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1936

CITY'S ISSUE OF BABY BONDS GETS APPROVAL

Construction of New City
Hall Can Proceed,
Costs Ordered

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, March 30.—Construction of Vancouver's new city hall, endangered for a time on Saturday when the passage of the Vancouver Enabling Act through the legislature was held up on motion of Gordon S. Wismer, member for Vancouver-Centre, was approved in the House today upon third reading of the bill.

The bill, which validates the city's Baby Bonds, did not go through the House unscathed, however, and included in it before final passage was an amendment requiring the city to pay costs of an action brought against it to upset validity of the bonds. The bill now prohibits any further actions against the city on this ground.

The amendment was brought in by Hon. A. Wells Gray.

The House put in a very busy morning as far as passage of bills was concerned and dealt, in all, with some 17 of them—in various stages—before rising at 1 p.m.

Most of them carried little contentious matter, although proposed amendments to the Mineral Survey and Development Act caused some discussion. These amendments would make it necessary for mining concerns and salesmen to file copies of all publicity and advertising matter concerning public mining groups, with the department of mines. Despite opposition from George Murray, R. W. Bruhn and several others, the House committee was able to "rise and report progress."

MORATORIUM EXTENDED YEAR

VICTORIA, March 30.—The moratorium law in this province was extended by the House for another year by an act introduced this morning. There is one variation, by insertion of a clause which will protect mortgagees in possession of valid claims temporarily set aside by the courts, from being outlawed by the Statute of Limitations. Otherwise the moratorium measure remains unchanged.

HOTLY FOUGHT INSURANCE ACT PASSES HOUSE

Very Different Measure
From That Drawn
Up by Weir

PARTIES DIVIDE

Weary Opposition Drops
Battle Late on
Tuesday

HOW THEY VOTED

For the Health Insurance Bill—Hons. T. D. Pattullo, Gordon M. Sloan, G. M. Weir, K. C. MacDonald, A. W. Gray, F. M. MacPherson, John Hart and G. S. Pearson, also the following Liberal members: T. King, W. J. Asselstine, A. McDonald, E. T. Kenney, Dugald McPherson, J. Allen Harris, N. W. Whittaker, F. Putnam, D. M. Mackay, R. R. Burns, C. S. Leary, C. H. Tupper, R. H. Carson, R. Wilkinson, Mrs. Helen Smith. The following C.C.F. members: Rev. R. Connell, Mrs. Steeves, E. E. Winch, J. Price, H. E. Winch, and T. Uphill, Labor—29.

Against the Bill—G. M. Murray (Ind. Lib.), Gordon S. Wismer, D. W. Strachan, Dr. W. H. Sutherland, E. D. Barrow, Dr. J. J. Gillis, S. S. McKeen, all Liberals; Clive Planta (Ind. Con.), R. H. Pooley (Con.), Hugh Savage (Ind.), H. Anascomb (Ind.), R. W. Bruhn (Ind.), Ernest Bakewell and R. B. Swales (both C.C.F.)—14.

L. A. Hanna (Lib.) and B. F. Johnson (Lib.) were absent.

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, March 31.—Battling through one division after another, the Legislature, in a near-final session tonight finally carried the bitterly-contested health insurance bill by a vote of 29 to 14, with several government members supporting the opposition.

Three divisions came before third reading of the bill was called for and the third reading resulted in still another division—with the above vote—before the measure finally passed the House. It passed, however, a very different measure from that which had confronted members at the opening of the Spring session. It had been hacked and torn, pulled apart and fitted together again and finally came through maimed but still defiant of opposition which had come from all parts of the province.

It lacked, among other things, the \$50,000 grant of the government, the clause including that feature having been deleted by committee of the whole House. In a division tonight, also, Dr. W. H. Sutherland (Liberal, Revelstoke), carried by a vote of 25 to 18, his amendment which did away with the \$5.50 limit for doctors' fees.

An amendment by R. W. Bruhn (Ind., Salmon Arm), to lay the matter over to the Fall session, failed on division by a vote of 30 to 13, while another amendment by D. W. Strachan, which would include under the act employees of a co-oper-

ative marketing association, also lost on division by a vote of 22 to 11.

Final passage of the measure came after nearly 30 hours of hectic debate, during the past two days. Almost every section of the 45 in the bill was fought over bitterly by opposing factions in the House.

Every division, every show of hands, disclosed a volte face among members on both sides of the House.

One moment, the concerted C.C.F. group would be supporting the government, the next they would be supporting other opposition members. A moment later the C.C.F. ranks and the Liberal ranks would be split as some contentious point came up for decision.

In happy mood as the long session neared its conclusion, the members alternately applauded, laughed or joked as one phase after another was dealt with. While many had opposed health insurance bitterly since its inception, they gradually became resigned to their fate as one section after another passed, and by 9:35 p.m., when a division was called on third reading of the health bill, it was apparent that further resistance was useless.

HOUSE WOULD REDUCE AGE IN VETERANS' ACT

Legislature Will Bring
Session to Close
This Morning

VICTORIA, March 31.—The age of veterans entitled to recognition under the War Veterans' Allowance Act should be set at 50 years, the Legislature decided during the last moments of the session tonight when it unanimously supported a resolution to that effect presented by Robert Wilkinson, Liberal member for Vancouver-Point Grey.

Mr. Wilkinson said that all veteran organizations in Canada had passed resolutions favoring the establishment of an age limit of 50 years.

Without much quibbling, the House promptly rejected a proposal by Tom Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, to have an investigation of the Corbin "incident" by a select committee consisting of Messrs. W. J. Asselstine, J. J. Gillis, G. M. Murray, John Price and himself.

Meanwhile, preparations were made for prorogation of the Legislature and at 11 p.m. it was announced that Lieutenant-Governor Fordham Johnson would be called to the House at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday for that purpose. The final session will be called at 11 a.m.

Thus the session will close after five weeks of deliberations.

PORTABLE MILLS TO SUPPLEMENT SMELTER PLANTS

House Mining Committee
Favors Californian
System

VICTORIA, March 31.—Recommending that the government should study the question of introducing portable mills, similar to those in use in California, of such a character that they can be transported on trucks, the mining committee of the Legislature has suggested that the time had come to supplement the service of the smelters. It stresses the need for treatment of these ores at or near the point of production, which at present is impossible.

"We suggest," says the committee, "study of the system of mining taxation in effect in Australia, with a view to attracting more capital to B. C. for mining purposes."

While recommending substantial grants for publicity in connection with the mining resources, and larger grants for mining roads and trails, the committee recommends adversely to the proposal to repeal the Securities Act, on the ground that "the clamor for the repeal of this act is not entirely disinterested."

In connection with the cost of mining and milling machinery for B. C. mines, the committee suggested to the government to make representations to the Federal government substantially to reduce tariff duties on such equipment, particularly when of a class, type, size or capacity not manufactured in Canada.

House Declines To Divide Over Orientals' Vote

(By Staff Representative)
VICTORIA, March 31.—A resolution by Hon. R. H. Pooley urging the Legislature to oppose strenuously a proposal that Orientals be given the vote was ruled out of order in the dying moments of the House tonight.

Unsatisfied, Mr. Pooley called a division on the Speaker's ruling, which was upheld by a vote of 31 to 11.

Premier Pattullo raised an objection to the resolution, declaring that it might cause friction among residents of the province.

It was generally considered that design of the resolution was to ascertain the position of the C.C.F. group in the Legislature to the contentious Oriental franchise question.

Unanimous support was given to a resolution presented by George Murray, which reaffirmed the government's approval of plans for a joint U.S.-Canada action on construction of the Alaska Highway.

Health Insurance Bill Adopted in House by 2-1 Vote

Parties Split On Final Division 29-14—Amendments Rejected.

HOUSE VOTED FOUR TIMES

Weir Says His Measure Has Been Strengthened By Committee Changes.

(Special to The Province.)

VICTORIA, April 1.—Health insurance swept through to victory with a two-to-one majority in the Legislature's final vote on Tuesday night. Twenty-three Liberals, five C. C. F. and one Labor put Hon. G. M. Weir's Insurance Bill on the statute books against seven Liberals, five Independents and two C. C. F. members.

The final vote:

For the Insurance Bill.
King, Asselstine, A. McDonald, Kenney, McKay, Harris, Burns, Dugald McPherson, Leary, Mrs. Smith, Hart, Pattullo, Sloan, Weir, Tupper, Carson, Whitaker, Putnam, Wilkinson, F. M. Macpherson, Pearson, Gray and K. C. Macdonald, Liberals.
Price, Connell, H. E. Winch, E. E. Winch, Mrs. Steeves, C.C.F.; Uphill, Labor.

Against the Insurance Bill.
Murray, Strachan, Wismer, Gilha, Barrow, McKeen, Sutherland, Liberals.
Flanta, Savage, Anscob, Bruhn and Pooley, Independents.
Swales and Bakewell, C.C.F.
C.C.F.

Johnson and Hanna, Liberals, were not in the House when the vote was taken.

ELEVEN LIBERALS BOLTED ON AMENDMENT.

By a vote of 30 to 13 the House had previously rejected a motion by Mr. Bruhn to prevent the bill coming into effect until the House had reapproved it at the fall session. A motion by Mr. Strachan to exempt co-operative farmers' organization from it was rejected by 32 to 11. But a sudden shift approved Dr. Sutherland's motion eliminating the maximum annual fee of doctors for any one patient which under the bill would have been \$5.50.

Against the government's opposition Dr. Sutherland's motion carried by 25 to 13. Eleven Liberals bolted to support the Sutherland amendment which, however, does not alter the insurance scheme in the least. Earlier in the day Dr. Weir had agreed to accept such an amendment but at that time the question was dropped.

After the final vote Dr. Weir told newspapermen that his bill had been strengthened rather than weakened by amendments in committee.

Reports that his insurance scheme could not be enforced because the limitation of the government's expenditure had been struck out, were absurd, he said. Money to pay for organizing the scheme was voted in the estimates and is available,

The four divisions at the night sitting followed a debate which lasted most of the day.

MURRAY WOULD REDUCE BOARD.

G. M. Murray, Liberal of Lillooet, joined the C.C.F. in seeking to reduce the health insurance commission from a chairman and four advisory members to a chairman and two advisors. This proposal was rejected after the government had explained that it might only appoint a three-man board.

R. H. Pooley moved to limit the chairman of the board to a salary of \$5000 a year instead of the \$7500 as proposed. No official, he said, should receive more than the cabinet minister in charge of his department, who received \$6000 a year. Dr. Weir said the government might not pay more than \$5000, but such a sum might not attract a suitable official. Ernest Bakewell, C.C.F. member for Mackenzie, warmly supported a large salary for the chairman when private business paid still larger remuneration to important executives. Mr. Pooley's amendment was rejected.

Questioned by the opposition, Dr. Weir said the cost of administering the scheme was limited to 10 per cent. of the insurance fund, but he believed it could be cut to 8 per cent. Opposition members feared the cost would exceed the government's estimates.

MINISTER REJECTS DRUG SERVICE.

Mr. Bakewell's proposal that the insurance commission set up a complete drug service and save the insured persons a great deal of money, probably \$100,000 a year, was turned down at Dr. Weir's request. Disgusted, Mr. Bakewell threatened to vote against the whole bill because it was being reduced to a "useless skeleton."

