

JAN

1912

Daily Times

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1912

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE PROVINCE

LARGER INCREASE IN OUTLAY THAN INCOME

Revenue Increase Largely From
Chinese—Outlay Greater
on Roads and Bridges

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 11.

The public accounts for the fiscal year ending March 31 last are the first since the change in that period which permit of a comparison being made between two complete years under the new arrangement. Last session's bluebook had to be compared with the nine-month period from July 1, 1908, following the last day of the last year under the old system, to March 31, 1909, the closing day of the fiscal year as it is now reckoned here and generally throughout the Dominion. The accounts for the fiscal year which were brought down to-day are comparable with those for the year 1909-10, the first full year of the new system.

The net revenue for the year was \$10,492,892.27, as compared with \$8,874,741.94 in the previous year.

The net expenditure for the year showed an increase of about two hundred thousand more than the increases in the revenue, the figures being for the year under review \$8,194,802.95, as contrasted with \$6,382,993.27 in the year 1909-10.

Of the increase of \$1,618,000 in the year's revenue the bulk is accounted for by the province's share of the Chinese head tax and legal fees. The former jumped up from \$356,200 to \$1,066,000, an increase of \$710,000. Registry office fees are \$205,000 greater than in 1909-10, probate fees \$18,000 more, succession duties \$92,000, fines and fees generally \$16,000. The revenue tax brought in \$53,000 more, personal property tax \$18,000 more and real property tax \$17,000.

Other large increases were \$147,000 in land revenue (although the revenue from land tax sales was \$180,000 less), \$123,000 in mining royalties, \$149,000 in general mining receipts, \$91,000 in interest, \$62,000 in printing office income, \$34,000 in trading and liquor licenses, and \$28,000 in royalty and tax on coal. Apart from the decrease on land sales the only other item in which there was a decrease of note was in the mining tax, \$11,000 less.

Greater part of the increase of \$1,811,000 in expenditure is under the head of public works and the sub-head of roads, streets, bridges and wharves, which called for an expenditure of \$1,060,000 more than the year before. There was an increase of \$249,000 in the amount spent on works and buildings. The education department spent \$102,000 more and other increases were \$114,000 on civil government, \$95,000 on hospitals and charities, \$44,500 on the maintenance of public institutions and \$27,000 on the administration of justice. The expenditure on legislation shows a decrease of \$43,000, due to the election expenses having swelled the figure for 1909-10.

In the statement of assets and liabilities there is for the year a balance of assets over liabilities of \$1,497,094.35, whereas in the year previous there was an adverse of balance of \$97,644.57.

	Revenue.	1909-1910 at April to 1st March.	1910-1911 1st April to 31st March.
Dominion of Canada—			
Annual payment of interest		\$ 29,151.06	\$ 29,151.06
Do. Subsidy		150,000.00	150,000.00
Do. Grant per capita		142,925.60	142,925.60
Do. for lands conveyed		100,000.00	100,000.00
Do. special grant B. N. A. Act, 1907		100,000.00	100,000.00
Land sales		2,618,188.75	2,431,231.36
Land revenue		175,789.11	321,586.98
Survey fees		15,871.85	18,052.97
Rents, exclusive of land		109.00	230.00
Timber leases		85,875.29	106,857.75
Timber royalty and licences		2,234,099.31	2,357,951.32
Free miners' certificates		53,095.07	68,937.86
Mining receipts, general		91,253.75	105,319.55
Licences, trade and liquor		58,951.49	92,498.00
Licences, game		7,280.00	7,815.00
Licences, commercial travellers		700.00	200.00
Fines and fees of court		30,734.60	46,203.69
Probate fees		19,463.86	37,294.41
Succession duty		108,496.39	200,459.88
Law stamps		24,500.20	30,992.20
Registry fees		408,826.15	613,092.22
Base of government property		2,058.57	7,820.82
Marriage licences		17,490.00	17,590.00
Revenue tax		260,682.00	313,338.00
Real property tax		335,744.26	352,372.44
Personal property tax		161,692.88	179,052.70
Wild land tax (including coal and timber lands)		250,904.71	316,130.83
Income tax		190,984.16	192,924.78
Mineral tax		102,608.93	91,038.43
Royalty and tax on coal		232,722.91	248,352.56
Revenue service refunds		1,735.25	1,463.32
Tax sale deeds		510.00	560.00
Tax on unworked Crown-granted mineral claims		39,869.65	42,090.84
Printing office		65,194.44	127,776.49
Registered taxes (all denominations)		204.72	38.91
Bureau of Mines		687.00	917.00
Hospital for Insane		24,064.67	26,274.07
Provincial Home		3,895.83	308.30
Reimbursements for keep of prisoners		1,286.20	793.45
Chinese restriction (Act, 1884, Dominion Statutes)		356,200.00	1,066,000.00
Traffic tolls, New Westminster bridge		29,301.35	23,817.51
Interest		157,493.18	248,772.40
Dykes Assessment Act, 1905 (tax on lands against capital charge)		19,080.07	19,080.07
Boiler inspection fees		19,614.62	20,827.04
Log-scaling fees		21,698.75	27,518.64
Fishing and cannery licences		31,340.00	32,657.79
Miscellaneous receipts		45,632.70	62,751.48
		\$8,818,598.28	\$10,430,968.42
Interest on investment of sinking funds		56,145.66	61,923.85
Net revenue		\$8,874,741.94	\$10,492,892.27

Assets.	
Dominion Government, Section 2, Terms of Union	\$ 583,021 40
Sinking Fund Loan, 1887, (invested in London)	288,820 21
Sinking Fund Loan, 1891, '93, '95, '99 and 1902, (invested in London)	
(Inscribed Stock)	1,673,264 80
Sinking Fund Loan, B. C. Dyking Debentures, 1897 and 1899	56,496 26
Canadian Bank of Commerce, Account Current (cash on deposit)	5,670,979 49
Other Banks within the Province (cash on deposit)	2,793,775 25
Canadian Bank of Commerce (Gold Bar Deposit Account)	511 18
Bank of Montreal, Land Registry Assurance Fund Deposit (Land Registry Act, 1906)	56,173 95
Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., London	227 31
Victoria & Sidney Railway Co. (amount paid for interest on the company's bonds)	112,245 00
Advance to farmers for seed in 1905 (re Fraser River floods)	15,525 33
Nakusp and Shocan Railway, mortgage account	647,072 00
Shuswap and Okanagan Railway Co. (amount paid for interest on bonds, etc., in excess of Dominion subsidy and net earnings)	387,771 07
Nakusp and Shocan Railway Co. (amount paid for interest on bonds, etc., in excess of Dominion subsidy and net earnings)	181,163 13
Security Investment in B. C. 3 per cent. Stock for B. C. Plate Glass Insurance Co.	970 00
Bank of Montreal, Montreal (cash deposit by the Royal Trust Co. as security under sec. 2, of the "Company's Incorporation Act, 1905")	50,000 00
Imperial Bank of Canada, Vancouver (cash deposited by the Western Fire Insurance Co. as security under section 6 of the Company's Act of Incorporation, 1910)	15,000 00
Comox Creamery Association (Loan, "Dairy Association Act")	1,500 00
Abbotsford Creamery Association (Loan, "Dairy Associations Act")	400 00
Salt Spring Island Creamery Association (Loan, "Dairy Associations Act")	1,000 00
Okanagan Creamery Association (Loan, "Dairy Associations Act")	1,000 00
White Valley Creamery Association (Loan, "Dairy Associations Act")	2,000 00
Cowichan Creamery Association (Loan, "Dairy Associations Act")	2,000 00
Dewdney Municipality (Loan, "Dewdney Municipality Relief Act, 1906")	13,369 27
Canada Zinc Company (Loan, "Canada Zinc Company Loan Act, 1907")	25,064 23

The summary of expenditure by services for the year was as follows:

Public debt	538,902 82
Civil government (salaries)	503,676 41
Administration of justice (salaries)	161,289 67
Legislation	71,500 83
Public institutions	302,328 67
Hospitals and charities	204,605 01
Administration of justice (other than salaries)	223,230 56
Education	689,141 75
Transport	54,251 09
Revenue services	57,007 08
Public Works—	
Works and Buildings	1,060,246 74
Government House	
Victoria	18,348 75
Roads, streets, bridges, wharves, and subsides	3,072,686 00
Surveys and improvement of lands	473,267 06
Miscellaneous	4,621,533 46
	861,593 26
	\$8,382,273 98

The following items, not included in the above expenditure, have been paid out of the ordinary revenue of the province:

Nakusp & Slocan Railway, in excess of earnings	\$29,419 54
Victoria & Sidney Railway, 2 per cent guarantee of interest on bonds	6,209 09
	\$35,628 63
Less surplus from Shuswap & Okanagan Railway over and above payment of interest	4,167 31
	\$31,461 32
Total expenditure	\$8,413,735 31

For the first time in the twenty years that the province has been paying interest on the bonds of the Shuswap & Okanagan railway, it received from the C. P. R. as 40 per cent of the gross earnings some four thousand dollars more than it paid out. The account still stands, however, \$387,771 more paid out by the province than it has received since 1892.

The statements of revenue expenditure, assets and liabilities are as follows:

Pitt Meadows Dyking District, Tract No. 2, Sinking Fund Account	1,590 06	
Gold Bar Account (bullion deposit from Assay Office)	611 18	
Dyking Debentures, accrued interest on investments	6,632 50	
Deposits under "Plans Cancellation Act"	498 00	
Deposits under section 86, Land Clauses Consolidation Act	2,602 50	
Stumping Powder Purchase Account	33 50	
Province of British Columbia (being balance of Assets over Liabilities)	1,497,694 35	
Deposits on account of Intestate Estates (receipts)	196,346 30	
Do. Suitsors' Fund (receipts)	90,597 23	
Do. Tax Sales surplus (receipts)	6,594 79	
Shuswap & Okanagan Railway receipts (Act, 1890)	44,308 45	
Nakusp & Slocan Railway receipts (Act, 1894)	5,191 92	
Expenditure		
1909-1910	1910-1911	
1st April to 31st March	1st April to 31st March	
Interest	\$ 335,212.43	\$ 333,112.53
Sinking Funds (chargeable to investment account) as follows:		
Trustees' account "Loan Act, 1887"	8,577.22	8,577.22
Do. Interest invested, "Loan Act, 1887"	2,786.74	9,398.96
Do. "Loan Acts, 1891, '93, '95, '99 and 1902"	99,219.36	99,219.36
Do. Interest invested, "Loan Act, 1891, '93, '95, '99 and 1902"	47,358.92	52,526.77
Premium and exchange	2,677.18	2,968.82
Discount and commission	5,080.64	5,441.04
Redemption of debentures (Loan Act, 1903)	4,000.00	4,000.00
Redemption of dyking debentures purchased before maturity at 92, 371,000	66,030.00	
Redemption of dyking debentures purchased before maturity at 95, 345,000		23,750.00
II—Civic government (salaries)	389,700.87	503,676.41

Thos. H. McKay, late Collector, Vancouver	836 85
City of Prince Rupert, Advances for Sewers, Water-works, and Fire Protection	105,233 50
City of Prince Rupert, Advance for Compilation of Assessment Roll	965 55
Rural Districts School Tax (advances to schools)	4,432 47
Chilliwack Dyking District, Capital charge against Lands, under the "Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, 1905"	199,969 30
Coquitlam Dyking District, do., do.	67,982 71
Maple Ridge Dyking District, do., do.	127,388 13
Massqui Dyking District, do., do.	125,000 00
Pitt Meadows Dyking District, Tract No. 1, do., do.	17,815 32
do do, Tract No. 2, do., do.	17,052 68
Coquitlam Dyking District, Interest account	561 20
Chilliwack Dyking District, Interest account	688 37
Maple Ridge Dyking District, Interest account	587 23
Matsqui Dyking District, Interest account	1,077 00
Chilliwack Dyking District, Maintenance of Dykes	2,473 52
Coquitlam Dyking District, Maintenance of Dykes	2,390 68
Maple Ridge Dyking District, Maintenance of Dykes	2,173 47
Matsqui Dyking District, Maintenance of Dykes	4,995 61
Pitt Meadows Dyking District, Tract No. 1, Maintenance of Dykes	82 27
Pitt Meadows Dyking District, Tract No. 2, Maintenance of Dykes	150 35
Advances to Departments, viz:—	
Hon. Provincial Secretary	\$2,807 75
Hon. C. O. Lands	7,700 00
Hon. Attorney-General	790 00
Public Works Engineer	1,400 00
do Assisat	500 00
Surveyor of Taxes	150 00
Superintendent of Police	250 00
Agent-General, London	654 23
Department of Agriculture	4,892 42
Assessors	300 00
S. Baxter, Inspector of Boilers	150 00
Inspectors of Offices	250 00
	19,844 40
Cash balances in hands of District Agents	269,398 71
Cash balance on hand at Treasury	4,553 00
Liabilities	\$13,550,921 26
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1887) bearing 4½ per cent. interest, payable in London	\$ 391,210 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1891) bearing 3 per cent interest, payable in London	2,139,141 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1892) bearing 3 per cent. interest, payable in London	599,945 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1895) bearing 3 per cent. interest, payable in London	2,087,000 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1899) bearing 3 per cent. interest, payable in London	1,649,000 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1902) bearing 3 per cent. interest, payable in London	3,496,350 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1903) bearing 3 per cent. interest, payable at Victoria	12,000 00
British Columbia Loan (Dyking Debenture Acts, 1897, 1898, and 1899), payable at Victoria	475,000 00
Railway Guarantee Bonds (Nakusp and Slocan Ry. Aid Act, 1894)	647,072 00
Deposits (Intestate Estates, etc.)	287,466 36
Deposits (Suitsors' Funds, "Suitsors' Fund Act")	219,325 21
Deposits (surplus moneys from tax sales)	12,487 18
British Columbia Plate Glass Insurance Co. (Security Deposit, section 3 of the Company's Incorporation Act, 1901)	970 00
Royal Trust Co. (Security Deposit, section 2 of the Company's Incorporation Act, 1905)	50,000 00
Western Union Fire Insurance Co. (security deposit-section 6 of the Company's Act of Incorporation, 1910)	15,000 00
Real Estate Mining Claims (sec. 152, "Placer Mining Act")	352 04
Chilliwack Dyking District, Sinking Fund Account	18,405 19
Coquitlam Dyking District, Sinking Fund Account	5,049 99
Maple Ridge Dyking District, Sinking Fund Account	11,241 04
Matsqui Dyking District, Sinking Fund Account	5,362 10
Pitt Meadows Dyking District, Tract No. 1, Sinking Fund Account	1,547 46

III—Administration of justice (salaries)	181,788 54	161,289 67
IV—Legislation	114,486 86	71,500 83
V.—Public Institutions (maintenance)—		
Printing office	90,015 58	126,815 65
Hospital for Insane	120,605 69	131,329 73
Museum	5,224 47	6,523 72
Provincial Home	15,015 18	15,721 68
Bureau of Mines	4,201 46	4,421 03
Fisheries (hatcheries and administration)	21,728 09	17,508 86
	202,442 14	204,605 01
VI.—Hospital and Charities		
VII.—Administration of justice (other than salaries)	213,386 61	223,338 36
VIII.—Education	587,905 91	689,141 75
IX.—Transport	50,104 43	54,251 00
X.—Rent		
XI.—Revenue services	97,268 89	57,007 08
XII.—Public Works—		
Works and buildings	811,162 79	1,060,246 74
Government House, Victoria	22,104 83	18,348 76
Roads, streets, bridges and wharves	2,012,103 42	3,072,686 00
Surveys	588,463 06	473,267 06
	554,452 36	861,593 25
XIII.—Miscellaneous		
	\$6,616,935 51	\$8,392,273 38
Less amount of sinking funds as above, chargeable to investment account	163,942 34	169,720 43
	\$6,452,993 27	\$8,222,552 95
Less redemption of debentures as above, chargeable against loans	70,930 00	27,750 00
Net expenditure	\$6,382,063 27	\$8,194,802 95
Deposits on account of Intestate Estates (repaid)	147,853 11	153,400 77
Do. Suitsors' Fund (repaid)	80,701 30	135,201 18
Do. Tax Sales surplus (repaid)	3,111 80	1,851 63
Shuswap & Okanagan Ry. payments (Act, 1890)	50,258 90	82,158 24
Nakusp & Slocan Ry. payments (Act, 1894)	26,275 75	26,229 35

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LAST SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE

USUAL CEREMONIES AT OPENING YESTERDAY

Naval and Military Staff At- tended the Lieutenant- Governor

Legislative Press Gallery, January 11.

The opening of what is certain to be the last session of the present legislature, this afternoon, was marked by the customary ceremonies, democratic in spirit although with a touch of the form and glitter attending the same ceremony in the mother of parliaments. It was witnessed by hardly as large an audience as usual in the chamber, but outside there was a greater crowd of citizens assembled to watch the arrival of His Majesty's representative than for some years.

On the floor of the House sat the invited guests and the families and friends of the members. Of members themselves there were present the greater number. Prominent by his absence, however, was the member for Nanaimo, J. H. Hawthornthwaite, who

is away in England and who has never before since his election missed entering the House as soon as the King's deputy had retired. This naturally recalled to many minds his words at the closing of the last session, when he intimated that that might be his last appearance in the House. Whatever his intentions may be in that regard, he has not resigned at any rate, so it is yet possible that at a later stage of the session he will reappear in the legislative arena.

Among those present or who had received invitations were: Chief Justice and Mrs. Hunter, Chief Justice and Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. Justice Irving and Mrs. Irving, Mr. Justice Gallher, Mr. Justice Martin and Mrs. Martin, Mr. Justice Clement and Mrs. Clement, Mr. Justice Murphy and Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Justice Gregory, Hon. E. G. Prior and Mrs. Prior, Hon. Edgar Dewdney and Mrs. Dewdney, Hon. William

Templeman and Mrs. Templeman, Right Rev. Bishop Macdonald, Very Rev. the Dean of Columbia and Mrs. Doull, Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Scriven, Hon. J. S. Helmcken, first speaker of the old legislative assembly; Hon. Robert Beaven and Hon. Charles Semlin, former premiers of the province; Carl Loewenburg, German consul; Hon. Abraham Smith, U. S. consul, and Mrs. Smith; Japanese Consul Yada and Mrs. Yada, Vancouver; Mrs. Paterson, Mrs. R. McBride, Mrs. H. E. Young, Mrs. W. R. Ross, Mrs. Thomas Taylor, Mrs. Price Ellison, Mrs. A. E. McPhillips, Mrs. W. J. Bowser, Baron Rodowicz, Lady Crease and Miss Crease, Colonel and Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Duncan Ross, Mrs. W. E. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Lay, Capt. and Mrs. Leeder, Major and Mrs. Mutter, Mrs. A. W. Currie, Captain and Mrs. Combe, Mrs. Wadmore, Mrs. and Miss Fell, Captain and Mrs. Robertson, Dr. and Mrs. Loewen-

helm, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Bodwell, W. A. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Featherstonhaugh, Mr. and Mrs. L. Tait, Mr. and Mrs. Matson, Mr. and Mrs. Croft, Mrs. and Miss G. A. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Ker, Mr. and Mrs. Beasley, Mr. and Mrs. R. Marpole, Vancouver; Rev. A. J. Stanley Ard, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander MacMillan, Mrs. H. H. Wollison, George Hibbard, James Hughes, W. Jerome, Mr. and Mrs. O. Howard, Mrs. Rithet, Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Mansfield, Mrs. Monk, Sheriff and Mrs. Richards, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Campbell.

His Honor was accompanied by his personal aide-de-camp, Captain Brian H. T. Drake, and his private secretary, H. J. Muskett, and the following staff: Commander Hogg, R. N. Engineer-Commander Morgan, Lieut. Moore, Lieut. Hall, Lieut. Edwards, Engineer-Lieut. Bay,

Jackson and Staff-Sergt. Smythe, H. M. C. S. "Rainbow," Col. Wadmore, D. O. C., Lt.-Col. A. W. Currie, C. G. A., Capt. Foulkes, Lieut. Malcahy, Capt. Clarke, Capt. Wollison, Capt. Longstaffe, Lieut. Seife and Lieut. Smith.

The members of the staff formed a lane down the centre aisle of the chamber and between them the Lieutenant-governor walked to the dais, where he took his seat and read the speech from the throne, as published in yesterday's issue. After his withdrawal Mr. Speaker Eberts took the chair, Sergeant-at-arms Charles L. Cullin placed the mace on the table and the House was called to order.

The premier had a committee appointed to strike the standing committees for the session, the attorney-general introduced a bill respecting the estates of insane persons and, the House having thus declared its inherent right to enact legislation without

any mandate from the crown, it was decided to take up the consideration of the speech from the throne tomorrow.

The minister of finance laid the public accounts for the last fiscal year on the table and the provincial secretary tabled reports on education, provincial health, sanitary inspection and the hospital for the insane, which ended the business for the day.

The new sergeant-at-arms looked well in the sober and dignified garb of his office and acquitted himself well as bearer of the mace. In addition to this the fact that all the seating arrangements and ushering were without a hitch was due to his foresight and careful planning.

The public galleries were crowded. There was a large number in the ladies' gallery, which was not full, however. For the first time admission to this gallery was by ticket.

Editorial.

THE HOUSE OPENS.

The opening of the twelfth legislature for the third session yesterday lacked somewhat in its interest as a public attraction, due, no doubt, to the simultaneous civic election. Moreover, it is no longer the pomp and splendor of such functions which interests the public so much as the actual work of the session. The legislation outlined for this session is not extensive and only two or three measures will greatly concern the public.

161,286.67
71,500.87
128,815.65
131,329.73
6,523.72
15,721.68
4,421.03
17,508.86
304,605.01
223,339.36
689,141.75
54,251.00
57,007.68
1,060,245.74
18,348.76
3,072,696.90
473,267.06
861,693.25
85,292,273.38
169,720.43
89,229,552.95
27,750.00
88,194,802.95
153,400.77
153,201.18
1,851.63
62,158.24
26,229.25

CAMP SANITATION UNSATISFACTORY

NEW OFFICIAL MAKES HIS INITIAL REPORT

Dr. Davis is Able to Say, However, That the Conditions Are Being Improved

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 11.

For the first time in the history of the province the legislature was this afternoon presented with a report on the sanitary conditions prevailing throughout British Columbia. There is always a report on public health, but the complaints which have been received regarding particular cases, as well as the existence of numerous railway construction camps, made it plain during the past year that an inspector of sanitation would find abundance of work. Acting on the recommendation of the Provincial Board of Health, therefore, the Provincial Secretary had Dr. L. T. Davis appointed as provincial sanitary inspector.

The first report from Dr. Davis was presented to the House this afternoon by Hon. H. E. Young, and is as follows:

I have the honor to submit the first annual report on the provincial sanitary inspector's office, being for the six months ending 31st December, 1911.

In assuming my duties as provincial sanitary inspector, the first consideration was the organization of my office and preparation of rules and other matter relating to the sanitation of camps.

In addition to the regular routine work of this office, I have, under your direction, made four trips to the following places upon official duty:

1. Blubber Bay, Texada Island, investigating a case of smallpox.
2. Investigation of the buildings and sanitary conditions at the farm colony at Coquitlam.
3. Inspection of railroad construction camps in the vicinity of Savona, and investigating a reported outbreak of typhoid.
4. Inspection of mining, logging and other camps in the Crow's Nest, Kootenay, Boundary and Okanagan districts. During this latter trip the weather was so bad that it was not possible for me to extend my investigation to far-outlying camps.

Judging from my limited experience during the past few months, it appears that the sanitary conditions in railroad, logging, mining and other camps throughout the province are not upon the whole satisfactory. I have found a number of cases where proper attention has not been paid to ventila-

tion, disposal of garbage, etc., although in every case the person responsible for the camp has at once rectified the matter on my suggestion. In this connection I should like to state that in every instance I have met with nothing but kindness and courtesy from those responsible for the operation of the various camps.

The rules which have been made relative to the sanitation of camps have been printed and distributed among the camps throughout the province, and advertised in newspapers throughout the province. A form containing questions relative to the conditions existing in individual camps has also been distributed. Copies of both these papers are annexed hereto.

From the reports received from the outside camps, as well as my personal experience, I find that, with very few exceptions, the water supply is first-rate, the water being plentiful and good. In a number of what may be called permanent camps there have usually been erected a number of cottages which have been built and are occupied by the men themselves. These buildings are usually well built, complete, and fairly sanitary. Except in a few cases, the stables have been located with due regard to sanitary conditions.

The usual method of disposing of refuse and garbage is by burial, but in several instances the garbage is burnt, while in a number of cases hogs are kept and fed upon the refuse from the kitchen. The latrines are usually of the open-earth type, but in a number of instances I have found the arrangements in this connection far from sanitary. In some instances closets have been built over running water, but this practice has been stopped wherever I have heard of it.

The question of the ventilation of bunk-houses is a somewhat difficult one. The usual method is by leaving a space in the roof or gables, but during wet and stormy weather the ventilation of the smaller bunk-houses presents a serious problem. Clothes are frequently dried in the same room as that in which the men sleep, and unless the windows and door are kept open, which is impossible in bad weather, the atmosphere becomes very close.

This department proposes to enforce the rules and regulations referred to above in every respect. While it is not intended to bring about any necessary changes in such a manner that hardship will be entailed, yet the department believes that the health of the men is the first consideration. I propose to make it clearly understood that no wanton breach of the departmental rules and regulations will be permitted.

Contractors are, generally speaking, far too careless about the treatment of an injured man. The department does not believe that there is any reason why an injured man should be kept for hours without medical attendance. The larger contractors are perfectly able to pay for the services of physicians, and there seems to be considerable laxity in this regard. It is clearly impossible for one medical man to properly attend to the men in half a dozen camps situated several miles apart.

I have now under consideration the question of forming a regulation which

will make it compulsory for all camps to keep on hand a complete first-aid equipment, with simple directions for its use.

A considerable number of inquiries have reached me in connection with this newly formed department, and in addition to this there has been a considerable amount of general correspondence.

Now that this branch of the service has been organized it will, I hope, be possible in the future to maintain a better supervision over camps and to ameliorate the conditions under which a large and important body of workers live.

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COMING WEEK IN LEGISLATURE

DEBATE ON ADDRESS
MAY LAST SEVERAL DAYS

Committees Will Organize and
Be Ready for Consideration
of Bills at Once

The coming week in the Legislature is likely to be, as usual, a comparatively quiet one, members getting into the routine of the session by gradual degrees and slow.

The debate on the address will be resumed on Monday by the leader of the Liberal opposition, H. C. Brewster, who is expected to review the record of the government and point out where in it has failed in its duty to the people. Later in the week a speech may be looked for from the member for Ladysmith, Parker Williams, who will speak for the Socialists of the province. Mr. Williams is the raciest speaker in the House, is popular with his fellow-members, and is listened to with interest, by all no matter how much they may disagree with his views. The debate is likely to last for the greater part of the week.

By Wednesday it is probable that the standing committees will have been named, and these will immediately proceed to organization and the appointment of chairmen and secretaries. The committee on private bills and standing orders will have work waiting for it under the latter half of its designation, and early the following week it will begin the hearing of applicants for and objectors to private legislation. The Vancouver amendments, the debate on which will be of interest to all municipalities, are likely to be among the first matters taken up, as C. E. Tisdall introduced the city's bill yesterday afternoon. The railway committee will not have as much to do this session as last, so far as can be seen, but will have one bill at least ready for it next week.

The first government measure to be ready, as it might well be, is that respecting the revision of the statutes. This will, no doubt, be given its second reading during the week, and later on in committee any changes the commissioners, Charles Wilson, K.C., and A. P. Luxton, K.C., have made in the statutes as they stood before the revision will be explained to the House.

It is too early yet to say when the budget speech will be delivered or the estimates be brought down. It is understood that the estimates are well advanced, but are not likely to be down before the end of the month at the earliest.

AGRICULTURE NOT ALL IT OUGHT TO BE

PROVINCE STILL HAS
TO IMPORT LARGELY

Conservative Members Voice
the Complaint in the House
—Debate on Address

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 12.

The House got down to business this afternoon, without any fuss or feathers, and although the sitting lasted but little over an hour a start at least was made on the work of the session. There were only about half the members in attendance, many having gone home for the week-end, but the opening of the week will see a fairly complete muster.

The bulk of the time was taken up with the opening stage of the debate on the address, the speeches of the mover and seconder of a motion "that an humble address be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor in reply to the speech from the throne." The mover was H. H. Watson, second member for Vancouver, and the seconder was Alexander Lucas, who was elected to represent Yale when the premier decided to sit for his Victoria seat as senior member for the capital. Neither spoke for as long as members in discharge of that duty often do. Mr. Watson occupied just three-quarters of an hour and Mr. Lucas but a brief twelve minutes.

The tenor of their speeches was, of course, congratulation and compliment for the government in respect of all its acts and of the condition of provincial affairs generally. It is noteworthy, however, that both—the one a city man and the other from a rural constituency—were by no means satisfied with the position of the prime industry, agriculture. Mr. Watson pointed out that the province is still importing foodstuffs, which could be produced at home, to the extent of twelve million dollars yearly, while Mr. Lucas referred to what he considered were some of the reasons for the backwardness of the industry. More will

undoubtedly be heard on this live topic during the session.

H. H. Watson.

Mr. Watson voiced the feelings of members of all parties in expressing, at the opening of his speech, pleasure at seeing in the chair in renewed health Speaker Eberts. He dwelt on the loss the province had sustained in the death of the late king's printer, "that loyal and devoted servant of the crown, Lt.-Col. Richard Wolfenden, whose faithful services will long be remembered by this province and to whose relatives the deep sympathy of this House can be extended."

Mr. Watson waxed enthusiastic in dealing with what he described as the results of wise administration and stable government, without which he believed that affairs would have gone from bad to worse and that capital would have shunned the province. He went over the subjects mentioned in the speech from the throne and complimented the government on its policy in each particular. He repeated the threadbare old assertion that British Columbia had never got decent treatment at the hands of the Ottawa government, "but now, thank heaven," he ejaculated, "those dark days are over and British Columbia is now a part of Canada, and I think, too, that Mr. Borden will go down in history as a premier who keeps his promise."

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The second member for Vancouver expressed his gratification at the great increase in the revenue and declared that this justified the government in bringing down the very substantial programme mentioned in the speech. He applauded the proposal to establish a department of forestry to take care of the forest wealth of the province, and suggested that in the taking of precautions against forest fires use be made of the telephone and of wireless stations to report fires. To his mind the result of the visit of the premier and his colleagues to Ottawa last fall was reflected in the federal estimates lately tabled. Victoria was well looked after, and while it did not get three millions for harbor improvements, the appropriation of half a million was a substantial start for what promised to be an important work. He congratulated the premier and Victoria on the settlement of the Songhees reserve question, and in this connection said:

"I believe in generous and sympathetic treatment of the Indian, but I say, and I do not want to be considered as harsh in saying it, that the Indian might just as well make his mind up now that he has to step down and out. He can no more run with the white

man than the weak can run with the strong."

The capital, with the minister of lands, was also congratulated on the opening of Strathcona Park, which was predicted as attracting thousands of tourists here. The mover recommended the government to see that British Columbia gets "all that is coming to it" in the shape of more senators and members, and in a burst of civic patriotism he gave the House a quantity of figures tending to show the greatness of Vancouver.

Mr. Watson reminded the House and the government that foodstuffs to the value of \$14,000,000 annually were still being imported into the province, and he hoped this condition would not exist longer. He urged railway construction to open up and develop the agricultural and other resources of the province and claimed that present railway work was producing marvellous results.

Alexander Lucas.

Mr. Lucas joined in Mr. Watson's congratulations and regrets, and added to them congratulations to the mover of the address. He welcomed a spread of the imperialistic sentiment which he considered to have been an effect of the coronation of last year, and believed this would end in imperial federation. He could not conceive of Britain being at war with any nation and any of the Dominions remaining neutral. While granting growth and development generally Mr. Lucas insisted that agriculture did not show the advancement it should have done. This was due, he considered, to a lack of scientific methods in farming, to lack of financial facilities and to lack of co-operation in the markets the producers of the province had got. With these three supplied he was satisfied that this industry would become the foremost in the province.

Mr. Lucas pledged his support to any railway policy which would open up the interior of the country and develop mining and agricultural sections of the province.

Mr. Brewster moved the adjournment of the debate until Monday afternoon.

The premier moved and Mr. Brewster seconded the election of W. H. Hayward, member for Cowichan, as deputy speaker of the House for the session, and the motion was unanimously adopted after both gentlemen had referred in kindly manner to Mr. Hayward's dignified and courteous tenure of the chair during Mr. Speaker Ebert's illness last session.

The appointment of A. H. B. Macgowan, third member for Vancouver, as deputy chairman and chairman of ways and means, was also moved by the premier and leader of the opposition and agreed to.

The attorney-general introduced, by message, the bill respecting the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1911, by which the recent revision and consolidation of the statutes will be approved and declared to be law. Mr. Macgowan presided over the House in committee for the few moments necessary to put the message and bill through the formal stages.

At the opening of the sitting C. E. Tisdall (Vancouver) introduced a bill

amending the Vancouver Incorporation Act and J. A. Fraser (Cariboo) a bill to amend certain powers of the British Columbia and Alaska Railway Company.

Prayers were read this afternoon by Rev. W. Leslie Clay.

Visitors who had a seat on the floor of the House during the proceedings were T. C. Norris, M. P. P. for Lansdowne and leader of the Manitoba Liberals, and F. A. Walker, Fort Saskatchewan, Alta., M. P. P. for Victoria riding and government whip in the Alberta legislature.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME.

It is not because there is a paucity of matters requiring legislative attention that the speech from the throne promises so meagre a bill for the attention of the legislature during the present season. If the Speech is to be taken as an indication of the mind of the government, it is clever only in that it reveals what the administration is determined to evade rather than a purpose to attack vital problems with a determination to legislate in the interest of the country. It is obvious that the concern of the government is to have the session over that it may the more early appeal to the country for a further term of office.

The amendments to the Land Act will be awaited with interest, for the land laws of the province are among those most in need of revision. The present system, under which the choicest lands are disposed of to speculators and other than bona fide settlers, is a monstrous injustice to the settler as well as a hindrance to the progress of the province. It is to be remarked that the receipts from the sale of lands have materially decreased in comparison with previous years. Under the present system this is but the beginning of such sorrow. The receipts from land sales will continue to decrease, because the only desirable lands—those within reach of transportation facilities—have already been disposed of to the friends of the government. They are held at speculative prices, and these are beyond the reach of the class of settlers who are ordinarily available for this country. Unless new territories are opened up with transportation prospects the sale of lands must decrease in inverse ratio to its rapid advance during the several years of the criminal spoliation of the public domain. If it is for the rehabilitation of the sale of lands that new railways are to be projected, the public of British Columbia may well hesitate before setting their seal to such projects. There is nothing in the record of the government to give the people any assurance that the policy of graft and disposition of the public domain to those who have no interest in the province, other than to make fortunes out of its golden opportunities, will not be continued.

RAILWAY "POLICIES."

The McBride government has been kept in power by a succession of manoeuvres which—while appearing in the public interest—have proved only their

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competency to juggle with the resources of the province to the undoing of the people who own them. This was particularly the case when the franchise was given to the Canadian Northern Railway. The bargain with this enterprising and not over scrupulous corporation was made ostensibly to induce the Canadian Northern to come through to the coast. As a matter of fact the company announced years before this deal its intention of reaching tide-water on the Pacific seaboard. There was no need to employ either artifice or bribery to accomplish this. The Times has shown that the bargain with the Canadian Northern was wholly in the interests of the corporation and without regard to the welfare of the people of the province. Shrewd as were the bargains driven by this company in other provinces the one perpetrated in British Columbia is now conceded to have eclipsed them all in the ease and facility with which the company secured an unwarranted guarantee and other notable free gifts of the public domain. At the time this railway was projected the people wanted railways. They did not know where nor did they much care. They relied upon the government to secure for them the best possible terms and safeguards. The trust thus reposed was unquestionably betrayed. The government has not only alienated as many townships as the company may choose to select within the province, but it has guaranteed the company's stock and bonds with a cast iron agreement which will levy tribute from our children's children.

It is that they may do this again that the legislature is to be dissolved and a half-matured scheme—stout with promises and prospects of marvellous advantage to the country—will be made the basis of appeal for the confidence of the country. The details will, of course, be left to the government, and they are not to be trusted with such responsibility. The record of the Canadian Northern deals should forever make it impossible for the Mc-Bride administration to be entrusted with power to negotiate further agreements involving so much of the land of the people. With knowledge that the malodorous nature of these deals cannot much longer be hidden from the people, the administration is making ready for another coup in which it will harvest enough to satisfy the most rapacious of those immediately profiting from the deal. That is why we are so plausibly told that there appears no good reason why the legislature should not dissolve. Dissolution should be refused unless the government shows an unsuspectedly good cause for asking it.

**ABLE SPEECH BY
H. C. BREWSTER**

**CLOSE CRITICISM OF
GOVERNMENT POLICY**

Member for Alberni Notes
Omissions From Speech From
Throne—Premier Replies

Legislature Press Gallery, Jan. 15.

For just one hour this afternoon the leader of the Liberal opposition, H. C. Brewster, member for Alberni, poured telling broadsides of criticism into the government with such effect that when the premier rose to reply he was obviously annoyed by the attack which had been made upon the administration of public affairs by his government, and what he said had been intended to be a short speech lengthened out into one of an hour and a half duration.

Mr. Brewster spoke ably and well, making his points clearly and concisely, and touching pretty well on all the weak spots of the McBride record. He exposed its lack of a land policy, its disregard of the interests of the actual settler, the unfairness of some of its smaller sources of tax revenue, the use by the government of railway promises as election bait, the Songhees reserve settlement and other matters of moment. He was attentively listened to by the House throughout his speech, although it probably did not make the impression on the average Conservative member that it will when read by the hard-headed farmers and other taxpayers of the province.

Mr. Brewster congratulated the mover and seconder on their speeches and added his expressions of pleasure to theirs at the restoration to health of his honor the Speaker. Continuing, he said:

"I would wish to comment on that great event which had so far-reaching effect on the empire, the coronation of the King and Queen, and in common with all loyal Canadians I trust they may be spared to us for many years of useful work and service, not only to the people within the empire but to be a blessing to the world at large. In this connection I am pleased to see that the representatives sent from British Columbia, the premier and the attorney-general, have returned safe; that we can feel assured that the province represented by those gentlemen lost nothing in the manner of its representation with all the forms and ceremonies incident to such an occasion. It is to myself disappointing that I am not able to address the premier as Sir Richard, but possibly that will come at a later day.

"One matter which is of more serious nature which I regret did not find a place in the speech is the death of our old and esteemed friend, Colonel Wolfenden, for over half a century King's printer in this province. This, I was gratified to see, the mover of the address took an opportunity to note in a proper manner as regards that gentleman's long service to the province. He was a faithful old official, courteous to all, a man who treated all alike and who, owing to the ability he brought to bear on his department, was loved and esteemed by all in this House. To his friends the sympathy of this House will be extended, I am sure.

"As the Liberal opposition is represented on the floor of the legislature by only one member, I am not going to inflict any very lengthy speech on the House, seeing that I will have to speak frequently during the session, and I do not desire to render myself tedious. Among the great events of the year just past we have spoken of those of importance to the Great British empire, we know many of these are of importance to Canada, and one of these is the appointment of his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught as governor-general of Canada. It is very fitting that this House should present an address to him.

Extension of E. & N.

"A matter of no great note possibly to the empire, of some to the Dominion, of greater importance to the province and almost paramount importance to the district I have the honor to represent, has taken place during 1911. In Alberni we have been waiting these many years for railway communication and last year we saw the extension of the E. & N. out through the portions of Vancouver Island, hitherto not enjoying such facilities, and on to the terminal of Alberni, on the west coast of the island. This, as we know, is an extension of the C. P. R. system, and was subsidized by the Dominion government. We need other means of keeping up with the tremendous strides that the district is making, and I take this opportunity of warning the first minister and the minister of public works that heavy demands will be made on them for roads and other facilities to permit these people to keep up with the natural growth. One of these roads, I believe, has been brought to the attention of the government many times, and is that one which should run along Sproat lake and Central lake, over the mountains and by Kennedy lake to Ucluelet and Clayoquot, passing along Long Beach, which, I believe one day will be one of the greatest summer resorts in British Columbia. Another is a road connecting up the new Strathcona park with the west coast. I throw these out as suggestions to the first minister and minister of public works, and unless they meet these and other demands from our district they may look out for storms.

Revenue Tax.

"Coming to the speech, I cannot help but think it will go down in history as more notable for its omissions than for the subjects it has presented. One of the first subjects mentioned is that of finance. We find that the province is credited with having a great surplus; there is considerable blowing of horns about this fact. We find that the revenue tax contributed nearly a third of a million to the income of the province. The revenue tax has been attacked on the floor of this House not once but many times. It has been denounced as an unscientific tax, and as one not taxing the wealthy and the poor in proportion for the running of the machine, but as one of those arbitrary taxes for which there is no just reason, which takes the poor man and the wealthy alike by the throat and makes him disgorge \$3. This was pronounced against by at least one member of the Conservative party, a former member of the government (Mr. Carter Cotton), who is admitted by all parties to be a very able and astute financier; yet we find the government taking credit to itself for having obtained a large sum from this source.

"Another item is that of land sales and that brings us to the consideration of an important matter that should be in the speech, that of the land policy. But we find no land policy in the speech. Last year members were loud in their praise of the new minister who was, they said, to bring to bear upon his department a wonderful fund of knowledge and of mental weight, and who was to give to the province a land policy which would make for the benefit not only of the province but of the people at large. I look in vain for this

land policy in fact, if instead of that it is likely to be more than before. I think it is likely that the tenant-farmers in B. C. are likely to be in this case, and I am sure that in the place in the recommendations, astuteness, far and thoughtful will allow to be the one province land should be no such thing with all the evidence him and the to this day rise system he will take place in the able. The history old country is find in many lion, we find it and that it is ing to this country experience of premier for a find that instead of shaping a policy build itself in the jingle of the provincial ernment to w policy or offer It has no land thing in B. C. a very good policy were my hon. friend have an opportunity to the inside him and his suggestions of the some of the n ing for the lose their arment might floor of this provide these ap

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land policy in the speech. As a matter of fact, if press reports are correct, we find that instead of a land policy we are likely to drift into a worse condition than before. I notice that certain, I think titled, persons in the old country are likely to purchase large territories in B. C. with a view to establish the tenant-farmer and landlord system in this province. If that is the case, and I see it given a prominent place in the press, it surely is a great recommendation of the premier's astuteness, far-sightedness, and clear and thoughtful statesmanship that he will allow to be placed on this province, the one province of Canada where the land should be free, where there should be no such thing, this system; that with all the evidence of history before him and the cries of the people even to this day rising up against this very system he will permit such a thing to take place in B. C. is almost unbelievable. The history of landlordism in the old country is a sorry story indeed. We find in many cases it has led to rebellion, we find it is a cause of oppression and that it is out of date, not belonging to this country at all. But we have experience of our honorable friend the premier for a long time now and we find that instead of looking ahead and shaping a policy for the province to build itself into the premier province, the jingle of the dollar that falls into the provincial treasury blinds the government to what may result from its policy or often from its want of policy. It has no land policy; there is no such thing in B. C. as a land policy and for a very good reason. If a proper land policy were put on the statute books my hon. friend's government would not have an opportunity of peddling out to the inside ring, those who help elect him and his party, certain choice portions of the province. They fear that some of the men who are to-day shouting for the Conservative party might lose their ardor and that the government might lose some members on the floor of this House if they did not divide these spoils.

Liberal Policy Only One.

"Another reason is that when all is said and done there is no policy to debate except that which the Liberal party has proclaimed ever since party lines were laid down. Even the premier cannot think of any better policy than that of ours. It is true it does not fit in with his views and it is true it would not credit the Liberal party with anything good. That policy of the land for the people and people on the land was considered by the minister of lands and he had either to adopt it or leave it alone, and leaving it alone we are to-day in the position where the government has no land policy and is passing out the land in favors to those from whom they expect favors in return.

"An amazing thing happened last year. The government, if it makes an appeal, says that it is a stable government, that it brings to bear on the money markets of the world a reputation for maintaining a stable and solid condition of affairs, that the man who wishes to invest here or build up a business finds a government that does not change. What did we find last year? The lands act was discussed, the legislature was adjourned and yet we had no word, no indication that any vital changes were to be made. But overnight, as it were, there went forth an edict, an order-in-council, raising the price of government lands and placing in a very peculiar position those who had applied for lands but had not yet received them. What was the cause? Was it that the friends of the minister had secured all they needed of the public domain? Was it that all that was really good, the very choicest pickings, were taken and now the government raises the price and enhances the value of the holdings of their friends? Or what other reason was there for the change which had to be reconsidered later when the protests began to come in?

Order-in-Council Legislation.

It is a fact that as far as the followers of the government are concern-

ed it would be just the same if the government were to enact all important legislation by order-in-council, for there has not been, and I do not question there will not be, any strong objection to anything that emanates from the mind of the Napoleon of the Conservative party, who sits across the floor from me. It is a fact that such propositions are put through by order-in-council instead of after thorough discussion. It is true that practically all the House sits behind the government but there are a few of us who have the right to demand that all these things shall be put before us and a decent hearing given to all objections which may be raised.

"The second member for Vancouver (Mr. Watson) tells us that in ten years there will not be any free land. I wonder that he supports a government that handles the heritage of the people in such an extravagant way as the McEbride government does. But the next minute he turned around and said that the minister had any amount of land for the pre-emptor and purchaser. Perhaps he has, but let me assure the second member for Vancouver that these lands are not the choicest. The very choicest has long since passed into the hands of those who can do the best work politically and what is left to go to the genuine settler will not amount to a great deal. I do not mean that all the good land is taken up—British Columbia is a vast province and there is land not now available—but all that is readily to be got at now has been given away. That which is left for the settler to get will raise blisters and cause backache to those who undertake to cultivate it.

Speculator Steps Between.

"Right on top of this the second member for Vancouver mentioned the amount of agricultural products imported into this province. It was the only appearance of a groan that I heard from him when he mentioned that in this province, with such magnificent areas for development, the amount of agricultural products brought in from outside which we should be the producers of ourselves was fourteen million dollars annually. It is an amazing thing that a Conservative follower of the government would bring that fact to the notice of the people. The people will ask why that is so and the answer does not reflect credit on the premier or his government. Why is it so? What conditions are there in a province so admirably adapted in parts for settlement that makes it necessary for those sections to import such an immense quantity of products? There is one condition, and one which the Liberal party would eliminate, which is the cause of this, that by the action of my hon. friend's government he has allowed a condition of affairs where the speculator steps in between the actual settler and the land, demanding not only what he has paid for the land but his profit and interest on his money and profit before the settler can put a spade into the ground. Yet Mr. Watson sits behind the man who brought that condition about. I do not blame the speculator; he wants to make the greatest sum possible and he finds that in British Columbia he will be allowed to take hold of sufficient of the natural heritage of the people to make a bigger profit than elsewhere. He comes in and the government allows him to go on with the result that to-day we have to import \$14,000,000 worth of agricultural produce."

Silent as to Agriculture.

"In this connection there is one notable omission in the speech and that is that the backbone industry of agriculture, the industry without which we would become a weak nation indeed, is not even mentioned in the speech from the throne. Possibly the premier would not like to have too much agriculture going on because in the well-settled agricultural district the speculator does not thrive as in the comparatively unsettled country B. C. has been until the present.

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"The tax commission is referred to as an example of the government's solicitude for the people. The report of that commission is not before the House and I wait it with anxiety. I was not able to attend the meetings of the commission as I was far from the city at the time but naturally I believe that the commissioners have given the matter careful thought, gone over the incidence of taxation and that one of the recommendations we can surmise will be the abolition of the unrighteous and unjust revenue tax. That we should look for without question. Another reform we should look for is a reform in the land tax and we can confidently expect that the commission will recommend the total abolition of the assessment of improvements, especially on agricultural lands. I remember the first resolution I had the honor of moving in this House was one along those lines.

What is the condition we find? We have to import agricultural products and yet the moment a man went on land, cleared away the stumps and grubbed up the roots, put up a small building and put in a crop along came the provincial assessor and said: "You have done splendidly, my boy, and the province will just fine you by raising your assessment so much." I brought in a resolution asking that \$1,000, \$1,500 and then \$2,000 of this man's improvements be exempt from taxation. It cannot be too much to ask a government with the surplus it has to take from the back of the settler the burden it has laid on him and remove entirely the taxation on improvements.

Burden of Protection.

"I do not doubt that the commission has, however, overlooked one of the greatest burdens of taxation on the people, by which I mean the policy of the Conservative party to make those who bear the heaviest burdens and perform the biggest share of the world's work pay the largest portion of the taxation, the Conservative policy of protection, which is to-day the most grievous burden on this western country. This will always be the policy of the Conservative government. You might say you would tax each person according to wealth and prosperity but that would not suit the friends of the Tory party. They would say: "See here, we are men of means and this won't do; it will mean we will be paying the great burden of the taxes and the man working down there will be paying less than we." If I have one thousand dollars and another man has ten thousand he should pay ten times as much as I do. But that does not fit in with the premier's scheme because so many of his friends and supporters are of the bigger class he has to protect them. So the Hamilton idea of protection is invoked by the Tory party and that involves tariff taxes. They do not call it taxes but protection, and the fact that this costs a man fifty cents where ordinarily taxation would cost him only twenty-five cents does not seem to have worried the taxpayer, because it was not called a tax. Therefore I presume the commission will not report on this incidence of taxation which, as a matter of fact, is the greatest burden on the people. But there will be a time come when there will be a demand made by the people that a more equitable system of taxation be adopted."

Hon. A. E. McPhillips—"How about the people's decision on September 21st?"

Mr. Brewster—"That decision was due not to any question of tariff but to the blinding of the people by a sentiment created by the Tory party, not backed by any argument of statement of fact. The reference does not

sit well with the president of the council and he will find that it will not sit well with the people, the great majority of whom will see through the scheme. After all, what is the tax commission but an opportunity such as the university commission was to throw a disagreeable task off the shoulders of the government on to those of the commission.

Better Terms.

"The second member for Vancouver waxed more eloquent than usual over the pilgrimage to Ottawa. I am amazed at the number of members of the party who have been making pilgrimage to Ottawa. Of course I know they may have some doubts as to Mr. Borden's wisdom being sufficient, and they have gone from B. C. to give him the benefit of their superior knowledge and wisdom. Mr. Watson says the result of their pilgrimage was satisfactory. I wonder what he means by that. In the speech there is mention of some adjustments but he says there is a satisfactory arrangement. You remember in the last parliament a number of Conservatives had got the rooted conviction that we stood in the way of getting out the Orientals. Once Attorney-General Bowser had a Natal Act to spring at the approach of an election. If the pilgrimage to Ottawa was satisfactory, and the Natal Act is the cure-all, all I have to do is wait and it will be passed, and as there are no bad Grits at Ottawa we will have a country which we can easily keep free from Oriental immigration.

"There are vague recollections of pre-election talk of better terms, increased subsidy, the handing over of things it was said we could better manage. You heard these better terms on every platform. And now we are to have better terms, I suppose; I suppose we are to have the Natal Act; I suppose we are to have administration of fisheries; we will have no doubt administration of the lands in the Peace river and railway bills, and we will help the Tory government to spend the surplus which the Liberal government worked so laboriously to gather. The only thing said in the speech is that some papers will be produced, and that there is some arrangement about the administration of water rights. I cannot anticipate what the papers may say but while this will be of greater benefit to the province than while there is a division of administration and conflict of ownership when the order-in-council is laid before us, I fancy we will find that if there should be any monies over

and above the expenses of administration these will go back to Ottawa and not into the provincial treasury. So it does not seem that the pilgrimage amounted to such a very great deal after all.

"The order has gone forth that there is to be an election and all through the province the great army of the officials will be proclaiming not only the good of the McBride government but of the whole Conservative party. This will be proclaimed by everyone from the head of the machine down to the small cogs—the road foreman, game wardens and fire wardens—all will proclaim that at last Canada has come into its own, that the Dominion government is to rise from the mire and that the Provincial government will see that the province is getting what it should get because of the change of politics.

Rail

"All we in railway politics intend to do is to elect to another term. I know what it is. When it is over will discuss. Meanwhile, sure, that this is at the disposal of the interests to be obtained at an

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Railway Policy Bait.

"All we have in this speech is the railway policy bait which the premier intends to put out as just before last election to catch the voter and ensure another term of office. I cannot criticize that policy because I do not know what it is—nor does anyone else. When it is placed before the House I will discuss its merits or demerits. Meanwhile, of one thing we can be sure, that the government will again sell this province by placing its credit at the disposal of some corporate interests to obtain what might be obtained at any other time.

"In the matter of the Songhees reserve it seems to me the premier chose the psychological moment for the settlement of this question; just the minute he was ready it was settled. In 1908 Mr. Pedley found that in order to deal with the Indians it was necessary to have a clean slate in regard to the reversionary rights so that there would be no trouble. I believe correspondence passed allowing the Dominion to administer that reversionary right. The Dominion wanted an order-in-council but the government here would not pass one, though it did pass an order-in-council giving Victoria forty-three acres. At that time the land was of no particular value with the question unsettled but now with the value which the land acquires as the result of the settlement of the long-vexed question we find there was a string on the gold-brick and now it is gently pulled back. If the city of Victoria wants any part of the reserve it must pay for it. However, if there is any congratulation going the government is entitled to what there is in it.

We should look to other countries for examples, and see how they are solving their problems. To-day we find throughout the world there is a movement which will reach here eventually wherein he who has borne the toll and the burden demands that he shall have a share of the reward. In Great Britain we see that they are enacting more democratic legislation than ever before. In Germany the democracy is practically forcing the other classes into a corner, and if there is no drastic action against them they will take charge. Even away over in the east we find that old China, which has been sleeping these thousands of years, bound up in her old civilization, is shaking herself awake. After looking at the change in China, so long dead to all the interests of the modern world, I can even have hope that the Conservative party, themselves as dead politically as is China commercially, will waken up and realize it is here for some purpose.

"To sum up the speech, do we find any assistance for those who are willing to improve the land, any policy to assist the people as a whole, any policy for those who are trying to work out their salvation on a plot of land, any hope for those unjustly taxed? Do we find any hope of relief for the workman from competition with the Oriental? I have looked in vain for any of these. I have looked for something that would touch the whole people, enmesh them and cause them to say that the leader of this government was a man of broad statesmanship who was ringing measures for the benefit of the province at large. But I find nothing for the benefit of the majority. The sum of the whole system is the usual disappointing one, that the few shall have and that the masses shall work. The creed of the Tory party

seems to be summed up in the following lines:

The people don't make any fuss,
They seem to like the plan;
No doubt they think 'tis heaven's behest
That some should toil to keep the rest:
'Twas so since earth began.

So let them toil and let them sweat,
For 'tis their nature to,
And let us play our merry game
And laws and institutions frame
To suit the cunning few.

Leader of the Government.

Premier McBride, rising immediately after the leader of the opposition, remarked that considering the strength of the Conservative following in that House and the happenings of September 21 last the member for Alberni had indeed acquitted himself as a hero that afternoon. After complimenting Messrs. Watson and Lucas the premier returned to Mr. Brewster and stated that the government had listened to "the time-worn indictment" of a lack of land policy and of legislation in the interests of the settler. At the end of nine years the member for Alberni should have rather come in and congratulated the government on the success of its administration, especially in the settlement of the lands. British Columbia was not a province with the large prairie lands of Alberta, but had much to contend with, and offered many difficulties which a prairie province did not.

The premier, at this point, harked back to the exceedingly "time-worn" Conservative "reply" that in Dominion affairs there had been vast land speculation and he mentioned the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company. On the coast, he asserted, a complement to this would be found in the way in which the Dominion had farmed out the fisheries of British Columbia. Getting back to the land question, he declared that British Columbia had a land policy and one that prohibited unwise speculation or trading. The number of people who came in to settle had increased by fifty per cent. in the year, and as quickly as roads and railways were opened up there would be further progress of pre-emption. The government was proud of its dealing with the lands of the province, and its land laws had been generally followed. The carrying out of a policy which had led to the careful and steady opening up of the country, the provision of roads, the finding of markets and the construction of public schools was a creditable one. Considering the size of the province, its geographical characteristics and the heavy expense of development, the government had managed the settlement of the land in a way not only profitable to British Columbia but creditable to the Dominion.

Denies Speculation.

Dealing with what he considered a personal reference, that to the order-in-council raising the price of lands, the premier got comparatively warm and declared with emphasis that no individual or individuals, no corporations, no aggregation of persons whatever had had any recognition from the government in connection with any public business that was not strictly in accordance with law and right. The hardest terms in the dictionary would not be too hard to brand this. Liberal, Socialist or Conservatives, all had an equal chance. The premier went on to declare that "We do not know what it is to have an inside ring," which drew a broad smile to the faces of his supporters, and enunciated the principle of the party as "favors to none; equal rights to all."

The premier paid a graceful tribute to the late Colonel Wolfenden and his services to the province. On the subject of the tax commission he assured the House that good, sound, useful legislation would follow the presentation of the tax commission, which the House would see in a short time. Incidentally he expressed his belief that the farmers of British Columbia were not complaining of the amount of their taxation. Dealing with the familiar topic of better terms Mr. McBride said that one result of his former trips to Ottawa and London was the additional grant to the province of one million dollars. That grant the government of British Columbia had refused to accept as a final settlement and had protected its refusal by an appeal to the imperial authorities which was not in vain. The question was just as much alive to-day as ever and the government was trying to act consistently in the matter. In pressing upon the present government a settlement of these questions it was with the firm determination to leave nothing undone to obtain justice for the province. In

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the matter of the administration of the water rights in the railway belt the government had not been moved by material considerations of dollars and cents but by more important considerations. It was felt that the proper place for the administration of these water rights was British Columbia, but when this was urged on the late government it was refused and the then minister of the interior (Hon. Frank Oliver) introduced a bill regarding the administration of water rights at Ottawa. When Mr. Ross and himself had held a conference with Hon. Robert Rogers the question was settled in a few hours and a bill was in course of preparation for administration here.

Mr. McBride paid a few minutes' attention to the criticism that this province imports agricultural products to the extent of \$14,000,000 annually, and maintained that for the most part these were due to economic circumstances. The sum of \$6,000,000 he put down as due to the demands of newcomers to the province, whose wants could not be kept up with, and other imports he pointed out came in at a time when similar products were not grown locally. Continuing the premier took up the question of railways, in which connection he said:

Railway Policy.

"The member for Alberni spoke of our railway policy as he spoke of our policy before last election, as a bait. Liberal papers speak of anything the government does which is popular as a bait. I hope as long as I am in office I will be justified in presenting similar bait in the building of railways, settlement of lands and the taking up of homes by thousands of good, honest people in British Columbia. I am not any fonder of general elections than other people. This government has been in office for upwards of nine years, and in that time there have been three general elections. I have never attempted anything in the way of general policy unless I felt the people were behind me. If we find anything further necessary we will not hesitate to move, and if we are not deserving of support in it our fate is in the hands of the electorate. This party could leave the right hand of the speaker with the firm conviction that while in office we had endeavored to give the people honest and efficient administration. Bait! Does it look, when a general election brings us back here with nearly the entire House behind us, that we have to have bait? I think if we had an election to-morrow we would come back just as strong. We are not here to occupy office or enjoy the privilege of being ministers, not to keep up with the days but a little in advance of them. Any government that cannot see how essential it is in the public interests to keep with an active railway policy is not deserving of the support of the people. I want to say in language as clear as I can that in submitting the railway policy to the House in a few weeks it is because I am strong in my faith in the province and because, too, I know the Conservative party has courage sufficient to live up to the faith it professes. It must come down with a railway policy and do everything parliament can to implement these professions."

Songhees Reserve.

The premier, after references to the patriotic portions of the speech, and a statement that the government could now expect just and equitable treatment at Ottawa, went to say of the Songhees settlement: "The member for Alberni said the problem might have been settled long ago but we were waiting for an opportune time. For years different governments have been endeavoring to settle the question, but without success. It remained for this administration to bring about a final and ultimate ending to this long-standing question a few months ago. It is only fair to say in this regard that when it was necessary to ask the co-operation of the authorities at Ottawa that co-operation was forthcoming save and except in respect to a new reserve. There instead of meeting

us they said they would not close the matter unless we gave them a freehold interest, and they held us up and we gave them a freehold interest because a settlement was necessary. However, I say with fairness to the authorities at Ottawa, especially Sir Wilfrid himself, that the matter was settled up. The old reserve is the property of the province and we are endeavoring to deal with it creditably and profitably to the province. We have an investment of thousands of dollars there, but we expect to get it all back. But it has always been in mind that the general good of the public should be regarded, and it was this actuated the government.

"The member for Alberni speaks about forty-three acres of the reserve and says surely the first minister will see that Victoria gets this. I know what abuse I will get in any case, but it is one great virtue of the people of Victoria that they are fair-minded, progressive and energetic, and they recognize that the Victoria of five or six years ago is not the Victoria of today, that the little town which was then has grown into a busy social community of 60,000 or 70,000 people, with promises of railways and of coming into its own as a great port on the Pacific with a population of hundreds of thousands. It would be bad business to have in the centre of the city a park of forty-three acres. We have had to deal with this matter de novo, to commence and complete it on a different basis."

Mr. Brewster: "I had it in mind that part of this forty-three acres was waterfront."

Premier McBride: "I cannot recall that specifically. I know there was a recognition of certain rights the city had at that time, but we have a different city now from what we had then, and I say it would be bad business to have a park of this city in the centre of the city. If I am not dealing fairly by the city I will be answerable for the government when the time of settlement of the Songhees reserve comes about. I will say to the member for Alberni that when the official arrangement is arranged he will find that it meets with the almost unanimous approval of the citizens of Victoria."

Before the House rose for the day, with the debate to be resumed to-morrow by C. E. Tisdall, of Vancouver, a bill was introduced by message and advanced to the second to validate the election just held in the city of Van-

couver, the hitch arising out of errors made in the House in the bill amending the city's act last session, as a result there was no statutory authority to prepare a voters' list nor an assessment roll for the new portions of the city—Hastings townsite and district lot 901.

Rev. W. Leslie Clay read prayers to-day.

VANCOUVER GETS SPECIAL FAVORS

BILL BEING RUSHED TO VALIDATE ELECTION

Omission in Act Last Session
Was Fatal—Debate on
Address Continues

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 16.

Vancouver promises to figure to a considerable extent in the private legislation of the session, and has already got into the limelight with a rush bill to validate last Thursday's civic election, to give the royal assent to which the lieutenant-governor is to be brought down specially to-morrow afternoon.

The trouble has arisen out of omissions in last session's annual bill amending the Vancouver Incorporation Act. Incidental to the discussion on this urgent order of legislation which the favored city gets it was again shown how unwilling the attorney-general is to alter a word in a bill with which his name is connected, even though in this case he disclaims the authorship of the bill, and the words he was asked to strike out were only placed in the draft for an eventuality which has not arisen. One short speech constituted the day's contribution to the debate on the address, which will go on for the rest of the week in all likelihood. This was from one of the Terminal City's representatives.

C. E. Tisdall.

C. E. Tisdall (Vancouver), continuing the debate, voiced the customary congratulations on such an occasion. He included in his gratulatory remarks Victoria, apropos of the settlement of the Songhees question, and appealed to the government for an equally satisfactory closing up of the False Creek reserve sore, which was as acute in Vancouver as the Songhees reserve had been here. Another settlement which he acclaimed as an "exceedingly and essentially satisfactory one" was that under which the province was to administer the water rights in the railway belt, any surplus revenue to go to the Dominion treasury.

