binding together the western and eastern provinces of the Dominion. By common consent, the company's administrators had brought faith, courage and invincible energy to the task of building its lines through the undeveloped west. The company's achievement commanded the admiration of both railway operators and the public and has been a material factor in causing Canada to be favorably known upon three continents. Their operations brought profit to shareholders, and the enterprise became a national asset of acknowledged value and importance to the Dominion."

I believe I am perfectly reasonable in claiming that the B.C. Electric Railway company has occupied a relationship to the city of Vancouver somewhat similar to that the Canadian Pacific Railway company has occupied to the whole Dominion. I can fairly claim that we have discharged our contractual obligations and that our railway lines and other services have played an important part in building up the city. I believe I am not claiming too much when I say that the B.C. Electric Railway company has been for over 30 years a material factor in causing Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia to be favorably known outside our own borders and that this company is an asset of value and importance to the city and province.

I am going to show you that Vancouver has no real legitimate grievance against the company in this matter of transportation services.

I further suggest to you that the agreements existing between ourselves and the city of Vancouver are most comprehensive and provide a channel for the fair adjustment of any differences of opinion by means other than that of wasteful and ruinous duplication.

(2) PUBLIC INTEREST

There is no excuse for this proposed legislation on the ground that the present company is not supplying a satisfactory and adequate transportation service to the community, and as I proceed I will give you facts and figures which amply confirm this statement.

The system of transportation in Vancouver is thoroughly efficient and has a high reputation throughout Canada and the United States and may be favorably compared with any of the 500 or 600 street railway systems on this continent.

We cannot please everybody, but on any basis of comparison in relation to the business offering, our service is known to be good and we are continually striving to make it better within the limits set by revenue and expenses and even beyond these limits.

(3) MOTOR BUSES

In such betterment of service the motor bus has its place and we have already introduced buses in five dif-

ferent sections of the city. It is such as to be followed throughout the city in using a coordinated system serving them as they develop, extensions are offered. into a city a street railway listing rail lines for and more is now being financial disaster, in great to the citizens, of the general c-

(4) COMPETITION

Competition of surface traffic is practiced. No such condition in the United States. The service which is recognized by this business must be a unified system of the public at a management almost over a unified system of the continued and at the service which is the of the service. Motor vehicle apart from the transportation system in existence today. S. including Kansas, Ohio, Des Moines, Conn., and C. street cars entirely in every mandated that the city council the companies that the motor an increasing of a large recognized that be coordinated way service is effective.

(5) CITY BUS COMPETITION

If the city of a bus service competition with a service. It will be the centre of the streets as the streets immediately and most, if gets will be the street car. Under present conditions from all the sufficient to the expenses of the most rigid effected, and the reason this thinkable that at this time a duplicate which would complete discontinue services damage, loss the general pness and soc-

(6) DIVIDED

The street agreement a single fare. It also has dealing not of traffic, but busy district points, where a heavy loss of traffic. The whole we operate less the com ment has the portunity of traffic available. Just a mo vince you the responsibility for the service. It is impos competitive portation in which would tion of the v-

ferent sections of the city and we expect that as time goes on the use of such buses will increase. In this we are following the general practice throughout the street railway industry in using the motor bus to build up a coordinated transportation system serving the outlying districts as they develop, till such time as rail extensions are warranted by the traffic offered. To force motor buses into a city adequately served by a street railway system, to parallel existing rail lines, over which satisfactory and more than adequate service is now being given will result in financial disaster to the existing railway, in great inconvenience and loss to the citizens, and in the retardation of the general development of the city.

(4) COMPETITION ABOLISHED

Competition between two systems of surface transportation in large cities is practically unknown today. No such condition exists in any Canadian city. We have profited in Canada by the mistakes of those cities in the United States which have tried such a scheme as is now suggested by this bill, and failed. It is recognized that the transportation business must be a monopoly to satisfactorily serve any city. Only with a unified system can service be given to the public at a reasonable cost. The difficulties confronting street railway managements at the present time are almost overwhelming and even with a unified system, transportation companies are being called upon to utilize everything in their power to cope with the continued decrease in revenues and at the same time, provide a service which will meet the requirements of the communities which they serve.

Motor vehicles operating as a thing apart from the coordinated city transportation systems have been in evidence in the past, but they do not exist today. Several large cities, including Kansas City, Toledo, Akron, Ohio, Des Moines, Iowa, Bridgeport, Conn., and Oklahoma, did without street cars entirely for several months, but in every case the citizens demanded their restoration and forced the city councils to make terms with the companies. It is fully recognized that the motor bus has a place and an increasing place in the transportation of a large city, but it is equally recognized that any bus service must be coordinated with the street railway service if it is to be really effective.

(5) CITY BUSES WILL BE COMPETITIVE

If the city of Vancouver introduces a bus service it will be in direct competition with the street railway service. It will have to run into the centre of the city over the same streets as the street car lines, or on streets immediately parallel with them, and most, if not all, the business it gets will be directly taken away from the street cars. The slightest examination of a map of the city would indicate this.

Under present conditions, the revenue received by the street railway from all the business available is not sufficient to pay the bare operating expenses of the system, in spite of the most rigid economies which have been effected, and if there were no other reason this fact should make it unthinkable that powers should be given at this time for the establishment of a duplicate transportation system which would inevitably result in the complete disorganization of the present services and would produce damage, loss and inconvenience to the general public and the city business and social life.

(6) DIVIDED RESPONSIBILITY

The street car company must under its agreements with the city charge a single fare for the whole city area. It also has the responsibility of dealing not only with the rush hour traffic, but with the travel at slack periods; it has to cater not only to the busy districts, but to the outlying points, where service is provided at a heavy loss owing to the low density of traffic.

The whole agreement under which we operate becomes meaningless unless the company making the agreement has the responsibility and opportunity of catering for all the traffic available.

Just a moment's thought will convince you that there must be complete responsibility or no one is responsible for the services given.

It is impossible to conceive any competitive system of surface transportation in a city like Vancouver which would not threaten the disruption of the whole fabric.

(7) NOTHING IN SIGHT TO REPLACE STREET CAR

No doubt some members of the city council believe, as do many other people, that the street car system is more or less rapidly giving place to other forms of transportation, but it only needs a very superficial study of the problems of city transportation to be convinced that, up to the present, there is nothing in sight to replace the street car as the principal means of mass transportation.

Of all passengers carried by electric railway companies in 1931, 90% were carried by street cars and 10% by buses. The buses in city service are practically all operated by the street railway systems, therefore the bus traffic outside these figures is negligible. These figures are based on 13 billion passengers carried by all street car systems in the United States and Canada in cities of over 25,000 population.

This 10% has grown gradually from 1 1/2% in 1924, and in no large city is there observed any tendency to replace street cars on heavy traffic lines. Buses have been gradually introduced as feeders to the street railway systems serving districts where the traffic is not sufficient at the present time to justify the large capital expenditure of the construction of rail and distribution system. In some large cities, buses owned by the street railway system have operated into the heart of the downtown area. In these cases, a higher fare is charged than is charged by the street railway, and no transfer privilege is given. In Toronto two such routes operated in 1930. Owing to the lack of patronage, however, one route was discontinued after a year's trial as it was operating at a loss. The remaining route operates only 12 hours a day, does not operate on Sundays and holidays and is not more than breaking even. This in a city with a population of three times that of Vancouver. If there were no other evidence, Toronto's experience alone with the bus operation under the most favorable conditions and of the existing street railway, would be sufficient to condemn the present proposal.

(8) VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CITY AND COMPANY

The introduction of competition such as that suggested is contrary to the whole spirit of the agreements under which we operate and upon which the security of our investment is based.

It is only necessary to read the agreement of 1901, between the company and the city, and subsequent additions, with their obligations on ourselves to give service, with their penalties if we fail to carry out our obligations, with the contributions we have to make to the city funds, with the free transportation we have to give to city employees, etc., to come to the conclusion that the only thought in the minds of both parties to the agreement was that upon the company would fall the whole responsibility of providing all the transportation requirements within the district.

The motor bus was at that time unknown, but its effect is exactly the same as if it were a competitive street car line, which of course would be unthinkable.

On any other basis than that outlined, the agreement is meaningless and affords no protection for the investment of the large sums of capital which were originally expended and which have been continued to be expended from time to time.

Consider for a minute what meaning there would attach to any penalties provided for our not living up to our obligations.

Under the competitive conditions suggested, for what demand for transportation could we be expected to provide? Obviously not the whole, as there would be other vehicles operating through the middle of our territory. For what then? For what is left over? Obviously an absurdity, seeing that we would be carrying the responsibility for the shortcomings of our competitors.

Divided responsibility means no responsibility, neither would any payment for a protective privilege be justified, seeing that the protection afforded by the city which would justify the payment had been taken away.

(9) FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS—OTHER CITIES

Ottawa Franchise—In the recent agreement made in Ottawa between the city and the Street Railway Co., this principle is recognized. Their new franchise contains the following clause:

"It being the intention of the parties hereto that the company was not to be subject to competition in its business of transporting passengers, whether such competition be in the nature of motor buses or otherwise."

Hull—The city of Hull has recently renewed a franchise with the Hull Electric Company and the following clause has been added:

"The city, during the life of the agreement will not operate any electric railway or bus system and will cooperate with the company to protect it, so far as the law allows, from competition." The city will not, during the life of the agreement, grant any other interests the right to operate an electric railway or bus system."

The principle specifically expressed in these two revised agreements is recognized and acted upon in hundreds of street railway systems operating under agreements similar to our own, made before the motor bus was known. The only reason for making this protection more specific than was implied in the original agreement is due to the fact that it was obviously impossible to give satisfactory services under any other conditions.

Other Cities—In Toronto, as you know, the city transportation system is owned by the city, but it is handed over to the Toronto Transportation Commission, which functions entirely independent of the city council. In the Commission is vested a very definite monopoly of all forms of transportation, including car lines, motor buses, subways, or any other method of underground or overhead local transportation.

I could quote you clauses from franchise agreements granted by the cities of Toledo, Kansas City, Pasadena, and others which provide that the company shall not be subject to competition; also a large number of decisions by public utility commissions refusing application for bus operations that would encroach on territory served by electric railways.

The above amply confirms my statement that the proposals made by the city council are in direct opposition to the best practices and principles which now exist in other cities.

(10) SHORT COMMISSION

This question of competition with the street railway was the main issue that led up to the appointment of the Provincial Commission in 1917, with Dr. Adam Shortt as sole commissioner. "For the purpose of making a full investigation of the economic conditions and operations of the B.C. Electric Railway Company and subsidiary companies."

Motor competition had extensively developed in Vancouver, as in many other cities; the company was faced with increasing expenses and declining revenues and the issues became so serious that the system was brought to a standstill. The city council and the company jointly requested the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to appoint a commission "for the purpose of thoroughly investigating in all its phases the question of transportation in the city of Vancouver and surrounding districts." Both parties agreed to abide by the decision arrived at.

(11) DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

The decision of the commission was "That an efficient street car service in the city of Vancouver and between the city of Vancouver and the city of New Westminster cannot be maintained under the present conditions of competition with the jitneys or public automobile service."

In the body of the report, Dr. Shortt had this to say in regard to transportation: "The urban and interurban street railway business, as proved by long and wide experience, cannot be conducted upon a basis of free competition. It is a public utility and as such essentially a natural monopoly, to be conducted on well-recognized principles as a unified service, the various portions furnishing mutual support. In the case of public utilities, free competition has never provided a permanent protection to public interests—quite the reverse."

The decision of the Shortt Commission was made effective by bylaw and on the strength of the protection afforded by that bylaw, millions of capital have subsequently been spent by my company on the development of street car and motor bus services.

(12) RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

To enable the bylaw to be passed and the decision of the Shortt Commission to be put into effect, the city council required certain powers of classification of motor vehicles, with the right to prohibit the operation of certain classes of such vehicles and these enabling powers were granted to the city by the provincial government

by the Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1921, Section 135.

To that extent, therefore, the provincial government is a party to the measures which were taken to abolish this wasteful competition and I cannot believe that the provincial government will now grant these further powers to the city, which will enable them to undo the effect of the previous legislation, to bring back the motor bus competition and to destroy the investments made by the company on the strength of the legislation passed for the express purpose of carrying out the commission's recommendations.

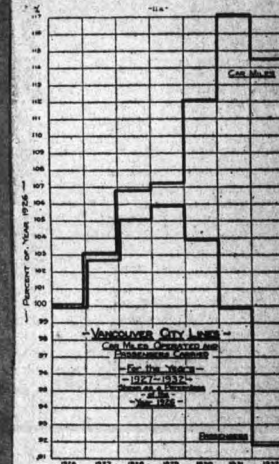
The powers asked for are entirely inconsistent with the principle laid down by the provincial commissioner and the powers obtained by the city from the provincial government to put those principles into effect.

(13) CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

In the last 4 years we have spent \$1,600,000 of additional capital on the Vancouver Street Railway system, which brings our total capital invested in that system up to \$11,770,000 and it was an outstanding feature of our discussions with the city council that we should make these additional capital expenditures. Surely there is a moral obligation on the council to give the company an opportunity to earn a fair return on that expenditure.

(14) ADEQUATE SERVICE

We have consistently increased our service as traffic increased and have always more than kept pace with such increases.



The chart above shows the picture for the last six years—passengers and car miles. From 1926 to 1929 the passengers increased 6% and the car miles 7%. From 1929 to 1931 the passengers dropped 6%, but the car miles actually increased a further 9%. From 1931 to 1932 the passengers dropped 8% but the car miles only dropped 2%.

If we relate the car miles to the passengers carried and call that the measure of the service given, we find that, starting with 1926 as a base and calling it 100, then

- 1928 showed an improvement of 2% in service.
 - 1930 showed an improvement of 8% in service.
 - 1931 showed an improvement of 16% in service.
 - 1932 showed an improvement of 25% in service.
- In other words, the service in relation to the traffic offered, was 25% better in 1932 than in 1926. In the face of such figures, how can there be any legitimate demand for increase in service?

The following are the detailed figures:

Passengers Carried	
1926	54,985,549
1929	58,217,984
1932	50,460,775
Service (Car Miles)	
1926	9,264,123
1929	9,934,705
1932	10,605,507
Revenue	
1926	\$3,231,898
1929	3,520,311
1932	3,065,867

(15) EARNINGS INADEQUATE—CAR MILE EARNINGS COMPARED

Perhaps the best way of showing whether or not we are giving good service is to compare our earnings per car mile with the earnings of other companies. The car mile unit is a universal standard of measurement in the street railway industry and the earnings per car mile is a measure of the adequacy of the service or otherwise. This figure is just as pos-

tive to those who understand as the weight of an object in pounds, or the capacity of a vessel in gallons, is to the man in the street. Take it for the moment that this figure, in cities similar to Vancouver, is about 40c per car mile.

The B. C. Electric earnings in 1928 were 34.8c per car mile; in 1929 were 35.4c per car mile; in 1930 were 33.7c per car mile; in 1931 were 31.1c per car mile; in 1932 were 28.9c per car mile; in the last 6 months of 1932 were 28.3c per car mile.

These earnings are impossibly low and in the year 1932 do not cover the expense of operation and leave nothing for a return on either the company's original investment or on the investment which, in good faith, it has put into the railway system during the past 4 years. The low earnings of the company will be more fully realized by a study of the following table, which figures cover 1931 operations:

Montreal earnings are 42.8c per car mile.
Toronto earnings are 41.4c per car mile.

An average of 116 companies in the United States shows earnings are 40.1c per car mile.

An average of 48 companies operating city service only, shows earnings are 40.5c per car mile.

Vancouver earnings for 1931 are 31.1c per car mile.

The above figures demonstrate, beyond a doubt, that the average earnings in all the large cities of the United States is over 40c per car mile. The car mile earnings in Montreal and Toronto are 42c and 41c respectively. The B. C. Electric earnings, even in its peak year, were only 35.4c and have now dropped to the alarming figure of 28.9c in 1932.

This comparison is a conclusive answer to any criticism that we are not giving a good and adequate service. We are obviously giving a better service than the traffic warrants and it is also obvious that the introduction of competition would demoralize the whole system.

(16) AREAS AND POPULATION

A very important factor in any street railway system is the area of the city in relation to the population. It is obvious that 250,000 people, spread over 10 square miles, can be served more economically than the same number spread over 40 square miles.

In Vancouver we have a very difficult problem under this head.

Compared with other Canadian cities, the area of Vancouver is very large in relation to the population. For example, as compared with Montreal we have almost the same city area with little more than one-fourth of the population.

Comparison can be made with the city of Toronto on similar lines, and I attach a map showing the boundaries of the city of Toronto, and imposed upon it there is an outline of the Vancouver city boundaries.

The centre point is the Post Office in Vancouver and King and Yonge Streets in Toronto. The area bounded by the dark line is the city of Vancouver and the cash fare for service given within this area is 7c. This area is 43.7 square miles. The area bounded by the thin line and shaded is the city of Toronto. This is 32.3 square miles, or only three-quarters of the Vancouver area. The population within this area is 631,000 as against Vancouver's 246,000, the cash fare charged within this area being 10c with an extra charge for travel outside this area, whereas the fare charged in the city of Vancouver is 7c.

I do not think it would be possible to place before you, diagrammatically,

anything which would indicate more clearly how much greater are the difficulties under which we operate in giving service than prevail in other cities. I might mention incidentally that this adds not only to the cost of giving transportation service but to the giving of all our services—light, power and gas.

(17) VANCOUVER STREET RAILWAY SERVICE COMPARED WITH OTHER COMPANIES

I have said that I do not fear comparison of the street railway service in Vancouver with that of any other similar company. I would like to give you a few of the figures on which I rely when making that statement.

First, in regard to fares. We are among the lowest on the continent. Our cash fare is 7c and our ticket is 6 1/2c, with still lower fares for off-peak riding and by means of weekly passes. Out of 340 American cities with a population of 25,000 or over, there are 160 charging a 10c cash fare, 46 charging 8c or 9c—altogether, 206 charging more than 7c. The average cash fare in all cities is 8.18c. In Canada we have Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Regina and several other smaller cities with a 10c cash fare, some of them with tickets at 8 1/2c, some at 7 1/2c and some at 6 1/2c.

The average fare paid by all riders in the city of Vancouver for the year 1932 was 6.13c, whereas the average fare of all electric railways on this continent in cities with 50,000 population and over, was 7.88c for the same year, and consequently had the citizens of Vancouver even paid the average fare as existing on other transportation systems, they would have paid an additional \$857,000 for their transportation in the year 1932.

I have no hesitation in saying that the service given is too great, economically, for the fare charged.

In the face of these figures given, is the statement I have made that our operations in the city of Vancouver do not today cover our operating expenses a surprising one and does not this picture indicate the impossibility of operating with a competitive service?

(18) GENERAL OUTLINE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CITY AND COMPANY

The agreements which control the relations between ourselves and the city in connection with the city transportation speak for themselves.

Under these agreements, the company provides all the public transportation in the city of Vancouver.

The principal agreement between the city and the company was entered into in 1901, and, under it, the city has the right to buy out the company at an arbitrated price every five years.

Another agreement was made in 1922, establishing a 6c fare in place of the maximum of 5c in the original agreement. This 1922 agreement was for three years and renewed itself as regards the fare for three-year periods unless a change was made by mutual agreement or arbitration at the end of each period. The 6c fare continued until 1929, which was just after amalgamation of South Vancouver and Point Grey with the city. The city council were extremely anxious to have a uniform fare over the whole new city area and the company agreed to a ticket fare of 6 1/2c and a cash fare of 7c. This represented an increase of a quarter of a cent in the city and a decrease of three-quarters of a cent in South Vancouver and Point Grey and this brought us up

to the same rate of fare as had prevailed in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg for seven years and which, as previously mentioned, was subsequently increased to 10c cash in Toronto and Winnipeg.

(19) NEW CITY AGREEMENT

Since the last session of parliament, we have entered into a new agreement with the city council in regard to fares, after very protracted negotiations.

In spite of falling revenues and the serious financial condition of our street railway system, we agreed to reduce the price of school children's tickets by 20%, non-rush-hour tickets, 17 for \$1 we reduced to 13 for \$1 and we introduced a weekly pass, which is used by over 3500 customers every week, undoubtedly because they find it cheaper.

We looked upon these concessions as a voluntary contribution towards relieving the pressure of the hard times affecting large classes of citizens. They were not warranted by the company's financial condition.

(20) AGREEMENTS FURNISH PROTECTION TO CITY

These agreements give the city a very large measure of control over the company. We have not the authority to fix fares. If the fares suggested do not seem equitable according to the facts, the matter can be referred to arbitration and we are bound by the results of that arbitration. Surely nothing can be fairer than this.

Also, in regard to motor buses, under these agreements, the city council may demand that we put on motor buses to serve any particular district which is not being adequately served by the existing system, and the only protection the company has against the city making unreasonable demands under this clause is that the city agrees to pay one-half the loss on the operation of such new service. On the other hand, if there should be a profit on the operation of such service, the city would become entitled to 50% of such profit. Notwithstanding this perfectly fair and reasonable provision we have recently agreed to absorb all the losses on the feeder bus routes now in operation, although not one of them is meeting expenses.

We have more than lived up to these agreements and large sums of money have been expended on the strength of the security afforded by them.

(21) CREDIT OF THE COMPANY

These proposals are aimed directly at the operations of the B. C. Electric Railway company and the mere fact that they are asked for is sufficient to cause injury to the credit of that company.

I do not need to tell you that any legislation which threatens injury to the earning power or the credit standing of any reputable industry in this province is a matter that seriously affects the province as a whole. It cannot affect one industry without affecting others.

The standing of this province in financial centres is to a large extent judged by the standing of its large industries.

It is probably not too much to say that the operations and results of the B. C. Electric Railway Company are looked upon in financial quarters as a barometer indicating approximately the general conditions throughout the province.

This legislation, if it should pass, will be taken by the centres of finance at its face value, viz., that the Vancouver City Council intends deliberately to do something which will seriously injure the railway investment.

It has never been more difficult that it is today to interest the outside investor in British Columbia securities, including Government securities, and it is surely not worth while to run any unnecessary risk of making the situation worse.

(22) THE PLEBISCITE

The only new point in the city's case, as compared with last year, is that they have supported it this time by the result of a plebiscite taken up on the question at the municipal elections in December, when 23,672 citizens voted in favor of the city obtaining these powers and 10,218 voted against the proposal.

It is not at all remarkable that a majority of votes should have been secured for the plebiscite. You, Gentlemen, know something about public affairs and I think can picture a little more accurately than I can tell you the conditions under which this vote was taken.

To ask any man if he would like additional service is to get the answer you expect. Of course the majority will say "Yes."

Suppose the city council were to ask the citizens, by plebiscite, whether they are in favor of the provincial government taking over all the expenses of the schools in the city or all the deficits on the hospital, or all the unemployment expenses. You know what the answer would be. You might almost as reasonably ask them whether they were in favor of taxes or no taxes, but I am not going to labor this point, because I am quite sure that your knowledge will guide you as to what weight to attach to this plebiscite.

The man in the street is not in a position to adequately weigh all the factors which govern the settlement of a question such as this, and this must be quite obvious from an examination of the nature of these controlling factors which I have given you in detail in my preceding remarks.

(23) MEETING THE DEPRESSION

We are all in the same boat in relation to this depression. I realize that this government is straining every nerve to meet the situation. So is the city council. So are all public bodies. You ask your public utility companies and your big industries to co-operate with you, to avoid unemployment, to pay taxes, to make purchases. So far as my company is concerned we are doing these things to the limit of our ability, realizing that our welfare is bound up in the general welfare of the city and the province. Why should we, at this time, be subjected to an attack of this kind, the very mention of which suggests that we are falling down in our duty to the city and injuring our credit in financial centres?

We have probably kept employed, during this depression, more men, proportionately, than any other large concern in the province, at the same time our taxation has been enormously increased, we are barely able to pay the fixed charges on our whole undertaking, and the railway department, as I have shown you, is actually not earning operating expenses.

I suggest to you that none of us would be in British Columbia at all if it were not for the industries and the commercial enterprise which provide the payroll for our citizens and are the basis of all the money available by the province and the municipalities. Those who are responsible for the operation and development of these enterprises are today facing difficulties and are subjected to strain hardly less than those responsible for government.

There never was a time when, in the interests of the city and the province, there was a greater need for a sympathetic attitude for co-operation and assistance on the part of public bodies towards enterprises such as ours. I would suggest to you, as a matter of commonsense, that we should be relieved of the necessity of wasting energy and effort and money in directions which, however interesting at normal times, must be considered today as non-essential; on the other hand, that enterprises such as ours should be encouraged to make the maximum contribution of which they are capable towards the solution of the very great difficulties with which we are all faced today.

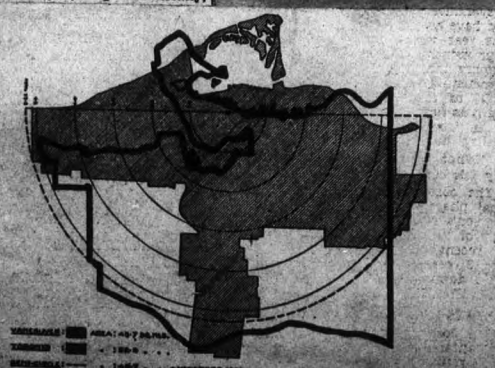
(24) PAST MISTAKES

Gentlemen: I am not a pessimist but what possible hope can there be for the future of Vancouver, British Columbia or Canada if we refuse to be guided by the results of past mistakes. Here we are today all of us facing a tragic crisis resulting from the duplication of facilities and particularly railway facilities. There is scarcely anyone who does not realize the nature of the mistakes which have been made, and whatever differences of opinion do exist are as to the possible means of lessening the penalties of these mistakes and re-establishing with great sacrifice possible new bases of operation.

Now, at this time, the city council comes to you, asking you to give them powers to enable them to do in the city transportation in Vancouver just that thing which has such tragic results all over the country, and particularly in the field of railway transportation.

I have placed before you a number of arguments, any one of which is sufficient in itself to condemn this proposal, but I maintain that on the grounds which I have just stated and within the scope of your own experience, this proposal condemns itself.

W. C. MURRIN



Map showing the geographical relationship between Vancouver and Toronto. Vancouver is represented by a dark-shaded area, and Toronto is represented by a thin-lined and shaded area. The map illustrates that Vancouver's area is significantly larger than Toronto's, despite having a much smaller population.

B. C. DIRECTIVE

VICTORIA Attorney General announcement the price of liquor commensurate with the price of denier wheat away from the But on del... allow 28 cent bottles. At for bottles... The bottle entirely betw... the brewer... however, he made to stores.

Special VICTORIA expressed mis... ment was la... the profit ad... liquor admin... eral Pooley's passed; second... ture Thurs... With regard... order privileges... Pooley said... liquor stores... A reduction... in price was... The press... The first ne... telephone... livered C.O... Thereafter... only \$1.50... allowance... turn of the... This arrang... he said... assented to... will be law... Mr. Pooley

MOVING PAY MORNING IN L

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Mr. Poole... amendment... The amend... on a desul... not finally... tion can be... "There... on relief... Dick, "and... taxes or ar... "It is p... whole lif... in, a... taken t... the condi... said Geor...

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B.C. BEER PRICE CUT 25 PERCENT

DIRECT DELIVERIES TO HOME—EFFECTIVE WHEN BILL GETS ROYAL ASSENT—PROTEST BY DRY ELEMENT

VICTORIA, April 7.—Explaining Attorney General's Pooley's announcement about the reduction in the price of beer, W. F. Kennedy, liquor commissioner, said today that the price of beer will be \$1.75 a dozen whether delivered or carried away from the liquor store.

But on deliveries the brewery will allow 25 cents a dozen for returned bottles. At the liquor store no credit for bottles will be given.

The bottle transaction is to be entirely between the customer and the brewery. Telephone orders, however, he made it plain, must be made to the Government liquor stores.

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VICTORIA, April 7.—Despite some expressed misgivings that the Government was laying too much stress on the profit and revenue side of its liquor administration, Attorney-General Pooley's Liquor Act amendments passed second reading in the Legislature Thursday.

With regard to the telephone beer order privilege to be conferred, Mr. Pooley said the orders must go to liquor stores.

A reduction of 50 cents a dozen in price was announced.

The present price is \$2 a dozen. The first dozen ordered by the new telephone system would be delivered C.O.D. for \$1.75.

Thereafter each dozen would cost only \$1.50, as there would be an allowance of 25 cents for the return of the bottles.

This arrangement comes into effect, he said, as soon as the bill is assented to, while the 25 cent permit will be law after April 18.

Mr. Pooley maintained that extend-

ing the privilege to beer parlors of selling beer in sealed packages was in conformity with the original liquor plebiscite which had specified "sealed packages."

The departure therefrom in allowing sale of beer by the glass had been authorized by a plebiscite also, but the present amendment was in conformity with the control principle.

He said the changes were desirable because of the encroachment of home brew in the field, some good and some bad and some bootlegged.

One firm had sold three carloads of home brew material in a month. Beer sales had fallen off from 159,000 barrels in 1929 to 65,000 last year, he said, due mainly to the home brew epidemic, over which the Government had no control.

Dr. G. K. MacNaughton and Dr. H. C. Wrinch argued that as former changes in the Act had been authorized by plebiscite there should be a plebiscite now. Dr. Wrinch said failure to do so was a breach of faith with the electors.

Dr. Wrinch was backed up by G. S. Pearson and A. M. Manson in doubts expressed lest the government be influenced too greatly in liquor policy by revenue considerations.

Mr. Pearson said he did not favor prohibition, but he believed the Government should control manufacture so as to eliminate the profit element altogether. Then the principle of control could be reasonably applied.

Thomas Uphill thought hotel keepers should have the privilege of selling beer.

He also questioned Mr. Pooley as to whether he had \$1.75 refund coming to him on the two dollar permit he had purchased earlier in the year. He was told no.

SURGERY FOR UNFIT

STERILIZATION BILL OPPOSED IN LEGISLATURE

VICTORIA, April 7.—After hearing a strong argument by Dr. J. J. Gillis, one of the medical members of the House, in the Legislature Thursday, against Hon. S. L. Howe's sterilization bill, T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, suggested that the bill be laid over for another year.

It was allowed to pass second reading, however.

Medical testimony showed that the bill was innocuous and futile and, in view of the strong opposition of a large section of the public on religious grounds, he thought it wiser not to go ahead with so contentious a measure brought down in the closing days of the session.

Dr. Gillis added to his argument when the Bill came into committee by reading a number of biological treatises to the effect that physical defects, disease and degeneracy can not be hereditary.

PATTULLO OPPOSES

Hon. S. L. Howe and Reginald Hayward poked a little fun at T. D. Pattullo for asking to have the Bill left on the order paper because they claimed he was the first to suggest it.

The Opposition Leader said his remarks were wrongly construed.

He had asked whether the Minister was considering it and when the Minister got some applause for saying the time was ripe for this measure he had been encouraged to bring it in.

Mr. Pattullo insisted, however, that owing to the conflict of medical testimony and the strong objection of certain sections of the public it was unwise to act on a measure brought in so late in the session.

Dr. Gillis said that while in the U. S. 23 states had adopted sterilization laws at various times only four had kept them on the statute books. They found that it caused an increase in the spread of social diseases.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Keynote of the care of the mentally deficient was education and training, he said, not surgical action.

Much was being learned about heredity all the time.

Tuberculosis was now known to be not hereditary, despite the long held belief to the contrary.

He said medical science was always making strides and he was not convinced that mental deficiency and insanity were hereditary.

Not more than 5 per cent of the cases in B. C. institutions were demonstrably hereditary cases, he said.

He urged that the bill be left over for further consideration, as many besides Roman Catholics objected and should be given time to make representations.

Dr. C. M. Kingston, Grand Forks, supported the Bill.

LADNER Bridge Bill AMENDED

GOV'T BEFORE BONDHOLDERS' INTERESTS

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VICTORIA, April 7.—Hon. R. W. Bruhn today brought in a long list of new amendments to the Ladner Bridge Bill which practically revolutionize the measure. A six months' hiatus to the bill had been moved by Wells Gray Wednesday night.

One amendment says that if the Government pays any money by way of meeting deficits, the amount of the Government advance becomes a first mortgage on the bridge taking precedence over the bond issue.

Another amendment says that if there is a deficit the company itself must pay dollar for dollar with the government in meeting it.

COMPANY MUST PAY

In other words if the company does not raise its share of the deficit by private means, the Government is not called upon to pay a cent.

Mr. Bruhn says his object was to tighten up the Bill. The claim had been justly made that the original Bill did not protect the Government. He had intended to attach the completed agreement to the bill, but the draft from the English company did not reach Victoria in time.

PATTULLO'S PROTEST

T. D. Pattullo said he had never seen so many Government Bills amended in his life. The house could not deal with amendments because they were not printed and nobody knew what was in them.

"This self confessed incompetent Government has no right in this lame duck session to enter into these major contractual relations and I do not intend to recognize them in future," declared Mr. Pattullo.

Inability of members to discuss amendments which they had never seen made it impossible to proceed with the Bill at the morning sitting.

MAY KILL PROJECT

Mr. Bruhn's amendments go so far that it is doubtful if the bridge will be built.

Leon J. Ladner, counsel for the company, said his principals had not agreed to build under the terms now proposed and it would be for them to decide.

Efforts to modify Mr. Bruhn's latest amendments are rumored to be under way.

MORTGAGE PAYMENTS

MOVE TO EXTEND MORATORIUM FAILS IN LEGISLATURE

VICTORIA, April 7.—Difficulty of finding the apt wording for an amendment to which the chief law officer of the crown is opposed had much to do with frustrating William Dick's attempt in the Legislature Thursday to broaden the moratorium Act by bringing all parties before the court with regard to principal, interest and taxes.

Several members endorsed the object he was striving for, but the lawyers could not on the spur of the moment devise the appropriate language and it was discovered that the amendment moved by Mr. Dick might have consequences never intended.

Mr. Pooley was opposed to the amendment and so declared.

The amendment was finally dropped on a desultory vote, but the bill was not finally passed so that the question can be further considered today.

"There are 2700 property owners on relief in Vancouver," said Mr. Dick, "and they can't pay interest, taxes or anything."

"It is pitiable that a man whose whole life savings are represented in a small home should have it taken away from him because of the conditions that prevail today," said George Pearson.

Prorogation At Victoria Tonight

VICTORIA, April 7.—Prorogation of the Legislature is expected to take place this evening.

FIRMS 'PESTERED'

CALLED ON TO MAKE TOO MANY GOV'T 'RETURNS'

VICTORIA, April 7.—The number of Government returns that companies called upon to make was commented by A. M. Manson before final reading was given in the Legislature Thursday to the bill providing for the surtax on incomes over \$5000.

Firms were being pestered with these returns, Mr. Manson commented, and it was adding to the cost of business. Was there no way the Dominion Government and Provincial governments could exchange forms?

Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, remarked that up to the present the Dominion Government had refused although they were co-operating to a far greater extent now than before.

Mr. Manson also remarked that the Dominion Government was collecting Income Tax far more thoroughly than the Provincial Government.

His sympathy would be with the Minister if he enforced more thorough collection in B. C.

Even Cemetery Staked

VICTORIA, April 7.—Second and third readings were given in the Legislature Thursday to the Bill providing for a reserve on certain lands at Barkerville required for townsite purposes.

It was stated that the whole townsite had been staked two and three times over, including even the graveyard.

PARK ACT PASSED

GIVES GOV'T POWER TO TRADE CROWN LANDS

VICTORIA, April 7.—The Government majority, with the exception of Jack Loust and William Dick, turned down T. D. Pattullo's safeguarding amendments to Hon. N. S. Longhead's Garibaldi Park and Provincial Park Acts, and Mr. Pattullo announced that he would move them again on third reading in order to put the vote on record.

The bills give the Government power to trade crown lands for privately-owned lands required to augment parks.

Mr. Pattullo's amendments stipulated that before any such transactions should be finally consummated they should be submitted to the Legislature for ratification.

Very large public assets might be disposed of without the public interest being adequately protected, he said.

y council were to plebiscite, whether of the provincial schools in the city on the basis of unemployment extension what the answer might almost as them whether they taxes or no taxes, going to labor this am quite sure that to guide you as to attach to this plebiscite.

the street is not in adequately weigh all govern the settle- such as this, and obvious from an the nature of these which I have ill in my preceding

THE DEPRESSION the same boat in recession. I realise ment is straining at the situation. So So are all public your public utility your big industries you, to avoid un- as my company are doing these nit of our ability, welfare is bound welfare of the city Why should we, subjected to an at- the very mention that we are fall- duty to the city and in financial cen-

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AKES am not a pessimist hope can there be Vancouver. British side if we refuse to results of past mis- today all of us risis resulting from facilities and par- facilities. There is no does not realize he mistakes which and whatever dif- do exist are as means of lessening these mistakes and th great sacrifice s of operation.

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more you a number one of which is to condemn this intain that on the ave just stated and of your own ex- pocal condemns it-

G. MURRIN

MEAL TAX PROTEST

BEARS UNDUPLY ON HOTELS, SAYS DELEGATION

VICTORIA, April 7.—A delegation of six hotel operators, headed by T. E. Chester, of the Vancouver Hotel, met Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, this morning in connection with the pending Bill to tax meals costing fifty cents and over.

The delegation claimed that the measure was unfair and discriminated against the better class of eating houses where overhead expenses were extremely high and business conditions poor.

The hotelmen and cafe-owners were now asked to become collection agencies for the government without any provision for meeting the cost of collection.

Cafeterias escape provisions of the tax by reason that no checks are issued and a diner may escape the tax by walking a few feet and getting another dish and another price marker.

With the higher class hotels and cafes it means hundreds of extra cafe checks, extra accounting and extra help. The tax can be avoided by lowering the cost of a meal from fifty cents to 49c and selling the customer a box of matches for one cent.

Tea parties given by hostesses at hotels and cafes may escape the tax, it also was pointed out by the hotelmen by issuance of separate checks.

The delegation consisted of T. E. Chester, Hotel Vancouver; W. Hudson, Hotel Georgia; R. G. Hunter, proprietor of Purdy's Cafe; A. W. Baynes, Hotel Grosvenor, all of Vancouver; J. K. Hodges, Empress Hotel and Steve Jones, Dominion Hotel, Victoria.

SERVICE CLUB STAND

The delegation asked Mr. Jones either to raise the amount of a meal to be taxed or wipe out the limit and tax meals regardless of the price.

Service clubs and public bodies that have been paying 75 cents a meal at their weekly meetings have notified hotel operators and cafe proprietors that they will not meet the provisions of the tax and that their meals must be cut to 71 cents. To comply with this demand would mean a loss of at least \$6000 to one Vancouver Hotel.

CHEAPER MONEY

MOVE FOR INTEREST RATE CUT PASSED IN LEGISLATURE

VICTORIA, April 7.—The Legislature on Thursday went on record in favor of Ernest Carson's resolution calling for federal action to reduce interest rates.

The motion evoked some debate earlier in the session, but when it finally came to a vote the government made no move to object and it went through without comment.

Tom Uphill spoke to his resolution asking that hunger marchers, arrested for stealing rides on freight trains, be liberated and Attorney General Pooley adjourned the debate.

Mr. Uphill said the men had just grievances and had no other way of getting to Victoria to present them.

H. E. Kergin moved a resolution calling for an independent commission to investigate the living conditions of the workers in Anyox which were the subject of the recent strike. Debate on this was also adjourned by Attorney General Pooley.

ENQUIRY REFUSED

MINE CONDITIONS AT ANYOX DEBATED

VICTORIA, April 7.—Affidavits by workers in the Granby Company's mine at Anyox to the effect that men were being compelled to work in unsafe conditions were laid before the Legislature today by Tom Uphill, supporting H. G. Kergin's motion for a Government enquiry.

Attorney General Pooley said Mr. Kergin's motion was not needed in view of the Labor Department's report already tabled in the House.

Hon. W. A. Mackenzie adjourned the debate without taking action. G. S. Pearson said the representations showed that there was need for an enquiry.

Granby was buying American instead of Comox coal for one thing, he said.

T. D. Pattullo said the unemployed were so sympathetic with the Anyox miners they had sent a delegation to Victoria and he thought it would be in the interests of peace and harmony to hold a public enquiry to clear the air.

UNSAFE CONDITIONS

Tom Uphill said what was wanted was safe conditions in the mines.