E. E. Winch echoed these sentiments and threatened that the whole C.C.F. would oppose the bill on final reading in the belief that its only effort would be to provide jobs for some fortunate people.

This brought the Premier to his feet with a blunt retort.

GOVERNMENT DOING ITS BEST, SAYS PREMIER.

"Such a threat will not influence the government!" he exclaimed. "The government is doing its best under a very difficult situation."

Mr. Winch denied that he was threatening the government but accused the government of hiding behind technical rules to avoid allowing the House to amend the bill at all.

R. W. Bruhn, Independent of Salmon Arm, made a last-minute effort to hold up the insurance scheme until the House met again. He proposed to eliminate the government's right to proclaim the act whenever it wished. Under the Bruhn plan, the House alone could bring the scheme into operation at its next sitting after the members had gone home and ascertained the public's views. Dr. Weir was afraid that his supporters would kill the bill in the fall, or he would agree to the amendment, since in any case the scheme was not to be enforced until the first of 1937, Mr. Bruhn said.

"Why not come out in the open and admit you are just trying to kill the whole bill?" Dr. Weir retorted.

Supporting Mr. Bruhn, Dr. Sutherland declared that judging by the case with which some amendments

had been disposed of, "it looks like a lot of work was going on between certain parties and certain agreements made."

The Bruhn amendment was defeated by 31 votes to 7. Dr. Sutherland and Dr. Gillis were the only Liberals to support it.

WORK AND WAGES FOR SOME INDIVIDUALS.

While he regarded the bill as pretty hopeless, a "work and wages bill for some individuals," Harold Winch, C.C.F. member for Vancouver East, said it was worth saving since it put the principle of health insurance on the statute books. He moved, therefore, to enforce the bill immediately on its passage instead of leaving it to be proclaimed by the government. This motion was voted down without a recorded division.

Dr. Weir compromised in the treatment of private health insurance schemes by excluding them from the government scheme provided they supply a doctor's services and hospitalization. Under his amendment to the original bill, these private schemes may vote themselves into the government scheme if they so desire. Under the original bill these schemes were forced under the government scheme unless they voted themselves out of it.

When Herbert Anscob, Conservative, of Victoria, moved to exempt private schemes which provided cash benefits instead of medical services, Dr. Weir said this would wreck the whole programme. The House rejected Mr. Anscob's plea by 29 to 11.

E. E. Winch made a final effort to raise from \$1800 to \$2400 the wage level covered by the scheme. The Premier said this motion was out of order and L. A. Hanna, in the chair, agreed. When asked by opposition if the government would adopt this plan, the Premier replied emphatically, "No."

D. W. Strachan, Liberal, of Dewdney, tried to exempt farmers' co-operatives from the insurance scheme but was turned down by a large majority.

The proposed inclusion of chiropractors in the scheme was turned down after Dr. Weir had stated that the chiropractors did not wish to be included.

Lt.-Governor Prorogues Legislature

69 Acts Passed—Liquor Price Investigation Dies.

VICTORIA, April 1.—The third session of the Eighteenth Legislature of British Columbia, which produced a health insurance scheme and rocked the government in the process, was prorogued by Lieutenant-Governor Fordham Johnson at 11:30 this morning.

The sessional business completed Tuesday night, today's sitting was purely formal, and lasted only a few minutes. The distribution of indemnity cheques to members, the usual songs led by S. S. McKeen, baritone of Point Grey, and the final blizzard of old papers wound up the session in traditional fashion.

Tonight Liberal members will entertain Premier Pattullo and the cabinet at dinner, and a final political talk, and then the capital will be deserted by politicians until they meet again in the autumn.

As he entered the Legislative Chamber today the Lieutenant-Governor was presented by Mr. Speaker Perry with a beautiful illuminated address of condolence to be forwarded to King Edward and Queen Mary in the death of the late King George.

In all the Lieutenant-Governor consented to fifty-seven acts passed during the session, twelve acts having received assent some time ago.

A total of sixty-nine for the session. The C.C.F. resolution asking for an investigation into government liquor purchasing died on the order paper without discussion. The same fate met D. W. Strachan's request for a survey of Oriental penetration. Mrs. Dorothy Steeves' proposal to increase unemployment relief allowances and Harold Winch's demand that the Provincial Government care more adequately for single unemployed men not admitted to Federal Government camps.

In a brief formal speech from the throne his honor thanked the House for its "earnest consideration" of public business and particularly of the Health Insurance Act.

Mileage for Members at Victoria Boosted to 25c

(Special to The Province.)

VICTORIA, April 1.—Mileage allowances for members of the Legislature will be doubled under a bill introduced by the government at the round-robin request of members on all sides of the House. Where they are allowed 12½c a mile now for travelling from their homes to Victoria, they will be given 25c a mile in future.



VICTORIA, April 1.—Eighteenth Legislature

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VICTORIA, April 1. — This Eighteenth Legislature is going home on April Fools' Day, and in the hearts of some members is a dismal suspicion that the day is rather too appropriate. But such dismal suspicions were all swept away in the excitements of the last moments, when the fag-ends of business were cleaned up and the Health Insurance Bill finally passed with handsome majorities, and March, which had come in like an under-sized lamb, went out proudly like a lion.

The going out was a somewhat spectacular performance. After twenty-five hours and fifty-four minutes of argument, the Health Insurance Bill was crowned and finished up at twenty minutes to 10 with a series of divisions, marches and counter-marches, splits and counter-splits which bewildered the beholder. No less than four separate and varied votes were required to make the bill into law and even though the division bell—an essential feature of our rules—failed to ring when Mr. Speaker went solemnly through the motion of ringing it, health insurance was never in danger after surviving the real crisis of Monday.

PRACTICAL POLITICS.

Whatever else it may be—and if you want to hear some breath-taking adjectives never heard before on land or sea, talk to the Liberal insurgents—the Health Insurance Bill is a magnificent triumph for Dr. Weir. As a matter of practical politics, it has split the Liberal party and brought the government within humiliating distance of real defeat, but as a product of one man's patience, perseverance and sheer determination, it is a monument to its maker. He probably doesn't like it particularly well, the cabinet doesn't like it very well, the House likes it less, but it is something where anyone less determined than Dr. Weir might have got nothing; it is a hundred times more than what seemed possible a year ago; and while it may be an actuarial monstrosity, as its enemies allege, it is the most remarkable personal achievement witnessed in this establishment in modern times.

The government's latter hours in labor were much easier than the early stages. After Monday's test, which saved the bill, though only with the support of the C.C.F., the spirit seeped out of the fight against it. From then on, hopeless of killing the scheme, the opposition conscientiously went through the motions of opposing, but not much more. Where hours had been spent before on one small sentence, large clauses went through now without a murmur.

ONLY MR. POOLEY IS FRESH.

These were the dying hours of the session indeed and, tired by continual late nights, the House had little fight left in it. Only Mr. Pooley, fresh as the yellow primroses in his buttonhole, seemed to take any real pleasure in ragging his old friend, the Premier. What annoyed Mr. Pooley at the moment was that the government proposed to pay its health insurance administrator up to \$7500 where Mr. Pooley and his colleagues of the Toimie government got only \$6000. This gave the Premier an opportunity

to voice a horrid suspicion which has long been harbored by the present ministry. Mr. Pooley and his friends, said the Premier, had deliberately cut ministerial salaries just before leaving office so that their successors could endure this reduction. To which Mr. Pooley promptly replied that the Toimie government had been quite sure that the Pattullo government would be well paid, considering its ability. Now, said Mr. Pooley, the public agreed completely with the prophetic vision of the Toimie government.

The Premier got back at his friend by sending for the ancient records and proving that Mr. Pooley had been mistaken about certain obscure points in the history of Toimie government's finances, a discovery which did not cause much excitement.

Confident now that its bill was safe, the government rejected a long series of amendments from the C. C. F., its faithful ally. This started to get under even those faithful hides. Mr. Bakewell began to think that the bill, which the C.C.F. had saved, wasn't worth saving, and the sly Mr. Winch thought so, too. If things went on like this, they said, they might have



HON. GEORGE M. WEIR
Magnificent Triumph—A Remarkable Personal Achievement.

to vote against the whole scheme on final reading.

With complete confidence the Premier retorted that he would not be moved by any threats. The opposition benches looked more threatening than ever. But this really didn't mean a thing. When it came to the final test in the evening only Mr. Bakewell and Mr. Swales of the Socialists voted against the bill, and an even dozen Liberals and Independents stood up with them against twenty-nine Liberals. A great burst of deaf thumping greeted the passage of the most important and certainly the most contentious act in modern times.

DR. SUTHERLAND'S TRIUMPH.

Yet even in this final triumph there was a little sting to rob the government's moment of complete perfection. But it was a final triumph for Dr. Sutherland, who all day and every day, had conducted a running fight on the bill. At the last moment, against the opposition of the ministry, he managed to get a vote of 31 to 29 in

favor of eliminating the maximum fee of doctors in health insurance cases—a sudden shift which did not affect the scheme, but caught the ministry completely by surprise. At a time like this, with the House about to adjourn and the ministry still intact, who cared for a little thing like that?

The health bill finished, there was little left to do and not much heart for doing it. For a moment the House paused to consider the higher policy of the nation when the Premier protested a motion by Mr. Pooley, declaring against the enfranchisement of Orientals and designed, of course, to put the C. C. F. on the spot. Not that the Premier would object to putting the C. C. F. on the spot, but that he considered the Pooley motion likely to create friction between nations. Mr. Speaker Perry thought so, too, and ruled Mr. Pooley out of order, with learned references to the parliamentary authorities.

Full of regret at such a painful necessity, Mr. Pooley appealed this ruling with a curious result. While all Liberals and Independents would have enjoyed putting the C. C. F. on the spot, the responsibilities of higher national policy weighed heavily with them. Only nine members voted with Mr. Pooley against the Speaker and, inferentially, against Oriental enfranchisement.

But more curious still, four C. C. F. members voted to declare in order a motion opposing such enfranchisement, which is one of their party's policies. No explanation was made, but perhaps they wanted the motion to be considered so that they could vote against it and stand up, unashamed, in favor of votes for Orientals. That, along with many other things, remains one of the unsolved mysteries of the session.

From then on the remaining fag-ends were quickly cleared away and by bedtime nothing was left but the formalities of prorogation—and whatever consequences this session is going to have, if any, in the history of politics and the future of the government. But at a time like this no one thinks about such grisly things. The House, its work done, is going home at last into the warm bosom of a grateful and loving electorate. But it will be back. Ah, yes, it will be back. Politics is like that.

Wednesday, April 1, 1936

Politicians and Bears

THERE is poetical warrant for the assertion that mice and men are alike in certain ways. Their best-laid plans "gang aft agley." And now it seems bears and politicians are not unlike sometimes. When frightened, they can do terrible things.

At Stanley Park the other day the stork brought a furry little cub to Trotsky and Maude, the big Siberian bears, and the Park-keepers, being wise in the ways of bears, refrained from interfering. They knew that if they frightened the happy parents, these, in their panic, might destroy the little stranger.

At James Bay, not so long ago, the same stork, or another, dropped a fine new Health Insurance Bill in the department of the provincial secretary, where it was joyfully hailed as the child of the Liberal government and the Liberal party.