Mr. Tisdall added his regret to that of others that such a large proportion of farm products that should be grown here were being imported, but considered that this would be overcome before many years. He recalled that last session he had been able to congratulate the province on the success of its apples, and this year he was able to point to the success of British Columbia potatoes against the world at Madison Square Garden, New York, last November.

The Timber Bill.

The government was exceedingly wise, he considered, in bringing down a timber bill, which would contain provisions for the conserving of the forest resources of British Columbia and still further protecting the standing timber. He commended the expenditure of \$212,000 last year in fire-fighting and reminded the House that up to the present more timber was being burned than was cut.

An Oil Inquiry.

Another resource which should be inquired into, the fourth member for Vancouver said, was that of oil. It appeared to him that it would be a very good thing if the government would employ the best experts to be had to entirely prospect the province and see if there were any indications of oil, to the end that if there were it might be developed. To show what an extensive industry oil production is Mr. Tisdall gave the United States production of oil in 1910, which was 7,269,000,000 gallons, of which 1,163,000,000 gallons were exported.

The Hindu Problem.

Dealing with the Hindu problem, Mr. Tisdall commended the government for continued opposition to Oriental immigration, especially in view of the recent Hindu deputation to Ottawa. The experience of other parts of the empire with this class of immigration had not been satisfactory. In the early seventies it was found that sugar could be grown in Natal and large numbers of Hindus were imported to work in the plantations. In time these men brought in their wives and families, and to-day, from Cape Town to the Lambeal, there were hundreds of thousands of Hindus, engaged not only as coolies, but in trades and commerce. The small trades were entirely in their hands. There was a race which never assimilated with the Anglo-Saxon, and the government of British Columbia should, as in the past, keep a stiff upper lip and strenuously urge upon the federal government that these people should be rigorously excluded.

Vancouver's Requirements.

Mr. Tisdall sketched the great prosperity of the province and of Vancouver, and summarized some of the things that city required. Putting these two together it would seem that prosperity meant to Vancouver that the asylums are full, the jails are full, the orphanages are full and homes are needed for fallen women. In the latter connection Mr. Tisdall asked that the government give aid to the private individuals who have contributed towards the erection of such homes. The chief need of Vancouver he put down as railway communication with the interior via Hope Mountains and with the north, in order that the trade of British Columbia may be saved to the Terminal City.

Parker Williams Adjourns Debate.

Parker Williams (Newcastle) moved the adjournment of the debate until to-morrow.

Vancouver's Bill.

The House then went into committee on a bill to validate the election of Thursday last in Vancouver and the collection of taxes in Wards 7 and 8 of that city, L. W. Shattford (Simikameen) in the chair.

Attorney-General Explains.

Attorney-General Bowser again explained that owing to errors in the Vancouver charter amendments bill of last session—for which ex-Mayor Taylor blamed him—it had been impossible to prepare an assessment roll or voters' lists for Wards 7 and 8, added to the city during the year, legally. The errors had been discovered a couple of days after the House prorogued last session, and the people of Vancouver had then been promised a validating act for any assessment roll or voters' lists that might be prepared for the new wards. The lists and roll had been prepared and an election held in these wards. It was now necessary to validate the election of their aldermen—the mayor had a majority outside of these wards—and certain money by-laws which had not the necessary three-fifths majority without the vote in the new wards.

One clause enacted that if any committees had been appointed this year prior to the passing of the act they should be considered as dissolved by the passage of the act.

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Parker Williams Wants Light.
Parker Williams wanted to know what good this section was. The House had been told the day before that the bill was an urgent one, as the council could not be sworn in or act until it was given the royal assent. Now it appeared that the mayor and aldermen for the six old wards had been sworn in, but it was not likely that they would appoint committees until their colleagues from Wards 7 and 8 were able to be with them.

The attorney-general explained that the bill had been drawn before the election took place, and this section was inserted to provide for the eventuality of a candidate being elected by the majority in the old wards, being sworn in and appointing committee, but the aggregate vote of the eight wards electing his opponent. As it happened, the successful candidate's majority in the old wards was unassailable.

Mr. Williams could not see the force of this, nor could Mr. Brewster. They pointed out that the mayor, knowing this bill was before the House, would not appoint any committees till it was law. And as to the mayor's majority, it was known Thursday night, before the bill had been presented to the House, what it was. Mr. Williams suggested that the section had been intended to strike at the late mayor.

Mr. Bowser assured him that it was directed against no one, and he placed the authorship of the bill on the shoulders of the city solicitor of Vancouver.

"Politics seem to be entering into civic affairs in Vancouver and Victoria nowadays," said Mr. Williams. "You can't elect any one from lieutenant-governor to dog-catcher in either city without bringing in politics. A hide-bound Tory is now in the chair in both cities."

As the attorney-general did not seem inclined to strike out a section which was now useless, the two branches of the opposition dropped their criticism of it, and the measure was rushed through, to be given the royal assent to-morrow.

H. B. Thomson presented a petition from the Victoria Harbor Railway Co., praying for the passage of a bill extending the time within which it may commence operations.

Parker Williams intends to ask what the expenses of the premier were on his trip to attend the coronation, and also what those of the attorney-general were.

Mr. Williams put the following question to the minister of public works: "In what electoral districts was the Vancouver Island trunk road vote of 1911 expended? What amount was expended in each district respectively?"

Hon. Thomas Taylor replied: "Esquimalt, \$3,000.90."

Rev. T. E. Holling read prayers at the opening of the sitting this afternoon.

When C. E. Tisdall hoped that the government would solve the False Creek Indian reserve question in the same happy way that they had that of the Songhees reserve did he mean that it should play with the question until the Liberals showed them how to do it, then stealing the Liberal policy, and hurrahing for years afterwards as to how clever they were?

Does Mr. Tisdall think that the selling of the picked agricultural lands of the province at three dollars per acre to speculators, who demand from the prospective settler \$12 to \$20 per acre before he is allowed to cultivate such lands, the best way to encourage the production in B. C. of the farm produce which he professes to deplore has now to be imported from Alberta and Washington.

Will Mr. Tisdall kindly inform the people of Delta when it was that the municipality of Delta voted a sum of money towards the construction of a bridge across the Fraser river? No one in Delta seems to know about such a vote being made.

Mr. Tisdall might have enlightened the people of B. C. by telling them what proportion of the \$200,000 allegedly spent in fighting fires was really paid to Conservative organizers who, under the guise of fire wardens, devoted a large portion of their time to canvassing for the Conservative party.

Will Mr. Tisdall tell the province what became of that plank of the Conservative platform which provided for the reservation of coal areas, so that state mines might be opened? If the Conservative party has no further use for it, it might be suggested that it be donated to some charitable institution, and thus in a measure relieve the burden caused by the high price of coal.

Of course, Mr. Tisdall believes that another bill framed by "Bill" Bowser to prevent the entrance into B. C. of Asiatics who cannot read and write English is overdue.

Certainly it is a good time to bring on another election, and Mr. Tisdall knows that it pays the railway companies to see that the right men are elected.

Does Mr. Tisdall know that the McBride government has been in power for over eight years and that the people of Nelson, Rossland, Granby Forks and the whole of southern B. C. are still anxious, but unable, to trade with Vancouver? What is Mr. Tisdall going to do about it?

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PARKER WILLIAMS ON THE PREMIER

EMPTINESS OF CLAIMS OF SAVING PROVINCE

Subsidizing of the Party Press —Failure of the Primary School System

Legislative Press Gallery, January 17.

The lieutenant-governor came down this afternoon and gave the royal assent to a bill which will enable the city council of Vancouver to meet and transact business without fear of any legal consequences. Should any error be found in this bill, as there was after prorogation last session in the bill which this is designed to remedy, there will be time to correct it at the present session. Anyway, Vancouver civic bills seem made to be amended.

The debate on the address was continued this afternoon by the member for Newcastle, Parker Williams, who got in some hard raps at the government and the premier and exposed the weakness of their position on the land question, while he also drew attention to the lamentable state of primary education in British Columbia.

Several petitions for private legislation were introduced and referred to the committee on standing orders.

Parker Williams.

Parker Williams, resuming the debate on the address, said that as time went on he found himself more anxious to speak on the matters of general policy which came up under the head of this debate. He found a great deal to criticize in the McBride policy; more and more as the years advanced. His colleague the member for Nanaimo, was away but he was glad to inform the House that he would soon be back and, whatever the House might think, he was bound to say that the chamber would be a great deal the better for his presence in it. The honorable gentleman went on to say that as things were he could not analyze the speech from the standpoint of Socialism but he could from the standpoint of common sense, decency and present-day economy.

The making of a McBride speech from the throne irresistibly reminded one of the Israelitish making of bricks without straw, and in this effort the government acquitted itself well and deserved credit for the way in which it dealt with a speech which had nothing in itself. The first three clauses (Coronation, Duke of Connaught and Earl Grey) might be described as padding pure and simple, which had neither meaning nor reason. Paragraphs 5, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 15 (Songhees reserve, consolidation of statutes, Strathcona Park, Parliament Buildings extension, university land-clearing and university opening) merely stated that the government had carried out the instructions which the legislature had issued to it. Paragraphs 4, 6, 10 and 16 (prosperity of the province, tax commission, conference with Ottawa, and public accounts and estimates) told the house that certain reports would be submitted which by legislative enactment the government was compelled to submit. The government must, therefore, be given the credit of presuming on its majority and being to submit reports which it was bound to lay before the House.

This left but the three paragraphs dealing with the creation of a forestry department, the administration of the water rights in the railway belt, and the railway policy, as disclosing any programme or as a policy, so-called, of the government. He trusted the administration of the water rights in the railway belt would be a little better than it was outside the belt. As for the railway policy little was said. However, it seemed to be enough for the members from Vancouver. They did not know what it was but they were prepared to take the premier on trust and endorse the policy. If the Colonist was to be taken for gospel the premier had disclosed a great deal more about his railway policy to the convention of job-hunters than he had to the House.

The Old, Old Story.

Great credit was taken for the finances of the province, finances which would be no credit to a fourth-rate municipal politician. It was the old story of the province having been on the rocks and of the premier having nobly stepped in and saved it. He had heard this yarn now so often that he could start in the middle or at the end and work out the time-worn phrases about how the McBride government had rescued the province from bankruptcy. All this repetition of an incorrect statement indicated a lack of anything solid on which to appeal to the people. The facts as they stood on the record gave justification for no such language as was used. Mr. McBride and his government would have had to manifest a skill they had not yet manifested to effect any change in the province's finances since 1902.

Mr. Williams declared that as long as the financial Moses was going to be trotted out he was going to remind the House and the people that the difference in the financial condition of B. C. now as compared with 1902 was due to the increase in the timber and land values, and remind them, too, that there was a limitation to these resources. It was unblushingly said that the difference was due to something that Premier McBride had done, but this was only a fairy tale.

The tax commission, they had been told, was an evidence of the government's solicitude for the people, but there was no evidence that that commission would recommend the remission of the direct taxation which bore so heavily on the working classes. Incidentally it might be pointed out that the British practice in appointing royal commissions was to name members of the opposition as well as of the government, but it would be contrary to the McBride spoils system to recognize its opponents.

Mr. Williams referred to the way in which, he said, reports of what members opposite said were pruned before appearing in the Colonist. Usually the reports of the House proceedings in the press were all they should be but in the Colonist, where indiscreet remarks had been made which showed the true opinions of members but did not suit the government these did not appear. The hand-picked press was worked to the limit, and the record of the band of spoon-fed papers reaching across the province, headed by the Colonist, showed that they took every advantage of the Land Act and that a large portion of their revenue came from the publication of notices demanded by the Land Act and the advertising supplied by the government. The bulk of these papers did not maintain a reporter here for the session but took what was supplied them by the government's friends and in favor of the government.

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Colonist and Spoils System.

"As for the Colonist," continued Mr. Williams, "it puts on a sanctimonious and hypocritical pretence of aspiring to high ideals and pure journalism, and it is never tired of expressing that in as many words as it can. Its whole action is marked by lechery and graft of the worst kind, and a type of lechery that is a disgrace to B. C. journalism at the present time. From the public accounts we find that no less than \$5,747 was fed into the unscrupulous maw of this publication. But this was not all; this was the very innocent duty of publishing sundry advertising notices, but we find the Colonist figuring in respect of other matters. The year before last the Colonist practically cleaned up about the same amount, that being the only word to describe the process. In Victoria there is another paper—I do not make much difference between the Times and the Colonist as to party politics—and the same year the Times gets the magnificent sum of \$36,49. There is some other motive besides that of reaching the people by the publication of these advertisements, and I make no mistake in saying that the purpose to be served is to give the key-note to the party publications throughout the province. The Colonist does it well and is well paid for it, but it is paid from the public treasury instead of the party purse.

"One reason given for not publishing these advertisements in the evening paper is that the morning paper is the better one to put them in. The same firm that publishes the Colonist endeavored to build up an evening paper which received, during the brief few weeks before it went where unscrupulous publications of that sort belong to, out of the public treasury, \$8,842. This amount Mr. McBride drew from the public treasury and handed over in the endeavor to float a party publication. In one year \$14,000.00 went into the Colonist office. Is there a more rotten example of the spoils system than this very incident? If there was any occasion for the publication of \$8,842 worth of sundry advertising in this evening paper how did it stop when that paper stopped and went to where a paper of that class should go? It was a bald, bare-faced admission that the government dipped into the treasury for the benefit of its party friends. I draw no lines between the morals of the government and the morals of its friends that received such money."

Bush Fires.

Discussing bush fires Mr. Williams declared that there were more bush fires with the Bush Fires Act than without it. The act was an encouragement to set fires contrary to the law. The farmer having a bush to fire would prefer to fire it without a permit than with one, seeing that no permits were obtainable at the time of year when it could be done. The only way to burn a bush was to cut it down, leave it for a year and then set fire when it was dry, and sow grass which would prevent the second growth coming up. But men who knew nothing about setting fires were selected as fire wardens by the spoils committee, and these men gave permits only when it was impossible to set fire. The Bush Fires Act was so beautifully arranged, by the Conservatives—or the Russians, maybe—that if a man was charged with setting a fire he had to prove that he did not light it and if he failed to prove this, even though he had not lit it, the penalty fell on him. This was contrary to all principles of logic, but then logic and Conservative principles did not run together. The principle of asking a man to prove himself innocent originated in Spain, passed on to Russia and never advanced any further till it got to British Columbia.

Mr. Williams pointed out that the cost of living had increased 37 per cent. in ten years, practically the period of the so-called McBride prosperity in British Columbia. How had wages fared? These were ten per cent. lower than at the beginning of that period; the workers were that much

worse off to-day than when the McBride government came into office. A good nature and an intensely good memory for faces was all there was to the premier, Mr. Williams averred. Some one was credited with having said that no one could be as wise as Mr. McBride looked.

No Land for Settlers.

Taking up the question of the land the member for Newcastle remarked that the references made by the member for Alberni to this matter seemed to irritate the premier and some of the Vancouver men too. He admitted that the premier looked like a statesman but what he was trying to find out was whether he acted like one. The one outstanding fact of the treatment of the land question would show that the premier's statesmanship consisted in carving up the province for the benefit of his party friends. There were railways enough but where were the pre-emptors? Where was there land available for the pre-emptors if they were here? It was all very well to color maps red and mark them open for pre-emption but as a matter of fact where was the land open to pre-emption within reach of the railway? Take the Colonist, the Week and the Alberni Pioneer and they were full of land notices, showing that the speculator had plotted everything that was open. There was no shortage of men to go into the bush and make homes for themselves; the shortage was in the land. The land department had even sent men up to the north end of Vancouver Island to seek pre-emptors and the men had found no land where they had been directed to by the land department. This was the land policy of the McBride government. The Colonist endorsed this policy of giving the land to the speculators, and also the Week, a personal organ of Mr. McBride, brought into existence for the purpose of eulogising him and publishing his photograph at least once every four months. The Week did not suffer, either; it made about \$4,000 a year in government advertising. That paper recently published an article about some lands in the Naas Valley and spoke of the "little band of pioneers" which opened them up—three hired men—in a valley of which there had been photographs ten years before these "adventurous spirits" went in there.

Where in his ancestry did the premier get his love for the curse of Ireland, landlordism? He had carried the seed and planted the poisonous weed in the soil of British Columbia, and this planting of the seed of landlordism here was the one thing by which future generations would know that there had been such a man as Richard McBride.

At this point the speaker called the hon. gentleman to order for the unparliamentary use of member's names in referring to them.

Mr. Williams went on to say that while he was from a class which had been chased off their holdings, if he were not a Welshman he would be proud to be an Irishman if for nothing else than to fight landlordism, and yet it remained for the son of Irish parents to plant that accursed thing in this free soil. The premier told them there was no favoritism shown by the government, that Conservative, Socialist and Liberal were all treated alike. If this was so how came it that there were at least three publications of land

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notices in Conservative papers to every one in Liberal papers. Going on from this to deal with education Mr. Williams said:

Primary Education.

"In 1903, when Mr. McBride came to save B. C., there was on average actual daily attendance of 15,357 children in the public schools of the province, and in 1910 the daily attendance was 23,094, 70 per cent increase. During that period the revenue increased 400 per cent, the expenditure increased 300 per cent, but the amount spent on education only increased by 52 per cent, from \$400,000 to \$612,000. The expenditure on education has not kept pace with the school population, and this is most noticeable in the bush schools. I know a case where a boy who at twelve was ready to try for the High School when in the city was further away at fifteen after going to bush school, with its characteristic of continually changing teachers. What is true there is true of the system throughout the province. The rural school system is such that not one in forty ever tries for the High school, and of those who do few get there. And yet the rural school is really the foundation of the system of which the university is the apex. The whole system is a subject for radical change. The province which the premier rescued when on the verge of bankruptcy eight years ago was able to spend more on its elementary schools than it is to-day with a surplus. The statesmanship of the government is shown in the establishment of a university and the continuance of an inefficient and inadequate primary school system. The old government spent \$24 per child on education, but to-day, with everything for which the government has to pay increased in cost, this statesmanlike government of ours spends only \$21 per child, even in spite of the revenue of the old bankrupt

days having increased from a million and a half to ten millions."

Referring to the new chief inspector of mines, Thomas Graham, Mr. Williams stated that he had only recently taken his certificate as a mine manager, and thought that the inspector was too close to the mine operators instead of to the men. He went on to deal with the cost of government in this province, which he had figured out at \$23 per head, the next province being Manitoba, with a cost of \$10 per head. "What do we get for this \$23 per head?" asked Mr. Williams. "Absolutely nothing." In the last ten years, in this period of broad statesmanship, the cost of government has trebled while the population has but doubled. It is time this government at least endeavored to justify its existence. Its range of vision cannot get beyond to-day."

The member for Esquimalt moved the adjournment of the debate.

The only meaning the Colonist can attach to the word "aggressive" when applied to a public utterance is that it must be an attack on opposition. The complaint of the Times with reference to the speech of Premier McBride was that it was defensive and apologetic of the record of the government rather than aggressive in its attack upon the many and important problems facing the country. If the Colonist understands "aggressive" government to mean only a government which attacks the opposition we can understand a good many of its recent utterances which are otherwise inexplicable. The lofty scorn of the Broad street paper for Mr. Brewster and Parker Williams is quite in keeping with its arrogance on one hand and its nauseating toadyism on the other. However, Parker Williams proved that it is well paid for its work.

**FIRST DEBATE OF
SESSION CLOSES**

**LAST SPEECHES ON THE
ADDRESS TO GOVERNOR**

**Minister of Lands Defends the
Administration of That
Department**

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 18.

The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, which document is the speech in another tense and form, was concluded this afternoon, somewhat unexpectedly, and the House is now ready to proceed without further delay to the serious business of the session.

The feature of the day's sitting was a rather spirited defence of the administration of the lands department by the present minister in charge of it, Hon. W. R. Ross. The lack of a land policy by the government has been a frequent point of attack by the opposition, and as time goes on the force of the attack increases. So serious had it become at the present session that the responsible minister felt called upon to defend the manner in which the government which he joined not long ago had dealt with the greatest asset the province has, rich as it is in natural wealth.

Another feature is of interest only to the electors of Esquimalt district, who are woefully misrepresented in the present parliament. A member who was elected in opposition to the government now in power in this province presumed, as he has done for two sessions previously, to speak in the House as a supporter of the government, which he fulsomely eulogized, quite contrary to the wishes of the majority of the people who elected him. Nothing but superlatives would suit John Jardine in his references to a premier and a government which not so long ago were anathema to him. How he reconciles this with his own conscience is probably his own business; how he reconciles it with his duty to the electors of Esquimalt the people of that riding will have a chance to express an opinion on before long, according to all indications.

Jardine Fulsome Praise.

Mr. Jardine began with the usual congratulations to the various speakers who had preceded himself, in varying degrees of praise. He confessed that when he came to the first minister it was with the utmost deference that he approached the subject. However, he was able to enunciate the opinion that the speech the premier had delivered had been "one of the most brilliant efforts he had ever made, and one which exceeded the expectations of the gentlemen on the floor of this House." Continuing, the member for Esquimalt informed the House that the premier had great gifts and attainments which were not easily followed by any of his supporters, and that "he has the ability which few possess of putting the affairs of the country in such shape that any person who is desirous of following correctly the true trend of events in British Columbia must feel delighted indeed."

The only note in a lower key in this high-strung ode of praise was when he offered sympathy to the leader of the opposition—a position which, by-the-way, he was at one time very ambitious to fill—on the ground that he knew the disadvantages of the position. As for the member for Newcastle, the member for Esquimalt was

good enough to approve of "the high order" of his witticisms, but regretted that the hon. gentleman had not mollified his remarks about the premier and refrained from saying harsh things. In fact, Mr. Jardine objected to criticism of "those in authority under our King's majesty and over us"; although he was kind enough to grant to everyone the right to wish that their own particular views might prevail. No one could read the signs of the times, according to him, but they must go on until reforms were brought about without doing injustice to anyone. As long as he was a member of the Conservative party, he declared, he would give his adherence to moderate reforms, which would pave the way of the people of British Columbia to greater things.

Regarding educational matters, Mr. Jardine was satisfied, on the whole, with the conditions prevailing, but he admitted that the standard of the teaching profession would not suffer if some teachers from outside were brought in, and he recommended this as a feature of an immigration policy. He said he and the member for Newcastle did not see eye to eye on the matter of the university, and he proceeded to show that they did not by misunderstanding what that gentleman had said. Mr. Williams had pointed out that the university rested in the last analysis on the primary school, but Mr. Jardine professed to believe that what was meant was that the endowment of the university was not sufficient. On this view he expressed his certainty that the minister of education would see to it that some means were devised whereby children of the rural communities would get an opportunity to attend the university if they wished, and that if the endowment was not enough the House would make it

large enough so that no child would have anything put in the way of its getting a higher education if it showed ability.

Mr. Jardine objected to Mr. Williams' statement that wages on the railway construction work were lower than they were ten years ago, and to prove this gave the figures reported as being paid on C. N. R. construction, without any comparative figures. He gave the figures paid by Grant, Smith & Co., as given in the House by the minister of railways in answer to a question, and said those of Moore and Pethick were practically the same.

"What constitutes a day in the Esquimalt district?" was Mr. Williams' very pertinent question.

"I have not got that, but I know that in my own district they are working the nine-hour day," replied Mr. Jardine.

Mr. Williams wanted to know if the rate of \$2.50 for laborers was for a nine-hour or a ten-hour day.

The member for Esquimalt replied that it was \$2.50 for a nine-hour day. The men were working the same number of hours, he was given to understand, as on government work. Getting on another track from this he said:

"I never like to see an old opponent mentioned in the way the Colonist was yesterday, and I also thought it was only right I should go into this matter. The member for Newcastle thought it right to go into what the Colonist received, but he was careful to omit any reference to what the Times received from Ottawa."

Mr. Williams—We have nothing to do here with what Ottawa does in that regard.

Mr. Jardine—Take the condition of affairs there, and the member for Newcastle will admit we often take a lead from those higher in authority, though it would be unwise for us to look to them for good in the distribution of office. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will give you the amounts from the year 1895 to 1901. (Evidently Mr. Jardine was slipping a cog in his dates just here; to judge from his further remarks), I got this list prepared for me. In the year ending June 30, 1905, the Colonist got not a sou; the Times received \$1,485.15. In the year ending June 30, 1906, the Col-

onist not a cent. For the nine months ending March, 1907, the Colonist and the Times received \$335.50 for the year ending March 31, 1908, the Colonist received \$335.50, the Times received \$7,123.05. Now, sir, an opportunity to state the relative merits of the Colonist in the matter of advertising. I thought it should be done as the Colonist did not mean to do this thing and I thought it was a question.

Dealing with the thought of interest Mr. Jardine said

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onist not a cent, the Times \$1,695.00. For the nine months ending the 31st March, 1907, the Colonist received \$6.25 and the Times received \$1,186.90. In the year ending March 1, 1908, the Colonist got nothing and the Times received \$355.60, for the year ending March 31, 1909, the Colonist not a cent, the Times— they are increasing now: there must be something in sight—\$1,920. The total the Colonist received during all these years was \$6.25 and the Times received \$7,123.05. Now, sir, that would give you an opportunity to judge as to the relative merits of the two governments in the matter of disposing of patronage. I thought it only right this should be done as the member for Newcastle did not mean to mislead and probably did not think it worth while to go into this thing and take up this side of the question.

Dealing with matters which he thought of interest to his own district, Mr. Jardine said that he had support-

ed the government railway policy two years ago, and from that time there had been a steady growth of confidence in his district that transcended anything in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. The railway was practically built from the boundary of the city to Sooke Lake, and from men not identified with the government nor with the contractors he was able to say that the grade was of the highest class, the filling in of the best description and the curvatures all any railway expert might expect. As a result of the construction of this line, he expected to see along the west coast the greatest development in the history of British Columbia. Two-thirds of the navigable waters of the harbor of Victoria were in the district of Esquimalt, and there was buoyancy, hope and expectation in his riding.

The hon. gentleman ended up with the rather trite prophecy that "we were on the eve of great things, and this part of the province was coming into its own."

Skeena's Demands.

William Manson (Skeena) followed and expressed gratification at the general prosperity which he found abounding to-day. Whatever diffidence the opposition might have in admitting that any good thing could be done by a government at the head of which was the Hon. Richard McBride, he believed that all must agree that, thanks to railway development, there was a considerable amount of real prosperity brought about. The land policy was one regarding which much criticism was heard, but it was forgotten that large areas of land had been reserved for the settler in the Naas valley, the Kitsumkalum valley, Graham Island and Porcher Island. The difficulties of administration of the land department were many but the minister should make better provision for dealing with the complex questions existing in the Skeena district as between settlers and holders of coal prospecting and mining permits.

Lack of transportation was another thing which hampered settlement in the outlying districts. This was being removed to some extent by the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific, but still there was urgent need for roads, trails, bridges, etc. It seemed impossible to impress on the public works department the great needs of the north country, which required much more than the settled districts of the south. The government might, too, well afford to furnish facilities for clearing land, furnishing powder, or, perhaps, taking a leading part in the work. With the amount of money available the government could well devote some of its surplus in that way.

Mr. Manson asked that in the interests of the administration of justice assizes be held in Prince Rupert and a jail established there. He hoped that better terms should shortly be granted to the province and enable generous appropriations to be made for the needs of the Skeena district.

Progress in Comox.

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Michael Manson (Comox) spoke at length on the paragraph of the speech from the throne which dealt with proposed forestry legislation, and stated that this matter was of far-reaching importance to his constituency. One-third of all the timber in the province was found in Comox constituency and any measure dealing with the timber wealth of British Columbia was of paramount importance to it. Within the last year 350,000,000 feet of timber had been cut there. Mr. Manson said he had read the report of the timber and forestry commission carefully and in the main its recommendations appealed to him. Legislation along the lines suggested would materially improve conditions, but he trusted the government would not follow the recommendation to abolish hand-loggers' licenses. When the commission sat it had not heard any of the hand-loggers and had not been placed in possession of all the facts in regard to their position. These men were among the finest pioneers of the province and the reason given for abolishing their licenses—that some of them had taken logs belonging to timber-owners—was a weak one.

The member for Comox detailed the growth of prosperity in his riding, as in the completion of the Fowel river pulp mills, which would shortly be turning out 100 tons of pulp daily, and the great extension of the operations of the Canadian Collieries Company's mines. He promised support to the government's railway policy and hoped

that in the government's plans provision would be made for railway extension to the north end of the island, including branches to Campbell river, Hardy bay and other points. He demanded a vigorous policy of development of Vancouver Island.

A Minister's Defence.

Hon. W. R. Ross (Fernie), as the minister responsible for the administration of the Lands Act, said he could assure the leader of the opposition, the member for Newcastle and the province that not only had the government a land policy but a land policy which had so worked out as to conserve the lands of the province for the people of the province. It might be that it had not worked out so rapidly as could have been desired, but it was making speedy and satisfactory progress. The stagnant part of the province had been the railway belt but he hoped that with the changes of government at Ottawa there would be a change in this regard.

The minister went briefly into the history of the department's dealing with the land question—the abolition of the third-class qualification, the placing of a reserve on certain lands, surveys, the setting apart of lands for the university, for pre-emption and for sale, and the last increase in price. He took issue with the Times criticism of land administration, saying that in the case of the Peace river lands the Times saw a movement of the speculator to all that remained desirable of good land, had blamed the government and said that it could not stop the speculators because they were its friends. The Canadian Pacific and the Hudson's Bay Company, both of which were large holders of lands in Alberta, advanced the price of these lands, and the government of British Columbia, being abreast of the times in all things, advanced the price of its lands from \$2.50 and \$5 an acre to \$5 and \$10 an acre. No one had ever condemned the government for this, even the men who had to pay the higher price, but the Times denounced the government for doing what it had formerly blamed it for failing to do. It was nothing new to see the editor of the Times changing colors in reference to matters being transacted by the government, but it was a matter of considerable interest when the leader of his Majesty's solidified and loyal opposition took the same position. The gratifying thing about it, however, was that the party bore the same relation to the people of the province that the numerical strength of that party in the House bore to the total membership of the House.

Westminster district had the reserve cancelled on it to permit of a lease being given, and on the same day the reserve was lifted from a lot in Kootenay district to allow of a sale being made. The reserve was also lifted as to seventy acres in New Westminster.

"I am not in a position to say that these reserves are being made to hold the land for certain persons, but I do say that when Mr. Ross says that these are established for the pre-emptor he is putting up a magnificent bluff. The fact of the matter is that these reserves are put on and when lands are wanted for sale the reserve is being cancelled to allow of the sale being made. That should be plain enough from the facts that are to be found in the official Gazette.

win to other persons and that the lands were issued to the person named in the letters of assignment. I do not say positively, but I believe that a system still exists, if not identical in that way. There is no real obstacle in the way of any person collecting powers of attorney from irresponsible individuals and acquiring immense tracts of land in that way. This is proven conclusively by what was done in the case of the land adjoining Fort Fraser.

"Mr. Ross next says that another new departure was made in the case of the lands surveyed by the government setting aside one-third for the university, one-third for the pre-emptor and one-third for purchase under the provisions of the land act. That is no fair deal to the pre-emptor. In actual working out, assuming that the one-third was actually taken by the pre-emptor which is not the case—the pre-emptor is put in the position of having but one-third of the land in any particular territory to occupy, making it impossible for him to have the social amenities of life and near neighbors, while at the same time he is compelled to improve the other two-thirds for the benefit of someone else, because the cultivation of part of an area means an adding of improvement value to the balance.

"Then the minister of lands says that in 1909 and 1910 further large areas were withdrawn from sale or lease and more comprehensive surveys undertaken, and he goes on further and says that in 1911 a further development of the land policy of the government took form in the withdrawal from sale or lease of the vacant lands of the crown in the districts of New Westminster, Cariboo, Lillooet and the Kamloops division of the Yale district, practically one-third of the area of the entire province, he says. Now we believe that the government is manipulating these lands for the benefit of its friends, and to show just what merit there is in this claim that the government has withdrawn these lands from sale or lease I might refer to the C. Gazette for November 16 and November 20 last. In the Gazette of November 16 is a notice cancelling the reserve which had been put on by order appearing in the Gazette of May 16, 1910, which opens up a large number of lots in Range 5, Coast district, which had been reserved from sale or lease May, 1910.

"In the same issue of the Gazette the westshore of the east side of Vancouver Island is opened up for sale, with a light reservation. On the same date a large number of lots in Cariboo district which had been reserved from sale or lease are thrown open to purchase. The same with a large number of lots in Lillooet, certain lots in Range 5, Coast district, lots in Ranges 4 and 5, Coast district, and certain lots in Cariboo. In the Gazette of November 20, one hundred and sixteen sections (74,246 acres) which had been reserved from sale or lease were thrown open to purchase in Cariboo and Lillooet. On the same date the Gazette contained notices of the throwing open to purchase of a number of lots in Ranges 4 and 5 which had been reserved from sale or lease in the first place, and in 1910 had been absolutely reserved. Thirty lots in Range 5, on the Morrice river, were thrown open at the same time. On January 1, last week, a lot in New

"The minister stated that the decision to increase the price of lands created consternation among the friends of the leader of the opposition and the premier said that the majority of the men who were purchasing lands are Liberals. That is simply guff. It implies—if there was any truth in it, which there is not—that the government does inquire into the political faith of the men who are applying to purchase crown lands. Mr. Ross in his speech says that the only gratifying thing about the situation is that the relation which the Liberal party bears numerically to the people of this province is the same as the position of the parties in the House, which permits of all the members of the party to speak at the same time without violating the rules of the House. And yet the premier says that the majority of men who are purchasing lands are Liberals. The question of who is buying lands has absolutely nothing to do with the question of the policy which allows them to be sold.

"The truth is that the speculator is following the surveyor, sometimes represented on the survey parties, and is in a position to pick and choose and is picking and choosing the very best lands of the province and holding them for a vast increase in price. And this prevents the settlement of these lands and so forces the people of this province to send millions of dollars out of the country to pay for agricultural products which could and ought to be produced in the province. That there was an increase in the number of pre-emptors was only to be expected, even under the most adverse circumstances, but the acreage being brought under cultivation by the pre-emptors bears a very unsatisfactory ratio compared with the acreage which is being alienated to others than actual settlers.

"Mr. Ross tells us further that the land policy contemplates that the system of government surveys shall be carried out during the coming summer, and that the usual assignments of such surveyed lands will be made for pre-emption, for university purposes and for the purpose of sale by public auction. I do not know what he means by the usual portion for sale by public auction, because he stated previously that the assignment was one-third for pre-emption, one-third for the university and one-third for the purchaser. You never can have the lands of the province filled with settlers under these conditions.

"Since reading Mr. Ross' speech I have gone through the Gazette from November 16 to date. The minister stated that all the lands in the districts he mentioned were under reserve for the pre-emptor. If all the lands in the districts he named are under reserve why was it necessary by notice in the Gazette to put a reserve on fourteen lots in Cariboo, on three lots in Lillooet, on four in Range 5, on two in Range 4, on one in Kootenay and on one in New Westminster district, all within the past few weeks? The facts are that while vast areas are under reserve the government can, and has, within the last few weeks, thrown large areas of these preserved lands open for sale to the speculator. Mr. Ross as commissioner, says one thing and does another."

A WELCOME TO OUR ROYAL GOVERNOR

MEMBERS VOTE LOYAL ADDRESS TO THE DUKE

Premier and Leader of the Opposition Voice the Feeling of the Province

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 19.

By a standing vote the legislature of British Columbia this afternoon adopted an address of welcome to H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, governor-general of Canada, and H. R. H. the Duchess of Connaught. The resolution that an address be presented was moved by the premier of British Columbia and was seconded by H. C. Brewster, leader of the opposition. Both gentlemen spoke in the highest terms of the new governor-general, and the premier assured the House and the country that their Royal Highnesses would pay an early visit to the province.

Premier McBride, in moving the adoption of the address, said:

"Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the legislative assembly of British Columbia, it is my very pleasing duty this afternoon to offer a motion to the House which covers an address of welcome from this parliament to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who has arrived recently and taken over the high office of governor-general of the Dominion of Canada. The other afternoon, when I was privileged to address the House, I advised hon. gentlemen that when in Ottawa some weeks ago His Royal Highness was good enough to arrange so that my colleagues and I might have a few moments of his time. When the appointment came about he showed a keen interest in this far western section of the Dominion, and as I have already informed the House, he has given us his assurance that just as soon as his own arrangements allow he will pay a visit to these parts.

"I need not emphasize the very great satisfaction that has been enjoyed by Canadians because of the circumstances of the appointment of one of the royal house to the position of governor-general. Apart altogether from the fact that the Duke of Connaught has won for himself a name and reputation imperial-wide as an excellent man and a very brilliant soldier—there was general appreciation of the fact that when one so near in relationship to His Majesty the King was assigned to this very high and important office it was another tangible evidence to the Empire at large of the great and

far-reaching importance which Canada has attained in these days as an integral portion of the British Empire.

"It is now history, Mr. Speaker, that during his lifetime the great King, Edward VII., expressed the wish that arrangements might come about in time whereby it would be permitted to the people of Canada that they might have as his representative in the federal capital his brother, the Duke of Connaught. Notwithstanding his untimely death and the fact, too, that there were many and varied responsibilities at once placed upon the shoulders of our King, George V., there was never a moment, as far as we can ascertain, any idea at all of departing from the wish of our late King as to the movements of the Duke of Connaught, and we find that on the completion of the term of office of Earl Grey press dispatches at once made the announcement that the Duke of Connaught would be the next governor-general and would leave for Canada as soon as arrangements were completed.

"His Royal Highness the Governor-General is no stranger to Canada, for away back in 1870 he was assigned military duties which caused him to reside in the province of Quebec, at Montreal, for a considerable time. Those still alive and who were of mature years when he was taking part in the defences of the country are still loud in their praise and vivid in their recollection of his short stay in Canada. He was always known for his very unassuming and manly bearing, and apart from the princely dignity, it was his privilege to bear, he was looked on as an all-round man and a good soldier.

"When I had the privilege of speaking with him in Ottawa he recalled that twenty-one years ago, on his way home from India, where he had been serving in command of the imperial forces, he arranged to make the journey overland from the Pacific to the Atlantic by the Canadian Pacific transcontinental route. This brought him to Victoria and Vancouver and over the C. P. R. and he recalled vividly, as he conferred with us the other day, how he had enjoyed every moment of the time. He said that while the trip then was a hurried one, it had made on him an impression of the size and importance of Canada that would always last.

"I am quite satisfied, sir, that in the welcome which the people of British Columbia will gladly offer the Governor-General and the Duchess of Connaught when they come to our shores next summer, there will be that hearty and spontaneous burst of enthusiasm which has always marked the official welcome to this section of Canada of the representative of his Majesty the King. There is nothing to my mind—and I can claim a considerable acquaintance with the people of British Columbia—that seems to bring out the loyalty and patriotism of the Canadians resident here as does such an occasion to show the representative of his Majesty heart-felt appreciation of living under the Union Jack and enjoying the liberty for which it stands.

(Concluded on page 20.)

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Mr. Ross announced to the House that the surveys were going ahead with all possible expedition, and that there were already 900,000 acres of land now open to pre-emption, enough to furnish homes for six thousand families. With this lead over actual requirements the government thought there would be always plenty of land available for the pre-emptor. Maps of this surveyed land had been prepared and were being sent out to persons who asked for information as to available land daily. The development of the last few months would be nothing to what it would be when the projected lines of railway communication were in operation. Another result of the government's land policy was the setting aside of 700,000 acres for the university endowment and 300,000 acres for sale by auction. This brought to view another feature of the government policy, and that was that no more lands were to be sold by private sale but only by public auction. As to whether the policy was made at the expense of the pre-emptor he would leave the House to decide, when it heard that two-thirds of the lands of the province were closed by reserve against the man who would either buy or lease, while large areas were open to the pre-emptor. It was alleged that all the desirable lands in the north were alienated. Such was not the case. Naturally the lands nearest to transportation facilities and to other settlers were taken up first, but there was abundance of land further back. Surveys along the Thompson would provide land for the settler ahead of the settler. In the Peace river country all the land was available to the pre-emptor. It would probably surprise the critics of the government to know that all the land in the districts of New Westminster, Lillooet, Cariboo and the Kamloops division of Yale was absolutely withdrawn from sale and was available to the pre-emptor.

This land policy had of necessity been made to conform to the changes in the Lands Act under which many thousands of applications had been made and many conflicts had arisen, but in all that time there had never been entertained in the mind of any man the possibility of a land scandal, nor had there been a case where people had not received honest treatment at the hands of the officials charged with the administration of the law.

This closed the debate and the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne was carried unanimously and it was decided that it should be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-governor by such members of the House as were members of the executive council.

Standing Committees.

The premier announced the standing committees for the session as follows: Private Bills and Standing Orders.—Messrs. McKay, Miller, Manson (Dewdney), Shatford, Cawley, McGuire, Brewster, Hawthornthwaite, Williams.

Mining.—Messrs. Manson (Comox), Huster, Braden, Fraser (Cariboo), McDonald, Williams.

Railways.—Messrs. Parsons, Caven, Callanan, Fraser, Lucas, Thomson, Jackson, Tisdall, Wright, Jardine, Hawthornthwaite.

Public Accounts.—Messrs. Gifford, Schofield, Wright, Williams, Davey.

Municipal.—Messrs. Watson, Davey, Manson (Skeena), Schofield, Cawley, Mackenzie, Hunter, Brewster, Hawthornthwaite.

Agriculture.—Messrs. Cawley, Jackson, Lucas, Callanan, Jardine.

Printing.—Messrs. Tisdall, Behnen, Braden, Mackenzie.

H. B. Thomson introduced a petition from the city praying for the passage of a bill enacting certain amendments to the Municipal Clauses Act and validating certain by-laws.

Rev. Dr. Campbell read prayers today.

OLIVER EXPOSES A WEAK DEFENCE

REPLIES TO MINISTER AS TO LAND POLICY

How the Government Puts on Reserves and Removes Them When It is Convenient

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 19.

An interested listener to the speech of the minister of lands in the House Thursday afternoon was John Oliver, and to a Times representative to-day Mr. Oliver expressed his opinion of the attempted defence made by the minister of the land policy of the McBride government.

"I notice first of all that Mr. Ross told the House that the government has a land policy that is making for the conservation of the lands of the province," said the former member for the Delta. "It would be very interesting to know what construction Mr. Ross puts upon the word conservation. The facts are that the government has been selling practically all the lands that there has been any demand for. The public accounts for last year shows that the revenue from land sales was \$2,431,231. These sales were principally in the districts opened up by the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the demand for them was, of course, caused by that very work. In the Lillooet district the sales amounted to \$165,000, in Cariboo to \$675,000, in Prince Rupert to \$517,000, and in Hazelton to \$444,000.

"Mr. Ross then makes the statement that in the railway belt is to be found the most stagnant part of the province. That is absolutely untrue. Settlement there has not been as rapid as could be desired, owing to the fact that nearly all the land fit for settlement is heavily timbered, and that by far the larger portion of the timbered land was covered by timber leases issued by the Conservative government of the Dominion prior to 1896, and thus has not been, and is not now, available for settlement. He says that in 1908 the government undertook an extensive system of surveys of vacant land and to correct abuses which had obtained in the past created reserves against sale or lease in the areas set aside for survey. I say that the abuses which existed prior to 1908 have been continued, and in a more aggravated form, down to the present moment.

"One of these abuses as shown in the investigation into the disposal of land at Kitimat, was that a man applying to purchase crown lands simply signed a letter assigning his interest

in to other persons and in lands were issued to them in the letters of assignment. I do not say positively, but I think the system still exists, if not in that way. There is a clause in the way of any person exercising powers of attorney from a single individual and access to tracts of land in the province is proven conclusively by what has been done in the case of the late Fort Fraser.

"Mr. Ross next says that the departure was made in the lands surveyed by the government, setting aside one-third for the endowment and one-third for pre-emption under the land act. That is not the pre-emptor. In fact, assuming that the one-third actually taken by the pre-emptor which is not the case—it is put in the position of one-third of the land in a territory to occupy, making it possible for him to have the title for life and near the end of the same time he is to improve the other two-thirds benefit of someone else, cultivation of part of it and the adding of improvement to the balance.

"Then the minister of lands in 1909 and 1910 further were withdrawn from sale even more comprehensively than he goes on to say that in 1911 a further amendment of the land policy was made which took form in the sale or lease of the vacant crown in the districts of Cariboo, Cariboo, Lillooet, Kamloops division of the entire province, I believe that the government is manipulating these lands for the benefit of its friends, and to the detriment of the public. There is in this government has withdrawn from sale or lease I think B. C. Gazette for November 30 last. In November 16 is a notice of a reserve which had been appearing in the Gazette in 1910, which opens up a reserve in Range 5, Coast district, had been reserved from May, 1910.

"In the same issue of the Gazette the reserve on the east side of the land is opened up for a light reservation. On a large number of lots in the district which had been reserved or lease are thrown open. The same with a large reserve in Lillooet, certain lots in Coast district, and Cariboo. In the Gazette one hundred and sixty acres which had been reserved or lease were thrown open in Cariboo and same date the Gazette notices of the throwing of a number of lots in which had been reserved or lease in the first place been absolutely reserved in Range 5, on the M. thrown open at the January 1, last week.

...in to other persons and that the lands were issued to the person named in the letters of assignment. I do not say positively, but I believe that the system still exists, if not identical in that way. There is no real obstacle in the way of any person collecting powers of attorney from irresponsible individuals and acquiring immense tracts of land in that way. This is proven conclusively by what was done in the case of the land adjoining Fort Fraser.

Mr. Ross next says that another new departure was made in the case of the lands surveyed by the government setting aside one-third for the university endowment and one-third for purchase or pre-emption under the provisions of the land act. That is no fair deal to the pre-emptor. In actual working out, assuming that the one-third was actually taken by the pre-emptor—which is not the case—the pre-emptor is put in the position of having but one-third of the land in any particular territory to occupy, making it impossible for him to have the social amenities of life and near neighbors, while at the same time he is compelled to improve the other two-thirds for the benefit of someone else, because the cultivation of part of an area means the adding of improvement value to the balance.

Then the minister of lands says that in 1909 and 1910 further large areas were withdrawn from sale or lease and even more comprehensive surveys undertaken, and he goes on further and says that in 1911 a further development of the land policy of the government took form in the withdrawal from sale or lease of the vacant lands of the crown in the districts of New Westminster, Cariboo, Lillooet and the Kamloops division of the Yale district, practically one-third of the area of the entire province, he says. Now we believe that the government is manipulating these lands for the benefit of its friends, and to show just what merit there is in this claim that the government has withdrawn these lands from sale or lease I might refer to the B. C. Gazette for November 16 and November 20 last. In the Gazette of November 16 is a notice cancelling the reserve which had been put on by order appearing in the Gazette of May 10, 1910, which opens up a large number of lots in Range 5, Coast district, which had been reserved from sale or lease in May, 1910.

In the same issue of the Gazette the shoreline of the east side of Vancouver land is opened up for sale, with a right reservation. On the same date a large number of lots in Cariboo district which had been reserved from sale or lease are thrown open to purchase. The same with a large number of lots in Lillooet, certain lots in Range 5, Coast district, lots in Ranges 4 and 5, Coast district, and certain lots in Cariboo. In the Gazette of November 20 one hundred and sixteen sections (74,240 acres) which had been reserved from sale or lease were thrown open to purchase in Cariboo and Lillooet. On the same date the Gazette contained notices of the throwing open to purchase of a number of lots in Ranges 4 and 5 which had been reserved from sale or lease in the first place, and in 1910 had been absolutely reserved. Thirty lots in Range 5, on the Morrice river, were thrown open at the same time. On January 2, last week, a lot in New

Westminster district had the reserve cancelled on it to permit of a lease being given, and on the same day the reserve was lifted from a lot in Kootenay district to allow of a sale being made. The reserve was also lifted as to seventy acres in New Westminster.

"I am not in a position to say that these reserves are being made to hold the land for certain persons, but I do say that when Mr. Ross says that these are established for the pre-emptor he is putting up a magnificent bluff. The fact of the matter is that these reserves are put on and when lands are wanted for sale the reserve is being cancelled to allow of the sale being made. That should be plain enough from the facts that are to be found in the official Gazette.

"The minister stated that the decision to increase the price of lands created consternation among the friends of the leader of the opposition and the premier said that the majority of the men who were purchasing lands are Liberals. That is simply guff. It implies—if there was any truth in it, which there is not—that the government does inquire into the political faith of the men who are applying to purchase crown lands. Mr. Ross in his speech says that the only gratifying thing about the situation is that the relation which the Liberal party bears numerically to the people of this province is the same as the position of the parties in the House, which permits of all the members of the party to speak at the same time without violating the rules of the House. And yet the premier says that the majority of men who are purchasing lands are Liberals. The question of who is buying lands has absolutely nothing to do with the question of the policy which allows them to be sold.

"The truth is that the speculator is following the surveyor, sometimes represented on the survey parties, and is in a position to pick and choose and is picking and choosing the very best lands of the province and holding them for a vast increase in price. And this prevents the settlement of these lands and so forces the people of this province to send millions of dollars out of the country to pay for agricultural products which could and ought to be produced in the province. That there was an increase in the number of pre-emptors was only to be expected, even under the most adverse circumstances, but the acreage being brought under cultivation by the pre-emptor bears a very unsatisfactory ratio compared with the acreage which is being alienated to others than actual settlers.

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"Since reading Mr. Ross' speech I have gone through the Gazette from November 16 to date. The minister stated that all the lands in the districts he mentioned were under reserve for the pre-emptor. If all the lands in the districts he named are under reserve why was it necessary by notice in the Gazette to put a reserve on fourteen lots in Cariboo, on three lots in Lillooet, on four in Range 5, on two in Range 3, on one in Kootenay and on one in New Westminster district, all within the past few weeks? The facts are that while vast areas are under reserve the government can, and has, within the last few weeks, thrown large areas of these preserved lands open for sale to the speculator. Mr. Ross as commissioner, says one thing and does another."

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Premier McBride, in moving the adoption of the address, said:

"Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the legislative assembly of British Columbia, it is my very pleasing duty this afternoon to offer a motion to the House which covers an address of welcome from this parliament to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who has arrived recently and taken over the high office of governor-general of the Dominion of Canada. The other afternoon, when I was privileged to address the House, I advised hon. gentlemen that when in Ottawa some weeks ago His Royal Highness was good enough to arrange so that my colleagues and I might have a few moments of his time. When the appointment came about he showed a keen interest in this far western section of the Dominion, and as I have already informed the House, he has given us his assurance that just as soon as his own arrangements allow he will pay a visit to these parts.

"I need not emphasize the very great satisfaction that has been enjoyed by Canadians because of the circumstances of the appointment of one of the royal house to the position of governor-general. Apart altogether from the fact that the Duke of Connaught has won for himself a name and reputation imperial-wide as an excellent man and a very brilliant soldier—there was general appreciation of the fact that when one so near in relationship to his Majesty the King was assigned to this very high and important office it was another tangible evidence to the Empire at large of the great and

far-reaching importance which Canada has attained in these days as an integral portion of the British Empire.

"It is now history, Mr. Speaker, that during his lifetime the great King, Edward VII., expressed the wish that arrangements might come about in time whereby it would be permitted to the people of Canada that they might have as his representative in the federal capital his brother, the Duke of Connaught. Notwithstanding his untimely death and the fact, too, that there were many and varied responsibilities at once placed upon the shoulders of our King, George V., there was never a moment, as far as we can ascertain, any idea at all of departing from the wish of our late King as to the movements of the Duke of Connaught, and we find that on the completion of the term of office of Earl Grey press dispatches at once made the announcement that the Duke of Connaught would be the next governor-general and would leave for Canada as soon as arrangements were completed.

"His Royal Highness the Governor-General is no stranger to Canada, for away back in 1870 he was assigned military duties which caused him to reside in the province of Quebec, at Montreal, for a considerable time. Those still alive and who were of mature years when he was taking part in the defences of the country are still loud in their praise and vivid in their recollection of his short stay in Canada. He was always known for his very unassuming and manly bearing, and apart from the princely dignity, it was his privilege to bear, he was looked on as an all-round man and a good soldier.

"When I had the privilege of speaking with him in Ottawa he recalled that twenty-one years ago, on his way home from India, where he had been serving in command of the imperial forces, he arranged to make the journey overland from the Pacific to the Atlantic by the Canadian Pacific transcontinental route. This brought him to Victoria and Vancouver and over the C. P. R., and he recalled vividly, as he conferred with us the other day, how he had enjoyed every moment of the time. He said that while the trip then was a hurried one, it had made on him an impression of the size and importance of Canada that would always last.

"I am quite satisfied, sir, that in the welcome which the people of British Columbia will gladly offer the Governor-General and the Duchess of Connaught when they come to our shores next summer, there will be that hearty and spontaneous burst of enthusiasm which has always marked the official welcome to this section of Canada of the representative of his Majesty the King. There is nothing to my mind—and I can claim a considerable acquaintance with the people of British Columbia—that seems to bring out the loyalty and patriotism of the Canadians resident here as does such an occasion to show the representative of his Majesty heart-felt appreciation of living under the Union Jack and enjoying the liberty for which it stands.

(Concluded on page 20.)

"We in British Columbia can claim a special interest in His Royal highness since the name of our beloved province was assigned to us by that grand queen, his mother. I have been handed a letter from our late queen to the colonial secretary, dated July 24, 1858, which, as it is short, I will read to the House. It is as follows:

"The Queen has received Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton's letter. If the name of New Caledonia is objected to as being already borne by any colony or island claimed by France—there is a footnote to the letter that objections were being made in France to the name of New Caledonia for the proposed new colony—it may be better to give the new colony to be established between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific some other name. New Hanover, New Cornwall and New Georgia appear from the maps to be names of several divisions of the colony. The only name given to the whole territory in any map her Majesty has consulted is Columbia, but as there is already a Columbia in South America, and as the citizens of the United States call their country Columbia, at least in poetry, British Columbia might be, in the Queen's opinion, the best name."

"I have much pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in moving that a loyal address be presented to His Royal Highness."

The leader of the opposition, in seconding the motion, said:

"Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the honorable the premier for conferring upon myself such an honor as seconding the resolution he has so eloquently presented to the House this afternoon. In common with every member on the floor of this House, and in common with the people of Canada from the Pacific to the Atlantic, I have felt for many years that in reality Canada was to become the principal star in that galaxy of nations which makes up the British Empire, and it is with great satisfaction that we find that this view has been taken also by the royal house in the Motherland, because we have at this time given us a governor-general, an uncle of the present King and a son of the great Queen who so long ruled over us. Not only because of his high standing, not only because of the recognition bestowed upon Canada, but because of the worth of this great man sent to us as our governor-general, I think Canada should indeed feel proud."

"There is little to add to the words of the prime minister, but I feel sure that this House will rise and vote the presentation of this address in a proper, loyal and very hearty manner."

The motion was then put and carried unanimously, the members rising in their places as an additional mark of honor. The address is in the following terms:

To Field Marshal His Royal Highness Prince Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, Earl of Sussex (in the peerage of the United Kingdom), Prince of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Duke of Saxony, Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, K.G., K.T., K.P., P.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.L., G.C.M.G., G.C.L.E., G.C.V.O., personal A.D.C. to His Majesty the King, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada:

May it Please Your Royal Highness,—We, the Speaker and members of the legislative assembly of the province of British Columbia, in parliament assembled, loyally present to your Royal Highness and to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, our heartfelt congratulations upon your safe arrival in the Dominion of Canada.

The honor conferred upon the Dominion of Canada by the presence of a near relative of his Majesty the King affords us a deeper gratification than can be expressed in words, and is highly significant of his Majesty's desire to emphasize the unity of the Empire.

We trust that your administration of public affairs will be as pleasurable to your Royal Highness as it will be beneficial to the people of this great Dominion; and should your Royal Highness, with your illustrious consort, favor the province of British Columbia with a visit, a warm and loyal welcome will be extended to you.

FORCES REVISION THROUGH HOUSE

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES MADE IN STATUTES

The Revisors Went Beyond Their Ordinary Functions, With Bowser's Permission

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 19.

A typical piece of Bowser legislation was before the House to-day in the bill to validate the revision of the statutes of the province which has just been completed. The legislature is to be asked to pass the work done hitherto, without time to consider the effect of any changes made in the law. Ordinarily one would expect in a case like this that the House would be furnished with a draft copy of the revision—even if there were not a change made by it in a word of the draft—and that on the passage of the bill covering this the final printing would be done and the statutes issued to the public.

But the Napoleon of the government evidently has decided that the revision is to be adopted just as it stands, and strong in his knowledge of his own power he took the unprecedented course of having the printing and binding of the statutes done before the House met and, of course, before a bill to validate the revision had been presented. An edition of three thousand of the bulky three-volume revision has left the government presses and the attorney-general intends to force the bill through the House in a hurry, have it given the royal assent and give the province next week a revision of the statute law of British Columbia which the House has to take on faith.

The serious consideration in the present case is that on the attorney-general's own statement to the legislature to-day the revisors went far beyond the duties of revisors and consolidators and, with his permission, arrogated to themselves the functions of the legislature. Several changes have been made which alter the law—perhaps not in any essential feature—but the members are not being given any adequate opportunity to investigate whether the alterations are as innocent as the attorney-general would have them believe. By his own confession to the House, Mr. Bowser is no more acquainted with them than the rest of the members are, but he is apparently ready to take a long chance on these being innocuous.

The opposition members insisted in vain on the commonsense principle that before the House makes the revision the law, and before officers of the House are called upon to certify to the original roll of the statutes as revised, there should be a checking of the alterations made. One of the colleagues of the attorney-general, himself a lawyer of high repute, is not so sure that the procedure being adopted is the best or safest, and he advises caution in dealing with legislative changes made by the commissioners, changes of which he learned for the first time in the House this afternoon.

The attorney second reading there was no force as to the revisions of generally tenion and the revision here not been so a pillation of. Another att which was simple. In tempt at r commissione was not so force ever s Chief Justice not only th also the Er sidered wer clamation o revision of so large a been enact considered vision and work was e K. C. Van C. Victoria statutes ha first revisio tained 630. two volume while the volumes an

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The attorney-general, in moving the second reading of the bill, said that there was no fixed rule in this province as to the length of time between revisions of the statutes, but it was generally ten years, as in the Dominion and the other provinces. The first revision here had been in 1871 and had not been so much a revision as a compilation of the laws then in force. Another attempt was made in 1877, which was consolidation, pure and simple. In 1888 a more effective attempt at revision was made, when commissioners were appointed. This was not so great a work as in 1897, when the revision which has been in force ever since was made by the late Chief Justice Davie. He got together not only the provincial statutes but also the English acts which he considered were in force under the proclamation of Sir James Douglas. The revision of 1897, being out of print and so large a body of statutes having been enacted since, the government considered it necessary to have a revision and under the act of 1910 this work was entrusted to Charles Wilson, K. C., Vancouver, and A. P. Luxton, K. C., Victoria. As showing how the statutes have grown in size since the first revision, the revision of 1871 contained 630 pages, that of 1897 was in two volumes and contained 2,280 pages, while the new revision was in three volumes and contained 3,197 pages.

The commissioners had revised and consolidated the statutes down to December 31, 1911, and it was the intention to have the bill now before the House given the royal assent next week, when the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1911, would become the law of the province, and any amendments made at the present session would be to the revised statutes and not to the individual acts. It had at first been expected that the work would be ready for the House last ses-

son but it proved to be so voluminous that the commissioners had thought it better to have it stand over. The volumes had been printed and handsomely bound in an edition of three thousand, or nine thousand volumes in all, and the typographical work reflected credit on the King's Printer and his staff, as did the revision on the commissioners.

Mr. Bowser said it had been the aim of the commissioners to harmonize one act with another and introduce a unity of language and terms while retaining the sense and intent of the law. In some places the revisors had departed from the beaten path of the revisor and entered on the duty of legislation, but this was with his consent. When they found it was impossible to harmonize statutes without changing the wording of the acts this had been done, but he had a complete list of these changes and in committee he would give these to the members. There was nothing amounting to any drastic change in the law. The attorney-general confessed that he himself was not familiar with what had been done but so far as he had been able to judge the revision was well done. Such acts as the Administration act and the Infants' act, for instance now brought within the compass of one act the legislation that formerly was spread through several. In the Municipal Clauses act the commissioners had arranged its clauses better than ever before and the general public would find less trouble in finding any sections desired. This act in 1871 was contained in a page and a half, it spread over 47 pages in the 1888 revision and to-day it covered 188 pages.

In addition to the three volumes issued the commissioners were at work on a fourth, which would contain the English considered as in force here, statutes of a semi-public nature such as the Canadian Northern Pacific incorporation act, the acts ratifying the agreements with the C. N. P. and the Kettle River Valley railways, the act embodying the agreement with the G. T. P. respecting the Prince Rupert townsite, the Vancouver incorporation act, old acts applicable to New Westminster and Victoria, and a list of all private acts considered to be still in force. The House would, the attorney-general thought in conclusion, appreciate the time, skill and ability devoted to the work by the commissioners, and the result would add to the reputation of these two gentlemen.

H. C. Brewster remarked that there was no question as to the absolute necessity for a revision and consolidation of the statutes. But when it was decided two years ago to have a revision he thought that a different procedure would be adopted; that at the session of 1911 the House would have had a draft of the revision, and that a committee of judges might have gone through it and certified its accuracy. He did not wish to be considered as thinking the commissioners were not right in all they had done, but with such a tremendous body of matter as they had to go through it would be no wonder if some errors crept in. In harmonizing acts it would be an easy matter for the real object of the legislature to be overlooked, or the opinion of the two revisors might not coincide exactly with the ideas of the legislators. The procedure adopted was peculiar and amounted to the legislature handing over its work to these two gentlemen. It appeared to him that they might as well abandon the entire session and put the whole work of legislation in the hands of Messrs. Wilson and Luxton.

Hon. A. E. McPhillips admitted that the consideration of the revision presented a huge task for the House and he trusted that the commissioners had not transcended the powers given them. It would have been impossible to have the work checked by judges, however, as the act of 1910 enacted that no judge should be a commissioner. The president of the council stated that the first he had heard of the commissioners trespassing on the legislative functions in their work was from the attorney-general's statement. If there was anything in the nature of an organic change it would be far-reaching in its effect and the House would have to proceed with care in making this revision the statute law of the province. But he saw no difficulty in accomplishing the work in the way the attorney-general suggested though he did not know whether it could be done in the time his colleague mentioned. If in going over the revision with greater haste than they should, owing to the urgency of the case, they made any mistake or any had been made by the revisors it could be repealed or corrected before the end of the session.

Mr. Brewster—"Provided, of course, that it is discovered before the House prorogues?"

Mr. McPhillips—"Certainly."

Mr. Brewster—"But if we make an error or pass an error that is not discovered before the House rises that will be the law of the province until we can meet again to amend the law and correct the error?"

Mr. McPhillips—"That is so."

The leader of the opposition, who had asked his questions with the consent which the president of the council is always ready courteously to give, was stopped by the speaker when he put another query. This was to the effect that the job being too big for any two men would it not be wise to have a check on their work. The speaker thought that the minister would not care to answer that.

Mr. Brewster pointed out that he had received the consent of the president of the council to ask him some questions, and the last was one he desired to have that gentleman's opinion on as being a member of the profession which had to do more than any other people with the statutes. However, his honor disallowed the question.