Conditions were not safe today and only strangers who did not know the danger were willing to go into the mine.

He read a sworn affidavit giving technical details of the alleged unsafe conditions.

Replying to Mr. Uphill's motion for release of thirty-seven hunger marchers arrested for riding on freight trains, Mr. Pooley said:

"Let these paid agitators quit their practices and go to work."

Succession Act To Be Speedier

VICTORIA, April 7. — An amendment to the Succession Duty Act brought down in the Legislature Thursday by Hon. R. L. Maitland, gives administrators powers to expediate the windup of estates by speeding up appraisal of values.

As the Act now stands, six months or more elapses before the fixation of values for succession duties.

Ex-Officials Must Pay \$1000

VICTORIA, April 7.—The Legislature Thursday passed the bill indemnifying Burnaby officials from paying penalties for illegal acts.

Attorney General Pooley explained that the Government was willing to relieve ex-Reeve W. A. Fritchard and the two Burnaby officials from liability for heavy penalties for their illegal use of sinking funds to relieve unemployment, because of the special circumstances, but he stated the indemnification would not take effect unless the officials paid the complete law costs of all parties to the action.

These costs amount to about \$1,000, he stated.

JOBLESS TURN PROSPECTOR

VICTORIA, April 7.—As a result of the success of the issuing of miners' licenses free of cost to unemployed last year, Hon. W. A. McKenzie said he was extending the act by placing reserves on certain areas, and by taking power to grubstake for one month men who had taken some instruction in prospecting and desired a little time to locate suitable grounds.

Last year's act had sent 9000 men into the hills and he hoped this year's bill would take a large number of men out of the relief camps.

Interest Doubled In Five Years

VICTORIA, April 7.—The increase in public debt was in the spotlight when the estimates were under discussion Thursday.

Noting interest charges amounting to \$6,980,377, Mr. Pattullo commented they only amounted to \$4,036,000 when the previous administration left office.

In five years they had almost doubled.

The \$4,036,000 started from the time British Columbia was a Province, the Opposition leader emphasized, yet the present administration had added nearly that amount in five years.

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LADNER BRIDGE BILL, 'REVAMPED',

GETS O.K.

PLAN CHANGED 'TO FUTILITY'

FIRST VICTIM OF NEW STERILIZATION LAW, MEMBERS DECLARE—"DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR" FROM COMPANY FOR DEFICIT

By NORMAN SENIOR

VICTORIA, April 7.—The Ladner Bridge Bill, revamped to the point of futility in the expressed opinion of Dr. W. H. Sutherland and Col. Nelson Spencer, went through the Legislature on its last day.

The amendments were sufficient to regain the unenthusiastic support of T. H. Kirk, Jack Loutet and other Conservative members who objected to the original financial set-up. But they alienated Col. Spencer, who said they destroyed any meaning in the bill. He agreed with Dr. Sutherland that the Ladner Bridge Bill had been the first victim of the new sterilization law.

OPPOSED TO SITE

On the other hand A. Wells Gray said the complete redrafting of the bill with the new safeguards was a demonstration that the work of members on the Opposition side of the House had contributed something to the cause of good government.

W. R. Rutledge, Burnaby Conservative, was the only government member to vote against the bill finally, and he did so on the ground that he was opposed to the site.

The bridge should be above New Westminster, he claimed.

T. H. Kirk opened the debate by saying it was time the public interest was protected against private companies obtaining public rights by charter and then turning to governments for help.

He agreed with Mr. Gray that the first bill was a crude affair, loosely drawn, but as amended the obligation to put up money to meet the deficits was truly 50-50 as between the Government and the company.

The original bill practically made the Government's obligation of \$140,000 a year a gift.

CANADIANS FIRST

Mr. Kirk also said he would prefer to see Canadian companies and British Columbia engineers do the work than a British company, however eminent.

He said he was not satisfied that the promoter's scheme was bona fide.

He had had assurances from a well known B. C. company that they were willing to build the identical same bridge according to the Dominion Government plans for \$1,500,000, but this Bill granted guarantees on a cost up to \$2,000,000.

"This Bill, if passed without the amendments," he declared, "will be the valedictory of this government."

"USELESS" SAYS SUTHERLAND

Dr. Sutherland, former Minister of Public Works, said the Bill as amended was useless and would only clutter up the statute books.

The company could not sell bonds under the conditions proposed.

COULD NOT SELL BONDS

Mr. Loutet said the Bill would not block the company if the organizers would put up enough money of their own to guarantee half the deficit.

Col. Spencer said you could never sell the bonds under the terms of the amendments.

The bridge was needed and the Government could not afford to build it.

Meeting half the deficit was cheaper than meeting them all, therefore, he favored the original Bill and opposed the amendments.

proceeds, "the Vancouver Board of Trade is in favor of a bridge across the Fraser provided there is no financial obligation incurred on the part of the government in behalf of the taxpayers."

The view of some part at least of the business community was expressed by a prominent business man who said:

NEW BRIDGE NEEDED

"A new bridge over the Fraser is needed but the Ladner proposal will not fill the bill. It's too costly. Vancouver has paid through the nose for two bridges, the Second Narrows and the Burrard Bridge, and this Ladner bridge would only mean the sacrifice of a lot more Vancouver money."

"It's true it's backed by provincial money but Vancouver pays most of the provincial income and in the long run the money would come out of Vancouver taxpayers."

Support for the bridge is strong in the Delta district, which it would connect with the border and Vancouver. It is maintained in Delta the bridge is not only necessary but that it would pay.

GOVT WON'T LOSE SAYS REEVE GRAVER

BRIGHOUSE, April 7.—"The whole argument against the bridge is a washout," declared Reeve R. M. Grauer to The Vancouver Sun today, expressing himself in favor of the proposed bridge at Ladner.

"The Government is not going to lose any money over the bridge. The Government's own figures show that approximately 2,800,000 autos are transported yearly over the old bridge at New Westminster. If we get 500,000 autos, two passengers to each car, we will have a surplus of \$20,000," the reeve said.

He said the route which would be traversed by the new bridge was a more desirable one, and described the present Fraser River bridge as "out-worn and out-of-date." United States citizens have invested money in a magnificent building at the Peace Arch at Blaine in anticipation of the proposed entry into Vancouver.

"The grade on the new route will be 4 per cent, compared with 18 per cent at the New Westminster bridge," the reeve declared.

ROYAL CITY SHIPPING WHOLLY OPPOSED

NEW WESTMINSTER, April 8.—Shipping interests in New Westminster are absolutely opposed to any bridge at Ladner, Valentine Quinn, general manager, Pacific Coast Terminals Ltd., stated to The Vancouver Sun today.

Mr. Quinn said: "It is a peculiar that Dorman Long & Co., the contracting firm, has a representative along with Sir Alexander Gibb's party, who apparently advised the Government that a bridge across the Fraser River at Ladner would not hinder navigation."

"Mr. Shelly made reference to this in the Provincial Legislature when he stated that the Government had been advised by authorities who knew more about navigation and bridge building than members of the House."

According to Mr. Quinn, the Dorman Long engineer, whom he claims was chief adviser to Sir Alexander Gibb, practically never investigated New Westminster ports, as he stated in a report to the Government that New Westminster is served by the Great Northern Railway.

Mr. Quinn stated that other factors besides the question of width of the bridge clearance, enter into the proposal.

"When they wanted to build a bridge at the First Narrows, a high level bridge was demanded, but any sort of bridge is good enough for the Fraser River," added Mr. Quinn.

William Dick supported the Bill as amended, saying Vancouver needed the bridge and the work for the unemployed. The amendments made an ample safeguard of public interest, he believed.

VANCOUVER OPINION SHARPLY DIVIDED

Opinion in Vancouver itself and throughout the Lower Mainland is split in a dozen ways on the proposed Ladner bridge which this week became a major issue in the Legislature.

The traveling public frankly welcomes the project; it wants another bridge somewhere on the lower Fraser and is more concerned with the actual need of a bridge than with its location. Some business leaders, on the other hand, are dubious of it on the score of cost.

Shipping interests in New Westminster are flatly opposed to the scheme while feeling among shipping men in Vancouver also is adverse although no organized protest has been lodged with the government.

NAVIGATION RIGHTS

It is pointed out the Vancouver Chamber of Shipping has been on record two years as opposed in principle to construction of any bridge over any navigable stream unless the Dominion Government is satisfied it will not injure navigation.

Whether the proposed bridge would meet this requirement shipping men have not ascertained owing to lack of time.

Vancouver Board of Trade was unfavorable to the bill which passed the legislature in the dying hours of the session, being opposed to the province assuming any financial obligation.

Hon. J. W. Jones was notified of this by telegram on Thursday.

A statement issued by the Board of Trade recalls that in 1927, after hearing a large delegation from Ladner and district, the Board adopted a resolution supporting a proposed bridge then being promoted providing it did not add to the taxes of the province and if it met with the full requirements of navigation.

OBLIGATE PROVINCE

There has been no change in that attitude, the statement says, and the message to Hon. J. W. Jones, after quoting the resolution of 1927, amplified this by adding "the proposals suggested in the bill now before the Legislature obligating the province to participate in any financial obligations do not meet with the approval of the board."

In other words, the statement

MEAL TAX STAMPS

CHANGE IN MANNER OF COLLECTING NEW LEVY

VICTORIA, April 8.—A last minute amendment Friday to the new 5 per cent tax on meals provides that the tax may be collected by the use of stamps.

The hotel men's protest against the tax was not successful. They agreed with the Opposition estimate, however, that the impost would not yield more than \$50,000 for the hospitals.

Another late amendment to the Municipal Act, gives owners an appeal to the county court where a bylaw is passed requiring that buildings more than 40 per cent damaged by fire must be demolished.

Col. Nelson Spencer brought up his six-hour day and five-day week proposal at the evening sitting, but it was ruled out of order for insufficient notice.

STERILIZATION BILL PASSES

VICTORIA, April 8.—The sterilization bill was passed by the Legislature Friday. It calls for the consent of the patient, parent or guardian before an operation can be performed. Conscientious and religious objections are grounds for immunity of the patient.

When a mental defective is released from an institution, a board consisting of a judge of the Supreme Court, a psychiatrist and an experienced social worker will confer as to the advisability of rendering the patient sterile.

When consent is obtained the operation will be performed. Mental deficiency is the only grounds upon which the act becomes operative.

ANYOX PROBE VOTED DOWN

VICTORIA, April 8.—H. F. Kerwin's motion for an independent investigation of the living and working conditions in the Anyox mines was voted down by the Government majority after a warm debate in the closing moments of the legislative session.

Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Minister of Mines, took the stand that he had to send an inspector in to make an investigation where complaints about safety in a mine were made and claimed this was sufficient. He said the mine inspectors were capable and fearless men, in no way subject to the crack of the operator's whip.

Bills Receive Assent

VICTORIA, April 8.—The following bills were given assent Friday afternoon by the Lieutenant Governor:

Bills to amend the Mortgagors' and Purchasers' Relief Act, Government Liquor Act, Imposition of Meal Tax in Aid of Hospitals, Municipal Act, Mount Robson Park Act and Provincial Free Miners' Certificate (Place Act).

Victoria Votes \$22,925,894 Supply

VICTORIA, April 8.—The government's annual supply bill went through its three readings in the legislature Friday.

After supplementaries had been added the total amount of supply figured out at \$22,925,894.

With the \$10,000,000 loan bill the house has authorized close to \$33,000,000 this session.

UPHILL IN SPATS

Labor Member in Strange Garb

Gold-headed Cane and "Derby"

VICTORIA, April 8.—When the members of the House were photographed Friday amazement spread over the faces of Victorians upon seeing Tom Uphill, popular Labor member for Fernie, decked out in spats, a gold-headed cane and a "derby."

Explaining the incident, Tom said he had been dared to wear Alec Manson's spats and carry Tommy Kirk's cane while some stranger's derby was commandeered.

Tom said he never took a dare from a Liberal or Conservative in the House.

B. C. LEGISLATURE PROROGUED

SEVENTY BILLS RECEIVE ROYAL ASSENT— TOLMIE PLEDGED TO "RE-ORGANIZE" WITHIN 15 DAYS

VICTORIA, April 8.—The fifth session of the 17th parliament of British Columbia was prorogued Friday night after a brief 32-day session, spread over six weeks and two days.

Premier Tolmie has told the members that there will be a cabinet re-organization within 15 days, but nobody, probably not even the Premier himself, knows what it will be.

VETERAN M. L. A. HONORED

Venerable James Schofield, the beloved "Old Jim" of a generation of legislators, was the recipient of a presentation.

The doyen of the House who will not be a candidate in the next election was presented with a sterling silver tea tray, engraved with a simply

worded inscription recording his long period of consecutive service from 1907 to 1933.

Every member of the House was a contributor and the presentation speeches were made by Premier Tolmie and T. D. Pattullo, foe:man for the past five years, but in harmony for once on this moving occasion.

The presentation was made with the House in full session, a unique honor.

70 BILLS PASSED

Business was cleaned up at the afternoon sitting.

The brief evening sitting consisted only of the presentation and the visit of His Honor, who gave his formal assent to the 70 odd enactments of the session.

A P R

1933

Across The Bay

We spend fifteen minutes of pure animal delight—when the Premier and Mr. Pattullo cease their diplomatic sparring—and hold us spellbound in admiration—with their infighting—and blow for blow.

By H. B. W.

FIFTEEN MINUTES

THE FIFTEEN glorious minutes before dinner-time on Friday afternoon almost repaid us for fifteen years of pretty dull stuff in this Legislature. Of course, you will wonder at our enthusiasm. You will never understand our unholly joy in this fevered passage, this sudden head-on collision between Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo, not as Premier and Opposition Leader, but as two men who were mad clear through. You will never realize, as you read of it in cold type, how the usual veil of convention was suddenly dropped, how the hearts of our two chief politicians were instantly laid bare as by a sword stroke, how we glimpsed for once the workings of two minds which usually are hidden under the mask of civilization.

It was not as a matter of politics that we enjoyed this amazing scene, not as politicians interested in the outcome of the present political cyclone, but as spectators watching a life-and-death struggle, since in the contest for the prime minister's seat, at least, it is a life-and-death struggle indeed. We were interested because underneath all our pious protestations and parliamentary manners, we were only men, and here were two men, whom everyone likes and respects, fighting like gladiators at last right in the open.

Gone were the exchanges of diplomatic letters of invitation and refusal. Gone were the Premier's two Florentineries Extraordinary, Fooley and Howe. Gone were the ordinary civilities of parliament. Here were just Doc Tolmie, flushed and roused as we have never seen him before, and Duff Pattullo, several shades redder, telling each other just what they thought of each other. It was poor in tangible results but rich in the stuff of humanity.

GOOD FRIENDS

NOT THAT Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo don't like each other personally. Even in the heat of the duel, as angry words sped back and forth across the House, they expressed personal regard. But what they thought of each other as politicians was really distressing. And what effect all this would have on the prospects of union government we couldn't guess. Certainly it made union between Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo impossible, but probably it had been impossible from the start. Finally, it only served to show the utter chafe of politics over here.

A verbatim report of this historic clash is printed elsewhere in the paper to-day, but no report can give you the feeling of the scene, the gasping surprise of the House, the pride of the Liberals in their leader, the fierce delight of the Conservatives in this unexpected burst of feeling from a man who has always left the leadership of the House to his aide, Mr. Pooley.

Well, there stands Mr. Pattullo at the end of a jangling afternoon, asking the Premier for a statement about the reorganization of his government. Mr. Pattullo is very quiet, very courteous, but his flushed face shows that he expects trouble and would enjoy it.

Up stands the Premier, massive over his desk, arms folded behind him, jaw outstuck, looking squarely at Mr. Pattullo. The government, he says, will be reorganized after the House rises, but so far the matter has not been considered—a prepared parliamentary statement not to be taken too literally.

DIRTY DIG

ICELY, BUT REDDER still, Mr. Pattullo accepts the Premier's statement that he doesn't know what he is going to do about anything. He says the country is seething with discontent, the Conservative members in revolt.

The Premier is on his feet again, still cool but getting warmer. He tells Mr. Pattullo sharply that it is the privilege of the prime minister to reorganize governments and decide election dates. He will do what seems best for the country. It is an optimistic statement and rather brave, for everyone knows that with the Conservative Party in its present uproar, that no one can foresee what will happen even next week. The Premier, however, keeps a tight upper lip and says that the votes of the Conservative members in the House don't show any discontent or seething—another parliamentary statement not to be taken too literally.

The Premier is getting warmer. Leaving out over his desk and thrusting his jaw out further, he tells Mr. Pattullo that he isn't in half the demand with the public that he imagines, for the public has not forgotten his old "meanderings," a jolly word, with a country flavor.

WARMTH

MR. PATTULLO is hot now, and no wonder. The answer to this is obvious. If he is so unpopular, so unqualified, he says why is the Premier trying so desperately to get him into the government?

The Premier, quite as hot as Mr. Pattullo, makes a biting reply. He had asked Mr. Pattullo as leader of a party, not as an individual, because, personally, he would be no asset to any government. And here the Premier lapses for a delicious moment into the good old language of the ranch which he loves—Mr. Pattullo would be a boon companion at a horse race or a dog fight, but in a cabinet, well—

Mr. Pattullo's next reply is obvious, too. If the Premier didn't want him, then he wanted the Liberal Party—a

trap to ensnare the elect. And all the more discredit since the Premier couldn't deliver his half of the bargain—couldn't deliver his party into the union. So Mr. Pattullo would be carrying Dr. Tolmie, the vision of which made us all laugh.

The Premier says, quite properly, that Mr. Pattullo would soon have to pua so great a burden down. Mr. Pattullo, still equal to the occasion, replied that he has done so already. But when he accused the Premier of discourtesy, while he had been scrupulously polite in their recent correspondence, this accusation goes home. The Premier prides himself on old-fashioned courtesy. He says it is the unwritten law of the ranch. He hopes he hasn't been impolite. Mr. Pattullo says he realizes now more than ever that there can be no union with the Premier. And buzzing with talk and thrilled to the core, the House goes to dinner.

OBSTACLES

BEFORE THAT the day was dull, with brief interludes of interest. Mr. Shelley started the afternoon by explaining that he had not referred to the Premier when he demanded in his recent speech the removal of all men who are obstacles to union. He had meant any members of the House at all. His generalization thus took in a good many gentlemen on both sides.

Mr. Manson stirred us with a fierce attack on the Vancouver police commission, there was a long wrangle over the perpetual problem of Okanagan irrigation, much delving into history, a resumption of the old feud between Mr. Jones and Mr. Pattullo, some references to Mr. McKenzie's scrap book and not much progress.

By evening the political storm had blown itself out and we held a friendly, round-table discussion of many things. The only information of interest came from Provincial Secretary Howe, who indicated that the government was about ready to provide for the sterilization of the insane, a reform vigorously advocated by Dr. L. E. Borden and supported by Mr. Pattullo. It was intimated pretty clearly that a sterilization law will come during the next year or so to half, if possible, the increasing cost of insanity.

With Mr. Uphill sitting in the Premier's chair and behaving as if he had the full authority of the premiership behind him, we got along in most amiable fashion and closed the week and the fiscal year without regret.

TOLMIE MAY GO TO SENATE

J. W. Berry, M.P.P., to Be New Premier, Politicians Report

Delta Member Hailed as "Second John Oliver" With Wide Appeal

Conservative politicians, fagged out over the jlg-saw puzzle of trying to put together a new provincial government, had their interest and hopes rekindled to-day by the report that Premier Tolmie of British Columbia would go to the Canadian Senate, succeeding there Senator A. D. MacRae, who will take the new post of federal trustee for the Canadian National Railways.

The news from inside political circles to-day also was that J. W. Berry, M.P.P. for Delta, will succeed Premier Tolmie as Conservative party leader here. Mr. Berry is the one man upon whom all factions within the present government party appear able to agree. Mr. Berry is very well known and popular in all parts of the province. He is a Fraser Valley farmer and has been called by his supporters "a second John Oliver."

TIGHTEN FINANCE CONTROL

There were also reports to-day in connection with the impending provincial government changes that A. N. Mount, former comptroller-general, would be called in to take the portfolio of Minister of Finance, as the only way of retrieving the finances of the provinces. Mr. Mount was a Hudson's Bay Co. man and city manager of Edmonton before being called to British Columbia. The move to call in Mr.

Mount and give him full powers as finance minister is said to be the government party's answer to the challenge of the Bowser party that a strong man such as the ex-premier was needed to stiffen the provincial government as regards control of spending.

The next government, it was explained would be cut to four or five cabinet ministers, with consolidation of present departments. Upon the formation of the new government under the new leader, shortly after the conclusion of the present session of the Legislature, and before the general election is announced, all the members of the present cabinet will hand in their resignations. It was to-day considered probable that only one or two of the present ministers would be put on the list for the new cabinet.

Liberals said to-day that the Conservative plan to have Mr. Berry succeed Dr. Tolmie would have no effect on their plans. They declared the Conservatives had been forced to the Berry move as the next best thing to the various union government schemes which have broken down, and that what the country was demanding was a complete political house-cleaning.

NOTES OF THE LEGISLATURE

George S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo; Dr. L. E. Borden, Conservative, Nelson; Dr. H. C. Wrinch, Liberal, Skeena; Capt. James Fitzsimmons, Conservative, Kaslo-Slocan, and W. R. Rutledge, Conservative, Burnaby, stressed the necessity of keeping records of the provincial commission on state health insurance up to date in order that such records may be made immediately available to the House when enactment of such legislation is brought about as they predicted it would be in the near future. Several of the members desired such a bill introduced as soon as it could be prepared and laid before the House.

The government is budgeting for a \$7,000 deficit for the University of British Columbia. Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, Minister of Education, told the Legislature Friday afternoon. Besides the grant of \$250,000, seasonal registration fees will bring in \$216,400; summer session fees \$16,500 and miscellaneous receipts \$10,600, with a total budget of \$500,500, leaving the above deficit.

Four members of the House Friday evening were in favor of a higher salary for John Hosié, provincial librarian. Messrs. Howe, Pattullo, Manson and Beatty said that the work of Mr. Hosié was of such value to the province that his stipend of \$2,640 was insufficient. W. R. Rutledge, Conservative, Burnaby, thought engineers who had been reduced in salary to \$80, also should receive some consideration.

When the estimates for the provincial museum came under review, Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, wanted to know why William Newcombe, assistant biologist, had been retired from the service. The Liberal member had in his possession letters from Vancouver and elsewhere against the retirement of Mr. Newcombe.

LEGISLATION IS COMPLETED

Bills Reach Final Stage As Legislature Approaches Prorogation

Yesterday was a general clean-up day in the Legislature. A dozen bills or more were pushed along and several million dollars of supply voted.

Discussion of some minor amendments to the Water Act led Hon. W. A. McKenzie, T. D. Pattullo and Hon. J. W. Jones into a controversy about administration of the conservation fund for the water districts.

Mr. McKenzie recalled that Mr. Pattullo had once said that rebates of sums owing by water districts to the fund would be granted only "over my dead body."

"That's the way they got it," said Mr. Pattullo, "over my dead political body, but there's life in it yet."

Mr. Pattullo charged that the Tolmie Government had rebated more than \$1,000,000 which the rest of the province would have to pay and declared that while it was necessary and would continue to be necessary to make loans to the water districts to enable them to keep their equipment in good repair to preserve the whole integrity of the irrigation areas, the understanding must be clearly laid down that these advances are to be repaid in full.

Hon. J. W. Jones interpreted this as meaning that Mr. Pattullo, if elected, would not make any more advances, which interpretation the Opposition Leader promptly repudiated.

In committee of supply Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe gave details of the university budget. The governors had budgeted to spend \$500,500 during the coming year. Income apart from the government grant of \$250,000 was estimated at \$243,500, of which \$216,400 was represented by fees for the regular term. This left a deficit of \$7,000, he conceded.

Coalition Plan Ends In War

Premier Waxes Bitter In Reply To Policy Query

Five Minutes Verbal Warfare Follows in Wake of Tolmie's Union Government Ideal

Let People Choose, Pattullo Challenges

Government Leader Admits He Does Not Know What He Will Do; Cross Fire Gets Hot

Diplomatic notes of Premier Tolmie to T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, to join him in the formation of a Union Government for British Columbia, were literally torn to pieces and scattered to the winds by the Premier, to be replaced by challenges, charges and accusations, when the government leader and the opposition leader locked horns for five eventful minutes in the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

The Premier has been absent from the House at most of the sittings recently and, seizing the opportunity of his presence when the estimates for the Premier's department were under consideration, Mr. Pattullo repeated his request for information of the re-organization of departments which the Premier has announced he plans to put into effect.

"Will the Premier tell us what he proposes to do in regard to the re-organization of government departments?" Mr. Pattullo asked when the vote for the Premier's salary was called.

Mr. Pooley intimated the Premier was ready to do so and had his statement ready.

"Yes, I am asking the Premier now," Mr. Pattullo remarked.

The Premier rose and commenced to read what appeared to be all he intended to say on the subject until forced to make further remarks as the debate grew warm.

"Some time ago," he said, "I said I would take up the matter of reorganization of government departments when the House rose. I am sticking to my programme and will do so at that time."

EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION

Mr. Pattullo remarked that it was an extraordinary situation after the government had been in office five years. While the Premier was apparently undecided on what the re-organization would be, the Legislature was asked to vote money to departments that after the reorganization might not exist. Surely more respect was due to members of the House.

"I have not taken up this work yet," replied Premier Tolmie, "and it is impossible to say what the changes will be. We can vote the money for the departments and for any that are eliminated, the money will not be used."

"I accept the statement," said Mr. Pattullo, "but the Premier hasn't any idea what he is going to do."

The province, he said, was seething with unrest, waiting for something to happen. He urged the Premier to state when he proposed to call a general election, suggesting he do so forthwith. The country was unsettled and was entitled to know what the Premier's plans were. This unrest was right for the good of the country to call a general election I will do so."

Premier Tolmie said this view was strongly supported by members of his party, claiming they had been strongly behind him during the session. The Leader of the Opposition said he was prepared to go to the country and let the people decide, but he, the Premier, did not think he was in any great demand.

"The prime minister thinks I am," retorted Mr. Pattullo. "He demanded me."

"That," replied the Premier, "is because you are at the head of a party."

As an individual you would not be an asset to union government."

ONLY TO DOG FIGHT

"I hold you in the highest esteem personally. I think you would be a fine chap to go to a dog fight or a horse race with, but as for getting the votes of the people of British Columbia their memories are far too fresh of what you have done in the past," said the Premier.

Mr. Pattullo: "Yet you asked me to join you in the formation of a union government. Now you say you would not mind going with me to a dog fight or a horse race. The prime minister has not paid me the same courtesy that I have extended to him."

Premier Tolmie said he was sorry if he had said anything impolite and remarked that much greater Liberals than Mr. Pattullo had refused to participate in union government.

"I do not think the Leader of the Opposition would be of any value politically as far as he is personally concerned. He would be a liability, not an asset."

Mr. Pattullo: "The Premier wants me to come in with him and bring the Liberal party, but the Premier does not carry his own party. He just wants me to take him in my arms and carry him along. He doesn't control his party, and would it be a great thing if I took him up, had him in my arms and then the Conservative Party came along within the fifteen days, which they have given him after the House rises, and said: 'We don't like the color of the horse, and leave me with him.'"

"You wouldn't carry me very far before you were ready to put me down," replied the Premier. He repeated that a general election would be called after due consideration. Regarding union government, all he asked was for the two parties to join and put the province ahead of party.

Mr. Pattullo: "If I had thought it would be for the good of the country I would have joined him, but I think it would nullify the Liberal Party and prevent it putting into effect measures to benefit the country."

Higher Licenses For B.C. Autoists

New Schedule Class For All Cars to Pay According to Weight

No Part-year Licenses Except Where Snow Stops Year's Driving

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6,001 lbs. to 7,000 lbs.	65.00
7,001 lbs. to 8,000 lbs.	80.00
8,001 lbs. to 9,000 lbs.	95.00
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Colonel Nelson Spencer thought Mayor Taylor's appeal for the definition in the charter to stand should be heeded.

George Walkem agreed with H. D. Twigg clarification was necessary and the new definition should be included. As a manufacturer he was prepared to pay higher taxes to help offset what the city might lose.

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Mr. Manson said the police commission a man who had been a member of the law officers for many years. He said the council once appointed a commission a man who had been convicted. Another man appointed who, with his property in the red-light district, was the mayor of the city had these men. The speaker wished it to be plainly understood that he was not referring to Mr. Rush.

"What harm can come from this change effective a month ago?" Manson commented. "It is too much interference with the police commission with police officers."

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Sterilization Misunderstood

Government Ready to Introduce Bill Regarding Unfit, Legislature Told

Announcement that if the House was ready to receive it the government could yet introduce a bill providing for sterilization of the mentally unfit was made to the Legislature Friday night by Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary, after a number of members had urged the economic and moral necessity of such a law.

"I am absolutely convinced that the time has arrived," said Mr. Howe. "If the House is ready to receive the legislation it can be introduced at this session. We have not adjourned yet."

T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, opened the discussion when the appropriation for mental hospitals came under review. He said that sterilization should be adopted.

Dr. L. E. Borden said that the great trouble was that the word "sterilization" was not properly understood by the lay mind.

"There is no disabling condition," he said. "It does not incapacitate members of either sex. The only thing is the lack of procreation under circumstances where the only possible result could be the production of persons mentally unbalanced."

Esondale had 2,600 patients, he said. If there had been sterilization years ago the number would not exceed 600.

"We should have had it long ago and we are paying for it now," said Dr. Borden.

Reginald Hayward, a member of the Mental Hygiene Commission of some years ago, said the commission had recommended public education leading to gradual introduction of sterilization. He was strongly in favor of such a bill being introduced and quoted from his experience as a member of the royal commission. "The commission would have recommended it but the public was not prepared for it, he said. Laws were passed for the improvement of livestock. Why not legislate for the benefit of the human race?" he asked.

When the Provincial Secretary asked if the House would be ready to receive such a bill, members pounded their desks.

Loose Ends

There is chaos out in the country, too—worse than in the Legislature—Fernie offers an interesting specimen of civilization on the blink—and the little boy next door distinguishes himself.

By H. B. W.

CHAOS

ONE ESCAPES from the chaos of provincial politics at the week-end only to find a worse chaos at home. I mean to say that, in my zeal to save the country Across the Bay (somebody has to save it, you know, and I'm making a remarkable job of it, as you see) I have so neglected my farm that disaster threatens the agricultural industry. It is all very well for members of the Legislature to talk about the imminent collapse of the government. What about the crop failure which threatens the nation if I don't get a row of early potatoes in pretty soon? And it is all very well for poets and sentimental people like you to rave about the delights of spring and the song of birds and so forth, but with us who are really close to the earth, who know spring at first hand, this is the hardest season of the whole year.

We are getting a little panicky out here. There is so much to be done right away, if we are to be saved from a crop failure and complete disaster, and no time to do it when one is saving the country in the Legislature. All last week I listened to hon. members of the Legislature talking about the utter confusion of politics. This is all very interesting, but what about the condition of my six peach trees, all springing into blossom and not yet dilled up to their wall, because I have cut all my other hats into strips for the purpose, and am hesitating to use the last one? I listened to statesmen complaining because the country is sunk in debt. What about my rock garden, which is surging into life, but is buried beneath the accumulations of all last year's oak leaves?

I heard Tom Uphill talking about the power of wealth trampling on the workers. True, but does anyone defend me when the little boy from next door tramples with all the enthusiasm of an elephant on the row of early spinach which I have sown; not, mark you, because I expect any spinach, but as a kind of gesture to spring, a sort of justification for living in the country, an indication to the gods of agriculture that I am still with them in spirit, that the Legislature has not quite corrupted me. And I dare say I am the only man Across the Bay who has sown spinach, who has made a gesture to spring, who has justified his life at all. Certainly I can see no justification in the recent events Across the Bay.

The government and politicians generally, says an eminent statesman, are going into the wilderness. True, sir, but I am in a wilderness already, weed growth rushes up on all sides, to stifle me, my peaches cry out for attention (and I have only my best hat left) and, after the way the little boy next door has scattered seeds abroad when my back was turned, I expect vegetables to leap at me from every flower bed before the summer comes. Yet poets sing of spring and legislators yearn to get back home to greet it. The trouble is that none of them have seen spring in the raw as we have.

GO AHEAD WITH LADNER BRIDGE

London Company Will Construct \$2,500,000 Bridge Taking Two Years to Do It

Bill Being Brought Down in Legislature To-day; Over 1,500 Men Will Be Employed

The B.C. government will bring down a bill to-day calling for an agreement with the Ladner Bridge Company Ltd., for the construction of a \$2,600,000 traffic bridge over the Fraser River from Ladner to Woodward's Landing. The bridge will take two years to complete and employ between 1,500 and 2,000 men, and will provide a new direct route between Vancouver and the Peace Arch at the International boundary. The tolls will be fixed by the government.

If there are any deficits after payments of interest, sinking funds and maintenance cost, the government will meet half the loss. The government also will share in any profits. Any deficit met by the government must be repaid out of subsequent profits.

Dorman, Long and Co., of London, Eng., world famous bridge contractors, who built the bridge at Sydney, Australia, will be in charge of construction for the Ladner Bridge Company Ltd., which is a private concern.

The proposed agreement will place restrictions and control in the hands of the Minister of Public Works with respect to the plans and costs of construction, toll charges, operation and accounting and auditing of the company.

The London interests are willing to accept provincial government bonds in payment of construction of road connections, but as the road construction is something apart from the bridge company's contract, that will be open to tender. Provision is also made in the bill for the acquisition of the bridge by the government after a period of years, in the event that the government may then desire to own the structure.

It is estimated that there will be a saving in unemployment relief alone of approximately \$400,000 during the period of construction of the bridge, which will obviate the necessity of constructing an expensive car ferry and greatly relieve the heavy traffic on the New Westminster bridge and avoid a very large expenditure on that structure within a relatively short time.

Coalition Plan Ends In

Premier Waxes Bitter In Reply To Policy Query

Five Minutes Verbal Warfare Follows in Wake of Tormie's Union Government Ideal

Let People Choose, Pattullo Challenges

Government Leader Admits He Does Not Know What He Will Do; Cross Fire Gets Hot

Diplomatic notes of Premier Tormie to T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, to join him in the formation of a Union Government for British Columbia, were literally torn to pieces and scattered to the winds by the Premier, and the opposition leader locked horns for five eventful minutes in the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

The Premier has been absent from the House at most of the sittings recently and, seizing the opportunity of his presence when the estimates for the Premier's department were under consideration, Mr. Pattullo repeated his request for information of the reorganization of departments which the Premier has announced he plans to put into effect.

"Will the Premier tell us what he proposes to do in regard to the reorganization of government departments?" Mr. Pattullo asked when the vote for the Premier's salary was called.

Mr. Pooley intimated the Premier was ready to do so and had his statement ready.

"Yes, I am asking the Premier now," Mr. Pattullo remarked.

The Premier rose and commenced to read what appeared to be all he intended to say on the subject until forced to make further remarks as the debate grew warm.

"Some time ago," he said, "I said I would take up the matter of reorganization of government departments when the House rose. I am sticking to my programme and will do so at that time."

EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION

Mr. Pattullo remarked that it was an extraordinary situation after the government had been in office five years. While the Premier was apparently undecided on what the reorganization would be, the Legislature was asked to vote money to departments that after the reorganization might not exist. Surely more respect was due to members of the House.

"I have not taken up this work yet," replied Premier Tormie, "and it is impossible to say what the changes will be. We can vote the money for the departments and for any that are eliminated, the money will not be used."

"I accept the statement," said Mr. Pattullo, "that the Premier hasn't any idea what he is going to do."

The province, he said, was seething with unrest, waiting for something to happen. He urged the Premier to state when he proposed to call a general election, suggesting he do so forthwith. The country was unsettled and was entitled to know what the Premier's plans were. This unrest was rife in the confines of the Premier's own party and it was the duty of the prime minister to tell this House when he would call a general election.

"That is a privilege held by the prime minister," said the Premier, "and I propose to give this serious consideration, and when I think it is right for the good of the country to call a general election I will do so." Premier Tormie said this view was strongly supported by members of his party, claiming they had been strongly behind him during the session. The Leader of the Opposition said he was prepared to go to the country and let the people decide, but he, the Premier, did not think he was in any great demand.

"The prime minister thinks I am," retorted Mr. Pattullo. "He demanded me."

"That," replied the Premier, "is because you are at the head of a party."

As an individual you would not be an asset to union government."

ONLY TO DOG FIGHT

"I hold you in the highest esteem personally. I think you would be a fine chap to go to a dog fight on a horse race with, but as for getting the robes of the people of British Columbia their memories are far too fresh of what you have done in the past," said the Premier.

Mr. Pattullo: "Yet you asked me to join you in the formation of a union government. Now you say you would not mind going with me to a dog fight or a horse race. The prime minister has not paid me the same courtesy that I have extended to him."

Premier Tormie said he was sorry if he had said anything impolite and remarked that much greater Liberals than Mr. Pattullo had refused to participate in union government.

"I do not think the Leader of the Opposition would be of any value politically as far as he is personally concerned. He would be a liability, not an asset."

Mr. Pattullo: "The Premier wants me to come in with him and bring the Liberal party, but the Premier does not carry his own party. He just wants me to take him in my arms and carry him along. He doesn't control his party, and would it be a great thing if I took him up, had him in my arms and then the Conservative Party came along within the fifteen days, which they have given him after the House rises, and said: 'We don't like the color of the horse,' and leave me with him."

"You wouldn't carry me very far before you were ready to put me down," replied the Premier. He repeated that a general election would be called after due consideration. Regarding union government, all he asked was for the two parties to join and put the province ahead of party.

Mr. Pattullo: "If I had thought it would be for the good of the country I would have joined him, but I think it would nullify the Liberal Party and prevent it putting into effect measures to benefit the country."

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By H. B. W.

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London Company Will Construct \$2,500,000 Bridge Taking Two Years to Do It

Bill Being Brought Down in Legislature To-day; Over 1,500 Men Will Be Employed

The B.C. government will bring down a bill to-day calling for an agreement with the Ladner Bridge Company Ltd., for the construction of a \$2,600,000 traffic bridge over the Fraser River from Ladner to Woodward's Landing. The bridge will take two years to complete and employ between 1,500 and 2,000 men, and will provide a new direct route between Vancouver and the Peace Arch at the international boundary. The tolls will be fixed by the government.

If there are any deficits after payments of interest, sinking funds and maintenance cost, the government will meet half the loss. The government also will share in any profits. Any deficit met by the government must be repaid out of subsequent profits.

Dorman, Long and Co., of London, Eng., world famous bridge contractors, who built the bridge at Sydney, Australia, will be in charge of construction for the Ladner Bridge Company Ltd., which is a private concern.

The proposed agreement will place restrictions and control in the hands of the Minister of Public Works with respect to the plans and costs of construction, toll charges, operation and accounting and auditing of the company.

The London interests are willing to accept provincial government bonds in payment of construction of road connections, but as the road construction is something apart from the bridge company's contract, that will be open to tender. Provision is also made in the bill for the acquisition of the bridge by the government after a period of years, in the event that the government may then desire to own the structure.

It is estimated that there will be a saving in unemployment relief alone of approximately \$400,000 during the period of construction of the bridge, which will obviate the necessity of constructing an expensive car ferry and greatly relieve the heavy traffic on the New Westminster bridge and avoid a very large expenditure on that structure within a relatively short time.

Across The Bay

We work hard and accomplish a good deal—for we have felt the first touch of spring fever—and are eager to get home—but we can't go until a number of unpleasant things have been settled.

By H. B. W.

WORKING DAY

THE HOUSE came back after the week-end in its working clothes. It had smelled the full flavor of spring on Sunday and this first whiff of warmth and growth is always fatal to a session. After that a session quickly dies, and it is amazing what prodigies of labor this House can perform when it wants to go home for good.

All afternoon we bowled along at a terrific pace, accomplishing much more business than we had done in all the preceding days. Gladly the opposition co-operated in pushing ahead bill after bill, for there is still a good deal to do and just a possibility that we may not finish this week. It will depend in the end, of course, not on the House proceedings, but on the secret agonies of the Conservative caucus which is trying to build new governments and rear new policies and having a pretty miserable time generally.