But the doctors and business men of British Columbia didn't know politicians as well as the Stanley Park zoo-keepers knew bears. Or perhaps it was gulle and not lack of knowledge that actuated them. In any case, they crowded down to Victoria and put the party and the government into such a panic of fear that the distracted parents turned upon their health insurance baby and manhandled it so severely that it will be months before anyone can really know whether British Columbia has health insurance or only the shadow of it.

A P R

1936

NEW CONTROL BOARD FOR SECURITIES ACT

MINE ENGINEER, FINANCE EXPERT MAY BE ADDED

VICTORIA, March 31.—A new board of control was recommended by the mining committee of the legislature Monday to improve administration of the Securities Act with respect to mining promotion.

The board, as recommended, would consist of H. G. Garrett, the present administrator, and a mining engineer and an expert on mining finances.

Present agitation against the Securities Act is "not entirely disinterested," the committee's report stated. The opinion was expressed that the mining industry as a whole does not want the Act repealed at this session. Grants to prospectors for traveling expenses into remote places was urged.

Other recommendations included:

1. Demand for federal reduction of the tariff on mining machinery and equipment.
2. Endorsement of the demand of silver coinage groups to secure wider circulation of silver coins.
3. Operation of a portable mill by the government to assist small developments.
4. That a study be made of mining taxation in Australia, with a view to attracting capital to the province.
5. Provision by the government of more funds for publicizing mines and for mining roads and trails.

The bill requiring mining literature to be filed with the department of mines on publication was reported out of committee in the legislature today with two amendments introduced by Hon. G. S. Pearson.

The amendments provide it will be necessary for only one copy of the literature to be filed and that only a provincial mineralogist may demand information from mining companies relative to promotion instead of any official of the department as set out in the original draft.

CITY CHARTER

By STAFF REPORTER

VICTORIA, March 31.—The bill amending Vancouver's city charter was given third reading in the legislature Monday night.

Shorn of the provisions regarding crown lands and the increase of business licenses, the bill is but a shadow of the original which the city's delegation brought to the private bills committee two weeks ago.

Important are the sections which give effect to the plebiscite requiring reduction of council from 12 to eight and calling for election of aldermen at large.

The Price amendment, permitting persons convicted of indictable offenses to run for civic office five years after release from prison is also in the amended act.

The Vancouver Enabling Act, validating sale of baby bonds, also was given third reading.

Another important piece of legislation was the act amending the Public Schools Act, giving the government power to administer large school areas.

PRESERVE Markets BOOM

VICTORIA, March 31.—Wide price-fixing and licensing powers on producers and dealers in natural products, if the Dominion Marketing Act is declared ultra vires by the Supreme Court, were asked of the B. C. Legislature in a bill introduced yesterday evening by Hon. K. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture.

The Bill passed final reading today, after an amendment proposed by R. B. Swales, to make it mandatory for the producers' board to be elective, was voted down.

The measure is an attempt by the Provincial Government to preserve existing marketing schemes in case the Supreme Court rules against the Dominion Act. If the Dominion law is held ultra vires the Provincial Marketing Act, which is a co-relating measure, would automatically be useless.

By empowering the Provincial Government, through marketing boards, to set prices and license producers and dealers, it is hoped to safeguard against this happening.

A decision by the Supreme Court is expected shortly, but by that time the Legislature will have prorogued and the present marketing schemes, some 12 in number, could be completely disrupted before the House meets again in the Fall.

The new legislation, which came down as an amendment to the Provincial Marketing Act, specifies that the powers be exercised by the Provincial Government to the fullest extent, "notwithstanding the fact that the Dominion Act may or may not be then existing or operative, or that the Dominion Board may or may not be then existing."

The new powers will not become law on passage of the bill but will be subject to proclamation by the Government. New sections would give the Government authority to allow the Provincial Marketing Board full powers on marketing of products, to require licenses taken out by "any or all persons engaged in the production, processing or marketing of the regulated products," to collect license fees, or to cancel licenses for violation of board orders.

It would also have power to fix prices, both maximum and minimum. Employees of the Marketing Board would be authorized to search vehicles in which regulated products were transported and goods could be seized for violation of board orders.

HEALTH INSURANCE BILL PASSES HOUSE

GOVERNMENT AND C.C.F. FORCES BOTH SPLIT

How They Voted

FOR THE BILL

LIBERALS—Premier Pattullo, Sloan, Weir, Hart, M. C. MacDonald, Wells Gray, Pearson, F. M. MacPherson, Wilkinson, Putnam, Whittaker, Carson, Tupper, D. McPherson, Leary, Harris, Burns, King, Asseltine, A. McDonald, Kenney, MacKay, Mrs. Smith—Total 25.

C.C.F.—Connell, E. E. Winch, H. E. Winch, Price, Mrs. Steeves. Total 5.

LABOR—Uphill. Total 1.

FOR—29

AGAINST THE BILL

LIBERALS—Murray, Strachan, Wismer, Gillis, Sutherland, Barrow. Total 7.

INDEPENDENTS—Planta, Savage, Anscomb, Bruhn. Total 4.

C.C.F.—Bakewell, Swales. Total 2.

UNIONIST—Pooley. Total 1.

AGAINST—14.

ABSENT—Hanna and Johnson, both Liberals.

By JAMES DYER

VICTORIA, April 1.—The state health insurance bill, brain child of Hon. C. M. Weir, is now part of the law of British Columbia.

A formal division on third reading of the bill at 9:40 p.m. Tuesday gave the government forces a 29 to 14 victory.

The division saw seven Liberals voting against the government. It saw the C.C.F. split—two against the bill and five for it, and the Independents solidly opposed.

The eighteenth legislature of British Columbia will prorogue today and the "Act to Provide for the Establishment of a Provincial System of Health Insurance" will be one of many bills to which the Lieutenant Governor will give assent.

The victory of the government was not unalloyed.

NO MAXIMUM

At the last moment they saw Dr. W. H. Sutherland, Liberal, Revelstoke, l'Enfant Terrible of the health insurance imbroglio, succeed, 25 to 19, in an amendment to lift the lid off payments to physicians.

The maximum originally set was \$5.50 per patient per year. Dr. Sutherland wanted that maximum removed. He won his point, and a few minutes later the division on third reading was called.

Tuesday was a day of surprises. In the afternoon session there came from the C.C.F. ranks a threat to vote against the bill on third reading unless certain wishes of theirs were acceded to by the government.

Ernest Bakewell, C.C.F., Mackenzie, proposed to set up a provincial pharmaceutical service, which he claimed would save the province \$100,000 annually.

Dr. Weir declared this was tantamount to government ownership of drug stores and forthrightly rejected the amendment.

Mr. Bakewell, however, stated that unless this amendment were accepted he would vote against the bill on third reading. E. E. Winch, Burnaby, said the same thing a few minutes later. So did R. B. Swales, Delta.

WINCH WITH GOVT.

But when the third reading came, Mr. Winch swung with the government. Swales and Bakewell swung with the Independents and insurgent Liberals.

Two other eleventh-hour amendments on third reading failed.

D. W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewdney, proposed to exempt employees of farmers' co-operatives from the act. He was voted down, 32 to 11.

E. W. Bruhn, Independent, Salmon Arm, wished to prevent enactment of the bill until the fall session.

He was voted down 39 to 13.

With prorogation in the air, members were in a merry mood. The acrimony of the preceding 26 hours of debate was sunk in good nature.

What added to the fun was the fact

that the division bell suddenly went out of order and Mr. Speaker pressed down on a useless button on three separate divisions, with all members intact in their seats—all save two. L. A. Hanna, Liberal, Comox, and Byron Johnson, Liberal, Victoria, both of whom walked out of the House a few seconds before the health bill came in for third reading and stayed out during its passage.

PHYSICIANS' PENALTIES

The start of the afternoon session saw Dr. Weir accepting an amendment from Dr. Sutherland, providing that the health insurance commission will not penalize physicians unless they fail to provide services demanded by the act or otherwise willfully evade its provisions.

The act provides for a technical advisory council to be appointed and suggests the possibility of remuneration for these. E. E. Winch, Burnaby, moved to strike out this possibility of payment, but his amendment was snuffed under.

When the question of the staff necessary to operate the act came up for consideration, Hugh Savage asked how much the government fancied the administration of the scheme would cost. Dr. Weir replied certainly not more than 10 per cent, probably eight per cent.

S. S. McKeen, Liberal, Point Grey, succeeded in an amendment to reduce penalties against employers who fail to make returns under the act.

Originally the act specified a maximum penalty of \$500 for every day the employer neglects to make returns. McKeen's amendment limited the total penalty to \$500.

NO POSTPONEMENT

R. W. Bruhn then brought up his famous amendment to postpone until the fall session the enactment of the bill.

"This," he said, "will allow members to go back to their constituencies and find out the feeling of their people."

Mr. Sloan thought the suggestion tended to interfere with the prerogatives of the Crown. If the bill passed this session the Lieutenant-governor would assent to it.

And if, between now and the fall session the members took the question to the country, the issue would be tantamount to that raised by the Manitoba referendum case, when the courts ruled that a referendum taken after assent had been given was interference with royal prerogative.

After running through the bill during most of the afternoon session, the house came back at last to two important sections which had been laid over.

PRIVATE SCHEMES

One was the section dealing with private schemes. Gordon Winmer, Liberal, Vancouver Centre, had tried hard to give private schemes until Sept. 1 to come in, but the government had defeated the act.

Now Dr. Weir proposed that employees belonging to any private scheme giving benefits similar to those proposed in the act could have the option of coming under the act, rather than take a ballot to decide whether they should stay out, as originally provided.

Then, E. E. Winch made an attempt to raise the wage limit for those one-fitting under the act from \$1800 to \$2400.

Mr. Pattullo moved his amendment out of order—it constituted an imposition on the citizenry, he said, and the introduction of an impost was beyond the competence of a private member.

B. C. PROROGUE

65 BILLS IN SESSION

By JAMES DYER

VICTORIA, April 1.—Prorogation of the eighteenth British Columbia legislature came this morning in a white

bill, orders of the day, readings—any papers, letting them

days of deliberation and perplexities of lay their hands on.

From the Speaker's Honor gave the royal bills passed by the legislature during these 25 days.

With the 12 bills introduced or gave assent earlier in the total number of bills passed during the session.

ADDRESS OF LOYALTY

He received from the members of the House of Commons a message of loyalty and condolence for the late King.

It was the first time that the legislature of British Columbia had tendered such a message.

As it rushed through the paper Tuesday night resolution, urging the government to record as "unaltogether" to the granting of franchise was ruled division the speaker's 31 to 10.

On a resolution by the speaker, Point Grey, the record favoring the limit of veterans' entitlement under the War Service Act at 50 years.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

resolution of G. M. Mackenzie, Liberal, regarding the Canadian amendments to make a ward construction Alaska highway.

Premier Pattullo ordered a picture of the King to be placed in the House after the Speaker's order a motion by Hugh Sloan, to secure a picture of a Canadian artist.

NEW MARKETING ACT

Wide powers of the new marketing act, natural products a producers and dealers' modities, to be used in Marketing Act is declared by the Supreme Court by Hon. K. C. MacDonald of Agriculture, in a

duced. The measure is a preserve existing marketing schemes in case the Supreme Court rules against the Dominion Marketing Act.