Parker Williams objected to legalizing unknown documents, as this revision appeared to be. Even the attorney-general had had to confess that he was not familiar with the changes made although he admitted that some of these changes amounted to actual legislative alteration of the statutes. If the attorney-general's proposal was carried out the House would vote for something the members could not make any pretence of mastering.

Mr. Bowser made no attempt to answer the objections raised, even by his colleague, and the second reading carried. The bill will be taken up in committee probably on Tuesday, though it may come up on Monday. So far as known now Mr. Brewster's resolution on the navy is to come up for discussion on Monday.

Questions.

Mr. Brewster will on Monday ask the Minister of Lands:

1. Have any person or persons or body corporate made application to the government to acquire any portion of the lands known as the Songhees Indian reserve in the city of Victoria?
2. If so, what persons or bodies corporate have made such application?
3. How much land has been applied for in each case?
4. For what purpose was these lands required?
5. Will the Canadian Northern Pacific Company be entitled to obtain a free grant of any of these lands under the provisions of paragraph (d) of clause 12 of the schedule to chap. 2, 1910?

Mr. Williams will on Monday ask the Minister of Finance:

1. What sum has been paid the Colonist Printing and Publishing Company for advertising during each year from July 1st, 1901, to March 31st, 1911?
2. What sums has been paid the said corporation during the same period for all other services?

3. What sum was paid the Colonist Printing and Publishing Company for advertising in the Post during the year 1910?

Mr. Williams asked the Minister of Finance the following questions:

1. What was the total cost of the Hon. the Premier's visit to the Coronation?
2. What was the total cost of the Hon. the Attorney-general's visit to the Coronation?

The Minister of Finance replied as follows: 1. \$11,000. 2. \$3,500.

AMENDMENTS IN THE NEW STATUTES

GOVERNMENT PROPOSE SEVERAL THIS SESSION

Attorney-General Also Has Not Made Up His Mind as to Allowing Some Changes.

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 23.

The attorney-general seems to have about come to the decision himself that the revision of the statutes—despite the legal ability of the commissioners who had charge of the work—is not a subject for a snap legislative sanction in its present form. It is quite likely that the validating bill will go through according to programme, but the House and the country will be treated to the entirely unique spectacle of a legislative body, in one and the same session, passing a bill declaring that the statutes of the province as enacted up to the end of the year 1911 are such-and-such and at a later stage passing another bill correcting errors known to exist in those very statutes when the former bill making them law, errors and all, was given the royal assent.

This is the procedure foreshadowed in remarks made by Mr. Bowser this afternoon, when the House was in committee on the validating bill. Not only has the honorable gentleman confessed to not having had time to make himself acquainted with all the changes the commissioners have made in the statutes of a legislative character, thus going beyond the function of a revising and consolidating body, but to-day he admitted that he has not made up his mind whether certain changes shall be allowed. He thus throws a specific doubt on the work of the commissioners, which the opposition members have not done, and affords a convincing proof of the absurdity of asking the House to adopt the three-volume act as it stands.

An example of the legislative work of the commission is given in the case of the Municipal Clauses Act. By the bill which was passed last session amending the act in various particulars the power possessed by township and district municipalities to furnish water or sewerage as a local improvement was taken away from them. This was one of several amendments which were introduced almost the last day of the session by the attorney-general, who explained, when taxed with the introduction of important legislation at a time which allowed no opportunity to discuss it, that he had been compelled to do the work of the municipal committee for that body. It has been explained since that the striking out of this power by the removal of two words from the act was a mistake. Whatever the cause, one would say that the only way the words could be restored to the act was by another amendment this session, that is, by the action of the legislature. Instead of this the words are found neatly restored in the revised statutes, the commissioners having put them in again. This very instance was cited by Mr. Bowser to-day with approval as a sample of what the commissioners had done in this way.

As a result of the protests of the two branches of the opposition the attorney-general has promised to furnish members with the memorandum the commissioners submitted with their report, so that the House may the better follow the changes which have been made, and the matter will be taken up further to-morrow or next day.

Parker Williams to-day secured some interesting figures as to what one newspaper supporter of the government has received in the last ten years from the public treasury. The answer works out the tidy sum of \$8,402 annually. Mr. Williams' questions were:

"1. What sum has been paid the Colonist Printing & Publishing Company for advertising during each year from July 1st, 1901, to March 31st, 1911?"

"2. What sum has been paid the said corporation during the same period for all other services?"

"3. What sum was paid the Colonist Printing & Publishing Company for advertising in the Post during the year 1910?"

Hon. Price Ellison gave the figures as follows: 1. \$23,476.03. 2. \$51,007.65. 3. \$3,942.30. This comes to a total of \$84,025.98 for the period in question.

The premier introduced by way of message from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor a bill ratifying an agreement between His Majesty, in right of the province of British Columbia, and the city of Prince Rupert, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, and the Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company, Limited, dated June 8 last. This is the agreement as to fixed assessment, taxation and other matters of a kindred nature.

After the preliminary business of the sitting had been disposed of the House went into committee on the revised statutes, William Manson (Skeena) in the chair.

The attorney-general said it after all came down, in criticism of this revision, to a question of confidence in the commission. The House depended on their knowledge and ability, which the members could judge of from their labors. The commissioners had been two years at the work, with a competent staff, and many improvements were noticed. Of course, lawyers would differ on some of these. Some of the changes might be matter of opinion, and by this time next year it might be found that other changes were necessary in the law. The government itself intended to introduce many amendments to the revision this year after it became law. A new feature in this revision was a table in volume three which gave a cross reference to where the old acts, section by section, could be found in the new revision.

Taking up changes in the law the attorney-general said the first was in the Interpretation Act, under section 47, which was merely technical as to arbitration cases.

Parker Williams asked why the attorney-general did not give the House, in advance of any discussion, whatever memorandum the commissioners had supplied him with as to the changes.

The attorney-general said he was willing to give time to the opposition to discuss the changes, but he thought the better way was for him to give an explanation to the House and if members desired any further information on any point they could make a note and discuss it at a later stage.

Mr. Williams thought the House was entitled to have the report made by the commissioners to the governor-in-council.

The attorney-general, after consultation with the premier, said they were willing to do this. He desired to take the House into his confidence and there was nothing he wanted to keep back. As an instance of changes made he mentioned the case of the striking out last session from the Municipal Clauses Act of water and sewerage from the works which a municipality could undertake on the local improvement system. This, he said, was due to a mistake and the commissioners had restored the words to section 269 of the old act in consolidating the statutes.

Mr. Brewster—"The hon. gentleman says a mistake was made by the House last session. Had the commission power to remedy that mistake by restoring these words?"

Hon. Mr. Bowser—"No, and that is why I bring this act down saying that the whole revision, including that change, is the law."

Mr. Brewster emphasizes that he took no exception to the work of the commission. The procedure adopted in the revision was that before a bill was passed copies had been sent out to members and members of the legislature, and any possible errors in any possible errors in the bill would be of any kind in the case of the complaints had been received during the month of draft copies. It would be a task if the House was court of appeal from the work of the commission.

Mr. Bowser then went on to say that the changes made in various ways and whereof of acts including the Act of Arbitration Act, for Debts Act (where firms is made attachment Act) (the debt being made the same Act), Distress Act, St Highways Act, Infants Asylum Act, and 1 Act.

Some other changes he desired to get in upon as to the opinions. Before the law he promised, he would members with the memorandum from the commission.

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Mr. Brewster emphasized his position that he took no exception to the ability or the work of the commissioners, but the procedure adopted in a preceding revision was that before the validating bill was passed copies of the statutes had been sent out to eminent lawyers and members of the legislature so that any possible errors might be detected.

The attorney-general did not think this would be of any value and stated that in the case of the last revision no complaints had been received from the Bar during the months they had the draft copies. It would be an endless task if the House was to sit there as a court of appeal from the two years' work of the commission.

Mr. Bowser then went on to point out changes made in various acts and the why and wherefore of the changes, the acts including the Administration Act, the Arbitration Act, the Attachment for Debts Act (where the property of firms is made attachable), Clubs' Regulation Act (the definition of "liquor" being made the same as in the Liquor Act), Distress Act, Supreme Court Act, Highways Act, Infants' Act, Insane Asylums' Act, and Marine Insurance Act.

Some other changes Mr. Bowser said he desired to get further information upon as to the opinion of the commissioners. Before the bill came up again, he promised, he would furnish the members with the memo he had received from the commissioners.

ALL PROSPERITY CAME FROM TIMBER

SWEEPING CLAIM OF THE MINISTER OF LANDS

On Second Reading of Forestry Bill He Attributes Good Fortune to One Policy.

Legislative Press Gallery,
January 23.

The Attorney-General fulfilled his promise to furnish the members with the memorandum which the commissioners for the revision of the statutes submitted with their report, and copies of the document were found on the desks this afternoon when the House met. As the day had been set apart for another member of the executive to make a speech on one of the important bills of the session, a little more time is available for the study of the effect of the commissioners' essay in legislative work.

Immediately after the reading of prayers by the Dean of Columbia the Premier moved that the House proceed to the orders of the day, and Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands, rose to move the second reading of the Forests' Act, the somewhat unwieldy full title of which is "An Act respecting Forests and Crown Timber Lands, and the Conservation and Preservation of Standing Timber, and the Regulation of Commerce in Timber and Products of the Forest."

In view of the importance of the occasion the minister had committed his speech to writing in the main, and read it from his manuscript. He began with a history of government dealings with the timber of the province, the beginning of which he placed in 1888, on to the adoption of the present policy by the McBride government in 1905. Mr. Ross waxed enthusiastic over the results of this policy, attributing to it every scrap of good fortune the province has had since. His speech at this point became a campaign address, pure and simple, and drew a protest from Parker Williams, and an intimation that the members on the opposition side would claim the right to travel as far afield as the minister was doing.

From this the minister went on to discuss the details of the measure, and explained what the scope of the work of the proposed forestry branch will be. The minister announced to the House the appointment, as a consulting forester, of a man who has been trained under Gifford Pinchot in the United States forestry service.

Hon. W. R. Ross.

Mr. Ross, moving the second reading, began with a short resume of the history of the province's dealing with its forests, with a view, he said, to enable the House to appreciate why the present timber policy was adopted, why it had been found that no improvement could be made in it, why the Timber and Forestry Commission arrived at practically the same conclusion, and why the administration of the day had decided to adhere as closely as possible to that policy.

The public records did not show that any value had been placed on the timber resources of the province before 1888. The timber was considered as a beautiful and necessary accessory of the surrounding scenery, and grants of public lands carried the ownership of the timber with them. The C.P.R. coming in, lumber began to be valuable, the government put a royalty of 50 cents a thousand on timber cut, which remained to this day, and timber lands began to be sold. Other timber lands were alienated by grants to railways, now added by guarantee of bonds instead, and another form of

alienation was the giving of cutting rights. In 1895 the existence of the investor was recognized and timber leases were granted to non-operators, but the encouragement of the industry was kept steadily in view by the granting of leases to operators at a lower rate than to non-operators. In 1896 the sale of timber lands was stopped for ever, the Legislature adopting the principle of state ownership of the forest. The government of to-day recognized, he said, that the principle of public ownership applied peculiarly to timber.

The last phase of that era of timber leasing was in 1903-4, when rentals were raised to 25 cents an acre. This date marked the advent to power of the McBride government, and in 1905, after careful study of the problem, it was decided to extend the tenure of leases. This was "a stroke of true genius, a bold and statesmanlike policy attempted by no other country," which was due to a government that had nulled its colors to the mast, to statesmen who "could see the results of a policy far down the future years."

The minister reviewed the financial conditions prevailing in 1903 and later and said the government had decided to obtain the revenue that was needed from the province's natural resources, but not at the sacrifice or throwing away of these resources. The revenue from the forests, which was \$455,000

for the year 1905, jumped up to \$875,000 in 1906. In the seven years from 1904 the revenue from the forests had amounted to the sum of thirteen million dollars. Mr. Ross went on to claim that as a result of the adoption of the present timber policy in 1905 population had flowed in, the revenue had increased, the government had been enabled to survey thousands of acres of agricultural lands, workmen got increased wages, the farmers received higher prices, British Columbia had become a fruit-growing province and the cities had grown, Victoria and Vancouver, for instance.

Parker Williams rose to point out that the hon. gentleman was really making a campaign speech, a glorification of past acts of the government. If this was to be allowed the opposition would claim an equal right to wander all over the lot.

The Speaker, however, thought that the minister was merely showing the effect of legislation of that kind upon the country, and allowed him to go on. "He is dealing with the very satisfactory results he considers have followed since this policy was adopted," continued Mr. Williams. "He is not dealing with any previous forest policy at all. If he is to go ahead it is on the understanding that we are at liberty to rehearse all the past history of the government policies."

Continuing, Mr. Ross was understood to argue that the government had adopted its forest policy to bring about the effects which it is claimed have followed its adoption, and that one of the outcomes of the policy was the McBride railway policy.

"I must really object again," said Mr. Williams. "The railway policy of the government has nothing to do with this."

"He is connecting up the two," the Speaker ruled, and allowed the minister to continue.

Mr. Ross, before taking up the bill, announced to the House the appointment of Mr. Price as consulting forester for British Columbia, on the recommendation of Gifford Pinchot, who had promised Mr. Price to give the work his oversight and hoped to be here this summer in the interests of forest organization and conservation. The minister expressed obligations to Gifford Pinchot, to H. C. Graves, chief forester of the United States, and the Dominion officials. The proposals of the bill, as summed up in these columns a few days ago, were outlined by the ministers—sale of licenses, rentals, royalties, pulp-wood licenses, fire-fighting, etc. He said the suggestion of the forestry commission as to the release from reserve of timber lands suitable for agricultural purposes would be attended to by the government. Thanks were expressed to the commissioners—F. J. Fulton, K.C., A. C. Flumerfelt and A. S. Goodeve, M.P.—for their painstaking and useful presentation of the forest problems that confronted British Columbia.

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Concluding, Mr. Ross stated that the government had endeavored to frame an act which would adequately meet all requirements, free from sentimental extravagance and taking into consideration all the risks the lumberman ran. The cause of over-production, the "dumping" of American lumber and other troubles he considered were of a transitory nature and might be described as but the growing pains of a sound and healthy industry. The minister closed with a special appeal to his fellow-members to range themselves alongside the forestry officials in the enforcement of the act and to do all they could to educate public opinion in the respective districts on the subject of prevention of fires.

H. C. Brewster moved the adjournment of the debate until Thursday afternoon, and the proceedings of the day closed.

VICTORIA, B. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1912

NAVY RESOLUTION BEFORE THE HOUSE

EXCELLENT SPEECH IS
MADE BY H. C. BREWSTER

Reasons for British Columbia
Demanding a Fleet Unit on
the Pacific.

Legislative Press Gallery,
January 24.

A discussion on the need for the establishment of a fleet unit on the Pacific and of a naval base on this coast was initiated in the House this afternoon by the leader of the opposition.

The speech made by Mr. Brewster on this occasion heightens his reputation as a speaker and as a forceful and thoughtful legislator. In matter and manner his speech to-day was all that could be desired, and its tone was admirable. He approached the subject simply as a British Columbian—politician, he inferred rather than said, should be kept out of the discussion of the question of defences—and reminded the House of the reasons which make it imperative that protection shall be given to this coast without delay.

The awakening of China and Japan were alluded to and the dangers which a war between Great Britain and, say, Germany, might involve Canada in. He disclaimed any right on the part of the House to dictate as to the details of the fleet or the naval base, but insisted on the right and the duty of the Legislature urging upon the government which is charged with the provisions of defences the need for such naval defences as will protect this coast and the shipping which will soon dot the Pacific.

The Premier was evidently not ready to state the position of the government on the question, and he took advantage of a highly technical, and, as it turned out, not well-founded, objection as to the notice given to adjourn the debate to a later day.

Mr. Brewster, in moving his resolution, spoke as follows:

It is not my intention, Mr. Speaker, in any way to criticize, nor yet to comment on, the actions of any past government or political party, nor of any party at the present moment in power in Canada. It is my intention rather to bring this matter before the Legislature of British Columbia purely in such a manner as to point out to the Dominion authorities the necessity, as viewed from the standpoint of British Columbians, of immediate action being taken.

I would not, either, have the resolution considered in any sense as one which should confine the government of Canada to a certain line of action or the carrying out of any particular details. It is unnecessary to say that we have not on the floor of this House any naval experts, and even if we had it would not be for them to lay down any policy which any government should be asked to carry out.

The object is simply, in the terms of the resolution before the House, to emphasize that in the opinion of this House some action should be taken at an early date owing to conditions which are becoming more and more apparent on this coast. We are the Pacific coast province of the Dominion, and from a naval standpoint it is unquestionable that we hold the strategic positions which any enemy's navy would seek to capture should the Empire be at war.

As representatives of the Pacific coast province it is our duty to consider this matter and to urge upon the Dominion government the necessity of maintaining the line of defences along this coast which we think very necessary. We have a mighty coast line, stretching from Puget Sound to Alaska, indented with many large sounds and inlets. These sounds and inlets are, in my opinion, more of a menace and a danger than a benefit in the matter of defence should at any time we find war declared on the Mother

Country or we be attacked by any power, as the enemy might decide to use any of these inlets as a base of operations. At the present time, without a fleet on the Pacific, we would be practically unable to exercise any restraint against their occupation of these sounds or indentations.

It is only wise that we should look at conditions as they exist at the present time to see whether or not there is any danger or any necessity for creating a naval base on this coast and placing a fleet on the Pacific. I think, Mr. Speaker, that one has but to look at the awakening in China to-day to see a condition which may at no very distant date prove one of menace to this portion of the world. I would point out that in the construction of a navy, a considerable period of time must elapse, that even in the passage of a navy from one ocean to another a considerable time elapses, and that this movement in China, with the awakening of its multitudes of peoples, its hordes of the uncivilized who are arousing from a lethargy of centuries and throwing off the bonds of traditions, is liable at any time to confront us with a giant of such proportions as to shock us into a realization of our failure to do our duty if we do not now prepare for the contingency of war.

It is undeniable that when an Oriental nation throws off its shackles and takes its place among the civilized nations, one of the first things it does is to establish an army and navy. Admiral Togo was quoted as using in a speech in the United States a remark that I thought was quite apt and timely. He said: "For many centuries we have enjoyed the benefits of the arts and sciences, and showed our ability to compete with the world along lines usually considered peaceful, but during those centuries we were considered as a heathen land. But when occasion arose that we had to go to war, and we showed that we could kill as many as any other nation, we proved to the world that we were civilized."

We have, therefore, in the awakening of these nations a menace created by the establishment of armies and navies, and when these are built up we would be foolish indeed if we neglected our defences. Japan has tasted blood. True, she is an ally of Britain to-day, but what the future may bring about no one knows. Those who read of the internal turmoil can see that the nation is held in leash by strong men, but these may be removed by death or revolution any day. These two nations are looking for fields for their millions and no field so appeals to the Oriental, or for that matter to any race as does Canada. There again it behooves us, insofar as our power goes, to recommend some action, the details of which should be left to experts and should not be discussed among those who are not able to give an intelligent opinion on them.

In another country we have conditions which are a menace to the peace of the world. From prominent men of the party which predominates in this House in the Old Land, and I believe in that party in Canada, we learn that so far as Germany is concerned there is always present the contingency of war. I do not think, looking at it from the view-point of one who is simply scanning the political horizon, from this distance, that the elections just concluded in Germany will go towards making peace. Internal turmoil is on the increase, and we know that fre-

quently wars are fomented for the purpose of detracting from home difficulties. It has been precipitated that have occurred but for that the government do the attention of their own

With this in view and thought which we cannot which the Minister of recently stated yesterday benefits to this province opening of the Panama fits not only to our tin our resources, we have interest of protecting the business which we must to expect. We are told so, that the opening waterway will immense shipping of the Pacific time to prepare such a protect this shipping a fortunately break out Britain would be involved protection of this trade I move so early that w

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The Speaker said was out of order, b attention to it, he member to go on.

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quently wars are fomented solely for the purpose of detracting attention from home difficulties. Many a war has been precipitated that never would have occurred but for internal troubles that the government desired to draw the attention of their own people from.

With this in view and with another thought which we cannot overlook, and which the Minister of Lands so eloquently stated yesterday, as to the benefits to this province from the opening of the Panama Canal, benefits not only to our timber but to all our resources, we have the added interest of protecting the great shipping business which we must be prepared to expect. We are told, and correctly so, that the opening of that great waterway will immensely increase the shipping of the Pacific. Now is the time to prepare such a fleet unit as to protect this shipping should war unfortunately break out in which Great Britain would be involved. For the protection of this trade we must make a move so early that we will be ready

for it, and that time, I submit, Mr. Speaker, is now. Much time is required to get a fleet prepared, and the sooner we start the sooner we will have the satisfaction of seeing the Pacific protected as we know is necessary.

While we Canadians may quarrel among ourselves as to the administration of our affairs we must stand together in the matter of defence. I have endeavored to eliminate all political reference in presenting this resolution to the House, my sole idea being that we, as representatives of the coast provinces of the Dominion, have a duty to impress upon the government of the Dominion the urgent need for the inauguration of such a navy as will protect that coast, not only in the interests of the province but of the Dominion and of the Empire. Nothing would do more for the promotion of peace between Britain and Germany, or for that matter generally, than generous offers of support by Canada in what may be considered the best methods decided upon by those best fitted to judge.

I hope to see this resolution carried, and to have re-established on this coast what we all desire to see, a naval base, so that we as Canadians, true and loyal, will be in proper shape to do that which we should do.

Parker Williams seconded the resolution as a matter of courtesy to get it before the House.

Premier McBride said it seemed to him there was something wrong with the orders of the day. Notice of this resolution should have appeared in the votes and proceedings of yesterday, and then it would have properly come up to-morrow. He, therefore, moved the adjournment of the debate.

The Speaker said that he thought it was out of order, but as no one called attention to it, he allowed the hon. member to go on.

It looked as if there was a reflection on some official, and the Clerk of the House hastily turned up his papers to see if he could have made a mistake, especially as the member for Alberni stated that he gave the necessary two days' notice of the resolution as altered. A search proved that no one had made any mistake, as the notice appeared on Monday's votes and proceedings to be moved to-day.

REVISED STATUTES AGAIN DISCUSSED

THE ENGLISH CRIMINAL LAW IN FORCE HERE

Changes Made by the Commissioners in the Laws are Criticised.

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 24.

The revised statutes were again under review this afternoon, when the attorney-general continued his explanation of the changes which the commissioners have made in them of a legislative character. The criticism of the alterations was carried on entirely by H. C. Brewster and Parker Williams. Apart from the chairman the only others who showed any interest in the proceedings were F. Carter-Cotton and Ernest Miller. The former always follows what goes on in the House closely, although he seldom takes part in the discussion, and Mr. Miller is interested as a member of the legal profession.

On going into committee with Wm. Manson (Skeena) in the chair, changes in the Municipal Clauses Act were taken up, one of these being the restoration to section 249 of the old act of "water and sewerage," struck out of the act by "mistake" last session.

Parker Williams contended that the attorney-general, judging from his comments the other day, had more information about the changes than was contained in the memorandum supplied to members. This was not fair to the House.

Mr. Bowser, somewhat good-humoredly, asked what the opposition wanted. First he assayed to explain the changes himself, but the opposition demanded the commissioners' memorandum. Now that they had this they found fault with him for having told as much in the first place. As a matter of fact the House had as much information from the commissioners now as he had, but his copy of the memorandum contained his own side-notes and comments, from which he had spoken on Monday.

Mr. Williams held that the commissioners, once they were sworn, were public servants, instead of which they seemed to be looked upon as a subsidiary committee to the attorney-general or something akin to that.

The attorney-general replied that all his cards were on the table; he had nothing to hide or hold back. If he had he might have given the House much less information than he had on Monday. He might have brought down the three volumes and let it go at that. As for being consulted by the commissioners, they had as much right as anyone else to consult him.

Mr. Brewster and Mr. Williams pressed the point that the House had not got all the information there was to get.

"How would it be if we discuss the merits of the changes?" asked Mr. Bowser, smiling.

"I am always willing to submit to the will of the majority, seeing I cannot do anything else," Mr. Williams answered.

Coming to the Land Act the attorney-general explained a change in section 159. This section was originally passed to enable the department of lands to refuse to recognize transfers of pre-emptions until the crown grants were issued. In practice the department refused to recognize transfers of other hereditaments until the particular title in each case was completed, and the commissioners had adapted the section to give legislative effect to the departmental practice.

Mr. Williams said that for once he was able to endorse what the commissioners had done, so far as the intent of the new section was concerned. If this change was made while the attorney-general was in England, he added slyly, the province would wish he had remained away longer.

Mr. Brewster asked if this section would prevent a man who was abandoning a pre-emption on which he had erected improvements selling the improvements to the pre-emptor who succeeded him.

Mr. Bowser replied that as it was drawn he thought the section would have that effect. That was where the danger of the section came in.

Mr. Williams asked to whom the crown grant was issued in the cases where the application was filed by someone else holding a power-of-attorney.

Mr. Bowser said the department never recognized assignees, but issued the crown grant to the original locator. Powers-of-attorney the department knew nothing about.

Mr. Williams—Where do they come in?

Mr. Bowser—If a man holds a power of attorney, then when it comes to registering the grant in the land registry office he can have it transferred from the original locator to some one else.

The attorney-general intimated that later on he would introduce a new section to take the place of the section as left in the revised statutes.

A new section is added to the Pawn-brokers' Act, providing for compensation in such a case as, for instance, where a man might inadvertently leave a watch in a coat which he was pawning and subsequently, on redeeming the garment, found the watch missing.

In the Schools Act the trouble between the school board and the city council in Nelson is reflected by the substitution of the word "shall" for "may" in the section dealing with the providing of funds by the council for the board. This makes it compulsory for the council to strike a rate up to five mills for school purposes to meet whatever demands the board makes, and if this is insufficient to provide the amount required the council must supply the balance out of general revenue.

Mr. Brewster pointed out that this placed the school boards in a position where they dictated to the municipal councils.

The attorney-general said this would only apply to monies necessary for ordinary maintenance. Extraordinary expenditures could not be made until a bylaw had been submitted to the people, and after all the trustees were elected by and answerable to the people.

In the Water Act the commissioners have tried their hand at framing penalties. Obstruction of water courses was only punishable by a fine, but the commissioners thought that an alternative should be provided in case of non-payment of the fine and made it two months in gaol.

In the Workmen's Compensation Act power is added by the commissioners to enable the making of rules of procedure by the lieutenant-governor-in-council.

The attorney-general announced a change which the commissioners had made, the effect of which is to make applicable in this province the criminal law of England except insofar as it may be repugnant to the Dominion Criminal Code. He explained that in the compilation of 1888, on account of the Dominion parliament having passed an act which repealed the English criminal law as it affected Canada, the section in the British Columbia statutes which declared the English civil and criminal law in effect here was amended by taking out the word "criminal." There had since been a judgment which declared that the English criminal law, as declared by the ordinance of 1867, was in force here where not repugnant to any act passed by the Dominion and therefore the commissioners had restored the word to the statutes. Mr. Bowser said the province must see that no other jurisdiction over-rode its so far as it had power.

Mr. Brewster asked why, if the decision referred to decided that the repeal of the provision in 1888 was of no effect, there was any use in now declaring to be in force what that judgment declared to be in force, the repeal to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. Bowser replied that it was desirable for the province to declare its rights fully in its statutes.

Mr. Williams expressed the fear that some old English enactment which had never been repealed might some day be brought up against labor, as had been done in Pennsylvania.

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The committee will resume the consideration of the bill to-morrow.

Mr. Brewster asked the following questions:

1. Has the government sold any town lots in District Lot 351, known as South Hazelton?

2. If so, was any intimation given to the purchasers of these lots that a station would be established there by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company?

3. Has the government received any information that the railway commission of Canada has ordered the station in question placed on another section, some distance from District Lot 351?

4. If so, does the government intend to refund the moneys paid by purchasers of lots?

5. If not, does the government intend to take any further action in the matter?

Hon. Mr. Ross, in reply, said: "To 1, 2 and 3 the answer is yes. To 4 and 5, if the order of the railway commission is upheld it is the intention of the government to advise all purchasers of lots in South Hazelton and to refund the purchase money on application."

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE GALLERY

The Colonist says that Mr. Ross delivered a masterly, even statesmanlike, address on the timber policy of the government. The Colonist could scarcely say anything else considering who wrote out the address for Mr. Ross to deliver.

Mr. Ross says the government timber policy has been successful. Which one did he refer to? The one of 1903? or of 1905? or of 1907? or of 1911? or the present one?

The Hon. Mr. Ross says the government in 1906 adopted a thorough-going policy that the timber of British Columbia must be manufactured within the province. He found the policy in section 7, of chap. 30, statutes of 1901, as follows: "All timber cut from provincial lands must be manufactured within the confines of the province of British Columbia, otherwise the timber so cut may be seized and forfeited to the crown." Try another bluff, William!

Mr. Ross says the forest policy of 1906 let loose that flood of prosperity that the province has been enjoying ever since. We have heard of spend-thrifts mortgaging the family estates and going on a prolonged spree. British Columbia furnishes the most recent instance of a government following a similar course.

The commissioner of lands states that the experts will ascertain with exactitude what timber there is within the province. He thinks that the timber already alienated by the government may, with diligence, possibly be surveyed by the year 1918.

The commissioner of lands states that in 1896 the sale of timber lands was stopped, he hopes forever. When will the minister wake up to the fact that it is desirable to stop the sale of the agricultural lands of the province to speculators?

According to Mr. Ross, the government introduced a timber policy in 1903-1904. In 1906 they realized it was an extremely bad one and antiquated, and it was abandoned in 1906 and another policy introduced, which Mr. Ross claims inaugurated a new era. By the end of 1907 they had mortgaged, according to Mr. Ross, nine and a half million acres of the choicest timber lands of the province, and they again introduced a new timber policy. 1911 saw another policy adopted, that of making the timber licenses perpetual; and now we have still another, which marks the beginning of the millennium.

"An epoch, sir, is drawing to a close—an epoch of reckless devastation of the natural resources with which we, the people of this province, have been endowed by Providence." Mr. Ross' comment on the past policy of the government of which he is a member, reported on page 22, of the Colonist, January 24, 1912.

The hon. attorney-general is now busy explaining to the legislature the changes made in the statutes without authority by the revising commissioners, and even he will not stand for some of the changes which have been made. During the absence of the attorney-general in England, the commissioners placed an obstacle in the way of acquiring lands by speculators, and Mr. Bowser announces that this will have to be cut out of the statutes. He is still determined the speculator must have his chance.

NAVAL RESOLUTION.

Fleet Unit on Pacific and Naval Base Are Needed.

The resolution which H. C. Brewster moved in the Legislature yesterday afternoon was in the following terms:

"That whereas Canada and the Mother Country are agreed that it is right and reasonable that all the partners in the Empire should contribute towards the naval defence of that Empire:

"And whereas the speedy completion of the Panama Canal must enormously increase the shipping business of this coast:

"Therefore, be it resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, respectfully requesting him to urge upon the Dominion government the necessity of taking such immediate steps as will lead to the creation of a Canadian fleet unit in the Pacific and to the establishment of a naval base on this coast with such promptitude as to make ready for the revolution in sea-trade likely to be effected by the completion of the Panama Canal."

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STATUTES OCCUPY TIME YESTERDAY

ENACTING BILL GOES THROUGH COMMITTEE

Attorney-General to Remedy Doings of Commissioners He Does Not Agree With.

Legislative Press Gallery.

January 25.

Another case arose to-day in which the Attorney-General did not agree with the commissioners for the revision of the statutes, and announced his intention of introducing legislation to restore to one act a section which they had struck out.

In committee on the validating bill, Mr. Bowser said that the commissioners had struck out section 22 of the Inheritance Act, which deals with a widow's dower and a husband's tenancy by courtesy in cases of intestacy. The section reads: "Nothing in this act contained shall be held to impair or affect the right of a widow of an intestate to her dower out of her deceased husband's lands, nor the right of a husband to his courtesy out of his deceased wife's lands." He explained that the commissioners had done this under the misapprehension that the dower bill of last session had passed, and he intended to restore section 22 to the act so as to preserve the wife's right to dower and the husband's right to tenancy by courtesy. Section 5 would be amended by adding a provision that in the case of an intestate estate the widow or husband should be entitled to one-half of any real estate absolutely if no descendants were left, and to one-third for life if descendants were surviving.

This brought up the question of the bill to amend the Dower Act which was introduced by the Attorney-General at the close of last session, but which there was no time to pass, although the House adopted the principle of it by carrying it on second reading after a lively debate. This proposed to greatly improve the position of a wife in respect of her dower, removing many restrictions and substituting the following for the still existing section 8, which bars dower by a declaration in the husband's will: "By his will, a testator shall have no power to deprive his widow of dower, but a widow may by deed or instrument in writing elect to take any devise or bequest, made to her for her benefit by her husband in his will, in lieu of all claims to dower."

H. C. Brewster suggested that the Attorney-General re-introduce his bill, seeing that its principle had received the endorsement of the House last session, but that it had been introduced at so late a period that there was no possibility of its passing.

Mr. Bowser thought that in view of the great difference of opinion manifested in the debate last year he would hardly be justified in again introducing the bill. This legislation would make so drastic a change in the law that it would not be proper for him to attempt to force it through the House against the opinion of so many members. He trusted that time would bring about a change in opinion which would lead to a better law being enacted.

Mr. Brewster heartily re-echoed the hope that a better law would be enacted, but thought the Attorney-General was hardly fair to himself in not re-introducing the bill. There might be opinions adverse to the bill, but the opinion of the Attorney-General was just as good as these. It was certainly to be hoped that he would bring in the bill and press it to

Parker Williams, from the Journals of the House, read that on February 28 last the bill was read a second time and committed. There was no vote given on it, and the House appeared on record as in favor of the bill, no one having asked to be placed on record as opposed to it.

The Attorney-General suggested that there must have been a viva voce vote taken, but that there had been no demand for the recording of the names. He stated that he would take into consideration the views expressed by the leader of the opposition as to re-introduction.

Mr. Brewster and Mr. Williams, however, were of opinion that a vote had been taken and that the second reading was carried by about two.

The matter dropped there. A reference to the newspapers of March 1 last shows that there was a vote taken on the second reading, although it appears to have slipped out in preparing the votes and proceedings of February 28, which was a particularly long and busy day. The fact that a division was taken, resulting in the passage of the motion for second reading by 18 to 15, is recorded in both papers, and in the Times the division list is given as follows: For—McBride, Bowser, Taylor, Masgowan, Mackay, Manson (Dewdney), Williams, Hawthornthwaite, Brewster, Manson (Skeena), Miller,

Jackson, Cayen, Shaw, McDonald, Manson (Comox), Lucas, 18. Against—Elison, McPhillips, Young, Hayward, Parson, Shatford, Schofield, Cotton, Behnson, Hunter, Tisdall, Watson, Fraser, Mackenzie, Braden, 15. It will be apparent from counting the names that not only have the officials made the mistake of not recording the division at all, but that the Times gallery representative has missed one name.

The bill was proceeded with in committee, the only change made being the addition of a new section, 159 of the Lands Act, to take the place of the one the commissioners so numbered, and reading: "No transfer of any surveyed or unsurveyed land pre-empted, or in respect whereof an application to purchase or lease the same is applied for under this act, shall be valid until after a crown grant or lease of the same, as the case may be, shall have been granted."

All the old acts of the legislature are formally repealed, being replaced by the new revision, and the necessary provisos are made that this repeal does not affect any things done or pending under the old statutes nor any marriage or marriage certificate.

Mr. Brewster inquired what stand the province took on the question of marriage laws.

The attorney-general replied that this was a large question. According to press reports there was to be a submission to the Supreme Court of Canada of the issue, but this province was not interested in it.

Mr. Brewster—"Does the province exercise authority as to marriage as a right or under a Dominion statute?"

Mr. Bowser—"We always have exercised it. It is the general opinion among members of provincial legislatures that the provinces have the sole right to legislate as to marriage. We have our own Marriage Act, but apparently in other parts of Canada there is a doubt in the minds of some regarding it and that is what the courts are to be asked to decide."

The bill was reported and now stands for its final stages, upon which it will be given the royal assent and the Revised Statutes of B. C., 1911, will be the law of the land.

Before the House adjourned—the government not being ready at the moment to go on with anything else—several bills were introduced.

Ernest Miller (Grand Forks) introduced two bills for the relief of the municipal corporation of Fernie, being validations of certain by-laws.

For H. B. Thomson, Mr. Mackay introduced the bill promoted by the Victoria Harbor Railway Company, in which it seeks an extension of time for the commencement of its project. This would give it until May 15, 1913, to "bona fide commence and continuously and effectually proceed with the construction of its railway," and until May 15, 1914, to "procure the bona fide payment up in cash of not less than 15 per cent of the authorized share capital of the company, and to expend such 15 per cent in, upon and towards the construction of its railway."

William Manson (Skeena) introduced a bill to confirm and validate a by-law of the city of Prince Rupert to provide for the construction of a hydro-electric system to supply the city with water, electric light and power, to cost \$550,000.

H. H. Watson (Vancouver) introduced a bill to incorporate Ryerson College, an educational institution to be under the authority of the General Conference of the Methodist Church, and which is being called after the famous Ontario educationist, the late Dr. Egerton Ryerson. The college will be empowered to grant degrees in divinity.

Mr. Brewster has secured answers to the following questions:

"1. Has the Canadian Northern Company deposited with the minister maps, plans and profiles of their line of railway, as provided by sections 90, 91 and 92 of the Railway Act? If so, has the minister approved of the location map (as per section 90) and sanctioned the plans, profiles and book of reference, as per section 92?"

"2. What is the maximum gradient and the maximum and minimum of curvature, as shown on the plans and profiles sanctioned by the minister?"

Hon. Thomas Taylor, minister of railways, replied in the affirmative to both branches of the first question. To the second he gave the maximum grade as 0.4 per cent on the mainland and 1.50 per cent on the island. The maximum curvature shown is 10 degrees and the minimum 0.20 degrees.

Commenting on a telegraph dispatch sent out from Vancouver respecting Premier McBride's railway policies, the Winnipeg Tribune makes a few caustic remarks. The dispatch said that in principle Premier McBride favors state owned railways, but added that representatives of a number of railway corporations had been interviewing the government of late. It concluded with the announcement that an election will follow the adjournment of the present session. Here is what the Tribune says: "Who cares a cuss what Premier McBride favors in principle? When in power, and with the resources and people of the province at his back, what does he favor in practice? Some of the most loud-mouthed advocates of state-built, state-owned, state-operated railways among both provincial and federal politicians are the worst enemies of public ownership in practice. They make professions to fool the people, and they practice to please the subsidy-hunters and franchise-grabbers. That is the unvarnished truth. It is about a thousand chances to one that Mr. McBride will make a deal with one of the existing corporations. Of course, elections usually, for some very, very strange reason or other, follow these railway deals. The B. C. premier already has one beautiful railway deal to his credit." The Tribune has just about hit the nail on the head.

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**ASKS INTENTIONS
ON PRICE OF COAL**

**WHY IS COMMISSION
NOT YET APPOINTED?**

**Government Supporter From
Vancouver Persistent on
the Subject.**

Legislative Press Gallery, January 26.
Dr. McGuire (Vancouver) has for some sessions kept hammering away at the price of coal, and has on two or three occasions secured the passage of a resolution, that of last session being in the following terms:

"Whereas it would appear that the cost of coal to the consumer in the province of British Columbia is out of all proportion to the cost of production; and

"Whereas, owing to the abundance of the coal deposits in this province, and the proximity of the sources of supply to the market, the cost of coal to the consumer in B. C. should be much less than at present is the case; and

"Whereas, the excessive price of coal in B. C. has the effect of retarding and preventing the establishment in this province of industries depending upon a fuel supply; and

"Whereas, much of the product of the coal mines of the province is being exported to foreign markets and sold at a price that enables it to compete with coal from other countries in such foreign markets; and

"Whereas, a belief exists that there is an understanding between the persons or corporations controlling or owning such coal mines to maintain the high prices now being charged to consumers in this province;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that an humble address be presented to his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor by this House, praying him to consider the advisability of appointing a royal commission to inquire into the following questions:

"1. Whether or not a combine or understanding exists among the coal producers, or any of them, of this province to establish and maintain prices charged for coal?

"2. Whether or not coal is being sold by producers, or any of them, for consumption outside B. C. for a less price than that sold for consumption in the province?

"3. Whether or not the price charged by the producers, or any of them, for coal consumed in B. C. is excessive?

"4. Whether or not the prices charged by the producers, or any of them, of coal in B. C. bears a reasonable proportion to the cost of production?"

This resolution was passed by the House without dissent, but Premier McBride made it very plain that the government had no intention of acting upon it, instead continuing its attitude of "putting it up to" the Dominion government.

Dr. McGuire now gives notice that he is going to ask the government what action, if any, it has taken "to give effect to the resolution passed by this House last session regarding the price of coal."

In view of the premier's remarks last year there is no doubt what the tenor of his reply will be.

**PRINCE RUPERT
AND THE RAILWAY**

**HOUSE DISCUSSES BILL
FIXING TAX RATE**

**Premier on Future of Deep-
Seas Fisheries—Value of
Holdings in City.**

Legislative Press Gallery, January 26.

Prince Rupert occupied the attention of the House to-day almost exclusively, the occasion being the second reading of the bill to ratify and confirm the agreement fixing the assessment and rate of municipal taxation payable by the company.

The premier has the bill in charge and he spoke at some length on it, beginning by a general reference to the development of the north and laying special stress on the probable expansion of the deep-sea fisheries by the company with which Sir Geo. Doughty's name is associated. There is evidently one piece of prosperity or prospective prosperity for which the land policy is not to get the credit. The premier did not go so far as to claim that the Grand Trunk Pacific is part of the McBride accomplishments but he went a long way in that direction by inference.

Premier McBride, in moving the second reading of the Prince Rupert bill, said that before explaining the bill he had one or two general references to make to this northern terminal.

Prince Rupert, four years old, was a community of some consequence, and as far as his information went it could claim to-day a population of six thousand people. In addition to this, municipal improvements that ran into fully hundreds of thousands of dollars, and residential and business property that would aggregate several millions, were to be found there. The government was not surprised at all with what had transpired there. It was expected all round when Prince Rupert was determined upon as the terminal of the Grand Trunk Pacific, that it would be a matter of but a few years before it would be one of the principal points along the Pacific coast seaboard.

The completion of the G. T. P. was within measurable distance now and would develop the surrounding country, which in itself would justify a city of hundreds of thousands population. There was a large and valuable tract of land which Prince Rupert could claim as tributary to it, and there were fisheries which in extent and variety were the largest in the world. The deep-water fisheries of B. C. were still in an early, if not in a primitive, stage of development, but had attracted very considerable attention abroad, and presently plans involving millions of dollars would be brought into effect. When all the resources surrounding the city were considered it would be seen how impossible it was to place any limit to the city's growth.

Sir George Doughty, who was so closely associated with the fishing industry of Grimaby, had undertaken the formation of a fishing company whose projects were very extensive indeed, an organization which was bound to employ a very large number of workmen. He had the assurance of Sir George Doughty that the company proposed to employ white labor only, a departure that would come to all as very good news. It had occurred to him, the premier continued, that it was a very unfortunate thing to find that aliens for the most part had to do with the fishing of these sea-coast waters. If the company to which he referred proceeded with its enterprises as was proposed it would have the hearty goodwill and co-operation of the great majority of the people of this country,

the more especially when they would watch the good results that must come from the employment of white labor only.

When he spoke of Prince Rupert and made the references he had just made to what lay before the city he must not forget the men who had pioneered and done the work of bringing the city to its present position. Prince Rupert had had the advantage of having as early settlers men who had wide experience and this must have been of great value to the young city. To the men and women who had settled in this city in its first years the country owed much recognition. He had been struck on a recent visit with the bright and prosperous appearance of the place. The town-site was ideal, the harbor one that could not be excelled, and it had everything that went to the upbuilding of a great city. For some years to come it would be a large bill of expense for the corporation to find sufficient funds to open up streets, sidewalks, pavements and build bridges as well that would be necessary to extend the city properly. The principal undertaking when he was there was the running of a main street from end to end of the city. There was a determination evident on the part of the council that when they spent money it would be for permanent civic improvements. Much hard pioneer work remained to do and the government recognized the fact so far that up to date, where it was in the public interest and consistent with the policy of the government, they had not spared themselves in lending substantial aid to the municipality.

The House was now asked to validate an agreement to which the government, the city, the railway and the townsite company were parties and which provided that the Grand Trunk Pacific, in exchange for certain works presently to be undertaken and scattered interests in small fractions of land around the townsite, was to be granted a fixed rate of contribution to the municipal taxes, other than local improvements, based on the payment each year to the city of \$15,000. When the Grand Trunk Pacific act was before the House, while there was provision for exempting the company from the payment of provincial taxes, the question of dealing with the municipalities was not considered although it was dis-

ussed. It was then felt that to nunciate the new city by special legislation which would say the railway company should pay no taxes at all might be looked upon as rather extreme. But the government did not hesitate to assure the railway company then that it felt sure when the municipality was created the company would be treated in a fair and reasonable manner.

The assessment made by the new city on the property of the company would involve the payment of taxes amounting to five times more than the Grand Trunk paid in the city of Montreal. The Grand Trunk Pacific protested that the assessment was excessive and negotiations brought about the agreement now before the House, which guaranteed the completion of certain terminals, the expenditure of a large amount of money and the conveyance to the city by the company of various sections of land. It must not be taken for granted that the government overlooked the matter of terminals, because on reference to that agreement it was quickly demonstrated that the government had the exact location of each terminal specified so that there was no opportunity for the railway to change them. When it came to shops and round-houses and the like there was some license to the company that it might use its own time. The agreement which had ended in such an amicable way and which had been endorsed by the people at the polls had created in the northern part of the province a pleasing feeling of confidence and renewed friendly relations between the city and the company.

The principal point with which the House was concerned was that which involved the granting of the interest of the province in certain fragmentary sections of land to the city. It would have been difficult to place much value on these fragments. The government

was also directly con- water frontage-requires wharf. The railway give one hundred feet of the government a like city for this purpose. different items between and the city were concerned the building of a harbor was told plans were station plans decided very spacious character the completion of the road stood to spend several to be ready when the pleted. The House had form in giving the tow would be of value to it tion.

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was also directly concerned in some water frontage required for a garbage wharf. The railway had agreed to give one hundred feet of waterfront and the government a like amount to the city for this purpose. So far as the different items between the company and the city were concerned, there was the building of a hotel, for which he was told plans were completed. The station plans decided upon were of a very spacious character. In advance of the completion of the road the company stood to spend several millions so as to be ready when the road was completed. The House had a duty to perform in giving the town a feeling that would be of value to its economic position.

As near as could be ascertained the values reasonably placed upon the government holdings, one-quarter of the townsite, amounted to thirteen million dollars. Notwithstanding the criticism formerly indulged in to-day as an asset there was this large value where a few years ago there was not thirteen cents value. Since this value was created by the railway and the community it must be expected that the government would, if anything, exercise a marked generosity to that section of the province. It was proposed by the government to study well the position in the north so that by placing permanent government offices there the work done would not only provide for to-day but would anticipate the wonderful future that lay before that community.

William Manson (Skeena), who has just retired from the mayoral chair of the northern city, said that in common with the experience of all cities in dealing with large corporations Prince Rupert found it wise to get together with the company and settle many questions of mutual interest. This agreement was brought to an issue so promptly by reason of the fact that a dispute arose as to the taxation of railway lands. The city, after incorporation, made an assessment which, from the standpoint of the surrounding property, was not unreasonable, but in view of the fact that the railway company was only beginning its undertaking and that it was not completed, they claimed that exemption to a considerable extent, if not totally, was fairly to be expected. This was the subject of negotiations which at one time looked as if no

agreement could be reached, but finally the city agreed to accept \$15,000 annually as the taxes due by the company. In consideration of this modification the city received a 999-year lease of certain pieces of land for park sites, reservoir site and cemetery purposes. These considerations were of such importance as to warrant the city in feeling satisfied with the arrangement arrived at. Garbage removal was done by towing to sea and the grant of wharfage enabled the city to carry on this work. It was also necessary from the standpoint of the city to secure land for public buildings, a city hall, fire halls and the like. His contention had always been that the quarter interest in new townsites held by the government enabled some of the land to be available for municipal purposes. Here the city thought the government might very well give some assistance in that direction.

Prince Rupert to the present time had made satisfactory progress from the municipal standpoint. Large expenditures had been made, to the extent of \$600,000 on streets and \$550,000 on water-works and hydro-electric plant, besides expenditure on telephone system and electric light plant, together with certain improvements by the government prior to incorporation, these obligations now totalling about \$1,370,000. It was gratifying to be able to state that the city had no difficulty in financing, the Bank of Montreal's attitude having given the city a splendid standing in

the money markets, and the settlement of its differences with the company by this agreement had improved the city's credit.

The railway was to proceed with its terminals as soon as the agreement was ratified by this bill. During the negotiations outsiders had thought that the company would leave the city for another terminal point, but Prince Rupert knew that was entirely improbable and the agreement now reached gave additional security on that point. The establishment of a first-class hotel and the building of a drydock were of such importance that the mere question of a few thousands in the item of taxation, the city felt, it should not squabble about. The people had approved the agreement by a vote of 440 for to 44 against. The government was prepared to deal fairly by the city, although, as a matter of fact, the concessions it was now making were well worth while.

Parker Williams considered that the Premier had gone outside his province in talking about the plans of some fishery company, the value of which it was impossible to estimate. In any case he did not put much faith in the promises of any company or corporation as to the employment of labor. Instead of working out a city there on a decent footing in the first place, it was found that the city had virtually to come back to the Legislature to seek relief. The only thing plain was that

there was no positive assurance embodied in the bills formerly passed. The city had to pay the price—and it was a comparatively high price. If the government holdings were worth thirteen millions then the company's holdings were worth thirty-nine millions, and this showed the helpless position the city was in when the government agreed to the acceptance of ten thousand dollars as sufficient taxes on these vast values. The city's sanction was the same sanction that was given to the acts of a hold-up man. The government's candidate for the mayoralty had been hopelessly beaten, and this he took as a condemnation of the agreement.

The second reading of the bill was then carried, and it will be taken up further early next week.

During the sitting to-day there were a large number of delegates to the B. C. Federation of Labor convention present on the floor and in the galleries.

Prayers were read to-day by Rev. T. E. Heneage.

REVISED STATUTES ARE NOW IN FORCE

ROYAL ASSENT GIVEN TO ENACTMENT BILL

Until Amendments Are Made
Sections Bowser Objects to
Are the Law.

Legislative Press Gallery,

January 26.

The second act to be passed this session, and passed like the first one, in a hurry, was given the royal assent this afternoon by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, who came down specially to do so.

This act was one enacting the roll of the revised statutes as law and declaring them to be the statutes in force in this province hereafter, under the title of the Revised Statutes of B. C., 1911.

From this morning, then, the province has the old statutes in a new form, and it will take even lawyers some time to get used to them and be able to find sections to which they have been accustomed under certain numbers and chapters, but which are differently numbered.

While the statutes are old—from one year to fifty or over—in the main there are a few changes made in them by the commissioners for their revision, as has been pointed out in these columns during the past few days. These are now as much part of the law as amendments made by the Legislature itself, as the bill passed to-day gives the sanction of the Legislature to the changes.

As the statutes stand to-day there are some few sections which the Attorney-General is not satisfied with, and which will be changed by amending bills this session or next, but meanwhile they are the law.

**CURRENT WAGES
NOT BEING PAID**

**BREACH OF AGREEMENT
ON C. N. CONSTRUCTION**

**Parker Williams Moves Vote of
Censure on Government but
is Voted Down**

Legislative Press Gallery,
January 29.

The first vote of censure the government has had proposed against it for some time—not that the desert has not been its many a time—was moved this afternoon by Parker Williams (Newcastle), who has obtained information lately proving that the Canadian Northern Pacific is not living up to its agreement with the government and people of British Columbia, however much it may want the province to implement its share of the bargain when it comes to paying interest on bonds.

According to the agreement the men on construction work are to be paid the current rates of wages paid in the district to the respective classes of workers. In the Esquimalt district ordinary laborers on government and other work are paid \$2.50 a day and rock-drillers are paid \$2.75 a day. On the C. N. Pacific in that district these two classes are paid only \$2.25 a day, as affidavits in the possession of Mr. Williams prove.

And yet it is but a few days ago since the Minister of Railways gave the House the information that the wages paid to these men—answering a question as to all the rates on Mainland and Island—were the higher figures mentioned. A day or so later the member for Esquimalt stated to the House the same rates as being paid by Grant Smith & Company. One of the affidavits read to-day is from a man who says that the rate paid by that firm to laborers and rock-drillers is \$2.25 a day. The member for Newcastle got in a sharp rap at the member for Esquimalt apropos of his solicitude for the working man as shown in this statement.

The Minister of Railways had to confess that what Mr. Williams had to say was the first he had heard of any breach of the agreement by the railway, and he promised immediate investigation and enforcement.

Mr. Williams' resolution was in the following terms:

"Whereas, by subsection (c) of section 7 of the schedule to the Canadian Northern agreement, being chapter 3 of the statutes of 1910, it is enacted that 'the workmen and laborers employed in or about the construction of the said lines of railway shall be paid such rates of wages as may be currently payable to workmen and laborers engaged in similar occupation in the districts in which the said lines of railway are being constructed'; and

"Whereas it is a matter of public knowledge that workmen are paid at the rate of two dollars and twenty-five cents per day, both as rock-drillers and general laborers, on the Canadian Northern construction in the electoral district of Esquimalt; and

"Whereas the current rate of wages in Esquimalt district for work of a similar character to the above is much higher than that paid by the Canadian Northern;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that this House censure the government for its failure to protect the workers on the Canadian Northern construction."

Mr. Williams recognized the operation of the laws of supply and demand in labor as in other commodities, and declared that wherever large works

were in progress those who were responsible for carrying them out endeavored to offset the higher wages which the demand would create by increasing the supply of wages from outside. This labor was generally induced to move to the scene of large industrial or public works by misstatement of conditions as to wages, hours and so forth. To believe those carrying out works there was a chronic shortness of labor.

When the C.N.R. contract was before the House the government rejected a proposal to fix the minimum wage of men employed on the construction of the line at \$2.50 per day, and it was enacted by the Legislature that men should be paid not less than the current rate of wages in the district. The current rate of wages in the Esquimalt district for laborers was \$2.50 per day and for rock-drillers \$2.75 per day. This was paid by the E. & N. Railway Company, by the B. C. Electric on the Jordan River works, and by the government. In Victoria, also, the same rates were paid for an eight-hour day. The member for Esquimalt had the other day given the House what he stated to be the wages paid in his district on the C.N.R. construction, but his statement showed that he was more in touch with the Conservative organization than the labor organization; that he was in no respect in touch with the workers on the C.N.R. and did not know what wage they were being paid.

Mr. Williams then read a couple of affidavits from men who had worked for Oleson & Co. and Grant Smith & Co., stating that the wages being paid laborers and rock-drillers were \$2.25 a day, that this rate was general in all the camps and that it was the rate at which men were being hired to go to work on the line.

Hon. T. W. Taylor, Minister of Railways, said this was the first intimation the department had had of the matter. The agreement between the company and the government called for the payment of the current rates of wages to the men employed on the construction of the line, and if there had been any infringement at any time of this it was unknown to the department. Continuing, Mr. Taylor said:

"I will take an early opportunity of going into this matter and making an examination of the books of the company, and if I find that such is the case, that the current rate of wages is not being paid, I will certainly consider it the duty of the department and the government to insist on the current wages being paid. If the hon. member for Newcastle had brought the matter to my attention it certainly would have received my most careful and earnest consideration."

H. C. Brewster (Alberni), who seconded the vote of censure, said the trouble complained of was not new. When the Legislature granted exemption on the E. & N. extension the opposition maintained that the least the government could do was to see that the company agreed to pay fair wages to the men who would be engaged on the construction of that extension. The Liberals and Socialists tried to have some such provisions put in the agreement, but the government, lax in its duty to the workmen of the country then as now, would not listen to the representations made. At first the opposition endeavored to have a clause put in prohibiting the employment of Oriental labor, but the Premier said

this would be ultra vires and would not allow it. Then it was proposed to insert a clause which would ensure to the men the current rate of wage paid to white labor in the district, but the government would have none of this either and instead put in a so-called fair-wage clause, which was supposed to protect the white workers.

The member for Alberni said he had been over the work several times and he found that not the white rate of wages was being paid to white workmen, but what would have been a meagre wage to Oriental workers, and from this was being deducted 75 cents

a day for board, so that the men really got a miserable pittance. The best the government could say to the facts brought to their attention by the member for Newcastle was to object that he had done so earlier. As a matter of fact, the government took no interest in what was paid or what was not paid so long as they could get along without bothering their friends or taking any care of the men who were building the road.

Premier McBride complained that if there had been a less wage paid than was required the members for Newcastle and Alberni should have presented their evidence to the government before a whole year had elapsed

from the commencement of the work, so that steps could have been taken to investigate the charges. The government would lose no time in having an investigation made and in righting wrong if any wrong had been done.

The Premier stated to the House that every foot of the line dealt with in the C.N.R. agreement was under construction, and that inside twenty-four months all would be completed. The government, he assured the House, was most anxious to protect the interests of the workers.

Mr. Williams resented the Premier's insinuation that he was making this motion as a piece of stage-play or grand-stand play, but as a matter of duty. It ill became a man who at every possible opportunity indulged in grand-stand play to accuse other members who were doing their duty of this action. Mr. Williams mentioned in passing. The hon. gentleman reminded the House that he had brought the matter to the attention of the government by putting a question as to the wages paid on the C.N.R. construction work on Mainland and Island and by this resolution, and he took the further precaution of having men apply for work and thus discovering that the rate being offered men was \$2.25, just what was being paid. This information he got in affidavit form late last week and he immediately placed notice of his resolution on the orders. Mr. Williams went on to say that he expected the Minister of Railways, who was paid a salary for looking after the interests of the people, would have seen to it that these men got the wage they were entitled to; or that the member for Esquimalt (John Jardine), who sat up nights and had tears on tap, would have done so.

The resolution was declared lost on a viva voce vote, and as there were only the mover and seconder to call for the recording of the names these were not taken. Among those in the House at the time and voting against the resolution were Premier McBride, Hon. T. W. Taylor, Hon. W. R. Ross, Messrs. Cotton, Macgowan, Gifford, Behnen, Jardine, Manson (Dewdney), Hunter, Schofield, Shatford, McGuire, Parson, Shaw, Watson, Tisdall, Cawley and McDonald.

**DEBATE CONTINUED
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DEBATE CONTINUES ON TIMBER POLICY

Mr. Brewster Points Out Result of Dealings of Government With That Question

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 30.

This afternoon in the House the leader of the opposition, H. C. Brewster, continues the debate on the forestry policy of the McBride government, and has prepared a mass of striking figures, showing the result of the policy in enriching timber-holders, while the province gets little or nothing out of its forests in comparison with the value they are to the owners of licences or leases.

The debate is likely to go on all afternoon and may continue over till tomorrow.

The Vancouver civic deputation which was to have been received this morning has postponed its visit until next Monday, the present troubles in that city in regard to labor meetings being understood to be the cause of the postponement, as the members of the city council desire to remain in the city until the difficulties are over.

The grant for the Vancouver fair and horse show was the subject on which a large deputation saw the cabinet yesterday afternoon. The deputation included J. J. Miller, president of the Vancouver Exhibition Association; H. S. Ralston, secretary; Aldermen Campbell, King and Baxter, William Brown, William Holland, George Trory, Charles Doering and Maxwell Smith.

These gentlemen urged upon the government that the grant to the fair this year should be \$15,000, which is made up of the regular grant of \$8,000 and \$9,000 towards meeting the deficit at present on the books. It was stated that there has been spent on the buildings \$300,000 and on the grounds \$771,000, of which amount the city of Vancouver has contributed \$220,000 and individual members of the association \$50,000. It was intimated to the executive that if the province increased its grant the city would likely increase its contribution.

Premier McBride asked the deputation to submit a memorandum of its requests, which would be considered when the estimates were taken up.

The private bills committee met for a few minutes this morning, but as none of those who have bills before it for consideration were ready to go on the committee adjourned till tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. The bill to incorporate Ryerson College and the Prince Rupert hydro-electric bill are down for hearing. The railway committee is due to hear the promoters of the Victoria harbor railway on an application for an extension of time for the commencement of that undertaking.

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE GALLERY

Mr. ~~Wright~~ made good when he objected to the passing by the Legislature of the Revised Statutes in the form in which they came from the commissioners. During the debate many instances were shown the commissioners had assumed the power of legislating.

The attorney-general backed by the whole Conservative party, insisted on making this legislation enacted by the commissioners the law of the land, with one notable exception.

Section 153, Chap. 123, of the Revised Statutes, reads as follows: "No conveyance, transfer, or assignment of any right, interest, or claim in or to any land in respect whereof an application has been made to pre-empt, purchase, or lease the same, or over or in respect to which any license is applied for under this Act, shall be valid until after the crown grant, lease, or license, as the case may be, has been granted pursuant to such application."

The operation of the above quoted section has been prohibited by the Legislature. The fact of this section being allowed to operate would be to prevent the acquisition of crown lands by means of powers of attorney, secured from unknown and irresponsible parties, at the price of one dollar and a drink. It would operate as an effectual bar to the acquisition of provincial lands by means of syndicates and friends of the government and to a large extent put an end to speculation in crown lands. Of course, Mr. Bower could not allow this to become law, as it would interfere with his policy of giving the speculator his chance.

The Colonist sneers at Mr. Williams on account of his failure to give the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway company its full official title. How much per sneer does this cost the province?

Mr. Williams drew the attention of the government to the fact that the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company were not paying their workmen the current rate of wages, in his speech on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. He emphasized it by asking questions from the Minister of Railways, who gave untrue answers to the questions. In producing the affidavits in support of his contention, Mr. Williams clenched the matter beyond any question of doubt. Of course, the Government Man Friday from Esquimalt had to come to the defence of the government, and now he wishes he hadn't.

The Minister of Railways' plea that it was the first intimation he had had that the provisions of the statute were being evaded was untrue, as a matter of fact, and even if true amounts to a confession of dereliction of duty. His promise to investigate will not secure payment to the men who have been robbed of their statutory rights.

Is it the duty of the government or of outsiders to see that the agreements between the government and corporations are lived up to?

The premier describes the efforts of Messrs. Williams and Brewster to secure the workmen their statutory rights as stage play. There is no better authority on stage play in British Columbia than the honorable premier.

When the premier declared that construction on the C. N. P. R. had been going on for over twelve months and that every one was satisfied with the wages, he states what is notoriously untrue. Month after month the New Westminster Daily News drew attention to the fact that workmen were not being paid current wages on construction of the C. N. P. railway on the mainland; that they were being paid off by time checks and left to find their own way, without any means, to the city of New Westminster, where their time checks would only be honored on the regular monthly pay day, about the middle of the following month. Scores of these poor fellows had to beg food on their way to town and then sell their time checks at a big discount so as to obtain food and lodging for themselves.

The premier was rather unfortunate in this reference to similar complaints in regard to construction work on the G. T. F., as he had to admit that these complaints had been inquired into and cleared up, this, of course, being the Dominion work under the jurisdiction of the late Liberal government at Ottawa.

SONGHEES RESERVE.