But none of these things appeared on the surface. To look at the Premier you would never imagine that he is on the eve of a cabinet reorganization which may very well reorganize him out of the cabinet along with his other colleagues. To look at the complete composure of Mr. Berry you would hardly suppose that a large part of the Conservative caucus, possibly a majority, is determined to make him Premier before the month is out. As for Mr. Pattullo, he seemed like a man whose only object in life was to help the government get the country's business completed and then to go fishing. And the private members gave a remarkably lifelike imitation of men who know what it is all about.

MOVING FAST

THE FIRST business of the day was to reject by a vote of eighteen to sixteen Mr. Uphill's effort to introduce a drugless healers' bill. After that we ploughed through acres of minor legislation. No one objected when Mr. Pooley got a bill past three readings at one swoop, instead of taking three days as usual. No one even objected when Mr. Pooley put the House into committees, found that he had forgotten something or other, moved that the committee report progress when there had been none, and went on with something else.

The first sign of a fight came on the second reading of a bill which would extend the present moratorium on mortgage principal for one year. Mr. Pooley said that it would be unfair to investors to make the moratorium include interest, which many members desire, that the wartime moratorium had led to many abuses and that he was feeling out of sorts and didn't want to be interrupted lest he lose his temper. Many a Conservative does not agree with Mr. Pooley, and will have an opportunity to record his view at a later stage.

FIRST RAID

MR. JONES lunged boldly into the arena where angels fear to tread when he asked passage of his bill which takes the municipalities' share of betting taxes away from them, the first item in the government's intended raid on Municipal treasuries. But at the same time Mr. Pooley was introducing a bill to compensate them somewhat by allowing the municipalities to waive their sinking fund provisions for this year.

Mr. Pattullo opposed Mr. Jones's plan, said nothing of the sort should be done without a full inquiry, called the government's plan for a royal commission simply a blind which would leave responsibility for action on the next government, and divided the House. Only Mr. Loutet broke the solid Conservative phalanx. Mr. Dick and Mr. Walkem, who voted with the Liberals, having been written off by the government as a total loss long ago.

Mr. Pattullo objected also to Mr. Jones's bill which winds up a number of tag ends of old outstanding powers to borrow money, which were not used in the past. He objected to this summary end of the fund created by the Liberal government for industrial loans; and Mr. Pearson remarked pointedly that the government, having refused to abolish the industries department, despite the public accounts committee's recommendation for five years, had made what industrial loans it liked and now proposed to prevent its successors from doing anything of the sort. What Mr. Pattullo had in mind in demanding about \$1,000,000 for industrial undertakings he did not say. It might be necessary for "exigencies," was his cryptic explanation.

SAD END

THE ONLY spirited argument of the day centred around Mr. Berry's bill which protects the committee of the Fraser Valley Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act from legal suits for enforcing that defunct statute. Mr. Loutet led a fierce attack on it, said it was "an act to protect the receivers of stolen goods," and rallied nine others to his support. But with Mr. Pattullo warmly backing Mr. Berry, the protecting act passed with twenty-nine affirmative votes and thus ended, in rather melancholy style, the most radical legal experiment in the modern history of the province.

There was sign of future trouble just before dinner time when Mr. Pattullo demanded consideration of the opposition motion which calls for details of a certain large government bond transaction a few months ago. The Premier said Mr. Jones, who was absent, did not think it in the public interest to reveal these facts. Instantly Mr. Pattullo was ready to denounce this secrecy, for the opposition evidently sees something funny in the transaction, but he was not allowed to speak at this

stage. We have not heard the last of it, however.

SLOW TEMPO

IN THE evening the tempo was slower. It took over an hour to put through one small item of supply, relating to the administration of mothers' pensions. Nearly everyone seemed to have ideas about mothers' pensions, and the opposition evidently considers its protest against the government's handling of these allowances as a major point of attack. Mr. Manson presented with vigor the Liberal viewpoint that the government is systematically whittling down mothers' pensions by harsh, pinch-penny administration, by bringing hardship to many deserving families and generally evading the spirit of the pension law. This Provincial Secretary Howe denied, and also that there had been any political tinge in his appointment of women who investigate pensions applications.

Colonel Spencer uttered his former warning that British Columbia cannot afford the luxuries of social legislation enjoyed by the richer provinces of Ontario and Quebec, but when he said we were heading straight for a provincial receivership, Mr. Pattullo seized the opportunity to enunciate Liberal policy. He said there would never be any receiver so far as he was concerned, that the power of the people was paramount, and that Colonel Spencer was using phraseology which he didn't understand. This was the Pattullonian and parliamentary way of saying he didn't know what he was talking about.

Justice, said Mr. Pattullo, must be tempered with mercy, the able horse must carry the load and the able horse was the collective power of the people through government. To which the government listened without much comment, having its own views and being anxious chiefly to get the business of the session transacted.

TOO VIRTUOUS

MR. UPHILL was the only bright spot of the evening, with his racy description of the lady visitors who administer mothers' pensions. God bless the ladies, said Mr. Uphill, he loved them all—except these visitors with their "virtuous, vindictive look of girls that have never been tempted."

There was a brief flash of excitement when Mr. Pattullo demanded details of the government's well-known F.G.E. sale negotiations, which the Premier firmly declined to reveal. He said he was dealing with large, reliable firms in London and New York, but premature publication of their names and plans would be damaging. When Mr. Pattullo opined that the government's great P.G.E. bubble had already burst, the Premier said Mr. Pattullo was something of an authority on such bubbles, having blown many in his time, one just before the last election, which had burst with a loud report as soon as the poll was over. Mr. Pattullo retorted that the old government had been sponsoring a worthwhile scheme and that there was no use the

government dealing with anyone who was not co-operating with the two big Canadian railways. And we got no real information about the P.G.E.

When the House adjourned some time before midnight, it was with the consciousness of work well done and a feeling that it would be home by next week-end.

EXTENSION OF MORTGAGE AID

Moratorium on Principal Payments to Continue For Year

Hoist to Tax and Interest Payments Not Favored

A straight moratorium on sinking fund payments in 1933 only if a municipal council so wishes is provided for in amendments to the Municipal Act brought down in the Legislature yesterday. The clause dealing with the matter reads as follows:

"Notwithstanding the provisions of the Municipal Act or of any by-law of the municipality, the council of any municipality may by bylaw provide that in the year 1933 it shall not be necessary to levy or raise or provide the full amount of money required by by-laws of the municipality to be provided for sinking fund purposes, and determine what amount, if any, shall be levied or raised or provided for those purposes in that year."

Another clause in the bill gives a municipal council power to prohibit or regulate parades, marches, or processions of any kind or nature or public meetings or other demonstrations of any kind or nature, through or on the public streets, highways, squares or places of the city.

The penalties for unpaid taxes is cut from 15 to 10 per cent.

Power is also given municipal council to cut the existing penalties in half. A further clause gives a council power by by-law to extend, for not more than one year, the time now allowed for redemption of property reverted to the city for taxes.

Authority is given a municipal council under another clause to refuse a business license. This may be done only by the unanimous vote of all the members present.

Further provisions make it necessary for a person bringing suit against a municipality to launch the action within a certain time.

Where property has reverted to the municipality the municipality now has no option but to proceed under the act. An amendment will permit the council to negotiate with owners wishing to redeem their property. This is operative only during 1933.

Victoria's application for power to control the reconstruction of wooden buildings which have been damaged by fire is included.

MILK BATTLE BREWS AGAIN

Bill Winding Up Act Revives Old Warfare in Legislature

Strong language and a sharp difference of opinion in no way associated with party lines marked the second reading in the Legislature yesterday of J. W. Berry's bill to wind up the Committee of Adjustment under the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act.

Jack Loutet, describing the measure as "an act to protect the receivers of stolen property," moved a twelve months' hoist. This was voted down by twenty-nine to ten on recorded division. The ten opponents of the bill were: Loutet, Rutledge, Hanna, Dick, Cornett, Mitchell, Alward, Walkem, Hayward, Twigg.

J. W. Berry and A. M. Manson were the chief speakers for the bill. They explained it had two provisions. It provided for winding up the committee under the Companies Act and the Supreme Court. It also indemnified the members of the committee against lawsuits which might be brought against them for deeds performed in their official capacity under the act, which has, of course, been declared null and void by the courts on constitutional grounds.

The difference of opinion was with regard to indemnification of the members of the Committee of Adjustment, of which C. A. Welsh, New Westminster merchant, was chairman.

R. W. Rutledge said the bill deprived independent milk producers of the right to obtain payment of monies "illegally gouged out of them" by the committee. Jack Loutet said the government should audit the committee's books before allowing the bill to pass, to see if all the money was collected and disbursed in accordance with the act, which the member said he doubted.

"Who paid the costs of the court appeals?" he asked.

A. M. Manson said the indemnification was in the same language as that provided for magistrates and court officials who may make decisions under acts subsequently found to be ultra vires. H. D. Twigg said judges and magistrates acting for the crown were in a different position from a committee acting for private individuals.

T. D. Pattullo said that once the Legislature had put through such a measure, wisely or unwisely, it should protect those charged with its administration from claims against them arising from the upsetting of the act. It was as much in the interests of independent as co-operative that the decision should be made by the highest court in the land. Col. Nelson Spencer took the same stand.

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe raised a question as to whether the committee from repayment of levies collected after the court's decision had declared the act unconstitutional. T. H. Kirk said he would support the bill if assurances were given that no levies were collected from independents after the first court decision.

G. A. Walkem said he favored winding up the committee, but would move at a later stage to strike out the indemnification clause.

NOTES OF THE LEGISLATURE

After some weeks of suspense Attorney-General Pooley has at last given notice to the Legislature of a bill to validate certain illegal expenditures by the Corporation of Burnaby.

Reeve W. A. Fritchard, chairman of the Burnaby council's finance committee and the municipal treasurer, were sued by a ratepayer for using public money for relief of the destitute unemployed.

Mr. Justice Murphy indicated at the end of the trial that he considered the officials' procedure illegal, but suspended judgment to see what the Legislature would do. There was for some time a strong opinion in the government that nothing should be done, and that the ordinary judgment of the court imposing heavy penalties should be entered. This opinion has evidently now changed.

Government Contingents

Election Could Also Delayed For Eleven Months If Desired

Unusual Courses Outlined For Conservatives

With the corridors of Parliament Buildings bristling with election rumors and T. D. Liberal leader, frequent upon Premier Tolmie to when he plans to make to the country the move was volunteered this morning if it decided to do so the government could remain until February of next year.

The present Legislature would dissolve on September 1st, which will be five years after returns were made and the present Legislature of over their responsibilities.

WITHIN ONE YEAR

This, however, does not mean an election must be called. The provision is that the Legislature must sit within one year after the rising from the session. Presuming the Legislature rises out April 6th, a cabinet ministers could office if they decided to usual course until February of next year, when it would be necessary to call an election. Members could sit for a session in April.

WITHOUT ELECTION

It is also pointed out Premier Tolmie decide to support he may step out party membership in the name cabinet ministers. They may function at the hearings and it would not for them to be elected. They would, however, be in the House. This action, then, is not without precedent in Columbia.

Two Offers P.G.E. Rate

London and New York Bidding, Says Pooley

In response to a demand Pattullo for a frank statement where the negotiations for P.G.E. stood, Premier Tolmie said in the Legislature yesterday that he had not yet received from him at the present time from two responsible firms standing one in London and one in New York, which were being investigated. He declined to name or the nature of the offers under consideration, and said he would give the public the information.

Mr. Pattullo said he believed that any responsible people would conduct negotiations, but he had an understanding with the C.P.R. and C.N.R. which often stated before, were usually responsible for railway construction in Canada. No comparison of the P.G.E. without consideration of the two big lines.

Hon. R. W. Bruhn also in committee of supply. He said that the agreement entered into with the Dominion government representing a delegation representing the municipalities of the Ottawa Valley to discuss this

Government Could Continue For Year

Election Could Also Be Delayed For Eleven Months If Desired

Unusual Courses Outlined As Conservatives Gaze at Foggy Future

With the corridors of the Parliament Buildings bristling with election rumors and T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, frequently calling upon Premier Tolmie to announce when he plans to make an appeal to the country the information was volunteered this morning that if it decided to do so the present government could remain in office until February of next year.

The present Legislature automatically dissolve on September 1 next which will be five years from the day returns were made and members of the present Legislature officially took over their responsibilities.

WITHIN ONE YEAR

This, however, does not mean that an election must be called immediately. The provision is made that the Legislature must sit within one year after the rising from the previous session. Presuming the present Legislature rises out April 6 next the session of a newly-elected house must be called by April 5, 1934. The present cabinet ministers could remain in office if they decided to take this unusual course until February or March of next year when it would be necessary to call an election so that new members could sit for the necessary session in April.

WITHOUT ELECTION

It is also pointed out that should Premier Tolmie decide to seek outside support he may step outside of his party membership in the House to name cabinet ministers. The ministers may function at the head of departments and it would not be necessary for them to be elected as members. They would, however, be unable to sit in the House. This action, it is pointed out, is not without precedent in British Columbia.

Two Offers For P.G.E. Railway

London and New York Firm Bidding, Says Premier Tolmie

In response to a demand from T. D. Pattullo for a frank statement as to where the negotiations for sale of the P.G.E. stood, Premier Tolmie told the Legislature yesterday that he had before him at the present time offers from two responsible firms of the highest standing, one in London and one in New York, which were being investigated. He declined to give their names or the nature of the terms under consideration, although Mr. Pattullo said the public had a right to the information.

Mr. Pattullo said he could not believe that any responsible financial people would conduct negotiations unless they had an understanding with the C.P.R. and C.N.R. who, as he had often stated before, were fundamentally responsible for railway transportation in Canada. No company could operate the P.G.E. without the co-operation of the two big lines, he said.

Hon. E. W. Bruhn also announced in committee of supply that no new unemployment agreement would be entered into with the Dominion until a delegation representing the government and the municipalities could visit Ottawa to discuss the matter.

BILL TO CUT GRANTS MOVES

Three Conservatives Join Liberals Voting Against Measure in Legislature

Autocratic and Unfair, Say Members Opposing Measure

Three Conservative members and Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, joined with Liberal members of the Legislature yesterday in voting against the bill brought down by Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, implementing the elimination of a share of pari-mutuel grants to British Columbia municipalities as set out in his budget.

The Conservative members who opposed the loss to the municipalities were George Walkem, L. Loulet and William Dick. T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, and George S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, spoke against the bill.

Mr. Jones pointed out the municipalities were paid \$7,000,000 in grants last year and \$53,000,000 in the last eleven years. The \$7,000,000 paid last year was practically one-quarter of the whole of the revenue of the province. With falling revenues the province could not continue to be so generous.

Mr. Pattullo pointed out much of the money was collected in the cities. It was not fair after autocratically placing extra burdens on the municipalities last year to take away grants, without consultation, this year. The government recognized the problem was its own by its announcement there would be a royal commission on the subject. It could not operate to do any good this year and had only been appointed under pressure. The grants should have remained until the commission had sat, and even then the commission could not settle matters of governmental policy.

Mr. Pearson pointed to liquor and other revenues the province had taken from the cities while the cities were called upon to meet increasing expenses and described the elimination of the grants as extremely unfair.

TRUCK LICENSE PLEA OFFERED

Delegation Calls on Attorney-General Asking Reconsideration

Operators of trucks and motor busses, headed by R. T. Elliott, K.C., waited upon Attorney-General E. H. Pooley this morning and requested a year's hiatus be given to the bill now before the Legislature putting into effect a new scale of motor license fees.

The delegation, which numbered fourteen, pointed out some new angles to the truck and bus traffic, which, they thought, called for more consideration.

A light delivery runabout, doing eighteen miles to the gallon and 1,000 miles a month, would consume fifty-five gallons of gasoline. The revenue from this car would amount to \$63.58 per year, including a license fee of \$15.00, and gasoline tax of 7 cents a gallon.

With a one-ton truck doing eleven miles to the gallon the government receives a revenue of \$109.84 for the same mileage, license and gas tax.

The larger the equipment, the delegation showed, the more revenue to the government.

The Vancouver Island Coach Lines now pays a yearly gasoline tax of \$14,000 a year and the new scale of fees will materially increase that concern's overhead, if not compelling higher fares.

Widows' Pension Slash Attacked

Reduction of \$200,000 Draws Fire From Members of Legislature

Humanitarianism Must Not Be Sacrificed, Says Liberal Leader

Despite protestations of Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary, to the contrary, George S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, insisted the government had adopted "a policy of cutting down expenses at the cost of widows and children."

The difference arose when the vote for mothers' pensions—cut from \$850,000 to \$615,000—was under consideration.

Wells Gray, Liberal, New Westminster, quoted cases in his district to substantiate Mr. Pearson and said this chipping away at mothers' pensions was not the wish of the people or the municipalities.

The reduction in the vote was explained by Mr. Howe as due to the fact seventy women had been cut off and more were likely to be cut off.

This was not because they would be deprived of their pensions but because their children were growing up. It had been found many women were getting the pension who should not, but it was not going to be harder for those who were entitled to get it to secure a pension.

"Isn't it a fact a widow with one child, regardless of her physical condition is unable to secure pension?" Mr. Pearson asked.

Mr. Howe replied this was not so in all cases. The superintendent had a lot of leeway to rule on applications. Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe pointed out that it was an established custom that a woman with one child was not entitled to a pension, and this had been followed by the previous government.

A. I. Manson, Liberal, Omineca, took issue with Mr. Hinchliffe on this point. He said it would be recalled how Mr. Hinchliffe had wept bucketfuls over some cases, but the previous administration had not adopted a policy of refusing a pension to a widow with one child when the circumstances warranted.

"REGARDLESS OF SENTIMENT"

Col. Nelson Spencer, Conservative, Vancouver, thought when the small population of British Columbia dug down in their pockets to the extent they did for mothers' pensions they did pretty well. British Columbia was trying to copy its legislation after the great provinces of Quebec and Ontario and it could not do it. Regardless of sentiment it was British Columbia's duty to guard its finances or it would be in a position where a receiver would be in. "We can't let sentiment go too far in this direction or any other," he said.

"As far as my influence goes," said T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, "there will be no receiver in this province. The power of the people is paramount." Humanitarianism must not be sacrificed in the squeezing of the dollar, he said, in vigorous criticism of worthy cases being refused or struck off the mothers' pension list.

Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, protested against worthy applications being refused in his constituency and others being reduced or struck off the list.

Dr. W. H. Sutherland, Liberal, Revelstoke, protested that university-trained graduates in social service work were barred and applicants without special training were named to the position of mothers' pensions visitors in the welfare branch of the Provincial Secretary's department. Hon. S. L. Howe claimed capable persons were appointed without regard to politics.

Miss Charlotte Whitton's appointment as investigator of mothers' pensions was criticized by Mr. Manson. He was not impressed with her work, he said, and thought there were competent women in British Columbia who could have done the work as well, or better.

Mr. Howe claimed Miss Whitton was recognized as the most competent woman in Canada or the North American continent for the work she did.

"Nonsense," said Mr. Manson. "She is recognized by herself as the most competent, but not by anybody else."

HOSPITALS MAY GET MORE HELP

Provincial Secretary Intimates New Legislature Will Be Brought Down

South Vancouver Member Hopes Government Will Consider Sweepstakes

Intimation that British Columbia hospitals whose grants have been cut from \$820,000 to \$550,000 will receive aid from another source, was given by Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary in the Legislature yesterday. Mr. Howe asked the grant be stood over. There would be legislation on the subject, he said, but could say no more at this time.

Hopes that if Ottawa passed legislation permitting sweepstakes the British Columbia Government would sponsor them for the benefit of hospitals were expressed by J. W. Cornett, Conservative, South Vancouver.

A. M. Manson, K.C., regretted to note a government member was urging the administration to get out of the hole by resorting to gambling. The fact that Senator McRae was advocating sweepstakes meant very little, as Premier Bennett was definitely opposed to them. Should they become law, Mr. Manson thought the proceeds should go into the state treasury, as in France, and the government should take the responsibility of distributing the funds.

Mr. Cornett said that after Lucky Dave made his famous win on the Irish sweep, \$100,000 went out of this province for the next sweepstake. He did not think enough money could be raised by sweepstakes to finance British Columbia hospitals, but they would go a long way. People who bought sweepstake tickets now did not get a run for their money. They did not know if it would get to its destination.

HOUSE REJECTS DRUGLESS BILL

Thomas Uphill Fails to Get Measure Before Legislature

By two votes Thomas Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, was refused permission to bring before the Legislature yesterday a Drugless Healers' Bill which sought to give them control of their own affairs apart from the medical profession.

Against the admission of the bill were Messrs. McKenzie, Bruhn, Beatty, Schofield, Hayward, Twigg, Alward, Gillis, Manson, Sutherland, Kergin, Wrinch, Lister, Borden, Kingston, Carson, Mackenzie and Fitzsimmons.

Those voting in favor were Premier Tolmie, Messrs. Pooley, Hinchliffe, Jones, Howe, Lougheed, Macintosh, MacNaughton, MacPherson, Pearson, Hanna, King, Uphill, Rutledge, Loulet and Pattullo.

Mr. Uphill asked the division be recorded on the journals of the House and secured the necessary two other supporting members to make his request effective.

HEAVY TRUCKS TO PAY MORE

Many Light Cars Will Get Lower License, Attorney-General Says

New Licenses Can Be Taken Out at Any Month in Year

Heavy commercial trucks in British Columbia will pay a substantial increase in licenses, but many lighter cars will pay less under the new system of paying automobile licenses by weight, Attorney-General Pooley said in the Legislature yesterday during second reading of the bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act.

Mr. Pooley explained the bill provided for part year licenses beyond the extent stated in The Victoria Times on Saturday, when it was stated licenses for new cars could be taken out at any month during the year. This provision will also apply to new licenses on any car when the owner does not take out his license when they are first issued, which in future will be March 1. A difference is made east of the Cascades, where, on account of the snow an owner who takes out his license at the beginning of the year may receive a rebate if he turns in his license plates and stores his car during November or December.

MORE FOR OLD CARS

Some larger brands of old cars will have to pay more because no depreciation allowance will be written off in future. A new fee for light cars of \$12 had been set where they formerly paid \$16.50. There were 788 cars in the province which would come under that class. Cars of from 1,500 pounds to 2,000 which now paid an average of \$18.51, would pay \$15. In the class of 2,000 pounds to 3,000 there was a small increase. The average license paid now was \$19.73. The new fee would be \$20.

To Mr. Pooley's mind, trucks which took a heavy toll of the public roads should pay more than called for in the new scale. One truck alone over the Cariboo did \$17,000 damage one year. Giving comparisons, Mr. Pooley showed a 1,500-lb. car in British Columbia paid \$20, in Quebec \$19, and in Saskatchewan \$23.

When people of British Columbia complained of high licenses they would do well to look what their neighbors were doing. Mr. Pooley commented, it was true in Washington license fees as low as \$3 were charged but the personal property tax the owners had to pay was overlooked.

LETTERS ON BOND DEAL REFUSED

Not in Public Interest, Premier Tolmie Informs Legislature

Unsuccessful efforts were made yesterday to bring before the Legislature copies of correspondence affecting the provincial government's \$4,000,000 bond sale in February.

T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, asked that the motion for a return of papers be brought up during the afternoon, as the House required the information before voting Finance Department estimates. Premier Tolmie agreed to this, but at the close of the afternoon had not done so. Mr. Pattullo asked again, and he explained that the Minister of Finance was absent. Mr. Pattullo asked when he would be available, and the Premier said:

"I am advised by the Finance Minister that it would not be in the interests of the province to reveal this information at the present time."

It is expected that further pressure will be brought to bear, as there has been much criticism of the manner in which the sale was made.

Extension of Time On Tax Sale Land

Cut From Fifteen to Ten in Penalty on Arrears Also Provided For in Bill

Bill Gives Councils Power to Refuse Business Licenses

Extension for one year of the bill passed at the last session providing for a moratorium on mortgage principal payments, where the court approves, was called for in a bill before the Legislature for second reading yesterday.

Attorney-General Pooley explained the bill extends the provision to thirty days after the termination of the next session, with one extra provision; it gave a judge power to reopen a case after an extension had been given

when the condition might be changed. The mortgagee might secure a job after the extension had been granted and be able to pay up.

Mr. Pooley mentioned many suggestions had been offered on the subject, saying the moratorium should include taxes and interest. He had an estimate made of the small mortgages of \$3,000 and under in the province and they amounted to \$40,000,000. It would readily be seen if those small investors were deprived of the use of their interest many of them would be forced on the unemployed list. Sixty days after the passage of the legislation last year one old-established firm in the province lost \$250,000 of British money that was called back to England. Mr. Pooley also asked what would happen to the municipalities if taxes were included. There would be people who could well pay who would take advantage of such a moratorium.

MEAL TAX IN B.C. TO RAISE HOSPITAL FUNDS

British Columbia hospitals will have the \$200,000 reduction in grants provided for in the present budget made up to them by a tax on meals, under legislation referred to by Hon. S. L. Howe in the Legislature yesterday and about which more information was given to-day.

The proposed tax will apply to meals in restaurants which cost more than fifty cents and will be collected by the proprietors as theatre taxes are collected. Details have not been disclosed but it is reported that on meals between fifty cents and a dollar, five cents will be charged and it will grow after that amount. It is reported to have been tried with success in Quebec.

MAY PROROGUE ON THURSDAY

Many Bills Put Through Final Stages in Legislature Yesterday

Quick progress made on bills before the Legislature yesterday afternoon and evening brought indications that the business to come before the session may be finished to-morrow in time for the House to prorogue Thursday morning.

A number of bills have passed final reading and await the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor. Record progress has been made with the estimates and there are few motions on the order paper that promise to provoke long discussions.

Vancouver Incorporation Act amendments, occasion of lively passages during their committee stage in the Legislature last Friday were given their third reading without comment. No effort to reopen any of the controversial issues was made.

The Shaughnessy Heights Act, concerning which two groups of property owners waged a strenuous contest before the Private Bill Committee, was also given its committee stage and third reading at the one sitting of the House without debate.

Bills given final reading yesterday included a bill to amend the Dying Assesments Adjustment Act, 1926; a

bill respecting an agreement between the City of New Westminster, C.P.R. and B.C. Electric Railway Company relating to the diversion of Columbia Street, New Westminster; a bill amending the Security Frauds Prevention Act; a bill to extend the Duration of the Insurance (Temporary Provisional) Act, 1932; a bill to amend the Sales on Consignment Act; a bill amending the Supreme Court Act; a bill amending the Sale and Inspection of Fruit and Fruit-containers; a bill amending the Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1921; a bill amending the Shaughnessy Heights Building Restriction Act, 1922, and a bill to amend the Village Municipalities Act.

Bills to amend the Small Debts Court Act, Municipal Elections Act, Municipalities Aid Act, to limit the borrowing powers under certain Loan Acts of the province, and a bill respecting the Lower Mainland Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Committee were read a second time.

Bills to amend the Forest Act, Mineral Act, Community Regulations Act and Public Libraries Act were reported.

PROPOSES AID TO INDUSTRIES

Liberal Leader Urges Legislature Not to Wipe Out Department

During second reading of a routine bill to limit borrowing powers under certain loan acts a plea was made for the Department of Industries to be retained, in the Legislature yesterday. The bill dealt with loan acts dating back to 1916, including P.G.E. Construction Loan Acts, the B.C. University Loan Act and the Department of Industries.

Mr. Pattullo recalled the Department of Industries was started as a measure to aid returned soldiers. He believed it had served a useful purpose and losses had been more than compensated for by the advantages obtained. The present government had departed from the original idea and had made loans to other than returned soldier industries. The government now faced a similar problem to the returned soldier problem and he thought it was making a mistake in rescinding the department. It was better to leave it to meet exigencies which at present they could not foresee.

DOUKHOBORS TAKE CHILDREN

Many Young Wards of Province Will Go Back to Communities

An average of \$17.50 a month was provided for a single Doukhobor child. A widow with one child, deprived of a mother's pension, could only hope for relief of \$16.10. A. M. Manson, K.C., pointed out when a vote of \$40,000 for the maintenance of Doukhobor children was under consideration in the Legislature yesterday.

Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary, said from 300 to 400 children of incarcerated Doukhobors were wards of the province. He mentioned the province was making every effort to remove them from the institutions where they were now being maintained. Seventy-eight of them would soon be sent back to homes in Doukhobor communities.

Across Bay

We get into the dying according to old custom lively than ever—with last-minute legislation over bonds—and another interlude between the

Mr. Pattullo

By H. B. W.

OLD CUSTOM

AS IS THE immemorial habit of this Legislature the real business of only becoming apparent session is almost over. interesting abstractions, proceed to do all its co between now and the er at breakneck speed. agine that the weeks have been useless. Th the supremely useful p the House out, exhausti protests, making it readi without much tr we call the dying hour

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Across The Bay

We get into the dying hours and, according to old custom, grow more lively than ever—with a blizzard of last-minute legislation—a wrangle over bonds—and another diverting interlude between the Premier and Mr. Pattullo.

By H. B. W.

OLD CUSTOM

AS IS THE immemorial custom of this Legislature and the invariable habit of the government, the real business of this session is only becoming apparent now that the session is almost over. After weeks of interesting abstractions, the House will proceed to do all its concrete business between now and the end of the week, at breakneck speed. But don't imagine that the weeks of abstractions have been useless. They have served the supremely useful purpose of tiring the House out, exhausting all its early protests, making it ready to pass everything without much trouble, in what we call the dying hours.

The dying hours began Tuesday and the dying-hour atmosphere was heavy upon everything. But there was still a look of abstraction on the face of the Conservative delegation, for it knew that, just below the surface, the old volcano still heaved and rumbled, that besides the business of the House it had to decide in the next four days the fate of the government and the Conservative Party.

Many a hotel bedroom conference, many a caucus, many a word to the wises in the corridors marked the secret agonies of the Conservative delegation as it strove to build from the ground up a new government to replace the present one. But as it still floundered, still looked in vain for a leader, still hoped for an agreement with Mr. Pattullo, the Conservative caucus did not show much more direction in its efforts than the government which it plans to displace for lack of that very quality. Still, under the surface of the formal House proceedings events were going forward, members were yowling that they would never return home without a clear-cut policy and a new government, an egg of some sort was evidently in process of incubation.

FAR-AWAY LOOK

YOU COULD not wonder, however, that the Conservative benches were a far-away look, even under stiff jolts from the opposition, which claims to have no worries of any sort. The first jolt came on Mr. Pearson's motion asking the government to reveal details of its last unhappy loan of \$4,000,000.

Finance Minister Jones, with the proper ministerial solemnity, did not think it in the public interest to reveal these facts, as the loan hadn't all been sold yet (though it has been on the market for months). The first opposition thrust came from Dr. Winch, whose cool, analytical and passionless remarks are often more effective than the poisoned arrows of the chief warriors.

Dr. Winch just couldn't see why the House shouldn't be told about the country's business and observed with perfect equanimity that the government's silence about its bond deal raised the question whether there was something sinister about it. Nor could he understand why B.C. bonds, selling at an interest rate 1.7 per cent higher than Quebec's simultaneous issue, selling, indeed, to yield 6.69, couldn't be sold. Perhaps, he suggested, investors were not eager to loan money for old deficits, to pay for a dead horse. Well, Dr. Winch hoped there wasn't anything sinister in the loan, like secret commissions, and even this drew nothing from the Sphinx of the Treasury.

DIRTY DIC

MR. PATTULLO was not so kind, as you would expect. He indicated that he had curbed his tongue until now lest he should be accused, in discussing governmental financing, of injuring the country's credit. But now it was time the House knew what was wrong when the government couldn't sell its bonds at an extraordinarily high interest rate. He finally asked Mr. Jones point-blank, if it were true, as he had been told, that many responsible firms would not bid on the loan because the government had tied itself to another group, which demanded a commission on any bonds sold. Mr. Jones looked at Mr. Pattullo amiably with another brilliant flash of silence. Evidently, however, the government feels that the bond business has got to be discussed and explained, for Mr. Hinchliffe adjourned the debate. He can discuss and explain more ably than any man in the government.

Next followed a veritable blizzard of legislation, nearly all the big bills of the session, on liquor, on taxation, on hospital finance, on the budget proposals generally—ten potential statutes in all.

Capt. Fitzsimmons scored another of his simple triumphs when he secured unanimous passage of a resolution calling on Canadian delegates to the World Economic Conference to work for the stabilization of silver prices. The captain, in a typical speech, told what stabilized silver prices would mean to British Columbia, and described efforts in various parts of the world to put silver mining on its feet.

NO CONFIDENCE

MR. PATTULLO and Mr. Jones enjoyed another little spat—and how they do enjoy them!—over the bill which winds up the industries department and wipes out the authority to make industrial loans. Mr. Jones frankly didn't trust governments and political parties with this money and feared more losses.

Mr. Pattullo said Mr. Jones had evidently lost all confidence in government, which he didn't consider surprising, after all that had happened lately. He tried to lure Conservative

members by saying that he would not consider defeat of Mr. Jones's plan the defeat of the government, but this constitutional bait attracted nobody. The industrial loan fund was closed up and Mr. Pattullo retorted, "That's fine for union government!" This cryptic remark we could not interpret but we all knew that nothing lately has been finer for union government, that union government is at death's door.

In the evening the Premier and Mr. Pattullo resumed, in a mild way the feud which they started last week. It was all over the work of Tom Coventry as fruit commissioner in London, a post to which he was appointed, in the opinion of Mr. Pattullo, because he gave up his seat in Saanich to the Premier. The Premier sat back and coaxed Mr. Pattullo to say something he would regret, and kept repeating, "Come on with it." Mr. Pattullo, somewhat annoyed, protested against an unseemly wrangle, a colloquy between the Premier and him, but this only made the Premier more belligerent. Looking squarely at Mr. Pattullo he said he had appointed Mr. Coventry on his merits, that he owed him nothing for the Saanich seat, which he had secured in full convention. And now Mr. Coventry was doing well.

All this drew from Mr. Pattullo the solemn warning that we could not afford such luxuries as Mr. Coventry, that we were "on the brink" financially and that the worst was yet to come. The government, indeed, had brought in estimates knowing full well it wouldn't have to provide the money since it was going out of office, at which Mr. Hinchliffe laughed, but rather sadly. The Premier retorted boldly that Mr. Pattullo was the worse prophet he had ever seen, having prophesied certain victory for himself and his party in 1928 and been "likened out of his boots." Mr. Pattullo observed that he still had his boots and was not impressed with the Premier's prediction that he would never wear them in office.

ANYOX STRIFE VIEWS DIFFER

Attorney-General Pooley Presents Fifteen Weapons Used By Strikers

Police Struck First Blow Claims Atlin Member

A dozen lengths of weighted rubber hose and a couple of steel drills were produced by Attorney-General Pooley in the Legislature yesterday evening as samples of the weapons which striking miners carried as they marched into Anyox during the recent strike there.

In a lengthy debate on the subject Attorney-General Pooley's reference to 400 armed miners, mostly foreigners, was scorned by H. F. Kergin, Liberal member for Atlin who said the fifteen weapons produced were no evidence 400 miners were armed. Mr. Pooley's declaration that foreigners must obey Canadian laws drew fire from other members who said corporations had invited southern Europeans and other foreigners to come into the country, given them jobs in preference to English-speaking workmen because they thought they were more docile and would work for lower wages and must shoulder the responsibility themselves.

DEFENDS POLICE

The debate arose when the vote of \$604,989 for the provincial police was under consideration. Attorney-General Pooley lauded the efficiency of the force and defended their actions during the strike which had been criticized on a previous occasion by the member for Atlin. A small force of eighteen men had dealt with 400 armed miners. He produced the weapons and asked if they would be carried by peaceful strikers as Mr. Kergin had called them. The miners were also equipped with miners' helmets better than the steel helmets used during the war, he said, and planned to march to the town and take control. They threatened to throw a police officer over the bridge.

Mr. Pooley produced photographs of the bridge and the weapons. Eighty-four per cent of the men had foreign names, the Attorney-General proceeded and some of those with British and Scotch names could not speak a word of English. They had changed their names to cover themselves from the police.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, took issue on this point remarking that because a few men with foreign names had taken more license than they should it was not a right attitude for the police to look with suspicion on all foreigners.

SECRETLY ORGANIZED
Had the miners gone the right way about things and applied to the Minister of Labor they might have secured a peaceful settlement of their dispute, Mr. Pooley said. But secret organization was carried on and when a man named Bradley, declared by Mr. Pooley to be one of the worst agitators in the country, arrived it only needed a spark to create trouble.

FOREIGNERS PREFERRED
The presence of the fishing patrol boat was explained by Mr. Pooley by saying that it happened to be in the district and he ordered it to stay there in case the police needed it.

Mr. Kergin challenged Mr. Pooley to prove 400 men were armed. He was using hearsay evidence he could not substantiate, Mr. Kergin declared. The miners never got weapons until the police struck the first blow, Mr. Kergin claimed. Regarding the reference to foreigners he pointed out the company had engaged them.

Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernia, said it had been the policy of big companies for the last fifteen years to employ foreigners because they thought them more docile. They had given them work in preference to Canadian or British people and if they were having trouble with them now it was their own fault.

A. M. Manson, K.C., said Mr. Pooley living in the peaceful city of Victoria was not in touch with labor troubles. Labor men were usually fair and appeared so in the Anyox case where they had taken a sliding scale of wages based on the price of copper. Foreigners were sometimes good citizens but if there were complaints it must

be remembered some companies had shown a preference to southern European labor and the Anyox company had been conspicuous in this regard. Mr. Manson was not impressed with the presentation of fifteen weapons. The attitude of the management seemed to be "give us enough police strength and we will settle the trouble." Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Minister of Labor, said he sent his deputy minister to the scene. The main problem was the price of copper was so low the company did not care whether it operated or not. The Department of Labor was not consulted by the men. The red element got in and organized the strike. The company manager notified the department that on account of the cold weather and the danger of tanks freezing \$150,000 to \$200,000 damage might be done and in that event the New York people interested would order the plant closed.

OPPOSITION TO NEW BEER PLAN

Opponents Say Government Has No Mandate From People For Change

Opposition from temperance quarters to the proposal to bring down legislation permitting beer parlors to sell bottled beer to be taken away from the premises is forecast before the bill comes before the House.

The main objection likely to be offered is that there has been no mandate from the people for this course to be followed and such action would be against the plebiscite approved by the people in 1924.

On that occasion the electors of the province were asked to vote on the sale of beer by the glass in licensed premises. An amendment to the act was afterwards passed providing for the sale of beer in beer parlors from opened bottles. No mandate was ever given, it is pointed out, for beer to be sold except by the glass from any other source than government liquor stores. The question is also being asked whether the privilege of selling beer to take away will be extended to clubs.

Renewed objections are anticipated from the Prohibition Association on the grounds that the government is departing from the spirit of the act and is stimulating the sale of beer and liquor for the purpose of raising revenue instead of merely meeting the demands of people seeking beer or liquor. Falling profits should give no concern to the government they claim as the act should never have been regarded from the revenue-producing standpoint.

NOTES OF THE LEGISLATURE

Following a slight throat infection, Hon. William Atkinson is confined to his home on the advice of his physician. Mr. Atkinson has been troubled with his throat for some time, and this week was advised to take a brief rest. He was convalescing satisfactorily yesterday.

John Bennett, provincial commissioner in charge of Burnaby municipality, requested the government, yesterday, to make a second reduction in his own remuneration.

George P. Napier, assistant chief engineer of the Department of Public Works, will take over the duties of Deputy Minister of Railways, in addition to his own. Premier Tzimie stated in the Legislature. Estimates in the Department of Railways were voted, as were most of the votes in the Provincial Secretary's department. Statutory grants to hospitals, listed at \$555,000, compared with \$820,000 last year, were stood over, pending introduction of legislation that may affect the vote.

NOTES OF THE LEGISLATURE

Unemployed men will be given an opportunity to go placer mining under terms of a bill brought down in the Legislature Tuesday evening by Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Minister of Mines.

The plan is not to grubstake men, but to send them out under the supervision of experienced miners for a day's food and shelter.

The scheme provides for the creation of placer mining reserves recommended by resident mining engineers. On these reserves will be located placer mining training camps.

The cost of the scheme will be charged to the Unemployed Relief Funds.

A bill which evoked some curiosity in the Legislature yesterday, was one to validate a treasury bill for \$484,300 issued by the government on April 1 and authorized on March 30. It represents a loan from the Bank of Commerce at 5 1/2 per cent, repayable on July 1, 1933. The purpose for which the funds were borrowed was not disclosed, but the validation is necessary as treasury bills are illegal while the Legislature is in session.