SUBJECT TO PROCLAMATION

The new powers will be subject to proclamation by the Lieutenant Governor. Thus if the Marketing Act is upheld, necessary to invoke the act.

The new legislation down as an amendment to the Provincial Marketing Act the government author the Provincial Marketing Board powers on marketing of require licenses to be "any or all persons engaged in the production, processing of the regular products, license fee, or to cancel violation of board orders.

It would also have powers.

B. C. HOUSE PROROGUES

63 BILLS PASSED IN SESSION

By JAMES DYER

VICTORIA, April 1.—The third session of the eighteenth Legislature of British Columbia came to an end this morning in a white shower of paper—bills, orders of the day, votes and proceedings—any paper the august members, letting themselves go after 25 days of deliberation on the problems and perplexities of government, could lay their hands on.

From the Speaker's dais, His Honor gave the royal assent to 57 bills passed by the legislators during those 25 days.

With the 12 bills to which His Honor gave assent earlier in the session, the total number of bills passed is 69.

ADDRESS OF LOYALTY

He received from the Speaker, on behalf of the members, two addresses of loyalty and condolence, directed to Their Majesties the King and Queen Mary.

It was the first time in history that the legislature of British Columbia had tendered such addresses.

As it rushed through the order paper Tuesday night, R. H. Pooley's resolution, urging the House to go on record as "unalterably opposed" to the granting of the Oriental franchise was ruled out of order. On division the speaker was sustained 31 to 10.

On a resolution by Robert Wilkinson, Point Grey, the House went on record favoring the fixing of the age limit of veterans entitled to recognition under the War Veterans' Allowance Act at 50 years and upwards.

Unanimous approval was given a resolution of G. M. Murray, Lillooet, urging the Canadian and U. S. governments to make a joint effort toward construction of the B. C.-Alaska highway.

Premier Pattullo undertook to have a picture of the King placed in the House after the Speaker ruled out of order a motion by Hugh Savage, Cowichan, to secure a picture painted by a Canadian artist.

NEW MARKETING ACT

Wide powers of price-fixing on natural products and of licensing producers and dealers in these commodities, to be used if the Dominion Marketing Act is declared ultra vires by the Supreme Court, were sought by Hon. E. C. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, in a bill he introduced.

The measure is an attempt to supersede existing marketing schemes in case the Supreme Court rules against the Dominion Act.

SUBJECT TO PROCLAMATION

The new powers will not become law on passage of the bill, but will be subject to proclamation by the government. Thus if the present Marketing Act is upheld, it will not be necessary to invoke them.

The new legislation, which came down as an amendment to the Provincial Marketing Act, would give the government authority to allow the Provincial Marketing Board full powers on marketing of products, to require licenses to be taken out by "any or all persons engaged in the production, processing or marketing of the regular products" to collect license fee, or to cancel licenses for violation of board orders.

It would also have power to fix prices.

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EXTEND MORATORIUM

Attorney-General Sloan explained a measure to extend the operation of the British Columbia moratorium law until next session, with little change. One variation is being made in the law, by insertion of a clause which will protect mortgagees, in possession of valid claims temporarily set aside by the courts, from being outlawed by the Statute of Limitations. Otherwise the moratorium measure remains unchanged.

A bill to amend the Chiropractic Act received their reading, after amendments which eliminate suggested provision to entitle chiropractors to the title of "doctor." Amendments to Chiropractors Act were stood over, without explanation of their purport.

The barbers bill, which contains a title and not much else, was completed in committee. It will require barber schools to display signs stating they are barber schools.

MAY SERVE

The House accepted a C.C.F. amendment to the Vancouver Incorporation Act, under which men convicted of indictable crimes and either pardoned or else five years out of prison may stand for office on the aldermanic board.

Premier Pattullo rose to a point of privilege, to criticize an editorial in a Vancouver afternoon paper of the Southam press. The editorial, he said, had bracketed Premier Aberhart, of Alberta, and himself in uncomplimentary phrases dealing with matters of future policy. For himself, he would say that questions of provincial autonomy had not been settled at Ottawa and that no conclusion had been reached either federally or provincially. The House recessed at 12:40 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Mining Report—The mining committee of the Legislature reported yesterday, urging more Government aid to the mining industry by mining trails, prospectors' transportation, and in other ways. The committee urged retention of the Securities Act, and origination of a committee to advise the department on mining affairs. Portable mills for interior mining, smelter aids for small mines displaced from present facilities and other points were urged. The report was presented by D. McPherson, chairman.

GOV'T IS REVERSED BEFORE PASSAGE OF WEIR HEALTH BILL

Dr. W. H. Sutherland Forces Amendment to Clause Affecting Remuneration of Physicians Over Objections of Ministry—Seven Liberals Vote Adversely on Third Reading

WILD scenes were enacted in the Legislature last evening as the \$3,500,000 Weir Insurance Bill went through third reading by a division of 29 to 14, with seven Liberals and two C.C.F. members voting against the Government on the measure.

A few minutes before, the Government was defeated in the open House on a division of 25 to 18, when the Legislature agreed with Dr. W. H. Sutherland to amend the payment clause affecting physicians to strike out a maximum remuneration of \$5.50 yearly per insured person.

Calls for the resignation of the Ministry came from R. W. Bruhn and Independents in the House, but went unanswered.

Four divisions came on the Weir bill in its closing moments between report stage and third reading. The House divided, 30 to 13, against a Bruhn amendment, which would have stayed the bill until next session. A division of 32-11 followed to turn back a move by D. W. Strachan to exempt co-operative farmers from paying under the act.

The division on third reading was as follows:

VOTE ON THIRD READING

For the Weir bill at third reading: Messrs. Weir, Sloan, Pattullo, Hart, K. C. MacDonald, Gray, Pearson, F. M. MacPherson, Wilkinson, Putnam, Whittaker, Carson, Tupper, (Mrs.) Smith, Leary, D. McPherson, Harris, Burns, Uphill, Price, Connell, H. E. Winch (Mrs.), Steeves, E. E. Winch, MacKay, Kenney, A. McDonald, Asselstine and King—29.

Against the Weir bill at third reading: Messrs. McKeen, Barrow, Sutherland, Gillis, Wismer, Murray, Strachan, Ansoomb, Bruhn, Pooley, Planta, Savage, Bakewell and Swales—14.

Messrs. Hanna and Johnson were not in their seats for any of the four divisions.

VOTE ON AMENDMENTS

On the Sutherland amendment, which actually defeated the Government measure in the open House in respect to medical payment provisions, the House divided as follows:

For the Sutherland amendment: Messrs. McKeen, Tupper, Sutherland, Barrow, Gillis, McPherson, (Mrs.) Steeves, H. E. Winch, Connell, Price, Uphill, Pooley, Bruhn, Ansoomb, Wismer, Burns, King, Asselstine, Murray, Strachan, Planta, Savage, Bakewell, Swales and E. E. Winch—25.

Against Sutherland amendment—Messrs. MacDonald, Gray, Pearson, MacPherson, Wilkinson, Putnam, Whittaker, Carson, Weir, Sloan, Pattullo, Hart, (Mrs.) Smith, Leary, Harris, McDonald, Kenney and MacKay—18.

In its final form, as amended by Dr. Sutherland, the Weir bill passed as a proclamation measure, to come into effect when the Government so proclaims.

THREATEN REVOLT

Staving off a three-man revolt by the Socialist Opposition, which threatened to break with the Government and oppose the measure, Government forces piloted the Weir bill through its final twenty-two clauses at the afternoon sitting,

to them, and must furnish sworn paylists to the commission on request. The commission is to have exclusive jurisdiction over matters within the act, without right of appeal. Penalties for breaches of the law may be evoked on summary conviction proceedings in police courts.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

The insured must submit to a medical examination when requested, on pain of being cut off from insurance benefits if refusing. Insured persons will not receive two benefits, and if covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act will be treated only under one of the two acts; their contributions, however, will continue under both acts.

The commission is empowered to reimburse its funds from those receiving equivalent compensation otherwise than under the health scheme, and may sue as a corporation on its claims.

A penalty clause providing for fines between \$10 and \$500 per day, under which at maximum penalties \$3,500 could have been imposed as a fine for a week's default, was amended in committee, on the motion of S. S. McKeen. The "daily" feature was taken out of the penalty, amended to read minimum fines of \$10 and maximum of \$500.

HIGH SALARIES

Discussion followed the course of all other discussions on the bill since it entered committee stages last week. Insistent objection was taken to the granting of a permissive salary of \$7,500 for the unnamed chairman of the commission. This, it was pointed out, was \$1,500 more than that received by Cabinet Ministers, and equivalent to the top salary paid in the whole provincial service. The Government declined to change the bill. The C.C.F. supported this stand.

The seven-year contract for the chairman was also contested, but the provision remained in the bill unchanged, the Government and C.C.F. voting to keep it so.

A mandatory salary of \$3,500 for the vice-chairman of the policy board, on top of a membership allowance of up to \$2,500 was changed by the Government to provide for a salary not exceeding that figure, or \$6,000.

The technical advisory council is to include the provincial health officer, the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board or his nominee, one physician, and a representative of women's organizations.

MAY COST \$350,000

Speaking of the total costs of administration, some \$25,000 of which is included in provisions for ruling and advisory bodies and a medical director, exclusive of physicians and staff to operate the scheme, Dr. Weir said that not more than 10 per cent would be allowed.

If the scheme collected \$3,500,000 as announced, administration could be \$350,000.

The Provincial Secretary, however, was confident that the administrative cost would not be 10 per cent. It might be 8, he suggested at one point. It might be considerably less than 8 per cent, he said finally, and with that the House had to be content.

LOCAL COMMITTEES

Continuing with the bill, the House learned it is proposed to set up local committees to assist and advise in the operation of the scheme. Efforts are to be made to bring Dominion employees under the plan, if Ottawa will agree.

The C.C.F. threatened to revolt against the bill after the Government had rejected an amendment by Ernest Bakewell suggesting the commission set up a provincial pharmaceutical service and formulate. Messrs. Bakewell, E. Winch and Swales hinted broadly that they might vote against third reading the measure.

Premier Pattullo replied that the Government was not to be influenced by threats.

The Bakewell amendment was voted down, in turn. Since the bill went through committee, a record for the bill in ten hours in committee.

The bill hung fire against reimbursement clause, that if a man is aided in connection with benefits assured person, but later an accident policy of courts, he is to repay insurance for its advances. Mr. Pooley, made accident worthless, and might grave misuse under the

Nobody he had met health bill, Mr. Pooley. Everybody he saw favored Weir replied. Dr. Sutherland struck out the reimbursement clause, but his amendment voted down.

PENALTIES

Three more sections Mr. McKeen succeeded the penalty clause down a minimum fine of \$500, as re penalties, it was suggested general breaches of the by the insured, physicians or others.

Dr. Sutherland—Does that if a man refuses to examined, he will be fined.

Dr. Weir—It is a question of interpretation. It will courts to decide.

Dr. Sutherland—We know a lot about Russia, but I don't know what we would be in Russia if this kind of up. It looks like under the medical men will be and soul by the commission.

Herbert Ansoomb mentioned the maximum per but was voted down.