Applications Made for Portions of the Land by Several Interests.

In order to secure information as to the applications which have been made to the government for portions of the Songhees reserve, regarding the disposition of which an announcement is expected from the government any day now, the leader of the opposition put the following questions to the minister of lands yesterday:

"1. Have any person or persons or body corporate made application to the government to acquire any portion of the lands known as the Songhees Indian reserve in the city of Victoria?"

"2. If so, what persons or bodies corporate have made such application?"

"3. How much land has been applied for in each case?"

"4. For what purpose was these lands required?"

"5. Will the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company be entitled to obtain a free grant of any of these lands under the provisions of paragraph (d) of clause 13 of the schedule to chap. 3, 1910?"

Hon. W. R. Ross replied as follows:

"1. Yes.

"2. (a) C. E. Stewart, (b) Wm. Turpel (c) W. J. Pendray, (d) corporation of the city of Victoria, (e) Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway, (f) the Victoria Harbor Railway.

"3. (a) Lots 5 and 7, (b) area not stated, (c) nine-tenths of an acre, (d) twenty-five acres, (e) and (f) area not stated.

"4. (a) and (b) Shipyard purposes, (c) manufacturing purposes, (d) park and school purposes, (e) and (f) right-of-way and terminal purposes.

"5. No."

**RYERSON COLLEGE
INCORPORATION ACT**

**Private Bills Committee Hears
Counsel for Applicants—
Echo of Fernie Fire**

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 31.
The private bills committee this morning agreed to extend the time for receiving petitions for private acts until Thursday, February 8, and for presenting private bills until Thursday, February 15. At the same time the members of the committee expressed the opinion that as those seeking legislation had ample notice of the time of meeting of the legislature there was no excuse for the delay which occurred on their part session after session.

The first bill taken up was that for the incorporation of Ryerson College, Vancouver, an educational institution which is to be under the authority of the general conference of the Methodist church. James A. Harvey, K.C., appeared on behalf of the applicants for the bill.

The committee stuck over the powers to be given the college in regard to the holding of land. It was argued that by being given power to hold for college "or any other purposes whatsoever" the governors could go into the real estate business. Mr. Harvey contended that to render gifts of land of any value to the college there must be power to see, lease or otherwise alienate it so as to realize upon it, if the governors saw fit. The section was eventually framed to give power to acquire, hold, sell, lease or otherwise alienate or dispose of lands for the purpose and benefit of the college.

The affairs of the college are to be managed by a board of governors, consisting of not less than 24 nor more than 42 members, appointed for four years by the general conference. The principal must be a minister in good standing of some branch of the Methodist church. The principal, the professors and twelve members of the board of governors, to be nominated by that body annually, shall constitute the senate of the college, together with fifteen additional members to be elected for a term of three years, five retiring each year. At the first election five are to be elected for one year, five for two years and five for three years. The principal will be chairman of the senate.

The general conference is empowered to make rules for the government of the college and the guidance of the board of governors, none of which shall be repugnant to the laws of the province. The college will be obliged to make an annual report and a duly audited financial statement to the annual B. C. Methodist conference and to the general conference. The senate is given power to confer the degree of Bachelor of Divinity after examination, and the degree of Doctor of Divinity honoris causa.

A bill was put through for the relief of the municipality of the city of Fernie, arising out of the fire of 1908. Prior to that catastrophe the council had passed two general by-laws for local improvements, but all the civic records having been destroyed there is no proof possible of production that these by-laws were passed. The purchasers of the debentures issued since the fire for permanent sidewalks specified in the bill will not take them until legislation validating the matter is enacted, and the apparent non-compliance with the requirements of the Municipal Clauses Act remedied.

The committee exercised a very close scrutiny of the phraseology of the bill, and refused to do more than validate the by-laws and the debentures issued under them. During the discussion it was made quite plain that the committee does not approve of the validating of municipal debentures except under very exceptional circumstances.

H. B. Robertson appeared for the city of Fernie, and with him was W. S. Lane, city solicitor, Fernie.

Another bill of a similar nature, also for Fernie, is to come up next week. Mayor Beckwith and City Solicitor McDiarmid had a hearing set for Tuesday next on the city's request for power to strike a one-mill rate for library purposes. The Vancouver Incorporation Act amendments come up the same day. To-morrow morning the Prince Rupert city bill, validating a by-law for a hydro-electric system and debentures for \$550,000 will be considered.

**SNAPSHOTS FROM
THE GALLERY**

Laurier's naval policy was right; so was Borden's; ditto McBride's; ditto Brewster's; also the Colonist's; if you don't believe it, read the Colonist editorials for the last two years, on file at the Provincial Library, but do not ask either the Colonist or McBride to explain the apparent inconsistencies in their attitude from time to time.

No fear of German aggression now. Sixty per cent. of the German people are Socialists and stand for peace. Parker Williams says so.

Minister Ross says that in seven years last 1,716,160 acres of Crown lands were pre-empted and during the same period only 466,872 acres of pre-empted lands were Crown granted. No explanation of the discrepancy forthcoming.

Minister Ross states that 4,238,976 acres of Crown lands were sold during the last seven years and only 1,994,514 acres of purchased lands deeded. Of course, "the speculator must have his chance," and he is given ample time to go to Britain and promote a company and raise the money to pay for the lands, and the B. C. government kindly holds the lands for the speculator's convenience.

Mr. Bowser has succeeded in defeating Mayor Taylor in Vancouver and now, by the power contained in Bill No. 7, he is seeking, through the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, to fix conditions under which Vancouver's boundaries may be extended. The legislature should not stand for this.

**WANTS FIGHTING
CANADIAN NAVY**

**NOTHING LESS WILL
THE PREMIER ACCEPT**

**Takes Practically Ground as
Mr. Brewster, Proposing
Amendment**

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 30.

If anyone can find any material difference in the amended form of the navy resolution which Premier McBride proposed this afternoon to substitute for that moved a week ago by the leader of the opposition he must be a Sherlock Holmes indeed. After worrying over the matter for a week almost, and presumably having ascertained what the party leaders at Ottawa would like, all that is brought forth is the variant of the original resolution which is given below.

Mr. Brewster called, in the motion which he placed before the House, for immediate action towards the creation of a fleet unit in Pacific waters and the establishment of a naval base on this coast. The premier suggests a form of motion which also urges haste, and in his speech Mr. McBride advanced practically the same reasons for this urgency as did the leader of the opposition. True, his resolution does not mention fleet or naval base but he was even more insistent, if possible, than Mr. Brewster that a fleet must be placed on the Pacific. An adequate, efficient, up-to-date, fighting Canadian navy is what Mr. McBride wants and nothing less will satisfy him.

Under the terms of his amended form, which the leader of the opposition is to move in the House within a few days and which, according to arrangement, is to be passed unanimously, there is no declaration by the legislature of this province of what all agree is the desire of its people—a fleet on the Pacific and a naval base, say, at Esquimalt—but the premier of B. C. is on record inside the House and out of it in his demand for just these things.

The terms of the resolution as moved by Mr. Brewster on Wednesday last were as follows:

"That whereas Canada and the mother country are agreed that it is right and reasonable that all the partners in the Empire should contribute towards the naval defence of that Empire:

"And whereas the speedy completion of the Panama canal must enormously increase the shipping business of this coast:

"Therefore, be it resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, respectfully requesting him to urge upon the Dominion government the necessity of taking such immediate steps as will lead to the creation of a Canadian fleet unit in the Pacific and to the establishment of a naval base on this coast with such promptitude as to make ready for the revolution in sea trade likely to be effected by the completion of the Panama canal."

As the premier proposed to amend it, as the leader of the opposition will later move it and as the House is to adopt it for transmission to the federal government, the resolution will read thus:

"That whereas Canada and the mother country are agreed that it is right and reasonable that all the partners in the Empire should contribute towards the naval defence of that Empire:

"And whereas the speedy completion of the Panama canal must enormously increase the shipping business of this coast:

"And whereas the Canada has decided to naval defence to be by co-operation with the other part of the Empire. Therefore, be it resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, respectfully requesting him to urge upon the Dominion government the necessity of taking such immediate steps as will lead to the creation of a Canadian fleet unit in the Pacific and to the establishment of a naval base on this coast with such promptitude as to make ready for the revolution in sea trade likely to be effected by the completion of the Panama canal."

McPhillips got up there being no opposition whatever he might have had a right to reply to the amendment, but that he had no time to do so. He did the amendment carried by the House have been no objection for him to reply.

The Premier's references to Newcastle as a section on matters touch convenience lump militarism being the member for to see in his speech a different poll Liberal party. In this province, the late election, the results of the federal election, they that the purchase her subsequent quarters vessel any fashion an ment for an eff these waters. Time that of course more a training and while it was practically cheap in the light that she was the purpose of the mind, the first the Pacific coast concerted at the circumstances we go into co-operation navy; the federal himself unable frank statement which general declarations of servative part; the cause the pre from efficient the assembly sufficient; fight next proposed created there heelon between navy which necessary in these consider that an annual

"And whereas the government of Canada has decided that any scheme of naval defence to be effective must be by co-operation with the mother country and the other parts of the Empire: "Therefore, be it resolved, that the Dominion government be urged, in view of the great importance of the immediate and adequate protection of the Pacific coast of Canada, that the question of naval defence be considered at the earliest possible date; and be it further resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, respectfully requesting him to forward a copy of this resolution to the secretary of state at Ottawa."

What looked like a bit of very tricky tactics occurred after the moving of the amendment, which the premier suggested to the leader of the opposition might be made a substantive motion for later unanimous adoption by the withdrawal of both resolution and amendment. The president of the council, Hon. A. E. McPhillips, had seconded the amendment but made no move to speak in support of it. When the Speaker put the question on the amendment and apparently no other member had any wish to be heard Mr. Brewster, to save his right of having the last word on his resolution, spoke. In any case he would have had to state whether or not he intended to accept the premier's offer and this, no doubt, would have been held by the Speaker as constituting a speech and thus exhausting the honorable gentleman's right of reply. As soon as the leader of the opposition had sat down Mr.

McPhillips got up and spoke on the amendment, presumably trusting to there being no opportunity to reply to whatever he might say.

Mr. Brewster, naturally, felt that he had a right to reply to this member of the government, but the Speaker ruled that he had no further right in the matter, even when Mr. Brewster pointed out that if he had not risen when he did the amendment would have been carried by the House and there would have been no opportunity at all left for him to reply.

The Premier began with some satirical references to the member for Newcastle as seconder of the resolution, the opinions of that gentleman on matters touching what may be for convenience lumped under the term militarism being well known. As to the member for Alberni, he professed to see in his speech the declaration of a different policy from that of the Liberal party. The Conservatives in this province, the Premier said, during the late election did not think the proposals of the federal government were sufficient; they were unable to agree that the purchase of the Rainbow and her subsequent disposition as headquarters vessel on the Pacific was in any fashion an adequate commencement for an efficient fighting force in these waters. They were told at the time that of course the Rainbow was more a training than a fighting ship, and while it was admitted that she was practically taken from the scrap heap in the old land, it was stated that she was the best-fitted vessel for the purpose the department had in mind, the first steps to the defence of the Pacific coast. They were disconcerted at the statement from Sir Wilfrid Laurier that under no circumstances would the Canadian navy go into co-operation with the imperial navy; the federal Premier had found himself unable to give that full and frank statement as to the naval policy which generally characterized his declarations of public policy. The Conservative party in this province challenged the Laurier policy, first because the preliminary steps were far from efficient and did not provide for the assembling in these waters of an efficient fighting force, and it was next proposed that when the navy was created there would not be the cohesion between it and the imperial navy which would be absolutely necessary in case of war. Aside from these considerations it was proposed that an annual sum of very consider-

able proportions should be provided by the federal treasury with which new vessels were to be constructed.

"It might be well to point out to the Legislature," continued Mr. McBride, "that we have had in the last two weeks from Mr. Hazen, the new Minister of Naval Affairs, a very specific statement, in substance to the effect that expert advice which he has secured condemns such a policy on the ground that by the time it had been carried out the result obtained would have been simply to assemble vessels obsolete, out of date, and of no fighting account at all. I think that the very frank, very decisive utterances of the Minister of Marine of Canada evidences the genuineness of the new government in respect of what we may expect as to a naval policy.

"I think we may all take for granted that as soon as time permits—the government has been in office but three or four months—we may see the process of establishing an efficient

Canadian navy taken up in solemn and deliberate form and a specific policy outlined that will relieve the tension that now obtains, especially on the Pacific and on the Atlantic seaboard. Why, Mr. Speaker, should Canada, in its attempts to bring about adequate naval defence, stop at anything short of the best and most up-to-date equipment? I would like to know, if it is essential in the naval defence of the Empire that in the Old Land nothing but the last word should be adopted, why it is not equally essential in the Dominion of Canada for the Canadian people. If the Rainbow, in other words, is not good enough for England she is not good enough for Canada. (Conservative cheers.)

"I think that, considering the new circumstances created at Ottawa and the far-reaching importance to Canada of a proper naval policy, it is only right and fair, in view of the recent pronouncement, that we should give Mr. Borden and his followers a fair and decent opportunity to frame and announce a policy as to the establishment of a Canadian navy. There is no question of the wealth of Canada or of her ability to finance and make adequate provision for naval defence. I am quite satisfied that no longer need we be obliged to go to the Admiralty in the home land in order to secure the protection so essential in the home waters and abroad for Canadian interests involving other seas.

"I think we can expect presently, when the new administration has had an opportunity to confer with the Admiralty, the consummation of a naval policy that will be acceptable to Liberals and to Conservatives alike. We should as true and loyal Canadians go to the utmost limits in order to take this question of the Canadian navy out of our politics and place it, if at all possible, on a higher plane. It would be a very wise and a very proper course for the House of Commons at Ottawa to adopt to grapple with the question of a Canadian navy aside from political conditions altogether. We on this coast should feel from day to day the necessity of urging this matter on our brother Canadians who live on the hinterland and are not so familiar with coast conditions as we are. I know there is a tendency for us to be more or less discouraged at times at the apathy of Canadians in the interior provinces. We read, when there is an agitation which would lead to more activity in naval affairs, that they in the East think there is no urgency and that the matter is one which might well stand over. I know that with the construction of more transcontinental railways and with a better understanding of things the day is not far distant when the entire Dominion will come to such an appreciation of the situation as will justify Canadians joining with one voice in establishing a modern, efficient and up-to-date navy, one which will be a credit to any nation."

Reasons For Pacific Fleet.

The premier went on to say that there were many reasons why we should have a fleet on these waters. The province had heavy interests in transcontinental railways with terminals on tide-water, and in the consequent expenditure of millions on harbor accommodation, and as a matter of duty to themselves British Columbians should not spare themselves in endeavoring to interest the eastern and the prairie provinces in the necessity for a navy. A few weeks ago he had spoken in the Victoria theatre in support of a resolution much the same as that proposed by the member for Alberni, when he dwelt on the need for insurance of our heavy investments on this coast by the establishment of a navy, and expressed the belief that the people of Canada

would attend to this matter. With the early completion of the transcontinental lines and the increase of shipping through the opening of the Panama canal it was essential that this protection must be given. Looking over the entire situation the urgency of establishing a navy came home to every British Columbian. Mr. Hazen was shortly going to England and would find in the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, a man in every way equal to his high office, and would leave nothing undone to assure Canada that the motherland was with the Dominion in the building up of a Canadian navy.

Concluding, the premier said he found no fault with Mr. Brewster for giving prominence to this matter at this time, but in view of there being a new government at Ottawa he thought it only right and fitting that it should be given an opportunity to frame its policy. He therefore moved as an amendment, seconded by the president of the council, that all the words in the resolution after the second paragraph be struck out and that the following words be substituted:

"And whereas the government of Canada has decided that any scheme of naval defence to be effective must be by co-operation with the mother-country and the other parts of the empire:

"Therefore, be it resolved, that the Dominion government be urged, in view of the great importance of the immediate and adequate protection of the Pacific coast of Canada, that the question of naval defence be considered at the earliest possible date; and be it further resolved, that an humble address be presented to his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, respectfully requesting him to forward a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State at Ottawa."

The premier suggested that both the leader of the opposition and himself might withdraw their resolution and the amendment, and that then the resolution, recast as proposed in the amendment, might be adopted unanimously by the House and go forth as its unanimous opinion. He closed by again declaring himself in favor of active and immediate construction of an efficient navy for the Dominion of Canada.

Dignified Disclaimer.

Parker Williams disclaimed any credit for a change of heart or views on matters of defence. He explained—what of course was generally apparent to other members—that in view of there being but one Liberal and one Socialist in the House at the moment there was a friendly understanding between them to second motions for one another so as to get these before the House, but this did not commit either to a support of the views expressed in any resolution the other proposed. Personally he had no sympathy with any militarist sentiments, Mr. Williams said. He was just as keenly desirous as anyone else to see the maintenance of the British Empire, and just as willing to see its defensive forces maintained so long as that was necessary, but Britain and Germany were rushing headlong to financial bankruptcy in the effort to outdo each other in building navies. If this reckless waste of money was stopped it would go a long way to abolishing poverty, for the man in overalls was behind every dollar spent and was the one who felt most severely the immense burden of taxation.

J A N

1912

CASH BALANCE IS \$8,744,197.63

Financial Surplus of the Province Has Risen Enormously Under the Government of Hon. Richard McBride.

REVENUE INCREASE FOR YEAR IS \$1,618,150.33

Provincial Public Accounts Show in Emphatic Manner Satisfactory Conditions of the Country's Business.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

for the last completed fiscal year, which were presented to the Provincial Legislature today by Finance Minister Ellison, show in unchallengeable terms the satisfactory condition of the country's business and its substantial growth during the twelve months under review. An increase in revenue over that of the last preceding year of \$1,618,150.33 is recorded, while the increase in the aggregate of public expenditures, keeping pace sympathetically with the growth and development of the province, amounted to \$1,811,809.88, the grand totals for the contrasted periods being:

Net revenue, 1909-10, \$8,874,741.94;
1910-11, \$10,492,892.27.
Net expenditures, 1909-10, \$6,382,993.27;
1910-11, \$8,194,802.95.

At the close of the fiscal year, 31st of March last, the balance sheet of the province showed a total of provincial assets over all other obligations and liabilities of \$1,497,694.85, with a cash balance in the banks and in the treasury (inclusive of the gold bar deposit of \$1,118 with the Canadian Bank of Commerce and various sums in cash in the hands of district agents aggregating \$269,388.71) of no less an amount than \$8,744,197.63.

Analysis of the several sources of provincial income producing the general increase of slightly better than eighteen per cent. in revenue indicates development and expansion in all departments proportionally well maintained, for while land sales constitute a notable exception in showing a decrease for the year from \$2,618,188.75 to \$2,451,231.26, this is almost offset by the one related item of land revenue, leaping within the year from \$175,778.11 to \$321,586.98. Other conspicuous examples of increases are noted in the advance of licence receipts from \$58,951.49 to \$92,498.00; of succession duties from \$106,495.23 to \$200,456.88 (almost double); of registry fees from \$408,236.15 to \$613,092.22; of wild lands taxes from \$250,904.71 to \$316,120.85; of printing office receipts from \$45,154.99 to \$157,778.49; of rebates under the Chinese Restriction Act from \$254,200.00 to \$1,066,000.00; of fishing and cannery licences from \$31,340.00 to \$82,665.79; and of interest from \$157,492.15 to \$322,772.40, a very different condition from that indicated in the accounts for 1909-10 (the first year of the McBride regime) when the interest total appearing in the statement of provincial revenue amounted to exactly \$966.63.

Expenditures throughout the year have been chiefly upon public works of a permanent and reproductive character, which remain as substantial assets of the province.

LEGISLATURE IS OPENED

Third Session of Twelfth Parliament of British Columbia Is Inaugurated in Business-like Manner.

SPEECH FORECASTS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION

Measures Will Be Introduced Designed to Further Encourage Building of Railways Throughout Province.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 11.—Brief and business-like despite their old time ceremonial character, were the proceedings today, incident to the inauguration of the third session of British Columbia's twelfth parliament. Everything was in order for the comfort of the many prominent guests who attended in large numbers thronging the chamber to hear the reading of the speech from the throne. Among these were the Hon. J. S. Helmcken, K. C., the first speaker of the Colonial Assembly; former Premiers Semlin and Bevan, President J. J. Warren of the Kettle River Valley Railroad, and numerous other historic and active figures in the making of the province.

The Lieutenant-Governor was attended by a glittering staff drawn from the naval and military services, a guard of honor being furnished from the Fifth Regiment, C. G. A. The speech from the throne was as follows:

Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—

It with pleasure that I welcome you to the third session of the Twelfth Parliament of British Columbia.

The ceremonies attendant on the Coronation of Their Majesties, the King and Queen, were in no part of the Empire observed with greater loyalty and affection than in this province. It is fitting to note that British Columbia was by invitation officially presented in London on that occasion.

The presence of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught at Ottawa as Governor-General of Canada, is regarded by the people of the Dominion as a special mark of the royal favor, and I am confident it will be a pleasing duty on your part to adopt an address of welcome to be presented to His Royal Highness.

Having completed his term of office as His Majesty's representative in the Dominion, Earl Grey, on his return to the Mother Country, takes with him the warmest regards of the Canadian people. The great interest he has always evinced in this province entitles him to a lasting place in the hearts of British Columbians.

The long standing difficulties in connection with the Songhees Indian Reserve, Victoria City, have been adjusted, and the reserve has passed into the possession of the province, while due provision has been made for another reserve for the Indians.

The report of the commission appointed during the year to inquire into the subject of taxation is ready and will be presented to you in due course.

The consolidation of the provincial statutes has been completed and the result of the work of the commission will be laid before you.

Following the report of the Forestry Commission legislation has been prepared providing for a Department of Forests, and a bill will be submitted dealing with the conservation and administration of the timber wealth of the province.

During the past year work has been proceeded with under the direction of the Minister of Public Works in accordance with the development of Strathcona Park. You will be asked to place a sum in the estimates to provide for a vigorous prosecution of the undertaking during the coming season.

During the year the First Minister, together with the Attorney-General and the Minister of Lands, visited Ottawa to discuss with the Dominion authorities various important questions affecting the province. The papers dealing with these matters will be placed before you.

As one of the results of this conference with the Federal Government, it has been arranged that the administration of the water in the railway belt will be carried on under the water branch of the Provincial Lands Department. A bill to give effect to this agreement will be submitted to you in due course.

The rapid growth of the business of the province has called for a necessary increase in public works. Under the authority of the legislation passed last session a contract has been awarded for the much-needed extension of the Parliament buildings and the work is now proceeding.

Owing to the increased demand for transportation facilities, measures will be placed before you designed to further encourage the building of railways in the province.

It is interesting to note that substantial progress is being made with the preliminary work leading up to the establishment of a provincial university. Land-clearing operations are under way at the university site, and steps are being taken to give effect to the provisions

You will be asked to provide a sufficient grant to permit of a formal opening of the university at the fall term of 1913.

The public accounts for the past fiscal year and the estimates of expenditures for the coming year will be duly laid before you.

I feel assured that these and all other matters submitted to you will receive your most careful consideration, and that you will be guided in your deliberations by what you believe to be in the best interests of the province.

After His Honor's withdrawal the first bill of the year was introduced by Attorney-General Bowser, and took its initial reading, this being merely a technical measure amending the Act which governs the administration of small estates of the insane. Returns were brought down by Finance Minister Ellison of the public accounts of the last fiscal year and by Dr. Young of the fortieth report of the department of education, the first report of the provincial sanitary inspector, the fourteenth report of the provincial board of health and the yearly report of the hospital for the insane. The House then rose.

Tomorrow the debate on the address will be moved and seconded by Mr. Watson of Vancouver and Mr. Lucas of Yale, respectively.

MR. B.

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MR. WATSON IN BRILLIANT FORM

Local Member of Legislature
Moves Address from Throne
and Congratulates Ministry
on Splendid Record.

REFERS TO SECRET OF VANCOUVER'S PROGRESS

Corrects Erroneous Impres-
sion that Growth Is Due to
Real Estate Boom—Debate
Will Be Short.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 12. — The first business sitting of the third term of British Columbia's twelfth provincial parliament today was almost exclusively devoted to the addresses of mover and seconder in presenting the formal resolution in reply to His Honor's Speech from the Throne. Both Mr. Watson and Mr. Alexander Lucas were in excellent form and discussed current public affairs as clear-headed men of affairs, business and patriotic British Columbians and Britishers, in such a manner as to win for their remarks the concurrence and endorsement of political foe-man as well as friend. Upon the completion of the seconder's too brief address, the debate on the resolution was adjourned by the Liberal leader, Mr. Brewster. Discussion is not expected to be at all prolonged.

The business of the first working day of parliament proved purely preliminary. Not one notice of question, motion or private legislation as yet appears on the order paper, but on the floor of the House yesterday Mr. Tisdall presented the petition of Vancouver City for its extensive and complicated charter revision. Mr. Fraser (Cariboo) at the same time brought forward the petition of the British Columbia and Alaska Railway Company for various amendments in its charter. And there was also introduced by message from His Honor, presented by the Attorney-General, the short but significant bill essential for the ratification of the Consolidated Statutes as presented by the revising commissioners, Messrs. Charles Wilson and A. P. Luxton, K. C. This bill already has advanced to the second reading, and after this has been given (on Monday, probably) the law officer of the Crown in charge will, while it is in the committee stage, explain each detail of minor change from existent statute law which the commissioners have reported to be desirable.

Mr. Hayward of Cowichan was today re-elected by the House as deputy speaker and Mr. A. H. B. Macgowan (Vancouver) vice-chairman of the House committee and chairman of the ways and means committee, both nominations being made by the Premier and affably seconded by the opposing leader. In proposing Mr. Hayward for the deputy speakership, the first minister commented that this procedure was now demanded under House rule No. 9, while he felt confident that the nomination would meet with ready endorsement by the legislature.

Mr. Brewster, in seconding, added that the House last year had enjoyed the advantage of Mr. Hayward's services as Deputy Speaker, and his discharge of the duties pertaining to the office had been so generally satisfactory that he had pleasure in seconding the motion for the Cowichan member's resumption of those duties.

The resolution in reply to His Honor's speech at the opening of parliament was the first item appearing on the orders, and Mr. Watson upon rising to discharge his pleasant duties as mover was received with a true ovation.

Mr. H. H. Watson, member of Vancouver, in moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne made what was undoubtedly the best speech of his career as a representative of the commercial metropolis of British Columbia. For fifty minutes he held the close attention of the Assembly. His speech was frequently punctuated by the applause of his fellow-members and at its close he received many hearty congratulations on his able exposition of the progress of the province as a whole during the past twelve months.

A survey of the provincial revenue collected from all sources for the fiscal year which ended on March 31, 1911, said Mr. Watson, in discussing the financial position of British Columbia, "shows expansion in every direction. It is a splendid reflection of the increasing prosperity of this province and a triumph for the sound and prudent administration of that great financial department, so ably presided over by Hon. Mr. Ellison. The gross revenue from all sources for the year referred to, reaches the vast total of \$10,492,892.27.

"Indications point to a still better showing during the current fiscal year, as I am given to understand that the timber and coal receipts for the nine months ending December 31 last, show a most satisfactory increase. In regard to the mineral output the figures for this industry show a decrease on account of the recent strike at Fernie, though with a settlement of the trouble and the encouraging aspect of the silver lead industry in the Slocan, the mining outlook for the coming year is very bright.

"With the revenues of the province never in better shape than they are today, I think that the administration is fully justified in presenting the substantial programme outlined in the speech from the throne. In doing so, the first minister and his colleagues have again displayed the progressive in the constructive statesmanship that has done so much in the past to ensure confidence and financial stability from one end of the province to the other, as well as to earn the greatest respect of business men, irrespective of party affiliations.

"A single instance of the government's solicitude for the people was the appointment of a royal commission on taxation which held numerous sessions throughout the province last summer and whose report will soon be laid before the House. I am hopeful that their recommendations will receive full consideration and that any inequalities that may have existed in the past as regards taxation will be abolished and reductions of taxation will be effected wherever possible.

"One result of the investigation of the Forestry Commission will be the creation by legislation this season of a forestry branch of the Land Department, also a bill dealing with the conservation and administration of the timber wealth of the province will be submitted for your consideration. In grasping the importance of this subject, the Minister of Lands has rendered the public a great service and has again displayed those rare administrative qualities which won him recognition from the moment he entered the cabinet.

"I think that you will all agree with me that the government has displayed broad constructive statesmanship in its decision to extend the railway policy so successfully inaugurated several years ago. The fruits of that policy are already apparent in the railway activity prevailing on Vancouver Island and on the mainland. The Canadian Northern Railway is making remarkable progress and we are assured that the Coast and prairies will be linked by the new line before the end of 1912.

well ahead of the time fixed on by the Premier when he brought down the policy which resulted in the building of this line. The expenditure of the Canadian Northern in British Columbia last month amounted to \$750,000, and the effect of this large distribution of money is already stimulating every line of commercial activity. The Canadian Pacific Railway is also doing its share in opening up Vancouver Island; it has built the Alberni branch, which was opened a few days ago to traffic, and it now proposes further extension in the near future to the north in the direction

of Campbell River and on to the northern extremity of the Island. At the same time the Canadian Northern is steadily reaching out from Victoria by another route, which will open up equally rich regions. The possibilities for the development of Vancouver Island are almost inconceivable.

"I am sure that when the Premier takes this House into his confidence on his new railway policies it will be found to be of the greatest importance to the province as a whole. The Premier has already publicly intimated that arrangements will be made so as to ensure the construction of the railway from the coast through the great northern hinterland to the Peace River district. The people of the Coast have not been slow to appreciate the possibilities of the proposed line. Public bodies have with one accord declared in favor of a railway through the centre of the province to the wheat fields of the Peace River district. A line such as is proposed will serve the double purpose of opening up the intermediate region as well as finding an outlet for the surplus products of the millions of acres of land within British Columbia on the eastern side of the Rockies. Edmonton is looking with longing eyes in the same direction. The superior advantages offered by a short rail haul along the natural water grade to this coast are obvious and I look for the production of the entire Mackenzie River basin to seek export via this coast. In probably ten years time there will not be such a thing as free farm lands on the prairies. Then British Columbia will come into her own and there will be a great trek to the lands of this province, such another as there has been to her cities during the past few years. Our hinterland is rich and there is a water grade from it to the coast and I look for the time, and it is not far distant, when all the products of that country will seek the coast for distribution.

"Referring to the progress which has been made by the cities of British Columbia during the past year, I trust I am justified in taking a pardonable pride in the remarkable strides made by the city of Vancouver. I am not one of those who believe that the growth of any city menaces the future of any other community, and I am sure that the same sentiments are entertained by other members of this house. I should like to do my share in dissipating an erroneous impression that has got abroad that the city of Vancouver owes its progress to a real estate boom, and that a period of reaction, if not of financial stringency, is bound to set in sooner or later. Such an idea is due to a misapprehension of the facts. The phenomenal growth of Vancouver is due to more far reaching economic causes. Vancouver is a seaport and an industrial centre, it is the western terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the prospective terminus of the Canadian Northern Railway as well as the Canadian portion of the Great Northern. We are also on the eve of attracting the Grand Trunk Pacific with its proposed branch line from Fort George. These are some of the reasons why Vancouver is a prosperous city and why

she is destined to become a great city in every sense of the term. The rise in property values was only incidental under the circumstances. Some eastern publications have been particularly free in criticising the advance in values and have been disposed to regard with a certain amount of cynicism bona fide transactions that have taken place in Vancouver within the last few months. It would seem that if a phenomenal rise in real estate values is to be taken as an indication of impending disaster, the city of Toronto must be in the same boat with Vancouver.

"Speaking still of Vancouver, Mr. Speaker, that from a city of less than 43,000 persons less than six years ago, Vancouver has become a metropolitan centre of over 110,000 population, with almost 50,000 additional people within the limits of the area now designated Greater Vancouver, and sharing in the same complex life as the parent city on the shores of Burrard Inlet.

"I wish to congratulate the minister of education on his efforts on behalf of the University of British Columbia, the clearing of the site at Point Grey is well under way, and I understood a grant will be asked in order to ensure the formal opening of the university for the fall term of 1913. I see no reason why British Columbia, thanks to the splendid endowment, should not soon possess a seat of higher learning that will enable us to educate our young people at home.

"In conclusion I say that British Columbia is worthy of the best that the greatest of our public men can do for her. This is a country of imperial possibilities, and is it not a matter of great congratulation that at this juncture her affairs are in the hands of strong, capable men, men of courage and foresight. The foundation for the future is being laid, and it is essential that they should be broad and deep.

"And now, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in reply to the Speech from the Throne."
(Applause.)

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A REMARKABLE BUDGET.

Mr. Ellison has the honor of presenting the largest of the Canadian provincial budgets. It may surprise people from the Eastern provinces to learn that the revenue of British Columbia is larger than that of Ontario, much larger than that of Quebec, considerably greater than the sum of the revenues of the three prairie provinces together, and three times that of the three Maritime Provinces. Yet Ontario has six times, Quebec five times, the prairie provinces three times and the Maritime Provinces more than double the population of this province. The budget of the other eight provinces, with six and a half million people, amount to about \$26,000,000, or say four dollars per head, while that of British Columbia with some four hundred thousand inhabitants is ten and a half millions or twenty-seven dollars per head.

The revenue of this province for the last fiscal year was in round figures \$10,500,000. Ontario took in less than \$9,000,000 in the fiscal year 1910. The revenue of Quebec runs to about \$6,000,000, that of Manitoba \$3,400,000, while Saskatchewan and Alberta receive \$2,700,000 each, whereof half is federal subsidy. Nova Scotia reports a revenue of \$1,600,000, New Brunswick \$1,400,000 and Prince Edward Island \$400,000. It is true that a portion of the revenue of this province comes from the sale of land and may therefore be called income from capital. But this leaves over \$8,000,000 from other sources, and if it comes to a question of bookkeeping it should be noted that all other provinces borrow money for capital expenditure, whereas British Columbia expends more than twice as much on what would be called capital account as is received from the sale of lands. This capital expenditure goes to improve the value of the crown lands and other public resources of the province, so that the provincial assets would continue to increase even if there were no surplus in the annual accounts. It should be observed further than the balance of income over expenditure last year about equals the receipts from the sale of lands.

We are accustomed to hear it said that as British Columbia is rich and since the provincial income exceeds that of the other provinces, there can be no foundation for the provincial claim to better terms from the Dominion. The answer to this will be found in the revenue statement of this province. British Columbia has a large revenue because the people, the legislatures and successive governments have determined to open up the country for settlement and provide the best possible accommodation and facilities for settlers without running the province heavily in debt. In no other province do the people contribute to provincial purposes as they do here. Provincial income and personal property taxes are not known in the East. Lands are only taxed in the older provinces for municipal purposes. Licence revenues, registry fees and many other sources of revenue are used in this province to raise money more effectively than in the Eastern provinces. These methods of obtaining revenue will be reviewed at the present session of the Legislature, but it is safe to say that the province will continue to show large budgets and to demand large public expenditure. In no other way can justice be done to the most mountainous and yet the most promising province of this great Dominion, and the most interesting and attractive portion of the Empire.

VANCOUVER BILL IS INTRODUCED

Hon. W. J. Bowser, Attorney-General, Fathers Legislation Re Admission of Hastings Townsite and D. L. 301.

**GIVEN SECOND READING;
 GOES TO COMMITTEE**

Premier McBride Replies to Opposition Leader, Who Criticizes Government's Policy—Predicts Decrease in Taxes.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

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In moving the second reading the Attorney-General explained that in the Vancouver charter amendments last year provision was made for the admission of Hastings Townsite and D. L. 301, but in committee a mistake was made in numbering the sections. This was discovered after the House had adjourned and it left them without machinery for the collection of taxes or preparation of voters' lists. The government decided that they might proceed with the elections and they would bring down this bill to validate them afterwards. In addition to the aldermen for these wards it affected the bylaws and the mayor and other candidates who had been voted on there. They desired to get the bill through tomorrow so that His Honor's consent might be given on Wednesday and the city of Vancouver could proceed with its civic business.

The bill was given second reading and will be considered in committee today.

The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was continued by Mr. Brewster and Premier McBride. Mr. Brewster said at the opening that as he was the only Liberal in the House he would have to make a large number of speeches during the session, so that he would be brief. He devoted himself chiefly to an attack on the government's land policy, which he described as no policy, since it consisted in parting with the choicest lands in the country to an inner ring of the Conservative party in return for services rendered. The only policy possible for them to adopt was the one advocated by the Liberals, and this they dare not take up for fear of angering their friends.

The government's proposed railway policy, he described as a bait to catch voters, while at the same time the government was ready to sacrifice the credit of the province to help out railway corporations. He attacked the order-in-council, issued by the government after last session, raising the price of crown lands, as a breach of constitutional privilege, since it had never been discussed on the floor of the house by the people's representatives, and it showed no consideration for those who had purchased land under the existing law. Not only did the government part with the best land to speculators, but when a settler did go in and try to clear up the land they taxed him on every cent of his improvements.

He attacked the poll tax and expressed the hope that the report of the tariff commission would favor its abolition. In conclusion he said that the whole creed of the Tory party seemed to be based on tariff lines which placed the burden of taxation on those least able to bear it.

Premier McBride spoke for over an hour in reply. He scored Mr. Brewster for harping away on the government land policy. It was impossible that settlement of the land could be carried on in British Columbia as it was in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Nevertheless the number of pre-emptors coming into British Columbia had increased fifty per cent, during the past year. Instead of dealing with schemes of land settlement, the government was doing its best to provide for settlers already here by building roads and schools and increasing the facilities for transportation.

Speaking of the order-in-council raising the price of crown lands, he scouted the idea that it was done for the benefit of any inside ring. He believed that if the grand total of applicants for these lands were summed up, it would be found that the majority was made up of Liberals, with perhaps a few Socialists. At least it was freely open to all. The government had been reducing taxation year by year, and he believed that when the report of the Taxation Commission was brought down within the next few days, they would be able to make still further decreases. The member for Alberni spoke of the hardships suffered by farmers, but the only farmers he had heard to complain were the members for Alberni and Newcastle. It should be remembered that most of the farm lands lay within municipalities and the government derived no revenue from them.

He said the question of better terms was still a live one. They had received already \$350,000 in increased subsidies, and they would leave nothing undone to secure an equitable and final adjustment.

Regarding Mr. Brewster's statement that the government railway policy was a bait to catch votes, the Premier said he would be always ready to use a bait that would settle up waste areas, place thousands of industrious settlers in our fertile valleys and on the timbered and richly mineralized hills. He was no fonder of general elections than anyone else, as they called for a great deal of anxious and arduous work, but during the ten years the government had been in power he had never initiated a general policy unless he had the people behind him.

"And if the further development of railway construction is necessary," he added, "I will go to the country on that policy, not as a bait, but for the judgment of the people before making the move. If the people do not agree with me they can turn me out and place my friend, the leader of the opposition, in power."

He added that he would deal with the whole matter later, showing what had been done in railway construction of late and what might be done within the next few years if the House accepted his suggestion.

"In proposing to submit my railway policy to the House, which I hope to do within the next two or three weeks, I do so with strong faith in the future of the country and with a determination to implement its progress by the construction of projected and necessary roads."

He promised the member for Alberni that in these arrangements Vancouver Island would not be forgotten.

The Premier spoke in glowing terms of the Coronation and the treatment accorded to the Colonial visitors there. He also spoke of a recent interview with the Duke of Connaught at Ottawa and the promise of His Royal Highness that he would pay a visit to British Columbia before long. He considered the Coronation and the appointment of His Royal Highness to be two of the most significant facts in the evolution of the Imperial idea, and to these had been added the return of Mr. Borden as Premier of Canada.

He said that a report on the recent visit of Ministers to Ottawa would be shortly placed before the House. He believed that progress had been made in the accomplishment of their mission, but did not wish anyone to think that they expected more from the Borden Government than they were legiti-

mately entitled to than they might have obtained from the Laurier Government. Touching on the settlement of the Songhees reserve question, the Premier spoke also of his conference with Indian chiefs in relation to their claims on provincial lands. From his conversation with them then he believed that if the Indians were assured of fair treatment they would be satisfied.

Speaking of the Provincial University, he said, it was gratifying to know that they hoped to be able to open its doors in 1913 and when completed it would be equal to Toronto or McGill. In conclusion the Premier dealt at length with the progress made in the mining industry, showing that it had been eminently satisfactory, especially in coal mining.

Mr. Tisdall moved the adjournment of the debate and will speak tomorrow. He will be followed by Mr. Williams, at present the sole representative of Socialism in the House, as Mr. Hawthornthwaite is away in the Old Country and will not be back for a week or two.

ISH COLUMBIA.

Victoria, Jan. 15.—The elections in Ward VII in the City of Vancouver by Hon. Mr. Bowser by permission of the House was given second reading.

The debate on the speech from the throne was continued by Mr. Brewster and Premier McBride.

MR. BREWSTER said that as he was the only Liberal in the House, he would have to make a large number of speeches during the session, so that he would be brief. He devoted himself chiefly to an attack on the government's land policy, which he described as no policy, since it consisted in parting with the choicest lands in the country to an inner ring of the Conservative party in return for services rendered. The only policy possible for them to adopt was the one advocated by the Liberals, and this they dare not take up for fear of angering their friends.

The government's policy, he described as a bait to catch voters, while at the same time the government was ready to sacrifice the credit of the province to help out railway corporations. He attacked the order-in-council, issued by the government after last session, raising the price of crown lands, as a breach of constitutional privilege, since it had never been discussed on the floor of the house by the people's representatives, and it showed no consideration for those who had purchased land under the existing law. Not only did the government part with the best land to speculators, but when a settler did go in and try to clear up the land they taxed him on every cent of his improvements.

He attacked the poll tax and expressed the hope that the report of the tariff commission would favor its abolition. In conclusion he said that the whole creed of the Tory party seemed to be based on tariff lines which placed the burden of taxation on those least able to bear it.

Premier McBride spoke for over an hour in reply. He scored Mr. Brewster for harping away on the government land policy, and the number of pre-emptors coming into British Columbia had increased fifty per cent, during the past year. Instead of dealing with schemes of land settlement, the government was doing its best to provide for settlers already here by building roads and schools and increasing the facilities for transportation.

Speaking of the order-in-council raising the price of crown lands, he scouted the idea that it was done for the benefit of any inside ring. He believed that if the grand total of applicants for these lands were summed up, it would be found that the majority was made up of Liberals, with perhaps a few Socialists. At least it was freely open to all. The government had been reducing taxation year by year, and he believed that when the report of the Taxation Commission was brought down within the next few days, they would be able to make still further decreases.

He said the question of better terms was still a live one. They had received already \$350,000 in increased subsidies, and they would leave nothing undone to secure an equitable and final adjustment.

Regarding Mr. Brewster's statement that the government railway policy was a bait to catch votes, the Premier said he would be always ready to use a bait that would settle up waste areas, place thousands of industrious settlers in our fertile valleys and on the timbered and richly mineralized hills. He was no fonder of general elections than anyone else, as they called for a great deal of anxious and arduous work, but during the ten years the government had been in power he had never initiated a general policy unless he had the people behind him.

"And if the further development of railway construction is necessary," he added, "I will go to the country on that policy, not as a bait, but for the judgment of the people before making the move. If the people do not agree with me they can turn me out and place my friend, the leader of the opposition, in power."

The Provincial Legislature

Policy and Outlines At-
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ISH COLUMBIA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1912.

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The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was continued by Mr. Brewster and Premier McBride.

MR. BREWSTER said at the opening that as he was the only Liberal in the House, he would be brief. He devoted himself chiefly to an attack on the government's land policy, which he described as no policy, since it consisted in parting with the choicest lands in the country to an inner ring of the Conservative party in return for services rendered. The only policy possible for them to adopt was the one advocated by the Liberals, and this they dare not take up for fear of angering their friends.

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the construction of projected and necessary roads." He promised the member for Alberni that in these arrangements Vancouver Island would not be forgotten.

THE PREMIER spoke in glowing terms of the Coronation and the treatment accorded to the colonial visitors there. He also spoke of a recent interview with the Duke of Connaught at Ottawa, and the promise of His Royal Highness that he would pay a visit to British Columbia before long. He considered the Coronation and the appointment of His Royal Highness to be two of the most significant facts in the evolution of the imperial ideal, and to these had been added the return of Mr. Borden as Premier of Canada.

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In conclusion the PREMIER dealt with the progress made in the mining industry, showing that it had been eminently satisfactory, especially in coal mining.

In the form of a message from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor the bill to validate the election of certain aldermen and others and the collection of taxes in certain parts of the city of Vancouver was introduced before the assembly rose. Purely as a formality in accordance with parliamentary procedure in Great Britain, where messages from the King are concerned, Hon. Mr. Bowser, Attorney-General, moved that the message from His Honor be referred to committee of the whole. The measure was committed with Mr. A. H. B. Macgowan in the chair, was duly reported and the report adopted and read a first time.

HON. W. J. BOWSER—With the permission of the House I move that the rules be suspended and that the second reading of the bill take place now. This measure is necessary in order that the constituted authorities of the city of

Vancouver may continue their work. Last year Vancouver came to the Legislature seeking certain charter amendments and among these there was provision for the admission of Hastings Townsite and District Lot 301 to the city. The necessary votes of the electors had been secured but legislation was necessary before these districts, which had been under provincial administration, could become portions of the city of Vancouver. After the bill came to the House in committee a mistake was made in the numbering of its sections. It was discovered after the House had adjourned and the bill had been assented to that although the districts had been formally incorporated in the city there existed, because of the improper numbering of the sections, no machinery for assessing or collecting taxes or for the preparation of voters' lists. It was an unfortunate mistake. The Government decided that under the circumstances the city could proceed with its elections and we would bring down a bill to validate the assessment roll and voters' list. It is necessary to validate the election of two aldermen in Ward VII and the same number of aldermen in Ward VIII; also the election of the Mayor, although I might point out that the Mayor was elected by a sufficient majority in the old wards of the city to put his choice beyond question—the result in this case would not have been affected by the vote in the two new wards. A number of bylaws

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He said that a report on the recent visit of Ministers to Ottawa would be shortly placed before the House. He believed that progress had been made in the accomplishment of their mission, but did not wish anyone to think that they expected more from the Borden Government than they were legiti-

mately entitled to or than they might have obtained from the Laurier Government. Touching on the settlement of the Songhees reserve question, the Premier spoke also of his conference with Indian chiefs in relation to their claims on provincial lands. From his conversation with them then he believed that if the Indians were assured of fair treatment they would be satisfied.

Speaking of the Provincial University, he said, it was gratifying to know that they hoped to be able to open its doors in 1913 and when completed it would be equal to Toronto or McGill.

In conclusion the Premier dealt at length with the progress made in the mining industry, showing that it had been eminently satisfactory, especially in coal mining.

Mr. Tisdall moved the adjournment of the debate and will speak tomorrow. He will be followed by Mr. Williams, at present the sole representative of Socialism in the House, as Mr. Hawthornthwaite is away in the Old Country and will not be back for a week or two.

Victoria, Jan. 15.—The elections in Ward VII of the City of Vancouver by Hon. Mr. Bowser by permission of the House were given second reading.

The debate on the bill was continued by Mr. Brewster and Premier McBride.

MR. BREWSTER said that as he was the only Liberal in the House, he would be himself chiefly to an attack on the government's land policy, since it consisted in parting with the choicest lands in the country to an inner ring of the Conservative party in return for services rendered. The only policy possible for them to adopt was the one advocated by the Liberals, and this they dare not take up for fear of angering their friends.

The government's policy, he described as no policy, since it consisted in parting with the choicest lands in the province to help out railway corporations. He attacked the order-in-council, issued by the government after last session, raising the price of crown lands as a breach of constitutional privilege, since it had never been discussed on the floor of the House by the people's representatives, and it showed no consideration for those who had purchased land under the existing law.

He attacked the poll tax and expressed the hope that the report of the tariff commission would favor its abolition. In conclusion he said that the whole creed of the Tory party seemed to be based on tariff lines which placed the burden of taxation on those who were unable to bear it.

PREMIER McBRIDE spoke for over an hour in reply. He scored Mr. Brewster for harping away on the government land policy, and the number of pre-emptors coming into British Columbia had increased fifty per cent. during the past year. Instead of dealing with schemes of land settlement, the government was doing its best to provide for settlers already here by building roads and schools and increasing the facilities for transportation.

Speaking of the order-in-council raising the price of crown lands, he scouted the idea that it was done for the benefit of any inside ring. He believed that if the grand total of applicants for these lands were summed up, it would be found that the majority was made up of Liberals, with perhaps a few Socialists. At least it was freely open to all. The government had been reducing taxation year by year, and he believed that when the report of the tax commission was brought down within the next few days, they would be able to make still further decreases.

He said the question of better terms was still a live one. They had received already \$350,000 in increased subsidies, and they would leave nothing undone to secure an equitable and final adjustment.

Regarding Mr. Brewster's statement that the government railway policy was a bait to catch votes, he said he would be always ready to use a bait that would settle up waste areas, place thousands of industrious settlers in our fertile valleys and on the timbered and richly mineralized hills. He was no fonder of general elections than anyone else, as they called for a great deal of anxious and arduous work, but during the ten years the government had been in power he had never initiated a general policy unless he had the people behind him.

"And if the further development of railway construction is necessary," he added, "I will go to the country on that policy, not as a bait, but for the judgment of the people before making the move. If the people do not agree with me they can turn me out and place my friend, the leader of the opposition, in power."

He added that he would deal with the whole matter later, showing what had been done in railway construction of late and what might be done within the next few years if the House accepted his suggestion.

The Provincial Legislature

Premier Defends Government Land Policy and Outlines Attitude Toward Railway Development Throughout British Columbia.

Vancouver, Jan. 15.—The bill to validate the elections in Wards VII and VIII in the City of Vancouver, was introduced by Hon. Mr. Bowser this afternoon and by permission of the House was given second reading.

The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was continued by Mr. Brewster and Premier McBride.

MR. BREWSTER said at the opening that as he was the only Liberal in the House, he would be brief. He devoted himself chiefly to an attack on the government's land policy, which he described as no policy, since it consisted in parting with the choicest lands in the country to an inner ring of the Conservative party in return for services rendered. The only policy possible for them to adopt was the one advocated by the Liberals, and this they dare not take up for fear of angering their friends.

The government's proposed railway policy he described as a bait to catch votes, while at the same time the government was ready to sacrifice the credit of the province to help out railway corporations. He attacked the order-in-council issued by the government after last session, raising the price of crown lands as a breach of constitutional privilege, since it had never been discussed on the floor of the House by the people's representatives, and it showed no consideration for those who had purchased land under the existing law.

He attacked the poll tax and expressed the hope that the report of the tariff commission would favor its abolition. In conclusion he said that the whole creed of the Tory party seemed to be based on tariff lines, which placed the burden of taxation on those least able to bear it in a manner that they knew not of.

PREMIER McBRIDE spoke for over an hour in reply. He scored Mr. Brewster for harping away on the government's land policy, and pointed out that the number of pre-emptors coming into British Columbia had increased fifty per cent. during the past year. Instead of dealing with schemes of land settlement the government was doing its best to provide for settlers already here by building roads and schools and increasing the facilities for transportation.

Speaking of the order-in-council raising the price of crown lands, he scouted the idea that it was done for the benefit of any inside ring. He believed that if the grand total of applicants for these lands were summed up it would be found that the majority was made up of Liberals, with, perhaps, a few Socialists. At least it was freely open to all. The government had been reducing taxation year by year, and he believed that when the report of the taxation commission was brought down within the next few days, they would be able to make still further decreases.

He said the question of better terms was still a live one. They had received already \$150,000 in increased subsidies, and they would leave nothing undone to secure an equitable and final adjustment.

Regarding Mr. Brewster's statement that the government's railway policy was a bait to catch votes, the Premier said he would be always ready to use a bait that would settle up waste areas, place thousands of industrious settlers in our fertile valleys and on the timbered and richly mineralized hills. He was no foe of general elections than anyone else, as they called for a great deal of anxious and arduous work, but during the ten years the government has been in power he had never initiated a general policy unless he had the people behind him.

As to the further development of railway construction is necessary, he said, "I will go to the country on that policy, not as a bait, but for the judgment of the people before making the move. If the people do not agree with me, they can turn me out and place my friend, the leader of the Opposition, in power. In proposing to submit my railway policy to the House, which I hope to do within the next two or three weeks, I do so with strong faith in the future of the country and with a determination to implement its promises by

the construction of projected and necessary roads." He promised the member for Alberni that in these arrangements Vancouver Island would not be forgotten.

THE PREMIER spoke in glowing terms of the Coronation and the treatment accorded to the colonial visitors there. He also spoke of a recent interview with the Duke of Connaught at Ottawa, and the promise of His Royal Highness that he would pay a visit to British Columbia before long. He considered the Coronation and the appointment of His Royal Highness to be two of the most significant facts in the evolution of the imperial ideal, and to these had been added the return of Mr. Borden as Premier of Canada.

He said that a report on the recent visit of Ministers to Ottawa would be shortly placed before the House. He believed that progress had been made in the accomplishment of their mission, but did not wish anyone to think that they expected more from the Borden government than they were legitimately entitled to, or than they might have obtained from the Laurier government. Touching upon the settlement of the Songhees reserve question, the Premier spoke also of his conference with Indian chiefs in relation to their claims on provincial lands. From his conversation with them then he believed that if the Indians were assured of fair treatment they would be satisfied.

Speaking of the Provincial University, he said it was gratifying to know that they hoped to be able to open its doors in 1913, and when completed it would be equal to Toronto or McGill.

In conclusion the PREMIER dealt with the progress made in the mining industry, showing that it had been eminently satisfactory, especially in coal mining.

In the form of a message from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor the bill to validate the election of certain aldermen and others and the collection of taxes in certain parts of the city of Vancouver was introduced before the assembly rose. Purely as a formality in accordance with parliamentary procedure in Great Britain, where messages from the King are concerned, Hon. Mr. Bowser, Attorney-General, moved that the message from His Honor be referred to committee of the whole. The measure was committed with Mr. A. H. B. Macgowan in the chair, was duly reported and the report adopted and read a first time.

HON. W. J. BOWSER—With the permission of the House I move that the rules be suspended and that the second reading of the bill take place now. This measure is necessary in order that the constituted authorities of the city of

Vancouver may continue their work. Last year Vancouver came to the Legislature seeking certain charter amendments and among these there was provision for the admission of Hastings Townsite and District Lot 361 to the city. The necessary votes of the electors had been secured but legislation was necessary before these districts, which had been under provincial administration, could become portions of the city of Vancouver. After the bill came to the House in committee a mistake was made in the numbering of its sections. It was discovered after the House had adjourned and the bill had been assented to that although the districts had been formally incorporated in the city there existed, because of the improper numbering of the sections, no machinery for assessing or collecting taxes or for the preparation of voters' lists. It was an unfortunate mistake. The Government decided that under the circumstances the city could proceed with its elections and we would bring down a bill to validate the assessment roll and voters' list. It is necessary to validate the election of two aldermen in Ward VII and the same number of aldermen in Ward VIII; also the election of the Mayor, although I might point out that the Mayor was elected by a sufficient majority in the old wards of the city to put his choice beyond question—the result in this case would not have been affected by the vote in the two new wards. A number of bylaws

ADVERTISER, VANCOUVER

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dealing with the expenditure of money were affected by the votes in the new wards and these it is necessary to validate. The same may be said of school trustees, licence commissioners and park commissioners. It is desirable that a Bill should be proceeded with tomorrow and that the assent of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to the measure should be secured on Wednesday, as the city of Vancouver cannot transact any business till His Honor acts.

The bill was given its second reading and it will be committed today.

MR. BREWSTER, in rising to continue the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, complimented the mover and seconder on the eloquence with which they had acquitted themselves, and also congratulated Mr. Speaker Eberts on the improved condition of health which allowed him again to attend to his duties. Referring to the Coronation, he was glad to see that the Premier and the Attorney-General, who had represented the province, had returned in safety. They might feel sure that British Columbia had been properly represented at that magnificent gathering. "Though, of course," he added, "it has been disappointing to myself and other members of this House, that I am not able to address the Premier across the floor of the House as 'Sir Richard,' but possibly that will come at a later day. (Applause.)"

"One matter of a more serious nature, which I regret did not find a place in the Speech from the Throne, was the death of our old and esteemed friend, Colonel Wolfenden, the King's Printer. I am very pleased, however, that the mover of the address (Mr. Watson) took upon himself to comment in a proper manner on his services to this province. An old gentleman, courteous to all, and who treated all alike, and who, owing to the ability he brought to bear on his work, won the esteem of every member of the House, I would be pleased to join in any resolution extending the sympathy of the House to his family and friends.

"Now, as to the position of the Liberal party on the floor of the House, as there is only one member to do all the talking I am not going to inflict a lengthy address on the House this afternoon. I must remember that in the position in which I am placed I shall have to make a good number of attempts at speechmaking on the floor during the session."

MR. BREWSTER continued that among other important events to the Empire, and especially to Canada, during the past year, was the appointment of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught as Governor-General of the Dominion. He considered it a great honor to the Dominion and would join with pleasure in an address to him as suggested in the Speech from the Throne. A matter of importance to the Empire and the Dominion, but more particularly to the Province of British Columbia and the district he had the honor to represent, was the completion of the E. & N. Railway to the terminal point at Port Alberni on the west coast of Vancouver Island. This railway, subsidized by the Dominion Government, marked the extension of the Canadian Pacific Railway system to that coast, but they needed other improvements to keep pace with the tremendous strides in development that were being made in that section, and he warned the First Minister and the Minister of Public Works that great demands would be made upon them for roads and other improvements to keep pace with the tremendous growth. One of these roads that he had brought many times to the attention of the Government was one from Alberni along the central lakes districts, and out to beautiful Long Beach, which would in future be one of the greatest pleasure resorts in British Columbia. Another was needed to connect Strathcona Park with the settled portions of Vancouver Island. Unless these matters were attended to he warned the First Minister and the Minister of Public Works that they must expect some strenuous interviews.

"As for the Speech from the Throne itself," continued the speaker, "it is more remarkable for what is omitted than for what is presented. One thing we find is that the financial condition of the province is represented as having a great surplus of about \$10,000,000, and we find that of that amount the revenue tax has contributed over a third of a million dollars. This revenue tax has been attacked on the floor of this House many times. It has been pointed out as unjust and unscientific, as it does not bear upon people according to their ability to pay. It is one of those arbitrary taxes for which there is no just reason. It takes the poor man, as well as the wealthy, by the throat and makes him disgorge his \$3. This tax has been denounced in this House by a man who was formerly a member of the Government, and who is still regarded by Conservatives and Liberals alike as a very able and astute financier.

"Then again we find among the next items that go to make up this surplus, that of land sales, and in connection with these land sales we find something that should have been considered in the Speech from the Throne, that is

a land policy, but we do not find any land policy mentioned. It was only last session that the members of this House who follow the First Minister were loud in their praises of the new Minister of Lands who had been appointed. They said he would bring to bear on his duties a great fund of knowledge and tremendous mental weight, and they expected him to bring down a land policy that would make not only for the good of the province, but for the people at large. I look in vain for any mention of this land policy in the Speech from the Throne. Indeed, if press reports can be taken with any confidence at all, instead of a land policy we are likely to drift into something worse than ever before. I notice from these reports that certain titled persons from the Old Land are likely to purchase large tracts with a view to establishing a tenancy of landlord policy in this province. If this is the case it is certainly a great recommendation for the Honorable First Minister for his shrewdness and farsightedness and clear statesmanship—if he will allow to be placed on this province, the one province in Canada where we should be free from it, a system of this kind. With the cries of the people of the Old Country rising against this system, that the honorable gentleman should allow it to take place here is almost unbelievable.

"We find that instead of looking ahead and making a statesmanlike policy that will eventually bring this province to a foremost place in agriculture, the jingle of the present dollar that falls into the treasury from the sale of public lands, makes them blind to anything else. As a matter of fact we have no land policy, and for very good reasons. The first is that if a proper policy were put upon the statute books my honorable friend would not have the opportunity of doling out to the inside ring of his party, those who help to elect him and his friends to this House, certain choice portions of this province. They would find that the man who is shouting for them at the present day might lose his ardor and they would have fewer supporters in this House. Another reason is that when all is said and done they have no other policy to advance except that which has been advocated by the Liberal party for many years in the past. Yes, even the astute Premier who smiles at that remark, can find nothing better. It is true it does not fit in with his political ideas and so when the question was considered by the Minister of Lands he either had to adopt that policy or leave it alone."

Mr. Brewster continued that the Government was fond of people on the basis of government and that and yet last year adjourned, when not been discussed in the House, with no change, and with affected into committees between two days, in-council raising putting in a bad had taken up their law. What w that friends of th cured all they wa pickings had bee the price on what little value to th

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Mr. Brewster continued that the Government was fond of appealing to the people on the basis that it was a stable government and did not shift around, and yet last year when they had just adjourned, when the land policy had not been discussed on the floor of the House, with no intimation of any vital change, and without taking the people affected into consideration, overnight, between two days, came forth an order-in-council raising the price of land, and putting in a bad position many who had taken up their land under the existing law. What was the cause? Was it that friends of the government had secured all they wanted, that the choicest pickings had been taken, and raising the price on what remained would add a little value to these first holdings?

"Of course there was no discussion of this on the floor of the House," continued the speaker, "and it is a fact, an awful fact, that so far as the majority of the followers of the Premier and his colleagues are concerned it would be just as well for them to take it into their hands and pass everything by order-in-council, for there has not been any objection, nor is it likely there will be, to any acts emanating from the Napoleon of the party who sits across the floor of the House. It is true that back of the Premier sits nearly the whole House, but it is also true that there are at least two members who have the right to question and discuss these matters, and demand that at least some notice be given before any such changes are made."

He continued that the member for Vancouver (Mr. Watson) said the other day that in a few years there would be no more, free land, and then with beautiful consistency had turned around and said that the Hon. Minister of Lands had still any quantity of land for the pre-emptor or the purchaser. He could assure him that the greater part of these lands had already passed into the hands of those who could at the best use them for political ends, and what was left to give to the actual settler would not amount to a very great deal. Of course he did not say that all the good land in British Columbia was taken up. It was a vast territory, but those sections which were in such a position as to be readily transferred had been acquired by those who were supposed to make the best use of them for their Conservative friends, and that which was left would raise bilsters and backaches from those who underlook its development.

The member for Vancouver had also referred to the imports and exports of the province, and the only sound like a groan he had heard from him was when he said that the agriculture imports of British Columbia came to over \$14,000,000 a year. It was an amusing thing that a supporter of the Government should have brought this to the attention of the people, since it certainly reflected no credit on the Government. It was one condition which the policy of the Liberal party would have eliminated. The present Government had allowed the land speculator to come on and take his profit from the actual settler before he could put a spade into the soil. Yet the member for Vancouver himself, sat behind the Premier, whose Government had brought about that condition.

"In the Speech from the Throne," he added, "there is in this connection one notable omission, and that is that the backbone industry of agriculture without which we will become a very weak people indeed, is not even mentioned. Possibly the Premier would not like to have too much agriculture going on, because in the solidly settled agricultural district the speculator would not thrive as well as in a virgin country such as British Columbia is today."

Mr. Brewster continued that further down in the Speech he found the Taxation Commission mentioned, and the member for Vancouver (Mr. Watson) had referred to it as an evidence of the solicitude of the Government for the welfare of the people. The report of the Commission was not yet before the House, and he had been unable to attend its sittings as he was too far away, but he surmised that one of its recommendations would be the abolition of that unrighteous and unjust revenue tax. Another thing he would like to see would be the readjustment of land taxes in the province. They could expect an exemption from improvements on agricultural lands.