Text of the Ladrner Bridge Bill takes the form of authorizing the government to enter into an agreement with the Ladrner Bridge Co. The government is permitted to guarantee the deficits up to 50 per cent thereof for forty years, but the amount to be paid in any one year shall not exceed \$140,000.

The agreement is allowed to cover such matters as toll charges, maintenance, construction by the government of highway approaches, acquisition of the bridge, and "sharing in profits," but no further particulars of the type of agreement contemplated is given in the bill.

Another new bill authorizes the University of British Columbia to grant a matriculation scholarship to first year students at Victoria College.

Lack of service in the sheriff's office in Vancouver was a subject of complaint among members of the bar who were often forced to private agencies to get prompt service. A. M. Manson, K.C., complained when the vote for the office was under consideration in the Legislature yesterday. Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., differed. The service in the sheriff's office had never been better since Confederation, he claimed.

Mr. Pattullo noted that the office of registrar of the Supreme Court, in Prince Rupert had been eliminated. Informed the deputy had been appointed to the position he questioned the fairness of asking him to do the same work at a much lower salary and without an increase.

Complaints had been made to him regarding a United States film now being shown in Victoria, and similar complaints were often made to him regarding pictures shown in Vancouver. A. M. Manson, K.C., said in the Legislature yesterday when the vote of \$3,700 for the picture censor board was under consideration. Some people said to him they could not understand how certain pictures ever passed censorship. Mr. Pooley mentioned one of the censors, Mr. Walters, had been sick and unable to attend to his duties. He had now sent in his resignation. Of fourteen pictures rejected by the censors the Board of Appeal passed every one, George A. Walkem commented.

Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, thought censorship wrecked the pictures. They were sometimes mutilated beyond recognition, he said.

CALLS FOR SILVER STABILIZATION

Capt. James Fitzsimmons, Conservative, Kasko-Bloom, made another appeal to the British Columbia Government to-day to bring the silver stabilization question to the attention of the Dominion Government with a view to an international conference on the subject. He presented a resolution to that effect, which was unanimously adopted by the Legislature. Capt. Fitzsimmons received the strong support of R. C. Wilson, Liberal, Alton.

RELEASE FROM CAMPS SOUGHT

Tom Uphill Pleads For Thirty-seven Men Taken From Freight Trains

Hunger Marchers Present Requests; "Military Discipline" in Girls' Homes Resented

Resolution demanding the unconditional release from custody of thirty-seven delegates from relief camps arrested for riding on freight trains has been introduced in the Legislature by Tom Uphill, Labor member for Fernie. The individuals in question were delegates despatched to the coast to petition the government with respect to grievances of the camp inmates, according to the terms of the resolution. They were arrested under the Railway and Vagrancy Acts.

Mr. Uphill brought in the resolution at the request of the committee of "hunger marchers" who interviewed Hon. W. A. McKenzie and Hon. R. W. Bruhn, members of the cabinet yesterday afternoon. While the interview was in progress about 350 demonstrators carrying banners marched round and round the Buildings under police escort.

The committee of nine asked the government for 25 per cent increase in relief scale, abolition of camps, permission for relief recipients to find food and shelter where they chose, the privilege of using school grounds and gymnasiums for exercise. They were asked to put these in writing for consideration. One concession likely to be granted, the ministers said, was that girls on relief living in the Y.W.C.A. may be permitted to live elsewhere. One of the women delegates said the girls resented the "military discipline" of these institutions.

The committee included two women and among the marchers were close to 100 of that sex. The committee represented all parts of the province, but the demonstrators were all from Vancouver Island. They marched from up-Island in a body and reached the capital Tuesday morning. They are being cared for in a big public hall by local people until their mission is ended.

NO DETAILS ON \$4,000,000 LOAN

Delicate Negotiations Still Pending, Minister Tells House

The \$4,000,000 loan of the British Columbia Government in February was only half sold on March 1, and it would not be in the public interest to table correspondence connected with the flotation, Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, told the Legislature yesterday.

Delicate negotiations were still pending and, if he were to make details public, it might be construed as a breach of confidence, he said. H. C. Wrinch, Liberal, Skeena, said that while British Columbia was paying 6.75 per cent, Quebec at the same time had floated an issue at 4.60 and this province would be paying over \$1,500,000 more for the loan than the eastern province. British Columbia was borrowing to pay money already spent, claimed Dr. Wrinch.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, said the blue ruin talk of the government was doing harm. He had purposely refrained from severe criticism of the government on its bond flotations in order to save embarrassment, but asked if it was not a fact that responsible firms refused to handle the issue because they would have to pay a commission to one special agent of the government. The opposition and the public had the right to know the truth about this loan. Hon. J. Hinchliff adjourned the debate.

LOUTET FIGHTS FOR FARMERS

Courts Should Decide Justice of Milk Levies, Legislature Told

Protest against closing the affairs of the Lower Mainland Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Committee before any farmers who had paid the compulsory levies had every opportunity to appeal to the courts for redress were made before the bill passed final reading in the Legislature yesterday.

Money had been taken improperly and illegally, in some instances to the extent of \$165 a month, J. J. Loutet, Conservative, North Vancouver, claimed. Now it was proposed by the bill to offer security to men who had received twice as much as some of the men who had paid into the fund they administered. It was only fair the books should be audited by the government before a clean sheet was given to the members of the milk committee. Passing of the bill would clear them for all time, even though misappropriation might be proved.

J. W. Berry, Conservative, Delta, resented what he said was an imputation there might have been misappropriation, and defended the integrity of the members of the committee and the auditors. After the first court ruling against the act compulsory levies had ceased, and the committee carried on with voluntary contributions. Any man who felt he had been unfairly dealt with had had nine months to appeal.

Mr. Loutet and W. R. Rutledge, Burnaby, differed with Mr. Berry that no efforts had been made to collect from dairymen who did not see the value of the act. Bills and threats had been sent to North Vancouver dairymen, Mr. Loutet claimed.

Dozens of dairymen were frightened out of the business by the levy, said Mr. Rutledge, who opposed the bill and thought the courts should decide any issue arising from the act.

STERILIZATION BILL PREPARED

Legislation Will Be Brought Down at This Session of Legislature

A bill to call for sterilization of mentally unfit persons in British Columbia, which was the subject of discussion in the Legislature recently, will be brought down at this session, it was learned this morning.

Realizing there are many objections to the proposal clauses have been included which will exclude those whose friends or relatives protest against sterilization on religious grounds.

It is proposed to appoint a board to sit on all cases. This will consist of a judge of the Supreme Court, a physician and a social service worker. While comments were made in the Legislature of the growing cost of the mental unit to the province, and figures were given of the descendants of mentally unfit families who had added to the burden, it is anticipated there are many arguments from other angles which will be offered by opponents of the bill.

Some members have intimated that commissions and reports on the subject from the United States, England and other countries will give valuable information when the bill is considered. It is also claimed by opponents of sterilization that other evils are created which outweigh the arguments in favor of sterilization and in some places where sterilization has been adopted it has been subsequently abandoned for this reason.

COMMISSIONER'S VALUE DOUBTED

Appointment of Hon. T. G. Coventry Discussed in Legislature Yesterday

Criticism of maintaining a markets commissioner at the office of the Agent-General in London was expressed by T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, in the Legislature yesterday evening when Finance Department estimates were under debate.

If there was to be economy, this was one place where it should be undertaken, he said. The Agent-General was quite able to attend to the work. The discussion led to an amusing incident in which Premier S. F. Tolmie figured. Mr. Pattullo made a passing reference to the incumbent, Hon. T. G. Coventry, saying:

"We all know why he was appointed."

"Why was he appointed?" he challenged.

"Doesn't my honorable friend know?" asked Mr. Pattullo.

"No," shot back the Premier.

"Well, well," laughed the Opposition Leader. "Here we have a man appointed to an important position by this government and the Premier does not know why he was appointed."

The air was quickly cleared when Mr. Pattullo referred to the fact that

Mr. Coventry was the former member for the constituency now represented by the Premier.

"I met him in convention and beat him," said the Premier. "I don't owe him a thing." Dr. Tolmie and other ministers praised the value of Mr. Coventry's services and Mr. Pattullo said he questioned that the official had the requisite experience. His point in raising the matter, however, had nothing to do with the personal question, but was based on the proposition that the office was unnecessary.

RUMORS FLY AT BUILDINGS

Conflicting Reports on Leadership and Election Prospects

General Impression Prevails No Action Taken Until Session Closes

Rumors of early reorganization in the British Columbia cabinet and the possible resignation of Premier Tolmie flew around the Parliament Buildings this morning after private members of the House had met the Premier in the executive council to discuss the political situation.

The reports were conflicting. Some said Premier Tolmie had no intention of resigning, and his resignation was not sought. Other said J. W. Berry had been approached as a new leader either as a Conservative or a Unionist. Brig-Gen. Odium's name was also mentioned. There was also some more talk of offers to again approach T. D. Pattullo to join in a union government with the claim that many Conservatives were prepared to ask him to lead the organization of a union government.

However, the general impression seemed to be strongly supported that the House will adjourn without any action being taken, and Premier Tolmie will make no announcement before the fifteen days after the session closes, as requested by the executive of the B.C. Conservative Association.

FIFTY-CENT MEALS

House Given Experimental Plan to Raise Food Hospital

Details of the bill call on meals from which the House anticipates a revenue to make up for reduced rates were made known yesterday.

The tax will apply on in railway trains, ships, and lunch rooms of hotels.

The tax will not be levied on served in boarding houses or charitable institutions, private hospital or nursing homes.

Where the price of board is an amount per day or of American plan without between the price of meals sleeping accommodation, the sleeping accommodation deducted from the total duty collected on the board.

A bill to amend the law introduced in the House noon compels every corporation to the Commissioner a return of all dividends paid to its shareholders during the last preceding year. This return must be before the last day of February.

NEW SURT RETROACT

Hon. J. W. Jones Down New Levy For in Budget

A bill providing for higher incomes called to speech of Hon. J. W. Jones brought down in the Legislature.

The new scale is set as follows:

\$ 5,000 to \$ 7,500	1
7,500 to 10,000	2
10,000 to 12,500	3
12,500 to 15,000	4
15,000 to 17,500	5
17,500 to 20,000	6
20,000 to 22,500	7
22,500 to 25,000	8
25,000 to 27,500	9
27,500 to 30,000	10
30,000 to 32,500	11
32,500 to 35,000	12
35,000 to 37,500	13
37,500 to 40,000	14
40,000 to 42,500	15
42,500 to 45,000	16
45,000 to 47,500	17
47,500 and up	18 per cent

The tax is made retroactive to the beginning of the year ended in any year have earned as early as 1932. An eight per cent added for tardy payment.

FIFTY-CENT MEALS TAXED

House Given Explanation of Plan to Raise Funds For Hospitals

Details of the bill calling for a tax on meals from which Hon. J. W. Jones anticipates a revenue of \$250,000 to make up for reduced hospital grants were made known yesterday.

The tax will apply on meals served in railway trains, ships, hotels, restaurants, lunch rooms or other premises.

The tax will not be levied on meals served in boarding houses, educational or charitable institutions, public or private hospital or nursing homes. The tax will not be levied on meals served to employees in restaurants.

Where the price of board is fixed at an amount per day or otherwise on the American plan without distinguishing between the price of meals and that of sleeping accommodations, the price of the sleeping accommodation will be deducted from the total price and the duty collected on the balance.

A bill to amend the Income Tax Act introduced in the House Tuesday afternoon compels every corporation to furnish to the Commissioner of Taxation

a return of all dividends and bonuses paid to its shareholders or members during the last preceding calendar year. This return must be made on or before the last day of February in each year.

TWO SIDES TO MORTGAGE AID

Outrageous to Seek Advantage of Moratorium Plan, Says A. M. Manson

An iron-clad rule could not be laid down by the Legislature, so power should be given to courts to decide the merits of the case when a mortgagor sought relief from principal payments under the Mortgagors' and Purchasers' Relief Act, which is being extended for another year, A. M. Manson, K.C., said when the bill was up for second reading in the Legislature yesterday.

The bill extends the moratorium granted last session for another year. While some properties were of sufficient value to avoid risk of delayed payment of interest and taxes, there were other cases where the mortgagors might be placed in greater difficulties than the mortgagee, Mr. Manson said. He thought a clause should be inserted in the bill calling for both parties to appear before the court and explain their circumstances so the court could decide. It was an absolute outrage, said the member, for a man to lay down on his payments when he was able to pay and place the mortgagee in a position where he would suffer. There had been case after case in the British Columbia courts where this had been done. Legislation must be drafted to safeguard the mortgagee as well as the mortgagor, whom it was sought to protect.

PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW ALL OF THE FACTS

The electors are the owners of the business of the province and are entitled to the fullest information in regard to their property and its administration from the government they employ and pay to manage their affairs. In requesting that the government produce in the Legislature all of the correspondence relating to the four-million-dollar-bond issue made in February, Mr. Pattullo has a much better conception of his responsibility to the owners of the provincial establishment than the government which refused his request on the ancient plea that such disclosures "would not be in the public interest."

Why would it not be in the public interest to let the public know all about the public business in this particular case? The loan was made on the credit of the public, not that of the members of the government. The interest on it will be paid by the public, not by the members of the government. If the information sought by Mr. Pattullo is not palatable, let us have it now, when we are in the mood, and habit, for unpalatable information. As a matter of fact, the public already is aware that these bonds have been only half disposed of, and if the rest of the story is even worse than that it must be pretty bad. Perhaps the most important requirement in government in these stern times is public confidence. It is the lack of that essential element which more than anything else causes public unrest.

NEW SURTAX RETROACTIVE

Hon. J. W. Jones Brings Down New Levy Called For in Budget

A bill providing for a surtax on higher incomes called for in the budget speech of Hon. J. W. Jones, was brought down in the Legislature yesterday.

The new scale is set out in the bill as follows:

\$ 5,000 to \$ 7,500,	1 per cent.
7,500 to 10,000,	2 per cent.
10,000 to 12,500,	3 per cent.
12,500 to 15,000,	4 per cent.
15,000 to 17,500,	5 per cent.
17,500 to 20,000,	6 per cent.
20,000 to 22,500,	7 per cent.
22,500 to 25,000,	8 per cent.
25,000 to 27,500,	9 per cent.
27,500 to 30,000,	10 per cent.
30,000 to 32,500,	11 per cent.
32,500 to 35,000,	12 per cent.
35,000 to 37,500,	13 per cent.
37,500 to 40,000,	14 per cent.
40,000 to 42,500,	15 per cent.
42,500 to 45,000,	16 per cent.
45,000 to 47,500,	17 per cent.
47,500 and up,	18 per cent.

The tax is made retroactive to incomes earned in any year which may have ended as early as September, 1932. An eight per cent penalty is provided for tardy payments.

HOUSE REJECTS INDUSTRY PLAN

Pattullo's Appeal For Retention of Department Fails

On a straight party vote in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, T. D. Pattullo's amendment to retain the sum of \$1,000,000 in the Loan Acts of the province for the Department of Industries was defeated. Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, thought it better to get rid of the sum. The province had lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in bad loans.

Mr. Pattullo commented that the Industries Department was brought into being to aid returned men and said that the present government had made bad loans. The present situation was comparable to that of 1920 when thousands of returned soldiers were thrown back into civilian life.

He thought that if the Liberal policy adopted at the last convention of permitting members freedom of voting action without unseating a government except on a no-confidence motion were in force, many members on the government side would support him.

NER'S SUBTLED

Hon. T. G. in Legis- arday

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FLY LDINGS

Reports on d Election cts

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Across The Bay

We bowl along at high speed—pausing to consider the plight of parliamentarians in the great open spaces—the cost of meals—the new taxes—and the determined silence of Mr. Jones

By H. B. W.

PARADOX

THAT paradoxical liveliness which always marks the dying hours of the session was obvious enough in the House Wednesday to make us confident that the session really was dying, that we should rush through the seasonal programme and go home by the week-end. And as the Conservative caucus was in session most of the day, we thought it might do something about questions that matter after all, might not go home leaving things in greater chaos than it found them. But we weren't sure by any means.

The first business of the House was to thank Mr. Howe formally for donating the cost of the four splendid murals which the able artist, George Southwell, had painted in the dome room of the legislative buildings. The House hoped with Mr. Pooley that someone as generous as Mr. Howe would donate money for some more pictures to fill other equally prominent spaces in the buildings.

We proceeded then to defy all the speed laws of Parliament in pushing ahead legislation. On the motor act amendments Mr. MacPherson, of Cranbrook, made an extremely well-thought-out speech to prove that motor licenses are being increased, despite government calculations to the contrary, that they are keeping cars off the road, and that if they were reduced, the government would encourage traffic, get more revenue and help the motorist, who seemed to be the chief butt of tax collectors.

MILEAGE

MILEAGE of another sort interested Mr. Manson. He made a feeling speech against the government's plan to cut in half the allowance of 25 cents a mile made to members for their traveling expenses to and from sessions. Most members feel the same way as Mr. Manson, that they get little enough to cover their heavy traveling expenses, especially in the big country ridings, but few had the courage to say so.

Mr. Manson had the satisfaction of hearing Mr. Hinchliffe agree with him in principle and offer to support Mr. Pattullo when the latter became premier, in an arrangement by which members would be allowed some expenses for traveling about their districts. Whether Mr. Hinchliffe's offer to Mr. Pattullo was sardonic or prophetic we could not tell, but Mr. Pattullo said the minister wouldn't have the opportunity to support or oppose him in anything when the next House met. This was sardonic and prophetic, too.

Mr. Hanna managed, before the Speaker could stop him, to sandwich in an attack on the government for wiping out his Alberni riding, and to predict that the unfortunate member for the new riding of Nanaimo would have to walk, fly and swim to cover his district. But even that prospect did not stop the House from the supreme sacrifice of cutting its mileage allowance to which nearly everyone was privately opposed.

FREEDOM

THAT curious freedom which marks the Conservative party these days was apparent after Mr. Bruhn had explained and defended his Ladner Bridge scheme. Mr. Louet, a fellow Conservative, warmly assailed the scheme as unsound, as sure to cost the province huge sums of money. The argument on the bridge scheme has only begun.

The government got second reading for its bill allowing it to secure park areas in trade for others, after Dr. McNaughton had outlined the aspirations of Vancouver Island people for a great national park embracing Strathcona Park and the Forbidden Plateau. In committee there will be a strong fight to subject every trade of this sort to a vote of the House.

Still moving at this terrific speed, Mr. Jones pushed through his new income tax proposals, giving Mr. Pattullo the opportunity to deliver again his general financial criticism of the government. But Mr. Pattullo didn't see what could be done about it, with the government still in office, and the new tax on higher incomes was adopted.

MEALS

THE REST of the afternoon was spent on the new tax on meals for hospitals. Everyone eats and for this reason the meal tax is one of the most interesting matters of the session. Mr. Pattullo said he expected the government would soon attach some kind of meter to every citizen and tax the air he breathed, which would mean in some cases, he added, looking at his friend Mr. Pooley, that some people would pay a very heavy tax indeed; with which Mr. Pooley, looking at his friend Mr. Pattullo, warmly agreed.

Anyway, Mr. Pattullo called the meal tax an iniquitous arrangement, a death-bed confession and a desperate attempt to satisfy the hospitals. But after Dr. Winch had said anything was better for the hospitals than nothing, and after Mr. Maitland complained that the rich men of the country scarcely ever leave money to the hospitals, Mr. Pattullo did not vote against the tax. It carried without dissenting voice. But the Liberals had no hope that it would save the hospitals.

TUG-OF-WAR

THE EVENING produced a stubborn tug-of-war to dislodge Finance Minister Jones from his den of silence, but all in vain. Mr. Jones had made up his mind to refuse the House information about his last loan, of which part is still unsold, and nothing that the opposition could say could coax or bludgeon him into speech. But that the government realized the political dynamite hidden away in this innoc-

cent-looking matter was indicated by two strong ministerial speeches in defence of Mr. Jones's silence.

Mr. Hinchliffe was called in as the ablest defender of all. His argument was that the House knew the price of the loan and the interest rate, and had no real right to anything more. To reveal more would be unwise in a business way, said Mr. Hinchliffe, and there was nothing wrong about the loan, no secret commissions, nothing to conceal; in answer to which the opposition wondered why the government insisted on concealing it.

As you would expect, Mr. Hinchliffe was not content to defend Mr. Jones. He assailed the opposition as well. He read at length from Mr. Pattullo's speeches to show that his honorable friend had done a great deal to undermine provincial credit and to account for the high interest paid on the last loan. Speech after speech was quoted by Mr. Hinchliffe. He told with relish how Mr. Pattullo had predicted the government's downfall a year ago, through inability to finance, how he had prophesied "temporary bankruptcy"—and this was the gentleman who now said he had refrained from saying anything detrimental to our credit! Mr. Pattullo said he had made none of these statements until after the credit of the province had already been destroyed, but this did not impress Mr. Hinchliffe.

Mr. Manson replied in kind. He said no wrongdoing was alleged, but the government's stubborn silence tended to create suspicion, and if Mr. Hinchliffe had known all the details of the loan, he would never have made his speech. But he had to withdraw when he said Mr. Jones had filed financial statements calculated to deceive. A little set-back like that never bothers Mr. Manson, however. He changed it to read that if the House relied on Mr. Jones's statements it would reach a wrong conclusion, which meant the same thing but was in order.

Mr. Maitland feared that if the House didn't prorogue pretty soon Mr. Manson would hit his old oratorical pace and prevent prorogation altogether. He made a strong defence of Mr. Jones, said it was impossible to reveal correspondence about loans when they were not all sold but promised that when the bonds had been sold the House would get all the facts. After that, on a straight party vote, with even the rebels, Dick and Walkem, supporting it, the government rejected Mr. Pearson's motion asking for details of the loan. That is one of the numerous details that will be lost in the rush of the next few months.

The day ended in another wrangle over the Ladner Bridge, in a sharp rebuke from Mr. Manson to Mr. McKenzie for talking to Leon Ladner, the bridge company's lawyer, sitting beside him, in a sharper rebuke by Mr. Pooley to Mr. Manson, in Mr. Ladner retreating from the chamber in good order and finally, as a midnight note of cheer, in the introduction of a \$100,000 loan bill, for general purposes, which means deficits for the most part. In all quite a day's work.

FRANKNESS ON STERILIZATION

Bill For Voluntary Operation on Unfit Given Second Reading in House

Frank discussion on the subject took place in the Legislature this morning when after years of consideration in British Columbia a bill calling for sterilization of the mentally unfit was finally brought down.

The bill provides, with consideration being given to conscientious objections, for sterilization of patients in mental and industrial homes. Consent of the patient if he is capable of giving it, or relatives of the patient is not called for.

Before an operation is performed a Board of Eugenics, consisting of a judge, a psychiatrist and an experienced social welfare worker.

The board could direct the operation to be performed where it was considered procreation by an inmate to be discharged from an institution would be likely to produce mentally deficient children.

Second reading of the bill was moved by Hon. S. L. Howe at this morning's session. The time was now opportune for at last a moderate bill to be introduced. Provision is made for a board to be set up so that where reasonable objections are made the operation shall not take place.

Dr. W. H. Sutherland said he was of the opinion that the operations could be performed now without the bill being passed and for this reason he did not think it was necessary. The operation was often performed now with consent and any who had conscientious objections were freed from it.

Dr. E. L. Borden, Nelson, spoke frankly on the subject of sterilization which he said was in force in twenty-two states in the United States and in Germany and Switzerland. He described in detail the operation which could be performed on either sex.

On a man it was a minor operation which could be performed with a local anesthetic in a doctor's office and after a rest in the office the patient could proceed to his work. In case of a woman it was more serious and two weeks would transpire before she had completely recovered.

R. Hayward repeated statements on the cost to British Columbia of descendants of mentally unfit parents.

Dr. J. J. Gillis moved the adjournment of the debate.

SAYS LICENSES ARE HIGHER

Cranbrook Member Wants Lower Rate For Lower Value Cars

Wants Partial License Plan to Apply This Year

The heavy charges owners of automobiles pay through Dominion and provincial government taxes were drawn attention to by F. M. MacPherson, Liberal, Cranbrook, during second reading of the bill bringing into effect the new scale of license fees in the Legislature yesterday.

Mr. MacPherson took issue with Attorney-General Pooley's claim that the new weight scale brought a reduction of license fees for average cars. He also urged that the provision for rebates for drivers east of the Cascades who turned in their licenses during November or December on account of the snow be extended to this year as well as next. This year, he pointed out, many of them had been forced to take out licenses for longer periods than they desired to use their cars because of the regulation brought out at the beginning of the year giving those who took out licenses before March 1 fourteen months license for a twelve month's license payment but penalizing those who were not able to pay at that time.

CHEAP CARS PAY MORE

The member quoted figures to support his claim that some cars in the lower brackets would pay more under the new scale, showing where some now paying \$16.90 would pay \$20. He thought if there were a \$15 average license fee for the smaller cars thousands more of them would be on the road all the time. Regarding the increase for heavy trucks he pointed out that in the cases of buses where the government could take one per cent of the gross earnings the charge was heavy. In the same connection he pointed out that in some of the provinces where Mr. Pooley had quoted heavier license fees the gasoline tax was smaller.

SURTAX BILL BEFORE HOUSE

Succession Duty Increase Explained to Legislature

Liberal Leader Recalls How Conservative Promised to Wipe Them Out

The present government's attitude in increasing succession duties by the surtax called for in the Jones budget was sharply contrasted with the Conservative election promise to do away with the duties during the second reading of the bill in the Legislature yesterday.

Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Minister Without Portfolio, moved the second reading of the bill. He explained it called for a 25 per cent surtax to apply to all taxes collected at the present time. In 1930 all insurance was exempted. This year the exemption was cut down to \$25,000 paid to preferred beneficiaries. There was an exemption on all property up to \$20,000. An instance on all duties would get exemption from duties on property up to \$25,000 and insurance up to \$25,000.

T. D. Pattullo recalled the attitude taken by Conservatives before they were in power. They were going to do away with succession duties altogether. They said the population would increase. The birds and the sparrows would come from California. Millions would be invested. Personally he believed succession duties offered the fairest forms of taxation. The only criticism he had to offer now was to recall how Conservatives had said they would do away with them.

Meal Tax Hospitals

Members Fail to Agree to Raise \$250,000 to Grant Slashes

Goes Into Effect in Hospitals Get Quarterly

The 5 per cent tax on meals and over to raise \$250,000 to grant slush funds described as iniquitous and by Liberal members attacked by government in second reading in the Legislature.

Attorney-General Pooley's motion complaints that it was the dark without any grant amount would be raised the government had estimated would be applied during meals served to the value of \$225,000.

Hon. R. L. Maitland, Liberal, the tax on the grounds people "hospital minded" every person would feel "better" as he made his motion to hospitals when meal.

Hon. J. W. Jones, Premier, said there was a similar bill. The revenue from the tax would be paid into the consolidated fund and paid out from time to time as the province requested.

TAX AIR NEXT

"The first thing we will be measuring is the breathe and tax us on the government's thought thing repugnant to them with something attractive to make it palatable. I believe they used the best course to follow, for revenue to be paid direct revenue and grant tax."

George E. Pearson, Liberal, pointed out it would collect the tax on meals value of \$5,000,000 and the tax would be collected \$500. He regretted the hospital grants and quoted that in 1931 for British Columbia had a total surplus of \$38,000, the troubles Nanaimo facing, the troubles being by reason of the fact of the persons it cared for vicinal rather than municipalities.

LACK OF SYMPATHY

Mr. Maitland said the tax would start May 1. He received grants from three months. He deplored support for hospitals and lack of appreciation of hospital work of the abuse Vancouver hospital received and the collecting from people. In comparison with the British Columbia Government generously supporting A. M. Manson, K.C., sympathy with hospitals like the form of legislation.

Thomas King, Liberal, estimated the revenue greater than \$36,000. In 1930 the population of 700,000 in British Columbia was only about 5 per cent of the population of the United States and not over 10 per cent of the population of the United States. He said it would hit Fernie.

"I will support this is one that won't hurt constituency," said T. Labor, Fernie.

Hon. S. L. Howe said he had been decided upon the balance the cut in the bill. Dr. H. C. Winch, Liberal, agreed with Mr. Maitland that people hospitals make people feared it would be advanced favorably.

J. H. Beatty, Conservative, thought the people of Vancouver would carry a heavy tax. He said carrying the heavy tax.

Meal Tax Value For Hospital Is Doubted

Members Fail to Agree It Will Raise \$250,000 to Balance Grant Slash

Goes Into Effect in May; Hospitals Get Quarterly Cheques

The 5 per cent tax on meals of 50 cents and over to raise money to compensate British Columbia hospitals for the \$250,000 grant reduction was described as "iniquitous and uncertain" by Liberal members and stoutly defended by government members during second reading in the Legislature yesterday.

Attorney-General Pooley met opposition complaints that it was a plunge in the dark without any guarantee what amount would be raised by stating the government had estimated the tax would be applied during the year on meals served to the value of \$4,562,500. Anticipated revenue for the hospitals would be \$228,000.

Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., defended the tax on the grounds it would make people "hospital minded" and predicted every person would feel "just a little better" as he made his little contribution to hospitals when he paid for a meal.

Hon. J. W. Jones, Finance Minister, said there was a similar tax in Quebec. The revenue from the levy would be paid into the consolidated revenue and paid out from time to time to the hospitals as the provincial secretary requested.

TAX AIR NEXT

"The first thing we know," T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, commented, "they will be measuring the air we breathe and tax us on that." When the government sought to do something repugnant they surrounded it with something attractive in an effort to make it palatable. In this instance they used the hospitals. The best course to follow, he thought, was for revenue to be paid into consolidated revenue and grants made from that.

George S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, pointed out it would be necessary to collect the tax on meals served to the value of \$5,000,000 and he doubted if the tax would be collected on \$1,000,000. He regretted the reduction of hospital grants and quoted figures to show that in 1931 forty hospitals in British Columbia had deficits amounting to \$265,000. Twenty-five had a total surplus of \$38,000. He told of the troubles Nanaimo Hospital was facing, the troubles being accentuated by reason of the fact that 60 per cent of the persons it cared for were provincial rather than municipal responsibilities.

LACK OF SYMPATHY

Mr. Maitland said collection of the tax would start May 1. Hospitals could receive grants from the fund every three months. He deplored a lack of support for hospitals from wealthy people and lack of appreciation of efforts of hospital workers. He told of the abuse Vancouver General Hospital received and the trouble it had collecting from people who could pay. In comparison with other provinces the British Columbia Government was generously supporting hospitals.

A. M. Manson, K.C., said he was in sympathy with hospitals but did not like the form of legislation.

Thomas King, Liberal, Columbia, estimated the revenue would not be greater than \$36,000. Of the population of 700,000 in British Columbia, only about 5 per cent ate in restaurants and not over 10 per cent of them paid as much as fifty cents for a meal.

WOULD HIT FERNIE
"I will support this tax because it is one that won't hurt anybody in my constituency," said Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie.

Hon. S. L. Howe said the tax had been decided upon the basis it would balance the cut in the hospital grants.

Dr. H. C. Winch, Liberal, Skeena, agreed with Mr. Maitland it might make people "hospital minded," but feared it would be adversely so rather than favorably.

J. H. Beatty, Conservative, Victoria, thought the people of Victoria and Vancouver would carry the load. It was a fair tax. The land was already carrying a heavy burden.

Hon. J. Hinchliffe, Minister of Education, thought any young man who could afford to take a girl out to dine in these days could well afford the tax. The other feature that appealed to him was that strangers would pay the greatest part of it.

WIDE POWERS OBJECTED TO

Vancouver Conservative Protests Change on Eve of Election

Present Government Won't Be Back Next Year, Says William Dick

Citizens of Vancouver were fearful of such wide powers as proposed by a bill amending the Provincial Parks Act, William Dick, Conservative, Vancouver, said in the Legislature this morning.

Mr. Dick touched upon the power given to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to effect exchanges of land to secure other land for park purposes. The subject came up when amendments to the Garibaldi Park Act were under discussion which gives similar powers. The powers proposed were far too wide, said Mr. Dick. An election was due. This government would not be in after that, he said, so this matter should be held over until after the next election.

J. Loutet, Conservative, North Vancouver, also opposed the bill.

J. H. Beatty, Conservative, Victoria, supported the bill, arguing few members of the House knew enough about timber or land values to vote intelligently on a proposed deal and would have finally to accept the advice of the Minister of Lands. He also argued the government already had power to acquire land for cash and the new proposal was no actual extension of power when it merely extended the right to apply to exchanges.

J. W. Berry, Conservative, Delta, supported the bill.

Dr. H. C. Winch objected to speedy action without an opportunity being given to the Legislature to investigate proposed deals.

A. M. Manson regretted the Minister of Lands had not taken the House into his confidence and explain exactly what trade was proposed.

Attorney-General Pooley claimed the Opposition was ridiculous and argued a similar policy had been followed for years.

The bill was given second reading. Progress was made with legislation this morning. Final reading was given bills to amend the Mineral Act and the Elections Act.

Progress was reported in the committee stage on an act to amend the Placer Mining Act dealing with the recording of claims.

Coal and Petroleum Act amendments giving relief on license and lease fees passed the committee stage.

VALIDATING EXPENDITURES
The bill validating illegal expenditures of the city of Burnaby was given final reading. Attorney-General Pooley explained the circumstances of the city's expenditure of money, earmarked for other purposes, for unemployment relief during 1930 and 1931.

Court proceedings were launched against the reeve and councillors by a ratepayer and the illegality was proved. The bill absolved Reeve Pritchard, the treasurer and the chairman of the finance committee from any penalties, but called for \$1,000 court costs to be met by them. These costs would never have been incurred had they not fought in defence of their action, which they knew was irregular, Mr. Pooley said.

CONCEALMENT STIRS DOUBTS

Says A. M. Manson in Charging Secrecy Shown on \$4,000,000 Bond Sale

Hinchliffe Goes Back to 1918 For Comparisons on Prices Paid

Concealment only gave rise to suspicion, A. M. Manson, K.C., declared in the Legislature yesterday when the government's \$4,000,000 bond sale in January was under discussion again. Full and complete disclosure of the government's financial position was advisable, he considered. Mr. Manson also recalled the quarterly financial statement sought by business men had never been issued.

The debate was prompted by the request of George S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, whose request for a return of telegrams and correspondence on the subject has been refused as not in the best interest of the public at the present time.

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe said no secret had been made of what the issue was costing the province. It was costing 6.03 per cent. That was nothing new in British Columbia. That included the cost of printing, advertising and selling. All the leading financial houses in the east were taking part in the selling. One reason it cost

so much was the bonds of one of the provinces at that time dropped to 83, and B.C. was not willing to push its bonds at that rate. The U.S. money market also dropped at that time. Now, however, most of the bonds had been sold. Mr. Hinchliffe made comparisons with bonds sold as far back as 1918, when he said a rate of 6.88 had to be paid on a \$1,000,000 issue. He quoted from budget speeches and newspaper reports of speeches of T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader. He could not reconcile Mr. Pattullo's remarks in the House with his declaration that he did not want to do anything to injure the credit of the province.

Regarding charges of secrecy on details of the sale, Mr. Hinchliffe said he could not see what more details were needed. The amount borrowed was known, the price paid was known. There had been no secret commission. It was not, however, advisable to reveal all details at the present time of a transaction that was not yet completed.

Mr. Manson considered not one sound reason for refusing the information sought had been advanced. It was reasonable for the House to ask for the information so the members might pass on the government's policy on loans. Mr. Manson emphasized a return on questions filed by the Minister of Finance on loans answered on March 14, contained no reference to a loan floated in January. While the return might be literally accurate it was calculated to mislead, Mr. Manson charged.

"What further purpose is served by concealment?" questioned Mr. Manson. "If all is well you only create suspicion by concealment."

Conservatives voted solidly to reject Mr. Pearson's motion calling for the correspondence to be produced, while Liberal members commented on unanimity of "Bowersites" and "Tolmieites." Tom Uphill voted with the Liberal members, who were also solid.

NEW LOAN BILL FOR \$10,000,000

Covers Over \$7,000,000 Deficits, Including Unemployment Last Year

The new loan bill before the British Columbia Legislature today was for \$10,000,000, over \$7,000,000 of which is to cover deficits of the last fiscal year and \$3,000,000 of which will be used for unemployment relief and other purposes during the current fiscal year.

The bill also covers \$1,800,000 for unemployment relief financing during the last fiscal year.

An exclamation of "what!" followed by a prolonged whistle came from A. M. Manson, K.C., when the bill was brought down.

Hon. J. W. Jones, Finance Minister, briefly explained his reasons for needing the \$10,000,000.

The high figure of the new loan bill was the source of more comment this morning. It was reported to be the highest loan bill for consolidated revenue ever brought down although the present administration had previously brought down a loan bill for \$15,000,000. This, however, included for heavy public expenditures, while the present bill in the main is to cover deficits.

Seventy per cent of the money had been expended, Mr. Jones explained at this morning's session of the House. It provided for no new borrowings except for unemployment relief.

T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, thought there was no guarantee the \$3,000,000 would be used for unemployment. There was nothing to prevent it being used for the deficit which would occur this year and in spite of what the minister said he predicted there would be a \$5,000,000 deficit.

George S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, asked for information on loans and deficits to be presented when the bill was in the committee stage.

The bill was given second reading.

SAFEGUARDS ON LAND TRANSFER

Park Area Exchange Bill Discussed in B.C. Legislature

Safeguards should be placed in the measure giving the government power to make exchanges of land for other land needed for park areas, L. A. Hanna, Liberal, Alberni, claimed in the Legislature yesterday during second reading of the bill amending the Provincial Parks Act.

Mr. Hanna thought the minister in charge would be deluged with applications from persons who sought to transfer land they thought suitable for park purposes for other land in the province and such a safeguard should be welcomed by him.

T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, spoke on the same subject earlier in the session and has a motion on the order paper to amend the bill so that no transfers shall be made without the approval of the Legislature.

Speaking on the bill yesterday, Dr. G. K. MacNaughton, Conservative, Comox, paid a tribute to the Minister of Lands for securing areas near Buttles Lake and Elk River and spoke of the beauties of Strathcona Park and the Forbidden Plateau. In 1915-16 \$350,000 had been spent for the development of Strathcona Park and he regretted nothing had been spent since as with the coal mining business on the waste Vancouver Island must look more and more to tourist trade.

Mr. Hanna referred to the beauties of Cathedral Grove timber near Cameron Lake. It was in 1930 when the Premier announced the grove would be preserved. There was a federal election on then. Nothing has been done since. Similar suggestions were raised now with a provincial election in the offing. He hoped the approach of that election had not inspired the present legislation.

FINANCIAL

Wants Lower

Plan to

Owners of

Figures to

BILL HOUSE

Increase

Recalls How

omitted to

ment's attitude

Ladner Bridge Bill Scathingly Reviewed

Members on Both Sides Openly Suspicious of Government Sponsored Plan Promotion Scheme, Says Conservative Member in Outspoken Criticism

HOPES SURTAX IS TEMPORARY

Finance Minister Speaks on New Levy Called For in Budget

The surtax which starts at 1 per cent on incomes over \$5,000 and goes up to 18 per cent on incomes in excess of \$47,500 is a temporary measure to help the government during the present crisis, Hon. J. W. Jones said during the second reading of the bill amending the Income Tax in the Legislature yesterday.

The tax was planned to help revenue without hitting the small wage earner. Companies were exempted, he said, but not individuals and provision was made so to prevent companies manipulating their profits so that shareholders would evade the tax.

It was not the first time such a measure had been introduced in British Columbia, Mr. Jones informed the House. In 1917 the government imposed a surtax and doubled the income tax. To-day the province faced a much greater crisis than then.

The course pursued in 1917, T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, replied was to meet a condition that had been created by an administration that had been in office thirteen years and a new administration came in to find the treasury depleted. The administration that came in in 1918 left the credit of the province in excellent shape. This administration had increased the debt to the stage where interest charges had jumped from \$4,000,000 to \$7,000,000 in five years. Had the administration been provident the proposed tax would not be needed.