DELAY URGED

Passing the proclamation Section 45 in the bill launched into another division. R. W. The Government to leave the public would have tunity to reveal its matter.

Mr. Pooley concurred no sense in proceeding definite measure which definite burdens for the and not much else, he

Dr. Sutherland referred bitter antagonism show by many diverse elements. The Legislature admitted, had no mandate in the face of such Propaganda had been launch the scheme, and of the public funds, he

PROPAGANDA

Dr. J. J. Gillis said not the measure discussed the hearings committee public had had no opportunity to learn its contents. Mr. to retire upon had been on propaganda in fact measure, he contended, really going to be a Fall Government would be to delay action until the British Columbia had for 1936 years without insurance and would not waiting a few more months. Ansoomb declared, supporting Bruhn's motion that the whole bill tabled until The amendment was voted a show of hands.

The C.C.F. urged the bill not to proclaim the bill on January 1, 1937. This, to down, and the decision measure is to become directly with the Government the sponsor of the bill.

The committee returning up sections of the previously stood over. The contractors under the amended to provide for one-day liability, unless served by the commission contractor concerned.

The Bakewell amendment was voted down, in turn. Six sections of the bill went through in two minutes, a record for the bill in its fourteen hours in committee.

The bill hung fire again over the reimbursement clause, to the effect that if a man is aided by the commission with benefits as an insured person, but later collects on an accident policy or through the courts, he is to repay the commission for its advances. This, said Mr. Pooley, made accident insurance worthless, and might be open to grave misuse under the bill.

Nobody he had met wanted the health bill, Mr. Pooley said flatly. Everybody he saw favored it, Dr. Weir replied. Dr. Sutherland moved to strike out the reimbursement clause, but his amendment was voted down.

PENALTIES

Three more sections passed, and Mr. McKeen succeeded in cutting the penalty clause down to a maximum fine of \$500, as reported. The penalties, it was suggested, were for general breaches of the act, either by the insured, physicians, employers or others.

Dr. Sutherland—Does this mean that if a man refuses to go and get examined, he will be fined \$500?

Dr. Weir—It is a question of interpretation. It will be for the courts to decide.

Dr. Sutherland—We have heard a lot about Russia, but I don't know but what we would be all better off in Russia if this kind of thing keeps up. It looks like under this act the medical men will be owned body and soul by the commission.

Herbert Ansbomb moved to cut down the maximum penalty to \$100, but was voted down.

DELAY URGED

Passing the proclamation clause, Section 45 in the bill, the House launched into another debate on the whole measure. R. W. Bruhn urged the Government to leave the measure over until next session, so that the public would have some opportunity to reveal its wish on the matter.

Mr. Pooley concurred. There was no sense in proceeding with an indefinite measure which contained definite burdens for the poorly paid and not much else, he said.

Dr. Sutherland referred to the bitter antagonism shown the measure by many diverse elements of the public. The Legislature, he submitted, had no mandate to proceed in the face of such resistance. Propaganda had been used to launch the scheme, and paid for out of the public funds, he asserted.

PROPAGANDA

Dr. J. J. Gillis said the bill was not the measure discussed before the hearings committee, and the public had had no opportunity to learn its contents. Money enough to retire upon had been squandered on propaganda in favor of the measure, he contended. If there was really going to be a Fall session, the Government would be well advised to delay action until then.

British Columbia had got along for 1936 years without health insurance and would not be hurt by waiting a few more months, Mr. Ansbomb declared, supporting Mr. Bruhn's motion that the proclamation clause be struck out and the whole bill tabled until next session. The amendment was voted down on a show of hands.

The C.C.F. urged the Government to proclaim the bill not later than January 1, 1937. This, too, was voted down, and the decision of when the measure is to become law left directly with the Government and the sponsor of the bill.

The committee returned to mopping up sections of the bill previously stood over. The liability of contractors under the scheme was amended to provide for a thirty-one-day liability, unless notice is served by the commission on the contractor concerned.

PRIVATE SCHEMES

A Government amendment to the private medical service clause was received and entered in the bill. This allows six months for corporations and other organizations to establish medical service schemes of equivalent benefits to the Provincial plan, with leave to employees to still vote their way into the Government scheme at the expiry of that time. The commission, meanwhile, has discretionary powers to bring groups under the act, failing adequate medical services outside of it.

A last-minute effort by the C.C.F. to boost the wage cheque tax to apply on incomes of \$2,400 was defeated. D. W. Strachan moved to exempt Fraser Valley farmers from payment of health benefits for their distributing employees in Vancouver, and that, too, was voted down.

E. E. Winch moved to include chiropractors as practising physicians under the act, but was told that the chiropractors as an association had requested they be left out, unless the whole plan went to a plebiscite. The Winch amendment was defeated at the request of the Government.

Changed in minor particulars, but substantially the same in respect to the set-up of controlling boards and taxation, the \$3,500,000 measure was reported complete as amended at 5:35 p.m.

PHYSICIANS, \$1,375,000

At the morning sitting, five sections of the Weir bill were considered in two hours, two of these being amended and another stood over. With the support of the Socialist Opposition, the Government proceeded with the measure.

It was brought out in discussion that the Government expects the commission to set \$1,375,000 aside from the payroll and wage-cheque taxes to cover fees to physicians at the rate of between \$4.50 and \$5.50 per annum per insured.

INSURED, 275,000

The number of employees to be insured at the start of the scheme, when the act is proclaimed in six months' time, is expected to be 110,000, and their dependents are estimated at 165,000 persons in addition; or a total of 275,000 to be insured. The ratio of dependents to wage earners was placed at 1.5 to 1, in an average family unit of 2.5 persons.

Persons included in the scheme may receive benefits four weeks after the payroll and wage-cheque deductions commence. Under a Government amendment introduced and passed in the morning, the dependents and the insured may be covered during continued sickness of the wage earner long after his contributions to the fund have ceased. This will be left to the discretion of the commission, to implement by regulation.

POWERS FOR COMMISSION

Voluntary insured persons will be deemed eligible for insurance benefits at the discretion of the commission, subject to review by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-council. The insured will have the right to select their own physician and pharmacist, subject to the discretion of the commission.

Physicians are to be paid either on a per capita or fee system, with traveling expenses permissible; but there is no exact arrangement yet as to what they will be paid.

Clauses dealing with the remuneration of physicians and penalty sections in the bill were stood over at the morning period. A two-hour discussion was devoted to amendments, the Socialist Opposition supporting the Government nearly on all tests.

MANY AMENDMENTS

Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir moved to include dependents among those eligible for benefits while the wage earner was ill, and this carried by amendment to Section 19.

Dr. W. H. Sutherland moved to include traveling expenses for physicians where legitimately applicable. This amendment was accepted by the Government, and carried.

H. E. Winch moved to strike out arrangement to pay physicians on a per capita system. This was voted down.

R. W. Bruhn wanted the whole question of remuneration of physicians left open for the insertion of a definite schedule of fees in agreement between the commission and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in place of the indefinite clauses in the bill. He moved that this be done. The Government refused to accept the amendment, which was voted down with the aid of the C.C.F.

Ernest Bakewell moved to strike out the provision for maximum remuneration for physicians at \$5.50 per year per insured, saying this was for psychological reasons. The amendment was rejected. Others moved to strike out the minimum provision, at \$4.50 a year per insured, and this was rejected similarly. Section 22, being the remuneration clause, carried.

PENAL CLAUSES

The penalty clause, under which the commission could suspend a doctor from the practice of his profession for life in British Columbia unless he agreed to carry out all the services asked of him, drew fire and was stood over.

Dr. Weir explained that it was desired by the Government that the commission be given power of control over the medical profession. He assured the House that this authority would not be abused, nor put to any unreasonable use. Efforts to change the penalty clause as it stood, however, were objected to by the Government.

It was announced the Government may make the penalties for non-compliance with the orders of the commission subject to approval by order-in-council. The clause was stood over, meanwhile.

After two hours on the bill, and the approval of four sections, the House recessed at 12:28 p.m., until 2:30 p.m.

test, with surprising results.

"Madam Chairman," Mrs. R. P. Steeves, took the chair in committee on the private bill for "naturopathic physicians," the first woman to take the chair in the British Columbia Assembly. Mrs. Steeves put the bill with twenty odd clauses through its paces in short order, while members thumped their desks with vigor. The measure is complete in committee, but not yet passed.

The Weir Health Insurance Bill was completed yesterday afternoon in committee, after fourteen hours of clause-by-clause review. The measure stands substantially unchanged, with 2 per cent wage cheque taxes and 1 per cent payroll taxes on insured groups in respect of incomes of \$1,800 and less. The exemptions are not yet clearly defined.

The Legislature put the balance of its laws through third reading during the day, at various times at each of three consecutive periods. Amendments to the Constitution Act to double the mileage allowance of members went three stages at one sitting, as did drastic amendments to the Natural Products Marketing Act, which includes price-fixing.

Committee reports included railways, printing and agriculture. The report of the printing committee suggested more use of the King's Printer to publish textbooks. The agricultural committee urged lower taxes on farmers, and receipt by the Crown of instalment tax payments. The railway committee advised completion of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway by highway from Squamish to Whytecliffe, twenty-seven miles, at a suggested cost of \$750,000.

The disputed amendments to the Mineral Survey and Development Act were read a third time, after the Government has amended the bill in minor particulars to provide for one set of reports to be filed with the provincial mineralogist on all mining promotions. The penalty clause was amended.

Bills for naturopaths and chiropractors received approval, the former to regulate that calling, and the latter to make minor changes in the existing chiropractic law. The House went into the final period of the day with its order paper virtually cleaned.—S. G.

Echoes From The Gallery

British Columbia's Eighteenth Legislature will be released from the labors of its third session at 11:30 a.m. today. The House will be prorogued by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, with the official expectation of meeting again in the Fall.

Passage of the Weir Health Insurance Bill on a final division of twenty-nine to fourteen was the major business done yesterday, if not also in the whole session. The bill was under amendment right up to the last moment, and will be reprinted before royal assent is given today, April 1.

Sitting until 11 o'clock last evening, the House swept the order paper of motions and adjourned business, with minor exceptions. It agreed that Canada and the United States should co-operate on investigation of the Alaska-Yukon highway; on greater consideration for war veterans over fifty years of age, and on many other issues.

Premier Pattullo said the Government would take under sympathetic consideration the request of Hugh Savage that an oil painting of His Majesty, King Edward VIII, be secured for the Legislative Assembly.

R. H. Pooley, K.C., put his motion against votes for Orientals to the

Lieut.-Governor Will Prorogue B.C. Legislature

PROROGATION will come for the third session of the Eighteenth British Columbia Legislature at 11:30 a.m. today, following completion of main items on the order paper last evening. The House will sit at 11 a.m., and will be prorogued by Hon. J. W. Fordham Johnson half an hour later. Premier Pattullo announced last evening. The Premier will leave for Ottawa towards the end of this week.

B.C. Legislature Is Prorogued by Lieut.-Governor

Six Weeks' Session of Eighteenth Assembly Ends
In Traditional Style, With Supply Bill and
Health Bill as Outstanding Features—De-
votion and Loyalty to Throne Assured

By SANDHAM GRAVES

AFTER six weeks of almost continuous debate, the third session of the Eighteenth Legislature of British Columbia was prorogued at 11:45 a.m. yesterday by Hon. J. W. Fordham Johnson, Lieutenant-Governor. His Honor thanked the Assembly for granting Supply to His Majesty in the sum of \$24,851,769, referred to the Health Insurance Bill as the outstanding measure of the session, trusted that the labors of the House would inure to the benefit of the Province and graciously assented in the name of the King to fifty-seven Acts.