Continued on Page 2

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One of the first resolutions he had introduced in the House had been along that line. What position were we in? On the one hand we had to import \$14,000,000 of agricultural products annually, and on the other hand if a settler went on the land, cut down the trees and grubbed away at the roots and put up buildings, along came the assessor and fined him for it. It surely could not be too much to ask that the Government, with its bursting treasury, should take from the back of that worker the burden they had placed upon it.

"I don't doubt," said the speaker, "that in all their considerations in matters of taxation, the policy which the Conservative party had always favored of making the person who bears most of the burdens of this world to bear the greatest portion of the burdens of taxation also, I mean the Conservative policy of tariff, was not dealt with by this Commission. At least I would be very much surprised if it were. Of course they will have the usual excuse that it is a Federal matter. That is a neat little scheme. We should tax a man according to his wealth or poverty, but that would not suit the Tory party. They say, 'We are men of means, and that means that we shall have to bear the whole burden, and the workingman down there pay nothing. So many of our supporters are of the richer class, and we must take care of them.' So they took the Hamilton idea and called it tariff. I regret that the Commission did not take up this question, which is the greatest burden on the people of Canada at the present day; but there will come a time when there will be a demand that a more equitable system shall be adopted."

HON. MR. McPHILLIPS. "What did they say on the 21st of September?"

MR. BREWSTER. "They said, when blinded by sentiment that was not backed up by an argument or statement of fact, that until further enlightened they were going to allow an Administration by Conservatives. This argument does not sit well on my honorable friend the President of the Council. After all, what was the Taxation Commission? It was simply, like the University Commission, an attempt to throw off the shoulders of the Government a disagreeable task and place it on the Commission."

"My friend from Vancouver, always very eloquent and pleasing to listen to, waxed even more eloquent than usual over the result of the pilgrimage made by the Premier and other members of the Cabinet to Ottawa. I saw from the papers, that not only has the royalty, the leaders of the Conservative party, made pilgrimages to Ottawa, but many other members of the Conservative party have done so, as if their faith in the wisdom of Mr. Borden is not sufficient and they must advise him. I notice in the Speech from the Throne some mention made of a satisfactory adjustment with the Dominion Government. What does it mean? Some members of the House last year were convinced that the Dominion Government stood in the way of keeping out Orientals from this province, and we had the Natal Act from the Attorney-General in season and out of season, and so if a satisfactory arrangement has been made I suppose that in a few days we shall have the Natal Act again presented. It will be passed, and as we have now no had Grits at Ottawa to interfere with it, we shall have a country where we can easily deal with Oriental immigration. Again there came to my mind some occurrences just before the election. There was a cry of better terms, which meant increased subsidies for British Columbia and handing over to the province many other things which the Dominion claimed the right to administer. This Better Terms question is one that you can hear at any Conservative meeting in B. C. All you have to do is to conjure up a picture of the Premier making his grandstand play before the Premiers from the other provinces at Ottawa, and they will think we were badly abused; but now, as the member for Vancouver said, the dark days are over, now we are to have Better Terms, we are to have a Natal Act, we are to have control of the fisheries, the administration of lands in Peace River and control of lands in the railway belt. I fail to find much of this mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, but it does say that the administration of the water in the railway belt will be placed in the hands of the province.

While this may be a benefit in doing away with conflict in administration and allowing of the readier development of these lands, when the order-in-council is read before the House, I think we will find that if there should be any moneys accruing over and above the expense of administration they will go right back to Ottawa, so that it does not look as if these pilgrimages made so far have accomplished a great deal."

Mr. Brewster continued that it was of course necessary that attention should be called to these matters, and the most should be made of them, as a report had gone forth that there was to be an election before long, so that it should go forth to the Conservative machine, from the highest to the lowest, through game wardens, constables and other officials, that British Columbia will get all it can expect, simply because there has been a change of government at Ottawa. One change in policy has been hinted at, and that was a railway policy which it was stated that his hon. friend the Premier was to bring down that session as a bait to catch the voter and retain himself in power for another term.

"I don't know what that policy is," said Mr. BREWSTER, "but when the papers come down and we have an opportunity to study them, I will tell the House what I think of its merits and demerits. I presume the Provincial Government is again going to place its credit at the disposal of a corporation that might obtain it in the common manner."

He next took up the subject of the Songhees' Reserve. He was glad the question had been settled and the Indians removed, though they might have been removed years ago. There had been nothing in the way only that the Premier did not see that there was any political kudos in it for him if there had been a settlement at that time, but just as soon as the Premier saw there was some advantage for him it was done. In 1908 Mr. Pedley, of the Department of Indian Affairs, came out here for the purpose of settling it with the government in order that there might be no conflict over the question of reversionary rights. He believed that correspondence passed in which the government was to give up any reversionary rights and the city of Victoria was to receive 43 acres of that Songhees reserve. At that time the land was of little value, but now it was settled there was some value to it, but there was a string on the gold brick, and as soon as it was presented it was pulled back again, and now if the city of Victoria wanted the land they had to pay for it.

"And now in conclusion," said Mr. Brewster. "I want to sum up a few of the matters placed before us in the Speech from the Throne and the replies of the mover and seconder of the address. First, as men honestly desiring to legislate for the benefit of British Columbia, we should look to other countries and see how all these matters work out. We find that throughout the whole world there is a movement that will eventually reach British Columbia, and he who has tolled and borne the burden will claim his share in the government. In Great Britain at present there are more reforms in view and more demand for a voice in the legislation of the country than at any other time. In Germany democracy is forcing the classes into the corner, and even in the eastern sections of the world we find unrest. We find old China, after sleeping for thousands of years, now shaking herself and awakening, and very soon she will become a great world power. And, sir, while looking at China, dead so long to the interests of the modern world, I can even have hopes that this Conservative party, just as dead, will wake up and shake itself and realize that it is here for some purpose. What do we find in the Speech from the Throne? Any help for those who wish to get on the land, or who are clearing a patch for themselves back in the forest? Do we find any hope or relief for the workman from competition with the Oriental? I have looked in vain for any of these. I looked for some one thing at least that would touch the whole people of British Columbia. I found nothing. The same old system that has always controlled the Tory party control the

Tory speech, and is easily discerned, and that is that the few shall have and the masses shall toil. (Applause).

"I feel sure," said PREMIER McBRIDE upon rising, and after the outburst of applause had subsided which greeted his motion to continue the debate, "that the members of our Legislature have followed the criticism of my friend, the member for Alberni, as I have, with more than ordinary interest. We have had the opportunity before of listening to that gentleman in his now very responsible role as Liberal party leader during three sessions past, in his criticism of the Government of today, and I feel that I can term his effort of this afternoon creditable to him in a superlative degree. Considering the limited numerical strength of his party in the House at present and the other disadvantages under which he labors, I think that all members of the House will agree with me that he has today acquitted himself heroically. Before proceeding to deal with certain of the observations of my friend, I desire to refer appreciatively to the very bright, crisp and interesting addresses on Friday afternoon, in moving and seconding the reply, by the Hon. the second member for Vancouver and the member for Yale. We all followed their remarks very closely, and we all must have come to the one opinion that in these two gentlemen the Legislature of this country possesses two members who are both active and exceedingly able men. With respect to what was said by the hon. member for Vancouver city, one is not surprised at the breadth and statesmanship displayed in his remarks, remembering that he comes to this House as the representative of one of the wonder commercial centres of the world. We must also bear in mind that in the district of Yale recent development has been strongly marked and most satisfactory with regard not only to the mining industry but also to that of agriculture, and the very timely references made by the representative of Yale district to these two industries stamped him as a man who is trying to follow and to assist in the development that is taking place today by every means in his power and with all the large ability at his command.

"Coming back to the remarks of my friend the member for Alberni, I must again tender him my sincere congratulations upon the general excellence of his address. Of course, however, he had to present once more the threadbare indictment epitomized in the question that we have heard from him before, 'Where is the Government's land policy?' That is an old, old cry. Despite the progress which is apparent on every hand and the progressive development which every resident of this favorite Province must recognize and appreciate, his attitude is unchanged. With respect to this land policy of the Government the workers, the agriculturists, the business men of the country, have, when the opportunity of elections has presented itself, shown themselves the first to come to the endorsement of this administration and its policy whenever the course of the Government has been submitted to the jury of the electorate for its consideration. Instead of harping away on this one old string, instead of attempting to depreciate the efforts which are being put forth continually to promote the development and the prosperity of British Columbia, my friend, the member for Alberni, should come forward man-fashion and tender his congratulations to the country upon prevailing conditions, especially as to the development and settlement of the lands of British Columbia which is taking place.

British Columbia is not at all comparable with either Alberta or Saskatchewan in respect to the characteristics of its land. This is not a prairie province, and it is not possible for us to lay our lands checker-board fashion and sell and settle them overnight. We have a country of topographical difficulties, of physical difficulties, where before we can do anything directly in the settlement of the lands it is necessary for us to construct highways and induce the building of railways so as to bring our colonists in close touch with markets and bases of supply before they can clear the heavily timbered lands which are the characteristic areas of this country. We haven't the prairie land to offer prospective settlers, but our timbered lands make excellent farming areas when once they have been cleared.

The soil of British Columbia under cultivation is unequalled over in its conditions are those apply to the lands which were in mind when I would expect us to refer to the Province? years past and unequal hands the I

ion of Canada the assistance the determination than perhaps which Canada forgot deal, may prefer a specific industry of the men both hands for all the land deal. qualified to such speculation as party in could be in which we indulged in fisheries? most serious in which estimates in British Columbia party of these things is no matter the House subject of inquiry who acknowledge to the Liberal site.

With re Government necessary land policy stantial and that, are doing lation, and lation or with the lands of at the present and we p strong so our relation may be s enjoy fact the utilization country v heritage. credit it confidence this it is administr firm, leg Our land reason to which are parts of t as a part received settlers t able effici so much.

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The soil of the greater portion of British Columbia when properly brought under cultivation may be fairly said to be unequalled or unsurpassed the world over in its productivity. But the conditions are very different here than those applying to the development of the lands of the prairie provinces, which were undoubtedly in my friend's mind when he was speaking today.

I would ask him whether or not he expected us to take him seriously in his references to the unscrupulous actions of land speculators in this Province? Has he not been during years past one of those continually and unqualifiedly supporting with both hands the Liberal party of the Dominion of Canada, which has done more for the assistance of land speculators to the detriment of the public interests than perhaps any other government which Canada has ever known? Has he forgotten the Saskatchewan land deal, may I ask? He comes here and prefers against this Government this specific indictment with respect to land speculation, and yet he is himself one of the men in Canada supporting with both hands an administration responsible for such a bargain—I use the word in all charity—as the Saskatchewan land deal. Perhaps no one is so well qualified to deal with the subject of such 'speculation' as one who has been so long associated as he with the Liberal party in Canada. What speculation could be more open to censure than that which we find has been systematically indulged in in connection with our own fisheries? Do we not find food for the most serious consideration in the manner in which fishery rights and interests in British Columbia have been systematically farmed out by the Liberal party of Canada? Having regard to these things it would seem that there is no man more qualified to address the House and the country on the subject of iniquitous speculation than one who acknowledges the same allegiance to the Liberal party as my friend opposite.

With regard to land policy of the Government it is perhaps scarcely necessary for me to repeat that our land policy is making for the substantial development of the country and that, under it, we would do and are doing what we can to restrict speculation, and if possible to prohibit speculation or the speculator in connection with the utilization of the Crown lands of British Columbia. We have at the present time an excellent credit and we propose keeping that credit strong so that our opportunities and our relations with the financial world may be such that we may continue to enjoy facilities of the colonization and the utilization of the resources of this country which is our very valuable heritage. In order to preserve our credit it is necessary for us to retain confidence everywhere and in doing this it is essential that we keep the administration of our lands upon a firm, legitimate and creditable plane. Our land laws are laws which we have reason to be proud of. They are laws which are being widely copied in other parts of the world, and they come to us as a part of the inheritance we have received from those courageous first settlers to whose genius and indomitable efficiency British Columbia owes so much.

Although so large a proportion of our lands are heavily timbered, and despite those physical disadvantages under which we labor we find that during the past year the number of pre-emptors coming into British Columbia, apart altogether from those with savings or independent resources who have acquired lands by purchase, has increased by fifty per cent.; and as rapidly, as quickly as we can secure the construction of railways and build roads to give access to our lands, the proportion of pre-emptors will constantly increase. We find that wherever we have good land to offer in touch with market facilities, so soon as we can construct roads we get settlers. So soon as we can thus provide for their necessities we can look for good settlers and need not look in vain.

If the Government instead of thus scientifically studying the necessities of the situation, arising from the conditions of the country, we are to go blindly ahead with some scheme of land settlement such as my friend from Alberni has doubtless read about in some book it is not very difficult to realize the result that might accrue to the disadvantage of British Columbia. We have every reason to be proud of our land policy and also of the manner in which the people of British Columbia have stood by us whenever an appeal has been made to them for endorsement of the course of the government, of which the land policy of necessity forms a part. In the promotion of land settlement not only do we try to provide for facilities of communication in the way of railway and trunk roads, but we endeavor at the same time when the settler comes in to provide markets for his products and facilities for the education of his children fully equal to what he would have had had he remained in the Motherland or in the Eastern provinces of this Canadian Dominion. The broad policy of encouraging beneficial colonization by the making of railways and roads, the provision of markets and the establishment of public schools is unquestionably one to the credit of this province; and I warrant you that when the final census returns are available my friend from Alberni will be greatly delighted to find how the agricultural population of British Columbia has increased and the superior provisions to which the farming industry has attained. We have not, perhaps, been able to do everything that the most exacting critic might ask of us, but considering the conditions of British Columbia, its topography and configuration, the heavily-timbered nature of a considerable portion of our lands, etc., we have, I think, managed to go far in the settlement of our lands in a manner profitable to British Columbia and creditable to the Dominion and to the Empire.

"My friend from Alberni thought fit to make a very pointed reference in respect to the passage of a certain Order-in-Council providing for an increase in the price of Crown land, and asked the House to believe that that Order-in-Council was rendered necessary at that particular time by political reasons, in order to protect what he termed 'an inside ring.' I may say to this House and to the country that this government knows or recognizes no rings or special friends. No individual or combination or aggregation of any sort or description has had any recognition from this Government in connection with any public business not strictly in accord with the law or rights; and Liberals, Independents, Socialists or Laborites have as strong a place before this administration and are as certain of receiving just consideration in any dealings with it as its most hearty Conservative follower. It is not only unfair to the Government but to my friend in opposition that anyone should have put in his hands statements such as he has made today. The strongest word that can be found in the dictionary is not sufficient to properly characterize and condemn the misrepresentation of the Government's administration of public lands that he has expressed to the House. I have reason to believe that if the grand total of land operations in British Columbia of recent date could be analyzed it would be found that the majority of applicants is made up of Liberals and not Conservatives—with perhaps some few Socialists as well (laughter)—and why should this not be so? The law says that a man can buy these lands or pre-empt them. We are here to administer these lands in the public behalf.

Here again my friend seems to have suffered through contact with 'an inside ring.' We in the Conservative party do not know what it is to have any inside ring. The Conservative party stands today, as it has always stood, for favors to none and equal rights for all. (Applause).

"In connection with my friend's reference to the matter, I am very glad to be able to say with reference to the demise of the late King's Printer, that I was permitted to see Colonel Wolfenden very shortly before he passed away. I shall never forget the long and pleasant and most satisfactory relation which during so many years existed between that courteous gentleman and most efficient public officer and the various governments during his

long years of service in British Columbia. I had been privileged to enjoy his acquaintance since the early days. As a civil servant his place was an important one and was ably filled. And because of his zeal and his steadiness as a servant of the Crown, His Majesty King Edward had seen fit to bestow upon him the Imperial Service Order, which was duly presented by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. This honor was no more a recognition of his merits, and upon his decease a special issue of "The Gazette" was issued announcing his regretted death, he having been until that day King's Printer and publisher of the first an all official gazette in the Province of British Columbia.

"Now, as to what my friend has said with regard to taxation matters: It will be well, perhaps, to defer any extended discussion of this subject until the report is presented to the House of the Royal Commission, to which was entrusted the special investigation of all matters connected with assessments and the incidents of taxation throughout the province. In the appointment of that commission the Government was fortunate in securing the services of two very prominent British Columbians to assist my colleagues, the Finance Minister and the President of the Council. I refer to Mr. C. H. Lugin of Victoria and Mr. W. H. Malkin of Vancouver. We have this to our credit as a government that whenever and wherever we have found it necessary and expedient to appoint a commission to investigate any special problems presenting themselves for our consideration, we have had from those commissions well studied and practical reports upon which subsequently valuable and beneficial legislation has been based. As instances in point I may refer to the previous commission on taxation, to the commission on insurance matters, and to the commission upon the selection of a university site for British Columbia. We are all aware of the work of these past commissions and of the nature of their reports and of what has followed their reception based upon them. When I refer today to the report soon to be presented to the House as a result of the operations of the taxation commission, I do so with full assurance that good, sound, useful legislation will in due course follow as a result of the investigations recently conducted by this tribunal. These special economic conditions with which the government, the tax collector, must deal, have been thoroughly gone into, the commissioners travelling to all parts of the province in order that the most complete and authoritative data might be obtained and the soundest conclusions arrived at in respect to the special problem under examination. I understand from my colleague, the finance minister, who was chairman of this commission, that in a very few days he hopes to be able to present through His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the commission's report to this House for its consideration.

"My friend has said much with respect to the attitude of the government towards the farmer. I well remember in 1904, when we were obliged to increase taxation generally and it incidentally became necessary for us to ask the farmers for a larger contribution than they had been previously paying toward the revenues of the country, how we were accused as enemies of the farmer and held up to abuse for our treatment of him. And I remember well that when we then went to the farmers for their assistance how they turned out the Liberals and returned good Tories in their place. The farmers appreciated the situation as it existed, and stood by us and the country patriotically. Since then, happily, we have been able to reduce taxation on a graduated scale, and I believe that when we have had the report of the Taxation Commission laid before us we shall be able to come to this House and recommend still further decreases. But the farmers are not complaining; the only one farmer that I have heard saying very much with regard to the burden of taxation is my friend, the member for Alberni — and perhaps, too, the member for Newcastle. Of all the farmers of British Columbia these two appear to be the only ones who feel themselves unjustly dealt with. The others are not complaining. To a very great extent our farm lands lie within the boundaries of municipalities

and we have nothing to do with the revenues from farming lands except where these lie in unorganized districts.

It is interesting to note in this connection the general disposition of those interested when any question of municipal incorporation presents itself. Having had experience of provincial administration of their interests, you will always find the people concerned pausing to very seriously consider the question as to whether it is wise for them to go out from the government and adopt a municipal form of government. As a general thing it is our practice to accord home rule whenever it is asked for. But it is worthy of remark that whenever a proposal to incorporate a municipality comes up those in the interested districts think a long time and seriously before they endorse the change from provincial control. No, the farmer stands for a moment and asks himself very seriously if it is for the best, because for some reason or other he does

not like to leave the province, that is direct provincial administration.

My friend from Alberni said a whole lot in regard to tariffs and protection. Was he still in his humorous vein? Had he forgotten that during fifteen years or more he had loyally supported the Laurier government in its policy of free trade in name but protection in reality and practice? If he looked over the latest election returns he will find that the farmers of this country expressed themselves as pretty well satisfied with Conservative treatment in the past, and with what they may expect to receive from the Conservative party in the future.

"Now, with regard to better terms: My friend from Alberni appears to have overlooked the fact that the unanimous vote of this House has been recorded in endorsement and confirmation of the position which I took at Ottawa. He seems to have forgotten that if we were to measure in monetary terms the consideration which we asked it would be expressed as one million dollars. About \$350,000 we have already received in increased subsidy. As one of the results of the action taken by this legislature and at Ottawa we secured an offer of one million dollars, which we refused to accept, protecting that refusal by an appeal to the home authorities on the matter of better terms. Our claim for a more equitable arrangement with the Dominion is therefore in just as good a position, as live an issue as ever, and in bringing pressure to bear upon the Government at Ottawa with a view to securing a final settlement in this connection it is our determination to leave nothing undone in order to obtain a complete and final adjustment which will be thoroughly equitable to all interest concerned and meet with the unqualified approval of the people of British Columbia.

"Now with regard to the water question: We have not measured the return in dollars and cents which the Province is likely to get through administration of the water in Dominion lands. That administration is properly a purely local or domestic question, and the proper place for its disposal is here, and not at Ottawa, three thousand miles away. What is good for the people of British Columbia in other portions of the Province should be good for the rest of those who live within the boundaries of the Province. We had made the same appeals in regard to this matter to the last Government, but with very little success. When we went to Ottawa on the last occasion, the Attorney-General, the Minister of Lands and I met with Hon. Mr. Rogers and the Prime Minister of Canada, and after a conference of a few hours with them were able to leave the Parliament Buildings at the National Capital with an assurance that our proposals would and should be taken up. It is expected that an Act will very shortly be brought down providing for our administration of this water. The terms of agreement are now being considered by the Department at Ottawa and the Attorney-General here, and so soon as the text of a memorandum of agreement is decided upon its details will be laid before this House. Meanwhile, it is scarcely necessary for me to emphasize how important this matter is, meaning almost the life of the lands within the railway belt and the prosperity of the people who there have their homes and their interests. The produc-

tivity of the land only recently begun, and the K districts are only their own. Mills required to provide for their adequacy soon yet more mills in order to provide for the d lands. We are in position to advance these lands and their full product sent time it is no more than passing question. In connection with the decision of the Council's decision rights within the questions have a considerable hard removed by care which the Province opportunity.

"In connection of imports over rural produce, v

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it has been more the greater inru ticularly as this ted chiefly towa tree. It has been head of the pop umbia consumes the value of six was estimated t and persons wer tion, and in 191 could not have b of consumption, provision could l farming populati about six million ing the increase population it co pected that any could be struck consumption. Finance comes speech, we may laid before us of be, astonishing abown that reall

of production as ers of British Co derfully well as years. Of the to as agricultural l borne in mind th a considerable p tain seasons of t produce to meet when our supply importing from California. Austr Our seasons do therefore, we are of being able to at what would o at home. We co the inflow of j the natural incre many years tr sionally, do no rapid our may be, that our to catch up ver delighted to gr than we do, but gard, under the ons of the incid growth. It may have continued duct at good p farmers are pro community is n much. I do not present juncture matter of our for the reason t considerable ext

tivity of the lands of the dry belt has only recently begun to obtain full recognition, and the Kamloops and adjacent districts are only now just coming into their own. Millions of money will be required to provide irrigation facilities for their adequate development, and soon yet more millions will be necessary in order to provide all necessary facilities for the development of these lands. We are on the spot, in the best position to advance the utilization of these lands and the development of their full productiveness. At the present time it is not my intention to make more than passing reference to this question. In consequence of the Privy Council's decision with regard to water rights within the railway belt, many questions have arisen involving very considerable hardship which can only be removed by careful and uniform action which the Province will take at the first opportunity.

In connection with the large excess of imports over production in agricultural produce, which was referred to

briefly by the member for Yale and also by the second member for Vancouver, the fact must not be overlooked that relatively to population a similar excess has existed for many years. Recently it has been more marked by reason of the greater inrush of population, particularly as this inrush has been directed chiefly toward town and city centres. It has been estimated that each head of the population in British Columbia consumes all such products to the value of eighty dollars. In 1910 it was estimated that seventy-five thousand persons were added to the population, and in 1911 the number certainly could not have been less. The increase of consumption, therefore, for which no provision could have been made by the farming population was no less than about six million dollars; and considering the increase from year to year of population it could not have been expected that anything like a balance could be struck between imports and consumption. When the Minister of Finance comes to deliver his Budget speech, we may expect to have details laid before us of this, what appears to be, astonishing disparity, and to be shown that really from the standpoint

of production agriculturally the farmers of British Columbia are doing wonderfully well as compared with former years. Of the total of what are classed as agricultural products, it must be borne in mind that there will always be a considerable portion imported at certain seasons of the year when we do not produce to meet our own necessities or when our supply is temporarily short—importing from Washington, Oregon, California, Australia and New Zealand. Our seasons do not correspond, and, therefore, we are, in the happy position of being able to obtain fresh products at what would otherwise be off seasons at home. We confidently anticipate that the inflow of population, as well as the natural increase, will continue for many years to come, and I, personally, do not anticipate, however rapid our farming development may be, that our farmers will be able to catch up very soon. We would be delighted to grow a great deal more than we do, but this large excess I regard, under the circumstances, as but one of the incidents of our very rapid growth. It means that our farmers have continued demand for their product at good prices, and while the farmers are prosperous the rest of the community is not likely to suffer very much. I do not consider it wise at the present juncture to go further into the matter of our agricultural production, for the reason that it must be to some considerable extent an estimate, but as

the census was taken last year, we may expect very shortly to be in possession of more exact details.

Now with regard to our railway policy you will notice that my friend from Alberni has said again today practically what he said two years ago on the same topic, that our railway policy was but a bait to catch the people. I read the press of the country and the Liberal press which echoes this opinion. If it is pleased to term any effort which myself and my colleagues may put forth to secure the development and the prosperity of British Columbia by means of railway construction as a bait it is well entitled to use that phrase if it so desires. I hope at all times to be able to justify to the House and to the country my offering to British Columbia of a similar bait—if that bait means the settling up of the waste areas of this country, the development of those areas, the placing of thousands of industrious people in our fertile valleys and in our timbered or our richly mineralized hills. (Applause). We have been told by my friend the member for Alberni that I am desirous of precipitating a general election. I am no fonder of general elections than anyone else for they mean a very arduous period, and the man who must stand responsible for the policy of this country and the administration of its affairs must necessarily feel it most. This government has now been in existence for a period of ten years, and I may say

that I have never initiated a general policy unless I have felt that it was for the advantage of British Columbia and that I had the people behind me in its initiation; and if it appears to me that further development by railway construction is necessary I will go to the country on that policy, not as a bait but for the judgment of the people before I make the move, and if they do not agree with me they can turn me out and put my friend, the leader of the Opposition, in my place, and I can go out with the feeling that we have given an honest administration to British Columbia and the best service of which we are capable in our country's behalf. (Applause). Bait! Coming back to this House with virtually the whole province behind it, do we need to offer the country any bait? If we desired to go to the country today with or without an enlarged railway policy, I feel confident we would be returned without question, but we are not here to mark time. Any government which does not make it its business to study the signs of the times and how it can best produce the development of this province, keeping touch with the forward march of Western America and doing all that lies in its power to promote the substantial interests of the country would be unfit to control the interests of this province and the people of British Columbia. I shall not touch at any length on the subject of railway construction as later on in the session I

hope to deal not only with the details of work that has already been prosecuted under existing arrangements, but also with what is reasonably possible within the next few years should the Legislature see its way clear to accept my suggestions, which I feel confident it will. I think that up to the present it will be conceded even by my good friend the leader of the Opposition that the railway policy of the government has been a fairly successful one. It is matter of common knowledge that railway construction on the Mainland and on the Island of Vancouver is progressing along the most favorable lines, and that every reasonable anticipation has been realized. The volume of business that has arisen out of railway construction alone has been very large indeed, and is at least one of the factors of the present prosperity and enjoyed by all parts of this province. In proposing to submit my railway policy to this House, which I hope to do in two or three weeks, I do so with strong faith in the future of the country and with a firm determination to do everything within my power towards implementing its development through the construction of these projective and necessary roads. It is amusing to hear the member for Alberni once more lament the disposition of this government to sacrifice the credit of the country for the advantage of railway corporations. Why, one of the last acts of the Liberal Government at Ottawa was to guaran-

tee the bonds of the Canadian Northern for no less a sum than thirty-seven million dollars. This was all very good, in the opinion of my friend for a Liberal government at Ottawa, but for this Conservative government of British Columbia it is a high crime and misdemeanor. Consistency is a jewel which my friend, apparently, has still to go far to seek. I will promise him in his solicitations for the best interests of Vancouver Island that in the arrangements of the details of our railway policy we shall not be unmindful of the interests of his constituency and those of the entire island. I do not mean that Vancouver Island shall benefit, especially but that we shall take such measures as appear to be best for the promotion of the legitimate prosperity of the entire province of British Columbia, for what is good for Vancouver Island is good for all of British Columbia, and what redounds to the advantage of all British Columbia must be for the material benefit of Vancouver Island—for we are and ever will remain one and inseparable. (Applause).

THE LEGISLATURE.

The debate on the address at Victoria is covering a good deal of ground. While the single opposition member did his duty effectively, the chief benefit of his address is the reply it brought from the Premier, which proved to be an instructive exposition of the provincial situation. Two of the Vancouver

representatives, Mr. Watson and Mr. Tisdall, have expressed themselves very freely on several subjects of general interest to the province, and of special interest to the important constituency they represent. The absence of serious opposition promotes independence and individuality among Government supporters, who are more likely to offer criticism in a friendly way and suggest measures when there are no others to perform these duties.

**VALIDATING
IS ASSESS**

Measure Making
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**MR. PARKER WILL
HAS FLOO**

Petition Is Intro
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Address to Duk

Special to the News-Advertiser
Victoria, Jan. 17.—Mr. Williams had the floor of the House this afternoon in an hour and twenty minutes, the rest of the time being taken up with the adjournment of fifteen minutes allowed to enable the speaker to come down to give assent to the bill for the Vancouver civic election. Mr. Williams' speech was absolutely necessary to be done expeditiously. Mr. Williams' speech dealt with a treading over beaten paths, though with some strokes of his own. He sharply attacked the Premier and the party government and the party spirit that it received from the Premier look upon him, but said that he was not. He instanced the fact which he declared gave the province into the hands of the plutocrats and kept the laborer in a state of dependence. While conditions might be better for the capitalist, it was not so for the laborer. Statistics showed that the cost of living had increased by 37 per cent in ten years, while the wages had only increased by 10 per cent. He instanced the fact that the wages of the men on the Vancouver Northern on Vancouver Island had increased by 10 per cent in ten years. He agreed with the Premier that the provincial university should be established in the rural and primary schools. He instanced the fact that the Premier had appointed him as Inspector of Schools and that he had relatives and friends in business and the mill industry. He instanced the fact that he had consulted as to his duties in 1901 and that in 1902 he had been appointed superintendent of the Eight-Idaho mines. Mr. Williams moved the adjournment of the House. Mr. Colquhoun presented a petition from the District of West Vancouver for the incorporation of the District of West Vancouver. The Premier will see to the incorporation from the Royal Highness. Mr. Williams moved the adjournment of the House. The only other business was the presentation of a petition from the Old (1882).

The Provincial House

Continues Speech on General Policy — Mining and Educational Matters — Debate on the Address.

VALIDATING BILL IS ASSENTED TO

Measure Making Legal Vancouver Civic Elections Is Signed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

MR. PARKER WILLIAMS HAS FLOOR OF HOUSE

Petition Is Introduced Praying for Incorporation of the District of West Vancouver—Address to Duke.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 17.—Mr. Parker Williams had the floor of the House to himself this afternoon in a speech of an hour and twenty minutes' duration, the rest of the time being devoted to routine work, with the exception of an intermission of fifteen minutes, which was allowed to enable the Lieutenant-Governor to come down to the House and give assent to the bill to validate the Vancouver civic elections. As the Vancouver city council could not proceed with business till this had been done it was absolutely necessary that it should be done expeditiously.

Mr. Williams' speech was for the most part a treading over familiar and well beaten paths, though enlivened in places with some strokes of sarcastic humor. He sharply attacked the Victoria "Colonist" for its attitude towards the government and the patronage that he asserted that it received. He admitted that the Premier looked like a statesman, but said that he did not act like one. He instanced the land policy, which he declared gave all the best land in the province into the hands of speculators and kept the pre-emptors out. While conditions might have improved for the capitalist, it was hard to see where the laborer was better off. Statistics showed that the cost of living had increased by 37 per cent. in the last ten years, while the wages of miners had only increased ten per cent., and in those of railway workers, judging from the wages paid on the Canadian Northern on Vancouver Island at the present time, there had been an actual decrease. He again attacked the provincial university scheme, declaring that the money put into it should have gone to the rural and primary schools. He censured the appointment of Mr. Graham as Inspector of Mines, because he had relatives and friends in the mine business, and the miners had not been consulted as to his appointment. Further than that, in 1902 Mr. Graham had been superintendent of the mine in which he (Mr. Williams) worked and had dismissed him simply because he supported the Eight-Hour Day Bill for coal miners.

Mr. Madeline moved the adjournment of the debate. Mr. Colton this afternoon presented a petition from J. Y. McNaught and others for the incorporation of the District of West Vancouver.

Tomorrow the Premier will move, and Mr. Brewster will second, an address of congratulation from the Legislature to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on his appointment as Governor-General and also assuring him of a loyal and hearty welcome to British Columbia.

Mr. William Manson, member for Skeena, arrived and took his seat in the House today. The only absentee now is Mr. Macdonald, who is expected back from the Old Country in a few days.

VICTORIA, Jan. 15.—Continuing his speech in the Provincial House in reply to Mr. Brewster, the Premier (Hon. R. McBride) said:

"The member for Yale and I think also the second member for Vancouver referred to the imposing functions connected with the Coronation of King George and Queen Mary, at which I had the honor with my colleague the Attorney-General to represent the province. You are aware that British Columbia was officially represented at the Coronation ceremonies in London by invitation of the Colonial Office, and I desire to express my sense of high appreciation of the uniform kindness and consideration that were extended to my colleague and Mrs. Bowser and to my wife and myself during our stay in London by the Imperial authorities and by many others. The Coronation itself was a wonderful and imposing ceremony carried out as these rituals are in the old home land with absolute perfection of arrangements. Representatives were present from all sections of the Empire and it was most refreshing and inspiring thus to see Britons from all quarters of the globe fraternizing and standing shoulder to shoulder as Imperial brethren should. The outstanding feature, the lesson to be drawn from such imposing display as that which characterized the Coronation ceremony and celebration, is found in the fact that the whole of the great Empire was adequately represented, and that the enthusiasm and evidences of devotion to their Majesties and their Majesties' Dominions observed throughout typified and represented the spirit of Empire and the spirit of every portion of the greatest Empire of the world, of which we in Canada and in British Columbia are and are bound to be more and more a conspicuous part. Nothing like it could be possible in any other nation or Empire the wide world over. It seemed, too, as one noted carefully the spirit and sentiment of the occasion that there was constantly manifest a strong desire on the part of the home land to recognize the Dominions over the Seas at their full worth and importance, and this and the meeting together of Britons from all quarters of the globe must inevitably produce a better understanding and a fuller community of interest and sympathy. And while legislative movement must necessarily be slow, it was unmistakably evidenced that the Imperial idea was steadily growing; that we are being brought constantly nearer the goal, and I may say that the verdict of the Canadian people on the 21st of September last may be taken as fully warranting us in saying that Canada is fully ready to play her part in the closer drawing of the bonds that holds the British Empire together.

"The mover and the seconder of the address also referred in fitting terms to the succession of H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught to the Governor-Generalship of Canada. This above everything else is evidence of the desire at home to give to the relations between this, the chiefest of the British Dominions, and Great Britain and other portions of the Empire, that personal and human touch which counts so much in the affairs of nations. It is another of these indefinable ties to the Motherland which bind us all together and helps to pave the way smoothly to still closer political relations of whatever nature they may be as the ultimate solution of the Empire problem. Upon the occasion of our visit to Ottawa one of the first privileges accorded us by Premier Borden was that of an audience with His Royal Highness. He came down from his office and expressed the wish that my colleagues and myself should call upon him, which we very gladly did. He treated us with a marked consideration and courtesy such as only His Royal Highness could have shown, expressing his deep interest in and solicitude for British Columbia, recalling

incidents of his short visit here some twenty-one years ago and expressing his intention to revisit this province in the very near future. When he does come to us I feel confident that he will receive such a rousing and enthusiastic welcome as will bring joy and gladness to his heart. He will find himself amongst Britishers and Canadians who love the land they live in and appreciate at its full worth the flag that flies above them. I believe and I think it is generally understood in official circles that the appointment of the Duke of Connaught as Governor-General in Canada was in deference to the expressed personal wish of the late King Edward, whose wisdom and kingly statesmanship did so much for the welfare of his people in their relations with one another and with other people. It was in accord with his late Majesty's desire that the Duke should make it his very pleasurable task to come to Canada and in consequence of that he has now thrown in his lot with the Canadian people. Taking the Coronation and the appointment of His Royal Highness together we may say that here are found two of the most important significant events in the history of the evolution of the Imperial ideal—two events most notable in their Empire-making effect. Another and also notable significant happening in a similar direction was the return of Mr. Borden as Premier of Canada. The success of the Conservative party upon the issue which its opponents chose to give battle upon was a message to Great Britain that the heart of Canada is right—that Canada stands for the maintenance of British institutions, for reciprocal trade with the Empire, for co-operation in defence and in all other matters in which British subjects the world over can work with each other for all purposes that are for the common good.

"Another matter which properly is referred to in His Honor's speech is that of the recent departure of Earl Grey from this Canadian Dominion. It is only a short time ago, upon the occasion of his departure, since I had from His Lordship a message conveying his best wishes for British Columbia and for her people. How closely Earl Grey has followed everything of interest to Canada and to British Columbia is well known. He has at all times evinced a special interest in this province, and never neglected any slightest opportunity to bring himself into touch with conditions here and to study and become acquainted with our people. It is not too much to say that we have never had in the Old Land a better or more sympathetic friend than we have in Lord Grey, and when I say that the people of British Columbia wish him and his every happiness and prosperity

I say nothing that is one bit extravagant.

"With regard to our visit to Ottawa, all details of the mission will be contained in a report which will shortly be presented to the House, and what we have done will then be open to debate and criticism. Many matters were taken up and we are encouraged to believe that progress has been made in the accomplishment of our commission. I can promise this House that nothing will be left undone to emphasize to the full the desires of this province. I do not want the people of this province or of any part of Canada to think that we have asked for or expect any more from the Borden Government than we are strictly entitled to or that we should have obtained from the Laurier Government. Our present relations are those which should subsist between a Province and a Dominion of which it is an integral part, each supreme within its own limits but willing and anxious to eliminate causes of friction where respective jurisdictions or interests seem to conflict. They are the relations which have subsisted since the Laurier government came into power and even before that event, and the relations which we as a government were anxious to establish long ago. I am not in a position to say at the present

moment just to what extent negotiations will be carried on with the Dominion or to discuss the details of all that is proposed in the way of the settlement of outstanding matters as between the province and the Dominion. I do not think it would be right or that the progress shown in respect to the administration of water in the railway belt and the increased appropriations this province is receiving in various public works will be carried to a point where a satisfactory settlement of vexed issues can be effected. Another thing I will say and that is that whenever we now go to Ottawa with a case that is decent, right and fair, we will receive that treatment to which we feel that we are as a province entitled. Papers in connection with our visit will soon be presented to the House and these will go into matters with as much detail as possible. In addition to the questions which have arisen and those already under consideration, there are many matters connected with mining, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, railway construction, immigration and labor, etc., in regard to which the two governments can and should work in co-operation, supplementing each others' efforts without impinging upon respective rights or mixing up legislative authority in any way. Towards this end I must say the two governments are now working. This I have already said might have been in the past, and it is destined to produce substantial results in the future. We are asking no favors or no discrimination in our behalf—simply recognition of that to which in all fairness we are entitled. And whatever makes for the good of British Columbia must redound to the advantage of Canada as a whole.

"I do not think it is necessary for me at the present time to take up much time in consideration of the financial position of the Province as disclosed by the public account. These have been laid before the House and speak for themselves. We have today a revenue four times greater than we had when this government took power. We have a surplus for the last fiscal year of approximately two and a quarter millions. And we have a cash balance in the bank. We have all this and we have at the same time been able to expend very large sums on necessary public works and to do efficiently and on a larger scale than ever before in the history of the province, those many things which are necessary and desirable in the way of the administration of our affairs and the development of our resources. As I have said on previous occasions in discussing these matters and the prosperity of the people generally, while the government cannot and does not take to itself the entire credit it may fairly lay claim to a reasonable share of responsibility for placing the political and financial affairs for British Columbia in such a position that the business elements and the working men of this provincial community can turn to the best advantage the opportunities which lie before them. The credit of the province has now been so established that if the government and its legislature deemed it necessary and desirable we might go to the money markets of the world and pledge it to the extent of many millions, our securities today ranking among the best in the world.

"As to the Songhees Reserve settlement, my friend the member for Alberni has said that it might have been arrived at long ago but that we were awaiting an opportune time in order to make political capital upon it. Let me tell him that for years different governments have been endeavoring to bring about an arrangement under which the removal of the Indians from this reservation might be brought about and it has remained for this administration to secure a final and ultimate settlement of this long-vexed question. It is but fair to say that when we of necessity asked the co-operation of the Ottawa authorities it was forthcoming, save and expect with respect to the disposition of the new reserve at Esquimalt. Instead of offering in fairness to take that reserve for the Indians upon the usual terms, the province retaining its reversionary interests, they would not consent to the settlement arrived at until we should give them a freehold interest in the new reserve. We were held up and gave it, because

it was of paramount importance that the removal of the Indians should be secured and that the property in the old reserve should be put to more appropriate uses for the advantage of the people of Victoria and of British Columbia. However, we have the reserve property today; we are now engaged in clearing up the title, and we have under way plans with respect to railway accommodation and will endeavor in our final arrangements to put the reserve property to such uses as will be not only creditable but profitable to this province. We have in it a large investment, and we believe that we will get every cent back, but the general good of the public and the province is and will be our first consideration, rather than looking for profit. This has influenced our actions all the way through. In respect to the forty-three acres which my friend from Alberni has spoken of as promised to the city of Victoria under an old Order-in-Council of several years ago, I notice that my friend opposite has laid a special emphasis upon this, suggesting

that as I am a member for Victoria if an election is brought on he will do his best to fix me on this text. (Laughter.) I have one great comfort and that is that the people of Victoria are fair-minded, clear headed and progressive. They realize quite fully that the Victoria of ten years ago is very different from the Victoria of today. Then the population was about twenty thousand; today we have a bustling, busy, rapidly growing commercial city of 60,000 to 70,000 and so soon as railway construction and other factors in comprehensive development have been completely arranged for it will be a city of a hundred thousand or more. The people of Victoria look at this matter in a business way and realize that land thus brought into the business part of the city could never be allotted in large areas for park purposes. If I am not right I am prepared to answer with and to the people of Victoria. They will find that in the final settlement the action taken in the Songhees matter will meet with their entire satisfaction and be acceptable also to the people of all parts of Vancouver Island and the entire province of British Columbia.

"And while I am on the question of the Songhees Reserve I might refer briefly to the question of Indian reserves in general. My friend the second member for Vancouver made some reference to this matter and perhaps left an impression that he had no desire to convey and one which might tend to disturb the minds of the Indians throughout the province. There has been much in the papers of late with regard to an agitation brought about recently on the subject of Indian lands and titles throughout the province and it is not so long ago since a party of Indian chiefs from all parts of British Columbia came here to confer with my colleagues and myself in this connection. Briefly their case was that they were here before the whites, that their fathers held possession of the land before them, and that we were to believe that nothing had ever been done to disentitle them to the whole province. We want you, they said, to go to the courts and show that these lands are not yours but ours. We told them that we could not consider for a moment such a proposition. We spoke to them also of the large areas that had been assigned as reserves for the Indians of British Columbia, hand picked lands they are, too, to a large extent. We told them that we would protect them in the enjoyment of these lands, but we could go no further. We also pointed out the opportunities existing for Indians if they so desired to enlarge their holdings by taking advantage of the pre-emption law, and we also spoke to them of the disposition of the government to give Indians who might so desire opportunity to work on the roads and other public undertakings. We told them generally that we desired to treat them as friends not as foes but that they must expect the government to stand firmly for the rights of the community. And that has since been our position at Ottawa and in England. The object of this government in dealing with the Indians is not only to respect their rights in every way possible, but in so far as possible to assist them in taking a superior position in the future to that which they now

occupy. The entire matter of the arrangement of the Dominion in 1871 is inevitable. It was very first that arrangements for reserve areas, possess lands no Indian tribes in diminishment or of the reserves requirements as terms of that said that the any disposition Indian or with ties, who act as. It is a matter that many of the by the way repr lands to be found tracts, are, if no by the dying out in an abandoned large acreage in unproductive and not a desirable no advantage to try. Some of the of settlement an exceedingly valu sense I am sure her for Vancouver from my knowle would be the first ture to protest ment on the right are ready and gl elve in conferen of the Indian pec them any matter of consideration, has been suggeste in fee to parts of rarely extra care always be exercise with the original land, so that the derstanding, but ment is determin the position which respect to the Cr. We will treat ti and as friends, a be treated, and v operation of Ottav just and equitable gard to reserve cannot but note under existing res necessities of the wands of good acre which might be tributary to the vince. It is with the settlement an tion of these are are being conduct ment at Ottawa. has as yet been but we are strong to move along w the entire Indian ally and definite The Indians only ly advised as to province to be ent government would such further tha yet has done in p a better position but I do not take it even be better of on to a large exte they have no fee a entitled to have fo set of which they use. Personally I friend of many o and I would be o they should suffer of their legitimate which they were o ants.

"With respect to its development, we engaged in striving terial and commer our province, it is ly desirable that playground should

occupy. The readjustment of the entire matter of Indian reserves under the arrangement entered into with the Dominion in 1876 has now become inevitable. It was intended from the very first that there should be rearrangements from time to time of the reserve areas. The province was to repossess lands no longer required by the Indian tribes in proportion to their diminishment or to increase the size of the reserves in proportion to the requirements as the tribes might increase. In attempting to give effect to the terms of that convention it cannot be said that the government is showing any disposition to break faith with the Indian or with the Dominion authorities, who act as their guardians.

It is a matter of common knowledge that many of the Indian reserves, which by the way represent usually the best lands to be found in the various districts, are, if not abandoned altogether by the dying out of the Indian, almost in an abandoned condition; and a very large acreage in the aggregate is left unproductive and unoccupied. This is not a desirable condition and is one of no advantage to the natives of the country. Some of this land has by reason of settlement and development become exceedingly valuable. It was in this sense I am sure that the second member for Vancouver spoke, for I am sure from my knowledge of him that he would be the first man in this legislature to protest against any infringement on the rights of the Indians. We are ready and glad at any time to receive in conference representative men of the Indian peoples and discuss with them any matters legitimately worthy of consideration, such as that which has been suggested in regard to grants in fee to parts of the reserve. Necessarily extra care and patience must always be exercised in thus conferring with the original inhabitants of the land, so that there may be no misunderstanding, but as I say the government is determined to stand firm in the position which it has taken with respect to the Crown lands.

We will treat the Indians as brothers and as friends, as they are entitled to be treated, and we hope with the co-operation of Ottawa shortly to reach a just and equitable arrangement with regard to reserve matters generally. We cannot but note the large acreage under existing reserve in excess of the necessities of the Indians—the thousands of good acres of land lying waste which might be tilled and made contributory to the necessities of the province. It is with a view to securing the settlement and profitable utilization of these areas that negotiations are being conducted with the government at Ottawa. Not much progress has as yet been made in this matter, but we are strong in the determination to move along with it and hope that the entire Indian question will be finally and definitely settled later on. The Indians only require to be properly advised as to their rights in this province to be entirely reasonable. The government would be inclined to go much further than the province ever yet has done in placing the Indian in a better position in the social scale, but I do not take it that the Indians can ever be better off by merely holding on to a large extent of land to which they have no fee simple, which they are entitled to have for use and occupation, but of which they make no beneficial use. Personally I am glad to be the friend of many of their leading men and I would be the last to suggest that they should suffer the least diminution of their legitimate rights in a land of which they were once the sole inhabitants.

With respect to Strathcona Park and its development, while we are chiefly engaged in striving to promote the material and commercial development of our province, it is but right and highly desirable that this great provincial playground should have been set aside

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as a place for the pleasuring and the promotion of the health of the people. I am glad to see that the Minister of Public Works has reached that point in connection with the development of the provincial park that he is now ready to ask for a substantial vote to assist in this good work, from which the people of Vancouver, Victoria, and Nanaimo are certain in the future to derive much good.

"With respect to the University I hope that the Minister of Education will shortly be in a position to make an announcement to the House in connection with this great work of higher education in which he has always taken so great and so active an interest. It is certainly gratifying to all of us to know that he hopes in 1913 to be able to open the doors of this provincial educational institution, the facilities of which are to fully equal those of Toronto or McGill, an institution whose curriculum and whose staff of teachers will be fully equal to any in the world.

"Perhaps as Minister of Mines I should say something at this juncture with regard to the progress made by the mining industry during the just past year. Mining generally throughout the province has held its own during the year. The older properties have made about the output expected of them and a few new properties have advanced to such a position as to ensure a substantial production in the future, such as the Britannia Mine on the Howe Sound and the Granbys, new properties on Observatory Inlet, while in the Slocan several properties have developed ore of such quality and quantity as gives hope that the palmy days of that district are by no means past—even the hills there have the silver lining. Statistics of the year's production are not yet complete, but an estimate by the provincial mineralogist leads us to expect a production of about \$5,187,000 in gold, \$946,000 in silver, \$1,161,000 in lead, \$4,432,000 in copper, and \$127,000 in zinc, or a total production of the metalliferous mines amounting to \$11,853,000; of coal the estimated production is \$8,523,000, of coke \$465,000, and of building material \$2,000,000, giving a total valuation of the output for 1911 of \$22,841,000, this total output being approximately \$2,500,000 less than that of 1910. Each of these items (except building material) shows a considerable decrease as compared with last year, which does not appear consistent with my previous remarks and would not be were it not that they are capable of explanation. The chief reason for this decrease is to be found in the fact that labor troubles caused the shutting down of the Crows Nest coal mine and coke plant for a period of eight months out of the year. This entailed directly a loss of output in coal and coke of over \$2,120,000 and indirectly, through cutting off the coke supply, thereby shutting down the large Boundary district smelters and mines, of a considerable part of the losses shown for copper and gold and part of the decrease in silver. A remaining portion of the silver decrease and also the diminution in the zinc output are attributed to the destruction of the Kaslo and Slocan Railway, cutting off transportation facilities and destroying the plant of the mines. With regard to the very regrettable strike referred to, I sincerely hope that we shall ere long find some machinery which will operate successfully and without injustice to any, by which such deplorable industrial disturbances may be avoided. I do not propose to enter into any discussion of the ethics of strikes. It is perhaps true that the right to strike constitutes the greatest protection which the working man enjoys. But when one goes through a district in which a strike is taking place he cannot but feel the pity of it all. It is of course disastrous to the interests directly concerned and to the business of the country, but how much worse for the men who are deprived of their opportunity of earning a livelihood for themselves and those dependent upon them, and how much worse still for their faithful wives and their little children. It is too bad that the genius of man has not yet been able to devise some means by which these most deplorable crises may be averted.

"The outlook for the metalliferous mines of British Columbia is encouraging, and if we get a year free from labor troubles, the output of the Slocan, Nelson, Rossland, Boundary and Similkameen mines should show an increase in gold, silver and lead, while the Coast mines should show an increase in copper production. At present

our coal mines produce about half of our mineral output in value. And it would seem from the development of the past year as though we had only touched the margin of our wonderful coal deposits. The year's developments include new and great coalfields in East Kootenay, other new and important deposits in the Similkameen, and last, but probably the greatest, is the discovery of what promises to be the greatest anthracite or semi-anthracite field west of Pennsylvania, on the head waters of the Skeena River. This field is only partly developed as yet and if but a fraction of the present promises are fulfilled it is bound to have a wonderfully stimulating effect upon the future of the province. The coal mines of Great Britain gave it its position as the manufacturing centre of the world, and our coal fields unquestionably will serve as a strong magnet to draw the manufacturing interests of the Pacific to our shores. Coal is a breeder of industries and its value to the country does not by any means end with its disposal by the mining companies.

"And while I close my remarks it will not be uninteresting to the House to know that the Coal Mines Bill of two years ago brought through its various stages with the active co-operation of all the members has been working well. I know that my friend the member for Newcastle will say or will suggest that I am the coal miners' worst enemy, that the life and limb of the miner are of no consequence at all with me, so long as we promote the financial interests of our business friends. I do not think, however, that that member should arrogate to himself all the sympathetic and active interest in the miners' welfare that he has expressed in this House. The interest and assiduity displayed by the members generally in the perfecting of this measure attest, indeed, quite the contrary. And before sitting down I might perhaps announce to the House that the office of chief inspector of mines vacated by the resignation of Mr. Shepherd was filled at the first of the year by the appointment of Mr. Thomas Graham of Nanaimo, an appointment which I am sure will meet with the approbation of even the member for Newcastle, and prove of distinct advantage to the industry and to the country. I had not intended to keep you, Mr. Speaker, or the House engaged with my remarks at so great length. I have spoken longer than I had intended to speak, but I felt that the observations of my friend, the leader of the Opposition, called perhaps for some further explanation at my hands." (Applause.)

The debate was adjourned upon the motion of Mr. Tisdall.

Victoria, January 14.—The Legislature held a very brief sitting this afternoon. The bill to validate the elections in Wards Seven and Eight, Vancouver, passed committee without comment, and is now ready for third reading.

Mr. Tisdall continued the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, devoting himself largely to Vancouver matters. He called attention to the need for a settlement of the Indian Reserve question on False Creek such as had been secured for the Songhees Reserve in Victoria. He hoped to see a tramway run along the north side of the Fraser from New Westminster east for some distance along the valley. In view of the fact that many coast steamers are now burning oil imported from California, he suggested that the Government should send out experts to prospect for oil in different parts of the province and they might bore if they found any indications. He again asked for aid for a bridge over the Fraser River at Lulu Island. He complimented the Department of Agriculture on winning the great potato prize in New York, and on its work generally. He approved of the Government's stand in refusing to admit the wives and children of Hindus. He dwelt on the proposed railway policy and the great importance of transportation in building up the city of Vancouver and the province generally. In conclusion he applied for some aid for a home for unfortunate women in Vancouver.

Mr. Parker Williams moved the adjournment of the debate. A number of petitions of minor importance were presented.

Debate on Address.

MR. TISDALL continued the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He promised not to occupy much time as the matter contained in the Speech had already been so fully commented on by the mover and seconder of the reply, by the Premier in his luminous address on the previous day, and the leader of the Opposition in his criticism. "I feel," he added, "a great deal of sympathy for the member for Alberni in his position on the floor of this House. Not only has he been plowing a lonely furrow for the past three sessions, but in addition he must have met with great discouragement in the verdict of the people on the 21st of September last. The honorable gentleman partly apologized for his address, but we can assure him that he need never apologize for the speeches he makes in this House. His criticism was not very biting and it was evident that he found little to find fault with in the Speech from the Throne."

The speaker congratulated the Premier and the Attorney-General on their healthy looks after their recent visit to the Old Country. It was with in his recollection that a visiting team of athletes had gone over there some years ago, and they were knocked out in two weeks by generous British hospitality, so that our public men must be of good stuff as shown by the looks of the Premier and his colleague, and that their intellectual gifts had not suffered was shown in the programme they had placed before the House, and in the Premier's speech of the previous day. The Premier had spoken of the benefit to be derived from coming in contact with the great minds of the Empire, and he could readily agree with him that such visits must be followed by a quickening of Imperial ties that must result at last in such a federation of the Empire as already existed in Canada, Australia and South Africa. For the same reasons the people of Canada were to be congratulated on the appointment of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught as Governor-General. That a man of his years and position should leave his own fireside with the sole idea of helping the Empire by his action was a striking example to others, as well as an instance of his own devotion to the British Empire.

"There are a few matters," he continued, "of importance to the constituency I represent that I would like to make reference to, and also some of interest to the province as a whole. I wish to congratulate the Government on the satisfactory settlement of the Songhees Reserve question, and to remind the House that in Vancouver we have an Indian reserve question just as acute. I am glad for the sake of the city of Victoria that this Songhees question has been settled, so that the land can now be used for public works and will give them much needed railway facilities. But with the growth of the community our own False Creek Reserve arouses a question just as acute. We have there a large stretch of land facing on the sea, land of the most useful kind that is now all built around

with houses and other buildings being occupied for years. Speaking from memory that one of the original plans is now on the drawing boards in respect it is different from the Songhees Reserve. There are a dozen half-breeds, and I trust they will do all in its power to bear on the question to settle this question in a happy way as they do of the Songhees Reserve.

It was a source of regret to the rank and file supporters to see the Premier went to Ottawa at the general election to settle the acute problem of what the question of the railway settlement of the Songhees Reserve will become. It is satisfactory to hear that with the C. P. R. the Premier has already secured a question of control, all know of the proposal, and will handle it, it must.

In connection with the Fraser River project it is to be hoped that the Fraser River project from New Westminster in a manner as the Chief

South has already, way to the south, most sanguine expectations fulfilled the hope of this House a year ago has done in opening up New Westminster.

I would like to refer in reference to agriculture, a strange, perhaps a man like myself, a native of a city, attention to this at least I have it prominently into me, her that there is a shortage of agricultural in British Columbia, porting from Alberta produce that could be produced in this province. I agree with the Premier's

shortage has been great influx of population during the past few years. Agriculture on the whole they had made well and today I can see a still greater city of New York says a great deal when the Government to gather potatoes they should gather satisfactory quality everything before doubt that the province compete with war occasion, whereas, experts selected find, in no instance especially for the sake of the Department the endeavors the agriculture to be done, by experience and by farmers' I all bear good fruit have no doubt, in the view expressed Opposition, that we instead of having export agriculture

In dealing with agriculture a year ago attempt was made the Fraser River that the products of the river could easily into the city then the Government at Mission move which has been done. With the our treasury I should lend a financial for assistance of a bridge over Lulu Island, especially of Delta has of money towards

with houses and other buildings, and being occupied for no useful purpose. Speaking from memory I do not think that one of the original tribes of Indians is now on that reserve. In that respect it is different from the Songhees Reserve. There may be half-a-dozen half-breeds on it but nothing more, and I trust that this government will do all in its power to bring pressure to bear on the Dominion Government to settle this question in the same happy way as they have settled that of the Songhees Reserve.

It was a source of great satisfaction to the rank and file of the Government supporters to see that the Ministers went to Ottawa at so early a date after the general election. It has been an acute problem for many years, this settlement of what is known as the question of the railway belt, and in time the question of the Peace River Railway belt will become equally acute. It is satisfactory to know in connection with the C. P. R. belt that the Government has already settled the important question of control of the water. We all know of the problems arising from dual control, and when one Government handles it, it must be much better.

In connection with this question it is to be hoped that tram service will be instituted on the north side of the Fraser River opening up the valley from New Westminster in the same manner as the Chilliwack line to the

south has already done. That tramway to the south has surpassed the most sanguine expectations, and has fulfilled the hope that I expressed in this House a year ago in the service it has done in opening up the country between New Westminster and Chilliwack.

I would like to make a few remarks in reference to agriculture. It may seem strange, perhaps, that a commercial man like myself, and the representative of a city constituency should pay attention to this subject, but as a city man I have it probably driven more strongly into me than the country member that there is still a considerable shortage of agricultural stuff produced in British Columbia, and we are importing from Alberta and Washington produce that could be grown in this province. I agree with the remark made by the Premier yesterday that the shortage has been increased by the great influx of people to British Columbia during the past year. But for this, we congratulated the Department of Agriculture on the splendid showing they had made with apples in London, and today I can congratulate them in winning a still greater trophy in the city of New York. (Applause.) It says a great deal for the country that when the Government sent out experts to gather potatoes for this exhibition, they should gather potatoes of such satisfactory quality that they sweep everything before them. I have no doubt that the potatoes they had to compete with were all grown for the occasion, whereas, while no doubt our experts selected the best they could find, in no instances were they grown especially for the occasion. I congratulate the Department on this and on the endeavors they have made to assist agriculture by demonstration orchards, by experimental poultry farms and by farmers' institutes, which must all bear good fruit in their season. I have no doubt, in spite of the pessimistic view expressed by the leader of the Opposition, that we shall in a few years, instead of having a shortage, be able to export agricultural products ourselves.

In dealing with this question of agriculture a year ago I suggested that an attempt was being made to bridge the Fraser River at Lulu Island, so that the products from the other side of the river could be brought more easily into the city of Vancouver. Since then the Government has established a ferry at Mission City, and I know of no move which has been of greater service. With the tremendous surplus in our treasury I think the Government should lend a friendly ear to the appeal for assistance in the construction of a bridge over the Fraser River at Lulu Island, especially as the Municipality of Delta has already voted a sum of money towards it.

Mr. Tisdall continued that he noticed that the Government was to bring down a bill to establish a bureau of forestry. It should prove most useful, not only in conserving the forests for the future, but also in saving what was left. Last year the Government spent \$200,000 in fighting fires, and he was sure that this year the House would supply as large and even a larger amount. He believed that during his own residence in the province more timber had been destroyed by fire than had been cut or taken out in any other way. In view of the millions of dollars invested in the timber business in this country, the Minister of Land must be congratulated on his determination to give us the very last word in timber legislation. It was gratifying also to hear so satisfactory an account of the pulp mills. The new mills at Powell River and Ocean Falls he had heard were now nearly in shape to turn out pulp, and should employ many men.

"We are in a peculiar position as far as fuel is concerned," he continued. "In the past the coal mines of Vancouver Island have supplied our coast steamers with necessary fuel, but now owing to economic changes many of them are burning oil, and now instead of producing fuel for ourselves we are sending away for our oil, very largely to Southern California. In view of this it appears to me that it would be a very good thing if the Government would employ experts to thoroughly prospect this province and see if there are any indications of oil, and if there are to bore for it so that we can produce it for our own use. I have some figures which show that last year the United States produced 7,359,323,000 gallons of oil, of which they exported 1,153,611,000. Surely any efforts the Government might make would be fully justified in face of these figures. I bring this matter to the attention of the Government in the hope that they will see their way to carry out my suggestion.

Another matter I would like to congratulate the Government on is the firm attitude they still maintain in reference to the admission of Orientals. Quite recently a Hindu delegation approached the Dominion Government with a request to be allowed to bring in their wives and children. The experience of other parts of the Empire has not been satisfactory in this respect. In the early eighties they thought they could grow sugar in Natal and imported Hindus to do the work. They brought in their wives and children, and today there are thousands of Hindus between Cape of Good Hope and the Zambesi; they have gone into every branch of trade and labor, and constitute one of the great problems with which that country has to deal. These and other Asiatic races can never assimilate with us, and I think the Government should, as in the past, do all in its power, and should ask the Dominion Government to do all in its power, to protect us from them. (Applause.)

"I said there were some matters of particular interest to my own constituency mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. One of these is that dealing with the question of transportation. I cannot conceive of anything that would be more popular in my constituency, or help its growth more than railways to open up the country, and bring to the trade that properly belongs to it. Spokane is an instance of an American town built up by Canadian industries, and if a railway can be put in to reach that trade there is no doubt that we shall reap the benefit, because as good Canadians we may be sure that the people of Nelson, Rossland and Grand Forks are only too anxious to trade with the rest of Canada. In addition it has been reported that the Peace River country has resources which only need a railway to turn it into a well settled and richly producing district. It has been suggested, largely by the Vancouver Board of Trade that a railway should be built from North Vancouver by way of Squamish, Pemberton Meadows, Lillooet and the Fraser River to Fort George and thence on to the Peace River country, the produce of which could be used to the advantage of the people of this province. In the Peace River country they have no timber, but they can grow wheat, and they could supply us with flour and we could supply them with timber. Moreover the surface indications of minerals are so great that, if for no other reasons, the minerals alone would justify the building of a railway into that country.