AID GIVEN TO FERNIE

Provincial and Dominion Governments Make Up Relief Shortage

Due to the closing of the Coal Creek mines at Fernie, that city is unable to contribute one-third the cost of unemployment relief and the provincial and federal governments will meet such expenditures on a fifty-fifty basis, it was announced by Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, yesterday afternoon.

Dispatches from Ottawa that Hon. W. A. Gordon, Minister of Labor, had told A. W. Neill, Independent, Comox-Alberni, that the Dominion Government was awaiting word from the provincial authorities in respect to the closing of several mines in the Fairview district, are thought to have reference to the Fernie situation, and in this connection Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Minister of Mines, made it clear today that the provincial government had forwarded all details of the closing down of Fernie mines to Hon. H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Correspondence had been passing between D. C. Coleman, vice-president of the C.P.R.; W. R. Wilson, president of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, owners of the Coal Creek mines; W. A. Gordon, Dr. J. B. Gee, head of a Fernie business men's organization and the provincial authorities, and yesterday a wire was received by Hon. Mr. Jones from Hon. Mr. Gordon that the federal authorities were taking steps to aid the life men in the Fernie area.

meet the other half of the operating loss. One million dollars in common stock should be issued to take care of this contingency or security of some sort should be provided. Mr. Loutet said it was a promotion scheme and no public tenders would be called. If the bridge was necessary he wondered why the province could not build it or interest Canadian firms.

NEW WESTMINSTER VIEW

Mr. Gray pointed out that in 1910, when citizens of New Westminster raised \$15,000 to bring an expert in harbor development to the city to make recommendations, he told them that any bridge below the city would be a calamity as far as the port was concerned. Mr. Gray said at the evening session.

To drive piles and build wharves, as would be necessary for the proposed bridge, would create a change in the channel and change the whole complexion of the Fraser. The place proposed for the bridges was at one of the most rapid and dangerous points of the Fraser as far as navigation was concerned.

Mr. Gray said the bridge had been advocated as offering relief to the unemployment problem. It would not employ 200 men. The government was asked to guarantee half the deficit up to \$140,000 for the forty-year life of the bonds. This might amount to \$5,600,000. There was not a chance of the bridge paying, he claimed, and the bondholders would get their money back with 3 per cent interest.

J. H. Beatty, Conservative, Victoria, said he had confidence that if the government went into the deal it would see proper financial arrangements were made and the bridge was of the proper type.

Hon. W. C. Shelly emphasized the bill did not consist of an agreement. It was enabling legislation. A bridge that would not interfere with navigation was proposed. The firm interested was a well established reliable firm, and it would be to B.C.'s advantage to get them interested. Mr. Shelly claimed the bridge was necessary for Vancouver.

J. W. Cornett, pointing out an assurance had been given by the Dominion Government that the bridge would not be a menace to navigation, supported the bill.

T. H. Kirk moved the adjournment of the debate.

NOTES OF THE LEGISLATURE

The bill amending the Greater Vancouver District Water Act was given final reading without opposition.

Without objections being raised a bill validating a certain treasury bill to effect funding passed second reading and went through the committee stage.

Thanks to Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary for supplying the murals, depicting the history of the province, in the rotunda of the Parliament Buildings were extended by the B.C. Legislature yesterday.

A further amendment was presented yesterday evening to the Coal and Petroleum Act. A bill brought in earlier in the session and given third reading gave relief to license holders by giving them a year's extension of the license period. Another amendment, aimed to help operators in the Flathead country, granted a year's extension of the lease period.

To provide for expected expansion of the town of Barkerville as a result of the gold boom, Hon. N. E. Lougheed, Minister of Lands, laid before the Legislature a bill reserving a substantial area adjacent to the community for townsite purposes.

If mineral claims have been staked on the area the holders of the claims are given thirty days in which to apply for permission to use some portion of the surface for bona fide exploration and development work.

The effect of the bill is merely to put a reserve on the land, which reserve may later be lifted if and when the land is not required for townsite purposes.

Extra! Extra! Finance Minister Reports Tax Cut!

Hon. J. W. Jones gazed around the Legislature and beamed yesterday. He had introduced bills calling for his surtax on large incomes. He had announced the bill calling for a 5 per cent tax on meals over 50 cents. Mr. Jones said over 50 cents but the bill says 50 cent and under.

Then he announced another taxation bill and members groaned. As before stated, Mr. Jones beamed.

"It's all right, boys," he said. "This is a reduction."

Amateur sports and community dances will soon pay 5 per cent instead of 10 per cent on their takings if the bill goes through and there is not likely to be the slightest opposition to it.

The bill was given final reading this morning.

WILL PROTEST TAX ON MEALS

Hotel Owners and Restaurateurs of Province Claim They Are Over-taxed Already

Hotel operators and restaurateurs are framing a strong protest to tax meals to the provincial government on the proposal to tax meals costing in excess of fifty cents, it was learned in the city to-day.

Members of the B.C. Hotel Owners' Association and the restaurant operators are behind the protest.

"We are taxed so heavily already and this tax is going to wash us out completely and drive the business to the cheaper eating places," declared a prominent restaurateur to-day. "We are co-operating to protest strongly the imposition of this tax."

It is understood that a representative delegation may wait upon the government to place the views of the hotel and restaurant owners before the minister of finance.

TRUCK OWNERS PROTEST LEVY

Cartage Association of B.C. Says Government's New License Scale Too High

Canadian Press Vancouver, April 6.—Over signatures of their president, E. Ames, the General Storage and Cartage Association of British Columbia has telegraphed a protest to Attorney-General R. H. Pooley against proposed increases in truck licenses.

While the members fully appreciate the need for increased government revenue, says the communication, they protest emphatically against the proposed increases. It is not equitable that heavy trucks should be called on to cover decreases in licenses for lighter vehicles, they contend.

They say the trucking industry is already overburdened and this additional tax seriously threatens existence of operators representing from 400 to 500 vehicles. They believe such increased licenses would result in decreased number of vehicles operating and decreased gasoline consumption. They suggest the present license fee is all the traffic can bear.

UNEMPLOYMENT BILL IS D

Provision Made to Agreements Reg Relief

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IN LAST MINUTE RUSH

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"At this lame-duck sessio admittedly incompetent has no right to enter into tracts," Mr. Pattullo claims. "So far as I am concerne "If the authority is mine, propose to recognize them sure."

UNEMPLOYMENT BILL IS DOWN

Provision Made to Renew Agreements Regarding Relief

Several Other New Bills Before the Legislature Yesterday

Hon. J. W. Jones presented a new bill in the Legislature yesterday authorizing the government to enter into agreements with the Dominion Government and municipalities respecting unemployment. It sets out the agreement entered into a year ago and authorizes its extension or modification for the coming year.

Several other new measures were brought down in the House during the afternoon and evening sittings.

The Greater Vancouver Water District Board is authorized by another bill to take steps for collection of arrears of dues from any municipality, a member of the corporation. When dues are in arrears for thirty days the board may serve notice which will compel the municipality to put all its water rate collections in a separate trust account on which the board's claim shall be a first charge.

TRAVEL RATE CUT PROTESTED

Plea For Country Members Renewed in Legislature

The plea for country members who had to travel at considerable expense over extensive areas was renewed in the Legislature yesterday by A. M. Manson, K.C., before second reading was giving the bill amending the Constitutions Act, which cuts traveling allowances down from twenty-five cents to twelve and a half cents a mile. The bill also provides for the cut in members' indemnities.

Mr. Manson warned against the danger of making it impossible for anybody but a wealthy man to represent a constituency. He urged that temporary provision should at least be made for the members from large constituencies like Atlin and the new Peace River constituency. Otherwise it would be impossible for them to cover their constituencies as they should to properly represent it.

L. A. Hanna, Liberal, Alberni, supported Mr. Manson, pointing out the great mileage a member for the newly created Alberni-Nanaimo district would have to travel. The mileage paid helped the member to travel and it was necessary to travel to properly know the district.

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe pointed out the mileage only applied to a member's trip from and to Victoria for the session. He saw merits in the claim, however, and said if the Leader of the Opposition were in power next year and saw fit to bring in such a measure he, Mr. Hinchliffe, would not oppose it.

He would not be in the House to do so in any event he was told from the opposition benches.

Hotel Men Fear New Meal Tax

Delegation From Victoria and Vancouver Says Service Clubs Will Make Proprietors Pay

Cafeterias and Tea Parties Will Evade It, Delegation Tells Finance Minister Jones

The tax on meals costing fifty cents and over is unfair and discriminated against the better class of eating houses where overhead expenses were extremely high and business conditions poor, a delegation of hotelmen and cafe owners told Hon. J. W. Jones, Finance Minister, this morning. They were now asked to become collection agencies for the government without any provision for meeting the cost of collection, they protested.

Cafeterias, they pointed out, escape provisions of the tax by reason that no checks are issued and a diner may escape the tax by walking a few feet and getting another dish and another price marker.

With the higher class hotels and cafes it means hundreds of extra cafe checks, extra accounting and extra help. The tax can be avoided by lowering the cost of a meal from fifty cents to forty-nine cents and selling the customer a box of matches for one cent.

Tea parties given by hostesses at hotels and cafes may escape the tax, it was pointed out by the hotelmen by issuing of separate checks.

The delegation asked Mr. Jones to

either raise the amount of a meal to be taxed or wipe out the limit and tax meals regardless of the price.

SERVICE CLUBS' STAND

Service clubs and public bodies that have been paying seventy-five cents a meal at their weekly meetings have notified hotel operators and cafe proprietors that they will continue to pay only seventy-five cents for meals, leaving it to the proprietors to pay the tax. This, it was claimed, would mean a loss of at least \$6,000 to one Vancouver hotel.

The theory of some ministers that the tax would hit tourists almost entirely was fallacious, claimed the delegation, in pointing out the number of service club functions weekly and the attendance at these.

Mr. Jones told the delegation that the bill would go through but gave the hotelmen the assurance that the government would endeavor to lighten the cost of collection, and in this connection intimated that meal tax stamps would be issued for attachment to checks covered by the new law.

The delegation consisted of T. E. Chester, Hotel Vancouver; W. Hudson, Hotel George; E. G. Hunter, Purdy's Cafe; A. W. Baynes, Hotel Grosvenor, all of Vancouver, and J. K. Hodges, Empress Hotel, and Steve Jones, Dominion Hotel, Victoria.

When the bill was before the Legislature this morning, Mr. Jones said he did not think the tax would be passed on to hotelmen. He could not conceive, he said, when the case of service clubs was raised, that any member belonging to such a club would object to paying a tax that would amount to less than five cents on a seventy-five-cent meal, when he knew that amount was going to hospitals.

Opposition members differed considerably with Mr. Jones on the \$200,000 estimate of revenue from the tax. Fifty thousand would be nearer the mark, A. M. Manson, Liberal, Omnesca, thought.

Answering George S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, Mr. Jones said distributions to hospitals would be made monthly if possible.

STERILIZATION VIEWS AIRED

Religious and Moral Objections Drawn to Attention of House

An unsuccessful appeal to have the bill providing for sterilization of the mentally unfit die on the order papers was made by T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, before the measure was given second reading.

Mr. Pattullo said the weight of medical evidence in the House was that the bill was innocuous and futile. It was antagonistic to the religious and moral beliefs of a great section of the people of the province, and he thought it was ill advised to bring down a bill on such an important subject in the closing hours of the Legislature without proper opportunity being given for its consideration. No harm could come from holding it for another year so that further consideration could be given to it.

Dr. G. M. Kingston, Conservative, Grand Forks, approved the principle of the bill. It had been called by opponents the thin end of the wedge, but he did not think that was against it. As the knowledge of the bill spread he thought a bill with wider provisions would prove acceptable to the public.

Dr. J. J. Gillis said that while twenty-three states had adopted sterilization laws at various times, only four had kept them on the statute books. They found that it caused an increase in the spread of social diseases.

Keystone of the care of the mentally deficient was education and training, he said, not surgical action. Much was being learned about heredity all the time. Tuberculosis was now known to be not hereditary, despite the long held belief to the contrary. He said medical science was always making strides and he was not convinced that mental deficiency and insanity were hereditary.

Not more than 5 per cent of the cases in British Columbia institutions were demonstrably hereditary cases, he said.

He urged that the bill be left over for further consideration, as many besides the Roman Catholics objected and should be given time to make representations.

Dr. Gillis offered treatises to the effect that physical defects, disease and degeneracy can not be hereditary when the bill was discussed at the evening session.

Hon. S. L. Howe and Reginald Hayward chided T. D. Pattullo for asking to have the bill left on the order paper, remarking he was the first to suggest it.

The Opposition Leader said his remarks were wrongly construed. He had asked whether the minister was considering it, and when the minister got some applause for saying the time was ripe for this measure he had been encouraged to bring it in.

Mr. Pattullo insisted, however, that owing to the conflict of medical testimony and the strong objection of certain sections of the public it was unwise to act on a measure brought in so late in the session.

"If the minister believes in it he should have brought it in early," he said. "If he believes it is right, he should do the right thing without needing any encouragement. It is this government's lack of courage that has landed it where it is to-day."

The bill came out of committee unamended, but was not advanced to third reading because of one or two objections.

LADNER BRIDGE BILL MODIFIED

More Financial Protection For Province in Amended Bill, Says Works Minister

Government No Right to Enter Major Contracts, Says Opposition Leader

Changes in the Ladner Bridge Bill, introduced by Hon. R. W. Bruhn, Minister of Public Works, at this morning's session of the Legislature, stirred another storm on the contentious proposal.

The original bill called for the government to share in toll profits and guarantee deficits up to \$140,000 a year for forty years on the \$2,600,000 bridge an English firm proposes to erect at Ladner. Objections from both sides of the House were voiced during a lengthy debate.

One amendment says that if the government pays any money by way of meeting deficits, the amount of the government advance becomes a first mortgage on the bridge, taking precedence over the bond issue.

Another amendment says that if there is a deficit the company itself must pay dollar for dollar with the government in meeting it. In other words, if the company does not raise its share of the deficit by private means, the government is not called upon to pay a cent.

The object of the amendments were to tighten up the agreement and give greater protection to the province, Mr. Bruhn said.

IN LAST MINUTE RUSH

T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, protested against important subjects being brought down at such short notice.

"At this late-in-the-evening session this self-admittedly incompetent government has no right to enter into major contracts," Mr. Pattullo claimed.

"So far as I am concerned," he said, "if the authority is mine, I do not propose to recognize them in the future."

\$33,000,000 TO RUN PROVINCE ONE YEAR

The total amount of the supply bill which went through three readings in the B.C. Legislature this morning was \$32,935,794, including supplementaries. This is in addition to the \$10,000,000 loan authorized yesterday.

WIDE POWERS IN RELIEF BILL

Liberal Leader Frowns on Government's Lack of Initiative

Final reading was given in the Legislature yesterday to the bill giving power to the government to enter into similar agreements with the Dominion Government and the municipalities for unemployment relief as those that prevailed to the end of the fiscal year. The bill also gives power to the government to assist in a back-to-the-land policy.

The wide provisions of the bill were commented upon by Mr. Pattullo, who remarked that he thought extraordinary powers should be given, but he was hesitant to place them in the hands of the present government. The government had not measured up to its responsibility, he claimed. It had shown no initiative. It had stagnated. They had evidence the government itself was dissatisfied with Ottawa's policy on relief camps and other phases of unemployment, but apparently it had tried to do nothing about it. Mr. Pattullo also disagreed with the federal policy. The country had been told of the full dinner pail and employment for everybody, but if the government had tried to adopt measures to bring about the reverse of that condition it could not have adopted a more effective means than it had done.

Across The Bay

It is almost over at last—and we are getting ready to go home thoroughly disillusioned and disgusted with ourselves—but a little life is still left in this dying session of a dying Legislature

By H. B. W.

DEATH BED

THESE ARE the dying hours, indeed, and with them all hope is dying, too. There was on the face of this Legislature Thursday the look of men who realize that the Grim Reaper of Politics is just around the corner, that they are near the end not alone of the session, but of public life. There was more than that. There was the look of men who are going home utterly weary and disgusted, whose fondest hopes have been dashed to the ground, who don't know what is going to happen but expect it will be pretty bad.

In the House business went along at top speed, because no one wants to stay here beyond Saturday morning, but behind the scenes the real business of the session wasn't going forward at all. As this is written, at the end of the hardest, bitterest and most disappointing day since the last election, there is no member bold enough to believe that anything worth while will come out of the present political turmoil. Unless a last-minute miracle saves it, the Conservative caucus, which last week was going to build a new government, a new policy, a new heaven and a new earth, will go home with its tail between its legs. It will go home and leave Premier Tolmie to work out what he can. And a goodly part of it, according to its own statement, will quietly sneak through the back door into Mr. Bower's party.

MELANCHOLY

WHAT WILL develop from this glorious mess, what the Premier can do about it, no one knows. The average Conservative member has just thrown up his hands in despair and wants only to get home, away from it all, away from shattered illusions and lost faith. This, while it is a melancholy end to a session which was to produce a union of best minds, an end of politics and a shining rebirth of statesmanship—this was the best possible atmosphere for conducting the business of the session, for ending this sorry show and putting the toys away.

We sat all day, with two futile Conservative caucuses intervening, and passed enough laws to keep the people of British Columbia virtuous for the rest of their lives. To listen to this endless procession of new statutes, from beer to bridges, from lunacy to income taxes, would make the unseasoned head swim.

We came at last, after a long day, to our dear old friend Beer, who used to hold us in these premises by the week, but lately has been out of public life. Mr. Pooley announced the glad news that beer prices were coming down to \$1.50 a dozen, and admitted that he never drank the stuff but believed government beer was "reasonably good," a comprehensive expression which made the House smile. Dr. Winch, who never drank the stuff either, didn't agree, but we could get no testimony from anyone who knew from experience. Apparently no one drank the stuff. Even Mr. Uphill said he knew of it only by hearsay. Anyway, we passed the new beer policy, including capped bottled beer in beer parlors, without strenuous opposition and without division.

We also passed the new bill ordering sterilization for the insane, with strong support in some directions but against the protest of Dr. Gillis, who made an able speech against it, and of Mr. Pattullo, who said the bill was innocuous and brought in too late.

VALEDICTORY

WHEN WE CAME to the bill giving the government wide power to administer unemployment relief, Mr. Pattullo grasped the opportunity to make a final declaration of Liberal policy—concerted action by the people through government to solve unemployment—and to make a final gesture of disgust at the record of the government. He didn't like to give this government the wide-open powers of the new bill, but was comforted mightily with the thought that a new government, probably under his leadership, would use them before the summer was over. Still, if he were not elected, he said in this unexpected sessional valedictory, he would make no murmur; for he confessed that it was a terrible job being Premier just now, if a man wanted to accomplish anything, and he would not take it on any other basis.

In the evening we began to grapple with some realities in a big way. After weeks of stubborn fighting behind the scenes, E. C. Carson, a determined young fellow from the bunch grass country, managed to get action on his resolution, which calls for a national writing down of interest rates on all governmental borrowings, federal, provincial and municipal—probably the biggest chunk of economics which the House has tried to bite off this year.

A LOT OF powerful people would have liked to see the Carson resolution die on the order paper, the fate usually reserved for unpleasant proposals of this sort. The resolution seemed all set for this fate when Mr. Carson insisted that it be voted on, and he resisted all attempts to tone it down. In the end he succeeded handsomely in his fight, for not a single vote was recorded against it. The Legislature thus decided unanimously that it was in favor of scaling down interest rates according to the country's ability to pay—a decision which would have been impossible a year ago.

POOR MR. DICK

MR. DICK of Vancouver made a lone and gallant fight for his plan to extend the present mortgage moratorium to interest as well as principal, within the discretion of the courts. He declared that hundreds of Vancouver people were losing their homes through foreclosure, that no abuses could occur if the courts were made solely responsible, and that relief was urgently required. Mr. Pooley, who has consistently opposed this plan as dangerous, denounced it again, but it got support from Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Pearson.

But unhappily for Mr. Dick, he had got himself into the hands of lawyers. His amendments to the mortgage law were so involved, having been drafted by a lawyer, that all the lawyers in the House couldn't understand them at first. And just as Mr. Dick was demanding a division on the principle involved, a legal slip in his proposal was discovered most conveniently. At once opponents of his plan viewed it with great alarm and before Mr. Dick knew what had happened, he had been turned down cold, without any support at all. Well, Mr. Dick said he wanted to put the Vancouver members on record and he did so. He was the only member in the House who was heard to vote for a moratorium on interest.

For the rest of the night the House operated like a mighty machine, turning out bill after bill with monotonous regularity. Mr. Pooley watched with eagle eye and with hand on the throttle for it is his job to see that no bills die on the order paper of neglect, a formidable job indeed when you have nearly a hundred bills, all in different stages of growth and amendment, to keep in order. Somehow Mr. Pooley will manage it. Somehow everything that Mr. Pooley wants done will be done by to-night, and all those things that he doesn't want done, won't be, and the seventeenth Legislature will come to its latter end, according to the best traditions.

HARBOR BOARD TAX PLAN OUT

Motion Amending Municipal Act Fails to Make Headway in Committee

A brief battle to give municipalities the power to tax harbor board lands was lost in the Legislature yesterday when H. D. Twigg, as chairman, ruled out an amendment to the Municipal Act offered when the bill was in the committee stage.

R. Hayward, piloting the bill containing several amendments to the act through the House, said the municipal committee had looked with favor on the proposal for several years but had not recommended it. He understood the private bills committee had rejected a similar proposal but the introduction of the amendment would give the House an opportunity to pass upon it.

J. Loutet, North Vancouver, fought for it. Through not being able to tax harbor board land North Vancouver lost \$60,000 a year. The harbor board was actually in competition with private firms and should pay taxes.

Attorney-General Pooley doubted if the amendment was in order. It was a matter affecting crown revenue. In any event a telegram had been received from the Prime Minister of Canada suggesting the matter stand over and in the meantime federal, provincial and municipal authorities would get together and see if they could reach an agreement.

Mr. Loutet said: They have been going to do that for ten years . . . always going to, but nothing is ever done."

Mr. Loutet also asked why the Legislature should stand in the way if the municipalities were prepared to carry the case to the Privy Council for a test. North Vancouver had gone into receivership for \$320,000, an amount equal to what it had lost in five years through not being able to tax harbor board property.

DEBT GROWTH IN SPOTLIGHT

Now Amounts to \$165,000,000 Claims T. D. Pattullo

The increase in the public debt was in the spotlight when estimates were under discussion in the Legislature yesterday evening.

Noting interest charges amounting to \$6,980,377, Mr. Pattullo commented they only amounted to \$4,036,000 when the previous administration left office. In five years they had almost doubled. The \$4,036,000 started from the time British Columbia was a province, the Opposition Leader emphasized yet the present administration had added nearly that amount in five years.

Hon. J. W. Jones, Finance Minister, said the gross public debt was \$104,000,000 when the present administration went into office. They accepted responsibility for bringing the debt up to \$154,000,000.

"What is it to-day?" Mr. Pattullo asked.

It was impossible to tell the public debt day by day, reported Mr. Jones.

It would be \$165,000,000 Mr. Pattullo claimed. Mr. Pattullo also said, in speaking of the commitments Mr. Jones had not mentioned, they included \$4,000,000 for interest on the public debt.

BOOTLEGGING IN HOME BREW

Attorney-General Brings Matter to Attention of the Legislature

Lower Permit and Delivery System to Come in Force at Once

Changes in the Liquor Act which provide for 25c permits starting April 18, home deliveries and sale of sealed packages of beer by beer parlors, and reduction of beer by 50c a dozen, provided considerable discussion in the Legislature yesterday when Attorney-General Pooley spoke to second reading of the bill.

Critics of the bill saw in it, in spite of Attorney-General Pooley's explanation to the contrary, an attack on the rights of home brewers. They also complained the spirit of the act, which was merely to meet the demand for liquor and not encourage the consumption for profit, was being departed from.

DELIVERY SYSTEM

Explaining the delivery system, Mr. Pooley said it would be possible to telephone liquor stores and order beer for \$1.75 a dozen, with 25c refunded for empty bottles. The refund on empty bottles is only effective when deliveries are made. Emptyies will not be accepted if a person wishes to make purchases at liquor store. An amendment provides for deliveries to start as soon as the bill passes. Conditions to the south where beer would soon be running wild and the problem of the home brewer had made the reduction advisable, Mr. Pooley said. Home brew was not only being freely made, but a great deal of it was being bootlegged. If reasonably good beer it would, to a great extent, do away with the necessity of home brew.

To illustrate the extent home brew was manufactured he said one firm in Vancouver sold three carloads of home brew material in a single month. How home brew had established itself was shown by the fact that in British Columbia in 1928 159,200 barrels of bottled beer were sold. This had dropped to 65,279.

Some members suggested the financial condition of people had to be considered in this connection.

Mr. Pooley quoted the original plebiscite to support his argument that the spirit of the act was not being departed from.

SAYS IT'S BETTER

Capt. MacGregor Macintosh, Conservative, The Islands, was not in accord with what he called Mr. Pooley's attack on home brewers. He, like many people in his district, made home brew which he claimed was far better beer costing considerably less than the brewers' product. The Attorney-General had referred to home brewers almost as if they were criminals, he thought.

Mr. Pooley replied he had been misunderstood. If people wanted to make home brew, that was their business. His only objection to home brew was when it was bootlegged.

Dr. H. C. Winch, Liberal, Skeena, said he had heard reports that home brew was a far better product than that of the brewers. He recalled beer of his boyhood days and questioned why the good old beer that used to be made could not be made available. Linking the reduction in the price of manufacturers' beer and the new federal tax as a move against home brewing, he said governments should go slow in the invasion of homes. Why should the rights of those who chose to make beer at home be interfered with. He claimed emphatically the government was breaking faith with the people by the extension of the act without giving them the right to vote on it, and also claimed there was a wide departure from the spirit of the plebiscite, as the government looked more and more for profits from the source of liquor.

LOOKING TO REVENUE

George S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, and A. M. Manson, Liberal, Omineca, also claimed the government was paying too much attention to the revenue side of the liquor business. Mr. Pearson said if the government were going to control the liquor business it must eventually control the manufacture of liquor.

Dr. G. K. MacNaughton, Conservative, Comox, objected to the bill. Carrying beer away from parlors left the way open for abuses that could not be foreseen.

Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, thought hotelkeepers should have the privilege of selling beer. He also questioned Mr. Pooley as to whether he had a \$1.75 refund coming to him on the 25c permit he had purchased earlier in the year. He was told he had not.

NOTES ON LEGISLATION

Attorney-General Pooley over some amendments since Act in the Legislature afternoon, agreed that have a general revision of the statutes, the hope that whichever general next year would ter ahead. The last revision in 1924 and took two years.

Tom Uphill suggested date for beginning the year would be November January 1, as heretofore, the Motor Act amendments House now propose. Now catch people before they their money at Christmas enable residents of the expense of buying winter months in which use their cars.

Second and third readings to the bill providing for certain lands at Barkerville townsite purposes. T. D. the bill would take away pension rights already stakings, but Attorney-General who had legitimize develop their claims had apply. Mr. Loughheed townsite had been staked times over, including et yard.

As a result of the issuing of miners' licenses to unemployed last year McKenzie said he was ext by placing reserves on and by taking power to one month men who he instruction in prospecting little time to locate suit. Last year's act had sent the hills and he hoped would take a large number of the relief camps.

PLEA FOR SENT TO

Uphill Presents Case Men Arrested on Victoria

Consideration for thirty marchers who were taken at Princeton on their way side in Victoria and placetransports was sought by Labor, Fernie, in the Legislature evening.

Attorney-General Pooley the debate on a motion Uphill introduced.

Pleading for the men pointed out the word that the delegates would failed to reach many of province until men had of their way to the camps would probably not have had known of the state effect issued by the Att.

For years riding on freight been recognized as a leg in Canada, and men who not be regarded as criminals. While members might n demonstrations, it was tative way to call attention. ances these men knew.

"Put yourselves in the that is in jail," the Labor cluded his plea. Attorney-General Pooley journeued the debate on a name of H. F. Kergin, calling for an independent inquiry into the working pay and living cost of any

NOTES OF THE LEGISLATURE

Attorney-General Pooley and former Attorney-General Manson, after going over some amendments to the Insurance Act in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, agreed that it was time to have a general revision and consolidation of the statutes. Each expressed the hope that whichever was attorney-general next year would push the matter ahead. The last revision was made in 1924 and took two years to achieve.

Tom Uphill suggested that the best date for beginning the motor license year would be November 1, instead of January 1, as heretofore, or March 1, as the Motor Act amendments before the House now propose. November 1 would catch people before they have spent their money at Christmas and would enable residents of the interior to save the expense of buying a license for winter months in which they could not use their cars.

Second and third readings were given to the bill providing for a reserve on certain lands at Barkerville required for townsite purposes. T. D. Pattullo said the bill would take away without compensation rights already acquired by stakings, but Attorney-General Pooley said any who had legitimate reasons to develop their claims had thirty days to apply. Mr. Loughheed said the whole townsite had been staked two and three times over, including even the graveyard.

As a result of the success of the issuing of miners' licenses free of cost to unemployed last year, Hon. W. A. McKenzie said he was extending the act by placing reserves on certain areas, and by taking power to grubstake for one month men who had taken some instruction in prospecting and desired a little time to locate suitable grounds. Last year's act had sent 9,000 men into the hills and he hoped this year's bill would take a large number of men out of the relief camps.

PLEA FOR MEN SENT TO JAIL

Uphill Presents Case of 37 Men Arrested on Way to Victoria

Consideration for thirty-seven hunger marchers who were taken off the train at Princeton on their way to the parade in Victoria and placed in jail as vagrants was sought by Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, in the Legislature yesterday evening.

Attorney-General Pooley adjourned the debate on a motion which Mr. Uphill introduced.

Fleeting for the men, Mr. Uphill pointed out the word that went out that the delegates would not be received if a demonstration were staged failed to reach many quarters of the province until men had started to make their way to the capital. These men would probably not have started if they had known of the statement to that effect issued by the Attorney-General.

For years riding on freight trains had been recognized as a legitimate thing in Canada, and men who did so could not be regarded as criminal offenders. While members might not agree with demonstrations, it was the only effective way to call attention to their grievances these men knew.

"Put yourselves in their places and that is in jail," the Labor member concluded his plea.

Attorney-General Pooley also adjourned the debate on a motion in the name of H. F. Kergin, Liberal, Atlin, calling for an independent commissioner to immediately make a thorough inquiry into the working conditions, pay and living cost of Anyox miners.

NO CHANGE IN MORATORIUM

Appeals For Greater Latitude For Judges and Wider Provisions Rejected

Amendments aimed to give greater latitude to judges in deciding on granting of moratoriums on mortgages were rejected by the Legislature yesterday evening when Attorney-General Pooley resisted any change in his bill.

The bill extends the moratorium act on principal passed last year for one year and thirty days to continue it until the next session of the Legislature. Suggestions that where a judge thought it advisable to extend it to interest and taxes as well as principal were rejected.

Consideration was promised to a suggestion by A. M. Manson, K.C., that the moratorium should also apply on principal payments on agreements of sale.

William Dick, Vancouver, who moved an amendment covering interest and taxes as well as principal, told the House that there were 35,000 in the bread line in Vancouver and 2,700 property owners who had money to pay neither taxes, interest or even for a loaf of bread. He asked that the judge be given discretionary powers and if a man were able to pay, make him do so; if unable to pay, not to take away his property.

G. S. Pearson, Liberal, Nanaimo, was in sympathy with Mr. Dick's motion, although he knew the difficulties confronting holders of mortgages.

Mr. Pooley stated that there had been very few foreclosures in British Columbia and not one man in a hundred wanted to take over property. The wider moratorium had worked havoc during the war and the bill as it stood went far enough.

Hon. R. L. Maitland told the House that a judge's consent must now be obtained before a foreclosure action is started and the foreclosure takes about eight months to put through. The bill was reported complete with amendments.

CONSERVATIVES FOR SAFEGUARD

Four Members Favor Liberal Motion on Park Land Transfers

Four Conservative members were behind T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, that purchases of lands or transfer of lands for park areas should be approved by the Legislature when a division was taken on the subject at this morning's session.

Mr. Pattullo called for a division on his proposed amendments to the bill which would go on a higher basis, Reno reached amending Provincial Parks Act and the Garibaldi Parks Act. The bill brought down by Hon. N. S. Loughheed gives the government the right to buy lands for park areas or transfers of land.

Mr. Pattullo's amendment provides this shall not be done unless the Legislature approves.

W. R. Rutledge, J. Loutet, W. Dick and Macgregor Macintosh were the Conservatives who supported Mr. Pattullo's view.

The refusal of his amendment was cited by Mr. Pattullo as an indication of the co-operation that might be anticipated in a union government.

There were signs of a verbal battle between Premier Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo when the Premier said Mr. Pattullo's land deals were responsible for a great portion of the debt.

The chairman ruled the subject out of order. Mr. Pattullo pointed out the Premier had raised the subject and offered to debate it but Premier Tolmie did not rise to answer and the subject was dropped.

In speaking of his desire to see some of the fine timber of Garibaldi Park preserved Mr. Loughheed said he had heard it said he was financially interested. He had no financial interest at all. He had resigned directorships and closed his financial interests in the timber business when he entered public life. He came into public life clean and would go out clean.

The final reading was given the bill providing for voluntary sterilization of mental defectives.

Hon. J. W. Jones's bill providing for the income surtax was passed.

ANYOX INQUIRY PRESSED FOR

Affidavits Allege Dangerous Conditions Exist at Mines

Legislature Debates Labor Troubles at Morning Session

Feld agitators had been responsible for the necessity of putting a stop to riding freight cars. Attorney-General Pooley declared in the Legislature this morning when labor problems were brought before the house in two motions.

One sought release from jail into which they had been put as vagrants of thirty-seven men who were arrested at Princeton on their way to Victoria for the hunger march. It was rejected.

The other sought an investigation by an independent commissioner into wages paid, living costs and conditions generally at Anyox mines.

Regarding the first motion, Mr. Pooley said the free riding which used to be countenanced had been stopped because of the activities of agitators among the Communists.

"My sympathy used to be with the free worker making his way to another place to secure work," Mr. Pooley said. "It has stopped now. They can take it out on the agitators who have caused free riding to be stopped and tell them to go to work."

"Work where?" Mr. Pooley was asked. Many of them have been offered work and refused it," replied Mr. Pooley. "They are too busy trying to bring Russian conditions to Canada."

Resisting the motion for an investigation into conditions at Anyox, Mr. Pooley said an investigation had already been made by the deputy Minister of Labor.

George S. Pearson said there was enough in the deputy minister's report to warrant an investigation. There was ample evidence operators at Anyox had acted in a high-handed manner.

Several affidavits were read by Mr. Uphill to support his contention that allegations of dangerous conditions for miners at Anyox warranted a full inquiry. Dangers of cave-ins and loose muck were spoken of in the affidavits.

Hon. Wm. McKenzie adjourned the debate.

HOUSE WANTS INTEREST CUT

Carson Motion Calling on Ottawa to Devise Scheme Carries

The British Columbia Legislature went on record yesterday evening in favor of the Dominion Government immediately devising a plan for the scaling down of interest rates of government, borrowings, federal, provincial and municipal, in line with the present purchasing power of the dollar and the ability of the country to pay.

Views along these lines have been expressed by T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, on several occasions. The action yesterday, however, was taken in adopting a motion in the name of E. C. Carson, Conservative, Lillicoat.

Speaking on the subject at the evening session, Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, was brief but emphatic. All wages had been reduced but those of capital, he said. Wages of capital had been increased. Interest rates were higher than ever before. In face of reductions for everyone else capital had come to governments and demanded increase.

"Banks and moneylenders for sheer unmitigated gall have got everything beaten I ever met," he concluded.

The motion passed without a recorded vote.

RETURNS GIVE FIRMS TROUBLE

A. M. Manson Brings Up Subject When New Form Is Called For

The number of government returns companies were called upon to make was commented upon by A. M. Manson, K.C., during discussion in the Legislature yesterday on the bill providing for the surtax of incomes over \$5,000.

Firms were being pestered with these returns, Mr. Manson commented, and it was adding to the cost of operation. Was there no way the Dominion Government and the provincial governments could exchange forms? he asked.

Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, remarked that up to the present the Dominion Government had refused, although they were co-operating to a far greater extent now than before.

Mr. Manson also remarked that the Dominion Government was collecting income tax far more thoroughly than the provincial government. His sympathy would be with the minister if he enforced more thorough collection in British Columbia.

TO SPEED UP SETTLEMENTS

Amendments to Succession Duties Act Introduced in Legislature

Elimination of delay in administration of estates by giving power to proceed with administration pending settlement of values of estates by the province was assured in further amendments to the Succession Duty Act amendments introduced yesterday by Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C.

Up to the present time, it was explained, a delay of six months or more, while the taxation department arrived at assessable value for fixing of succession duties, has caused considerable embarrassment to beneficiaries of estates, since administration of the estate could not proceed until this matter had been settled. The new amendments, it is understood, will do away with this unnecessary delay altogether and generally speed up the closing out of estates in the province.

Further amendments provide protection for widows exemptions, means for which under the old act were somewhat obscure.

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**"WHOM THE GODS WOULD DESTROY
THEY FIRST MAKE MAD"**

The time to look for the proverbial Ethiopian in a government's political wood-pile always is the final period of a legislative session. It is then that controversial measures, bills of dubious quality and other products of private "arrangement" are introduced and rushed through by a servile majority. The members want to get home—and the government knows it. They are listening to the alluring voices of spring—and the government knows it. It is seeding time on the farm, moving and cleaning-up time in the cities, the commercial travelers are after orders—and the government knows it.

In short, the legislators are in a hurry to close up, they are not supposed to be critical or exacting, and therefore all the conditions are favorable to the passage of legislation which no government would dare to introduce in the House in the early part of the session. It is a time-honored commonplace among political observers that it is in the closing days of a parliamentary or legislative session that the public "gets it in the neck."

In these aspects the terminal period of the present session of the provincial Legislature is no exception from the rule. A loan bill for \$10,000,000 comes along within four days of prorogation. That bill is supposed to provide for the seven-million-dollar deficit of last year, plus unemployment relief expenditure. We are not disposed to challenge the Finance Minister's explanation on that ground, since it is obvious that the deficit which is due to expenditures already made must be met in some way, for the bank is entitled to its money.

And that loan bill does not begin to meet British Columbia's financial shortcomings, for the current deficit probably exceeds \$5,000,000 and we are going to have one of at least several millions next year according to the government's own admission. We continue to increase our debt at a million dollars a month. But passing a loan bill and getting the money authorized by the members are now two different things.

That four-million-dollar issue of bonds some months ago is still a long way from absorption by the lending public, and the bank which is financing the government has the untaken certificates, not to speak of a formidable aggregation of provincial treasury notes, in its coffers.

Where, then, are the ten millions intended to meet liabilities of last year to come from, not to speak of the funds that will be necessary to meet the deficit for the year which ended with March? And where is the interest on these borrowings—whether from the banks or from the lending public, which, by the way, has long since ceased to be a lending public—to come from? The taxpayers have reached the limit of their resources, as both Mr. Rhodes of Ottawa and Mr. Jones of Victoria will discover before long. Taxing sugar, restaurant meals and so forth will not produce enough revenue to pay for the cost of collection.

Yet notwithstanding the unexampled financial emergency with which our provincial government is confronted, the frank admission of the Minister of Finance regarding the seriousness of his problem, the union government proposals of the Prime Minister on the ground that the "best minds" of the country should be mobilized to meet the critical conditions which exist, the government calmly brings down a measure to assume a liability of \$140,000 a year for forty years for the construction of a new bridge across the Fraser River to cost \$2,500,000! That the province would have to meet that liability there is not the slightest doubt; this province which now has almost one-seventh of its population on unemployment relief, whose government has even reduced its grants to hospitals and to municipalities to such an extent as to force them to the verge of bankruptcy. And it now proposes, in the last hours of a legislative session, to finance the construction of a bridge across the Fraser River which as surely as the sun rises will be a burden upon the public of the province for more than a generation!

What on earth are we coming to when in one dying breath the government asks for authority to borrow ten millions to pay for bills already overdue, without the certainty that it can obtain the money on any terms, and in another proposes that the province shall compromise itself heavily for a project which in any circumstances should not be considered until we have got within measurable distance of making both ends meet! It was inevitable that this proposal should be attacked from both sides of the House. The mere fact that it was made at all is an arresting commentary on the Neronian incapacity of the government to realize what is happening not only throughout the province but throughout the world. We can do without that bridge for years.