Illuminated addresses, beautifully engraved on pigskin and carrying the seal of the Province, were placed in His Honor's hands for forwarding through state channels to the Royal Household. Signed by Mr. Speaker, the Hon. H. G. Perry, the scrolls contained the texts of resolutions of condolence and loyalty passed by the Legislature in connection with the death of King George V and the accession of King Edward VIII.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The last act of the Legislature was the singing of the National Anthem, the familiar words of the hymn that binds one-third of the globe in united loyalty and devotion to the Throne.

Convening at 11 a.m., the House gave third reading to "An Act Respecting Naturopathic Physicians," but left amendments to the Trustee Act to die on the order paper. Belated answers to final Questions were given, and the House sat at ease pending the arrival of His Honor, attended by his aides and private secretary.

RELIEF SINCERE

In a minute's recess, the irrepressible member for Fernie suggested audibly that April 1 was a most appropriate day for the making of fifty-seven varieties of acts. Laughter and banter rolled easily across the floor of the Assembly Chamber. Concluding formalities were duly observed, and the annual battle of sessional papers, being the visible demonstration of a relief from weeks of incessant strain, waged merrily.

"Prorogue," that \$100,000 word, was voiced, and the session was over.

INCREASING EXPENDITURES

It is a significant coincidence that almost simultaneously with the default of Alberta in interest payments on her bonded indebtedness, British Columbia has passed legislation which opens up a new era of extravagant State expenditure as devised through the medium of the Health Insurance Act. That such a measure should have been passed by the Legislature at this time illustrates not only a lack of political vision and financial acumen, but a total dearth of any gleam of statesmanship among those chosen for political office in this Province. Compulsory health insurance places a new burden on industry. It imposes taxation on both employers and employees. It is a scheme which, through bureaucratic control, will cost from 8 to 10 per cent of all moneys collected under it for administrative purposes. That means that in the creation of a new group of bureaucratic workers a sum of from \$280,000 to \$350,000 per annum will be expended. Such an overhead cost for any scheme of the character is extravagant in the extreme. The Act could be administered by existing officials of the Provincial Government.

In addition to new taxation, which the Government estimates will realize \$3,500,000 per annum, there is provision in the current budget for outlays in excess of \$2,000,000 more than for the last fiscal year. Practically every departmental estimate of expenditure has been increased some of them out of all reason in relation to any growth that is taking place in population. It is a state of affairs which naturally gives rise to a good deal of alarm among those who are concerned about the credit of the Province, and that alarm will be intensified by the default of Alberta in interest payments on her bonded indebtedness. With the exception of the Independent Members and a few Liberals who are perturbed over the situation, all the Socialists and the other supporters of the Provincial Government have, to all intents and purposes, acquiesced in the increased expenditures. That is the situation which Mr. Dunning, the Federal Finance Minister, will be confronted with when he is asked for new loans by British Columbia. This Province has not yet given even the first faint intimation of setting its financial house in order.

A P R

1936

ORIENTAL VOTE DECISION FAILS

House Rules Pooley's Motion
Out of Order; C.C.F. Split
on Issue

As the Legislature rushed along yesterday evening a motion by R. H. Pooley, K.C., Unionist, Esquimalt, urging the House go on record as "unalterably opposed" to the granting of franchise to Orientals, was ruled out of order. On division the speaker was sustained in his ruling, 31 to 10.

On a resolution by Robert Wilkinson, Liberal, Vancouver, Point Grey, the House went on record as in favor of fixing the age-limit of veterans entitled to recognition under the War Veterans Allowance Act, at fifty years or upwards.

A resolution was moved by G. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, which urged the government to induce the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company to operate the Trail Smelter "in the public interest at its fullest capacity." After Mr. Winch had made his point he withdrew the motion at the suggestion of the Premier, who said the government was fully seized of the situation.

OPPOSE DUMP DUTIES

After a lengthy argument on a resolution by R. W. Bruhn, Independent, Salmon Arm, urging opposition to the removal of dump duties on fruit and vegetables by the Federal Government, it was decided that this matter would be drawn to the attention of the Ottawa authorities by the provincial government. In the course of the debate it was pointed out how seriously the reduction in the dump duties affected agriculturists of the province.

The House approved unanimously a resolution of G. M. Murray, Liberal, Lillooet, urging that the Canadian and U.S. governments make a joint effort toward construction of the B.C.-Alaska Highway.

It voted down a resolution of Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, asking for an investigation of the Corbin strike riot.

KING'S PICTURE

Hugh Savage, Independent, Cowichan-Newcastle, was ruled out of order on a motion to have the House secure a picture of His Majesty King Edward VIII painted by a Canadian artist. Premier Pattullo undertook to consider getting a picture of the new King.

A resolution by Jack Price, C.C.F., Vancouver East, asking for an investigation of liquor purchases by the Liquor Control Board was claimed by Premier Pattullo to be out of order, and Mr. Speaker Perry reserved his decision.

Across The Bay

Dr. Weir ends in triumph—but
the dying hours are spectacular
—with excursions and alarms—
marches and counter-marches—
and votes galore.

By BRUCE HUTCHISON

TRIUMPH

THIS Eighteenth Legislature is going home. The going out was a somewhat spectacular performance. After twenty-five hours and fifty-four minutes of argument, the health insurance bill was finally crowned and consummated at twenty minutes to ten with a series of divisions, marches and counter-marches, splits and counter-splits which bewildered the beholder. No less than four separate votes were required to make the bill into law, and even though the division bell—an essential feature of our rules—failed to ring when Mr. Speaker went solemnly through the motion of ringing it, health insurance was never in danger after surviving the real crisis of Monday.

Whatever else it may be—and if you want to hear some breath-taking adjectives, talk to the Liberal insurgents—the health insurance bill is a magnificent triumph for Dr. Weir. As a matter of practical politics it has split the Liberal Party, but as a product of one man's patience, perseverance and sheer determination, it is a monument to its maker. He probably doesn't think it is perfect but it is something where anyone but Dr. Weir might have got nothing; it is a hundred times what seemed possible a year ago; and even if it turns out as badly as its enemies allege, it is the most remarkable personal achievement witnessed in this establishment in modern times.

The government's latter hours in labor were much easier than the early stages. After Monday's test, which saved the bill, though only with the support of the C.C.F., the spirit seeped out of the fight against it. From then on, hopeless of killing the scheme, the opposition conscientiously went through the motions of opposing, but not much more. Where hours had been spent before on one small sentence, large clauses went through without a murmur.

DYING HOURS

THESE WERE the dying hours or the session indeed and, tired by continual late nights, the House had little light left in it. Only Mr. Pooley, fresh as the yellow primroses in his buttonhole, seemed to take any real pleasure in ragging his old friend, the Premier. What annoyed Mr. Pooley at the moment was that the government proposed to pay its health insurance administrator up to \$7,500 where Mr. Pooley and his colleagues of the Tolmie government got only \$6,000.

This gave the Premier an opportunity to voice a horrid suspicion which has long been harbored by the present ministry. Mr. Pooley and his friends, said the Premier, had deliberately cut ministerial salaries just before leaving office so that their successors could endure this reduction. To which Mr. Pooley promptly replied that the Tolmie government had been quite sure that the Pattullo government would be well paid considering its ability. Now, said Mr. Pooley, the public agreed completely with the prophetic vision of the Tolmie government.

The Premier got back at his friend by sending for the ancient records and proving that Mr. Pooley had been mistaken about certain obscure points in the history of Tolmie government's finances, a discovery which did not cause much excitement.

Confident now that its bill was safe, the government rejected a long series of amendments from the C.C.F. This started to get under even the socialist hide. Mr. Bakewell began to think that the bill, which the C.C.F. had saved, wasn't worth saving, and the sides Mr. Winch thought so, too. If

things went on like this, they said, they might have to vote against the whole scheme on final reading.

With complete confidence, the Premier retorted that he would not be moved by any threats. The opposition benches looked more threatening than ever. But this really didn't mean a thing. When it came to the final test in the evening only Mr. Bakewell and Mr. Swales of the socialists voted against the bill and an even dozen Liberals and Independents stood up with them against twenty-nine Liberals. A great burst of desk thumping greeted the passage of the most important and certainly the most contentious act in modern times.

HIGHER POLICY

THE HEALTH bill finished, there was little left to do and not much heart for doing it. For a moment the House paused to consider the higher policy of the nation when the Premier protested a motion by Mr. Pooley declaring against the enfranchisement of Orientals and designed, of course, to put the C.C.F. on the spot. Not that the Premier would object to putting the C.C.F. on the spot, but that he considered the Pooley motion likely to create friction between nations. Mr. Speaker Perry thought so, too, and ruled Mr. Pooley out of order, with learned references to the parliamentary authorities.

Full of regret at such a painful necessity, Mr. Pooley appealed this ruling with a curious result. While all Liberals and Independents would have enjoyed putting the C.C.F. on the spot, the responsibilities of higher national policy weighed heavily with them. Only nine members voted with Mr. Pooley against the Speaker and, inferentially, against Oriental enfranchisement. But more curious still, four C.C.F. members voted to declare in order a motion opposing such enfranchisement, which is one of their party's policies. No explanation was made, but perhaps they wanted the motion to be considered so that they could vote against it and stand up, unashamed, in favor of votes for Orientals. That, along with many other things, remains one of the unsolved mysteries of the session.

From then on the remaining fag-ends were quickly cleared away and by bedtime nothing was left but the formalities of prorogation—and whatever consequences this session is going to have, if any, in the history of politics and the future of the government. But at a time like this no one thinks about that. The House, its work done, is going home into the bosom of a grateful and loving electorate.

affect its basic principles, and really strengthen it, according to Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, who sponsored the measure.

Those covered compulsorily by the insurance plan will be all wage-earners in B.C. getting up to \$1,800 a year, except agricultural workers, Christian Scientists and those who are already in industrial medical service plans that give sufficient treatment.

In addition, domestic servants, casual employees, part-time employees and persons in special industries for whom it is difficult to administer may be excluded.

Those insured will have 2 per cent deducted from their wage cheques each week or month, and their employers will pay 1 per cent.

The minimum payment per week for contributors is 35 cents and the maximum 70 cents, and for employers 20 cents and 35 cents.

In return for these contributions they will receive services of a physician, including maternity treatment for women, hospital care up to ten weeks in a public ward, at least half the cost of drugs, and other laboratory services and diagnostic aids. The full extent of these benefits will be determined by a Health Insurance Commission consisting of not more than five members with a full-time chairman, which will administer the entire scheme.

Persons contributing will start getting benefits for themselves and their dependents four weeks after they start paying into the plan.

Anyone who stops paying will get benefits for four weeks afterward for himself and family and for twelve additional weeks for himself.

This may be widened by the health commission.

Under the plan people have the right to choose their own doctors. The system of paying the doctors is left optional in the act, to be worked out with the health commission. It may be a salary, panel or pool scheme.