"In addition to that there is at present a large quantity of export wheat sent from Pacific ports of other countries at the present time. For the information of the House I have secured some figures showing how much was exported from Portland, Oregon, and Puget Sound, Washington, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911. From Portland there were exported 7,345,784 bushels of wheat valued at \$6,314,305, and of flour 2,256,033 barrels valued at \$2,256,032. From Puget Sound there was exported of oats 276,726 valued at \$133,237; of wheat 3,997,435 valued at \$3,461,200; of flour, 1,714,902 barrels valued at \$6,616,406. I am fully aware that in presenting these figures that the trade they represent has been growing up steadily year by year during the past 20 or 30 years, but with the opening the Panama Canal we certainly should look forward to a large export trade, and you can judge of the value it would be to coast merchants and shippers, and the number of men it would employ. When the railway policy is brought down I have no doubt it will be a policy that will greatly help out our transportation problems and continue the opening up and development of British Columbia.

"In conclusion I might state that the material progress of the city of Vancouver, figures of which were furnished to this House by the second member for Vancouver a few days ago, is not the least exaggerated. There has been a great advance in commerce and industry in all lines, and work for all who were willing to labor. But with the great growth of the community we have been called upon to face problems which do not arise in smaller places. The concentration of so many human beings has caused a strain on our hospitals and orphanages, and it has called for provision being made for others. The Government has recognized this, and that provision must be made for taking in people from all parts of the province. I trust the Government will consider also the need for a home for unfortunate young women. With this end in view between \$7,000 and \$8,000 has already been subscribed in the city by friends of the project, and when the people themselves are ready to act like this to help these unfortunates, the least the Government can do is to help also. In closing I wish to congratulate the country on its general prosperity, and also to congratulate the Government of the province for the able way in which they have administered its resources, and I thank the members of the House for the kindness and attention with which they have listened to my remarks." (Applause.)

Mr. Williams moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House went into committee of the whole on the bill to validate certain elections in the city of Vancouver, Mr. Shatford in the chair. It was reported complete without amendment. The House then adjourned.

GALLERY NOTES

Two deputations are in Victoria from Merritt. One came in connection with the new hospital in that town. A year ago the Government made them a grant of \$5,000, with a provisional promise of another \$5,000 this year, if the people would subscribe a like amount. As the hospital is now about completed and must be equipped at considerable expense, the deputation called on Hon. Dr. Young to ask if the Government would not make the grant \$5,000 again this year. A second deputation interviewed Hon. Thos. Taylor, Minister of Public Works, with a request for an appropriation for a new courthouse and other needed public buildings in that growing city. A similar request was also made for the town of Nicola. The delegates were introduced by Mr. A. Lusas, M. L. A.

At the annual meeting of the Press Gallery held yesterday the following officers were elected: Hon. president, Hon. Richard McBride; first honorary vice-president, Hon. Price Ellison; second honorary vice-president, Hon. Dr. Young; secretary-treasurer, Mr. R. E. Gonnell. It was decided that the annual press gallery banquet should be held early in the session, arrangements being left in the hands of the secretary. A committee was also appointed to arrange for permanent press quarters in the new annex to the government buildings, the foundations of which are now under way.

Mr. W. H. Keary of New Westminster has presented the Hon. Dr. Young with an historic pair of scales. They were first brought to British Columbia by the surgeon of the Royal Engineers in the sailing ship Thames City, which left England on November 6, 1858. They were included in the medical stores of the Royal Engineers, and for many years past have been in the possession of Mr. Keary. While many medical men have besought Mr. Keary for this historic relic, he refused to part with it, until as a token of personal esteem for Hon. Dr. Young he presented it to him. Hon. Dr. Young considered that an article so rich in historical association should be the property of the whole province, and has handed it over to the provincial archivists for that purpose.

Messrs. H. J. Harbet, D. R. McLennan and Allan Watson, acting as a delegation from the Chilliwack District today waited on Hon. Dr. Young, Minister of Education, with a request for an appropriation for additional High School accommodation. They also waited on Hon. Thos. Taylor, Minister of Public Works, with a request for increased appropriation for roads, bridges and public works generally.

LAND POLICY IS DEF

Hon. W. R. Ross, M. L. A., Lands, Vindicated Department from A Opposition Membe

DEBATE ON ADDRESS FROM THRO

Provincial Lands B served for Benefi emptor—To Surv Thompson Areas 1

Special to the News-Advertiser
 Victoria, Jan. 18.—The address in reply to the throne was closed this morning by the Hon. Minister of Lands, in which he vindicated the policy of his department in the face of the attacks that had been made by the members for Alberca.

He showed clearly that the government had a land policy, and was making for the conservation of the lands of the province. He said that it was impossible to land away from railway land, the only available land to railways had been in the Pacific Railway belt, which was under the supervision of the Government, and up to this was the most stagnant portion of the province.

He then showed how, that the McBride government was making the alienation of lands to the purchaser, and that one area after another until at the present day a third of the entire province was under reserve for the 1,000,000 acres had surveyed and was ready for sale.

He pointed out how in the present had taken this policy the classification of crown lands, which increased by about one-third later in the same year, and also put a reserve on timber lands. In 1908 the system of surveys was set up steadily ever since they had also set the exclusive benefit of the province, one-third for unoccupied lands, and one-third for unoccupied lands under the 1908, 1910 and 1911 still were withdrawn from the land to be sold with the alienation to increase the crown lands 100 per cent into effect last year.

The policy provided for the surveying, and partitioning of the lands, and the Hon. Mr. Thompson and the Hon. Mr. T. P., the government surveyed lands, and the Hon. Mr. Thompson, with the exception of the immediate vicinity of the lands, were given to the purchaser.

The other speakers were Messrs. J. (Skeena) and J.

The Provincial Legislature

Mr. Williams Continues Debate on Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne — Vancouver Validation Act Is Passed.

LAND POLICY IS DEFENDED

Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands, Vindicates His Department from Attacks of Opposition Members.

DEBATE ON ADDRESS FROM THRONE ENDS

Provincial Lands Being Conserved for Benefit of Pre-emptor—To Survey North Thompson Areas for Settlers

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 18.—The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was closed this afternoon by a ringing speech by the Hon. W. Ross, Minister of Lands, in which he vindicated the policy of his department from the attacks that had been made upon it by the members for Alberni and Newcastle.

He showed clearly that the government had a land policy, and one that was making for the conservation of the lands of the province. He pointed out that it was impossible to get settlers on land away from railways, and in the past the only available land contiguous to railways had been in the Canadian Pacific Railway belt, which was under the supervision of the Dominion Government, and up to this time had been the most stagnant portion of the entire province.

He then showed how, step by step, that the McBride government had been making the alienation of land more difficult to the purchaser, and withdrawing one area after another from sale until at the present day practically two-thirds of the entire province were held under reserve for the pre-emptor; of this area 800,000 acres had already been surveyed and was ready for the pre-emptor.

He pointed out how in 1907 the government had taken this step by dropping the classification known as third class lands, which increased the price of crown lands by about 200 per cent, and later in the same year they had also put a reserve on all unalienated timber lands. In 1908 they commenced a system of surveys which had been kept up steadily ever since. In that year they had also set aside one-third for the exclusive benefit of the pre-emptor, one-third for university endowment, and one-third for purchase or acquisition under the Land Act. In 1909, 1910 and 1911 still further areas were withdrawn from sale and lease, and coincident with these came the determination to increase the price of crown lands 100 per cent, which had been into effect last year.

The policy provided that during the coming year still further areas would be surveyed, and particularly along the North Thompson and along the line of the C. T. P., the government would provide surveyed lands for settlers in accordance of their arrival. On the mainland, with the exception of lands in the immediate vicinity of Vancouver, all were open to the pre-emptor and closed to the purchaser.

The other speakers on the address were Messrs. Jardine, William Manson (Skeena) and M. Manson (Co-

Mr. Jardine expressed sympathy for his former colleague, the member for Alberni, in his lonely position in the House, and administered a mild rebuke to the member for Newcastle for the manner in which he had spoken of the Premier on the previous day. He justified his own support of the Canadian Northern agreement by pointing to the great development that had taken place on Vancouver Island since construction work had begun. In reply to Mr. Williams' strictures on the Victoria "Colonist," he produced figures to show that for a series of years all the money received for advertising from the Dominion government was \$6.25, while during the same period the "Times" had received \$7,123.05.

Mr. Manson (Skeena) devoted himself chiefly to the needs of his own district. He suggested the appointment of inspectors to decide on the conflicting claims of pre-emptors, owners of timber lands and stakers of mineral claims, as they were constantly overlapping. He also considered that the time had arrived for the creation of a judicial district at Prince Rupert, so that they might have their own gaol and hold the assizes there.

Mr. Manson (Comox) made an earnest plea for the retention of hand loggers' licences, and did not think that the Forestry Commission had been sufficiently informed when they reported in favor of their abolition. He also dwelt upon the development of his district, which produced one-third of the timber cut, and one-fourth of the coal taken out in the entire province.

The Premier moved the appointment of standing committees, of which the following will be chairmen:

Private bills, N. F. MacKay; mining, M. Manson (Comox); railways, H. G. Parson; public accounts, Thomas Gifford; municipal, H. H. Watson; agriculture, A. Cawley; printing, C. E. Tisdall.

Mr. Brewster has given notice that on Monday he will ask the Government if they sold any town lots in D. L. 851, known as South Hazelton, and whether buyers were informed that the G. T. P. would build a station there and if in view of the fact that the Railway Commission has ordered the station to be placed on another section they will refund the money paid by purchasers.

Victoria, Jan. 17.—Mr. Parker Williams had the floor of the House to himself yesterday afternoon in a speech of an hour and twenty minutes duration, the rest of the time being devoted to routine work, with the exception of an intermission of fifteen minutes which was allowed to enable the Lieutenant-Governor to come down to the House and give assent to the bill to validate the Vancouver civic elections. As the Vancouver city council could not proceed with business till this had been done, it was absolutely necessary that it should be done expeditiously.

Mr. Williams' speech was for the most part a treading over familiar and well-beaten paths, though enlivened in places with some strokes of sarcastic humor. He sharply attacked the Victoria "Colonist" for its attitude towards the Government, and the patronage that he asserted that it received. He admitted that the Premier looked like a statesman, but said that he did not act like one. He instanced the land policy, which he declared gave all the best land in the province into the hands of speculators and kept the preceptors out. While conditions might have improved for the capitalist it was hard to see where the laborer was better off. Statistics showed that the cost of living had increased 37 per cent. in the last ten years, while the wages of miners had only increased 16 per cent., and in those of railway workers, judging from the wages paid on the Canadian Northern on Vancouver Island at the present time there had been an actual decrease. He again attacked the Provincial University scheme, declaring that the money put into it should have gone to the rural and primary schools. He censured the appointment of Mr. Graham as Inspector of Mines, because he had relatives and friends in the mine business, and the miners' representatives had not been consulted as to his appointment. Further than that in 1902, Mr. Graham had been superintendent of the mine in which he (Mr. Williams) worked and had dismissed him simply because he supported the Eight Hour Bill for coal mines.

Mr. Jardine moved the adjournment of the debate.

The following petitions were received: From E. W. Stapleford and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate Ryerson College.

From the Municipality of Penticton, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate the "Kettle River Valley Aid Bylaw 1911."

From the corporation of the city of Fernie, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate certain bylaws.

From the corporation of the city of Fernie, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate certain bylaws.

From the Victoria Harbor Railway Company, for leave to introduce a private bill granting the company further time for commencing work, etc.

The House proceeded to the orders of the day.

Bill (No. 3) intitled "An Act to validate election of certain aldermen and others of the city of Vancouver, and the collection of taxes in certain parts of the city of Vancouver" was read a third time, and received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor, who came to the House for that purpose.

Mr. Williams asked the Hon. the Minister of Railways the following questions:

1. What number of workmen are employed on construction of the Canadian Northern Railway: (a) On Mainland of British Columbia? (b) On Vancouver Island?

2. What rates of wages are paid on each section respectively?

3. What rates are charged for board on the said work?

The Hon. Mr. Taylor replied as follows:

"1. (a) 5,644, average during month of December, 1911; (b) 351, average during month of December.

"2. On Mainland—Foreman, \$4 to \$6 per day; blacksmiths \$20 per month and board; carpenters, \$3.50 to \$4.50 per day; shovel engineers, \$1.50 per month and board; firemen, \$75 per month and board; cranesmen, \$100 per month and board; bridgemen, \$4 per day; axemen, \$2.75 per day; laborers, \$2.75 per day. On Vancouver Island—Foremen on grades, \$2.25 to \$5 per day; axemen, \$2.75 to \$3 per day; rock-drillers, \$2.75 per day; laborers, \$2.50 per day; bridge foremen, \$1.50 per month

and board; bridge carpenters, \$3 to \$4.50 per day; team and teamster, \$7 per day; teamsters, \$35 to \$50 per month and board; blacksmiths, \$75 to \$90 per month.

"3. On Mainland—\$6 per week. On Vancouver Island—25 cents per meal and \$5.25 per week, with bunk-house accommodation."

The following petitions were presented and laid on the table:

By Mr. Cotton—From John Y. McNaught and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the corporation of the district of West Vancouver.

By Mr. Manson—From the City of Prince Rupert, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate a certain by-law.

MR. WILLIAMS continued the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He said that ever since he had been in the House he had availed himself of this opportunity to express himself, and he was more anxious to do so on this occasion than ever because he found more and more to criticise as time went on. He was sorry that the member for Nanaimo was absent but was able to announce that in a few days he would be back in his seat, and the House would be the better for his presence. He said he would omit mention of the first paragraph of the speech, but speaking of the death of the King's Printer, there was something intangible about that good old gentleman that no one else could fill. "From my position in the House," continued Mr. Williams, "it would be a loss of time for me to analyze the affairs of the province from the standpoint of the Socialists. All we can do is to review its actions from the standpoint of the moral code of the present day. It is usual to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address and on this occasion I can do so. I understand to some extent the figure used sometimes in ancient history, where certain people were asked to make bricks without straw and these gentlemen deserve credit for the manner in which they have dealt with this particular speech, which has nothing in it whatever." (Laughter.)

Passing over the opening parts of the Speech from the Throne Mr. Williams touched upon the proposed railway policy. The gentleman from Vancouver who moved the address (Mr. Watson) was willing to take the Premier

on faith, though the Premier had displayed more confidence to his henchmen at the New Westminster convention than he had to the House. The member for Vancouver—

MR. WATSON, "The second member for Vancouver."

MR. WILLIAMS, "Well if the workmen of Vancouver have anything to say he will probably be the sixth member at the next election if only five are elected for the House. As for the finances of the province I usually feel rich if I have 'six bits' on me and can hardly be expected to deal with money running into ten million dollars. The member for Vancouver repeated the time-worn story that in years past British Columbia was on the rocks financially and a political Moses had arisen and rescued it. The facts lead to no such conclusion. It would have needed great skill to prevent whatever change occurred. The change I have repeated it several times and am willing to repeat it as long as the financial Moses is trotted out in this House is due to the fact that the province is parting with its natural resources. If we are asked to believe that a financial Moses brought this about in British Columbia the same political Moses must have bobbed up in every other province in Canada and every state of the American Union, yet the Hon. Richard McBride stands for all the credit like a hero and accepts it without a smile."

Mr. Williams added that except for the injustice known as the poll tax, taxation was of little interest to the workers of the province. The government was fond of appointing commissions but was careful to put on them only its own private supporters. This government which sat up at night teaching patriotism might well in this respect learn a lesson from the Old Country where the commissions were

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of no political character, and if appointed by Parliament contained members of both parties. But the government here dealt out positions to its own supporters, and consequently they saw commission after commission "cavorting" over the province.

At this juncture it was announced that the Lieutenant-Governor was coming down and there would be an intermission of fifteen minutes. His Honor entered without ceremony and gave assent to the Vancouver Validation Act.

Mr. Williams resuming, said that he must thank the Government for the intermission as it had enabled him to get a few figures that otherwise he would not have got. He wished to pay his respects to the Victoria "Colonist," which paid a great deal of attention to him. He wished to remark on the way it was edited. He knew the members of the Press Gallery and he had not the slightest doubt that what came from the Gallery was a truthful representation of what occurred in the House, but the way it was "doctored" was hardly fair, since careless and indiscreet remarks made by government supporters were carefully eliminated, but wherever anything was found to the disadvantage of the other side it was worked to the very limit. The "Colonist" was one of the band of spoon-fed papers which existed from two sources; from advertising various notices under the Land Act, and advertisements paid for by the government. Outside papers in the province did not keep reporters in the Gallery but took their reports from papers like the Victoria "Colonist" so that they were poisoned at the source. Anything that was British never failed to appeal to the Victoria "Colonist," it was full of praise for British systems, and at the same time its own actions were redolent with leachery and graft of the worst kind. By the accounts of last year he found that no less a sum than \$6,749.00 was fed into the unscrupulous maw of this publication. To understand the character of this sort of thing he would remind the House that there was in the city of Victoria another paper called "The Times," and the public accounts showed that last year "The Times" received from the government for advertising the magnificent sum of \$26.40. There must be some motive, other than reaching the public, to justify the expenditure of this money, and the service rendered was to give the keynote to other party publications in British Columbia.

The Government had a habit of referring to September 21st, and certain by-elections to prove that their method was correct. Well, Pontius Pilate proved his actions to be correct by just the same kind of beast. (Laughter.) A year ago the "Colonist" had endeavored to publish an evening paper in Victoria. To judge from the patronage they gave "The Times" the Government seemed to consider that an evening paper was no good to advertise in, yet this particular evening paper he had referred to had drawn \$8,492 from the provincial treasury. That was the policy of the Hon. Richard McBride in dealing out money from the provincial treasury to his own party papers. Time and time again in the past the Conservatives at Ottawa had condemned the spoils system, but where was a "rotten" instance of the spoils system than this? He drew no line between the Government that would tolerate such a thing, and the paper that would accept it.

He continued that while it had been omitted from the report of the speech of the member for Vancouver (Mr. Watson) which had appeared in the "Colonist," he had understood him to say that workers throughout the province were so struck by the high wages paid by the Government for fighting bush fires that they had deliberately set out bush fires so that they might have the pleasure of eating smoke while beating them out. (Laughter.) He considered a slander of that kind on the people of the province was very ill-advised, and the gentleman was fortunate in having a paper that would carefully eliminate it. The present Bush Fires Act was so nicely adjusted that no permit to burn off brush was available at the only time you could burn it. The Government selected some men for firewardens who knew nothing about the difficulty of clearing land, and would not allow anyone to start a fire until there had been so much rain that the brush would not burn. Under these circumstances they could not wonder if a man burned without a permit.

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"In fact," he added, "the only thing that will cause a man to apply for a permit is out of regard for the 42 men who compose this House, though if he sat here himself he would have mighty little regard for any of us. (Laughter.) This Bush Fires Act is so beautifully worded that if a man is prosecuted he has to prove his own innocence, instead of making the prosecution prove his guilt. This system started in Spain, and then got to Russia and never spread further until it got to British Columbia." He added that if they put good

men in as firewardens it would be unnecessary to plaster every fence and gatepost in the province with notices offering rewards to people who informed on anyone starting a bush fire.

He continued that the fourth member for Vancouver (Mr. Tisdall), after a long speech on the prosperity of the province, had called upon the Government to increase the size of orphanages, hospitals and lunatic asylums. (Laughter.) It was said the province was enjoying great prosperity. Well, he had with him a copy of the "Labor Gazette," published by the Department of Labor at Ottawa, and this showed that the cost of living had increased 37 per cent. How had wages fared in comparison? Fifteen years ago he had himself earned \$2.50 a day on railway construction, and at the present time men were working for \$2.25 a day for the Canadian Northern Railway Company on Vancouver Island. Among miners there had been a ten per cent. increase in wages in ten years, but they had to go on strike to get it. In the agreement the Government had made with the Canadian Northern Railway Company it was provided that current wages should be paid to railway workers, but the wages they were paying showed a fall of ten per cent. while the cost of living had increased 37 per cent.

"In spite of all the nice things that have been said in press reports, it seemed to me that the Premier was in an irritable mood and was rather snappy in his remarks when he was replying to the member for Alberni the other day. It seems to me that all the fulsome praise that has been showered on the Premier in recent years is having an ill-effect, and is spoiling that good nature which made him so well-known through all this province. I have heard it said 'That is the most there is to Hon. Richard McBride—his intense good nature and good memory for faces.' So he has got to think that because his picture stands behind any policy it must not be attacked. For my part I see the wisdom of the remark of the newspaperman who said, 'No man can be half as wise as the Hon. Richard McBride looks.' (Laughter.) And if I have any powers of imagination it runs to looks and nothing else. I admit that the Hon. Richard McBride looks like a statesman, but I am going to try to find out whether he acts like one." (Laughter.)

Mr. Williams continued that if there was a place where the Premier could hew out for himself a place as a statesman, it was in dealing with the vast, unsettled areas of the province. He admitted that since the Government had been in power they had enough railways under construction to open up a great deal of country, but where were the pre-emptors who should reap the advantage of it? Where was the land available for them? It was easy to color maps red, but they found the papers filled with the notices of land speculators. The census reports showed that the greater part of the population of British Columbia was on the peninsula between Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River, while the great wild lands were still lying undeveloped. If the land were available for pre-emptors, a hundred thousand men would settle on it just as soon as the fact became known. The trouble was that people directed by the Land Department had gone out and found no land.

The portion of the policy of the Hon. Richard McBride that appealed to him most strongly was that of land sales. During the year of 1903, the year in which the McBride Government came into power, the sales of lands in British Columbia amounted to \$64,000, and during the last fiscal year they were \$2,431,000, an increase of 3,000 per cent. As an instance of how the public lands were disposed of he quoted from what

he termed "that great publication with British ideals and Saskatchewan Indian morals, the Premier's personal organ, the Victoria Week." This paper was brought into existence for the sake of eulogizing the Hon. Richard McBride, and published his picture once at least every four months. He read from it an account of a little band of pioneers and explorers, and how they had discovered in the northern interior a valley two hundred miles long, which the Government knew all about ten years before. The land they discovered 60,000 acres was disposed of to J. S. Rear of Vancouver, and a second instalment of 90,000 to Norton Griffiths, M.P. T. P. O'Connor, in praising the Hon. Richard McBride, had said that he inherited something of his abilities from his Orange father and his Catholic mother from Ireland. Well, he (Mr. Williams) would like to know from which side of the family he got his love for the curse of Ireland landlordism, which he had carried over six thousand miles of land and sea and planted its poisonous seed in British Columbia. That was one reason why future generations would remember the Hon. Richard McBride.

The Speaker: "The honorable gentleman will please not mention names. It is against the rules."

Mr. Williams: "Well, I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker; I forgot. If I was not a Welshman I would be proud to be called an Irishman, because the average Irishman will fight landlordism to a finish, yet, strange to say, it remains for a descendant of that race to plant landlordism in British Columbia today."

Mr. Williams continued that he could not accept the statement of the Premier that more Liberals and Socialists were buying lands in British Columbia than Conservatives. If so, it was strange that so few land notices appeared in Liberal or Socialist papers. These notices showed that the applications of Conservatives as against Liberals and Socialists were three to one.

In speaking of a Provincial University the Premier had told them that they were going to build up an institution equal to Oxford and Cambridge and the big universities in the Eastern States, though the "Colonist" had mercifully reported him as saying that they would have one equal to Toronto or McGill. His (Mr. Williams) idea of universities was that their growth was as natural as that of a tree, and they could not buy the atmosphere of Oxford or Cambridge with all the money they could spend in this province. He had only referred to this University question because of his interest in the public schools. In the six years during which he lived in a rural district they had several different teachers, and his own son, who had been studying for the High School when he left Nanaimo, found himself still unable to graduate. It was impossible to make any progress with such continuous changes of teachers, and he had told his boy that he would have to go to school till he had a whisker like Uncle Sam before he could get through under such a system. (Laughter.) The rural school was of such a nature that no one under twenty ever remained in it long enough to get into the High School.

Dealing with the appointment of a chief inspector of mines in the place of Mr. Shepherd, the Government lost sight of the old idea behind this inspection

which was to reduce the number of accidents. If the Government was anxious about the miners they would endeavor to find out the wishes of the representative of the miners in the district, but they had done nothing of the kind.

"I was never consulted in this matter," said Mr. Williams. "The first that I heard of Mr. Thomas Graham's appointment as Chief Inspector of Mines was through the newspaper reports. I wrote at once to the Premier to protest against it, and I received a reply that was so brief that I felt like framing it, and also one I received from him seven years ago on the same subject, as showing the evolution of thought of the Minister of Mines. At that time, seven years ago, the Premier seemed to recognize my right to protest at least but on the recent occasion his letter was so brief that in future it will stand as a model to me when I want to tell somebody to mind his own business."

He continued that he did not think that anyone who had borne the same relation to a manager of mines in Nanaimo as Mr. Graham had done should be appointed Chief Inspector for the province. He had formerly been superintendent of the mines managed by Mr. Stockett. Well, there was another Mr. Stockett in the mining business of British Columbia, and there was another Graham, a brother of the Chief Inspector, in charge of mines in one district, and that blood relationship must be expected to interfere with the performance of his duties.

"I hope," said Mr. Williams, "that he is a different man from what I take him to be, but I insist we should carefully canvass the situation and select a man who has as few ties as possible with mine owners or miners in this province. Eight years ago, in this House, I did my share in passing an eight-hour law for coal mines, though mine managers requested me not to do so. When I got back home, Mr. Graham was superintendent of the mine in which I had been working, and that gentleman very promptly placed me on the roll for my activity in this matter. Mr. Stockett was manager of the mines and Mr. Graham was superintendent, and he must take the responsibility of refusing me work."

In conclusion, Mr. Williams said that he would like to see an independent auditor appointed to audit the public accounts. He had the greatest respect for the present auditor, and he could not help thinking that he would be placed in a position where his duties would be a little different than they are at the present time. He asserted that the government of the province cost \$22 per head of the population, while Manitoba, the next dearest province in the Dominion, cost only \$10 per head, and what had we received in return for this heavy taxation during the last ten years? Absolutely nothing. The cost of government had increased 300 per cent., and the population about 100 per cent. The Government was like a spendthrift, and it had enough to spend beyond what it required to keep the machine in good running order.

Mr. Jardine moved the adjournment of the debate.

GALLERY NOTES

In consequence of the congestion occasioned in the provincial gaol here by the recent fire, as well as by the previous overtaxed conditions in the gaols in Nanaimo and New Westminster—there being at present no fewer than 107 prisoners in the Fraser City gaol—thirty-five prisoners were yesterday transferred to Nelson, where the accommodations are adequate. These are almost altogether long-term men, and so soon as any fresh difficulty presents itself it is expected that the temporary premises here will be ready for use. Several petitions for the removal of the gaol here to a new and more suitable location are at present receiving consideration by the Attorney-General.

Representatives of the Vancouver Island Development League, headed by Mr. J. J. Shallock and Mr. A. W. McCurdy, have waited upon the Minister of Public Works, Hon. Thomas Taylor, to present suggestions and recommendations with regard to the improvement of various Island roads and Island public works of necessity generally. The delegates were received most courteously, and their recommendations were carefully noted and will obtain the special consideration of the minister prior to the presentation of his draft of public necessities in the preparation of the provincial estimates for the coming year.

An announcement which was received in the Legislature, was that Mr. Williams, the Social Newscaster, that Mr. Thwait, member for In his place in the next few days. Mr. however one may d political ideas, is r ing personality in British Columbia, also contributes to Parliament the sp keenness and an e humor. Political friends will welcom Old Country, hopi business has prosp the land of his fat find it possible to during the residu ston.

Many old friend cal affairs extend John Oliver, who tended visit at th has it that Mr. O an unofficial adv in his presentatio on the floor of P. Mr. Oliver says times do what he league from Albe

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An announcement of interest, and one which was received with pleasure by the Legislature, was that by Mr. Parker Williams, the Socialist representative of Newcastle, that Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite, member for Nanaimo, will be in his place in the House during the next few days. Mr. Hawthornthwaite, however one may differ with him in his political ideas, is recognized as a striking personality in the political life of British Columbia, and a gentleman who also contributes to the proceedings of Parliament the spice that is born of keenness and an ever-present sense of humor. Political foemen as well as friends will welcome him back from the Old Country, hoping that his personal business has prospered by his visit to the land of his fathers, and that he will find it possible to be present in his seat during the residue of the present session.

Many old friends in provincial political affairs extended a welcome to Mr. John Oliver, who has arrived for an extended visit at the Capital. The rumor has it that Mr. Oliver is here to act as an unofficial advisor to Mr. Brewster in his presentation of the Liberal cause on the floor of Parliament. As to this, Mr. Oliver says that he will "at all times do what he can to assist his colleague from Alberni."

TIMBER LIMITS ONLY BY TENDER

Amendment to Land Act Enacts Drastic Changes in Methods of Securing Licences in New Areas.

WILL ACCEPT LARGEST BONUS PER THOUSAND

Provincial Conservative Executive Wait on Premier and Present Resolutions—Point Grey Delegation Today.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 19.—The executive of the Provincial Conservative Association waited on the government this morning and presented the resolutions passed at the New Westminster convention. The Premier promised to consider all favorably.

The resolution favoring a conference with the Dominion government with the view of appointing a commission to inquire into the advisability of establishing government telephones he considered a wise one, and promised to act upon it.

The visitors were afterwards entertained by the Premier to luncheon in the Legislative grill.

A deputation from the municipality of Point Grey, consisting of Reeve Harvey, Councillor Allen and Mr. E. A. Cunliffe, arrived here tonight and tomorrow will interview the government for the purpose of recommending some changes in the Municipal Act, such as would give the municipalities power to establish motor bus services, and also enlarge their power in dealing with electric tramways. They have an appointment to meet the government tomorrow morning.

Among the changes in the Land Act proposed in Mr. Ross' new bill is the appointment of a Provincial Forestry Board, with a Chief Forester and other officials.

It enacts a drastic change in the method of taking out timber licences for any areas that may possibly be opened up in future. It provides that these licences must be tendered for on the Ontario plan. That is, that they will be issued by tender. The royalties will remain the same, but the tenderer who offers the largest bonus per thousand feet of timber to be cut will be given the licence, or if the minister so decides the bonus may be for a lump sum on the whole limit. This does not affect land under licence at the present time.

The law enacts rigid restrictions on railways for the prevention of fire and also on loggers. It compels the latter to clear up debris around their engines and along the roads.

The only provision contained for hand loggers' licences is that the Minister of Lands may issue them at his discretion in districts where no injury to crown lands or other property is likely to result. Except to Indians, these licences can only be issued to voters on provincial lots.

Penalties for the infringement of the act are made more severe.

Royalties in future will be changed according to the grade of the lumber cut from the timber, the grades being divided into number 1, 2 and 3. These royalties will show a material increase over old rates.

Alderman Williamson and Mr. Walter Leek have been appointed police commissioners for Vancouver. Licence commissioners not yet appointed.

LATE QUEEN'S LETTER READ

Communication Penned in '58 by Victoria Suggesting Name of Province Ready in Legislature by Premier.

FIRST READING IS GIVEN FORESTRY BILL

Congratulatory Address to H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught Carried by a Standing Vote—The Statutes.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 19.—There were three important features in the sitting of the Legislature this afternoon. The first was the passing of a congratulatory address to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on his appointment as Governor-General of Canada; the second was the second reading of the revised Statutes Bill; and the third was the introduction of the amendments to the Land Act for the purpose of creating a "Forestry Department, and imposing new regulations."

The address to the Governor-General was moved by the Premier, seconded by Mr. Brewster and was carried by a standing vote.

Hon. Mr. Bowser moved the second reading of the bill respecting revised statutes. He stated that they were in three volumes. Of these 3000 copies had been printed and bound, making 9000 in all. They contained a consolidation of all public acts passed in British Columbia up to Dec. 31, 1911. The revising commissioners had in some cases, with his consent, made some unimportant changes in the wording of some of the acts, and these he would explain fully when the bill came into committee of the whole. He gave great praise to the revising commissioners, Messrs. Charles Wilson and A. F. Luxton, for the manner in which the work had been done, and also to the King's Printer for the fine typographical work and excellent binding. He added that a fourth volume would be issued during the recess. This would contain the English laws brought into force by the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1857; and also an index of private bills.

Mr. Brewster was of the opinion that they were being asked to take a great deal on trust, and with all due deference to the commissioners, suggested that a committee of judges should be appointed to check over their work before the House passed it.

Hon. Mr. McPhillips replied that since it was the duty of a judge to interpret the law it was not considered wise to employ them in revising it.

Mr. Williams said that the whole matter should be deferred till another session, so that members might have an opportunity to look through the statutes before voting on them.

The bill passed second reading, Messrs. Brewster and Williams voting "aye." In moving the vote of congratulations to the Duke of Connaught, the Premier read the letter written by Queen Victoria in 1858 to Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, suggesting that this province be named "British Columbia."

Hon. Mr. Ross' bill to amend the Land Act and create a Provincial Forestry Board was given first reading, without discussion.

The Provincial Legislature

Minister of Lands Replies to Attacks Made on His Department —Conservation Is Practiced Throughout British Columbia.

Victoria, Jan. 18.—The debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was closed this afternoon by a ringing speech by the Hon. W. Ross, Minister of Lands, in which he vindicated the policy of his department from the attacks that had been made upon it by the members for Alberni and Newcastle. He showed clearly that the Government had a land policy, and one that was making for the conservation of the lands of the province. He pointed out that it was impossible to get settlers on land away from railways, and in the past the only available land contiguous to railway had been in the Canadian Pacific Railway belt, which was under the supervision of the Dominion Government, and up to this time had been the most stagnant portion of the entire province.

He then showed how, step by step, the McBride Government had been making the alienation of land more difficult to the purchaser, and withdrawing one area after another from sale until at the present day practically two-thirds of the entire province were held under reserves for the pre-emptor. Of this area 900,000 acres had already been surveyed and was ready for the pre-emptor. He pointed out how in 1907 the Government had taken the first step by dropping the classification known as third-class lands, which increased the prices of Crown lands by about 200 per cent., and later in the same year they had also put a reserve on all unalienated timber lands. In 1908 they commenced a system of surveys which had been kept up steadily ever since. In that year they had also set aside one-third for the exclusive benefit of the pre-emptor, one-third for University endowment, and one-third for purchase or pre-emption under the Land Act.

In 1909, 1910 and 1911 still further areas were withdrawn from sale and lease, and coincident with these came the determination to increase the price of Crown lands 100 per cent., which had gone into effect last year. The policy provided that during the coming year still further areas would be surveyed, and particularly along the North Thompson, and along the line of the G. T. F. the Government would provide surveyed lands for settlers in advance of their arrival. On the Mainland, with the exception of lands in the immediate vicinity of Vancouver all were open to the pre-emptor and closed to the purchaser.

The other speakers on the address yesterday were Messrs. Jardine, Wm. Manson (Skeena), and M. Manson (Comox).

Mr. Jardine expressed sympathy for his former colleague, the member for Alberni, in his lonely position in the House, and administered a mild rebuke to the member for Newcastle for the manner in which he had spoken of the Premier on the previous day. He justified his own support of the Canadian Northern agreement by pointing to the great development that had taken place on Vancouver Island since construction

work had begun. In reply to Mr. Williams' strictures on the Victoria "Colonist," he produced figures to show that for a series of years all the money received by the "Colonist" for advertising from the Dominion Government was \$6.25, while during the same period the "Times" had received \$7,123.05.

Mr. Manson (Skeena) devoted himself chiefly to the needs of his own district. He suggested the appointment of inspectors to decide on the conflicting claims of pre-emptors, owners of timber lands, and stakers of mineral claims, as they were constantly overlapping. He also considered that the time had arrived for the creation of a judicial district at Prince Rupert, so that they might have their own gavel and hold the assizes there.

Mr. Manson (Comox) made an earnest plea for the retention of hand-loggers' licences, and did not think that the Forestry Commission had been sufficiently informed when they reported in favor of their abolition. He also dwelt upon the development of his district, which produced one-third of the timber cut, and practically one-fourth of the coal taken out in the entire province.

The Premier moved the appointment of Standing Committees, of which the following will be the chairmen: Private Bills, N. F. Mackay; Mining, M. Manson (Comox); Railways, H. G. Parson; Public Accounts, Thos. Gifford; Municipal, H. H. Watson; Agriculture, S. A. Cawley; Printing, C. E. Tisdall.

Petitions.

The following petitions were received:

From John Y. McNaught and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incorporate the Corporation of the District of West Vancouver. (No. 3.)

From the City of Prince Rupert, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to validate a certain bylaw. (No. 3.)

Mr. Thomson presented a petition to confirm certain bylaws of the City of Victoria.

Coronation Visit.

Mr. Williams asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:

1. What was the total cost of the Hon. the Premier's visit to the Coronation?

2. What was the total cost of the Hon. the Attorney-General's visit to the Coronation?

The Hon. the Minister of Finance replied as follows:

"1. \$11,000.

"2. \$2,500."

Standing Committees.

The Standing Committees were appointed as follows:

Private Bills and Standing Orders—Messrs. Mackay, Miller, McGuire, Manson (Dewdney), Shatford, Shaw, Brewster, Hawthornthwaite and Williams.

Mining—Messrs. Manson (Comox), Hunter, Braden, Fraser, McDonald and Williams.

Railways—Messrs. Parson, Caven, Callanan, Fraser, Lucas, Behnsen, Jarv-

son, Tisdall, Wright, Jardine and Hawthornthwaite.

Public Accounts—Messrs. Gifford, Schofield, Wright, Davey and Williams. Municipal Matters—Messrs. Watson, Davey, Manson (Skeena), Schofield, Cawley, Mackenzie, Hunter, Brewster and Hawthornthwaite.

Agriculture—Messrs. Cawley, Jackson, Lucas, Callanan and Jardine.

Printing—Messrs. Tisdall, Behnsen and Mackenzie.

Debate on Address.

Mr. Jardine continued the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. In complementing preceding speakers, he said he considered the speech of the Premier to have been one of the most brilliant of his efforts. "I am sorry to say," he added, "that the remarks of the member for Alberni were of the political nature which we might expect from him. At the same time, in view of the diminished numbers of the Liberal party in this House, I have great sympathy for the member for Alberni, because I know to a great extent the difficulties he is placed under. As for the member for Newcastle, the House always enjoys his efforts, and yesterday his remarks and witticisms were of a high order, but it would have been better probably had he mollified his words with a little ointment. His remarks about the First Minister were no doubt made in the heat of his anxiety to bring about reforms that are so dear to him, but he should remember that it is as well to speak with respect of those placed in authority for the time being."

Mr. JARDINE continued that he was quite as anxious as the member for Newcastle to bring about any reforms that would be of benefit to the people of British Columbia, and as long as he was a member of the Conservative party he would support any reforms with that end in view. It did not matter much from which party they came so long as they did come. He confessed that he would like to see this province settled as much as possible with people from the British Isles, so that we might have a homogeneous race, though he would not hesitate to welcome into citizenship people from other nations of Europe. He could not, however, agree with the member for Newcastle, who in his zeal for immigration said that 100,000 people might be at once settled on the vacant lands of British Columbia. Before the people came, accommodation should be provided for them in highways and transportation.

He was aware that there was difficulty in securing teachers for rural schools, and if salaries stood in the way they should be provided. He did not see eye to eye with the member for Newcastle on the question of the Provincial University. He believed that it would be made so that the poorest child in the land could receive the benefit of it.

He was rather surprised at the statement of the member for Newcastle as to wages paid on the Canadian Northern construction on Vancouver Island. He had taken some trouble to go into the matter himself, and had secured from two of the contracting firms figures as to the wages paid their men. These ran in both cases from \$2.50 a day for laborers, up through other grades to as high as \$3 for axemen, \$4.50 for bridge carpenters, \$7 for teamsters and \$3.50 to \$5 for foremen, while the cost

board was \$5.36 a week with the accommodation. Mr. WILLIAMS asked if the \$5.36 was a nine or ten-hour day? Mr. JARDINE said it was for ten hours. He continued to speak for Newcastle had seen few comparisons of the amount received from the Government of British Columbia by the "Victoria" "Colonist" that received by the "Times" a careful, however, to omit a portion of what the "Times" had received in Ottawa.

Mr. WILLIAMS: "We have done with Ottawa."

Mr. JARDINE: "We often talk of those higher in authority could not be impossible for us to get them for an example in the patronage." He quoted figures that from June 30, 1895, to June 30, 1909, the "Colonist" had received from the Dominion Government \$25, while the "Times" had received \$123.95. That would give the "Times" an opportunity to judge of the merits of the two Governments in using patronage.

Referring to his own constituency he had seen fit to support the Canadian Northern agreement, and all of it there had been a growth in the province in all lines of work being carried on in the constituency was of the highest order and must result in great development through to the West Coast of Vancouver Island. They could see taking place in the city of Vancouver the announcement of the Government that they would build a seawater there. They could see it to compute what all these meant to the city and the adjacent district. He believed that within a few years they would have a city as Vancouver was now, because they had seen the greater part of the commercial shipping of British Columbia.

Mr. MANSON (Skeena) said in spite of Opposition critics on the Premier's land policy he knew the members were coming rapidly into the district and taking up the land. He considered the policy of the Government during the past two years had made large sums of money for the people would settle many difficult areas at the present time the surveying by private parties led to many mistakes, and it was one of the things they had to face in his constituency. Timbermen and men who had taken out their land for months they would find they were involved with others. There was a juggling and conflict, and the trouble arrived when some drastic steps were taken to clear the difficulty. He thought the Government should have more professional inspectors would go over the land and examine the titles, and see who was wrong.

One of the drawbacks of a "let" was lack of transportation as being remedied by some of the construction of the Great Pacific Railway. It was true that liberal appropriations had been made for roads and other public works but they were still quite inadequate for the great development going on

board was \$2.25 a week with bunkhouse accommodation.

Mr. WILLIAMS asked if the \$2.50 was for a nine or ten-hour day?

Mr. JARDINE said it was for a day of ten hours. He continued that the lumber for Newcastle had seen fit to draw comparisons of the amount received from the Government of British Columbia by the "Victoria Colonist" which that received by the "Times." He was careful, however, to omit any mention of what the "Times" had received in Ottawa.

Mr. WILLIAMS: "We have nothing to do with Ottawa."

Mr. JARDINE: "We often take a leaf from those higher in authority, and it could not be impossible for us to look them for an example in the matter of patronage." He quoted figures showing that from June 30, 1905, to March 1, 1909, the "Colonist" had received from the Dominion Government only \$125, while the "Times" had received \$123,051. That would give the House an opportunity to judge of the relative merits of the two Governments in dispensing patronage.

Referring to his own constituency, he said he had seen fit to support the Canadian Northern agreement, and as a result of it there had been a steady growth in the province in all lines, and the work being carried on in his own constituency was of the highest class, and would result in great development right through to the West Coast of Vancouver Island. They could see what was taking place in the city of Victoria since the announcement of the Dominion Government that they would build a seawater there. They could not begin to compute what all these things meant to the city and the adjacent district. He believed that within ten years they would easily have a city as large as Vancouver was now, because he had been told on good authority that geographically situated as Victoria was she must command the greater part of the commercial shipping of British Columbia.

Mr. MANSON (Iskeena) said that in spite of Opposition critics on the Government's land policy he knew that settlers were coming readily into his district and taking up the land. He considered the policy of the Government during the past two years in setting aside large sums of money for land surveys would settle many difficulties. At the present time the surveying of lands by private parties led to many complications, and it was one of the difficulties they had to face in his constituency. Timbermen, coal men and pre-emptors had taken out records, and after being on their land for some months they would find they were involved with others. There was overlapping and conflict, and the time had arrived when some drastic step should be taken to meet the difficulty. He thought the Government should appoint one or more professional inspectors, who would go over the land and examine the takings, and see who was the real owner.

One of the drawbacks of a new district was lack of transportation. This was being remedied to some extent by the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. It was true also that liberal appropriations had been made for roads and other public works, but they were still quite inadequate to the great development going on, and he

trusted they would be increased. He would like also to see the Government supply cheap powder to settlers for clearing purposes. In that way they would assist the settlers, if not taking a real part in clearing themselves.

Another difficulty they had to contend with was the administration of justice. He considered the time was now ripe for the establishment of an assize court at Prince Rupert, and they should also have their own court house and gaol, and so save the expense of transporting prisoners from the north to New Westminster, as this cost amounted to about \$60 per head for every prisoner taken down.

Mr. MANSON (Comox) took up the clause in the address dealing with the Forestry Commission. He said the district he represented was producing more than one-third of the total cut of timber in British Columbia. Last year in that district there had been cut 350,000,000 feet of timber. Many of the recommendations of the Forestry Commission would materially assist the timbermen, but there was one he wished to take exception to, and that was the recommendation that hand-loggers' licences should be abolished. He could only state that the commissioners did not have all the evidence before them or they would not have come to such a conclusion. The commission held no sittings north of Nanaimo, and probably there were not half-a-dozen men engaged in hand-logging within 100 to 400 or 500 miles of them. The sittings were also held in the summer, which was the harvest, so to speak, of the hand-loggers, and as they were all men of small means it was out of the question for them to attend and give their evidence at Nanaimo or Vancouver. At the same time the big timber-holders who had their offices in the large centres had every opportunity of placing their views before the commission, and so they only heard one side of the story. The reason given for the recommendation was that hand-loggers' licences led to the abuse of their privileges. In a residence of 35 years on the Coast he knew many of these hand-loggers well, and they would compare in honesty with any other class and because a few might trespass it was no reason why they should all be condemned. He hoped the Minister of Lands would not follow the report in this recommendation when framing his amendments to the Land Act, as it would deprive these men of the opportunity to make an honest living in their business.

Referring to the progress made in his district during the past year, Mr. Manson mentioned the Powell River Pulp and Paper Mills. These had been completed, and would have been running but for an accident to their machinery; but in a few days they would commence operations, turning out 100 tons of pulp and paper a day and employing many men. In Comox the Canadian Western Lumber Company had pushed on their logging railway for a large number of miles, and were conducting extensive operations. Large workshops and machine shops had been built, and an electric light plant installed. The coal mines of his district had paid into the treasury almost 25 per cent. of the total taxes of the province, which showed that they had produced practically a quarter of the coal, and they were preparing for even more active development in the future. They were putting

in a new electric light and power plant, and it was expected that within the next two years \$2,000,000 would be spent in one place in development work. This would have a more far-reaching effect than mining, since it would also provide a market for the produce grown in the district. Moreover, the electric power plant would supply settlers with light and power for miles round.

He hoped that when the railway policy of the Government was brought down it would be found that provision had been made for the construction of a railway to the north end of Vancouver Island, as there were immense quantities of timber and ore to be opened up, and it would also develop large tracts of agricultural land. In addition to that the fine scenery would be the means of drawing people of leisure and means there to spend their vacations. These people would spend their money freely, and the province would reap the benefit.

Hon. Mr. ROSS was greeted with applause when he rose to close the debate with a defence of the policy of the Lands Department. He said:

"I note, Mr. Speaker, that the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has been searching for the land policy of this Government in the Speech from the Throne, and having failed to find it there, has concluded the Government has no such policy. As the member of this Government having immediate control over the Department of Lands, it affords me great pleasure to assure the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition that, although he has failed to find it in the Speech from the Throne, this Government has a land policy, and one which is making for the conservation of the lands of the province. (Applause.)"

"It may be that it has not developed as rapidly as I and many other members of this House would wish, but it is making steady and very satisfactory progress, all things considered. Until a few years ago, Mr. Speaker, the energies of the men entrusted with the administration of the affairs of this province were of necessity confined to the raising of sufficient money to keep things moving, and keep alive the hopes and aspirations of the pioneers who first cast their lot in with the development of British Columbia. There was comparatively no demand for the lands or timber of the province. A very small portion of the province had the advantage of railway communication, and that portion of the province which enjoyed this advantage, and known as the Railway Belt, was administered by the political friends of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition at Ottawa, and was, and continues to be, notwithstanding the statutory obligation to make the same available to the settler, the most stagnant portion of the entire province. (Applause.)"

"It is hardly under conditions such as existed up to this time that one would look for the development of a progressive land policy, but when the change came, when the demand for the timber of the province was followed by an even greater demand for the vacant Crown lands, it became possible to put into effect many changes, all making for the good of the people of the whole province."

"The first important change came in the year 1907, when the prices of Crown lands were increased something like 200 per cent, by the dropping of the classi-

fication known as third-class land, and a much closer inspection or classification generally. Later, in the closing months of the same year, it was decided that sufficient of the timber areas of the provinces has been brought under special timber licences to meet all legitimate milling requirements for some time to come, and the timber lands of the province were withdrawn from alienation entirely.

"In 1908 the Government undertook a somewhat extensive system of surveys of the vacant lands, and to correct abuses which had obtained in the past, created reserves against sale or lease in the areas set aside for survey."

"Another new departure was then made of the lands surveyed. The Government set aside one-third for the exclusive benefit of the pre-emptor, one-third for the University endowment, and one-third for purchase or pre-emption under the provisions of the Land Act."

"In 1909 and 1910 further large areas were withdrawn from sale or lease, and even more comprehensive surveys undertaken. And in 1911 a further development of the land policy of the Government took form in the withdrawal from sale or lease of the vacant lands of the Crown in the districts of Cariboo and Lillooet and the Kamloops Division of Yale District, practically one-third of the area of the entire province. (Applause.)"

"Coincident with the withdrawal of these lands came the decision to increase the price of lands acquired by purchase one hundred per cent. A decision which, I may remark in passing, occasioned the political friends of the hon. the leader of the Opposition consternation."

"About this time finding themselves shut out of other portions of the province by reserves, investors in Crown lands turned their attention to the provincial lands in the Peace River section in such numbers, that the "Times" newspaper of this city saw in the movement another trek of the friends of the government to all that remained desirable of the provincial lands."

"It is not so long ago, and most members of this House can remember how the members of this government were vilified for continuing a laxity in the land laws which would permit of the gobbling up of the natural resources of the Peace River district, and the "Times," in pointing out this grievous error of the government lamented accordingly that the government could not check the spoilers because they were all friends of the government."

"It happened also that about this time, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Hudson's Bay Company, both large holders of lands in the province adjoining British Columbia, decided upon a general advance in land prices, and this government, being abreast of the times, decided upon a like advance, and the prices of lands in the Peace River district, as well as all other lands throughout the province were advanced from \$2.50 and \$5.00 to \$10.00 per acre."

"It then became necessary for the "Times" to shift its criticism, and forthwith proceeded to denounce the government for doing the very thing which it had previously denounced the government for not doing, and being criminals for not conserving the natural resources from the spoilers."

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DAILY NEWS-ADVERTISER, VANCOUVER, BRITISH

The Provincial Legislature

Hon. W. J. Bowser Moves Second Reading of Bill Revising Provincial Statutes—Address of Congratulation to Governor-General is Passed.

Victoria, Jan. 19.—There were three important features in the sitting of the Legislature this afternoon. The first was the passing of a congratulatory address to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on his appointment as Governor-General; the second was the second reading of the Revised Statutes' Bill; and the third was the introduction of the amendments to the Land Act for the purpose of creating a Forestry Department and imposing new regulations. The address to the Governor-General was moved by the Premier, seconded by Mr. Brewster and carried by a standing vote.

Hon. Mr. BOWSER moved the second reading of the bill respecting revised statutes. He stated that they were in three volumes, of which 3000 copies had been printed and bound, making 9000 volumes in all. They contained a consolidation of all public acts passed in British Columbia up to December 31, 1911. The Revising Commissioners had in some cases, with his consent, made some unimportant changes in the wording of some of the acts, and these he would explain fully when the bill came into committee of the Whole. He gave great praise to the revising commissioners, Messrs. Charles Wilson and A. P. Luxton, for the manner in which the work had been done and also to the King's Printer for the fine typographical work and excellent binding. He added that a fourth volume would be issued during the recess. This would contain the English laws brought into force by the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1857, and also an index of private bills.

Mr. BREWSTER was of opinion that they were being asked to take a great deal on trust, and with all due deference to the commissioners, suggested that a committee of judges should be appointed to check over their work before the House passed it.

Hon. Mr. McPHILLIPS replied that since it was the duty of a judge to interpret the law, it was not considered wise to employ them in revising it.

Mr. WILLIAMS said that the whole matter should be deferred till another session, so that members might have an opportunity to look through the statutes before voting on them.

The bill passed second reading. Messrs. Brewster and Williams voting "Nay."

In moving the vote of congratulation to the Duke of Connaught, the Premier read the letter written by Queen Victoria in 1858 to Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, suggesting that this province be named "British Columbia."

Hon. Mr. Ross's bill to amend the Land Act and create a Provincial Forestry Board was given first reading, without discussion.

Address of Congratulation.

The PREMIER, in moving the resolution of congratulation to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on his

appointment as Governor-General of the Dominion, recounted his conference with His Royal Highness during his recent visit to Ottawa, and the promise the Duke had given to pay British Columbia an early visit.

"I need not," he said, "emphasize in any way the very great satisfaction that has been enjoyed by all loyal Canadians because of the appointment of one of the Royal House to the position of Governor-General of the Dominion. Together with the fact that the Duke of Connaught has won for himself a reputation Imperial-wide as an excellent man and a brilliant soldier, there was general appreciation of the fact that one so near in relationship to His Majesty the King should be assigned to this high and responsible office. Here was another tangible evidence of the great and far-reaching importance which Canada has attained in these days as an integral part of the British Empire. It is now history that during his lifetime the late King Edward expressed the wish that arrangements might come about whereby his brother the Duke of Connaught, might become his representative in the Federal Capital. Notwithstanding his untimely death and the fact that there were many and varied responsibilities at once placed upon the shoulders of our King, George the Fifth, there was never for a moment, so far as we can ascertain, any idea of departing from the expressed wish of the late King, and we found on completion of the term of office of Lord Grey the Press despatches at once announced that the Duke of Connaught would be the new Governor-General, and he would leave for Canada as soon as the circumstances would permit.

"The Governor-General is no stranger to Canada. I understand that as far back as in the early seventies he was assigned certain military duties which caused him to reside for some time in Quebec and afterwards in Montreal, and those still alive and in mature years, who were privileged to reside here at that time, are still loud in their praises of his conduct in Canada. He was always known for his unassuming and manly bearing. Apart altogether from the princely bearing which was his privilege, he was looked upon as an excellent type of man and a good soldier. The other day at Ottawa His Royal Highness reminded us of the fact that on his way home from India, where he had been in command of the Imperial forces, he had arranged his journey home overland by the C. P. R., and he told us with what pleasure and what interest he enjoyed every moment of the time journeying over Canada. Though the trip was a very hurried one it had made on him an impression of the size of Canada that would always last.

"I am quite satisfied that in the welcome we shall give the Governor-General when he comes to our shores next

summer, there will be that hearty and spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm which has always witnessed in this portion of Canada the welcome of the representatives of His Majesty the King. There is nothing to my mind, and I can claim very considerable acquaintance with the people of British Columbia, that seems to bring out the loyalty and patriotism of Canadians resident here as when the occasion presents itself for the representative of His Majesty to visit this province, because we are privileged to live under the Union Jack and enjoy the liberty for which it stands.

"It appears in looking over the records of years gone by that the name of our province was assigned to us by our Governor-General's mother, the late Queen Victoria. I have here a copy of the letter written by Her Majesty to Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, at that time Colonial Secretary, in which she made the suggestion and which I will read with the permission of the House."

Queen Victoria to Sir E. Bulwer Lytton.

Osborne, 24th July, 1858.

"The Queen has received Sir E. Bulwer Lytton's letter stating that objections were being made in France to the name of New Caledonia being given to the proposed colony between the Pacific and the Rocky Mountains. If the name of New Caledonia is objected to as being already borne by another colony or island claimed by the French, it may be better to give the new colony west of the Rocky Mountains another name. New Hanover, New Cornwall, and New Georgia appear from the maps to be the names of sub-divisions of that country, but do not appear on all maps. The only name which is given to the whole territory in every map the Queen had consulted is "Columbia," but as there exists also a Columbia in South America, and the citizens of the United States call their country also Columbia, at least in poetry, "British Columbia" might be, in the Queen's opinion, the best name."

"I have great pleasure," concluded the Premier, "in moving an address of welcome to His Royal Highness."

Mr. BREWSTER thanked the Premier for conferring upon him the honor of being called upon to second the resolution. "I think," he added, "that in common with every member on the floor of this House and the people of Canada, I have felt for many years that in reality Canada was becoming the bright, particular star in the Great Empire of Britain, and it is with very great satisfaction, indeed, that we find now that this view has evidently been taken by the Royal House in the Motherland, for we have given to us now as Governor-General the uncle of the present King and the son of our great Queen Victoria. In view of the work that has been done by the great man who has been sent to us, I think Canada may feel proud. I can add little to what the Premier has said, but I am sure that the House will rise in passing the resolution and honor it in a proper manner."

The Speaker read the resolution, which follows, and it was carried unanimously by a standing vote:

"To Field-Marshal His Royal Highness Prince Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strath-

earn, Earl of Sussex (in the Peerage of the United Kingdom), Prince of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Duke of Saxony, Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, K.G., K.T., K.P., P.C., G.M.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., Personal A.D.C. to His Majesty the King, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada:

"May it please Your Royal Highness, We, the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Parliament assembled, loyally present to Your Royal Highness, and to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, our heartfelt congratulations upon your safe arrival in the Dominion of Canada.

"The honor conferred upon the Dominion of Canada by the presence of a near relative of His Majesty the King affords us a deeper gratification than can be expressed in words, and is highly significant of His Majesty's desire to emphasize the unity of the Empire.

"We trust that your administration of public affairs will be as pleasurable to Your Royal Highness as it will be beneficial to the people of this great Dominion; and should Your Royal Highness, with your illustrious Consort, favor the Province of British Columbia with a visit, a warm and loyal welcome will be extended to you."

The Revised Statutes.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL BOWSER, in moving the second reading of the bill ratifying and giving effect to the recent revision of the provincial statutes, informed the House that in certain of the provinces of the Dominion the custom is to have such revision performed every ten years. There was no fixed rule in this regard in British Columbia, but the present revision had been rendered necessary by a variety of conditions. The first revision made in British Columbia was in 1871, this being not so much a revision proper as a compilation of the then existing statutes. And to show how our statutes had grown, this first compilation comprised but 620 pages, containing the statutes of the Colony of Vancouver Island and the then Colony of British Columbia, which was the Mainland, and also the legislation adopted after the two colonies merged into one. In 1877 another consolidation was made embracing the statute laws up to that period. And in 1888 there came another revision, a more effective one, when commissioners were appointed for the purpose of revising, classifying and consolidating the laws as they stood at that date. The work of the commissioners then was not so great as it was in 1897, when the revision upon which the commissioners had been actively engaged during some years, became the law of the land, this revision having been undertaken by the late Chief Justice, Hon. Theodore Davis. He had not only then revised and consolidated the statute laws of the province but had included as well those English laws which he considered to be in force according to the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1858.

It was unnecessary for him to comment upon the great work of this revision or the value rendered to the country by the late Chief Justice and those engaged with him in the work. The revision of 1897 was an admirable one in every respect, but there had been such large additions to the statute law since that time that it had been determined to appoint another commission to bring the revision and consolidation up to date, the personnel of that commission consisting of Mr. Charles Wilson, K.C., of Vancouver, an ex-Attorney-General of the Province, and Mr. A. P. Luxton, K.C., of Victoria. Since the time of their appointment some two years ago these commissioners had been working with a competent staff upon a new revision of the statute law, which he had now the pleasure of presenting to the House in three volumes. The commissioners had not only revised all the statute laws of British Columbia up to last year, but had included also the legislation of last session, so that this revision and consolidation embraced all the laws upon the statute book up to the 31st December, 1911. It had been thought at first that the revision would be ready for presentation to the House last year, but the work proved to be so voluminous and to require so great care and attention, that it had been thought better to de-

vote another year to it, and it was the result of this work which this present bill dealt with. He thought that this revision would be found to reflect the highest credit upon the commissioners. The arrangement of the statutes was perhaps an improvement upon that of past revisions and would be found to facilitate access to those statutes to which reference might be desired from time to time. Many statutes were passed by the House which were, in a way, of a temporary character, and other statutes which accidentally duplicated or repeated the contents of other acts. The commissioners had gone into all these matters very carefully and had striven to eliminate duplications and to make the consolidation as complete and as thorough as possible.

As evidence of the growth of legislation in this province he pointed to the fact that while the revision of 1871 contained but 620 pages, that of 1897 was contained in 2280 pages, in two volumes, and that of 1911 in three volumes, showed a growth from 620 pages in 1871 to 3197 pages today. He fully realized the task that was set before the commissioners in the revision of the provincial statute law, and it had been their aim to harmonize and to bring into unison with one another all the various laws, similar language and forms being retained in so far as possible.

In some features of the revision the commissioners had found it necessary and desirable to encroach slightly upon the legislative power, but wherever this had occurred they had first consulted with him and any changes made had been with his consent. He had a complete list of these minor changes, and in regard to them he would be glad to instruct the House, showing where in the different acts the commissioners had gone a little beyond their power in the direction of legislation. It might not be out of place to look at one or two of these and show in what manner the legislative function had been slightly usurped. The Administration Act afforded an example in point. Legislation with respect to the administration of estates had been scattered all through the statute book. These various references to the subject had been brought together by the commissioners and an act presented dividing the subject into nine parts, all relating to the administration of estates. The result had been to secure a more simple law and conveniently codify the several features of legislation on the subject. The same applied to legislation dealing with infants. And in the Municipal Clauses Act a simplification had also been brought about. All members of the House were well aware that the amendments to the Municipal Clauses Act from time to time had been very numerous, and evidence of this would be found in the number of pages devoted

to the Municipal Clauses Act and contained in the revision of today as compared with the space given to this subject in earlier revisions. The compilation of 1871 gave just one and a half pages. In 1888 this had been extended to 42 pages, and now it occupied 188, but put in better arrangement and so that less difficulty would be occasioned in finding any desired reference than heretofore. He thought this was perhaps one of the most frequently referred to acts in the statutes and the simplification of arrangement would be most acceptable. With regard to taxation, too, there had been many related acts scattered throughout the statute book, and all these had now been brought into one taxation act.

The bill which he now offered for second reading had for its object the validation of the recent revision, the idea being that the House should at once repeal all the old statute law and this become the statute law of the province early next week, upon this measure receiving the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor. The legislation of the present session might then be made to amend the consolidated statutes where any change was desired; otherwise considerable inconvenience would obviously occur. In this consolidation were included all the English statutes considered to be in force and applying to this province under the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1858. In the revision were also included many statutes of the province of what might be termed a semi-public character, such as the Canadian Northern Railway legislation, the Kettle River Valley Act, the legislation with the Grand Trunk Pacific in respect to the Prince Rupert townsite, the City of Vancouver Incorporation Act, and the acts relating to the city of New Westminster and Victoria and other legislation of a similar nature.

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There was also in preparation a fourth volume in which would be found a list of all private acts passed by the legislature and which are regarded by the commissioners as still being in existence; these acts were not republished, but a list merely given so that any one who might be interested could see which were still alive and where they might be found. The Attorney-General pointed to the excellent work which had been done in the printing and binding of the 3000 copies of the consolidation, making 9000 volumes, and thought that members on looking at their copies would agree that the work reflected the highest credit on the King's Printer and his staff. He had had no opportunity to go through the entire work, but such portion as he had been able to look into he had found exceedingly well arranged, and he thought the House would appreciate the great attention and the time that had been given by the commissioners to the revision, which work would enhance the high reputation that they already enjoy among the leaders of the bar in British Columbia. He moved the second reading of the bill.