Was it for such legislative monstrosities as these that Dr. Tolmie proposed a union government? Is this the kind of problem which calls for the mobilization of the "best minds" of the province to solve? Nearly one hundred thousand people on relief, a loan bill for ten millions of dollars to meet past deficits, taxation to the neck, and we are asked to guarantee a new bridge costing several millions of dollars across the Fraser River. Ye gods and little fishes! Verily "whom the gods would destroy they first make mad"—campaign funds or no campaign funds.

**Across
Bay**

It is over at last—makes us a little of this rough exterior become very human, quite loveable in 1 fashion—during the hours.

By H. B.

DEAD

AFTER LIFE'S first Seventeenth Legislative Columbia, as a factor in politics, is Mercifully? Yes, after tortures of the last could be hard-hearted it alive.

The legislature is in circumstances of pecuniary It is dead, without fr even with itself and y on it at the end of its alize here that it was ture—good, I mean, in the honesty of its mer next election or any send a more upright lo toria. There was little t the average intelligence honesty of the Sevent and their motives, at high. But, despite al their desire to do som home thoroughly unth their hopes frustrated, chaos. There is no ot In place of two parties half a dozen different House, all looking for s

WHITHER?

WELL, WHEN they end of a hard Fri know where they were of them knew they were wilderness. Many Cou going to run as indepe were going to join Mr. were going to stay hon politician on the radio, tullo really thought he was going.

As for the Premier, v loves as much as ever thing, he has been left he could, to pull things as might be. And like bore the departure of with his grief well dis

Yet this last day of always a wistful sort of body. Even the opposi pects to return unanim vastly-increased numb felt that another big been passed, that a p gether without happine was finally closed. Fe present confusion and been a friendly, kindly has been a better feelin ernment and oppositio previous time. And Mr. wonderfully human a human weakness, has n heart for anyone.

HUMAN

FIVE YEARS, now changed us all do everybody more human ture has been through has plunged from the perty down to the dep has been forced to chan basic ideas on econom very humble in its ol away for the last time made a pretty bad n things, but comforted that its madness was t the public which sent goes away hoping that lature, born in adve handicapped by youth do a better job.

Across The Bay

It is over at last—and the end makes us a little sad—for under this rough exterior the House has become very human, very humble, quite loveable in its blundering fashion—during these last dying hours.

By H. B. W.

DEAD

FATHER LIFE'S fitful fever, the Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia, as a maker of laws, as a factor in politics, is mercifully dead. Mercifully? Yes, after the lingering tortures of the last month, no one could be hard-hearted enough to keep it alive.

The legislature is dead, and in circumstances of peculiar melancholy. It is dead, without friends, disengaged even with itself and yet, looking back on it at the end of its little life we realize here that it was a good legislature—good, I mean, in the quality and the honesty of its men. Probably the next election or any other will not send a more upright lot of men to Victoria. There was little to complain of in the average intelligence and the average honesty of the Seventeenth members and their motives, at the end, were high. But, despite all that, despite their desire to do something, they go home thoroughly unhappy men, all their hopes frustrated, and politics in chaos. There is no other word for it. In place of two parties there are about half a dozen different groups in the House, all looking for somewhere to go.

WHITHER?

WELL, WHEN they left here at the end of a hard Friday they didn't know where they were going. Many of them knew they were going into the wilderness. Many Conservatives were going to run as independents. Others were going to join Mr. Bower. Many were going to stay home and listen to politics on the radio. Only Mr. Pattullo really thought he knew where he was going.

As for the Premier, whom everybody loves as much as ever despite everything, he has been left here to do what he could, to pull things together as well as might be. And like all premiers, he bore the departure of the Legislature with his grief well disguised.

Yet this last day of a last session is always a wistful sort of day for everybody. Even the opposition, which expects to return unanimously and with vastly-increased numbers next year, felt that another big milestone had been passed, that a period not altogether without happiness for all of us was finally closed. For, despite the present confusion and dismay, this has been a friendly, kindly House. There has been a better feeling between government and opposition than at any previous time. And Mr. Pattullo, grown wonderfully human and tolerant of human weakness, has no enmity in his heart for anyone.

HUMAN

FIVE YEARS, now closed, have changed us all down here, made everybody more human. This Legislature has been through a lot together, has plunged from the height of prosperity down to the depths of poverty, has been forced to change nearly all its basic ideas on economics, has become very humble in its old age. It goes away for the last time realizing that it made a pretty bad mess of many things, but comforted by the thought that its madness was the madness of the public which sent it there. It goes away hoping that the next Legislature, born in adversity and not handicapped by youthful riches, will do a better job.

Our last hours were like the last hours of all legislatures about to die, like the parting hours of good friends who may never meet again. Every man bid his neighbor farewell with a real regret, for the personal friendliness of this House, from the leaders to the most humble back benchers seems to grow with growth of official disagreement.

The last day was the usual monotonous drone of legislation going through the mill, the driving forward of the last bill to finality, lest it be left on the order paper, the final granting of supply to His Majesty, the customary big issue left to the final moments.

HEAVY LOAD

IN THIS case the big issue was the Ladner Bridge. All afternoon we argued about the Ladner Bridge, and finally agreed to the proposals of Mr. Bruhn, who safeguarded the government in the project to such an extent that many don't expect the bridge to be built at all. Anyway, everybody wanted to talk about the Ladner Bridge and about a lot of other things. The Ladner Bridge, indeed, was forced to carry such a load of oratory and extraneous argument that its utmost capacity was tested.

This was the last debate of the Seventeenth Legislature and the old-time warriors couldn't resist the temptation to strike a few last blows—Mr. Pattullo to reiterate his general Liberal policy of restoring prosperity and to denounce the government for introducing important projects in its last hours; Mr. Mattland to remark that Mr. Pattullo evidently didn't want the Government to do anything in its last session, except to sit and admire Mr. Pattullo; Mr. McKenzie to discuss the next election campaign and predict a torrent of abuse and falsification; Mr. Pooley to take a few parting shots at his good friend, Duff; Mr. Speaker to make everyone behave.

Little else remained. After spirited debate and many serious allegations, Mr. Kergin lost his motion calling for an independent investigation into conditions in the mines and smelter of Anyox; but not before Mr. McKenzie had promised an inquiry by officials of his department into the sworn statement of miners that the workings were highly dangerous to human life.

Mr. Uphill lost his motion calling for the release of thirty-seven hunger marchers who stole a ride on freight trains, after Mr. Pooley had made an

indignant and general denunciation of communism here.

Colonel Spencer lost his motion calling for a shorter day in industry because he brought it in fifteen minutes past agitators who wanted to establish before prorogation, and no one wanted to consider it then.

SAD RITES

IT WAS a House of parting friends as the Seventeenth Parliament assembled for the last sad rites. But first it made a rather poignant presentation to that dear old friend of everyone, our Elder Statesman, Jim Schofield, of Rossland-Trail, the best-loved figure in provincial politics. When the Speaker had gone to escort the Lieutenant-Governor into the chamber, Attorney-General Pooley, second in seniority only to Mr. Schofield, took charge. Under his direction the Premier and Mr. Pattullo walked together to Mr. Schofield's desk bearing a huge silver plate, the gift of all the members. Mr. Pooley called his old friend the "whitest man British Columbia has ever seen," the Premier said, "Long may our Jimmy live." Mr. Pattullo thanked him for his long and splendid service to British Columbia.

For Mr. Schofield, who came into this assembly in 1907, who has seen governments come and go, who has watched all his old comrades pass beyond the bar of the House, this was a crowning moment, for he will not run again. This was his last night in a Legislature which has been his spiritual home for most of a lifetime. Probably no tribute ever rendered here had more in it of friendship and sincerity.

The Lieutenant-Governor came. The seventy odd bills passed this session were droned out by Clerk Langley, making an impressive record in volume at least. The Lieutenant-Governor read his speech, appreciating our labors. It was announced that he had graciously assented to our legislation. Mr. Speaker Davies approached him with the historic sentiments of unfeigned devotion and got approval for our appropriations. The Lieutenant-Governor left. The members stood about in a circle, joined hands and shouted out the words of "Auld Lang Syne." The old spring blizzard of sessional papers, pillows and waste paper baskets swept the chamber. Mr. Howe demonstrated how he could leap over his desk like a two-year-old. Everybody said good-bye to everybody else. The Seventeenth Legislature belonged to the Ages. We hoped the ages would appreciate it more than the electors have.

NOTES OF THE LEGISLATURE

While waiting for the arrival of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to prorogue the House Friday evening, Attorney-General R. H. Pooley mounted the Speaker's dais and announced that Premier Tolmie and T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader, on behalf of the House were about to make a presentation to one of the whitest men who ever served the people of British Columbia, J. H. (Jim) Schofield, who has been a member of the House for twenty-one years.

The two leaders then walked to Mr. Schofield's desk and in a most appropriate speech presented him with a silver tray.

An engraved silver cigarette case also was presented to Colonel A. W. Wood, wishes of all.

After prorogation the usual felicitations took place, with the added touch that, this being the last session of the Legislature, members joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne." Then followed the time-honored custom of throwing papers at one another until the stately legislative chamber looked like a wastepaper bin.

Dr. R. W. Alward, Conservative member for Prince George in the Legislature, this morning received a telegram from a woman constituent who runs a cafe in his riding. She told him the tax on meals would compel hotel and restaurant keepers in the country districts to turn their establishments into boarding houses.

MR. PATTULLO'S AMENDMENT WAS A REASONABLE ONE

It would be interesting to know just why the Tolmie government objected to Mr. Pattullo's amendment to the Park Act which would have required the Legislature to approve any exchange of provincial park lands for lands owned by private interests.

At least three Conservatives voted against the government and supported the reasonable safeguard of the public interest embodied in Mr. Pattullo's amendment. There was nothing very convincing in Hon. N. S. Lougheed's defence of the government's legislation that it was impossible for any administration to secure approval of the House for every small transaction such as the removal of a settler from a park area. Is it to be supposed that the Park Act was drawn up for this purpose only?

The people of the province should be protected against any possible exploitation in park areas. It is not unreasonable to suppose that some avaricious speculator in timber, having cut the pick of his holdings, might come along to the government and suggest that it exchange a certain park area with a good merchantable stand for an area denuded of saleable stuff. This should be prevented by adequate legislation.

ANYOX MINE'S PLEA REJECTED

Motion for Investigation by Independent Commissioner Refused by House

Mines Minister Says He Will Send Inspector to Scene

H. F. Kergin's motion for an independent investigation of the living and working conditions in the Anyox mines was voted down by the government majority after a warm debate in the closing moments of the legislative session.

Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Minister of Mines, said he would send an inspector in to make an investigation. He claimed the mines inspectors were capable and fearless men, in no way subject to the crack of the operator's whip.

Mr. Kergin would not withdraw his motion calling for an independent commissioner, claiming nothing could be fairer.

A last-minute amendment to the new 5 per cent tax on meals provided that the tax may be collected by the use of stamps. The hotel men's protest against the tax was not successful. They agreed with the opposition estimate, however, that the impost would not yield more than \$50,000 for the hospitals.

Another late amendment to the municipal act gives owners an appeal to the county court where a by-law is passed requiring that buildings more than 40 per cent damaged by fire must be demolished.

Col. Nelson Spencer presented a resolution at the evening session favoring a thirty-hour week which was ruled out of order.

LADNER BRIDGE BURDEN OPPOSED

Canadian Press

Vancouver, April 8.—Vancouver Board of Trade has notified the government it is opposed to committing the province to participate in any financial obligations resulting from construction of the Ladner bridge.

The board favors a bridge across the Fraser provided the taxpayers do not assume nor are likely to assume any of the financial burden.

Political Future Puzzles Members As Session Ends

Tolmie Administration Admittedly Sings Swan Song After Five Years in Office

Conservatives See Union Bubble Burst

Cabinet Reorganization and Election Date Are Now Awaited

After sitting for thirty-two working days, spread over a period of six weeks, and passing over eighty bills, nearly every one of which amends some statute on the books, members of the British Columbia Legislature adjourned yesterday with the next provincial election uppermost in the minds of most of them.

The session was the fifth and last of the present Legislature. Their time as members will expire by next September. Elected in July of 1928 at a contest that ended twelve years of Liberal administration to give Premier Tolmie an overwhelming majority in the House, the present Legislature protracted with the certainty that its complexion will be vastly changed.

From the Premier himself has come the confession that he has no hopes that the Conservative party as at present constituted can secure a majority in the next House. T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, does not entertain the same fears for his party and, like the majority of his supporters, believes that after five years' trial of Conservative administration, British Columbia, after the election which it is predicted will take place next July or August, will return to a Liberal Government again.

While legislation affecting indirectly virtually every individual in the province has been passed, the spotlight for a greater part of the session has been directed on the political future. Conservatives until the last few weeks entertained hopes that a union government would be inaugurated. Following unsuccessful attempts of their leaders to affect this desire, private members took matters in their own hands. Desertion from the party of one member right at the beginning of the session and frequent criticism of government sponsored bills by others towards the end of the session emphasized the departure from the unanimity in the ranks that had marked earlier sessions of the Legislature. All negotiations having failed, however, members returned to their homes waiting for the announcement that Premier Tolmie had been called upon to make by the executive of the British Columbia Conservative Association fifteen days after the session closes.

While Premier Tolmie, smarting under the rebuff of Mr. Pattullo's refusal to join him in the formation of a union government, threw aside the olive branch and substituted the shield in clashes that subsequently followed in the Legislature, the Premier has not yet announced he has abandoned his union government ideals. Blunt critics have charged that Premier Tolmie and his ministers have no other objective but to remain in office seeking shelter under the Liberal umbrella when they see no other opportunity; that it is futile to talk of union if the Liberal party will not unite, but the government leader has maintained his silence.

Out of all the discussion what is regarded as the most likely outcome in many quarters at present reading is that within a few weeks Premier Tolmie will announce a reorganization of his cabinet, bringing in some men outside the ranks at present. Then he will announce the date of the election. Then Conservatives, some led by Premier Tolmie and some by W. J. Bowser, K.C., and Liberals, under the leadership of Mr. Pattullo, will be the main factors in the battle for control of the next government. It is anticipated there will be more than the usual number of independent candidates representing other smaller parties.

LADNER BRIDGE BILL PASSES

Greater Safeguards for Government in Amendment Measure

Advances to Company Will Have First Claim Over All Other Charges

Considerably modified from the original form in which it was offered to the Legislature the bill enabling the government to enter Bridge Bill Company for the bridge into an agreement with the Ladner over the Fraser passed the Legislature yesterday.

As the bill now stands the government still agrees to meet half of any deficits there may be in the operation of the bridge up to \$140,000 a year for forty years, but the company is called upon to put up a similar amount on account of deficits. Any amount put up by the government takes priority over all other claims against the company. Six per cent interest is called for on any money advanced by the government to the company.

Conservatives who had opposed the bill withdrew their objections in view of the amendments but Liberals still protested against the measure brought down at such a late hour and against a government committing the province to a major contract of this nature when it was about to retire from office. On the division all Conservatives voted for the bill except W. R. Rutledge. Colonel Nelson Spencer who spoke against the bill was out of the House paired with Thomas Uphill when the division was taken.

Wells Gray commented that the modification of the bill showed the opposition had functioned to some effect in the Legislature.

T. H. Kirk Conservative Vancouver, deplored the policy of private interests obtaining charters under public rights and then coming to the government for relief.

The original bill was loosely drawn and was a crude affair asking the government to assume one-half the deficit up to \$140,000. As now drawn the maximum penalty stands, but the amount advanced by the government on deficits is limited to dollar for dollar by the company.

The bridge company would have to put up good security before it could finance the project with responsible firms and the government also should have security.

There were a dozen engineers in Vancouver, and probably 100 in the province, who could build the bridge. There was no necessity to go to England for engineers. Why should the government become a wet nurse to a group of promoters? The charter should have a short time limit. He was not convinced the proposition was bona fide.

It had been stated that the company was satisfied with the original bill, and why not? It was all in their favor. One firm of engineers in Vancouver had told him they could build a vertical lift span for \$1,500,000, yet this bill called for one costing \$2,600,000.

Dr. W. H. Sutherland, Liberal, Revelstoke, asked why proceed with the bill at all if the amendment would make it impossible to sell bonds. He thought the government should undertake the work and build a suspension bridge at high level. Fifty per cent of the cost of a bridge went into materials, and why have steel fabricated in England used in its erection. Canadian firms can build as well as firms in Great Britain. A government-built bridge would save \$250,000 or \$300,000 in promotion costs.

L. A. Hanna, Liberal, Alberni, did not like the principle of private financing and government financing in a business deal. The amendment was not fair to the bondholders. If the bridge was not a success the province would have to pay, but the Ladner Bridge Company with three shareholders and a capital of \$10,000 would own it. Let the province build it.

T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, commented that Hon. R. W. Bruhn and Hon. W. C. Shelly thought the first bill was satisfactory, but now an amendment was brought in. If the situation at New Westminster was known to have been so serious why had the government not taken steps during the last five years to provide suitable accommodations for the traffic. Millions were spent on unemployment relief without a dollar's worth of work in return. This money could have been utilized in putting a new span across the Fraser.

"I propose," said the Liberal leader, "if I have the authority, to see that proper ingress and egress is made available for the city of Vancouver and its environments. I am not in favor of the government getting behind a private company's guarantee. The promoters are doing it to make money and will. The government would have comparatively little difficulty in financing if, as alleged, the large amount of tolls could be collected."

"I am opposed to the bill. I do not think this moribund government has the right to bring in legislation of this kind, and I hereby give notice I do not propose to recognize any such legislation if I have the authority in the next House."

A P R

1933

Leaders Clash on Union Exchange in B.C. Legislature

Premier Tolmie and Leader of Opposition Give Blow for Blow in Verbal Battle That Electrifies House—Premier Receives Ovation

OPEN clash between leaders of the opposing groups in the Legislature came yesterday, like the clash of thunder long expected from the political lightning that has been playing for several days. Premier Tolmie and T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, had it out in good round terms, as an aftermath of the refusal of Union proposals last week. The Conservative benches cheered Premier Tolmie at the close of a brisk exchange.

Mr. Pattullo—Will the Honorable the Premier say what reorganization he intends to have in the portfolios; and when he will go to the country? These are most unsettled times, and the people want to know.

Premier Tolmie—Some time ago I said I would reorganize my Cabinet after this session was over. I will stick strictly to that programme. I have not undertaken any reorganization so far, so I cannot satisfy my honorable friend.

Mr. Pattullo—We would like the information, before the estimates are completed.

IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL

Premier Tolmie — Not having taken up the task of reorganization yet, it is impossible for me to tell you what changes will be made. Therefore we have estimated for all departments.

Mr. Pattullo—I accept the Prime Minister's statement that he doesn't know what he is going to do. The country is seething with unrest, and something will happen. When will there be a general election, then? This thing should be settled forthwith. Conditions are seething, and there is seething unrest right within the confines of this chamber among the Premier's own supporters; but there is the utmost unanimity on this side of the House.

Will the Premier tell us when there will be an election?

PREMIER'S PRIVILEGE

Premier Tolmie—That is a privilege held by the Prime Minister, sir. I propose to give it my very careful consideration, after this House has risen. My honorable friend seems to find that everything is seething. Apparently he thinks his own services in great demand, simply because, as head of his party I was bound to make application to him in our endeavor to bring about Union Government. But beyond that I don't know that I regard my honorable friend as a great acquisition, politically. If I were going to a horse race or a dog show, I can think of no better companion. In regard to the past, the memories of the people are too fresh to what he did in the past.

Mr. Pattullo—That is an extraordinary statement. It just bears out my wisdom in refusing, as I did. The Prime Minister has not paid me the same courtesy.

Premier Tolmie—Much greater Liberals in the past have refused to enter union governments. While I have the highest personal regard for my honorable friend, I don't think he is any great advantage, politically.

Mr. Pattullo—That is just it. The Prime Minister doesn't want me, he wants the Liberal party; and he has nothing to give in return. While his party will not say what it will do until two weeks after prorogation, until, as they said, they see the color of the horse, I am asked to take the Premier in my arms now.

PROVINCE BEFORE PARTY

Premier Tolmie—All I asked you to do was to assist in joining the two parties together, and to put the Province ahead of party. (A storm of applause from the Conservative benches greeted his remark).

Mr. Pattullo—If I had thought it was for the advantage of the Province to do so, I would; but I don't believe a union such as my honorable friend suggests, would nullify the Liberal party, and preventing it from putting into effect measures to benefit the country.

The exchange ended. At an earlier period, Hon. W. C. Shelly, President of the Council, rose to say he had been misquoted on his now-famous Union address. He had made reference to no single man in his remarks, but had said that if anyone stood in the way of Union, it would be his duty to step down. Mr. Shelly reread portions of his notes to support this fact.

Vancouver's Police Board Affairs Are Attacked in House

A. M. Manson, K.C., Makes Startling Charges in Legislature as Mainland City's Charter Bill Is Completed in Committee—Demands Immediate Change

VANCOUVER police affairs received an unexpected airing in the Legislature yesterday, when the city's bill to amend its charter was completed in committee. A. M. Manson, K.C., (Liberal, Omineca) demanded that the clause applying a judicial police board to Vancouver be made operative at once on Royal assent to the bill.

He charged two members of the Vancouver Police Commission were not fit to be there, saying one had been twice convicted in Vancouver police courts, and the other owned houses in the red-light district at Union and Keefer Streets.

Some members on both sides of the House had supported a request by Mayor Louis D. Taylor that the appointive police board clause be made operative only at July 1. Mr. Manson said he could not agree. Police administration had been a thorn in the flesh of Attorneys-General past and present, and to his knowledge had been unsatisfactory for a period of some seven years while he held the provincial portfolio.

ORIGINAL SYSTEM

Under the original system when the council had been given control, leading citizens and able men had been elected to the post of commissioners, he said, citing Mr. Dittmar and W. Blake-Wilson. Later, he declared the mayor had attempted to assert his authority over the force, and the board had had to issue instructions against such interference. Early this year, the member for Omineca continued, commission affairs had come to the fore again. It was notorious, he stated, that one member of the present commission had been twice convicted in Vancouver police courts, and another owned houses in the red light district at Union and Keefer Streets.

Mayor Taylor, he asserted, had voted with these two men.

Mr. Manion expressly excepted Commissioners Wilkinson and Rush, who in his opinion were excellent citizens. His remarks, he said, had reference to two others. Under all the circumstances he would appeal to the Legislature to pass the clause in the bill without date, making it apply immediately after Royal assent. The House so ordered.

Another change was made in the bill when the House deleted a new definition of "manufacturers" in connection with licensing provisions, and left arrangements as they stood last year. A plea that the city would lose large sums in revenue was discounted when it was said it had already collected its licence fees for this year. The bill was completed in committee, as amended at the afternoon sitting.

STERILIZATION IS COMMENDED

Legislature Gives Ready Ear to Argument in Favor of Early Law

Introduction of a law to take the first steps in a system of sterilization of the mentally unfit was urged in the Legislature yesterday, with several supporters. The Government, after an intensive debate on the subject, was invited to present a bill at the present session, and promised to consider it. Dr. L. E. Borden (Cons. Nelson) cleared away the misunderstanding of years by a fearlessly frank explanation of what the term involved. He found a House attentive to the principle of the subject, and ready to consider the argument on its own merits.

PLAIN SPEAKING

The question of sterilization of the unfit was introduced by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Pattullo said whole colonies of mentally unfit persons were being raised within the province, and that the Government before this should have taken the initiative on steps to stop the procreation of the unfit.

Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary, said his department had not been dormant on the matter. He had personally advocated sterilization for a considerable time, and had had his life threatened three times on that account. It was a question of educating the public to it, and he believed the time was not far distant when the public would demand such steps.

IS MISUNDERSTOOD

Dr. L. E. Borden (Conservative, Nelson), said he had advocated the course for five years before the Legislature, and had been sneered at for his efforts. The time had come when people could no longer afford to sneer at sterilization, which was much misunderstood. The plain facts were that sterilization did not incapacitate a member of either sex, but did prevent procreation under circumstances where the only logical issue would be those of mental unbalance.

SUGGESTS ACTION

Reginald Hayward (Conservative, Victoria), who was a member of the Royal Commission on Mental Hospitals, which studied this and allied questions over a two-year period, spoke solidly in favor of action.

The Provincial Secretary asked if the House would be ready to receive such a bill, were it introduced. A generous thumping of desks from a considerable section of the House was his immediate answer.

Mr. Pattullo suggested the Government bring in a sterilization bill at this session. Mr. Howe said the matter would have his earnest consideration. And there the matter rested.

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Progress Made on Estimates of B.C. For Current Year

Legislature Ratifies Greatest Proportion of Listed Expenditures for Period 1933-34—General Reductions Shown in All Departments

MOST of the departmental votes for the current fiscal year had been ratified when the Legislature, sitting in committee of supply, rose yesterday for the day. Votes in nearly all nine departments had been gone through, and all but final details put to some of the committee's task. Expenditures in the Departments of Lands, Mines, Labor, Education and Agriculture were about completed on previous days, while progress was made with the balance yesterday. Proposed provisions in the remaining departments are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Old age pensions to be paid in British Columbia are estimated to cost \$1,733,127 this year, an increase from \$1,522,521 last year, according to votes in the Department of Labor. The Dominion Government's share of the sum will be \$1,260,146; refunds from other provinces, \$52,932; leaving \$420,048 to be found by British Columbia.

Other votes in the Labor Department include: General office, \$14,697; Minimum Wage Board, \$5,017; employment service, \$27,822; factories inspection, \$6,887; salaries and expenses under the Old Age Pension Act, \$21,475.

The total vote of the department, including the British Columbia share of old age pensions, is \$495,948, compared with \$454,572 last year, an increase of some \$41,000.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Estimates in the Department of Finance called for a total vote of \$1,509,207, compared with \$1,646,862 last year. Municipalities' share of motor licence revenue is placed at \$570,000, unchanged.

The votes include minister's office, \$10,877; general office, \$34,862; inspector of trust companies, probate and succession duties, \$10,580; controlling and audit branch, \$60,541; surveyor of taxes, \$103,811; Agent-General's office, B.C. House and overseas market branch, \$17,734 net; Government agents and assessors, \$563,585; postal branch, \$35,543; bureau of provincial information, including grants, \$15,000; miscellaneous votes and statutory expenditure, \$605,000.

Interest on the superannuation fund is placed at \$35,000; and the total department vote is \$1,509,207, a reduction by \$130,000 from last year.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

Estimates in the Provincial Secretary's Department were presented at \$2,611,216, compared with \$2,936,280 last year. The votes include statutory grants to hospitals of \$555,000, and special hospital grants of \$10,000 additional, compared with \$820,000 and \$21,500, respectively, last year. The net vote for

the welfare branch is about the same as last year, at \$216,533. Mothers' pensions are \$615,000, of which the municipalities are to pay \$240,000, and the Province \$375,000.

The votes include: Minister's office, \$9,112; general office, \$16,028; Board of Health, \$106,742; library and archives, \$18,383; Public Libraries Act, \$9,925; museum, \$5,731; mental hospitals, \$464,370; Provincial Home, Kamloops, \$20,859; T.B. hospital and farm, \$148,601; Boys' Industrial School, \$35,427; Douk-nobor children, \$40,000; Provincial Home for Incurables, \$6,824; civil service commission, \$9,051; administration of pension funds, \$41,530; Government House, \$5,815; miscellaneous votes, \$926,270; and other items, including statutory provision for general elections, \$155,000.

Government contribution to the superannuation fund, in the miscellaneous votes, will be \$200,000; industries for the blind, \$25,000. Charitable grants include: Canadian Red Cross, \$800; Central City Mission, \$1,000; Crippled Children's Hospital, \$800; Grace Hospital, \$4,000; Salvation Army Maternity Home, \$1,500; V.O.N. at various branches, \$2,160; Y.W.C.A.'s at Coast cities, \$1,400; W.C.T.U., \$1,360.

MINOR DEPARTMENTS

The total vote proposed in the Department of Fisheries this year is \$13,962, compared with \$20,286 last year.

That in the Department of Railways is \$65,206, compared with \$91,055 last year.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Estimates in the Attorney-General's Department are placed at \$1,312,721, compared with \$2,138,861 last year. Elimination of the municipalities' share of the liquor profits, estimated at \$785,000 last year, accounted for the main difference in the votes as presented.

Included in the estimates is provision for the Minister's office, \$10,070; general office, \$23,229; companies' office, \$12,642; insurance office, \$6,028; securities' office, \$5,674; municipal branch, \$6,762; censor of motion pictures' office, \$9,788; sheriffs' offices, \$22,185; official administration, \$7,984; official guardian's of-

ice, \$2,994; land registry offices, \$110,176; Supreme and County Courts, \$59,227; Provincial Police, including motor licence branch and all services, \$604,969; county jails, \$98,724; girls' industrial school, \$10,291; game branch, \$200,515; administration of justice, \$91,500; and miscellaneous votes.

THE DAIRY PRODUCTS ACT

Sir.—It has just been brought to my attention that J. W. Berry, M.P.P. for Delta, is introducing a bill to protect Messrs. C. A. Welsh and A. H. Mercer from legal recovery suits arising out of the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act, declared by the Supreme Court of British Columbia, the Appeal Court of British Columbia and the Privy Council, to be ultra vires.

J. W. Berry, in his anxiety to get amendments to this defunct bill through the House during the session of 1931, promised on the floor of the House that legality of this bill should be tested in the highest court in the Empire, and we will pay the legal costs.

William Dick, member for Vancouver, asked for and received this assurance on the floor of the House of Assembly. The following facts should be considered:

1. Hon. R. L. Maitland, in 1929, spoke and voted against the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act, contending the act was unconstitutional.

2. In 1931, Hon. R. L. Maitland was retained to prosecute independent dairymen under this act. He spoke in favor of it and voted for it. Doubtless his legal view-

point was changed after more mature consideration.

3. Hon. R. L. Maitland's trip to Europe was featured in social columns of the local press which did not state that this was at the expense of exploited, near bankrupt farmers. The Privy Council disregarded his pleadings and upheld his first opinion given in the House in 1929, that the bill was unconstitutional.

4. Messrs. C. A. Welsh and A. H. Mercer, as the committee of adjustment, took action nominally against the Crystal Dairy, who by arrangement with us paid 10 per cent of the legal costs, whilst we, only a handful of independent farmers, paid 90 per cent. At enormous sacrifice we were successful in defending ourselves in:

The Supreme Court of British Columbia, September 26, 1931; Court of Appeal, British Columbia, January 5, 1932; Privy Council, November 10, 1932.

Only a few of the independent farmers would and could undertake responsibility and expense of defence through the courts. All Summer of 1932, public meetings were held in every small town in the valley and extensive propaganda was carried on in an endeavor to split the independents and prevent us from defending the case. However, the Crystal Dairy and the few stuck to their guns to defend their rights.

5. After the act was declared ultra vires, the committee continued to deduct money from independents, where they had access to distributors' books. One June 30, 1932, Messrs. C. A. Welsh and A. H. Mercer, as the adjustment committee, used \$8,896.52 of independents' money, so deducted to prosecute the independents. Since that date there has been settlement of Privy Council expense running into thousands. These moneys also, I believe, were deducted from independent farmers. Briefly, independents will have paid both sides of the case through all courts.

So much for Mr. Berry's promise, "we will pay legal costs of the test case." Wrongful and unlawful diversion of moneys referred to should prevent any member of the House from voting for a bill to protect C. A. Welsh and A. H. Mercer from legal recovery suits. The Attorney-General is aware of the above stated facts and it would appear to be his duty to seize the adjustment committee's books and prosecute to recover money unlawfully diverted.

For the past few years I have carefully studied promotion and bolstering of a fallacious policy which has debauched the dairy industry on the Lower Mainland. During that period, loose business methods have been continually evident as a means to justify the end, all under a protecting cloak. The farmer has been exploited by men who have no financial responsibility in the industry.

All we want is for the absolute facts to be brought before the members of the House and we are satisfied the bill will be thrown out and justice done.

BASIL GARDOM,
President, Independent Milk Producers' Association,
Box 94, Dewdney, B.C., March 30, 1933.

University Grant—Without division, the Legislature yesterday passed a total vote of \$250,000 for aid to the University of British Columbia, the same provision as in last year. Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, in reply to questions, said the revenues of the institution this year, apart from Government aid, were estimated at \$243,500, and expenditures at \$500,500, a nominal deficit of \$7,000 all told. Student registration fees are listed at \$216,400; the Summer session at \$16,500; while other anticipated receipts make up the balance of revenues.

MAY SET FEE BY

Graduated So for Annual Motor V

Important changes in the new Vehicles Act deal with the sale of dealers, cars and trucks contained in an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act but not yet explained. The chief change is a new basis of licensing for vehicles from \$10, to an annual fee of \$10, and an increase in weight. The following table shows the bill:

Weight	Fee
1,500 lb. or less	2,000
1,501 lb. to 2,000	3,000
2,001 lb. to 3,000	4,000
3,001 lb. to 4,000	5,000
4,001 lb. to 5,000	6,000
5,001 lb. to 6,000	7,000
6,001 lb. to 7,000	8,000
7,001 lb. to 8,000	9,000
8,001 lb. to 9,000	10,000
9,001 lb. to 10,000	11,000
10,001 lb. to 11,000	12,000
11,001 lb. to 12,000	13,000
12,001 lb. to 13,000	14,000
13,001 lb. to 14,000	15,000
14,001 lb. to 15,000	16,000
15,001 lb. to 16,000	17,000
16,001 lb. to 17,000	18,000
17,001 lb. to 18,000	19,000
18,001 lb. to 19,000	20,000
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20,001 lb. to 21,000	22,000
21,001 lb. to 22,000	23,000
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23,001 lb. to 24,000	25,000
24,001 lb. to 25,000	26,000
25,001 lb. to 26,000	27,000
26,001 lb. to 27,000	28,000
27,001 lb. to 28,000	29,000
28,001 lb. to 29,000	30,000
29,001 lb. to 30,000	31,000
30,001 lb. to 31,000	32,000

REDUCTION

Other changes proposed in the schedule of partial licence fees pending on the new act is to be used, the commencement of the place of off-setting or three-quarters of as former, a stratagem would be person newly licensed for instance, would twelfthths of the ar aspect to that calend the Cascades car ow their cars in Novem and receive a refu one-third and one fee if they turn in under another secti

Broader powers a the police in cases have broken traffic confiscation of car without the option serious cases. Min are proposed in reg liability sections, inc for filing by insur of car insurance issu

The new licence will apply next year, the individual motor they provide an initi an annual fee of the motor cycles; from ers, by weight; \$25 f demonstration privi driving licence, gene a duplicate of it f pants; salesmen licen plicates, \$1. Chauffe also repeated, and p ticipal registration o suggested. The bill explained in the Hou

MAY SET CAR FEE BY WEIGHT

Graduated Scale Suggested for Annual Licensing of Motor Vehicles

Important changes in the Motor Vehicles Act dealing with licensing of dealers, cars and motor cycles are contained in an amending bill introduced in the Legislature last week, but not yet explained in detail. The chief change is a shift in the present basis of license fees in respect to vehicles from a date-and-valuation one, to an initial registration fee of \$10, and an annual fee based solely on weight. In this connection the following table is disclosed in the bill:

Weight	Fee
1,500 lb. or less	\$ 12.00
1,501 lb. to 2,000 lb.	16.00
2,001 lb. to 3,000 lb.	20.00
3,001 lb. to 4,000 lb.	25.00
4,001 lb. to 5,000 lb.	35.00
5,001 lb. to 6,000 lb.	50.00
6,001 lb. to 7,000 lb.	65.00
7,001 lb. to 8,000 lb.	80.00
8,001 lb. to 9,000 lb.	95.00
9,001 lb. to 10,000 lb.	110.00
10,001 lb. to 11,000 lb.	130.00
11,001 lb. to 12,000 lb.	150.00
12,001 lb. to 13,000 lb.	170.00
13,001 lb. to 14,000 lb.	190.00
14,001 lb. to 15,000 lb.	210.00
15,001 lb. to 16,000 lb.	230.00
16,001 lb. to 17,000 lb.	250.00
17,001 lb. to 18,000 lb.	270.00
18,001 lb. to 19,000 lb.	290.00
19,001 lb. to 20,000 lb.	310.00
20,001 lb. to 21,000 lb.	330.00
21,001 lb. to 22,000 lb.	350.00
22,001 lb. to 23,000 lb.	370.00
23,001 lb. to 24,000 lb.	390.00
24,001 lb. to 25,000 lb.	410.00
25,001 lb. to 26,000 lb.	430.00
26,001 lb. to 27,000 lb.	450.00
27,001 lb. to 28,000 lb.	470.00
28,001 lb. to 29,000 lb.	490.00
29,001 lb. to 30,000 lb.	510.00
30,001 lb. to 31,000 lb.	530.00

REDUCTIONS SHOWN

Other changes proposed include a schedule of partial license fees depending on the number of months a car is to be used, after the commencement of the licence year. In place of off-setting a quarter, a half or three-quarters of the yearly fee, as formerly, a straight monthly calculation would be made, so that a person newly licensing a car in June, for instance, would pay seventieths of the annual fee in respect to that calendar year. East of the Cascades car owners could store their cars in November or December and receive a refund of between one-third and one-quarter of the fee if they turn in their car plates, under another section.

Broader powers are suggested for the police in cases of drivers who have broken traffic rules, leading to confiscation of car plates and jail without the option of fine in certain serious cases. Minor amendments are proposed in regard to financial liability sections, including necessity for filing by insurers of a certificate of car insurance issued by them.

The new licence rates if ratified will apply next year. In addition to the individual motor vehicle licence, they provide an initial fee of \$5 and an annual fee of the same sum for motor cycles; from \$3 up for trailers, by weight; \$25 for dealers, with demonstration privileges; an annual driving licence, generally, of \$1, and a duplicate of it for twenty-five cents; salesmen licences, \$5, and duplicates, \$1. Chauffeurs' licences are also repeated, and provision for municipal registration of chauffeurs is suggested. The bill has yet to be explained in the House.

LEGISLATION PUSHED AHEAD

Many Bills Receive Third Reading, and New Measures Pour In

In a press of bills before the Legislature yesterday, several measures of importance reached third reading and enactment subject to Royal assent. Amendment to the British Columbia Schools Act was one of them, ratifying the new arrangement in respect to teaching grants.

Relief for irrigated land users in regard to their financial commitments this year were contained in a series of bills read a third time, including amendments to the Water Act, the Sumas Dyking and Dewdney Relief Acts. A form of relief under the Coal and Petroleum Act was also completed in an amending

bill, awaiting assent. The new Powers of Attorney Act reached its final stage, without objection.

Amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, the Municipalities Aid Act, additional amendments to the Forest Act, and further supplementary estimates were introduced for first reading in other bills. The Shaughnessy building restriction and Vancouver charter amending bills were read a second time.

CLASH ON LOANS

Hon. J. W. Jones and Hon. W. A. McKenzie clashed with the Leader of the Opposition over irrigation loans. Mr. Pattullo had complained that the Government had rebated \$900,000 to irrigation districts, at the same time making no provision for the return in full of many new loans. Mr. McKenzie showed that the former administration had itself made the law, in 1928, under which \$770,000 of such rebates would have been made if the former Government had fulfilled its pledge.

Mr. Pattullo said he did not decry aid to irrigation districts, but though full provision for the ultimate return of loans should be made.

"SPILT MILK"

Mr. J. W. Berry has introduced a Bill in the Legislature to absolve members of the Lower Mainland Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Committee from consequences likely to arise because the legislation under which they operated has been adjudged ultra vires of the province. In other words, those members seemingly are unwilling to face the music. Their propaganda led to the Dairy Products Act being passed by the Legislature. It was known at the time by all competent legal opinion that it was ultra vires. When it was being considered by the Legislature Mr. J. W. Berry gave his assurance that the legislation would be tested in the highest court of the Empire and that its protagonists "would pay the bill." Now Mr. Berry has introduced legislation which would absolve those very protagonists from footing an expense to which he had committed them.