"The Health Insurance Act is an epoch-making measure in Canadian social and economic history," said Dr. Weir.

"British Columbia is taking the first forward step in Canada in protecting and advancing the health interests of the common man. The measure represents democracy at its best. The interests of the common man were kept at the forefront, while those of the more privileged were not sacrificed.

"The objective of the Health Insurance Act is the promotion of the common good and it represents translation into statutory enactment of promises, discussions, planks and platforms that had been dangling in the air for twenty years.

"The struggle to render the abstract into concrete realization was stubbornly fought, but there is nothing so strong as force of principle whose hour has struck.

"On March 31, 1936, the hour of destiny struck for British Columbia. Other provinces will probably follow suit."

Health Scheme Not Disturbed

Insurance Bill Gets Final
Assent in Strengthened
Form

As it was finally passed by the B.C. Legislature yesterday evening and assented to by Lieutenant-Governor J. W. Fordham Johnson this morning, British Columbia's Health Insurance Act provides the machinery under which some 110,000 wage-earners in the province and their dependents will receive medical and hospital services for which the wage-earners and their employers will pay.

In its essential features the act went through the House similar to the way it was introduced.

Numerous amendments were forced into the scheme, but they do not

Two to One Vote For Health Bill On Last Reading

Measure Establishes First Government Health Insurance Plan on Continent, Subject to Proclamation; Four Divisions Are Forced By Opposition at Final Stage With Government Losing Out on One of Them

AMENDMENTS DO NOT WEAKEN BILL

British Columbia will have the first system of government-controlled health insurance on the North American continent.

By a 29 to 14 vote, the Legislature yesterday evening concluded twenty-six hours of debate on Hon. G. M. Weir's bill to put in the system, giving it third reading, ready for the Lieutenant-Governor's assent today.

The measure is subject to proclamation on the decision of the government. According to announcements made during the session it will require about six months to get preliminary organization work completed.

The government withstood one of the most vigorous onslaughts on any measure in recent years to put the bill through the Legislature. On one occasion only the support of the Opposition saved it from defeat.

The final vote taken at 9:40 o'clock yesterday evening found the members lined as follows:

For final reading: Premier Pattullo, Hon. G. M. Weir, Hon. G. S. Sloan, Hon. John Hart, Hon. K. C. MacDonald, Hon. A. Wells Gray, Hon. G. S. Pearson, Hon. F. M. MacPherson, E. Wilkinson, F. Putman, N. Whittaker, R. H. Carson, C. H. Tupper, D. McPherson, C. S. Leary, Mrs. P. Smith, Dr. J. Allen-Harris, R. R. Burns, Thomas King, W. J. Asseltine, A. McDonald, E. T. Kenney and D. M. MacKay, Liberals; and Thomas Uphill, Labor; and Jack Price, Rev. Robert Connell, H. E. Winch, Mrs. D. G. Steeves and E. E. Winch, all C.C.F. Total 29.

Against third reading: S. S. McKeen, E. D. Barrow, Dr. W. H. Sutherland, Dr. J. J. Gillis, Gordon Wismer, G. M. Murray and D. W. Strachan, Liberals; Herbert Anscob, R. W. Bruhn, E. H. Pooley, K.C.; Olive M. F. Pianta and Hugh Savage, Independents; and Ernest Bakewell and R. B. Swales, C.C.F.—Total, fourteen.

Absent from the House: Byron Johnson and L. Arnold Hanna.

THREE DIVISIONS FORCED

This vote followed a final barrage by opponents of the bill, who forced three divisions on report of the measure for third reading.

E. W. Bruhn, Independent, Salmon Arm, moved, at the last minute, that the whole measure be delayed until the fall session to let the House proclaim it by resolution. He was defeated, 30 to 13.

Then D. W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewdney, moved another amendment

to have co-operative farmers' schemes excluded from paying contributions on their employees. He was defeated, thirty-two to eleven.

The final move from the opponents was an amendment by Dr. W. H. Sutherland, Liberal, Revelstoke, to remove from the bill a limit of \$5.50 on the amount to be set aside for medical services out of each person's contributions. The government opposed this, but met with a reversal by a 25-18 vote, and the limit was removed. Before the vote, Dr. Sutherland said this would "show who are friends of the medical men."

BILL NOT WEAKENED

As explained by Dr. Weir, the bill went through third reading in a strengthened form to that which it was introduced in the House, with certain clauses widened and none of the vital parts of it changed.

PENALTY FOR NON-SERVICE

At the opening of yesterday afternoon's discussion on the bill, Dr. Weir accepted an amendment from Dr. W. H. Sutherland which provided that the commission could not penalize physicians unless they failed to provide services and wilfully violated provisions of the act.

Sections empowering the appointment of the health commission, consisting of the chairman and not more than four others occasioned some debate.

Dr. Sutherland declared the chairman would get more than a cabinet minister. The setting of his salary at from \$5,000 to \$7,500 a year was the only definite part of the bill and he moved an amendment to let the government fix the salary.

Premier Pattullo pointed out that the salary was not specifically fixed, only the range within which it might be set.

Dr. Weir declined to accept the amendment and Dr. Sutherland said no man should draw more salary than the man he was working for.

"It may be the minister is underpaid, but my point is it is an unsound principle," the Revelstoke member declared.

WOULD REDUCE TERM

Hugh Savage, Cowichan-Newcastle, moved to lower the term of the chairman's appointment from seven to two years, claiming that the entire scheme was experimental and the chairman should be hired on that basis. Dr. Weir refused this, pointing out that to get a good man the government would have to guarantee him a reasonable tenure of office. Mr. Savage's amendment was lost on the vote.

G. M. Murray, Liberal, Lillooet, attempted to reduce the size of the health insurance commission from five members to three, the same size as the Workmen's Compensation Board.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, supported him, fearing the appointment under the scheme of a large group of highly paid officials, whose salaries would be paid by the contributors. Dr. Weir quoted at length from the findings of the hearing's committee as justification for the setup of the commission. The minister was upheld on the vote.

TRY TO REDUCE SALARY

R. H. Pooley, K.C., moving for reduction of the \$7,500 salary of the chairman to \$5,000, declared that when he was in the government he had accepted for two and a half years a voluntary cut in his ministerial salary from \$7,500 to \$6,000.

This drew a pointed reply from Premier Pattullo that the old government did not give the new cabinet ministers a chance to take a voluntary reduction, but had put it into the

statutes before going out of office.

The Premier cited two precedents where technical officials had received higher salaries than their cabinet ministers and Mr. Pooley's amendment was defeated. Ernest Bakewell, C.C.F., Mackenzie, spoke in support of a substantial salary for the chairman if he were a competent man.

ADMINISTRATION COST 8%

In reply to a question from R. W. Bruhn, Dr. Weir said the cost of administration of the health scheme would not exceed 10 per cent of the fund. He expected that finally it would be worked down to about 8 per cent.

E. E. Winch moved to eliminate a proviso clause which empowered the government, if necessary, to give remuneration to the technical advisory board of six persons. Dr. Weir replied that while it was not planned to pay them their services might be required to such an extent to warrant remuneration. Mr. Winch's amendment was lost.

DRUG SERVICE

Dr. Weir turned down a proposal of E. Bakewell to have the commission set up a complete drug service to save the beneficiaries something like \$100,000 a year.

Mr. Bakewell said he was so disgusted with the way the measure was being "reduced to a skeleton" that he would vote against the third reading if his suggestions were continually turned down.

E. E. Winch supported him, saying the C.C.F. would oppose it if it was nothing but a scheme to provide a bunch of jobs.

DIFFICULT SITUATION

Premier Pattullo retorted bluntly that such threats would not influence the government, which was doing its best under a very difficult situation.

E. E. Winch denied he had been threatening and accused the government of hiding behind technicalities to avoid having the bill amended at all.

Harold Winch complained of the exclusive jurisdiction, without rights of appeal, given to the commission; but Attorney-General Sloan explained that this waiving of appeal rights only held good as long as the commission did not step outside the powers of the bill. The purpose of the section was simply to facilitate administration, he said.

REFUND CLAUSE ATTACKED

Dr. Sutherland attacked a clause which provides that an insured person must refund to the health fund any amount he may collect for sickness or injury from any other funds such as workmen's compensation. He claimed this would mean that a man injured in an auto accident who recovered damages from a third party would have to pay the money to the health commission.

Mr. Sloan explained that the principle of insurance was that of compensation against a loss sustained. A man could not expect to collect more than once for the same sickness. Dr. Sutherland's amendment was defeated, on an unrecorded vote, by 29 to 6.

PENALTY REDUCED

S. S. McKeen moved to restrict the penalty clause of the bill which provides a fresh fine for each day's offence. The government agreed to this, leaving the penalty in the act at a minimum of \$10 and a maximum of \$500.

Herbert Anscob, Independent, Victoria, tried to reduce the maximum to \$100, declaring business was flooded these days with officious inspectors who ran around finding "stilly things" to annoy business men. Under the section they could drag men to court and "soak them \$500" for some trivial matter. Attorney-General Sloan pointed out that a technical breach of the act would call for the minimum of \$10, or possibly suspended sentence. Only a very grave violation would draw a \$500 fine. The amendment was lost 23 to 12 on a show of hands.

FINAL MOVE TO DELAY

On the final section of the bill, R. W. Bruhn moved to delay proclama-

tion of the bill to a vote of the House at the fall session, claiming this would give the members a chance to go home and find out how their constituents felt about it. The bill was not satisfactory to the public, as far as he could see, and they should be the judges.

Dr. Weir declared this was an attempt to nullify the whole scheme.

"We all admit it is not perfect," he said, "but it has a preponderance of advantages over disadvantages. It has not been weakened in committee. As a matter of fact, it has been improved, the definition of benefits widened, the wage limit for voluntary contributions raised from \$1,800 to \$2,400. I see no reason for this amendment."

Mr. Pooley said that by delaying the thing to the fall session it would give the minister a chance to bring down a "decent bill."

TIME TO STOP STALLING

"If we kept stalling off like this, it would take us another seventeen years before we got health insurance... why not come out openly and admit you are just trying to kill the bill," said Dr. Weir.

Dr. Sutherland supported Mr. Bruhn, declaring "the people as a whole don't want it." If it were left over to the fall the members would be convinced of this. He suggested that the ease with which some amendments had been defeated gave him the idea that there seemed to be agreements between some parties in the House.

This move to delay the bill was defeated 31 to 7.

Harold Winch moved in the opposite direction that the bill should come into effect immediately, not even waiting for government proclamation. This would at least ensure the principle of health insurance being put on the statute books. The amendment was lost.

LIABILITY LIMITED

S. S. McKeen, Liberal, Point Grey, forced into the bill an amendment which limited for thirty days the liability of a contractor for the contributions of his employees.

Returning finally to the troublesome section four, which covers exemption of private industrial medical service plans and had provoked most of the squabbling about the bill, Dr. Weir moved an amendment which gave employees in these schemes a chance to vote into the government scheme when it goes into effect, providing their plans give them physicians' and hospital care, or the equivalent of this.

This carried with little argument, but Mr. Anscob then moved that private schemes which only gave cash benefits should be exempt as well, and given a chance to vote themselves into the government scheme.

Dr. Weir appealed to have this voted down as designed to wreck the whole scheme.