Mr. BREWSTER said he had listened with interest to the explanation made by the layman himself was inclined to regard the procedure adopted as a little peculiar. He did not for a moment desire to discredit the special professional ability of the revising commissioners, but with so tremendous a work it might be that they had been led into error, as they were only human after all. This being the case it was a somewhat serious matter for the House to pass off-hand this validating act and make their revision the law of the land, the object of the present bill being nothing more nor less than to ratify the revision, the House accepting the work on faith. He did not wish to indulge in any carping criticism, but if even the Attorney-General had not been able to go through the complete work and vouch for its satisfactory character throughout, how could a mere layman on the floor of the House vote with confidence to make this consolidation the law of the land? He had hoped that, year by year, during the progress of the revision, drafts might have been submitted to the House, with any changes made indicated by italics, so that the members might note the character of these changes and pass upon them. In decisions of law great weight was frequently laid by the judges upon the specific wording of the act. The House was now told that this revision had been made by the commissioners with a view to harmonizing the different acts or different references to any particular subject and it was therefore possible that the real meaning of the legislature in the enactment of the law might have been misread by the commissioners and their work fall to coincide with the true purpose and intent of the enacting body. If the House had had a draft of the revision laid before it it might advantageously have appointed a commission of judges to go carefully through the whole revision, checking up such changes as had been made and deciding if these had in any way affected the meaning of the law as the legislators had intended it. Otherwise the legislature might as well abandon its responsibility and put all legislative authority in the hands of these two gentlemen.

Even now it might not be too late for the Attorney-General to consider the revision as in the nature of a draft copy and continue to regard the old statutes as effective until an impartial and competent commission, say, of judges, might be appointed to go carefully through the work. In speaking in this manner he had not the slightest desire to reflect upon the integrity or the efficiency of the commissioners, but it was almost impossible to avoid error and there should at all events be a double check upon the perfection of so important a matter. Until such a committee as he had suggested was in a position to give its certificate that the changes made do not alter the meaning and effect of the law as placed upon the statute book, he did not think that the House should be asked to ratify a revision which they must necessarily take on faith otherwise.

Hon. Mr. McPHILIPS replied briefly to Mr. Brewster, pointing out the adopted principle that judges while acting as members of the judiciary should not be engaged in the drafting or revision of laws. With regard to the bringing of these revised statutes into effect it was an incorrect position to assume that the revision was not in every way correct, as the scope of the commissioners' duties under their commission was well understood and it was not within their power to enact any new legislation. The president of the council referred appreciatively to the work performed by the late Chief Justice Hon. Theodore Davie, and contended that if the commissioners now had performed their work in accordance with the directions given them, their duties had been in the main merely to consolidate the statutes and their condensation had been to some extent mechanical. It would not be one of their functions to make any material alterations in the law and it would be most improper if any organic change were involved. He could see no objection to the House falling in line with the suggestion of the Attorney-General.

Mr. WILLIAMS opposed the second reading on grounds somewhat similar to those taken by Mr. Brewster.

The second reading passed, however, without a division of the House being asked for, though Mr. Brewster and Mr. Williams called "No."

Hon. Mr. ROSS introduced his bill to amend the Land Act by creating a Provincial Forestry Board, and also imposing a number of new timber regulations.

The bill passed first reading and the House adjourned.

Gallery Notes.

The Legislative Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders is to meet on Tuesday morning next in the Maple Room to consider petitions with respect to Ryerson College, the Vancouver Incorporation Act, the North Vancouver Incorporation Act, the City of Fernie, the Corporation of Fernie, the Victoria Harbor Railway, the B. C. and Alaska Railway, the City of Prince Rupert, the City of Victoria and the Municipality of Penticton.

A large and influential deputation representative of the British Columbia Conservative Association yesterday morning waited upon Premier McBride and his ministers to formally present for their consideration the series of resolutions adopted at the annual convention of the association held some few weeks ago in the city of New Westminster. The delegates included President W. M. McKay, Vice-presidents Shatford, Lee and Tait, Secretary Williamson and the majority of the members of the association executive, all of whom briefly addressed the Cabinet upon essential features of the legislation recommended by the association for consideration by the Government. The visitors were subsequently entertained by the Premier at luncheon in the legislative grill.

Mr. G. F. Gibson, of the British-Canadian Lumber Company, Vancouver, was in the Lobby today watching the progress of the amendments to the timber sections of the Land Act.

The Stillwell trophy, won by the British Columbia exhibition potatoes in New York recently, was yesterday on exhibit at the Provincial House, and is now to be seen in the Sergeant-at-Arms department. Messrs. Asahel Smith and C. H. Stuart-Wade, who had charge of the collecting and staging of the exhibit at Madison Square Gardens, are now in Victoria and are receiving many congratulations on the victory they achieved.

WORK OF THE WEEK

Victoria, Jan. 29.—The first week's work of the present Legislature was done mostly with the tongue, though it was unique in that it passed one bill, which received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor within five days of the opening. This was the bill to validate the elections in Wards Seven and Eight, Vancouver. So long as it remained unpassed it was like a wad of paper in the cogwheels of Vancouver's civic progress. Now that it is removed the government of the terminal city should go on as freely and even a little more smoothly than before.

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There were a few notable contributions to the debate on the address, the chief of them being probably Premier McBride's speech on Monday last. Apart from the diffuseness which almost inevitably flows from extemporaneous efforts, it was a remarkably clear and orderly exposition of provincial affairs at the present time, and was delivered with a grace and dignity quite worthy of the speaker's high position. The attempt made afterwards by Mr. Parker Williams to criticize it was something like an attack on a fortified city with a popgun. It created a great deal of amusement, but it was not taken very seriously. Mr. Williams' Socialism was rather better natured than it was a year ago, and his political opponents encouraged him with laughter and applause.

Mr. Brewster, who composes the very solid and unanimous Liberal party, preceded the Premier with a business-like and moderate criticism of the Government's policy. A great deal of it, especially that dealing with the land policy, sounded like treading on straw, or perhaps it was a telepathic emanation from the soul of Reeva Oliver of Delta, who has been around the House on municipal business during the past week. Otherwise the criticism was fair, and was couched in language to which no exception could be taken.

Another notable contribution to the debate was the closing speech by the Hon. W. Ross, Minister of Lands, in which he vigorously defended his department from the attacks that had been made on it by Mr. Brewster and Mr. Williams. Hon. Mr. Ross had prepared his matter carefully; he was always concise and to the point, and he spoke with a vigor that roused the House to frequent bursts of applause.

Mr. Jardine's effort was notable chiefly for the sympathetic tone in which he spoke of "the diminished numbers of the Liberal party," and the lonely position of his former colleague, Mr. Brewster. He casually declared himself a member of the Conservative party; and showed it by his mild rebukes of Mr. Williams and his defence of the Government policy.

A live and business-like speech was that of Mr. Tisdall. Practical and concise, he placed clearly before the House some of the needs and wishes of the Vancouver district not only for the present, but with a view to what future development may necessitate. Taken in conjunction with the fine effort of Mr. Watson during the previous week in moving the address, it may be said that the representatives of British Columbia's largest city did ample justice to their constituency in the debate just closed.

As "Amurath to Amurath succeeds," so Manson followed Mahson in the closing stages of the debate. Each of the cousinhood devoted himself chiefly to the needs of the district he represented. Mr. William Manson of Skeena asked for the appointment of a pre-emption inspector to decide on the conflicting claims of pre-emptors, timbermen and coal-miners in his district, and asked that a court house and gaol with regular assizes be established at Prince Rupert. Mr. Manson of Comox (familiarily known as "Mike") was enthusiastic as ever over the resources and progress of the northern part of Vancouver Island, and made a strong plea against the proposed abolition of hand-loggers' licences.

Now that the debate is cleared off the slate the practical work of the session in dealing with bills will begin. So far there have only been three bills before the Legislature, namely, the Vancouver Validation Act already referred to; the bill respecting the revision of statutes which passed second reading on Friday afternoon; and a technical amendment to the Hospitals for the Insane Act, which is now at second reading.

On the closing day of the week a graceful compliment was tendered His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught by the passing of a resolution congratulating him on his appointment as Governor-General. The week's sitting closed with the introduction by the Hon. W. R. Ross of his amendments to the Land Act, dealing with forestry matters, and embodying many of the recommendations of the Forestry Commission.

CHANGES PROPOSED IN TIMBER REGULATIONS

Bill Introduced in Provincial House Makes Considerable Alteration as to Grant of Timber Licences.

The bill to amend the Land Act brought down by Hon. Mr. Ross, on Friday last provides for a number of important changes in timber regulations, more especially in the matter of obtaining licences in lands that may be opened up in future out of the present reserve. It also provides for increased royalties on a graduated scale, for more stringent regulations against fire, while hand-loggers' licences can only be issued in future to voters at the discretion of the Minister of Lands.

The new act is divided into 14 parts as follows:

Part 1.—Forest branch of Department of Lands and Provincial Forest Board.

Part 2.—Prevention of trespass upon Crown timber lands and protection of Crown timber.

Part 3.—Holding and method of disposition of Crown timber.

Part 4.—Timber leases.

Part 5.—Timber licences.

Part 6.—Right-of-way.

Part 7.—Royalties, taxes and charges; collections, accounts and returns.

Part 8.—Timber scaling and measurement.

Part 9.—Timber-marking.

Part 10.—Manufacture within province.

Part 11.—Fire-prevention.

Part 12.—Rules and regulations.

Part 13.—Penalties and procedure.

Part 14.—Repeal.

The first part deals with the forestry branch of the department, and is called a Lands and Provincial Forest Board, which shall have jurisdiction over and control and administer all matters enumerated as follows:

(a.) All the rights, properties, interests, claims and demands of the Crown in right of the Province of British Columbia in forests, timber lands and timber.

(b.) All revenues and moneys of the Crown in right of the Province of British Columbia arising from forestry, timber lands, timber, trees and products of the forest.

(c.) Conservation of existing forests.

(d.) Reforestation.

(e.) Prevention of forest fires.

(f.) Sales and dispositions of, and tenancies of timber lands, or timber, or trees, or forest products belonging to the Crown in right of the Province of British Columbia.

(g.) Cutting, classifying, measuring, manufacturing, branding and exporting of trees, logs, timber and products of the forest; and

(h.) Statutes, rules and regulations relating to the regulation of forestry and the protection of forests.

The old method of staking a timber claim is entirely abandoned. In cases where the present reservation may in the future be opened up, the land is first cruised as to the quantity of timber and surveyed, after which licences are offered for the same by tender. The bonus on these licences are fixed in several ways according to conditions, but principally so much per thousand feet in addition to the royalty imposed under the Land Act. In this respect the act may be said to be a combination of the best features of the legislation in Ontario, of the Dominion of Canada and the United States.

In the case of pulp limits the licences will be sold on rather more favorable terms. The present pulp concessions will remain the same until they are renewed. It is noticeable in this connection that the Government for the purpose of uniformity retains the licensing system although the conditions are much altered.

Under the act provisions are made for the creation of forest reserves on the basis of and mainly for the purpose of reforestation.

Timber licences will be recognized, but as set up for renewal proposed by the view of the proposed on other to as far as possible on an equality, licences, it is of special licence before the 13th of the month. Government retained and control can be not observed. Department may and charge expenses. Simple regulations surveying land licences as distinct for agricultural.

In part 8, the clause governing carriage and products of the and using of

The present Act in respect measurement are but in districts v tial scalars v those in the Ont put in force, req licensing of unof

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Timber leases as they at present exist will be recognized and continued in future, but as certain lease holders come up for renewal new terms will be imposed by the Forestry Department in view of the terms and conditions imposed on other holders of timber so as to as far as possible maintain them all on an equality. In regard to timber licences, it is provided that all surveys of special licences shall be completed before the 13th of March, 1918, the Government retaining the power to compel and control surveys. If due diligence be not observed by the holder, the department may direct surveys to be made and charge expenses up to the holder. Simple regulations are put in force for surveying land held under timber licences as distinct from lands surveyed for agricultural purposes.

In part 8, there are numerous provisions governing the arranging for the carriage and transport and price of the products of the forest and for the taking and using of land for right-of-way.

The present provisions of the Land Act in respect to timber scaling and measurement are not interfered with, but in districts where there are no official scalers provisions analogous to those in the Ontario Cullers Act will be put in force, requiring examination and licensing of unofficial scalers.

The present law in respect to timber marking and manufacture within the province of timber products will practically remain unchanged. The most important features of the law relate to the prevention of fire, and these are entirely new. For practical purposes they may be divided into two parts. One relates to the disposition of debris, and the second to the precautions to be preserved in the use of fires. In regard to the first it is made compulsory to dispose of dangerous accumulations. The department, while recognizing the recommendations of the Forestry Commission, was careful to recognize the financial difficulties in the way of putting them completely into effect. The new regulations will conform largely to those which are in force in the Western States. Special provisions are made for the clearing away of debris around camps, mines, mills, engines, on rights-of-way, telephone, telegraph, electric power and other lines. In respect to railways, a safety zone is created on either side to the width of two hundred feet, which must be kept clear of all combustible material. In every case the department retains the power of doing at the expense of the party responsible what that party fails to perform in accordance with the requirements of the act.

Logging operators may be required in the case of dangerous slash to make special provision for the prevention of fire when the minister requires it by cutting out fire lines.

The main feature of the provisions in respect to fire prevention is the creation of a forest protection fund. Every owner of timber lands, whether in the nature of Crown grants, lease or licences, will be required to contribute a cent an acre toward this fund, and shall in addition be required to pay two and a half cents per thousand feet cut as a contribution to the expense of looking after fires and fitting out fire crews. Crown granted lands which do not pay royalty on the cut are required to pay two cents an acre. Against the amounts so contributed the Government puts dollar for dollar. These contributions are not in the nature of taxation, but go to create a fund which is expended for specific purposes, enumerated as for the expenses of patrol, telephones and telegraph appliances, the making of trails, etc., according to the most up-to-date and improved methods of fighting fire. An automatic arrangement is put into effect for special assessments if the fund so created is not adequate for its requirements in any particular season. On the other hand, where the fund so created is more than sufficient for the requirements of any season, provision is made for a proportionate reduction in the contribution, both from the timber owners and the Government.

It is well known that railway locomotives are responsible for a great many of the forest fires which take place, and the framers of the act have gone pretty thoroughly into the methods of preventing the occurrence of such fires. Power is taken by the forestry bureau to compel patrol after the passing of each train. This is not altogether new, as it already exists in the Dominion Act. Expenses of this patrol are to be borne by the railway companies, who must also maintain a force of fire wardens during construction of their line, and are also required to obtain certificates that the right-of-way has been cleared up before starting operations. A fine not exceeding one thousand dollars is imposed on the railway companies in case of fires which are started negligently. Adequate provision is made for the use of preventive devices in the case of logging engines, locomotives, steamboats, portable engines, etc. Proper precautions are also to be taken in the operation of open burners and incinerators.

Contributors to the regular fund for fire protection who have trouble with fires and who are placed at expense for extra protection and in fighting bush fires are recouped by the Government to the extent of one-half of their expenditure. This in a measure has been the practice for some years past, but is now for the first time made a part of the law. In cases of extremity the officials of the forestry bureau will have power to press men into service to meet all such emergencies.

The old system of fire permits will be continued very much as formerly.

In regard to hand-loggers' licences, it is provided that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may from time to time authorize the minister to grant such licences in districts in which injuries to Crown or other timber lands is not likely to result, subject to certain exceptions enumerated in sub-sections.

The pages from twenty-four to thirty-one in the act are devoted to part seven, which deals with royalty, taxes and charges, collections, accounts and returns. The provisions of this part are too detailed to be enumerated within reasonable space, and may be described as covering all kinds of timber products.

The scale of royalties has been materially increased, and royalties on lumber cut are imposed according to grade, the grades being divided into No. 1, 2, and 3, and charges made on a graduating scale.

34

ABOLITION OF THE POLL TAX

This Is Recommendation of Commission on Taxation the Report of Which Is Made Public.

WOULD ALSO ABOLISH PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

Urge Raising of Exemption of Incomes from \$1000 to \$1500—Net Reduction in Revenue of \$289,890.

Special to the News-Advertiser.
 Victoria, Jan. 22.—The sitting of the legislature this afternoon was devoted almost wholly to explanation by Attorney-General Bowser in committee of the whole on changes in the revised statutes. There was some criticism by Mr. Brewster and Mr. Williams, chiefly on the ground that sufficient notice had not been given of these changes. To all these Hon. Mr. Bowser replied effectively. Two of the three volumes were gone through and explained in the course of a two hours' sitting, when the committee rose and reported progress. The Attorney-General explained that other bills could not be proceeded with until the revised statutes were disposed of. They will be taken up again tomorrow. Mr. Brewster announced that he would withdraw his resolution in favor of a Canadian naval unit in the Pacific for the time being, as he wished to amend it. Hon. Price Ellison brought in a synopsis of the report of the commission on taxation. The commission, after considerable deliberation, recommended the abolition of the poll tax, which last year yielded \$313,328 to the treasury. They strongly recommend the abolition of the personal property tax, as the evidence showed it to be unequal in its incidence, and that it led to evasion as well as acting as a check on trade. This tax yielded \$179,052 last year.

In the income tax they recommended the following changes: (1) That exemption be raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500; (2) withdrawal of any exemption from incomes over \$11,500 and under \$50,000; (3) withdrawal of any exemption from incomes over \$50,000, and the addition of a supertax of five per cent. for that part of the income which exceeds \$50,000; (4) exemption of \$200 for each legitimate child under eighteen for certain classes of the income of parents; (5) exemptions of an additional \$1,500 for farmers; (6) an average system for assessing incomes from trades. The commissioners state that their object has been to reduce taxation on citizens with smaller incomes, and at the same time to readjust its incidence on the possessors of larger incomes.

The report touched on land taxes, viewed in their historic and economic aspects and sets forth general considerations why improvements on land should not be taxed, defining at the same time what is actually meant by improvements. The commissioners do not consider the tax of one-half of one per cent. on real estate as burdensome, but recommend some changes in connection with assessment as follows: (1) Periodical reassessment of property according to value as defined; (2) the abolition of taxation on improve-

ments; (3) legislation enforcing registration of real estate on affidavits setting forth the true consideration for purchase; (4) that the registration fee of one-fifth of one per cent. on the value of real estate up to \$5,000 should be extended to all real estate irrespective of value.

They recommend that the present tax of four per cent. on wild land remain, but that there should be an increase in the staff of assessors. They also recommend that the rule that land west of the Cascade Mountains shall be considered as improved land when improvements have been done on it to the value of \$2.50 per acre shall be extended to land east of the Cascade range when it is north of the 53rd parallel of latitude.

The present timber land tax of two per cent on assessed value they consider as satisfactory.

Dealing with the coal tax they found that many witnesses called attention to the disparity between prices charged at the pit head and those charged to the consumer. They recommended that the tax on coke be reduced from fifteen cents to ten cents per ton. They do not recommend any change in the mineral tax. This tax is two per cent. on the assessed value of ore. The tax of 25 cents an acre on unwooded mineral claims they consider fair and reasonable.

Dealing with probate fees and succession duties, they recommend that these be raised for all degrees of relationship on estate over \$400,000 and in two more distant states of relationship on estate over \$100,000 and \$200,000. They recommend in addition to the present tax of one-fifteenth of one per cent. on business done in banks, including in this term loans and deposits. The commissioners estimate that if their recommendations are carried into effect, it will mean a net reduction in revenue of \$289,890.

Messrs. J. J. Miller, E. J. Clarke, S. A. Rolston and other Vancouver delegates, who are here attending the convention of Provincial Fairs' will interview members of the Government tomorrow with a view to securing an increased grant for the Vancouver exhibition.

Reeve Kerr and a number of South Vancouver councillors and citizens arrived tonight and will tomorrow interview the Government on the question of park sites and other improvements.

IS BEST TO POLICY

Hon. W. R. Ross Moves Second Bill in Respect Amendments.

FORESTRY LEG SOUNDEST EV

Wise Handling of sources of Given Great Industrial Life.

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The Provincial Legislature

35

Report of Royal Commission on Taxation Laid Before House
 Makes Far-Reaching Changes—Poll Tax and Personal
 Property Taxes to Be Abolished.

IS BEST TIMBER POLICY INVOLVED

Hon. W. R. Ross in Legislature
 Moves Second Reading of
 Bill in Respect to Land Act
 Amendments.

FORESTRY LEGISLATION SOUNDEST EVER ENACTED

Wise Handling of Natural Re-
 sources of Province Has
 Given Great Impetus to In-
 dustrial Life.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 23.—In a speech that lasted an hour and 20 minutes, Hon. W. R. Ross moved the second reading of his bill embodying amendments to the Land Act, dealing with timber and forestry matters. He gave a detailed explanation of the changes that have been already outlined. He denied that there was a classified increase in royalties on lumber that is to be manufactured in the province, and showed that these rates were only to apply to such timber as might in future be exported. Otherwise royalties are the same.

He read letters showing that the government had secured the services of Mr. Overton Price, vice-president of the National Conservation Association of the United States, who would come here next summer and assist in supervising the reorganization of forestry matters in this province. They had also secured from Mr. Gifford Pinchot a promise that he would come if possible.

Mr. Ross traced the history of forest legislation in British Columbia. He compared it with that of other countries and concluded that "it is the soundest, most effective and most convenient method of obtaining a steady flow of revenue from the forests that has yet been evolved in any country."

He continued that, following the government's forest policy in 1905, capital flowed into the province to invest in timber. This called attention to our other natural resources and these were invested in also, so that population and revenue increased with great rapidity. With this the government surveyed large areas of agricultural lands and opened up new regions by a network of roads. To clinch the whole matter the government in 1909 adopted a thorough going policy that the timber must be manufactured within the province. They seized the right moment to strike, and in seven years their policy had produced over \$16,000,000 for development works within the province. It had at the same time established the credit of the province in the financial centres of the world and enabled the government to embark on a vigorous railway policy.

Coming to the bill itself, Hon. Mr. Ross asked what must be done to conserve our forests and ensure a permanent lumbering industry.

The first essential, as in the United States, was the organization of a thoroughly effective and efficient forest service. Next we must spend money on it, but the forests were worth it. He pointed out that the forest revenue of British Columbia was two and a half times more than that of any other province in Canada, and was equal to half the forest revenue of the whole Dominion. Following the proposal of the Forestry Commission that royalty should be regarded as forest capital, they were receiving the best expert advice to deal with the matter. The first duty of the officers of the forest staff

would be to ascertain with exactitude just what amount of timber there was in the province. He believed the timber held in reserve was much greater than was generally thought.

In order to facilitate this work the government would insist that limits must be surveyed as soon as possible, and all be done by 1918. As might be thought desirable, sales of crown stumps on the existing reserve would be made. All through the bill every effort had been made, consistent with the existing rights of holders, to put all holdings on an equal basis. For this reason future sales would be of licences, conditions for each sale being regulated by the circumstances. There would be sales for immediate logging as in the case of burned timber liable to spoil, and sales on the basis of a bonus per thousand feet of timber cut in addition to royalties. This would insure the government getting the full benefit of the value, and at the same time it would benefit the purchaser, since the government assumed the fire risk. In the sale of small fractions, which did not justify the expense of cruising, the sale might be made for a lump sum.

The recommendation of the Forestry Commission that a thorough examination of pulp concessions granted by previous governments should be made, would be adopted and trained experts from the forest branch would be detailed for this duty.

For the purpose of reforestation the government would create forest reserves, which would be carefully protected from fire. In order better to fight against fire a forest protection fund would be formed, to which all holders of timber would be compelled to contribute at the rate of one cent an acre, the government giving a like amount. This fund would enable them to dispose of the log slash, the greatest menace in the way of fire.

In conclusion, he stated that the completion of the Panama Canal would revolutionize the lumber industry on this Coast.

Mr. Brewster moved the adjournment of the debate till Thursday.

THE FORESTS.

No other four hundred thousand people in the world control anything like the forest wealth that belongs to the Province of British Columbia. We cannot say that the timber and timber lands belongs to the people who control them. They belong to the millions who are to live in this province before the present generation has passed away, and the tens of millions who shall inherit from them in the generations to come. The legislation proposed by the Minister of Lands shows that the government understands its position as the trustee of this permanent estate.

The proposed regulations and proceedings go on the assumption that the provincial forests are public capital. The increment is available for use, but the estate is to be kept so far as possible unimpaired. It may even be increased by reforestation and by protection from fire and waste. The government proposes to take stock of the estate as fast as that can be done, to provide for better protection from fire, to continue the regulation against the export of timber, to take greater precautions against the depletion of timber lands and the destruction of small timber, and generally to secure to people for all future time all possible benefit from their forest possessions.

Victoria, Jan. 22.—One of the most important documents that has been laid before the Legislature of British Columbia in many months is the synopsis and report of the Royal Commission on Taxation—consisting of Hon. Messrs. Price Ellison, A. E. McPhillips, C. H. Lugrin and W. H. Malkin—which completed its intricate work some few weeks ago. This report was tabled in the House on Monday, and is expected to form the basis of legislation during the present session, by which the revenue (or poll) tax and the personal property tax will be altogether eliminated, and various other taxation changes reduce the revenues of the country in the aggregate by about \$300,000 annually; while at the same time the burden of taxation will be made lighter where it is borne by the man of limited means and proportionately increased as it falls upon his richer fellow-citizen. As an example in point, the income tax, it is proposed, shall be radically readjusted, the synoptical report on this head reading:

Income Tax.

After a consideration of this tax (which yielded a revenue of \$192,924.78 for 1910-11) from an historic and the economic point of view, the report shows that it is generally regarded as "the fairest tax," although there was strong presumptive evidence that the phraseology in Form 3 should be rendered more clear, comprehensive and informative. The commission recommends:

- The raising of the exemption from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
 - The withdrawal of any exemption from incomes above \$11,500 and under \$85,000.
 - The withdrawal of any exemption from incomes above \$50,000, with the addition of a super-tax of 5 per cent. for that part of the income which exceeds \$50,000.
 - An exemption of an additional \$1,500 for farmers, and
 - An average system for assessing incomes from trades.
- The commissioners have attempted to achieve the task of reducing taxation in the case of citizens with small incomes, and at the same time of readjusting its incidence on the possessors of larger incomes.

Reduction of Revenues.

As to the financial effect of the recommended changes with respect to the taxation of persons and property, the report of the commission says:

The reduction of the revenue tax and of the general property tax would represent the following loss, supposing the deduction had been made for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1911.

Revenue tax	\$213,338.00
Personal property tax	179,052.70

Total \$392,390.70

Your commissioners, however, are confident that the loss of the personal property tax would be more than compensated for by the substituted income tax, as well as by the increased and increasing volume of business and the material prosperity throughout the province generally. This increased gain is estimated at \$200,000. Deducting therefore \$200,000 from the loss under table A, the figures would stand thus:

Loss according to Table A	\$392,390.70
Deduct	200,000.00

Net loss \$192,390.70

It has been calculated that the loss resulting from raising the exemption of income tax from \$1,000 to \$1,500 would be \$37,500, while the loss from partial exemption for men with families would be (say) \$10,000, i.e., \$47,500 in all.

Loss according to Table B	\$192,390.70
Add	47,500.00

Net loss \$239,890.70

On the other hand, the gain under class F, under which no exemption (as heretofore) would be made for incomes

between \$11,500 and \$50,000, and the tax under Class G, under which a sur-tax of 3 per cent. (1-2 per cent. together) would be imposed on that part of income which is over \$50,000, would, it is calculated, more than wipe out the loss from the increased limit of exemption and from the partial exemption for men with families. Calculating this at \$50,000, the figures stand thus:

Loss according to Table C	\$339,890.70
Reduct.	50,000.00
	\$289,890.70

An analysis of the revenue shows that there was a very satisfactory surplus of actual receipts over estimated \$10,492,892.27, as against \$7,000,024.66 for 1910-11 in the provincial treasury. This surplus, however, for reasons which are given, is not accepted as sufficiently to be relied upon as to warrant material alteration at present of the principles of assessment or the incidence of taxation except to the degree recommended for the nature recommended; nevertheless the commissioners believe that the reductions advised will prove of substantial benefit to the people of the province. A division of the revenue into five different heads and examination of the amounts derivable from each show that the total abolition of the taxes on property and persons and the raising of the revenue solely from an increased tax on natural resources would, even if it were held desirable for other reasons, involve a 50 per cent. increase in the rate of taxation of such resources, i.e., timber, coal and minerals.

Land Taxes.

Land tax revenue for 1910-11 is shown to be \$310,130.53, and the report sets out general considerations why improvements on land should not be taxed, at the same time clearly defining the meaning of such improvements. Real property taxes revenue for 1910-11 totalled \$252,272.44 at one-half of one per cent. on assessed values. The evidence taken by the commission showed that the rate of taxation is not generally regarded as burdensome, but certain representations were made as to assessment inequalities, and complaints were received as to the taxation of improvements. The commissioners, in dealing more particularly with real property, recommend:

1. A periodical reassessment of property according to its actual defined value.
2. The abolition of taxation on improvements.
3. Legislation enforcing registration of real estate on affidavits setting forth the true consideration of purchase, and
4. That the registration fee of one-fifth of one per cent. on the value of real estate up to \$5,000 shall be extended to all real estate, irrespective of value.

As to the wild land tax, the evidence went to show that in some cases the assessment value of wild land was somewhat low. At the same time the commissioners regard the tax of 4 per cent. as sound, and are of the opinion, despite a few objections raised by some witnesses, that the rate should remain as at present fixed. The commissioners, however, by way of general recommendation, consider that there should be an increase in the staff of assessors. They also recommend that the regulation which at present prescribes that wild land situate west of the Cascade Mountains shall be classed as improved land, when improvements have been effected thereon to the value of \$2.50 per acre, should be extended to land situate east of the Cascades when it is also situate to the north of the 53rd parallel of latitude.

Timber Land Taxes.

Touching timber lands taxation at 1 per cent. upon assessed values, the report begins by defining timber lands according to the terms of the Assessment Act. The evidence showed that the rate of the tax was generally regarded as satisfactory, although views differed as to the fairness of the respective rates of licences and royalties. Considerable satisfaction was expressed as to the operation of the present system of fire protection, but some witnesses ventured the opinion that a still more efficient method might be adopted, and that the owners of timber lands should share the cost of such fire protection, while others urged the appointment of a permanent fire commission.

With respect to coal lands taxation—

Coal.

worked mines and two per cent. on unworked mines—many witnesses directed attention to the disparity between the cost of coal at the mine-head and the price paid by the consumer. Appeals to be relieved of the tax on coke were also urged. The commissioners refer the evidence regarding the cost of coal to the consideration of the Government, and recommend that the tax on coke be reduced from 15 cents a ton to 10 cents.

Minerals.

Taking up next the 2 per cent. mineral tax on the assessed value of ore, which brought to the treasury \$91,038.43 in 1910-11, the report describes the system of taxing minerals in vogue, and directs attention to the present market value of copper. Complaints of witnesses were generally directed towards the inequality of the tax as between high-grade and low-grade ores. A suspension of the tax was asked for, or, alternatively, a reduction of the tax. The commissioners do not recommend any change in the tax imposed on minerals.

The commissioners are also agreed that the 25 cents an acre tax on Crown granted unworked mineral claims is fair and reasonable.

Succession Duties.

After explaining the difference between probate fees (producing \$37,294.41 revenue in 1910-11) and succession duties (\$206,459.88), the commissioners suggest the raising of the duty for all the degrees of relationship in the case of estates over \$400,000, and in the two more distant degrees of relationship in the case of estates of over \$100,000 and \$200,000.

Banks.

The report, after enunciating certain principles regarding the taxation of banks generally, shows in detail the practice of taxing them in other provinces of Canada, and recommends that a tax be imposed, in addition to that at present imposed, of one-fifteenth of one per cent. on "business done," including in this term both loans and deposits.

Summary.

The commissioners bring their report to an end by commenting upon the development and prosperity of the province, and the increasing revenue and expenditure attending that development, as factors affecting the nature of their financial recommendations, and thus sum up the probable effects of the changes proposed:

1. They have been uniformly impressed with the rapidly increasing prosperity of the province and the potential and actual explored and (indisputably vaster) unexplored wealth derivable from the natural resources of the province.
2. They realize at the same time that, while the revenue is in consequence expanding, the expenditure must for many years to come be expanding in at least an equal ratio.
3. In making the financial recommendations set forth, they have taken the above-mentioned factors into serious consideration.
4. They have come to the deliberate opinion that a substantial remission from taxation can safely be effected without imperilling the solidity of the provincial treasury, and they have proceeded on the principle that any "surplus not proved to be needed by the province should be left to fructify in the pockets of the taxpayer," more particularly when a balance so left is likely, in a new country, to be used in some form or other for the exploitation of the province.
5. They are of opinion that the abolition of the revenue or poll tax (which amounted to \$313,338.00 for the year ending March 31, 1911) would represent, on sound principles of political science, a substantial relief, and one which the Government could best afford to remove.
6. They believe that the abolition of the personal property tax and of the tax on improvements on land would be largely compensated for by the substitution of income tax for personal property tax, aided by the natural increase of population and the rapid accumulation of wealth by the citizens of the province.
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He read letters showing that the Government had secured the services of Mr. Overton Price, vice-president of the National Conservation Association of the United States, who would come here next summer and assist in supervising the reorganization of forestry matters in this province. They had also secured from Gifford Pinchot a promise that he would come if possible. Mr. Ross traced the history of forest legislation in British Columbia. He compared it with that of other countries, and concluded that "it is the soundest, most effective and most convenient method of obtaining a steady flow of revenue from the forests that has yet been evolved in any country."

He continued that following the Government's forest policy in 1906 capital flowed into the province to invest in timber. This called attention to our other natural resources and these were invested in also, so that population and revenue increased with great rapidity. With this the Government surveyed large areas of agricultural lands and opened up new regions by a network of roads. To cinch the whole matter, the Government in 1906 adopted a thoroughgoing policy that the timber must be manufactured within the province. They seized the right moment to strike, and in seven years their policy had produced over thirteen million dollars for development works within the province. At the same time established the credit of the province in the financial centres of the world and enabled the Government to embark on a vigorous railway policy.

Coming to the bill itself, Hon. Mr. Ross asked what must be done to conserve our forests, and ensure a permanent lumbering industry? The first essential, as in the United States, was an organization of a thoroughly efficient forest service. Next we must spend money on it, but the forests were worth it. He pointed out that the forest revenue of British Columbia was one and a half times more than that of any other province in Canada, and was equal to half the forest revenue of the whole Dominion. Following the proposal of the Forestry Commission that royalty should be regarded as forest capital, they were securing the best expert advice to deal with the matter. The first duty of the experts of the forest staff would be to ascertain with accuracy just what amount of timber there was in the province. He believed that timber held in reserve was much larger than was generally thought. In order to facilitate this work the Government would insist that limits must be surveyed as soon as possible, and all done by 1918. As might be thought desirable sales of Crown stumpage on an existing reserve would be made. All through the bill every effort had been made, consistent with the existing rights of holders, to put all holdings on an equal basis. For this reason future sales would be licences, conditions for each sale being regulated by circumstances. There would be sales for immediate logging, as in the case of burned timber liable to spoil, and sales on the basis of a bonus per thousand feet of timber cut in addition to royalties. This would ensure the Government getting the full benefit of the value and at the same time it would benefit the purchaser since the Government assumed the fire risk. In the sale of small fractions which did not justify the expense of cruising, the sale might be made for lump sum. The recommendation of the Forestry Commission that a thorough examination of pulp concessions granted by previous governments should be made, would be adopted and trained experts from the forest branch would be detailed for this duty.

For the purpose of reforestation the Government would create forest reserves which would be carefully protected from fire. In order better to

between \$11,500 and \$50,000, and the tax under Class G, under which a sur-tax of 5 per cent. (7 1/2 per cent. together) would be imposed on that part of income which is over \$50,000. If it is calculated, more than wipe off the loss from the increased limit of exemption and from the partial exemption for men with families. Calculating this at \$50,000, the figures stand thus:

According to Table C ..	\$339,890.70
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An analysis of the revenue shows that there was a very satisfactory surplus of actual receipts over estimated \$10,492,892.27, as against \$7,000,026.66 for 1910-11 in the provincial treasury. This surplus, however, for reasons which are given, is not accepted as sufficient to be relied upon as to warrant material alteration at present of the principles of assessment or the incidence of taxation except to the degree recommended; nevertheless the commissioners believe that the reductions advised will prove of substantial benefit to the people of the province. A division of the revenue into five different heads and examination of the amounts derivable from each show that the total abolition of the taxes on property and persons and the raising of the revenue solely from an increased tax on natural resources would, even if it were held desirable for other reasons, involve a 50 per cent. increase in the rate of taxation of such resources, i.e., timber, coal and minerals.

Land Taxes.

Land tax revenue for 1910-11 is shown as \$316,130.82, and the report sets out general considerations why improvements on land should not be taxed, at the same time clearly defining the meaning of such improvements. Real property taxes revenue for 1910-11 totalled \$352,372.44 at one-half of one per cent. on assessed values. The evidence taken by the commission showed that the rate of taxation is not generally regarded as burdensome, but certain representations were made as to assessment inequalities, and complaints were received as to the taxation of improvements. The commissioners, in dealing more particularly with real property, recommend:

1. A periodical reassessment of property according to its actual defined value.
2. The abolition of taxation on improvements.
3. Legislation enforcing registration of real estate on affidavits setting forth the true consideration of purchase, and
4. That the registration fee of one-fifth of one per cent. on the value of real estate up to \$5,000 shall be extended to all real estate, irrespective of value.

As to the wild land tax, the evidence went to show that in some cases the assessment value of wild land was somewhat low. At the same time, the commissioners regard the tax of 4 per cent. as sound, and are of the opinion, despite a few objections raised by some witnesses, that the rate should remain as at present fixed. The commissioners, however, by way of general recommendation, consider that there should be an increase in the staff of assessors. They also recommend that the regulation which at present prescribes that wild land situate west of the Cascade Mountains shall be classed as improved land, when improvements have been effected thereon to the value of \$2.50 per acre, should be extended to land situate east of the Cascades when it is also situate to the north of the 53rd parallel of latitude.

Timber Land Taxes.

Touching timber lands taxation at 2 per cent. upon assessed values, the report begins by defining timber lands according to the terms of the Assessment Act. The evidence showed that the rate of the tax was generally regarded as satisfactory, although views differed as to the fairness of the respective rates of licences and royalties. Considerable satisfaction was expressed as to the operation of the present system of fire protection, but some witnesses ventured the opinion that a still more efficient method might be adopted, and that the owners of timber lands should share the cost of such fire protection, while others urged the appointment of a permanent fire commission.

With respect to coal lands taxation—

Coal.

worked mines and two per cent. on unworked mines—many witnesses directed attention to the disparity between the cost of coal at the mine-head and the price paid by the consumer. Appeals to be relieved of the tax on coke were also urged. The commissioners refer to the evidence regarding the cost of coal to the consideration of the Government, and recommend that the tax on coke be reduced from 15 cents a ton to 10 cents.

Minerals.

Taking up next the 2 per cent. mineral tax on the assessed value of ore, which brought to the treasury \$91,038.43 in 1910-11, the report describes the system of taxing minerals in vogue, and directs attention to the present market value of copper. Complaints of witnesses were generally directed towards the inequality of the tax as between high-grade and low-grade ores. A suspension of the tax was asked for, or, alternatively, a reduction of the tax. The commissioners do not recommend any change in the tax imposed on minerals.

The commissioners are also agreed that the 25 cents an acre tax on Crown granted unworked mineral claims is fair and reasonable.

Succession Duties.

After explaining the difference between probate fees (producing \$37,294.41 revenue in 1910-11) and succession duties (\$200,459.88), the commissioners suggest the raising of the duty for all the degrees of relationship in the case of estates over \$100,000, and in the two more distant degrees of relationship in the case of estates of over \$100,000 and \$200,000.

Banks.

The report, after enunciating certain principles regarding the taxation of banks generally, shows in detail the practice of taxing them in other provinces of Canada, and recommends that a tax be imposed, in addition to that at present imposed, of one-fifteenth of one per cent. on "business done," including in this term both loans and deposits.

Summary.

The commissioners bring their report to an end by commenting upon the development and prosperity of the province, and the increasing revenue and expenditure attending that development, as factors affecting the nature of their financial recommendations, and thus sum up the probable effects of the changes proposed:

1. They have been uniformly impressed with the rapidly increasing prosperity of the province and the potential and actual explored and (indisputably vaster) unexplored wealth derivable from the natural resources of the province.
2. They realize at the same time that, while the revenue is in consequence expanding, the expenditure must for many years to come be expanding in at least an equal ratio.
3. In making the financial recommendations set forth, they have taken the above-mentioned factors into serious consideration.
4. They have come to the deliberate opinion that a substantial remission from taxation can safely be effected without imperilling the solidity of the provincial treasury, and they have proceeded on the principle that any surplus not proved to be needed by the province should be left to fructify in the pockets of the taxpayer, more particularly when a balance so left is likely, in a new country, to be used in some form or other for the exploitation of the province.
5. They are of opinion that the abolition of the revenue or poll tax (which amounted to \$313,338.00 for the year ending March 31, 1911) would represent, on sound principles of political science, a substantial relief, and one which the Government could best afford to remove.
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Coming to the bill itself, Hon. Mr. Ross asked what must be done to conserve our forests, and ensure a permanent lumbering industry? The first essential, as in the United States, was the organization of a thoroughly efficient forest service. Next we must spend money on it, but the forests were worth it. He pointed out that the forest revenue of British Columbia was one and a half times more than that of any other province in Canada, and was equal to half the forest revenue of the whole Dominion. Following the proposal of the Forestry Commission that royalty should be regarded as forest capital, they were securing the best expert advice to deal with the matter. The first duty of the experts of the forest staff would be to ascertain with accuracy just what amount of timber there was in the province. He believed that timber held in reserve was much larger than was generally thought. In order to facilitate this work the Government would insist that limits must be surveyed as soon as possible, and all done by 1918. As might be thought desirable sales of Crown stumpage on an existing reserve would be made. All through the bill every effort had been made, consistent with the existing rights of holders, to put all holdings on an equal basis. For this reason future sales would be licences, conditions for each sale being regulated by circumstances. There would be sales for immediate logging, as in the case of burned timber liable to spoil, and sales on the basis of a bonus per thousand feet of timber cut in addition to royalties. This would ensure the Government getting the full benefit of the value and at the same time it would benefit the purchaser since the Government assumed the fire risk. In the sale of small fractions which did not justify the expense of cruising, the sale might be made for a lump sum. The recommendation of the Forestry Commission that a thorough examination of pulp concessions granted by previous governments should be made, would be adopted and trained experts from the forest branch would be detailed for this duty.

For the purpose of reforestation the government would create forest reserves which would be carefully protected from fire. In order better to

between \$11,500 and \$50,000, and the tax under Class G, under which a sur-tax of 5 per cent. (7 1-2 per cent. together) would be imposed on that part of income which is over \$50,000. If it is calculated, more than wipe out the loss from the increased limit of exemption and from the partial exemption for men with families. Calculating this at \$50,000, the figures stand thus:

Table B.
 Gross according to Table C. \$339,890.70
 Deduct. 50,000.00

\$289,890.70

An analysis of the revenue shows that there was a very satisfactory surplus of actual receipts over estimated (\$10,492,892.27, as against \$7,999,026.66) in 1910-11 in the provincial treasury. This surplus, however, for reasons which are given, is not accepted as sufficient to be relied upon as to warrant material alteration at present of the principles of assessment or the incidence of taxation except to the degree and for the nature recommended; nevertheless the commissioners believe that the reductions advised will prove of substantial benefit to the people of the province. A division of the revenue into five different heads and examination of the amounts derivable from each show that the total abolition of the taxes on property and persons and the raising of the revenue solely from an increased tax on natural resources would, even if it were held desirable for other reasons, involve a 50 per cent. increase in the rate of taxation of such resources, i.e., timber, coal and minerals.

Land Taxes.

Land tax revenue for 1910-11 is shown to be \$316,130.85, and the report sets out general considerations why improvements on land should not be taxed, at the same time clearly defining the meaning of such improvements. Real property taxes revenue for 1910-11 totalled \$352,372.44 at one-half of one per cent. on assessed values. The evidence taken by the commission showed that the rate of taxation is not generally regarded as burdensome, but certain representations were made as to assessment inequalities, and complaints were received as to the taxation of improvements. The commissioners, in dealing more particularly with real property, recommend:

1. A periodical reassessment of property according to its actual defined value.
2. The abolition of taxation on improvements.
3. Legislation enforcing registration of real estate on affidavits setting forth the true consideration of purchase, and
4. That the registration fee of one-fifth of one per cent. on the value of real estate up to \$5,000 shall be extended to all real estate, irrespective of value.

As to the wild land tax, "the evidence went to show that in some cases the assessment value of wild land was somewhat low. At the same time, the commissioners regard the tax of 4 per cent. as sound, and are of the opinion, despite a few objections raised by some witnesses, that the rate should remain as at present fixed. The commissioners, however, by way of general recommendation, consider that there should be an increase in the staff of assessors. They also recommend that the regulation which at present prescribes that wild land situate west of the Cascade Mountains shall be classed as improved land, when improvements have been effected thereon to the value of \$2.50 per acre, should be extended to land situate east of the Cascades when it is also situate to the north of the 53rd parallel of latitude."

Timber Land Taxes.

Touching timber lands taxation at 2 per cent. upon assessed values, the report begins by defining timber lands according to the terms of the Assessment Act. The evidence showed that the rate of the tax was generally regarded as satisfactory, although views differed as to the fairness of the respective rates of licences and royalties. Considerable satisfaction was expressed as to the operation of the present system of fire protection, but some witnesses ventured the opinion that a still more efficient method might be adopted, and that the owners of timber lands should share the cost of such fire protection, while others urged the appointment of a permanent fire commission. With respect to coal lands taxation—at one per cent. on assessed value on

Coal.

worked mines and two per cent. on unworked mines—many witnesses directed attention to the disparity between the cost of coal at the mine-head and the price paid by the consumer. Appeals to be relieved of the tax on coke were also urged. The commissioners refer the evidence regarding the cost of coal to the consideration of the Government, and recommend that the tax on coke be reduced from 15 cents a ton to 10 cents.

Minerals.

Taking up next the 2 per cent. mineral tax on the assessed value of ore, which brought to the treasury \$91,028.43 in 1910-11, the report describes the system of taxing minerals in vogue, and directs attention to the present market value of copper. Complaints of witnesses were generally directed towards the inequality of the tax as between high-grade and low-grade ores. A suspension of the tax was asked for, or, alternatively, a reduction of the tax. The commissioners do not recommend any change in the tax imposed on minerals.

The commissioners are also agreed that the 25 cents an acre tax on Crown granted unworked mineral claims is fair and reasonable.

Succession Duties.

After explaining the difference between probate fees (producing \$37,294.41 revenue in 1910-11) and succession duties (\$200,459.88), the commissioners suggest the raising of the duty for all the degrees of relationship in the case of estates over \$100,000, and in the two more distant degrees of relationship in the case of estates of over \$100,000 and \$200,000.

Banks.

The report, after enunciating certain principles regarding the taxation of banks generally, shows in detail the practice of taxing them in other provinces of Canada, and recommends that a tax be imposed, in addition to that at present imposed, of one-fifteenth of one per cent. on "business done," including in this term both loans and deposits.

Summary.

The commissioners bring their report to an end by commenting upon the development and prosperity of the province, and the increasing revenue and expenditure attending that development, as factors affecting the nature of their financial recommendations, and thus sum up the probable effects of the changes proposed:

1. They have been uniformly impressed with the rapidly increasing prosperity of the province and the potential and actual explored and (indisputably vast) unexplored wealth derivable from the natural resources of the province.
2. They realize at the same time that, while the revenue is in consequence expanding, the expenditure must for many years to come be expanding in at least an equal ratio.
3. In making the financial recommendations set forth, they have taken the above-mentioned factors into serious consideration.
4. They have come to the deliberate opinion that a substantial remission from taxation can safely be effected without imperilling the solidity of the provincial treasury, and they have proceeded on the principle that any "surplus not proved to be needed by the province should be left to fructify in the pockets of the taxpayer," more particularly when a balance so left is likely, in a new country, to be used in some form or other for the exploitation of the province.
5. They are of opinion that the abolition of the revenue or poll tax (which amounted to \$213,338.00 for the year ending March 31, 1911) would represent, on sound principles of political science, a substantial relief, and one which the Government could best afford to remove.
6. They believe that the abolition of the personal property tax and of the tax on improvements on land would be largely compensated for by the substitution of income tax for personal property tax, aided by the natural increase of population and the rapid accumulation of wealth by the citizens of the province.
7. They are further of opinion that the proposed extension of the limit of exemption would be also largely counterbalanced by its readjustment in the case of the more prosperous citizens.
8. They desire to emphasize again very strongly the need of altering the phraseology under Form 8 to suit the altered conditions through the abolition of the personal property tax, and not only the need of altering, but also of

rendering the phraseology more clear and comprehensive to the mind of the taxpayer, and they believe that if this were done

the necessary consolidated proposals would be amended

Opportunities

Act, which was or necessarily changing constantly, amending the old section 68 of the act with respect to the sub-division of lots and the approval thereof by the municipal authorities. When this revision was put through by the present ratifying bill, the real work of legislation for this session might begin. He intended, as a preface to the work of the committee, to point out briefly where changes in the direction of legislation had been made by the commissioners as in the Interpretation Act, the Administration Act, the Arbitration Act, the Attachments of Debts Act, the act dealing with the powers of infants under the law, etc.

The precise nature of each of these changes was explained, the Attorney-General referring to the commissioners' memorandum accompanying the work. Objection was not raised to any of the suggested variations of language or tenor, but Messrs. Brewster and Williams contended that the members should be furnished with memoranda such as that possessed by the law officer of the Crown, in order more intelligently to grasp the purport of the changes to which he made reference. Hon. Mr. Bowser said that he would have no possible objection, and such a brief would be furnished before the committee sits again.

Questions.

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:

1. What sum has been paid the "Colonist" Printing and Publishing Company for advertising during each year from July 1, 1901, to March 31, 1911?
 2. What sum has been paid the said corporation during the same period for all other services?
 3. What sum was paid the "Colonist" Printing and Publishing Company for advertising in "The Post" during the year 1910?
- Hon. Mr. ELLISON replied: 1, from July 1, 1901, to March 31, 1911, \$23,476.03; 2, \$51,607.65; and 3, \$8,948.30.

VANCOUVER

CANADIAN UNIT ON

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**RESOLUTION SE
 BY MR. PARKE**

Premier McBride
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 Lots—Revision

Special to the News-Ad
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CANADIAN NAVAL UNIT ON PACIFIC

Mr. Brewster, Member for Alberni, Urges Action Regarding Defence of Great Unguarded B. C. Coastline.

RESOLUTION SECONDED BY MR. PARKER WILLIAMS

Premier McBride Moves Adjournment of Debate—Government and South Hazelton Lots—Revision of Statutes.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 24.—The outstanding feature of today's sitting of the Legislature was Mr. H. C. Brewster's speech on his resolution urging the Dominion Government to create a Canadian naval unit on the Pacific Ocean. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Parker Williams, in spite of the generally expressed anti-militarism of that gentleman. Mr. Williams did not attempt to speak on the resolution and the Premier moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Brewster said he had been careful to eliminate anything of a political nature from the resolution, nor had he attempted to deal with the details by which it should be brought into effect, but there were movements of great importance in the world today, which made it imperative that something should be done to defend a coastline stretching from Puget Sound to Alaska, and indented with many sounds and inlets which some future enemy might easily utilize for strategic purposes. He pointed to China now awakening from the lethargy of ages with its hordes of half-civilized people, and to Japan held in leash by the strong hands of its rulers. One of the first things an Oriental nation did in adopting Western methods was to establish an army and navy and these two nations were already looking for some place where they could transfer the people from their overcrowded lands, and no place was so convenient as Canada. He pointed to the recent menace of war in Europe, nor did he consider that the elections just held in Germany would make for peace. "Internal turmoil is in the ascendant and it is a fact that at times in older countries wars have been started to distract attention from affairs at home."

He pointed to the great maritime commerce that the opening of the Panama Canal must bring to our shores, and said that considering the time it took to create a navy, it was none too early to begin taking measures to protect that commerce. While as Canadians we might quarrel about our own affairs, we must stand together on questions of defence. As representative of the Pacific Coast province, he thought they were, within their rights in trying to impress upon the Dominion government the inauguration of such measures as would protect this coast. In passing the resolution he hoped they might stimulate any measure now being contemplated at Ottawa towards the creation of a naval power.

The Premier moved the adjournment of the debate.

The rest of the afternoon was passed in committee on the revised statutes. Attorney-General Bowser pointed out some changes that had been made, and the revisions were freely criticised by Messrs. Brewster and Williams. The Attorney-General pointed to one change in the Land Act by which a girl over eighteen who is supporting herself, will

be allowed to take up a pre-emption. The same rule will apply to a woman deserted by her husband after he has ceased to contribute to her support for two years. He explained that in another section dealing with purchased but unpatented Crown lands, the revising commissioners, during his absence in England, had changed it so that it would be impossible for a purchaser to make any bargain for the transfer of his rights before he had obtained full title. In view of conditions here he did not consider that wise, and was altering it.

In the School Act he pointed out that a change had been making it mandatory on a municipal council to hand over to the school board all moneys specially assessed for school purposes. The former wording left it optional. He further stated that the English laws brought into force by the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1858 were still in force where not repugnant to the criminal laws of Canada, and even then they were not invalid until their repugnancy had been determined by the courts.

While the Attorney-General completed his explanation of changes in the statutes, the bill to validate them is still in committee.

In reply to questions by Mr. Brewster as to the position of the government on lands sold by auction in South Hazelton, Hon. Mr. Ross stated that the matter was being appealed, but if the decision of the Railway Commission was upheld, the purchasers would be notified and money refunded.

In the Private Bills Committee this morning the Vancouver charter amendments came in for their annual overhauling on the question of compliance with standing orders. It was pointed out that some of the amendments had not been advertised for the specified length of time. Some members of the committee urged that the bill should be thrown out altogether to teach the city a lesson in care in complying with the standing orders. Mr. Tisdall said that he was sure that there must be some explanation for any irregularities, and at his request the bill was laid over till Friday in order that the city solicitor of Vancouver may have an opportunity to come over and explain matters.

The South Vancouver delegation will take up with the government the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada affecting sales of land for taxes in that municipality at the time the council was holding its sittings in Vancouver. It is understood that they will ask the government to pass a bill validating all sales made at that time, as many people are affected.

Dr. McGuire has given notice that on Tuesday next he will ask what action has been taken by the government to give effect to the resolution regarding the price of coal passed last session.

A large delegation of lumbermen arrived tonight and tomorrow will interview the government on proposed changes in the timber regulations.

Victoria, Jan. 23.—In a speech that lasted an hour and twenty minutes, Hon. W. R. Ross moved the second reading of his bill embodying amendments to the Land Act, dealing with timber and forestry matters. He gave a detailed explanation of the changes that have been already outlined. He stated that there was a classified increase in royalties on lumber that is to be manufactured in the province, and showed that these rates were only applied to such timber as might in future be exported. Otherwise royalties remain the same.

He read letters showing that the Government had secured the services of Mr. Overton Price, vice-president of the National Conservation Association of the United States, who would come here next summer and assist in supervising the reorganization of forestry matters in this province. They had also secured from Gifford Pinchot a promise that he would come if possible. Mr. Ross traced the history of forest legislation in British Columbia. He compared it with that of other countries, and concluded that "it is the soundest, most effective and most convenient method of obtaining a steady flow of revenue from the forests that has yet been evolved in any country."

He continued that following the Government's forest policy in 1905 capital flowed into the province to invest in lumber. This called attention to our other natural resources and these were invested in also, so that population and revenue increased with great rapidity. With this the Government surveyed large areas of agricultural lands and opened up new regions by a network of roads. To clinch the whole matter, the government in 1906 adopted a thoroughgoing policy that the timber must be manufactured within the province. They seized the right moment to strike. In seven years their policy had produced over thirteen million dollars for development works within the province. At the same time established the credit of the province in the financial centres of the world and enabled the government to embark on a vigorous highway policy.

Coming to the bill itself, Hon. Mr. Ross asked what must be done to conserve our forests, and ensure a permanent lumbering industry? The first essential, as in the United States, was the organization of a thoroughly efficient forest service. Next we must spend money on it, but the forests were worth it. He pointed out that the forest revenue of British Columbia was one and a half times more than that of any other province in Canada, and was equal to half the forest revenue of the whole Dominion. Following the proposal of the Forestry Commission that royalty should be regarded as forest capital, they were securing the best expert advice to deal with the matter. The first duty of the experts of the forest staff would be to ascertain, with latitude just what amount of timber was in the province. He believed that timber held in reserve was much greater than was generally thought. In order to facilitate this work the Government would insist that limits must be surveyed as soon as possible, and all done by 1918. As might be thought desirable sales of Crown stumpage on an existing reserve would be made. All through the bill every effort had been made consistent with the existing rights of holders, to put all holdings on an equal basis. For this reason future sales would be licences, conditions for each sale being regulated by circumstances. There would be sales for immediate logging, as in the case of burned timber liable to spoil, and sales on the basis of a bonus per thousand feet of timber cut in addition to royalties. This would ensure the Government getting the full benefit of the value and at the same time it would benefit the purchaser since the Government assumed the fire risk. In the sale of small fractions which did not justify the expense of cruising, the sale might be made for lump sum. The recommendation of the Forestry Commission that a thorough examination of pulp concessions granted by previous governments should be made, would be adopted and trained experts from the forest branch would be detailed for this duty.

For the purpose of reforestation the government would create forest reserves which would be carefully protected from fire. In order better to

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fight against fire a forest protection fund would be formed to which all holders of timber would be compelled to contribute at the rate of one cent an acre, the Government giving a like amount. This fund would enable them to dispose of the log slash, the greatest menace in the way of fire. In conclusion he stated that the completion of the Panama Canal would revolutionize the lumbering industry on this coast.

Mr. Brewster moved the adjournment of the debate till Thursday next.

Hon. W. ROSS was received with applause upon rising to move the second reading of the act governing the establishment of the Forest Branch and reorganization generally of the forest and timber administration system of British Columbia.

"Since taking up the duties of Minister of Lands, Mr. Speaker," said Hon. ROSS prefatorily, "I have often had upon me the serious nature of the task committed to my care, but on no occasion has the responsibility of an office been driven home to me with greater force than in the anxious deliberations which preceded the introduction of this forest bill; and it is with humble spirit that I now rise to address the House upon this momentous subject of forest conservation, and move the second reading of this bill. I do not intend to weary this assembly with statistics; I shall confine myself to general argument and exposition; it is in order that the aims and objects of the forest policy of the present administration may be explained and made clear in all their bearings. It will be necessary for me to begin with a brief recapitulation of the history of legislation in this province that deals with forest matters."

Continuing, Mr. ROSS pointed out that in the early days of British Columbia the forests were regarded merely as a huge natural phenomenon, like mountains, glaciers and rivers. They were regarded as "a beautiful accessory to the scenery, but regarded as of no value as commercial assets." The Legislature, in fact, gave away the timber with the land as a matter of course. Soon after the advent of the C. P. R. and the removal of the barrier of isolation which the province had been cut off from the rest of the continent heretofore, the marked stimulus given to every

business was felt with peculiar force by the lumbering industry. For the first time standing timber was given a price, and the Legislature placed a price of fifty cents a thousand upon Crown stumpage, a valuation that has remained unchanged for the past twenty-three years. The alienation of Crown timber lands was not, however, stopped at this period. It was not until 1896 that the first recognition of the principle of State ownership of forests was made by the Legislature, and the sale of timber lands stopped.

"And stopped, let us hope, for ever," added the Minister with emphasis.

"We see today that other countries such as Germany, France and Austria are spending millions to recover forest lands from private owners. Nearer home we have seen the United States alienate four-fifths of its standing timber for a song. British Columbia, however, learned wisdom in time. After 1896 the only breach in the principle of public ownership of forests occurred when timber was alienated in the grants in aid of railway construction—a policy that was put on the scrapheap by the present administration. Instead of giving timberlands we now give guarantees."

"The universal experience of modern times, added to the experience of centuries, has been that forests are best kept in public ownership, the chief reason being that forestry, meaning the perpetuation of the timber supply, requires an investment stretching over generations that hitherto has been too long for private owners. The member for Newcastle will, I have no doubt, regard with favor my statement that public ownership is peculiarly advantageous in respect to forests."

Taking 1888 as a starting point again, one found that the Legislature, desirous of encouraging the lumbering industry, adopted the policy of granting cutting rights over Crown timberlands to any person who would build or operate a sawmill. The charge made was but nominal—a few cents an acre—and the timber was not required to be paid for until it had been cut, being thus sold

on credit, to the great advantage of the industry, operators thus not being obliged to sink capital in the purchase of stumpage. These grants of cutting rights were known as timber leases.

In 1896 a new and most important principle was introduced in legislation that contains the germ of the modern provincial policy. The existence of the investor was recognized and timber leases granted to non-operators. The encouragement of the lumbering industry was still, however, kept in view, and leases granted to operators at lower rates than to non-operators. It was unnecessary to follow the subsequent legislation in detail, and he would merely mention that the last phase of the timber lease period was entered upon in 1903-4, when the present Government came into power and raised the rental to 25 cents an acre. In 1905 the present administration, having had time to look carefully into the whole question of forest policy, realized that the leasing system was an extremely bad one, the timber being sold for twenty-one years ahead at the low prevailing rates then ruling. It was obvious that rates would show great change in twenty-one years, and, therefore, the public timber was being sold at a sacrifice price. It was accordingly decided to abolish this antiquated system and to substitute a constructive forest policy which should make a radical change and revolutionize conditions in the province. This marked the beginning of the modern epoch in forest policy.

"For years," Mr. ROSS continued, "the province had been in a bad way. The public revenue was insufficient. Development was slow and starved for want of money, and the opening up of the province was being delayed, because the necessary surveys, roads and other public works could not be undertaken. Each annual budget was a nightmare. Deficits and liabilities were piling up in millions. The credit of the province was low and immigration had been reduced to a thin trickle. As for the lumbering industry, of course, these prevailing conditions could do more than retard its progress, but the cut was small. So also was the forest revenue, which was only \$455,000 in the year 1904. There existed then the extraordinary situation that in a country of magnificent forest resources the revenue derived from them was only about one-seventh of the scant provincial revenue of some three million dollars.

"We all remember the distressing semi-stagnation of those days, when few realized the value of the forests and none could foretell with confidence when their utilization would take place. The forest wealth of the province was locked up—it was no help to the progress of the young community. The province was starving for capital and had no means of drawing upon its natural wealth. And yet the rest of the continent was even then beginning to realize that the timber supply was insufficient—in fact, a shortage, a timber famine, was predicted within thirty years by those in a position to know. Flourishing lumbering regions such as Michigan were declining; important Eastern species such as white pine were getting cut out; stumpage prices all over the United States and Eastern Canada were going up by leaps and bounds; the campaign for conservation that resulted in the withdrawal of 170,000,000 acres of United States lands and the constitution of that great timber reserve known as the national forests was under way.