One question that arises is the measure of faith that can be reposed in the statements of politicians. The more serious matter is whether or not the independent milk producers of the Fraser Valley, who from the first were strenuously opposed to the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act, are to have no power to recover money which was taken from them and used in fighting the case of those who believed in the virtues and constitutionality of the legislation. The Provincial Legislature, upon occasion, registers decisions that are cause for amazement to sane public opinion. In the case of Mr. Berry's Bill, if it were passed, that Legislature would be flying in the face of fair dealing and sportsmanship. Mr. Berry himself should appreciate that political virtue, if it is to receive public approval, should not be susceptible to partial diminution.

Spring Provides New Rumor Crop In B.C. Politics

PREMIER Tolmie laughingly denied senatorial aspirations last night. "Our Liberal friends seem very anxious to have me somewhere else," he said. "Last time it was to London that they would have me go, and now it is to the Senate. This latest rumor is the product of a highly-developed imagination, I assure you."

STERILIZATION BEING STUDIED

Delegation of Members Will Wait on Government Tomorrow

Following a well-defined sentiment in favor of active steps being taken at this session in regard to sterilization of the mentally unfit as shown in House debates on Friday, the Government is said to be considering preparation of a bill aimed at introduction of the plan in a modified form, possibly at institutions and under all reasonable safeguards. A delegation of members from both sides of the House have made appointment with Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary, for Monday, to discuss the issue.

Mr. Howe declared himself in the House fully in favor of action, after a long and careful study of the serious growth of mental cases in British Columbia institutions. Misunderstanding of what the term implies, some members believe, has largely been cleared away in the last few years, and a fairer approach to a study of the actual facts involved may now be possible.

TOOK CLEAR STAND

The Provincial Secretary made his own stand very clear on Friday in the Legislature. If the House was ready to receive such a bill, there would be nothing to prevent its consideration, he intimated then. Personally, he said, he had been long in favor of a start being made to control a situation which is rapidly becoming more acute. The population of British Columbia mental institutions is now between 2,600 and 2,800 patients, many of whom came initially from points outside the province.

While the Government has not declared its official voice on the question, there are many who believe that a bill will be prepared as a result of representations to be made.

COMMISSIONERS RESENT ATTACK

Challenge Repetition by Member Without Protection of Privileges

VANCOUVER, April 1 (CP).—In a joint statement issued today, Police Commissioners A. J. Dumaresq and E. M. Charman declared in part:

"It was with great surprise that we read in the newspapers today of the attack made upon us by Mr. A. M. Manson, M.P.P."

"We are of the opinion that this attack is cowardly and grossly improper."

"It is cowardly because it was an attack made upon us when we did not have the opportunity to defend ourselves."

CHALLENGE MANSON

"If he means to infer that we, or either of us, owns or did own houses on Union and Keefer Streets, we each of us defy him to make such a statement where he has not the protection of the privilege of the Legislature."

"We hold our character at least as reasonably dear to us as Mr. Manson holds law and order."

"If we are wrong, Mr. Manson has his redress. Can a public man ignore this challenge?"

Legislators Press Forward on Many Important Bills

New Motor Licences, Moratorium Act, Special Aid to Municipalities, and Host of Measures Advanced in Brisk Afternoon Sitting

WITH the assent of the Opposition, the Government yesterday pressed forward its legislation to complete final readings on several important acts, and advance others through committee stages. Explanation of new motor licence fees, discussion of the proposed continuation of the Moratorium Act, important suggested easements for municipalities in taxation and other affairs, and a host of minor bills were considered during a brisk afternoon sitting. The Government was sustained on division, twenty-five to fifteen, in proposed withdrawal of racing receipts from municipalities.

MOTOR LICENCES

Explaining proposed motor licence changes by way of amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act, Attorney-General Pooley said it was desired to change the motor licence year from January 1 to March 1. The block system of licensing cars by weight would be followed. Fees, he said, were not raised. Larger cars would pay a little more, light cars less, and trucks more, depending on their weight.

Cars up to 1,500 lbs would pay \$12 in place of \$16; cars between 1,500 and 2,000 lbs. would pay \$16 in place of an average of \$18.91; cars between 2,000 and 3,000 lbs. would pay \$20 in place of the average now of \$19.73, an increase of 27 cents. Commercial trucks would pay more, particularly in the heavier classes, but still less than in most other provinces in Canada. The 10,000-pound truck would pay \$200, as against \$277 in Nova Scotia, from \$387 to \$441 in Quebec, and total prohibition from the roads in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.

The new system, Mr. Pooley stated, would be simpler. In future, licences would be issued as from month to month, the licensee paying for actual consecutive months' use of the vehicle. East of the Cascades there would be a Winter refund of between a third and a quarter of the licence fee, when snow blocked the roads. Better law enforcement was aimed at in other sections, removing loopholes that had been found in the courts by careless drivers. M. F. MacPherson (Liberal, Cranbrook) adjourned debate on the bill.

RACING RECEIPTS

Withdrawal of pari-mutuel receipts from the municipalities, a budget term, was explained by Hon. J. W. Jones. The municipalities had received more than \$7,000,000 last year from the Province, and in excess of \$53,000,000 in provincial aid in eleven years. The grants could not be maintained at the same level. Last year nearly a quarter of all provincial receipts had been paid to the municipalities. The Leader of the Opposition opposed the bill, one to amend the Municipalities' Aid Act by withdrawing racing receipts.

The Government was sustained, 25-15, on division on second reading of the bill. Messrs. Loutet, Dick and Walkem voted with the Opposition.

The Government was also supported on a bill to remove old balance in borrowing powers from loan acts as far back as 1863, of which authority to borrow \$1,000,000 under the former Department of Industries, and \$10,000 under a University Loan Act were the chief items, besides several smaller balances under other loan acts. Second reading followed an exchange between Mr. Jones and the Leader of the Opposition, the latter holding that the Industries and University bills should remain as authority that might be needed later.

A bill to continue the present

moratorium law without major change, was adjourned in committee. Mr. Pooley explained that while there had been representations to extend the act to cover interest, and even taxes, this could not be done without great injustice on the other hand. Over \$40,000,000 was invested within the province in sums of \$3,000 or less, and stoppage of interest on these would throw many small investors on relief. After the passage of the initial act last year, a British firm took \$250,000 in local funds back, deciding against investment here. The act would be continued for a year, until thirty days after the session in 1934, with an additional discretion to the courts to extend to debtors three months further time after issue of foreclosure orders, or nine months in all. A. M. Manson, K.C. (Liberal, Omineca) adjourned debate on the bill.

Amendments to the Constitution Act were introduced for first reading by Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe. No redistribution is proposed at this session. The bill complies with budget terms in regard to reduction in cabinet ministers' and members' indemnities.

MUNICIPAL ACT

Amendments to the Municipal Act introduced for first reading by Mr. Pooley propose discretion to city councils to postpone sinking fund payments for 1933 only, waiving permanent provisions of the Municipal Act in that respect. Councils would have discretion to say what amount of the funds they would lay aside. Power to prohibit or regulate public parades and demonstrations is contained in another clause in the bill. A maximum of 10 per cent penalty on unpaid taxes in future is proposed in another clause in the bill. Power would also be given to councils to cut existing penalties in half. A further year for redemption of tax sale lands is also suggested. Councils would also be given power to negotiate with owners in respect to properties reverting this year.

Second reading was given a bill to give men in Provincial relief camps the right of absentee voting, where otherwise qualified, and to insure that they will not lose their residence qualifications meanwhile.

NO HEALING BILL

By division of 18-16 on non-party lines the Legislature denied introduction of a drugless healers' bill in the hands of Thomas Uphill (Lab., Fernie). The measure meets the same fate as the chiropractors' bill. Relief on dyking assessments was ratified. The New Westminster rail diversion agreement between that city and the two main railroads was approved. The new Securities Act was read a third time. Fifteen per cent reduction in log royalties, contained in amendments to the Forest Act, was read into the amending bill, completed in committee. Changes in the Mineral Act, already outlined, were completed in committee.

The Temporary Provisions Insurance Act was read a third time, continuing a measure in force last year.

Amendments to the Insurance Act were advanced a stage. Third readings were given a amendments to the sales on Consignment Act and the Supreme Court Act, the latter respecting marriage settlements; and also to a new bill to support the Dominion in inspection of fruit and fruit containers. Third readings were given to the Vancouver charter amending bill; one to continue Shaughnessy Heights building restrictions; and amendments to the Village Municipalities Act. Amendments to the Public Libraries Act, and the Community Regulation Act were completed in committee; the former to permit of a libraries plebiscite in the Fraser Valley, and the latter to make community Doukhobors responsible for just hospital bills.

INDEMNITY LAW UNDER ATTACK

Measure to Absolve Milk Committee From Suit Splits House on Vote

Milk troubles in the Fraser Valley, almost continuously before the Legislature for three years, arrived again yesterday, in the shape of a bill to indemnify members of the committee of direction under the now defunct Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act, and save them harmless from any actions pending as a result of the break-down of that law.

The bill, one to finally wind up the affairs of the committee and to shelter it from possible attack at the hands of independent dairy producers, was introduced by J. W. Berry (Cons., Delta), and carried second reading after warm debate, on a division by 29-10.

REASON FOR MEASURE

Mr. Berry explained that at the time the act was passed no provision was made for its winding up. The bill simply provided for winding up the affairs of the committee of direction, he declared.

W. R. Rutledge (Cons., Burnaby), charged the bill was being brought forward to protect the committee from any damage or injury it might have done to independent producers. The law should not have been passed in the first place, and passing of the proposed bill would be perpetrating a second wrong, he asserted.

SECTION IN BILL

The member for Burnaby referred to a section in the Berry bill which read: "No action shall be brought against any person who at any time before the amendment of this act has acted or purported to act as a member of the committee for anything heretofore done by him in good faith in the performance or intended or supposed performance of his duties under the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act; and every action now pending which, were it brought hereafter, would be within the scope of this section, is hereby stayed."

J. A. Loutet (Cons., North Vancouver), said he was surprised at Mr. Berry's explanation of the bill. He would have called it rather an act to protect the receivers of stolen goods. Its aim, he declared, was to protect those who brought in the original measure from acts for which they were legally responsible. The Government had not sponsored the initial measure, and had refused to do so.

SHOULD INSPECT BOOKS

The result of the dairy products measure, he said, had been to bring about over-production of milk, and reduced prices to the farmer. It had resulted, he declared, in a loss of \$1,000,000 since its inception. He read the clause cited by Mr. Rutledge, in detail. The Government, he thought, should send an auditor to inspect the books of the committee, to find out from where the money came, and to what purpose it had been put. His understanding was that the money for the Privy Council appeal had come from the farmers, many of whom were opposed to the law. Mr. Berry had declared that in 1931 (those promoting the initial law would foot the cost of any legal reference, Mr. Loutet averred, moving a year's hoist of the indemnity bill.

"ACTED IN GOOD FAITH"

A. M. Manson, K.C. (Lib., Omineca), supported the Berry bill. The committee, he said, had acted in good faith. The Legislature had passed the initial measure, and should not now withhold the measure sought to wind up the affair. Magistrates, he stated, were assured protection in similar circumstances, from acts taken under laws that were later nullified.

H. D. Twigg (Cons., Victoria), saw no similarity between magistrates and the committee of direction. Had the committee received any promise of indemnity, he asked. The Legislature should be told, if so.

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe pointed out the dairy products measure had been declared ultra vires at the first court, and again at the last. From the date of the first upset, he said, the law had ceased to function. The House should proceed carefully at this stage, he believed.

SUPPORTS BERRY BILL

The Leader of the Opposition supported the Berry bill. Wisely or otherwise, the committee had acted, and should not now be left open to penalties. Colonel Nelson Spencer (Cons., Vancouver), took the same course. G. A. Walkem (Ind., Vancouver), proposed second reading of the bill, with deletion of the indemnity clause in committee later. T. H. Kirk (Cons., Vancouver), supported the bill.

Mr. Loutet asked for a division, and the measure was read a second time on division of 29-10.

For second reading were Messrs. Carson, Mackenzie, Fitzsimmons, Uphill, King, Pearson, MacPherson, Gillis, Kingston, Berry, Borden, Kirk, Lister, Wrinch, Kergin, Sutherland, Patullo, Manson, Gray, Spencer, Howe, Jones, Tolmie, Hinchliffe, MacNaughton, Schofield, Bruhn, Loughed and W. A. McKenzie—29.

Against it were Messrs. Loutet, Rutledge, Hanna, Dick, Alward, Walkem, Hayward, Twigg, Michell and Cornett—10.

P.G.E. Railway Negotiation Is Still Proceeding

PREMIER Tolmie declined to reveal the principals with which the Government has been negotiating in connection with the disposal of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, in the Legislature last evening. Replying to questions by the Leader of the Opposition, the Premier said the Province had conferred with representatives of leading financial concerns in London and New York. "We are making good, honest efforts, and when the time comes, we will submit the facts to the people," the Premier said. Negotiations are progressing.

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Minister Shows How Cuts Were Made to Balance His Budget

Hon. J. W. Jones Reviews Situation Which Faces Province During the Coming Year in Address to Victoria Chamber of Commerce

THERE has been too much idle propoganda promulgated in British Columbia for the good of the Province, in the opinion of Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance. Speaking before the Victoria Chamber of Commerce yesterday, Mr. Jones said that as a consequence of this unfounded criticism the people were having to pay a somewhat higher rate of interest on borrowings which were made. This injury would continue to be felt over the term of the loans.

British Columbia, like other provinces of the Dominion, and similar to all countries in the world, was passing through trying times. British Columbia had no maturities falling due this year, he pointed out. The only amounts to be met would be for interest charges.

There was no use theorizing. The situation had to be faced as it was now. Governments in the province as elsewhere had gone on in the prosperous years forgetting to make provisions in those times for the lean years that would come.

DEAD DEBTS

Dealing with the old subject of the debt of the Province, the minister alluded to the fact that in the case of the indebtedness of this Province, there was too much of it that could be described as dead debt inasmuch as it yielded no income. In some of the other provinces, there were debts incurred in connection with public utilities which gave income.

In 1917 the debt charges of the Province were two millions. In 1928 they were eight and a half millions. In 1933 they were ten and a half millions. The sinking funds of the Province had been kept in good shape, however, and it was gratifying that over \$22,000,000 of the \$29,000,000 of securities so held were British Columbia securities.

With no capital borrowing this year, any amounts that would be sought would be for refunding.

UNEMPLOYMENT LOAD

The troubles connected with the financing during the past two years had been aggravated by the unemployment situation. He expressed his appreciation of the way in which the municipalities had co-operated, mentioning Victoria and the surrounding municipalities especially in this regard.

The problems that had to be faced by himself in the preparation of his budget with revenues dropping from \$28,000,000 to \$20,000,000 and with expenditures that had to be confronted were discussed. Expenditures had been cut and he had managed to arrange his budget without imposing added burdens on those of small income. The surtax on higher incomes and that on succession duties had been imposed.

After cutting off \$4,000,000 from the expenditures for the year previous, the minister said it was a difficult task to be called upon to cut down another \$3,000,000 this coming year. He, however, had accomplished it and from a chart displayed the manner in which the cuts had been made in the various departments of government.

PRESENTS CHART

These showed the following:

	Spent in 1931-32	Cut to in 1933-34	Reduction of
Legislation	\$ 133,052.39	\$ 99,405.00	\$ 33,653.39
Premier's Office	17,845.43	14,933.78	2,911.65
Minister without Portfolio	894.53	259.00	644.53
Department of Agriculture	419,367.01	232,241.09	187,125.92
Attorney-General	2,218,304.38	1,312,721.29	905,583.07
Education-General	4,647,459.06	3,106,894.38	1,540,564.68
Education-Special	3,722,297.16	1,509,297.87	2,212,999.29
Finance	24,931.04	15,982.00	10,949.04
Fisheries	588,661.55	495,846.61	92,814.94
Labour	1,376,656.87	633,974.70	742,682.17
Land	236,419.00	183,625.28	52,793.72
Police	4,483,781.87	2,811,216.98	1,672,564.89
Provincial Secretary	3,580,311.38	1,791,261.28	1,789,050.10
Public Works	75,947.04	68,308.94	7,638.10
Totals	\$19,476,467.12	\$12,087,949.94	\$7,400,518.18

Government Varies Beer Distribution And Cuts Permits

Delivery of Beer in Homes, Sales of Bottled Product in Licensed Premises and New Low Permits Proposed

CHANGES in British Columbia beer regulations were announced by the Government yesterday, to take effect as soon as enabling legislation can be passed in the Legislature. Bottled beer is to be sold in premises with beer licences, beer may be delivered c.o.d. to homes on telephone orders to vendors' stores, and all liquor permits will be waived in favor of an annual permit costing twenty-five cents.

Beer parlors and hotels with licences will be enabled to sell bottled beer for consumption off the premises, it was explained by officials of the Liquor Control Board. Delivery of beer to homes on telephone orders, long sought, will be brought about. The removal of all liquor and beer permits in favor of a single permit, once only in the year, is proposed to apply on resident and visiting purchases, a twenty-five cent permit being good for twelve months for all purposes.

PART OF AGREEMENT

It is understood that the changes proposed, and for which amending laws will be immediately introduced, are part of a definite agreement between the board and the brewers under which, if this course is followed, they will reduce beer prices to the board.

Changed conditions in the United States are the reason for the proposed changes being brought forward at this time. Beer sale across the border will automatically cut the revenues of the board. Home brew sales have also cut into the ordinary revenues used by the Province to defray in part costs in connection with hospital grants and other charitable purposes. Bootlegging will be reduced, in proportion, it is believed.

Amendments to the Liquor Act will come shortly before the House.

PENSIONS ARE UNDER DEBATE

More Relief for Widows With Single Children Sought in House

Administration of mothers' pensions was reviewed before the Legislature last evening, in committee of supply. Members of the Opposition challenged a reduction of \$235,000 in the estimated costs of pensions this year, charging the Government was restricting allowances and withholding relief from those in need. The case of the woman with one child was most in dispute.

Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary, explained the act was being followed, with discretion on the part of the superintendent of welfare to adjust border-line cases. He said seventy women would not be in receipt of pensions this year that had formerly had them, but asserted that no discrimination was being shown and the act was fairly administered.

AMOUNT VOTED

Total vote for the purpose for the current year is \$615,000, compared with \$850,000 last year.

Speakers on the Opposition side charged the administration with cheese-paring, and said removal from pension of women with one child each under the age of sixteen, at a time when there was no work to be had, was causing grave injustices. Members cited cases in their own ridings in which they thought more provision should be made. Use of unmarried investigators, supported by police patrols, was also complained of during the debate.

HOLD BALANCE FAIRLY

Replying on the Government side, Colonel Nelson Spencer stated the duty of the Government was to hold the balance fairly between those in receipt of aid and those who, often in no better circumstances, had to pay it. The scale in British Co-

lumbia, he said, was more generous than in most provinces.

After debate of an hour the vote was passed, and the House proceeded to other estimates in the Provincial Secretary's Department.

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BEFUDDLED POLITICAL THOUGHT

As matters stand politically in this province at present, there is a considerable element of the voting population that is in a befuddled state of mind. It is a time when it might be anticipated that definite ideas are essential, that the problems that prevail should be tackled courageously, and that, above all, there should be a consensus of viewpoint among the people as a whole on the most desirable methods to adopt to assist, so far as assistance may be forthcoming provincially, in promoting better conditions. With the political outlook defined as it is a danger exists that, following the next election, British Columbia may be launching itself on an era of group government which, wherever it has prevailed, has brought together strange political bedfellows and lack of strength in administration.

There ought to be enough tact, diplomacy and statesmanlike vision among the leaders of thought to determine on some plan which will place the issues of the time fairly and squarely before the voting public. An election is scheduled for June or July. It is only some three months' distant, and there is such confusion in political thought as has not prevailed in the province for many years, if ever before. After all, the problems to be faced are clear enough. One is the measures and type of economy to be practised in government. Another is what improvements can be effected in the handling of the unemployment relief issue. A third is what provincial measures are possible to promote greater internal confidence, and, incidentally, to foster export trade. In the third problem is bound up steps desirable to encourage development of the basic resources of British Columbia. With all the knowledge of what has gone before, the application of clear-sighted vision to these main problems ought not to be difficult.

It is obvious that the people, as a whole, are much more concerned with the fostering of greater stability in the conditions under which they live than with the fate of any political party. In the forthcoming election it will be impossible for the voters to record a verdict in favor of good government unless and until they know where the political parties in the field stand, what are their policies, and whether those policies have been devised with the best interests of British Columbia at heart and not for mere vote-catching purposes. At present the political situation is not only complex and involved; it has, as well, elements that will tend to make it impossible for the people to render a clear-cut verdict at the polls. That is a situation that should be cleared up without delay.

It is idle to assume that such a situation will clear itself up if there are half a dozen rival parties in the field in the forthcoming election. The politicians have not got their ears to the ground. They will not, or cannot, understand the bemused character of public opinion. There is a substantial element of that opinion awaiting a lead, and that lead has not been forthcoming. It fails to emerge because of the rival ambitions of the different political parties. Politicians of all shades of thought have been pondering too much on their own future, and too little on what is best for British Columbia. There has been a lack of constructive suggestions put forward for the future. There have been too many party political axes to grind. In the process apostasy within all parties has been the striking illustration of changing trends of political thought.

The situation still contains elements that lend themselves to untangling the present complexity. It can only be unravelled, however, by those who will think in terms of British Columbia first. The perplexities of the time demand sacrifice of self. The element of fear of the future should be exorcised from men's hearts if they are going to accomplish anything. There is wanted, therefore, a wider spirit of leadership in the political field, a definition of the terms under which politicians believe problems can be solved. What is desirable, as well, is a composition of minor, personal differences of opinion among elected representatives of the people and their better adherence to some definite principles of political conduct.

The present trend, as we have said, gives every evidence of the people rendering an inconclusive verdict at the polls. No one can agree that the Government likely to ensue from such a verdict would operate in a satisfactory manner for the welfare of the province. Strong government is essential in these times. If a party capable of providing such an administration is to be elected at the polls, it must show vision and define now what it has in prospect for the betterment of conditions.

Gov't Proposes Grubstaking on Placer Grounds

Legislation Prepared With View to Training Suitable Men for Mining Development—Bill Introduced Which Would Allow Establishment of Instruction Camps on Reserves

UNEMPLOYED who are willing to work may be given an opportunity to go gold mining under Government supervision. A bill, to be introduced by Hon. William McKenzie, Minister of Mines, provides for the creation of placer mining reserves by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

The reserves would be selected by resident mining engineers and technical officers of the department, and would be not greater than a mile long by a quarter of a mile wide in extent. There, members of the unemployed who proved fitted for the work could be placed independently at work, with food and equipment supplied. The bill would amend the Provisional Free Miners' Certificates Act, where necessary to this end.

TRAINING CAMPS

Placer mining training camps would be established in suitable areas, and reserves could be set up in each of the six mineral areas of the province. Details of the plan have yet to be announced, but the central idea is to provide opportunity for those willing to work at placer mining, to go to mineral reserves to be created by the province for this purpose. Supervision of the work would be carried on by Government mining engineers.

Mr. McKenzie made it clear that wide-open grub-staking is not proposed, but that a controlled measure of assistance along this direction would be set up, if the measure receives the assent of the House. Outside the grounds of the placer mining camps, it is also proposed, suitable men could be grubstaked for a month to prospect other fields. A primary condition of the scheme would be agreement between the Dominion and Provincial Governments and all others concerned that the money used in this way would be taken from unemployment relief funds.

HOUSE URGES AID ON SILVER

Legislature Suggests Action at World Conference to Stabilize Prices

Unanimous request that the Dominion authorities instruct Canada's delegates to the world economic conference to seek action before that body on the stabilization of silver prices was made in the British Columbia Legislature yesterday, on a motion by Capt. James Fitzsimmons (Cons., Kalso-Slocan). H. F. Kerrigan (Lib., Atlin), seconded the resolution, which carried without division.

Capt. Fitzsimmons said silver production in British Columbia had fallen from 10,627,187 ounces in 1928, to 7,000,000 ounces in 1932, with a decrease in value by some \$5,000,000 annually. Strong efforts were being made in the United States to contribute to greater stability for silver prices, and Canada should take a forward stand in this connection, he declared. Of all resources in the Province, none showed more immediate promise of development than minerals, and any action to increase the price of silver would have a beneficial effect here.

D. H. C. Winch (Lib., Skeena), also spoke in support of the resolution, citing Smithers' incidents where reduction in silver production had brought travail. The House was unanimous on the motion, when put, and as an expression of opinion the request will go forward to Ottawa.

Large Sum Expended—British Columbia citizens sent \$100,000 out of the province in connection with a recent Irish sweepstake, J. W. Cornett (Cons., South Vancouver) told the Legislature. Mr. Cornett suggested the Government watch the course of the hospital sweepstake bill at Ottawa, and be prepared to take advantage of the law, if it were passed.

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Speeding up session approach yesterday excellent and gave bill while an hour still on his feet the measure. North Vancouver and the bill was up the committee the former De Adjustment Act members from contemplated or contemplated Mr. Loutet indemnity clause reduced by J. W. from the start. ers from whom illegally taken, Privy Council redress if the sent. Sums month had been men under the annulled in the posed deletion clause, and a G the books of the the suggestion t any wrongdoing the facts for the hence.

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NO GUARANTEE Questioned by F (Victoria), Mr. Be no guarantee of ir privately given me mitted by any int said he accepted t "The act itself r good law, but it business," Hon. N. wanted. The indemnity was sustained on by by approxima seven, and the committee. Third by Mr. Berry, an put and carried v for North Vanouv protesting haste o

MILK BILL IS ACCELERATED

Indemnity Clause Ratified by B.C. Legislature After Brisk Debate

Speeding up as the end of the session approaches, the Legislature yesterday excelled all previous records and gave third reading to a bill while an honorable member was still on his feet protesting against the measure. J. Loutet (Cons., North Vancouver), was the member, and the bill was a measure to wind up the committee of direction under the former Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act and indemnify its members from any actions pending or contemplated.

Mr. Loutet had fought the indemnity clause of the bill, introduced by J. W. Berry (Cons., Delta), from the start. He said that farmers from whom money had been illegally taken, according to the Privy Council ruling, would have no redress if the bill passed as presented. Sums as high as \$160 a month had been levied from some men under the act that was later annulled in the courts. He proposed deletion of the indemnity clause and a Government audit of the books of the committee, not with the suggestion that there had been any wrongdoing, but to ascertain the facts for the Legislature a year hence.

DEFENDS MEASURE

Mr. Berry defended the bill. No compulsory collection of levies had been made by the committee of direction after the act had been reversed in the first court test, he said. Voluntary payments had been received, but none under stress, and no prosecutions had been brought. If any had felt that they had been unfairly dealt with, they had had nine months in which to file action in the courts, and no such actions had been commenced. He defended members of the committee, C. A. Welsh and A. H. Mercer, and their auditors, and was assured in return that their good faith had not been questioned. The main act had stabilized milk prices and prevented chaos, Mr. Berry stated finally.

Mr. Loutet said bills had been sent to men in his riding after the act had been upset and threats of collection made. Those who received the bills had refused to pay, he asserted. He cast no reflection on the committee or its auditors, but held the act confiscatory legislation in the first place, and would oppose the bill as now introduced.

W. R. Rutledge (Cons., Burnaby), declared dozens of farmers were frightened out of the milk business in Burnaby by the adjustment levies, and one that he knew of had had to go on relief finally.

NO GUARANTEE GIVEN

Questioned by H. D. Twigg (Cons., Victoria), Mr. Berry reiterated that no guarantee of indemnity had been privately given members of the committee by any interests. Mr. Twigg said he accepted the statement.

"The act itself may not have been good law, but it was mighty good business," Hon. N. S. Lougheed commented.

The indemnity clause in the bill was sustained on a show of hands, but by approximately twenty-five to seven, and the bill completed in committee. Third reading was asked by Mr. Berry, and the motion was put and carried while the member for North Vancouver was on his feet protesting haste on the bill.

Major Measures Go Before Legislature On Taxation Affairs

Surtaxes on Incomes and Succession Duties, New Tax on Meals for Hospitals' Aid, and Proposed Changes in Beer Distribution Introduced

MAIN Government bills of the session were thrown into the Legislature yesterday in a cluster, including budgetary changes in income and succession duties, the new beer sale programme and proposals for a brand new tax on meals to aid hospitals. Ten bills in all were introduced for first reading during the afternoon sitting of the House.

British Columbians are to be made hospital conscious through the medium of a tax of 5 per cent on the value of all meals bought away from home, applying on meal checks of fifty cents and over. Clubs, hotels, trains, boats and restaurants will be affected, and would collect the tax and make monthly returns to the Province, with the proceeds. Receipts will be paid into the Consolidated Revenue fund, and be disbursed to British Columbia hospitals, as some return for reduction in other Provincial aid this year, it is proposed.

The act would come into effect on May 1. Its receipts cannot be accurately estimated at present. Homes, private boarding houses, schools and charitable institutions, public and private hospitals and nursing homes would be exempt.

SURTAX ON INCOMES

The surtax on incomes in excess of \$5,000, rising from 1 per cent additional to 18 per cent on all in excess of \$47,500, is contained in amendments to the Income Tax Act. Income earned and kept outside the Province will be subject to taxation in a clarified section to bring this about. Dividends and bonuses paid to shareholders by a corporation must be disclosed to the Province. Unshared or undivided accumulations of profits will also be taxable, on the individual, as if paid as income. Other clauses in the bill have yet to be explained.

Amendments to the Succession Duty Act bring forward the surtax on succession duties, as outlined in the budget. "Net value" of estates is to be redefined as the value of all property held within the province, after legal deductions for debts, encumbrances and allowances. Insurance moneys are exempt to \$25,000. A table of rates is affixed to the bill, setting out various charges under different conditions applying to estates. Many sections of the measure have yet to be explained.

TO REDUCE TAXATION

Taxation on lands in school districts for school purposes will be reduced one-half of 1 per cent to one-fifth of 1 per cent, in amendments to the Taxation Act. That is, two mills in place of five mills, as formerly. Clarification of the position of lessees of mineral claims is also intended under the bill.

In amendments to the British Columbia University Act, power would be taken to provide for an annual junior matriculation scholarship for a student enrolled in the first year at Victoria College, affiliated with the University of British Columbia.

Changes in the Government Liquor Act, taken with powers of the Government to regulate its stores, bring forward the programme of beer and permit changes as announced this week by the Ministry. A once-only general purpose permit costing twenty-five cents a year; sale of bottled beer in licensed premises, and delivery of beer to homes on telephone orders are the main purport of the regulations, the bill being legislative changes required in that regard. Its full purport has yet to be explained.

MANY BILLS IN FINAL STAGES

Eight Measures Passed Third Reading Yesterday in Legislature

Sustaining pressure noticed since the first of the week, the Legislature yesterday gave third readings to eight bills, second readings to three others, completed one measure in committee and gave first reading on introduction to a group of ten other bills.

Subject to Royal assent, final passage was given to amendments to the Forest Act, the Jury Act, the Superannuation Act, the Small Debts Courts Act, the Municipalities Aid Act and the Community Regulation Act, and also to a bill to limit past borrowing powers of the Province, and one to wind up the affairs of the Lower Mainland Committee of Direction under the former Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act.

FEES FOR JURORS

Significant changes in so far as the public is concerned, include reduction in juror's fee from \$4 a day to \$3 a day; a measure of relief for lumbermen; right to civil servants to contribute to superannuation funds at the level of their normal salaries; withdrawal of racing receipts from the municipalities; Doukhobor responsibility for hospital bills for indigent members of their own community, and removal of the Province's right to borrow in excess of \$1,000,000 under past loan bills, by cancellation of this authority.

MORATORIUM LAW

Re-enactment of the moratorium law was considered, and second reading given to the amending bill. A. M. Manson, K.C. (Lib., Omineca), pleaded for a change in its terms to give full discretion to the courts as to principal, interest and taxes, where warranted after full review of the facts in each case. The present bill would continue relief as to principal sums only, and the Government has spoken against extending this measure of relief to any wider scope.

Second reading was given to amendments to the Municipal Act, containing a wide measure of discretion to councils in dealing with tax delinquents this year. The terms of the bill will be further outlined in committee. Amendments to the Municipal Elections Act also passed second reading. Amendments to the Provincial Elections Act were completed in committee.

An invalid expenditure of a past administration, carried for years on the books of the Province without warrant, would be authorized by a validating bill, also introduced for first reading.

VALIDATION BILL

Validation of Burnaby expenditures in connection with unemployment relief is the purpose of another bill. Legal process was stayed in the courts to permit of a ratifying measure, the bill sets out.

Hon. R. W. Bruhn introduced a bill to amend the Ladner Bridge Company Incorporation Act, under which British interests would construct a highway traffic bridge over the Fraser River at Ladner, if given Federal and Provincial authority to deal with the matter as they desire. The bill would not come into operation until full Federal assent was obtained.

It would leave tolls charged on the bridge under Provincial supervision, but would empower the Province to enter into agreement with the bridge company to make good half of the ordinary deficits, if any, incurred over a period of forty years, at a maximum impost of \$140,000; and that sums so paid would be repaid to the Province out of the earnings of the bridge.

The bill would further empower the Province to enter into agreement with the company as to sharing in the profits of the undertaking, construction and operation of the bridge as a toll undertaking.

Leader Advocates Merger of Branch Marketing Office

ABOLITION of the Overseas Market Branch attached to the Agent-General's office at London, England, was recommended in the Legislature last evening by the Leader of the Opposition. The work could be done by the Agent-General, he said. Premier Tolmie pointed out Empire market openings were improving, and valuable returns were being received from the service. The vote passed.

Estimates in the Department of Finance were under review during the evening. In connection with civil service salaries, Hon. J. W. Jones stated the present reductions, ranging from a total of 4 to 20 per cent, were to be considered temporary.

Is Deputy Minister—George P. Napier

assistant chief engineer of the Department of Public Works, will take over the duties of Deputy Minister of Railways, in addition to his own. Premier Tolmie stated in the Legislature. Estimates in the Department of Railways were voted, as were most of the votes in the Provincial Secretary's Department. Statutory grants to hospitals, listed at \$555,000, compared with \$820,000 last year, were stood over, pending introduction of legislation that may affect the vote.

commented Quebec Province received better prices for bonds issued at the same time, a fact that was not disputed.

Opposition Asks Return—Opposition members in the Legislature

renewed yesterday a concerted drive for a return of all correspondence concerning the British Columbia \$4,000,000 loan of January. Hon. J. W. Jones replied that the bonds had not all been sold, that delicate negotiations were still in progress and filing the return asked would be a breach of confidence. The matter was still under debate when the House rose for the supper recess. Dr. H. C. Wrinch (Liberal, Skeena).

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ANYOX STRIKE AIRED IN HOUSE

Attorney-General Pooley Asserts Communist Agitation Precipitated Trouble

"The Battle of Anyox" was fought out in the Legislature afresh last evening, between Attorney-General Pooley and H. F. Kergin (Liberal, Atlin), with Hon. W. A. McKenzie and A. M. Manson (Liberal, Omineca), in the supports.

Mr. Pooley produced an array of improvised weapons the police had taken off the strikers, ranging from steel drills to weighted lengths of hose with metal slugs at the end. Four hundred strikers, armed, had marched on the town, with the object of taking over the place, he averred. Eighteen officers had stood them off, and controlled the situation.

The issue had been whether or not a foreign element was to be allowed to take over the town and run affairs, or whether law and order were to be maintained, the Attorney-General declared. Peaceful strikers did not prepare weapons in advance, and go armed to their negotiations, he commented. The strikers had worn mining helmets, and had begun the aggressive.

AGITATION BLAMED

One constable was threatened with being thrown into a gully from the bridge by a mob of men, 80 per cent of whom were foreigners. The men, he believed, had some just grievance, but they had not gone the right way about having it heard, Mr. Pooley declared. They had listened to an agitator named Bradley, and had endeavored to take possession of the town by force.

Such a condition could not be tolerated anywhere in the province, the Attorney-General continued. No warship had been used, as implied in the House, and the largest number of police at the scene at any one time had been forty-eight, including game wardens, who were sent there first.

Mr. Kergin then replied. A handful of weapons did not mean that 400 men had been armed, he said. The Malaspina, fishery protection vessel, had proceeded to Anyox under orders, and a machine gun had been mounted. Police or game

wardens had left Vancouver two days before the strike, for Anyox, and there had been no effort at mediation first through the Department of Labor.

QUESTION OF CONTROL

Did the member for Atlin suggest that foreigners should have been allowed to get control of affairs? Mr. Pooley asked.

An American company operated the mines, and had given preference to foreigners in the work, Mr. Kergin returned.

No set of men could flout law and order, and move to take over any institutions in the country, Mr. Pooley declared. He would give fair warning that the same treatment would be meted out again, if occasion warranted.

For many years the Anyox concern had employed foreigners in preference to Canadians, Thomas Uphill (Labor, Fernie), interjected. Mr. Manson joined Mr. Kergin to say that the Government had acted precipitately, without reasonable mediation through the Labor Department. There was a vast distinction between Labor and Communism, and at critical times like the present no action should have been taken to apply a spark to the tinder of unrest. The men would have listened to reason, if their grievances had been heard, he suggested.

STRIKE ORGANIZED

The member for Omineca was badly mistaken, Mr. Pooley retorted. The strike had been secretly organized, secretly prepared, and no complaints of any kind had reached the Department of Labor from the men. Besides the improvised weapons produced in the House, there had been a quantity of steel drills, justifying the assertion that the majority of the men had been armed, and with considerable preparation.

Hon. W. A. McKenzie joined in the debate. The situation was that the company could purchase copper at New York within a cent of the cost of manufacturing it at Anyox, and were not at all anxious to continue operations. He had been warned that if the strike were held, the plant would be closed; and if the fires had been allowed to die out, it would not have been opened again. This would have meant hundreds of men thrown suddenly on relief. There had been no opportunity to negotiate for a settlement, and the Department of Labor had not even been advised. Wages paid at the town had been misrepresented, he asserted, and these ranged from \$4.75 a day for special trades, down to \$2.40 for common labor.

After some final exchanges, the debate petered out, and the votes in the Attorney-General's Department on which it was based, passed the House. The House adjourned at 11:00 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. today.

LADNER BRIDGE PLAN DEBATED

Guarantee on Deficits on Toll Structure Questioned in Legislature

Sharp division of opinion was disclosed in the Legislature yesterday in respect to the proposed agreement between the Province and the Ladner Bridge Company, over suggested construction with British capital of a new toll bridge over the Fraser River. The bill was introduced by Hon. R. W. Bruhn, who urged support for the measure, which would involve a considerable expenditure of private capital within the Province in times of need, and create a material volume of work. Guarantees sought of the Province in respect to operation of the structure were the major point in dispute.

Reciting the history of negotiations, Mr. Bruhn said the existing New Westminster Bridge was unsuited to present-day traffic, congested in Summer, and not safe for vehicles over a certain weight. It had been constructed twenty years ago, repaired and renewed, and now was beyond extension to suit heavier traffic needs of the day. Several proposals had been made to the Government in respect to a new bridge, and charters had been issued to two bridge companies meanwhile. The Fraser River Bridge Company had advanced two proposals, neither of which had appeared as a solution to the problem.

CHARGING TOLLS

The Ladner Bridge Company now proposed that it be allowed to build the bridge, using a well-known firm of British engineers, and London capital, in return for a guarantee in certain respects, and the privilege of charging tolls on the structure, which would take about two years to complete. Financing up to \$2,600,000 had been arranged, subject to Federal and Provincial assent to the terms proposed, Mr. Bruhn said. The Government would be forced to consider action to place a bridge across the Fraser in a short time in any event, he added.

The terms included a proposal to give a substantial share of the profits from toll operations to the Province, in return for a guarantee of half of any deficits to a fixed maximum, should deficits occur. There was a difference as to the probable revenues, the departmental estimate being a probable 500,000 cars a year, where 550,000 cars would be required to meet all operating and other carrying costs.

MOVES SECOND READING

The company's estimate was a million cars a year, Mr. Bruhn stated. The liability of the Province, it was proposed in the measure, would be up to a maximum of \$140,000 a year, for forty years, to be repaid out of the earnings of the operating company. The question of interest on any sums advanced to deficits would have to be considered.

Mr. Bruhn moved second reading of the bill, after further delineation of its terms. The matter had been carefully gone into by departmental officials, and by himself. Quebec had authorized up to 75 per cent of bridge deficits in a similar case.