PRIVATE SCHEMES

Gordon Wismer, Liberal, Vancouver Centre, strongly supported this, pointing out that many absences of men from work were caused by minor illnesses not requiring medical care, and they would prefer to get cash benefits while sick. He cited cases of certain industrial firms which would be forced into the scheme "against their will" if the section passed without this provision. Mr. Anscob's amendment was voted down on a show of hands, 29 to 11.

WOULD BRING IN MORE

E. E. Winch made a last-minute attempt to raise the wage limit of people covered from \$1,800 to \$2,400 per year. Realizing that this was out of order as a private member's amendment, he appealed to the Premier to waive the crown's prerogative and get a free vote on it.

The Premier, however, raised the point that, being an impost of taxation, the amendment was out of order.

H. E. Winch appealed to the Premier to move it himself, but he refused.

D. W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewdney,

Questions and Answers In the B.C. Legislature

R. H. Pooley, K.C., Unionist, Esquimalt, asked the Minister of Lands the following questions:

1. What was the total cost of the Sumas Reclamation Scheme?
2. What was the estimate cost?
3. What interest has been paid on moneys borrowed in connection with this scheme?
4. What has been the administrative cost since its inception?
5. What has been the cost of: (a) Maintenance; (b) repairs; (c) improvements?
6. What revenue has the government derived from it from: (a) Sale of lands; (b) miscellaneous?

Hon. Wells Gray replied as follows:
"1. See Journals, 1929, page 44.
"2. \$1,800,000.
"3. See Journals, 1929, page 44. Chapter 23, Statutes of 1925, discontinues interest charge on advances to the Land Settlement Board on and after January, 1926.
"4. \$144,624.82 as at December 31, 1935.

"5. (a) and (b) Maintenance and repairs are grouped in one account. \$484,504.90; (c) \$436,798.17.
"6. (a) \$417,297.17; (b) \$21,231.20."
Ernest Bakewell, C.C.F., MacKenzie, asked the Minister of Lands the following questions:

1. What is the total amount received by the government on Sumas lands sold by Fell & Scharfe?
2. Principal and interest?
3. Total amount of commissions paid?
4. Over what period of time were these sales made?

Mr. Gray replied as follows:
"1. \$208,266.04.
"2. Principal, \$191,702.88; interest, \$16,563.16.
"3. \$92,952.24.
"4. March, 1930, to April, 1933."

Ernest Bakewell asked the Minister of Lands the following questions:
1. Have any land-clearing operations or general improvements been made in the university lands at Point Grey during 1935?
2. If yes: (a) Of what did such work consist; (b) what expenditure was made under each classification?
3. If yes, was any portion of said cost borne by the Dominion of Canada or by municipalities?
4. Did the province of Britia's Columbia pay any of the cost of such work?

5. If so, to what account was it charged?
6. What revenue has been received during 1935 from sale or lease of university lands in the vicinity of Point Grey?
7. What expenditure has been made upon university lands to date, and what revenue has been derived from same to the end of March 31, 1935?
8. What expenditure has been made upon university lands from March 31, 1935, to December 31, 1935, and what revenue has been received between these dates?

Mr. Gray replied as follows:
"1. Yes.
"2. Grading on Chancellor Boulevard; grading University Hill school grounds; clearing and grading on Dominion land; building of administration office; restoration of storm-damaged portion of sewer system and new work necessary to dispose of sanitary drainage and surface water from university lands, Dominion lands, and university endowment subdivision lands. (b) Chancellor Boulevard, \$1,849.13; school grounds, \$1,835.47; Dominion land, \$1,805.55; administration office, \$5,443.64; drainage scheme, \$105,345.09.
"3. Yes; by the Dominion of Canada.
"4. Yes.
"5. Unemployment Relief Fund (various sections) and university endowment lands administration account.
"6. No new sales made of leases entered into during 1935.
"7. Expenditure, university endowment lands administration account, \$2,057,914.65; also loaned on mortgage \$531,837.69; revenue for same period, \$670,988.35.
"8. Expenditure (administration and maintenance only), April 1 to December 31, 1935, \$34,366.70; revenue for same period, \$44,357.26."

final decision of Hon. Charles Dunning, Federal Finance Minister, that further financial assistance will not be available unless the province submit to loan council control created some concern.

British Columbia has borrowed from Ottawa on three occasions in the last two years to meet debt maturities. It has another \$3,500,000 due on May 15, but it is believed this could be handled without federal aid. After that the province has no large maturities due for several years.

and E. D. Barrow, Liberal, Chilliwack, joined in another final appeal to have farmers' co-operative excluded; but this move also failed.

CHIROPRACTORS OUT

E. E. Winch renewed his attempt to include chiropractic treatment in the scheme.

Dr. Weir said the chiropractors, by special resolution, had asked to be left out. There was not enough data about their patients and methods for them to be brought in, but possibly within six months or a year they could be included.

"Don't force our hands now. Give us a chance to work it out," Dr. Weir appealed, asking Mr. Winch to withdraw his amendment which he refused to do. It was then defeated by a called vote, leaving chiropractors out of the bill.

At 5.30 p.m., the bill was reported out of committee complete with amendments to be given third reading in the evening after it had been reprinted.

HEALERS' BILL PASSES HOUSE

Naturopathic Physicians Get Recognition From Legislature

Naturopathic physicians were accorded legal status in a bill passed by the B.C. Legislature yesterday evening.

The measure gives control of the profession to a board composed of five persons.

The bill constitutes the Association of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia, and provides that the first members shall be those who are now practicing naturopathy (or drugless healing) in the province, who have graduated from a school of naturopathy or of drugless therapeutics approved by the Board of Governors of U.B.C.

Arrangements is also made for an examining board for new members.

The Provincial Secretary is instructed under the bill to appoint the first board of control within one month after June 30 of this year.

Attorney-General Sloan, in a last-minute move, secured deletion from the bill of a clause giving the board power to prohibit advertising.

House Finished Session Today

Fifty-seven Measures Receive Assent of Lieutenant-Governor at Prorogation Ceremony in B.C. Legislature

The third session of British Columbia's Legislature, noted mainly for the passage of the new health insurance law, came to an end at 11.45 o'clock today as Lieutenant-Governor J. W. Fordham Johnson gave assent to fifty-seven acts and then prorogued the House.

A departure from the usual prorogation ceremony was the presentation to His Honor, for transmission to His Majesty the King of addresses of loyalty and condolence from the Legislature to the King and Queen Mary.

The addresses were done on pigskin and bound in morocco. Mr. Speaker Perry presented them to His Honor. Little business was done at the final sitting of the House.

A C.C.F. resolution calling for an investigation of liquor buying died on the order paper having been claimed out of order by the Premier.

A resolution of D. W. Strachan, Liberal, Dewdney, calling for a survey of Oriental penetration, another of Mrs. D. G. Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, urging a revision of children's relief allowances and one by Harold Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, urging the government to care for single men refused admittance to relief camps, also died without decision.

The usual good humor among members was noted prior to the Lieutenant-Governor's arrival. Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, observed that April 1 was a good day to wind up this session, for all that had been done. Members joined in singing songs and passing good-humored remarks.

After the royal assent had been given the enactments, the usual "battle of papers" brought things to a close and members dispersed to go back to their respective ridings.

The fifty-seven bills which received assent brought to sixty-nine the total number enacted. Earlier in the session, the Lieutenant-Governor assented to twelve measures.

PREMIER WILL FLY TO OTTAWA

Pattullo Seeks Settlement From Ottawa on B.C. Finances

The B.C. Government declined to-day to make any comment on the Alberta Government's default this morning, but Premier Pattullo plans to fly to Ottawa this week to discuss this province's financial situation with the Dominion Government.

In a statement in the Legislature earlier this week, the Premier declared that the government's policy on the loan council was not decided but that definite conclusions with the federal government must be reached.

With these negotiations under way, the Premier today reserved any further public statement on the matter.

However, the Dominion Government's refusal to come to the assistance of Alberta and prevent default was clearly a surprise to the British Columbia cabinet. It put a new importance upon the British Columbia negotiations.

While there was no suggestion here that British Columbia would have trouble meeting its maturities, the

Wednesday, April 1, 1936

A FIGHTING FINISH

THE HEALTH INSURANCE LEGISLATION was the outstanding product of the session of the Legislature which came to an end today. If it had not been for this measure the deliberations would have been finished several weeks ago with very little to show for them. But Dr. Weir's health bill provided a bone of contention into which every element in the House put its teeth, and provoked a week of controversy reminiscent of the time, more than twenty years ago, when almost every day of the legislative session was marked by sharp fighting.

It was expected that the health insurance bill would have a stormy passage. The pressure of opposition to it from innumerable angles and the intensive lobby against it by special interests made this certain. It also was expected that the legislation would be amended in some respects, and in certain quarters it was fondly hoped that the measure would be thrown out altogether. In all of the circumstances it is surprising that more changes were not made and that the bill has emerged from the ring by so substantial a majority and with such little damage to its essential elements. The chief amendment was the removal of the provision limiting the government's expenditure for administration to \$50,000, but this means little since that sum already has been voted in the estimates. Another change was the elimination of the provision limiting the remuneration of physicians to \$5.50 yearly for each insured person. These alterations were opposed by the government and passed over its head.

The bill cut through party lines, especially as far as the government and chief opposition were concerned. In fact, at one crucial moment it was saved by the C.C.F. who, to prevent its defeat, found it necessary to vote against proposed revisions, the essential principles of which they support, but the adoption of which would have wrecked the legislation. On the third reading seven Liberals bolted, and four did not vote at all.

A Liberal party is presumed to sanction independence within its ranks based upon an honest difference of opinion in the appreciation and interpretation of Liberal principle. It is something of a phenomenon, however, that the first impressive exhibition we have had in the last three years of the spirit of this "rugged independence" should be inspired by a piece of social service legislation designed to improve the health of the people, to which the party pledged itself in its platform in the election which resulted in its return to office. There were other occasions when such a display might have been expected, but none came. The S.P.A., for example, challenged the very basis of Liberalism, and not a whimper arose in the House within the party ranks. Indeed, the only recalcitrance observed up to this time was the bolt of two members from the government on the Fraser River bridge proposal. Nor have we heard any trenchant demands for a highway commission or a public utilities commission, both of which are matters of paramount importance to the general public, and were in the Liberal platform.

Another of the few arresting features of the session was the budget presentation by Hon. John Hart, which showed an improvement in provincial revenues and a betterment of business conditions throughout the province. The chief criticism lodged against the minister's financial statement was the increase of expenditure for the coming year, and the absence of any provision for assisting the municipalities. Mr. Hart has promised to help municipal finances later. Legislation postponing for six months by-elections in Omineca and Burrard also was subjected to attack from the opposition, but it was absorbed meekly enough by even those supporters of the government whose tenderness for the public interest was outraged by the public health insurance bill. The Premier, however, has intimated that the two by-elections will be held this summer.

Mr. Pattullo has announced a session of the Legislature for next fall. This, we assume, means that none will be held early next year and the implication is that henceforth the House will meet in the fall instead of in the early months of the year as it has done for a long time. Otherwise, except in pressing emergencies there would be no reason for two sessions in a year. In fact, there are many people who think we would be better off with one session every two years as they have it in most of the neighboring states.