URGES CAUTION

Jack Loutet (Cons., North Vancouver), urged caution on the agreement. The obligation on the Province would be up to \$140,000 a year, with a possibility that the whole financial structure might revert to the Province, and have to be carried. He could see no security for the operating company's half share of any deficit in any event, and according to what had been produced so far, the operating company need not have a dollar at risk in the venture.

The Government should insist on the creation of \$1,000,000 in stocks, or some security out of which deficits on the company obligations could be met. If the venture failed, the Government could not escape obligation on the bonds, he believed, but the existence of the stock would offset to some extent loss on the venture, from a Provincial standpoint. If a toll bridge were created at Ladner, most traffic would use the free bridge at New Westminster, he suggested.

COULD BE STRENGTHENED

The existing rail bridge could be strengthened and altered to care for all ordinary traffic for years, Mr. Loutet submitted. Quebec cases cited had not proved successful, in their results. He would not object to a dollar-for-dollar risk, in respect to the undertaking as to deficits, Mr. Loutet declared finally.

Mr. Bruhn explained that the bill was merely enabling legislation, to permit the Government to negotiate as to an agreement, the terms of which were not contained in the measure.

Mayor A. W. Gray (Lib., New Westminster), declared the Ladner Bridge appeared to him as a promotion, under which the Province could be called on to pay \$5,600,000 over a period of forty years, at the maximum rate of \$140,000 a year. In his opinion, there was no chance of the undertaking paying its way, and if it were built, it would not relieve vehicular congestion at Vancouver, where there was a second bridge to cross, ending in a bottlenecked drive.

If the Province desired to have a bridge built, it should itself issue the bonds and let the work to Canadian contractors, on a competitive basis, and could save \$1,000,000 by this course. The people of New Westminster believed that any bridge below that point on the river would be a menace to navigation, Mayor Gray said.

HOIST MOVED

Mayor Gray moved a six months' hoist on the bill, seconded by L. A. Hanna (Lib., Alberni). Mr. Hanna moved to adjourn debate on the hoist, and was opposed by Premier Tolmie, who said the bill was a Government measure and a motion to hoist was a motion to kill the bill. Debate continued.

Hon. W. C. Shelly supported the bill, which he said was authority only to negotiate an agreement, the terms of which would be carefully reviewed by the Government. The Ladner Bridge had had the approval of Federal authorities at Ottawa, on the recommendation of Sir Alexander Gibbs, noted port authority.

Completed terms might show the bridge could be built for \$1,500,000, and in any event all details would

be under supervision of Provincial engineers. Dorman, Long & Company, the proposed contractors, were a world-known firm of reputable standing, and the bondholders would be at greater risk than the Province, Mr. Shelly asserted.

J. W. Cornett (Cons., South Vancouver), supported the bill, concurring with Mr. Shelly in what he had said.

T. H. Kirk (Cons., Vancouver) rose to move an adjournment for the second time, and Mr. Speaker put the question to the House. It carried, and debate will be resumed today as to whether or not the Government measure will stand. The House adjourned at 11:20 p.m., until 11 a.m. today.

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Meal Tax Expected To Bring Benefit To B.C. Hospitals

Nearly Quarter-Million Dollars Anticipated Revenue From Tax, Which Will Be Paid in Part by Visitors—Legislature Makes Progress on Bills

If the Government's expectations are fulfilled, the new meal tax suggested for British Columbia as an additional aid to hospitals will produce about \$228,000 a year, based on the computation of Attorney-General Pooley that the tax will apply on 25,000 meals worth fifty cents daily, or a gross tax of 5 per cent on \$4,562,500 a year. Visitors, it was said, would pay half of the tax, from past experience in other provinces. The bill was read a second time, after debate.

Hon. J. W. Jones explained that the British Columbia measure proposed a tax only on meals of fifty cents and up, at the rate of 5 per cent. In Quebec, he said, the tax is the same rate applied on meals of thirty-five cents and up. Opposition members opposed ear-marking of the receipts for hospitals, but said they should be paid into consolidated revenue, and a lump sum apportioned to the hospitals as direct provincial aid under this and other heads.

WOULD HAVE TO CLOSE

George S. Pearson (Liberal, Nanaimo) made a computation of his own. He said that provincial aid to hospitals was to be reduced \$255,000 this year, on top of hospitals' deficits amounting to about \$265,000. This he said meant a loss of \$520,000 to the hospitals. Even if the meal tax returned all expectations of the Government, the hospitals would be pushed for revenue, and some, he predicted, would have to close. Thomas King (Liberal, Columbia) believed the tax would not produce more than \$36,000 a year.

British Columbia contribution to hospitals amounted to ninety-three cents per capita of population, compared with forty-seven cents in Ontario, fourteen cents in Nova Scotia, and between sixty and seventy cents per capita on the Prairies, Hon. R. L. Maitland stated. The hospitals would get the entire proceeds of the meal tax, Government speakers declared; and most of the tax would come from Victoria and Vancouver, with visitors bearing their share.

INCOME ACT CHANGES

Hon. J. W. Jones explained in part proposed changes in the Income Tax Act. The surtax on net incomes over \$5,000 annually was a temporary measure, and was being imposed in face of a great emergency rather than the doubling of the tax and the surtax as was done in 1917-18 by a former administration. Deduction of regular personal expenses would be allowed before computation of the tax. A recip-

rocal arrangement existed between British Columbia and Prairie Provinces so that the same income would not be taxed twice in this way.

Amendments to the Taxation Act were read a second time. They reduce the tax for school purposes in unorganized areas from five mills to two mills, or to one-fifth of 1 per cent; and remove restrictions in respect to Crown-granted mineral claims as to improvement work and the right to take up contiguous claims, as affected by taxation.

THIRD READINGS

Third reading was given to a bill asked for by the University of British Columbia, and which would enable a scholarship to be granted in respect to Victoria College, affiliated with the university. Third reading was also given to a bill which would preserve for teachers who were later civil servants, credit for their prior service, in respect to benefits under the two systems of pensioning, in proportion to service in either calling. Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe piloted both measures through the House.

A bill to amend the Provincial Parks Act was read a second time. Dr. G. K. MacNaughton (Conservative, Comox) commended the Government on acquisition of timber for preservation in park areas, and urged continuation of negotiations to add the Forbidden Plateau to such holdings, for later amalgamation with Strathcona Park and administration as a national park. The bill would add to present powers by permitting exchange of lands, in place of cash purchases, heretofore only allowed. L. A. Hanna (Liberal, Alberni) stressed need of final action to add Cathedral Grove to reserve areas, in the Cameron Lake district.

F. M. MacPherson (Liberal, Cranbrook) suggested changes in the new motor licence provisions, in adjourned debate on the Motor Vehicles Act amendments. He asked that Prairie dealers be not licensed in the province to compete with British Columbia dealers living near

the Alberta border. The new licences meant an increase of 10 per cent on some low-priced cars, in heavier classes, while a general reduction in the average licence would net greater returns in the aggregate, through increased care use, and greater returns from the gas and other taxes. He suggested a 25 per cent general reduction in the licences. He commended the monthly licence arrangement, and rebates east of the Cascades. Trucks, he said, were asked to bear a heavy burden, paying 1 per cent gross on earnings, a heavier licence fee, and the seven-cent gasoline tax.

A. M. Manson (Liberal, Omineca) pleaded for elimination of the proposed reduction in members' mileage expenses, to and from the Legislature at Victoria. The proposed cut of 50 per cent, he stated, would work hardship on members with large and isolated districts, as the reimbursements had been used to offset expenses in visiting all sections of these ridings between sessions. Second reading was given to the bill, one to amend the Constitution Act, with promise of later debate on the point.

New Loan Bill for Ten Million Comes Before Legislature

Amusement Tax to Be Reduced on Amateur Sport Meets and Community Dances—Will Create Townsite at Barkerville

BRITISH Columbia's loan bill this year was introduced in the Legislature last evening by Hon. J. W. Jones at \$10,000,000, some \$7,000,000 of which is for past outlays, and \$3,000,000 for unemployment relief and other purposes in the current fiscal year.

The primary purpose of the authorization sought is to cover a deficit of \$7,061,000 reported for the last fiscal year, of which \$1,808,000 was for unemployment relief financing taken out of revenue, and about \$5,200,000 for the deficit on ordinary account.

Validation of agreements between the Province and the Dominion Government on the one hand, and the Province and the municipalities on the other, in respect to unemployment relief carried out last year is proposed in a bill introduced by Mr. Jones which repeats the Unemployment Relief Act of 1932, without major change. Renewal of powers to enter into further agreements is covered in other sections of the bill, which also gives schedules of the form of agreements used and to be used.

AMENDMENTS INTRODUCED

Amendments to the Amusements Tax Act were introduced by the Minister of Finance at the afternoon sitting, to reduce taxation on amateur sports meets and community dances from 10 per cent to 5 per cent.

Hon. N. S. Lougheed introduced for first reading a bill to give the Province right to set aside adequate areas of land at Barkerville for townsite purposes, the preamble of the bill reciting that there was need of greater accommodation in this respect than already exists in the original village.

Hon. R. L. Maitland introduced amendments to the Greater Vancouver Water District Act, which would give the water board power to collect water rentals directly from consumers in municipalities thirty days in default to the board, setting up trust accounts in this connection. First readings were given to all new measures.

STERILIZATION LAW PROPOSED

Government Introduces Bill Which Would Set Up Control Board

Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary, introduced a sterilization bill in the Legislature yesterday, as a Government measure. The bill was read a first time, and will be thoroughly debated. Its terms are explained as provision for making a start in sterilization of the insane, under strict safeguards, and with recognition of the rights of those whose faith is against the practice.

An independent board of eugenics, composed of a judge, a psychiatrist, and a social service worker, would review all cases in which the operation of the law was proposed. In the event of objection from religious sources, no action would be taken. The main purpose of the law would be to permit legal measures being taken in regard to institutional cases in respect to which there may be no dispute.

Introduction of the bill, while a Government measure, was virtually invited from the floor of the House, on preliminary debate on the subject last week. Later a delegation of private members met the Provincial Secretary, and urged introduction of a sterilization measure. Full debate on the issue is expected before any action is taken.

Gift of Murals Accorded Praise By Legislature

HON. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary, received the warm commendation of the Legislature yesterday for his fine gift of a set of four murals in the rotunda of the buildings to the Province. Dealing with historical subjects, the murals are the work of G. H. Southwell, noted British artist, and have been greatly admired by resident and visiting art connoisseurs. Mr. Howe was cheered when a resolution of appreciation, proposed and seconded by Messrs. Loutet and Macintosh, was put to the assembly. Hon. R. H. Pooley, K.C., and the Leader of the Opposition joined in endorsing the public-spirited action of the Provincial Secretary in his personal gift to the Province.

Beer Sale Debated By Legislature on Liquor Act Change

Substantial Cut in Price to Public Intended, House Informed—Telephone Orders, Sale of Bottled Beer and One-Purpose Licences Outlined

REDUCTION in the price of beer sold by vendors' stores on telephone orders of the public for consumption in homes from \$2 a dozen bottles to \$1.50 net was announced by Attorney-General Pooley in the Legislature yesterday, the cut to take effect as soon as the new regulations can be brought into effect.

Amendments to the Government Liquor Act permitting sale of bottled beer in sealed packets from licensed premises, and removal of all individual permits save an annual one of twenty-five cents, are other changes listed. The Government was commended and attacked for its action in advancing the legislation.

Mr. Pooley said it was proposed to eliminate the \$2 liquor permit, the \$1 wine permit, and the \$1 beer permit, and issue one type of permit only, good for a year and costing twenty-five cents. Sale of bottled beer, in sealed packets, by licensed premises, to be so signified, for consumption off the premises, is also contained in the bill. Through regulations under the board it is proposed to set up a delivery system from vendors' stores, under which telephone orders would be filled by the stores, sent by cartage and paid collect on delivery in the homes.

BEER IN STATES

The Government, he said, was not departing from the principle established in the first referendum under the act. With beer to be legally saleable in the United States shortly; home brew operating without control, and at times in bootlegging channels, and removal of much of the former tourist patronage of the stores, revenues of the board would be seriously curtailed, he explained.

Home brew had developed to the point where a single store in Vancouver shipped three carloads of malt extract in one month. There was no objection to home brewing, but it was a fact that a good deal found its way into bootleg channels, in a traffic that was beyond all control. The present changes were an effort to make reasonably good beer available to the public through licensed channels, under supervision.

FIGURES GIVEN

Sale of bottled beer by the board had dropped from 159,280 barrels in 1929 to 65,270 barrels last year, or to a third of the former volume. At the same time malt extract was being sold in carload lots for manufacture of home brew. The Government's mandate on the liquor question had been one for control, and no form of control could be exercised over the home manufacture of beer. It was to the interest of the public to amend conditions, so that proper regulation could be maintained.

Many people preferred to brew at home, which they could do more cheaply and get a better product, Captain M. F. Macintosh (Cons., The Islands), observed. He had been among the number, he said.

Dr. H. C. Wrinch (Lib., Skana), opposed the changes. A referendum should first have been submitted, he averred. The last mandate had been for sale in open glasses on the premises of licensed places, and not for sale of bottled beer for use off the premises, or for telephoned orders from the homes. No restrictions had been placed on quantity, that he could see, and wider sale than ever was now proposed.

TORN TWO WAYS

George S. Pearson (Lib., Nanaimo), explained a personal dilemma to the House. From a temperance home and teaching, he believed abolition of alcohol would best serve mankind. His riding, however, was not entirely of the same view. He decried operation of the profit motive in liquor sales, and held that the logical step for the Government to take would be to enter manufacture itself to the exclusion of others, so that it would have full control of the system. He would not, however, oppose the bill. People could not be legislated in an odor of sanctity, and would always indulge their wants to the extent of their resources, Thomas Uphill (Lab., Fernie), intimated. He supported the bill as a measure to make matters even for those in the cities and in outlying areas, and would have removed the permit fee altogether.

The Government should hesitate before doing anything that endangered public harmony in liquor affairs as already administered, Dr. G. K. MacNaughton (Cons., Comox), said.

The public was not ready for prohibition, whatever the record of liquor dealings, A. M. Manson (Lib., Omineca), stated. The republic to the south had tried the experiment and it had failed, and it was now reversing its position. In view of the verdict of the people in British Columbia, liquor should be made reasonably available, but not more, and increased sales should not be sought. The bill entered final stages after further debate.

Soldiers Did Well—Veterans who benefited under the Soldiers' Housing Act at the close of the war period have kept up their payments well, it was explained in the Legislature yesterday. A total of \$1,697,500 was advanced by the Province to municipalities, repayable. Of the sum due at present, only \$5,000 was in arrears.

Final Readings—Third readings and enactment, subject to assent, were given to four measures at the evening sitting of the House yesterday, including the Coal and Petroleum Act, the Placer Mining Act, the Insurance Act, and the Loan Bill.

Information Given—Responding to questions in the Legislature yesterday, Hon. J. W. Jones said gross deficits of the Province for the three years, 1930 to 1932, had been \$12,000,000, with a balance of \$5,300,000 odd to be assumed out of the present loan bill. Total unfunded debt was given at \$10,760,000. The bank overdraft was between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 less than at this time last year, the Minister of Finance stated.

STERILIZATION BILL ADVANCED

Measure Would Become Law on July 1 This Year, if Ratified

After extensive debate during the week, the proposed Sterilization Act was completed in committee by the Legislature last evening, and will be up for final discussion today. Government speakers taxed the Leader of the Opposition with a sudden volte face on the question of sterilization, a charge which Mr. Pattullo denied.

At the afternoon sitting the Leader of the Opposition has suddenly opposed the bill on the ground that it was late in the session and that little opportunity had been given for public discussion. He advocated a stay of action on the ground that religious and moral antagonism to the measure was held by a considerable section of the public.

REMINDS MR. PATTULLO

Reginald Hayward, M.P.P., reminded Mr. Pattullo that he had been the first to introduce the subject in the House, and had complained that the Government had taken no action to curb increasing numbers at mental institutions.

Hon. S. L. Howe said Mr. Pattullo had virtually invited the Government to bring in the bill, in remarks he had made on Friday last.

Mr. Pattullo said his remarks had been misunderstood, and again advocated a stay. The bill was completed in committee without change. If passed, it would go into operation on July 1.

BOARD OF EUGENICS

At the morning sitting, Hon. S. L. Howe spoke briefly of the bill, which, he said, was a moderate measure in keeping with the change in public sentiment on the matter during the last few years. It would set up a board of eugenics before which all applications from medical men and superintendents of institutions for the insane would go. Consent was a requisite term of the bill, either by the individual or a guardian, and all care would be taken of conscientious objection on religious or other grounds.

Dr. W. H. Sutherland (Lib., Revelstoke), said the bill was no advance on what was already being done in these days, with consent of the parties concerned.

Dr. L. E. Borden (Cons., Nelson), who has consistently advocated action on the issue for several years, gave a description of growth of the practice in other lands, and the need for definite steps being taken to prevent procreation of the mentally unfit. He described in exact terms the actual operations concerned in a person of either sex, and said such action was not injurious to health. Vasectomy in the male was a relatively minor operation, conducted under a local anaesthetic. The corresponding operation in those of the other sex was more extensive, but not injurious in any sense. The sexual life of male or female was not interrupted, and in many cases health improved, he said.

ACTION ADVOCATED

Reginald Hayward (Cons., Victoria), who had been a member of the Mental Hygiene Commission of 1927-28, supported the bill. Experiences in British Columbia mental institutions showed some definite steps would have to be taken to stop preventable increase of the insane.

Resuming debate in the afternoon, Dr. J. J. Gillis (Lib., Yale), urged stay of action by the Legislature at this time. There was a large class of people who objected to the principle of sterilization, including Roman Catholics and also many laboring people. No definite representations had come from the people to introduce the measure, and results were not sure.

The report of the British Columbia Mental Hygiene Commission had been an able one, but, he contended, public sentiment had changed adversely since 1928, largely as a result of its operation in other countries. Of the twenty-three states in the Union where laws had been introduced, all but four had reverted, and abandoned the practice, Dr. Gillis continued.

In California the law was being used to evade responsibilities of parenthood, and contributed nothing to the problem of caring for the mentally unfit. There were also strong arguments against the practice, in that it tended to promote promiscuity and spread of social disease. The British Central Association on Mental Welfare had decided sterilization was not effective in reduction of insanity.

SUPPORTS BILL

Dr. C. M. Kingston (Cons., Grand Forks - Greenwood), supported the bill. It was an innocuous measure, going no further than present practices, and would at least be an educational factor in arousing attention to the need of effective steps to curb the increase in mental hospitals. Recent advances in the study of heredity and in the sciences showed need of definite action being taken.

From the economic aspect it was unwise to continue breeding classes of mental degenerates, some with criminal tendencies. From a humanitarian standpoint, improvement of the moral fibre of the human race outweighed all other considerations, Dr. Kingston said.

BURNABY MEN TO MEET COST

Former Reeve, Council and Treasurer Indemnified by House Conditionally

W. A. Pritchard, former Reeve of Burnaby, ex-councillors of that municipality and its treasurer, will be indemnified for technical diversion of by-law funds to unemployment purposes without legal warrant, if they personally meet the law costs of William C. Feedham, the Burnaby ratepayer who brought suit against the officers of the corporation in a taxpayer's action.

The Legislature gave third reading yesterday to a validating act, conditional to Mr. Feedham's costs in the suit being met. These costs, Attorney-General Pooley said, might amount to approximately \$900, and would not be born by the municipality. Mr. Pooley censured officials of the corporation for allegedly arbitrary action in retaliation against the suing ratepayer.

Inasmuch as the courts had found the ratepayer justified in his course, his costs should be met by the defendants in their personal capacity. If this were done, validation of the by-law money diversion would be granted, and the bill so provided, Mr. Pooley stated. The measure was taken through final stages and enacted, subject to Royal assent.

House May Rise—While no official statement could be gleaned on the subject, from the progress of the session yesterday it appears probable the House will reach the end of its labors today. In that event, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor would be asked to prorogue the session. After virtual completion of estimates and all but final stages on a few bills, the House rose shortly before midnight, to sit at 11 a.m. today.

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To Use Gold Mining To Help Relief of Unemployed in 1933

British Subjects Will Be Trained in Placer Mining and Grubstaked to Limited Extent—New Townsite of Barkerville to Rise

IMPLEMENTING intention of the Government to use placer mining opportunities of the province as a definite means of unemployment relief this year, Hon. W. A. McKenzie explained, in the Legislature yesterday, the objects of a bill to bring about training camps for selected men, and their later grubstaking for a limited period. Reserves of mineral lands will be set up as a basis of the scheme, which depends on Federal and other consent for use of unemployment relief funds in this manner.

It is definitely proposed to take men now in the camps and others, and from a selection of those fitted for the work, to train groups in placer mining courses, with provincial officials as instructors. Small reserves of Crown lands would be created in each mining district; and men located in camps at suitable points would go into training for the life. British subjects only would be eligible.

AID IN FIELD

After the training course, men best fitted for the work would be grubstaked by the Province for a month, to try their luck independently, while others could be continued under instruction and direction on the placer reserves, or elsewhere, as decided.

Mr. McKenzie said that hundreds of men in each district had attended instructional lectures given by the Province on mining subjects; and that a practical interest had been aroused and sustained last year by issue of free miners' certificates. The whole intention of the bill was that men could be trained in a useful calling.

The House also proceeded with a measure to create an enlarged townsite at Barkerville, by re-adjustment with those who had staked all over the town and even in the cemetery. Any actual mineral deposits found on such claims could be operated, but otherwise it was proposed to move incumbents of such claims and put the townsite on a permanent basis, with many waiting to build there. Third reading was given to the measure.

RELIEF ACT PASSED

The 1933 Unemployment Relief Act passed the Legislature after brief debate. Hon. J. W. Jones explained the bill as a measure to validate agreements between the respective governments and the municipalities on relief affairs, and to make legal provision for carrying out whatever new relief measures may be put into force this year. The Leader of the Opposition objected to what he termed blanket provisions in the measure, but did not oppose its passage.

Surtaxes will apply on 1932 incomes, and there are no "jokers" in the amending bill, Mr. Jones explained on discussion of that meas-

ure. Changes in the Succession Duty Act will also include provision to speed up settlement of estates, in that administrations may proceed while adjustment of the taxable value of estates is being negotiated with the Province. Exemptions of widows in respect to the act is to be further clarified.

Final reading was given to the Public Libraries Act amendments, permitting a referendum in the Fraser Valley area on the question of continuing library services there, heretofore supported by the Carnegie fund with provincial assistance. Municipalities in the area could remain aloof from the scheme or enter, as they saw fit. A reference to the people would proceed action to renew the service on a self-supporting basis.

LOAN BILL CITED

At the morning sitting, Mr. Jones explained the 1933 \$10,000,000 loan bill. Seventy per cent of the amount, he said, was for sums already spent, with no new borrowings save for unemployment relief. The loan authority would cover deficits for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1932, and provide funds towards unemployment relief this year.

The Leader of the Opposition stated, in his opinion, the whole \$10,000,000 would be used to defray deficits. G. S. Pearson (Liberal, Nanaimo), asked for detailed information on deficits past and present.

PARK LANDS EXCHANGE

The Garibaldi Park Act and the Provincial Parks Act amendments were debated. The chief purpose of the amendments is to permit the Province to trade land for land in the acquisition of park areas, in place of existing authority for outright purchase for cash. Government speakers supported the bills, and Opposition members attacked them.

In further amendments to both amending bills, the Government seeks leave to reduce or cancel park areas, arising out of negotiations with the Federal Government in respect to national parks. The Leader of the Opposition had a motion on the order paper which would have made all park negotiations subject to preview in the Legislature.

B.C. Legislature Asks Lower Rates On Public Debts

REDUCTION of interest rates on public borrowings in Canada, Federally, provincially, and on municipal debt, was urged by the British Columbia Legislature last evening, in passage of the motion of E. C. Carson (Conservative, Lillooet). The motion places the House on record as asking the Federal Government to consider immediate steps to secure reduction of interest rates on all public borrowings, citing its conviction that present charges are beyond the ability of the taxpayers to meet. The motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE DEBATES MORATORIUM

Present Law May Be Re-enacted for Year Without Change

Renewal of the British Columbia moratorium law for a further year, applying on principal, but not on interest or taxes, was virtually decided on in the Legislature last night. The Government resisted an amendment proposed by William Dick (Cons., Vancouver) that full discretion be left to the courts as to what measure of relief should be applied in each case.

The bill was completed in committee with one point reserved, this being a proposal by A. M. Manson (Lib., Omineca) that the law apply on installment payment mortgages.

At the request of the judiciary, the renewal bill will give a further three months' time in foreclosure proceedings, in addition to the existing right of the courts to adjourn hearings from week to week.

the British Columbia Commission had but, he contended, had changed practice of sterilizing largely as a result of other countries. Of states in the Union been introduced, all inverted, and abandoned, Dr. Gillis contended the law was being responsibilities of contributed nothing of caring for the. There were also against the present spread of social disease Central Association. Welfare had decided not effective in relief.

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use—While no official could be gleaned on the progress of yesterday it appears use will reach the rs today. In that or the Lieutenant- he asked to provision. After virtual estimates and all but a few bills, the ly before midnight, today.

British Columbia Legislature Ends Its Fifth Session

Assembly Prorogues After
Seven Weeks' Continu-
ous Labors

PRESENTATION MADE TO VETERAN MEMBER

Hon. J. W. Fordham Johnson prorogued the fifth session of the British Columbia Legislature last evening, at the close of nine gruelling periods in the last three days. Prorogation came at 9 p.m., when His Honor was admitted to the chamber, thanked the Legislature for granting supply to His Majesty, gave Royal assent to eighty-five acts, and formally ended the session. Released from seven weeks of continuous debate and legislating, members threw sessional papers into the air, and joined in the general pandemonium following.

Immediately prior to the arrival of the Lieutenant-Governor, Government and Opposition members united in a presentation of a handsome silver tray to J. H. Schofield, veteran Conservative member for Rossland-Trail, who has seen over a quarter of a century in the Assemblies of the province. Mr. Schofield was much touched as he received a spirited and sincere ovation.

To Col. A. W. Woods, D.S.O. Sergeant-at-Arms, the members gave a handsome cigarette case, suitably engraved. Premier Tolmie and Mr. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition made both presentations.

Hon. C. F. Davie, the Speaker and Premier Tolmie received His Honor, who was attended by aides. Copies of the budget address of Hon. J. W. Jones, in printed form, were distributed during the day, the earliest arrival of the printed budget in any recent session. Mr. Jones was complimented by the leader of the Opposition for the courtesy, but not for the contents of the third address.

Sitting in the afternoon, the House gave passage to bills to amend the Mortgage and Purchasers Relief Act (the moratorium); Government Liquor Act; Hospitals Aid Act (the meal tax); Municipal Act; Mount Robson Park Act, and the Ladner Bridge Company, Ltd. Act.

The Ladner bridge measure went through as amended, on a straight party division by 31-11; W. R. Rutledge (Conservative, Burnaby) voting with the Opposition. The division was taken on second reading of the amended bill, disposing also of the amendment to give the measure a six month hoist. Third reading followed. Thirteen members spoke in a two-hour debate on the measure; eight from the Government side approving the amended bill, and five from the Opposition opposing it.

ASKS INVESTIGATION

By division of 31-11 the House rejected a motion by H. F. Keregin (Liberal, Atlin) for a public inquiry into working conditions and living costs of miners at Anyox. Hon. W. A. McKenzie promised an immediate investigation would be made by departmental officials, in conjunction with the chief inspector of mines. Mayor A. W. Gray (Liberal, New Westminster) withdrew a want-of-confidence motion dealing with the Ladner Bridge bill, saying the division on the measure had already settled the issue.

Shortly before 6 p.m. the House had taken the last step on its programme, and was ready for prorogation after the supper recess. Government benches were solidly together as the session ended, and the chief bills of the session passed with thumping majorities.

MAIN ACTS APPROVED

Ten bills were given final passage at the morning sitting, including the Supply Act, which with the Loan Act, 1933, forms the main purpose of the session. The Loan Act grants supply to His Majesty in the sum of \$22,897,350, including \$187,757 in supplementary votes from last year. The Loan Act is for \$10,000,000 as already outlined.

The Sterilization Act passed without division, T. D. Pattullo voting against the measure. Passage in quick succession followed for amendments to the Income Tax Act, Laws Declaratory Act, Provincial Parks Act, Succession Duty Act, Garibaldi Park Act, Motor Vehicle Act, Constitution Act and Provisional Free Miners Certificates Act.

MINISTER SUPPORTED

The Parks Act passed on divisions of 25-15 and 26-15, Messrs. Loutet, Macintosh, Rutledge and Dick voting with the Opposition against the measures. The Leader of the Opposition and Hon. N. S. Loughheed fought it out over Garibaldi Park, Mr. Pattullo desiring legislative assent to any arrangement to be reached with the Dominion Government or with private owners of lands concerned. The House supported Mr. Loughheed.

The new meal tax to benefit hospitals will go into effect on May 1, and stamps will be issued to proprietors of restaurants, etc., to affix to meal checks on payment of the tax. Coastwise vessels will come under the law, but not trans-Pacific craft, it was explained.

Sale of bottled beer in licensed premises will open on April 18, and the rest of the Government Liquor Act amendments immediately.

In the dying hours of the session, Thomas Uphill (Lab., Fernie), predicted the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation would place candidates in the field at the provincial election in every riding, and would be a force in the next Legislature. He pressed for a public inquiry into affairs at the mines at Anyox, proposed by Mr. Kergin. Mr. Uphill head and avails by Joseph

Sarich, John Sakulich, Mike Marchuck and Lars Larson affirming they believed workings in the mines were unsafe.

The member for Fernie also pleaded for the release of thirty-seven men taken from the trains at Princeton on their way to join the recent "hunger march."

BLAME COMMUNISTS

Attorney-General Pooley said harvest hands in British Columbia and others who have heretofore been allowed to ride the trains free in their effort to seek work, could blame Communist agitators for Federal orders withdrawing this privilege. Bands of agitators had passed up and down the country trying to sow discontent, he averred. The Province regretted the necessity for the order, but must abide by Federal law.

Seven weeks after the opening of the session on February 23, with thirty-two working days, the Legislature completed the last of its business on April 7. For the last ten days, night sittings have been in progress, and for the last few days three periods a day were called. The legislative programme was numerically heavy, with about eighty-five bills put through, the majority of which were necessary amendments to existing statutes, with some new laws. So ends the fifth session of the Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia.

LADNER BRIDGE BILL RATIFIED

Government Is Sustained
on Enabling Legislation,
Subject to Curbs

In greatly amended form, with more safeguards for the Province in the event of a deal being finally entered, the Ladner Bridge Act was ratified in the Legislature yesterday, as the final measure of a contentious nature. It secured support to the extent of 31-11 upon division on second reading.

The measure grants authority to the Province to negotiate for construction of a highway traffic bridge at Ladner over the Fraser River, within defined limits as to the amount that may be assumed. The Government was fully sustained on the division.

Introducing amendments to the bill, Hon. R. W. Bruhn said these were to tighten up the degree of protection afforded to the Province for any outlays it might be called on to make in connection with the proposed project. The Leader of the Opposition stated he would not feel himself bound by any major contracts entered into by the Government at the "lame duck" session closing.

GUARANTEE PARED

Instead of a conditional guarantee up to \$140,000 a year for forty years at the maximum rate on half of the deficits accruing from operations, the amendments limit the Province's responsibility to a half share of the actual deficits, if any, and these to be advanced only on a dollar-for-dollar basis with the operating company.

Any sums so advanced would become a charge on the assets of the company, and be recoverable at 6 per cent interest from the earnings of the bridge. Financing also is restricted to a 6 per cent basis. If a deal is entered pursuant to the powers of the act, construction must start on the bridge within six months. The Government is given authority to negotiate such a deal, strictly within the terms of the enabling legislation, and subject to adequate safeguards.

Continuing debate at the afternoon sitting, T. H. Kirk (Conservative, Vancouver), explained why he had not favored the original measure as previously introduced. He supported the bill as amended. Dr. W. H. Sutherland (Liberal, Revelstoke), suggested sale of the New Westminster bridge to the railways, and construction of the new bridge by Provincial undertaking. Jack Loutet (Conservative, North Vancouver), supported the bill as amended. Colonel Nelson Spencer (Conservative, Vancouver), would have favored the original measure.

DEBATE EXTENDED

L. A. Hanna (Liberal, Alberni), did not see the necessity for a provincial-wide obligation to favor Vancouver, with resources of its own. William Dick (Conservative, Vancouver), supported the bill. W. R. Rutledge (Conservative, Burnaby), opposed it. Hon. W. A. McKenzie and Hon. R. L. Maitland defended the Government's stand in bringing forward the measure, and Mr. McKenzie predicted that tolls would more than satisfy all operating requirements. G. S. Pearson (Liberal, Nanaimo), thought further guarantees of any nature should be avoided.

Mayor A. W. Gray (Liberal, New Westminster), paid a personal tribute to the Minister of Public Works, whose action, he said, was above suspicion. New Westminster was opposed to the Ladner site, however, and he would not support the bill. J. W. Cornett (Conservative, South Vancouver), declared the bridge was greatly needed, and predicted it would prove profitable to all concerned.

Over 1,000 cars a day were using the present Ladner ferry, paying fifty cents each, Mr. Cornett said. The New Westminster bridge handled 2,700,000 cars in 1929, and even a third of that figure would make the new bridge a self-supporting undertaking, Mr. McKenzie asserted. Division ended the debate, the bill passing second reading by 31-11. Third reading and passage followed immediately.

Spats and Cane Adorn Tom Uphill

Tom Uphill, versatile member for Fernie, and Labor member extraordinary, refuses to be dared. When the Legislature was having its pleasure taken, the doughty Tom was challenged to wear spats. He did, stripping Alex. M. Manson, the Beau Brummel of Omiceca, of his foot-warmers. Then, just to make matters even, the Labor Party member borrowed the cane of Tommy Kirk, the leader of Legislative fashions, and Colonel Fred Lister's Derby hat. The result is that Mr. Uphill makes the most imposing person in the group.

Colleagues Pay Him High Tribute



J. H. SCHOFIELD

who was yesterday presented with a silver tray as a mark of esteem in which he is held by all parties in the Legislature. Mr. Schofield has occupied a place in the House for twenty-six years, a record in the history of the Province.

Saturday, April 8, 1933.

Members of B.C. Legislature Pose for Their Pictures Before Prorogation of House



—Photograph by Robert Fort.

THE members of the Provincial Parliament faced the camera together to celebrate the final regular session of the Seventeenth Parliament. Those included in the above group are: Left to right (sitting), Thomas Uphill; J. H. Schofield, Dean of the House; Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance; Hon. N. S. Lougheed, Minister of Lands; Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary; T. D. Pattullo, Opposition Leader; Hon. S. F. Tolmie, Premier; Hon. C. F. Davie, Speaker; Hon. E. H. Pooley, Attorney-General; Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Minister of Mines; Hon. Rolland W. Bruhn, Minister of Public Works; Hon. R. L. Maitland, minister without portfolio; Hon. W. C. Shelly, President of the Council. Second row (standing): W. R. Rutledge, Reginald Hayward, J. W. Berry, M. F. Macintosh, Dr. C. M. Kingston, Col. Fred Lister, D.S.O., Dr. W. C. Wrinch, W. Dick, A. W. Gray, E. C. Carson, Jack Loutet, Thomas Kirk, J. H. Beatty, J. W. Cornett, Dr. W. H. Sutherland, Capt. James Fitzsimmons, George Heggie, Dr. L. E. Borden, John Michel, Thomas King, A. M. Macpherson, Dr. F. Kergin, Roderick Mackenzie, Dr. W. W. Alward, Col. Nelson Spencer, D.S.O., Dr. G. K. MacNaughton and L. A. Hanna. Members of the Legislature not included in the group are: Hon. W. Atkinson, Minister of Agriculture; Hon. Joshua M. Macpherson, Minister of Education; Dr. J. J. Gillis, F. M. MacPherson, George S. Pearson, H. D. Twigg and G. A. Walkem.

LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTED

Eighty-Five Changes Made in Acts During Recent B.C. Session

Approximately eighty-five bills were passed at the session of the Legislature which closed last week, dealing chiefly with needed measures of relief. Taxation changes were few in number; reduction in expenditure, rather than increase in taxation, being the means relied upon to bring the fiscal programme of the Province to a more even balance. Gross expenditures for the year are estimated at some \$22,800,000, compared with approximately \$30,000,000 two years ago, and \$24,680,000 estimated last year. The acts assented to by His Honor were chiefly amendments to existing statutes, with some new bills, and were as follows:

THE LIST

An act to amend the Town Planning Act.
An act to amend the Garibaldi Park Act.
An act to amend the Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, 1905.
An act to amend the Provincial Parks Act.
An act to amend the Central Park Act.
An act to amend the Children of Unmarried Parents Act.
An act to amend the Cemetery Companies Act.
An act to amend the Lunacy Act.
An act to amend the Parents' Maintenance Act.
An act to amend the Fire Marshal Act.
An act to amend the Bills of Sale Act.
An act to amend the Testator's Family Maintenance Act.
An act respecting the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and the Compilation of Vital Statistics.
An act to amend the Jury Act.

An act to amend the Superannuation Act.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT

An act to amend the Public Schools Act.
An act to amend the Public Works Act.
An act to amend the Stock-brands Act.
An act to amend the Pound District Act.
An act to amend the Laws Declaratory Act.
An act to amend the Attachment of Debts Act.
An act to amend the County Courts Act.
An act to amend the Forest Act.
An act to amend the Royal Inland Hospital Act, 1896.
An act to amend the Hairdressers Act.

An act respecting an agreement between the Corporation of the City of New Westminster, Canadian Pacific Railway, and British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Limited, relating to the diversion of Columbia Street, in the city of New Westminster.

An act to amend the Mineral Act.
An act respecting powers of attorney.

HORSE RACING ACT

An act to amend the Horse Racing Regulation Act.
An act to amend the Placer Mining Act.
An act to amend the Insurance Act.
An act to amend the Security Frauds Prevention Act.
An act to extend the duration of the Insurance (temporary provisions) Act, 1932.

An act to amend the Sumas Drainage, Dyking, and Development District Act.

An act to amend the Public Libraries Act.
An act to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act.

An act to amend the Water Act.
An act to amend the Coal and Petroleum Act.
An act to amend the Taxation Act.

An act to amend the Municipalities Aid Act.

SUPREME COURT ACT

An act to amend the Supreme Court Act.

An act to amend the Sales and Consignment Act.

An act to amend the Village Municipalities Act.

An act to amend the Dewdney Dyking District Relief Act, 1929.

An act to amend the Mortgagors' and Purchasers' Relief Act, 1932.

An act to amend the Community Regulation Act.

An act to amend the Small Debts Courts Act.

An act relating to the Corporation of the City of Victoria.

An act relating to the Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt.

An act to amend the Nanaimo Electric Light, Power, and Heating Company's Act, 1898.

An act to amend the Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1921.

An act to amend the Shaughnessy Heights Building Restriction Act, 1922.

An act to amend An Act to Incorporate the Order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in the Province of British Columbia.

SALE OF FRUIT ACT

An act respecting the sale of fruit and fruit containers.

An act to amend the Municipal Elections Act.

An act respecting the Lower Mainland Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Committee.

An act to limit the borrowing powers under certain Loan Acts of the province.

An act to amend the Provincial Elections Act.

An act to amend the Motor Vehicle Act.

An act to amend the Municipal Act.

An act to amend the Constitution Act.

An act to amend the Succession Duty Act.

An act to amend the Ladner Bridge Company, Limited, Act.

An act to amend the Government Liquor Act.

An act to validate a certain treasury bill issued by the Province.

INCOME TAX ACT

An act to amend the Income Tax Act.

An act to provide for the imposition of a duty in aid of hospitals.

An act to amend the British Columbia University Act.

An act to amend the Teachers' Pensions Act.

An act to validate illegal expenditures by the Corporation of the District of Burnaby.

An act to amend the Provisional Free Miners' Certificates (Placer) Act.

An act to amend the Greater Vancouver Water District Act.

An act to borrow the sum of ten million dollars for the purposes therein specified.

An act to amend the Amusements Tax Act.

An act respecting sexual sterilization.

An act to provide lands for town-site purposes at Barkerville.

An act respecting unemployment relief.

An act to amend the Mount Robson Park Relief; and the Supply Act.