"Stumpage in consequence was being sought almost feverishly by investors. Here in British Columbia was the timber; here the crying need for public revenue to open up the province, for capital to invigorate our anemic industries; and there—throughout the older regions of the continent—was the capital we needed, capital which was seeking to invest itself in the fast diminishing western reserve of timber that in consequence of the exhaustion of the eastern forests was destined to control the lumber markets of America before another thirty years should pass.

"It was a moment of danger for the province; it was the parting of the ways! British Columbia was not the first young country that had languished for want of capital; it was not the first young country that has sought to obtain capital by the sale of natural resources. Modern history is full of sad examples of young countries determined to get capital at any price; at a ruinous sacrifice of their future. The public loan policy that has saddled the Australian states with a crushing indebtedness is a case in point. British

Columbia might have done the same, but at this crisis in her history there was found a strong administration in control—an administration that had sized up the continental situation. That government was faced by the hardest problem that governments have to face—how to deal with an enormous natural resource—and although everything looks feasible enough after success has been achieved, yet seven years ago, in 1905, the ingenuity and foresight of the statesman were needed to invent a forest policy to meet the situation.

"Legislation is usually a somewhat prosaic affair, and that is why I lay emphasis upon the Forest Act of 1905, because it reveals a stroke of true genius, because in its bold and sweeping features it is unlike anything attempted in any other country, and because, while others might be blind and perplexed and fearful of such decisive steps, yet the statesman's intuition could foresee the results and consequences that it would have far down the future years.

"The administration of 1905 nailed its colors to the mast; its motto was 'public ownership of forests.' Yet it saw that the province had failed to obtain money in spite of its enormous forests; that it was impossible or that it would take years to organize a service that could cruise and value Crown timber, area by area, and sell it as do Germany and other old established countries. The prices of western stumpage were very low in 1905, the future increase in value was obviously large, and the problem was to sell at that date without sacrificing this future rise in value.

"Again it was essential to encourage one of the mainstays of the province—the lumbering industry; also it was essential to give a supply of timber for the future operations of existing mills; to encourage by the same means the building of new mills—yet it would have been most inadvisable to have obliged operators to sink their capital in buying stumpage outright, since this would have stapped the vitality of the industry. The best interests of the province required that operators' capital should be left to them as working capital, for the development of their business, for circulation as wages—especially since wages represent on an average four-fifths of the cost of manufactured lumber. The points enumerated above show how the problem before the government bristled with difficulties. The province was stagnating; capital was essential; cheap stumpage was necessary for the lumbering industry; the people's timber was to be made to yield immediate revenue, yet there was to be no throwing away of the future rise in stumpage. The unearned increment was to be preserved to the people for whom the government was trustee."

What then did the government do? How did it solve the problem of forest policy? The solution looked extraordinary simple now because the legislation that solved it had become so familiar and was working so smoothly, that the short-sighted criticism of former years had been silenced. Looking at the bungling attempts of other young countries to deal with natural resources it would be seen that the legislation of 1905 was truly great in its straightforward simplicity. He merely rehearsed what everyone knew. The government threw open all Crown timber lands and anybody was allowed to secure the right to cut timber. In this way sawmills could obtain timber for future operations and the present and future of the lumbering industry was assured. The lumbermen of the continent were encouraged to come and operate in the province for they could get here all the stumpage that they needed. The investors of America—aye, and of Europe—were offered investments. The government merely handed over the cutting rights, giving an option on the timber, which was only to be paid for when it should be cut. In return for the cutting privileges granted them, licensees were only required to pay annual interest on the value of the timber reserved for them. No tenure could be simpler, and none more advantageous, since it rendered possible the holding of timber until a market should be favorable for the cutting of it, the holder obtaining every advantage of the purchaser of stumpage. In this way 15,000 square miles, or over nine and a half million acres, were taken up, and the forest revenue doubled and trebled itself. In 1906 the revenue from timber

was \$455,000; in 1906 it was \$2,785,000, and no less than 10 million dollars were in the Treasury in seven years. Members of the Opposition talked fantastically about the value of timber to a young country, but would refer in some details to principles that had actuated them. In every country of revenue from forests, the point of view revenue should be when the forest cropped when the forest cropped that way, however was spasmodic, since it was trade conditions, and the public works necessary for a new country. Ag that way, revenue might even for decades in such be useless for a young ing revenue for its imminent.

An immediate steady r lifeblood of a growing such as British Columbia other hand, to levy heavy year on one and the same ing timber would have t on conservation, since it age the hutchery of t therefore necessary to tween the system of crown timber when it al the system of levying annual charge, and the promise that the Govern stand of drawing an im modic revenue from t would depend upon the timber market, a revenue insufficient today when is small and that would ty or thirty years her province would not hav ing need for money as that the Government's extract a steady, even revenue from the vast timber that might, pe exploited for fifty year government's policy w whole forest yield annu poor timber along with the immense revenue t less than two and a ha any other province an forest revenue of Ca immense revenue the ed to take advantage o movements towards the place the province in a tain its full share of ment.

Profit was extracted two ways—by the hold timber and, alternatively ting of it. The usual e as practiced in Ontario ince, had been to se in return for three pay lump sum down at the secure a share of the second, a nominal ren a royalty when cuttin secure a share of the profit. Now the colle when timber is cut, sound means of secur ment's share of manu but the collection of a at the time of sale (ju or any real estate is not always be trusted holding value of stand cially when a vast num being made within a years. It was obvious some might be serio general business co time; that when much sold a market might glatted; and that fu increase in timber va bly not be properly re lic when the sales wer all three reasons timb system might be alien its intrinsic value. Th ally of the British C 1905 was the avoida only, and the avoidan work and the enormou arising of millions o timber lands would t. The Government asked bonus) it modified e dinary Canadian syst the humble licence sy existed and secured t coming from the hold perfect manner by a namely, rental, that different from the n the other provinces.

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ital to encourage- y; also it was es- ply of timber for- of existing mills; same means the tis—yet it would advisable to have sink their capital outright, since this he vitality of the interests of the operators' capital as working cap- of their busi- wages—especi- resent on an aver- points enumerat- the problem before- led with difficul- as stagnating; cap- cheap stumpage was imbering industry; was to be made to nue, yet there was way of the future The unearned in- served to the peo- government was

the government do? problem of forest looked extraordi- use the legislation become so familiar smoothly, that the m of former years Looking at the other young coun- atural resources it the legislation of at in its straight- He merely re- ne knew. The gov- all Crown timber was allowed to se- ut timber. In this obtain timber for- nd the present and ering industry was ermen of the con- ped to come and op- e for they could get fe that they needed. erica—aye, and of d investments. The handed over the ig an option on the only to be paid for cut. In return for ges granted them, required to pay an- e value of the tim- m. No tenure could none more advan- rendered possible mber until a mar- favorable for the holder ob- antage of the pur- er nine and a half taken up, and the bled and trebled it- revenue from timber

was \$456,000; in 1908 it had risen to \$2,785,000, and no less than thirteen million dollars were yielded to the Treasury in seven years. Since hon. members of the Opposition had at times talked fantastically about the giving away of timber to speculators, he would refer in some detail to the principles that had actuated the Govern- ment. In every country the securing of revenue from forests offered most difficult problems. From the forestry point of view revenue should be collect- ed when the forest crop was cut. Col- lected that way, however, the revenue was spasmodic, since it depended on trade conditions, and that was an un- satisfactory revenue to support the public works necessary for the opening up of a new country. Again collected in that way, revenue might be deferred even for decades in such a way as to be useless for a young country requir- ing revenue for its immediate develop- ment.

An immediate steady revenue was the lifeblood of a growing new country such as British Columbia. Yet on the other hand, to levy heavy charges every year on one and the same crop of stand- ing timber would have the worst effect on conservation, since it would encour- age the butchery of timber. It was therefore necessary to compromise be- tween the system of charging for crown timber when it should be cut and the system of levying upon it a heavy annual charge, and that was the com- promise that the Government made. In- stead of drawing an uncertain, spas- modic revenue from the forests that would depend upon the condition of the timber market, a revenue that would be insufficient today when the annual cut is small and that would be heavy twenty or thirty years hence, whence the province would not have the same cry- ing need for money as now—instead of that the Government's policy was to extract a steady, even flow of annual revenue from the vast area of standing timber that might, perchance, not be exploited for fifty years to come. The Government's policy was to make the whole forest yield annual revenue, the poor timber along with the good. With the immense revenue thus obtained, no less than two and a half times that of any other province and half the total forest revenue of Canada—with this immense revenue the Government aimed to take advantage of the continental movements towards the West and to place the province in a position to obtain its full share of Western develop- ment.

Profit was extracted from forests in two ways—by the holding of standing timber and, alternatively, by the cut- ting of it. The usual Canadian system, as practiced in Ontario and other provin- ces, had been to sell Crown timber in return for three payments. First, a lump sum down at the time of sale to secure a share of the holdings profit; second, a nominal rental; and, thirdly, a royalty when cutting took place, to secure a share of the manufacturing profit. Now the collection of royalty when timber is cut was a perfectly sound means of securing the Govern- ment's share of manufacturing profit; but the collection of a lump sum down at the time of sale (just as in the case of any real estate transaction) could not always be trusted to yield the true holding value of standing timber, espe- cially when a vast number of sales were being made within a short period of years. It was obvious that such lump sums might be seriously affected by general business conditions at the time; that when much timber was to be sold a market might very easily be glutted; and that further, the future increase in timber values might possi- bly not be properly realized by the pub- lic when the sales were being made. For all three reasons timber under this sale system might be alienated at far below its intrinsic value. The striking origi- nality of the British Columbia policy of 1905 was the avoidance of this diffi- culty, and the avoidance of the years of work and the enormous expense that the creation of millions of acres of Crown timber lands would have necessitated. The Government asked for no lump sum bonus; it modified essentially the ori- ginary Canadian system; it developed the humble licence system that already existed and secured the share of profit coming from the holding of timber in a perfect manner by an annual charge, namely, rental, that was essentially different from the nominal rental of the other provinces.

Dealing with the results of the policy of 1905, the Minister pointed out that it was but fair to claim that it had in- augurated the new era. One thing led to another. Capital began to flow into the province to invest in timber; atten- tion was thus attracted to our other natural resources; investments therein followed; population followed in, and the public revenue increased. The Gov- ernment, backed by the forest revenue, was able to survey millions of acres of agricultural land and to open up new regions for the settler by a network of public roads. Our cities grew—look at Victoria and Vancouver today, and remember what they were in 1905!

Owing to the expansion that ensued in every industry the workman found steady employment and increased wages; the farmer shared the general prosperity, and it became possible to promote railway expansion without the heavy sacrifice of the public domain that had obtained in the past. To clinch the matter and to make sure that our forest resources should not merely be the foundation, but should also build up the whole fabric of the lumbering industry and strengthen the whole com- mercial system of the province, the gov- ernment in 1905 adopted a thorough- going policy that timber must be manu- factured within the province. One could see from the history of Quebec how forests might be cut out and wood shipped to a foreign country, leaving in the province of its origin only that small profit coming from the sale of raw material and from the wages paid to temporary labor. With this example before it the government determined that the profit in manufacturing raw material should benefit our citizens and hence it clinched the policy of 1905 by an emphatic prohibition of timber export.

Mr. Parker Williams at this juncture rose to a point of order, claiming that the minister was "rehearsing a lot of past history," instead of dealing with the bill before the House.

Mr. Ross: "I am endeavoring to show the similarities between the present bill and that of 1905."

Mr. Speaker: "Comparing old legisla- tion with the new; I think that is quite in order."

"I objected, Mr. Speaker," said Mr. Williams, "because the minister is simply taking credit to the government for what it has done in the past instead of dealing with the principle of this bill."

"The actions of this government," re- ported Mr. Ross, "have been so uni- formly good that it is impossible to say anything but good about them." Con- tinuing, the minister pointed out that he was not claiming that the provin- cial government, like the Laurier ad- ministration, had caused the sun to shine and the grass to grow greener. What he did claim was that good man- agement, at the opportune moment, had helped enormously to remove obstacles that might have delayed the prosperity that has come to this province. It was good management that had seized the right moment to divert the Western movement to B. C. The forest policy of 1905 and its success, without a shadow of doubt had caused the world to re- alize something of this country's resour- ces; that forest policy had produced in seven years over \$13,000,000 for roads and surveys and other public works; that forest policy established the credit of the province in the financial centres of the world and strengthened the hands of the present government to embark upon that vigorous railway progress that is being crowned with such suc- cess; that forest policy let loose the flood of prosperity that the province has enjoyed ever since.

By the end of 1907 the first stage in this policy had been brought to a tri- umphant conclusion, and an annual revenue of \$2,500,000 had been secured. This being sufficient for the opening for settlement of central B. C. and other new regions, the government ceased to issue timber licences and placed the remaining timber lands under reserve until such time as further sales should become necessary. The issuance of cutting rights over nine and a half million acres placed the government, of course, in a position of very heavy re- sponsibility, both as trustees of the people's timber lands and in respect of its duty of fostering the lumbering industry and recognizing the just rights of licensees. In consequence the gov- ernment determined to take plenty of time for a careful and deliberate study to the working out of the system that it had established. In 1909 it appointed a royal commission of investigation, composed of the Hon. E. J. Fulton, K. C., then commissioner of lands; Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt of Victoria, and Mr. A. B. Goodeve, the representative of the

Kootenays in the Dominion parliament.

This commission held many public sit- tings and collected an immense mass of evidence, visiting in the course of its in- quiry every important centre of the prov- ince. One of the first points referred to it was the question of removing the time limit for cutting timber under licence, and the commission had had no hesita- tion in advising that removal as the logi- cal sequel of the forest policy, since it was not in the interest of true conserva- tion to force cutting at any time by arbi- trary regulations. The absence of a time limit was not only in the interest of the public, but also gave a better security of tenure to the licensees. The commission spent a year and a half in studying the many phases of the forest problem; it placed itself in touch with the admin- istrations of other provinces and states and also with the federal government at Washington, where the conservation movement under the Hon. Clifford Pin- chot and President Roosevelt and gather- ed such remarkable force. After a most painstaking inquiry the Commis- sion reported at the end of 1910.

The minister here remarked that he would deal with the commission's find- ings at a later stage, when referring to the general aspects of the forests bill, and that it was only direct atten- tion at this point to the striking fact that, widely as the commission's report had been circulated—so much so that the large demand from every quarter exhausted the thousands of copies printed, and necessitated a fresh edi- tion—yet practically not a voice had been heard dissenting from its careful pronouncements.

During this period of investigation, the government had also been at work. It gave an enthusiastic welcome to the conservation movement of which its own policy was an effective interpreta- tion; it did not confine itself to mere talk, but at once began to carry out its ideas in a practical manner. The great essential of forest conservation was the prevention of fire, and this the government first attacked by putting on a force of fire wardens and by fighting fires. In 1909 the government spent \$45,000 on this practical work. In the year following it spent about \$220,000. The organization of the new fire prevention force was no easy mat- ter, and naturally that organization was somewhat rough-and-ready at first, but it had gradually been brought to a much higher pitch of efficiency by the placing of wardens under divisional inspectors, and by controlling these in turn by supervisors.

During the past year the province was covered with a network of patrols, about 120 men being on regular duty at an expense of \$110,000 for the season, the result of the patrol being evidenced in a striking manner in the diminution of fires. Of course it had been a favor- able season, but it was remarkable that the expense of fighting fires had been brought down to about \$30,000 and that very little damage to timber had been caused. This was practical forest conservation, or rather it was the essential preliminary to it. Besides getting the fire menace under control the government had been carefully studying the forest policies of other provinces of Canada and their results. The experiences of Ontario, Quebec and the Dominion were all instructive and suggestive, and many states of the Union such as Idaho, Minnesota, New York, or Washington, to mention but a few, gave us good ideas.

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The Provincial Legislature

Further Details of the Amendments of the Land Act Regarding Forestry Scheme Are Outlined by Hon. W. R. Ross—Guarding Against Waste Due to Fires.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1912.

LEGISLATURE IN SHORT SESSION

House in Committee Completes Second Reading of Bill to Validate Revised Statutes—Marriage Laws.

LUMBERMEN SATISFIED WITH FORESTRY BILL

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 25.—Today's was the briefest and dulliest sitting of the legislature since it opened. The only business done was the completion of the reading in committee of the bill to validate the revised statutes. In the discussion of some of its clauses, Hon. Mr. Dawson said it was his personal opinion that the province had complete jurisdiction over marriage laws, and that he believed was the general view of the other provinces. He also stated in reply to Mr. Williams that members of the legislature would be supplied each with one copy of the revised statutes and no more.

The following bills were given first reading and referred to the private bills committee: To incorporate Ryerson College, Vancouver; to validate the electric power bylaw of the City of Prince Rupert; regarding Victoria Harbor Railway Company, and bills to relieve the city and municipal corporation of Fernie respectively.

The Premier and members of the executive had a number of engagements and an early adjournment was taken.

The Premier and Sir William Macdonald had an interview today.

The South Vancouver delegation had an interview with the executive this morning, seeking for power to compel the opening of Quebec Street through a new subdivision in that municipality. Tomorrow they will have another interview for the purpose of securing, if possible, a bill to validate earlier tax sales in the municipality.

The private bills committee will meet tomorrow morning to discuss the Vancouver and North Vancouver charter amendments, and British Columbia and Alaska Railway bill.

The lumber delegation had an interview with the government late this afternoon in reference to changes in timber legislation. Generally they expressed themselves satisfied with the bill, but suggested a few changes in detail which will be considered in committee of the whole. Pending such changes as may then be made, further discussion of the matter will be held over for a week.

It is possible that Attorney-General Dawson will this session introduce legislation that will allow women duly qualified to practice at the bar of British Columbia. Following the decision of the Court of Appeal in the case of Miss French, the Attorney-General has communicated with the Bar Association for the purpose of ascertaining their views before deciding on his official course of action.

Victoria, Jan. 25.—Continuing his speech on the bill amending the Land Act, Hon. W. R. Ross said:

In particular, the efficient policy of the United States in the administration of its great national forests repaid most careful study, especially since it gave an object lesson in dealing with Western conditions. The next few years, the Minister continued, would see the forest service in process of formation, and during this period of organization it was particularly necessary to provide a strong headquarter control. Provision was therefore made in the bill for the constitution of a forest board of experts who would keep in touch with and coordinate the many different phases of the work. Composed of practical men actually engaged in the service, the board, under the direction of the minister, would carry out the vigorous policy that the Government proposed. Under it a general investigation of the timber resources of the province—both those under lease, licence, reserve or in private ownership—would be undertaken with a view to ascertaining exactly what timber the province contained. There were reasons for belief that the timber now under reserve was much greater in extent than most people thought. In connection with this investigation the Government would require all licences to be surveyed by 1918; and to facilitate and cheapen such surveys, simplified regulations had been introduced into the bill for the survey of timber lands. As the timber still unsold was ascertained, and as needed and desirable in the public interest, sales of Crown stumpage would be held.

Two facts had been kept in view in deciding upon the method of tenure: firstly, the British Columbia licence tenure was the best yet devised anywhere; secondly, uniformity of tenure throughout the province was most desirable since it avoided creating any commercial handicap between different classes of holders of Crown stumpage. Therefore all through the forest bill, every possible effort consistent with the existing rights of holders had been made to put all holders upon an equality. In accordance with this principle, all future sales would be sales of licences, and the conditions of these would vary according to circumstances. Sometimes sales would be for immediate logging, for example, to save burnt timber liable to spoil; some sales would be in the basis of bonus per thousand feet in addition to royalty, payable when the timber was cut, this being the improved Ontario method which ensures that the Government gets paid for everything standing on the land, while benefitting the purchaser, because the Government very properly assumes the fire risk. In other cases, for example, in the sale of small fractions not justifying the expense of cruising, sales might be for a lump sum down as bonus, as in the older Dominion and Ontario methods.

Pulpwood timber would be sold under licence, a few simple modifications being made in the conditions of the licence to cover the question of the saw timber included in pulp areas. In this connection the Minister referred to the well-known fact that the United States supply of pulpwood is hopelessly insufficient for the present needs of the great Republic. Already that country imported one-quarter of the raw material for its pulp mills from Canada, and in addition Canada supplies to it over \$4,000,000 worth of manufactured pulp. Already the industry has begun a rapid growth in the West, six mills having been established in Oregon and Washington. In this movement British Columbia had not lagged behind, five mills having been already built within the province. Upon the large pulp and paper mill at Powell River \$5,000,000 had been already spent; a million and a half represented the investment at Ocean Falls; and mills had also been completed both at Swanson Bay and

Howe Sound. Small towns had been created on the mainland Coast through this new industry, and future developments in this province were most promising. The minister then referred to the report of the United States Tariff Commission, which showed that on an average the wood used in every ton of pulp cost \$5 less in Canada than in the United States, and that the 560 square miles of pulp concessions granted by former Governments of this province give the companies who hold them a strong advantage even over their Canadian competitors.

The Forestry Commission report dealt at length with the question of the saw timber included in the pulp concessions granted in 1901, and the Commission recommended that a cruise and thorough examination of these concessions be made to ascertain the facts of the situation. The Government in adopting this proposal would detail trained experts from the forest branch to study the problem where it should be studied, that was, on the ground—on the pulp leaseholds themselves. In dealing with the extremely complex situation involved by the holding of this saw timber, the Government would be guided by two principles, namely, that the good name of the province must not be smirched by any repudiation of pledges given by former governments and that at the same time the interests of the public, as owner of the timber, must be fully protected. Concerning the present rates of royalty, the Forestry Commission had made no recommendation, but widespread Press reports had given the mistaken impression that rates had been altered in the present bill so as to alter royalties according to the grade of timber. Since this report had been given currency he desired to take the opportunity of contradicting them, as well as the statement that the royalty on leaseholds had been raised to \$1.50.

To facilitate the work of reforestation the Government had adopted a policy put in practice by Ontario, the Dominion and the United States Government—namely, the power to proclaim forest reserves over lands suitable only for the growing of timber. Much land in this province was among the best in the world for this important purpose, and both to perpetuate the timber supply and to protect the watersheds, considerable areas would necessarily be held for reforestation purposes. As an example of this policy the Minister referred to the recent action of the Dominion Government in reserving the entire Eastern watershed of the Rocky Mountains. Reforestation, however, and a permanent lumbering industry alike were idle dreams unless we devised means for the control of human carelessness and the prevention of forest fires. We were faced by the appalling fact that more timber had been

destroyed by fire during the last century than the lumbermen of the continent had cut. Forest fires and the sensational advertisement they received had depressed the value of standing timber, deterred investment, and hindered the progress of the lumbering industry by adding a certain element of uncertainty to its financing. But the injuries felt today in consequence of the destruction of merchantable timber were only the more visible and immediate effects of fire; the injuries to the reproductive power of the forests were far more serious.

As an illustration of this there was the oft-quoted result of investigations conducted in the United States, which revealed the fact that over 80,000,000 acres of cut-over lands in that country were not re-stocking, having been burned and re-burned until they had become sterile. Already in this province we had districts that were not re-stocking—wasted, desolate areas, useless for anything, as the result of repeated fires that often had been caused by an almost imbecile carelessness. He said nothing of the fires that had been

lost in various forest Columbia, the valuable had gone up in smoke individuals and the loss ment. He came him and all knew what a fire that seemed to be ness, had done in Fern honorable members hav appalling conflagrations red with death and des cords of the entire We disastrous year during was poured out by the treasury alone to help ling of fires that should allowed to spread.

Now the vast majority were not a phenomenon Nature. They were on agency in two very sim ly, by the creation of b ris through the felling, standing timber, and, s careless use of fire in ests. Year after year, operations were being timbered country. Tho had been logged over a removal of the merchants land had been left cove tops, limbs, shattered y cut brush. Every summ became tinder-dry and only to the debris-surr growth representing th but also to merchanta every district. Imagir continued year after yea be seen that our forest in time be represented merchantable timber vast areas of slash that catch fire sooner or late menace of the valuable agine again a continuat ods hitherto employed in of-ways for railways, po graph lines, trails and f ing roads, in every sort near the woods—metho ed the piling up of slas dangerous methods as a of course. It was eas this process were to c once in time would becom fire-trap, and not only w ling of immense range enormously expensive, patrolling would be inef in most sections fire v the fire-traps sooner or of every effort. It was vious that the debris m made an end of.

There were places in w ence of debris could not any price, as for instan rights-of-way. He was i this connection that the had brought forth fruits railway companies during had been co-operating in in a most gratifying man trate this, he mentioned 000 spent in clearing up Canadian Pacific Rail Crows Nest and Kootenay cope with accumulation which, on account of t their situation, threaten party, the Government power to condemn such as public nuisances. Th also desired to compel surroundings of mines, burners, etc., to be safe rubbish, and his honora the Minister of Public make it a feature of his g ley to compel road foreme highly dangerous custom debris alongside roads.

The main problem, how slash from logging operat other governments had al ed to deal with this imp The Idaho and Oregon l the annual burning of l the Minnesota law gives a to compel disposal of it; was being vigorously on York State compelled for course, in all timber sale ted States national forest condition imposed upon was that he should burn otherwise dispose of log the forest officers direct, monation of the British entry Commission was th tors in this province shou to dispose of the debris a satisfactory manner.

lost in various forest fires in British Columbia, the valuable property that had gone up in smoke, the ruin of individuals and the loss to the Government. He came himself from Fernie, and all knew what a neglected forest fire that seemed to be nobody's business, had done in Fernie. Nor would honorable members have forgotten the appalling conflagrations that had scarred with death and destruction the records of the entire West in 1910—that disastrous year during which \$1,000,000 was poured out by the United States treasury alone to help in the controlling of fires that should never have been allowed to spread.

Now the vast majority of forest fires were not a phenomenon or inanimate Nature. They were caused by human agency in two very simple ways: firstly, by the creation of inflammable debris through the felling and removal of standing timber, and, secondly, by the careless use of fire in or near the forests. Year after year a great variety of operations were being conducted in timbered country. Thousands of acres had been logged over and with the removal of the merchantable timber, the land had been left covered with tree tops, limbs, shattered young growth and cut brush. Every summer this rubbish became tinder-dry and a menace not only to the debris-surrounded young growth representing the coming crop, but also to merchantable timber in every district. Imagine this process continued year after year, and it would be seen that our forest wealth would in time be represented by islands of merchantable timber surrounded by vast areas of slash that were bound to catch fire sooner or later to the great menace of the valuable remainder. Imagine again a continuation of the methods hitherto employed in cutting right-of-ways for railways, power lines, telegraph lines, trails and fumes, in making roads, in every sort of work in or near the woods—methods which allowed the piling up of slash in the most dangerous methods as a simple matter of course. It was easy to see that if this process were to continue the province in time would become one immense fire-trap, and not only would the patrolling of immense dangerous areas be enormously expensive, but also this patrolling would be ineffective because in most sections fire would consume the fire-traps sooner or later in spite of every effort. It was therefore obvious that the debris menace must be made an end of.

There were places in which the existence of debris could not be tolerated at any price, as for instance, on railway rights-of-way. He was glad to say in this connection that the lessons of 1910 had brought forth fruits, and that the railway companies during the past year had been co-operating in fire prevention in a most gratifying manner. To illustrate this, he mentioned only the \$50,000 spent in clearing up debris on the Canadian Pacific Railway between Crows Nest and Kootenay Landing. To cope with accumulations of debris which, on account of their nature or their situation, threatened life or property, the Government required the power to condemn such accumulations as public nuisances. The Government also desired to compel the immediate surroundings of mines, camps, open burners, etc., to be safely cleared of rubbish, and his honorable colleague the Minister of Public Works, would make it a feature of his good roads policy to compel road foremen to stop their highly dangerous custom of throwing debris alongside roads.

The main problem, however, was the slash from logging operations. Various other governments had already attempted to deal with this important matter. The Idaho and Oregon laws required the annual burning of logging slash; the Minnesota law gives absolute power to compel disposal of it; and this law was being vigorously enforced; New York State compelled logging; and, of course, in all timber sales in the United States national forests, an essential condition imposed upon the operator was that he should burn, pile, lop or otherwise dispose of logging slash as the forest officers direct. The recommendation of the British Columbia Forestry Commission was that all operators in this province should be required to dispose of the debris they make in a satisfactory manner.

In recent years, through the lumbermen's associations in the Western States, and through the various State governments, a strong movement had arisen in the West in favor of burning logging slash. In British Columbia also the Government had been paying for the successful destruction of many fire-trap areas, and through the efforts of its officials private owners of cut-over lands had been encouraged to consume their debris by the use of fire. Fire, that was to say fire at the right time, was now recognized as essential in many reasons for the proper reproduction of the Douglas fir. Another strong argument for the use of fire was that fire would come into a logging slash in any event, and it was better to have purposeful burning that could be supervised and controlled than accidental conflagrations such as those, for example, that swept up two important timbered valleys during this past summer and caused an expenditure between them of twelve or thirteen thousand dollars of public money. But he emphasized the fact that, generally, necessary and useful as fire is, it was not panacea suitable to the conditions of every region. There were districts in which the use of fire would be injurious to the forests; others in which its use was too dangerous; others in which

there were better methods of handling slash than by burning. Again the question of expense came in, the lumberman pointing out with obvious justice that the compulsory disposal of slash would increase the cost of logging to an extent that has not yet been ascertained, and that it would be unfair to burden him at this more or less experimental stage with what might prove an intolerable commercial handicap. Taking all these matters into account the Government had therefore taken the position that individual operators should merely be required at the direction of the Minister to isolate any particularly dangerous slashings by fire-lines, leaving the slash itself to be dealt with by the forest service at the expense of a certain fund with which he now proposed to deal.

In the Western States timber owners and lumbermen had been obliged by circumstances to protect their timber at their own expense. The organization of volunteer fire-fighting associations began in Idaho, and today there were not only four associations in that State, two in Washington, and one in Oregon, but there were also a large number of small local organizations that undertook the patrol of various timbered districts. These voluntary associations cut trails and fire-lines, installed telephone systems and established look-out stations, while maintaining a force of fire wardens to patrol their membership holdings, and to burn dangerous slashings. The expense of this work, of course, varied from year to year, but taking a general figure it might be put at \$1.2 to \$2 cents per acre per annum, although in cases it had run as high as 6 cents and even in one case 13 cents.

These unfortunate lumbermen of the States were obliged in self-protection to patrol about double the area belonging to them, since in self-protection they must safeguard the lands of stingy neighbors refusing to contribute to the association fund. About \$370,000 was spent in the Western States by the voluntary efforts of lumbermen during the past summer. In Canada the prevention of forest fires had been taken up, on a large scale, both by Ontario and Quebec, the latter province compelling limit-holders to employ a sufficient force of patrolmen at their own expense. Ten years ago the Ontario Government began a system of compelling licensees of Crown timber land to pay half the cost of fire prevention, but two years ago this system was abandoned, and licensees of that province were now required to pay the entire cost of patrol and of fire-fighting. In British Columbia lumbermen and timber holders had made no attempts to form voluntary associations. Something had to be done to protect the forests, and it had been therefore to meet an existing emergency that the Government had stepped in and equipped the patrol system all over the province at the expense of the consolidated revenue fund. In thus acting, pending its decisions as to the policy that it would ultimately adopt in fire prevention, the Government had in

view a temporary provision only; and it had now decided to require timber owners to pay half the cost of fire prevention, the other half being contributed by the consolidated revenue on behalf of Crown timber and watershed protection. One cent an acre would be levied on timber holders for the protection of their property and a trifling contribution would also be required from operators on account of the expense caused by the supervision of their operations and the great annual expense occasioned by fires arising in connection with these operations.

Although contributions to this fund from each individual owner or operator would be trifling, in bulk the fire protection fund created by these contributions, plus the Government's dollar for dollar, would represent a large sum of money—upwards of a quarter of a million dollars to begin with. This fund would be entirely separate from the provincial revenue, and the amounts required to be contributed to it would not be taxation, since they would be expended for the direct benefit of contributors. Through the powerful agency of this fund the province would be covered by a far closer network of patrols than hitherto, and, moreover, an important improvement would be made in the somewhat rudimentary system hitherto in force—namely, the mere employment of wandering patrolmen who were often flurried and when fire broke out Great stress would be laid upon permanent improvements, the forest districts would be covered by rugged and ready telephone systems as in the Western States, the patrolmen would connect with the main lines of these systems by portable light wires, and would thus be able to keep in touch with the headquarters of their districts while remaining on emergency work at the site of any fire. Trail-cutting and the construction of fire-lines and the establishment of look-out stations on higher elevations and other works of this description would, within a very short period, vastly increase the efficiency of the protective service, and he trusted that it would be possible to carry out the suggestion that had been made by an honorable member to utilize wireless telegraphy at no distant date. Prompt arrival was the secret of successful fire fighting.

It was in connection with the problem of the disposal of logging slash that the forest protection fund would prove its great utility. It would create a force of men that at the proper seasons of the year would be available for dealing with dangerous accumulations of inflammable material. Under the direction of expert forest officers, these men would be making a regular business of handling slash and the work done in this manner by professionals would be carried out with far greater safety, efficiency and economy than it could be by ordinary gangs of workmen. Another important point would be that, under the direction of technical foresters, the slash would be disposed of in the best interests of the young growth and reforestation, matters to which the ordinary operator could not be expected to devote attention. In this matter the Government was feeling its way carefully, but he was of opinion that through the forest protection fund British Columbia would be able to solve that greatest problem of all forestry, the disposal of logging slash—that problem that had baffled and was still the bugbear of both governments and operators in other regions. It would achieve this without imposing any serious burden on either the Government or the operators. Fire prevention on a small scale might often be an expensive matter, but on a large scale it could be made in time extremely cheap—by the abolition of the causes of fire. What the fund would spend in slash disposal it would in the long run save in patrol expense, and by thus diminishing the fire hazard which had dominated this province over long it would make the

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The Provincial Legislature

Further Details of the Amendments of the Land Act Regarding Forestry Scheme Are Outlined by Hon. W. R. Ross—Guarding Against Waste Due to Fires.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1912.

LEGISLATURE IN SHORT SESSION

House in Committee Completes Second Reading of Bill to Validate Revised Statutes—Marriage Laws.

LUMBERMEN SATISFIED WITH FORESTRY BILL

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 25.—Today's was the briefest and duller sitting of the legislature since it opened. The only business done was the completion of the reading in committee of the bill to validate the revised statutes. In the discussion of some of its clauses, Hon. Mr. Bower said it was his personal opinion that the province had complete jurisdiction over marriage laws, and that he believed was the general view of the other provinces. He also stated in reply to Mr. Williams that members of the legislature would be supplied each with one copy of the revised statutes and no more.

The following bills were given first reading and referred to the private bills committee: To incorporate Ryerson College, Vancouver; to validate the electric power bylaw of the City of Prince Rupert; regarding Victoria Harbor Railway Company, and bills to relieve the city and municipal corporation of Fernie respectively.

The Premier and members of the executive had a number of engagements and an early adjournment was taken.

The Premier and Sir William Mackenzie had an interview today.

The South Vancouver delegation had an interview with the executive this morning, seeking for power to compel the opening of Quebec Street through a new subdivision in that municipality. Tomorrow they will have another interview for the purpose of securing, if possible, a bill to validate earlier tax sales in the municipality.

The private bills committee will meet tomorrow morning to discuss the Vancouver and North Vancouver charter amendments, and British Columbia and Alaska Railway bill.

The lumber delegation had an interview with the government late this afternoon in reference to changes in timber legislation. Generally they expressed themselves satisfied with the bill, but suggested a few changes in detail which will be considered in committee of the whole. Pending such changes as may then be made, further discussion of the matter will be held over for a week.

It is possible that Attorney-General Bower will this session introduce legislation that will allow women duly qualified to practice at the bar of British Columbia. Following the decision of the Court of Appeal in the case of Miss French, the Attorney-General has communicated with the Bar Association for the purpose of ascertaining their views before deciding on his official course of action.

Victoria, Jan. 23.—Continuing his speech on the bill amending the Land Act, Hon. W. R. Ross said:

In particular, the efficient policy of the United States in the administration of its great national forests repaid most careful study, especially since it gave an object lesson in dealing with Western conditions. The next few years, the Minister continued, would see the forest service in process of formation, and during this period of organization it was particularly necessary to provide a strong headquarter control. Provision was therefore made in the bill for the constitution of a forest board of experts who would keep in touch with and coordinate the many different phases of the work. Composed of practical men actually engaged in the service, the board, under the direction of the minister, would carry out the vigorous policy that the Government proposed. Under it a general investigation of the timber resources of the province—both those under lease, licence, reserve or in private ownership—would be undertaken with a view to ascertaining exactly what timber the province contained. There were reasons for belief that the timber now under reserve was much greater in extent than most people thought. In connection with this investigation the Government would require all licences to be surveyed by 1913; and to facilitate and cheapen such surveys, simplified regulations had been introduced into the bill for the survey of timber lands. As the timber still unsold was ascertained, and as needed and desirable in the public interest, sales of Crown stumpage would be held.

Two facts had been kept in view in deciding upon the method of tenure: firstly, the British Columbia licence tenure was the best yet devised anywhere; secondly, uniformity of tenure throughout the province was most desirable since it avoided creating any commercial handicap between different classes of holders of Crown stumpage. Therefore all through the forest bill, every possible effort consistent with the existing rights of holders had been made to put all holders upon an equality. In accordance with this principle, all future sales would be sales of licences, and the conditions of these would vary according to circumstances. Sometimes sales would be for immediate logging, for example, to save burnt timber liable to spoil; some sales would be in the basis of bonus per thousand feet in addition to royalty, payable when the timber was cut, this being the improved Ontario method which ensures that the Government gets paid for everything standing on the land, while benefitting the purchaser, because the Government very properly assumes the fire risk. In other cases, for example, in the sale of small fractions not justifying the expense of cruising, sales might be for a lump-sum down as bonus, as in the older Dominion and Ontario methods.

Pulpwood timber would be sold under licence, a few simple modifications being made in the conditions of the licence to cover the question of the saw timber included in pulp areas. In this connection the Minister referred to the well-known fact that the United States supply of pulpwood is hopelessly insufficient for the present needs of the great Republic. Already that country imported one-quarter of the raw material for its pulp mills from Canada, and in addition Canada supplies to it over \$4,000,000 worth of manufactured pulp. Already the industry has begun a rapid growth in the West, six mills having been established in Oregon and Washington. In this movement British Columbia had not lagged behind, five mills having been already built within the province. Upon the large pulp and paper mill at Powell River \$3,000,000 had been already spent; a million and a half represented the investment at Ocean Falls; and mills had also been completed both at Swanson Bay and

Howe Sound. Small towns had been created on the mainland Coast through this new industry, and future developments in this province were most promising. The minister then referred to the report of the United States Tariff Commission, which showed that on an average the wood used in every ton of pulp cost \$5 less in Canada than in the United States, and that the 500 square miles of pulp concessions granted by former Governments of this province give the companies who hold them a strong advantage even over their Canadian competitors.

The Forestry Commission report dealt at length with the question of the saw timber included in the pulp concessions granted in 1901, and the Commission recommended that a cruise and thorough examination of these concessions be made to ascertain the facts of the situation. The Government in adopting this proposal would detail trained experts from the forest branch to study the problem where it should be studied, that was, on the ground—on the pulp leaseholds themselves. In dealing with the extremely complex situation involved by the holding of this saw timber, the Government would be guided by two principles, namely, that the good name of the province must not be smirched by any repudiation of pledges given by former governments and that at the same time the interests of the public, as owner of the timber, must be fully protected. Concerning the present rates of royalty, the Forestry Commission had made no recommendation, but widespread Press reports had given the mistaken impression that rates had been altered in the present bill so as to alter royalties according to the grade of timber. Since this report had been given currency he desired to take the opportunity of contradicting them, as well as the statement that the royalty on leaseholds had been raised to \$1.50.

To facilitate the work of reforestation the Government had adopted a policy put in practice by Ontario, the Dominion and the United States Government—namely, the power to proclaim forest reserves over lands suitable only for the growing of timber. Much land in this province was among the best in the world for this important purpose, and both to perpetuate the timber supply and to protect the watersheds, considerable areas would necessarily be held for reforestation purposes. As an example of this policy the Minister referred to the recent action of the Dominion Government in reserving the entire Eastern watershed of the Rocky Mountains. Reforestation, however, and a permanent lumbering industry alike were idle dreams unless we devised means for the control of human carelessness and the prevention of forest fires. We were faced by the appalling fact that more timber had been

destroyed by fire during the last century than the lumbermen of the continent had cut. Forest fires and the sensational advertisement they received had depressed the value of standing timber, deterred investment, and hindered the progress of the lumbering industry by adding a certain element of uncertainty to its financing. But the injuries felt today in consequence of the destruction of merchantable timber were only the more visible and immediate effects of fire; the injuries to the reproductive power of the forests were far more serious.

As an illustration of this there was the oft-quoted result of investigations conducted in the United States, which revealed the fact that over \$0,000,000 acres of cut-over lands in that country were not re-stocked, having been burned and re-burned until they had become sterile. Already in this province we had districts that were not re-stocking—wasted, desolate areas, useless for anything, as the result of repeated fires that often had been caused by an almost imbecile carelessness. He said nothing of the lives that had been

lost in various forest fires in British Columbia, the valuable timber had gone up in smoke, individuals and the loss of life. He came himself and all knew what a fire that seemed to be, had done in Fernie. Honorable members have appalling conflagrations red with death and destruction of the entire West. Disastrous year during which was poured out by the treasury alone to help bring of fires that should not have been allowed to spread.

Now the vast majority were not a phenomenon of Nature. They were caused by the creation of an agency in two very simple ways, by the cutting of timber through the felling of standing timber, and, secondly, by the careless use of fire in operations. Year after year a vast area of slash that catch fire sooner or later menace of the valuable revenue again a continuation of ways for railways, power lines, trails and fire roads, in every sort of near the woods—methods of the piling up of slash dangerous methods as a rule. It was easy to see that our forest in time would become a fire-trap, and not only a fire-trap, but a source of immense danger. Enormously expensive, but patrolling would be inefficient in most sections fire w the fire-traps sooner or of every effort. It was obvious that the debris made an end of.

There were places in which debris could not be any price, as for instance rights-of-way. He was glad this connection that the had brought forth fruits, railway companies during had been co-operating in in a most gratifying manner. He mentioned the 600 spent in clearing up Canadian Pacific Railway. Crown Nest and Kootenay cope with accumulation which, on account of the their situation, threatened party, the Government power to condemn such as public nuisances. The also desired to compel the surroundings of mines, burners, etc., to be safely rubbish, and his honor the Minister of Public Works make it a feature of his policy to compel road foremen highly dangerous custom debris alongside roads.

The main problem, how to slash from logging operations other governments had already to deal with this problem. The Idaho and Oregon laws the annual burning of the the Minnesota law gives all to compel disposal of it, was being vigorously enforced. New York State compelled loggers, in all timber sales States national forests, condition imposed upon was that he should burn, otherwise dispose of logs the forest officers direct. Recommendation of the British Forestry Commission was that in this province should dispose of the debris in a satisfactory manner.

lost in various forest fires in British Columbia, the valuable property that had gone up in smoke, the ruin of individuals and the loss to the Government. He came himself from Fernie, and all knew what a neglected forest fire that seemed to be nobody's business, had done in Fernie. Nor would honorable members have forgotten the appalling conflagrations that had scorched with death and destruction the records of the entire West in 1910—that disastrous year during which \$1,000,000 was poured out by the United States treasury alone to help in the controlling of fires that should never have been allowed to spread.

Now the vast majority of forest fires were not a phenomenon or inanimate Nature. They were caused by human agency in two very simple ways: firstly, by the creation of inflammable debris through the felling and removal of standing timber, and, secondly, by the careless use of fire in or near the forests. Year after year a great variety of operations were being conducted in timbered country. Thousands of acres had been logged over and with the removal of the merchantable timber, the land had been left covered with tree tops, limbs, shattered young growth and cut brush. Every summer this rubbish became tinder-dry and a menace not only to the debris-surrounded young growth representing the coming crop, but also to merchantable timber in every district. Imagine this process continued year after year, and it would be seen that our forest wealth would in time be represented by islands of merchantable timber surrounded by vast areas of slash that were bound to catch fire sooner or later to the great menace of the valuable remainder. Imagine again a continuation of the methods hitherto employed in cutting right-of-ways for railways, power lines, telegraph lines, trails and fumes, in making roads, in every sort of work in or near the woods—methods which allowed the piling up of slash in the most dangerous methods as a simple matter of course. It was easy to see that if this process were to continue the province in time would become one immense fire-trap, and not only would the patrolling of immense dangerous areas be enormously expensive, but also this patrolling would be ineffective because in most sections fire would consume the fire-traps sooner or later in spite of every effort. It was therefore obvious that the debris menace must be made an end of.

There were places in which the existence of debris could not be tolerated at any price, as for instance, on railway rights-of-way. He was glad to say in this connection that the lessons of 1910 had brought forth fruits, and that the railway companies during the past year had been co-operating in fire prevention in a most gratifying manner. To illustrate this, he mentioned only the \$50,000 spent in clearing up debris on the Canadian Pacific Railway between Crow's Nest and Kootenay Landing. To cope with accumulations of debris which, on account of their nature or their situation, threatened life or property, the Government required the power to condemn such accumulations as public nuisances. The Government also desired to compel the immediate surroundings of mines, camps, open burners, etc., to be safely cleared of rubbish, and his honorable colleague the Minister of Public Works, would make it a feature of his good roads policy to compel road foremen to stop their highly dangerous custom of throwing debris alongside roads.

The main problem, however, was the slash from logging operations. Various other governments had already attempted to deal with this important matter. The Idaho and Oregon laws required the annual burning of logging slash; the Minnesota law gives absolute power to compel disposal of it; and this law was being vigorously enforced; New York State compelled lopping; and, of course, in all timber sales in the United States National forests, an essential condition imposed upon the operator was that he should burn, pile, top or otherwise dispose of logging slash as the forest officers direct. The recommendation of the British Columbia Forestry Commission was that all operators in this province should be required to dispose of the debris they make in a satisfactory manner.

In recent years, through the lumbermen's associations in the Western States, and through the various State governments, a strong movement had arisen in the West in favor of burning logging slash. In British Columbia also the Government had been paying for the successful destruction of many fire-trap areas, and through the efforts of its officials private owners of cut-over lands had been encouraged to consume their debris by the use of fire. Fire, that was to say fire at the right time, was now recognized as essential in many reasons for the proper reproduction of the Douglas fir. Another strong argument for the use of fire was that fire would come into a logging slash in any event, and it was better to have purposeful burning that could be supervised and controlled than accidental conflagrations such as those, for example, that swept up two important timbered valleys during this past summer and caused an expenditure between them of twelve or thirteen thousand dollars of public money. But he emphasized the fact that, generally, necessary and useful as fire is, it was no panacea suitable to the conditions of every region. There were districts in which the use of fire would be injurious to the forests; others in which its use was too dangerous; others in which

there were better methods of handling slash than by burning. Again the question of expense came in, the lumberman pointing out with obvious justice that the compulsory disposal of slash would increase the cost of logging to an extent that has not yet been ascertained, and that it would be unfair to burden him at this more or less experimental stage with what might prove an intolerable commercial handicap. Taking all these matters into account the Government had therefore taken the position that individual operators should merely be required at the direction of the Minister to isolate any particularly dangerous slashings by fire-lines, leaving the slash itself to be dealt with by the forest service at the expense of a certain fund with which he now proposed to deal.

In the Western States timber owners and lumbermen had been obliged by circumstances to protect their timber at their own expense. The organization of volunteer fire-fighting associations began in Idaho, and today there were not only four associations in that State, two in Washington, and one in Oregon, but there were also a large number of small local organizations that undertook the patrol of various timbered districts. These voluntary associations cut trails and fire-lines, installed telephone systems and established look-out stations, while maintaining a force of fire wardens to patrol their membership holdings, and to burn dangerous slashings. The expense of this work, of course, varied from year to year, but taking a general figure it might be put at 2 1/2 to 3 cents per acre per annum, although in cases it had run as high as 6 cents and even in one case 13 cents.

These unfortunate lumbermen of the States were obliged in self-protection to patrol about double the area belonging to them, since in self-protection they must safeguard the lands of stingy neighbors refusing to contribute to the association fund. About \$270,000 was spent in the Western States by the voluntary efforts of lumbermen during the past summer. In Canada the prevention of forest fires had been taken up, on a large scale, both by Ontario and Quebec, the latter province compelling land-holders to employ a sufficient force of patrolmen at their own expense. Ten years ago the Ontario Government began a system of compelling licensees of Crown timber land to pay half the cost of fire prevention, but two years ago this system was abandoned, and licensees of that province were now required to pay the entire cost of patrol and of fire-fighting. In British Columbia lumbermen and timber holders had made no attempts to form voluntary associations. Something had to be done to protect the forests, and it had been therefore to meet an existing emergency that the Government had stepped in and equipped the patrol system all over the province at the expense of the consolidated revenue fund. In thus acting, pending its decisions as to the policy that it would ultimately adopt in fire prevention, the Government had in

view a temporary provision only; and it had now decided to require timber owners to pay half the cost of fire prevention, the other half being contributed by the consolidated revenue on behalf of Crown timber and watershed protection. One cent an acre would be levied on timber holders for the protection of their property and a trifling contribution would also be required from operators on account of the expense caused by the supervision of their operations and the great annual expense occasioned by fires arising in connection with these operations.

Although contributions to this fund from each individual owner or operator would be trifling, in bulk the fire protection fund created by these contributions, plus the Government's dollar for dollar, would represent a large sum of money—upwards of a quarter of a million dollars to begin with. This fund would be entirely separate from the provincial revenue, and the amounts required to be contributed to it would not be taxation, since they would be expended for the direct benefit of contributors. Through the powerful agency of this fund the province would be covered by a far closer network of patrols than hitherto, and, moreover, an important improvement would be made in the somewhat rudimentary system hitherto in force—namely, the mere employment of wandering patrolmen who were often hard to find when fire broke out. Great success would be laid upon permanent improvements, the forest districts would be covered by rough and ready telephone systems as in the Western States, the patrolmen would connect with the main lines of these systems by portable light wires, and would thus be able to keep in touch with the headquarters of their districts while remaining on emergency work at the site of any fire. Trail-cutting and the construction of fire-lines and the establishment of look-out stations on higher elevations and other works of this description would, within a very short period, vastly increase the efficiency of the protective service, and he trusted that it would be possible to carry out the suggestion that had been made by an honorable member to utilize wireless telegraphy at no distant date. Prompt arrival was the secret of successful fire fighting.

It was in connection with the problem of the disposal of logging slash that the forest protection fund would prove its great utility. It would create a force of men that at the proper seasons of the year would be available for dealing with dangerous accumulations of inflammable material. Under the direction of expert forest officers, these men would be making a regular business of handling slash and the work done in this manner by professionals would be carried out with far greater safety, efficiency and economy than it could be by ordinary gangs of workmen. Another important point would be that, under the direction of technical foresters, the slash would be disposed of in the best interests of the young growth and reforestation, matters to which the ordinary operator could not be expected to devote attention. In this matter the Government was feeling its way carefully, but he was of opinion that through the forest protection fund British Columbia would be able to solve that greatest problem of all forestry, the disposal of logging slash—that problem that had baffled and was still the bugbear of both governments and operators in other regions. It would achieve this without imposing any serious burden on either the Government or the operators. Fire prevention on a small scale might often be an expensive matter, but on a large scale it could be made in time extremely cheap—by the abolition of the causes of fire. What the fund would spend in slash disposal it would in the long run save in patrol expense, and by thus diminishing the fire hazard which had dominated this province over long it would make the

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task of conservation possible. He ventured to direct attention to the remarkable results that might be achieved through this fund, which, by its successful operation would place British Columbia at a bound in the front rank of the countries of the world in the matter of forest protection.

He would not upon this occasion discuss the many other provisions of the bill dealing with fire prevention. They were too numerous and he would confine himself to a brief reference to the question of railway fires. The construction and operation of railways had been for Canada in the past one of the greatest national disasters that any new country had ever had to face. Of course the railways were necessary, but the ghastly destruction of forest regions through gross carelessness was not necessary. Nowadays, he was glad to say, more enlightened men had come in to the control of the Canadian railways—men who recognized the danger to the forests that their locomotives caused, and he was glad to testify to the willing co-operation in fire-prevention that the railways of the province were now giving. So far no satisfactory means other than oil-burning, not always practicable, had been discovered, that would abolish the danger of fire from locomotives, and hence patrol after trains was essential for the protection of timbered districts. Patrol such as this should not be left to the discretion of local railway officials, but should be established by force of law. That was why the Government had had a complete inspection of provincial railways made by supervisors of the forest protection service during the past autumn, and had elaborated in detail a plan of patrol for each railway, and had followed up this by formal application to the Dominion Board at Ottawa, having jurisdiction over most of the railways of British Columbia. This application requested the board to exercise its authority and to establish these needed patrols officially and, he was happy to say, that the hearing of this application would take place during the next few weeks. In the bill the Government asked for the same powers in regard to provincial railways that the Dominion Board already possessed on railways under Federal control.

At this stage he would not enter into the many details of the drastic provisions of the Forest Bill that were designed to control the reckless use of fire by careless individuals, whether among railway men or other classes of the population that are accustomed to use fire near the forests. He would only say that every phase of the subject had been carefully provided for. The release of agricultural land from the areas held for forest purposes was, of course, an elementary duty of any government and would, of course, be dealt with by his department as a matter of routine. As for the suggested alteration of the customs tariff to encourage the utilization of low grade lumber, this did not fall within the provincial jurisdiction. Having mentioned these two matters he pointed out that every recommendation of the Forestry Commission had been dealt with either in the bill or in his foregoing remarks, and it only remained for him to express the thanks of the Government to the capable members of that commission for their painstaking, useful and masterly presentation of the forest problem as it confronted the province.

"In the framing of this Forest Bill," said the Minister, approaching his final remarks, "the Government has had

in view a sane and businesslike policy of conservation free from sentimental extravagance, and taking into account the many practical difficulties, impediments and risks the lumberman must encounter in his strenuous occupation. Nature alone places sufficient obstacles in his way, but to these the commercial conditions existing in the West at the present stage of its development have added others of a most serious kind—the curse of over-production, the spoiling of his present markets by the dumping into them at cut-throat rates of foreign surplus stocks, and the consequent hardship that this disorganization of proper trade conditions is only too apt to cause in the financing of his operations. It is plain, however, that serious as these troubles may be at the present day, they are but the transitory growing pains felt by a sound and growing industry. The gigantic task of opening an outlet for Western commerce through the Isthmus of Panama will be completed within the space of two short years. He would be a bold man, indeed, who would venture to prophesy the effects upon this province of the opening of that Canal. Upon its completion, British Columbia will be the Far West no longer; the Canal—halving the distance to Europe—will cause new currents of the world's commerce to flow to and from our Coast; and the great European markets will be brought within the sailing range of our main provincial industries. Already our harbors are under preparation for the flood of trade that will come upon us when our present inaccessibility for the trade of Europe has been removed for ever. All up and down the Pacific Coast from Prince Rupert to Vancouver, Victoria, and southward to San Diego, every port is busy building breakwaters and elevators, dredging, constructing and renovating docks and getting ready in every way for the coming trade. One hundred million dollars is in process for expenditure of the ports of the Pacific Coast. No industry, I venture to predict, will make more rapid or more solid growth in the general sunshine of prosperous development that will fall upon this province when the Canal is opened than our lumbering industry. Cheap freight rates are the essence of successful lumbering; cheap freight rates in spite of the scare concerning tolls that has been sedulously encouraged by certain interests, will be the inevitable feature of the route by Panama because the builders of that Canal have no alternative. Looking to far countries we see that the steady depreciation of the world's timber will make prominent our forest province as one of the great natural reservoirs of supplies. Looking eastward we see that this province grows the timber, the prairies grow the wheat, and that British Columbia and the great prairie provinces supply each other's vital needs in many ways besides. Directly by export trade eastward and westward, indirectly by the expansion of other industries within our provincial boundaries, by both these reasons our lumbering industry will grow and flourish.

"To honorable members of this House I desire, before closing my remarks, to make a direct personal appeal. Until lately the setting of forest fires by carelessness has too often been looked on with the indulgence that is habitually extended by many citizens to petty violations of the customs regulations. But we are beginning to make our people realize that general carelessness in the use of fire is no trifling matter that

in its consequences this bad citizenship can prove ruinous to a country depending as British Columbia is directly and indirectly on its forests for a great share of its prosperity. Hence I make my appeal to honorable members of this House to co-operate with my department in educating the public mind, and take a firmer stand in their constituencies against the reckless, careless element in the population that still exists. It is the disagreeable duty of my department to bring to punishment at times citizens who, although otherwise in good standing in the community, have not yet learned the lesson that carelessness with fire means disaster to British Columbia. When violation of the fire prevention clauses of the Forest Act occur in any constituency, I ask the honorable member who represents it in this House to take an open stand alongside the members of the forest service engaged upon their duty and neither to seek to palliate the carelessness nor shield the offender. And now, sir, I approach the end of what I have to say. We are in session here today—in ordinary session—peacefully engaged upon the accustomed duties of the year, amending and enacting laws, making our annual attempt to improve the conditions under which we and our fellow-citizens must live. We meet together in this House day after day for six or seven weeks, and legislation with most of us has grown to be a familiar and uneventful task. So pass the sessions year after year, and like the minute workers that create the coral islands of the southern ocean upon which mankind has built his habitations, so do we through our labors gradually create that massive structure of law upon which the happiness, prosperity and future of this fast growing community of the splendid West so largely depend.

"An epoch, Sir, is drawing to a close—the epoch of reckless devastation of the natural resources with which we, the people of this province, have been endowed by Providence. That rugged, rudimentary phase of pioneer activity is doomed to end. The writing is on the wall; the writing—to put the simple fact—is in this Forest Bill. Armed with that weapon, as forged by this honorable assembly, the Government of British Columbia will undertake this great work of forest conservation."

Mr. BREWSTER moved the adjournment of the debate. He asked, considering the nature of the bill, its length and importance, that it might stand over till Thursday.

The House agreed and adjournment for the day was taken.

GALLERY NOTES

A deputation from Grand Forks was introduced to Hon. Price Ellison, Minister of Finance, by Mr. Ernest Mills, M. P. P., Wednesday afternoon. They stated that the local Agricultural Association had taken over the old race-track and were fitting it up for a fair ground. This had involved considerable expense running up towards \$20,000. As it was a permanent undertaking they asked that the government might make an exception from its established rule of "contributing only to prizes by assisting them with moderate aid. The sum of \$4000 was suggested. Mr. Ellison promised to lay the matter before the Executive.

The South Vancouver delegation will take up with the government the question of the recent land tax sale decision

of the Supreme Court of Canada, as affecting that municipality. They intend to ask for a bill to validate all sales of land for taxes in the municipality in the year 1926, and during the time that the municipal council was holding its sittings in the city of Vancouver.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP PROVES.

We have no doubt that the Government and Legislature should give serious attention to the view of the Farmers' Institutes that British Columbia should have a publicly owned rural telephone system. This would involve compulsory ownership both in the city and in the country. This is the policy of the provinces nearest British Columbia. Manitoba adopted this system a few years ago, and under the telephone has been throughout the province. There is dissatisfaction over a recent increase of rates in the company system bought by Winnipeg, which has a public system. Some of the burden of the telephone, which are made as a result of the company system bought by Manitoba, is paid by the government ownership, and this has its effect on the whole, considering the service is furnished at a rate, and it would be hard on the people to return to a public system.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF TELEPHONES.

We have no doubt that the Provincial Government and Legislature will give serious attention to the view of the Farmers' Institutes that British Columbia should have a publicly owned and operated rural telephone system. In effect this would involve complete government ownership both in town and country. This is the policy of the three provinces nearest British Columbia eastward. Manitoba adopted this policy a few years ago, and under it the use of the telephone has become general throughout the province. At present there is dissatisfaction in Winnipeg over a recent increase of tolls, but there is equal reason for complaint in Vancouver, which has a private system. Winnipeg is undoubtedly asked to bear some of the burden of the country telephones, which are made as cheap as possible. Manitoba paid a large price for the company system bought out when government ownership was introduced, and this has its effect on tolls. But on the whole, considering the distances to be covered, Manitoba rural telephone service is furnished at a reasonable rate, and it would be hard to persuade the people to return to private ownership.

The Provincial Legislature

Mr. Brewster Urges the Creation of a Canadian Naval Unit on the Pacific Coast—Effect of the Opening of the Panama Canal—Bill to Revise the Statutes.

Victoria, Jan. 24.—The outstanding feature of today's sitting of the Legislature was Mr. H. C. Brewster's speech on his resolution urging the Dominion Government to create a Canadian naval unit on the Pacific Ocean. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Parker Williams, in spite of the generally expressed anti-militarism of that gentleman. Mr. Williams, however, did not attempt to speak on the resolution and the Premier moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Brewster said he had been careful to eliminate anything of a political nature from the resolution, nor had he attempted to deal with the details by which it should be brought into effect, but there were movements of great importance in the world today, which made it imperative that something should be done to defend a coastline stretching from Puget Sound to Alaska, and indented with many sounds and inlets which some future enemy might easily utilise for strategic purposes. He pointed to China now awakening from the lethargy of ages, with its hordes of half-civilised people, and to Japan held in leash by the strong hands of its rulers. One of the first things an Oriental nation did in adopting western methods was to establish an army and navy, and these two nations were already looking for some place where they could transfer the people from their overcrowded lands, and no place was so convenient as Canada. He pointed to the recent menace of war in Europe, nor did he consider that the elections just held in Germany would make for peace. "Internal turmoil is in the ascendant and it is a fact that at times in older countries wars have been started to distract attention from affairs at home."

He pointed to the great maritime commerce that the opening of the Panama Canal must bring to our shores, and said that considering the time it took to create a navy, it was none too early to begin taking measures to protect that commerce. While, as Canadians, we might quarrel about our own affairs we must stand together on questions of defence. As representatives of the Pacific Coast province he thought they were within their rights in trying to impress upon the Dominion Government the inauguration of such measures as would protect this coast. In passing the resolution he hoped they might stimulate any measure now being contemplated at Ottawa towards the creation of a naval power.

The rest of the afternoon was passed in committee on the revised statutes. Attorney-General Bowser pointed out some changes that had been made, and the revision was freely criticised by Messrs. Brewster and Williams. The Attorney-General pointed to one change in the Land Act, by which a girl over eighteen, who is supporting herself, will be allowed to take up a pre-emption. The same rule will apply to a woman deserted by her husband after he has ceased to contribute to her support for two years. He explained that in another section dealing with purchased but unpatented Crown lands, the revising commissioners, during his absence in England had changed it so that it would be impossible for a purchaser to make any bargain for the transfer of his rights before he had obtained full title. In view of conditions here he did not consider that wise and was altering it. In the School Act he pointed out that a change had been made making it mandatory on a municipal council to hand over to the school board all moneys specially assessed for school purposes. The former wording left it optional. He further stated that the English criminal laws brought into force by the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1858 were still in force where not repugnant to the criminal laws of Canada, and even they were not invalid until their repugnancy had been determined by the courts.

While the Attorney-General completed his explanation of changes in the statutes, the bill to validate them is still in committee.

In reply to questions by Mr. Brewster as to the position of the government on lands sold by auction in South Hazelton, Hon. Mr. Ross stated that the matter was being appealed, but if the decision of the Railway Commission was upheld the purchasers would be notified and their money refunded.

At the opening of the House, HON. PRICE ELLISON presented a statement of special warrants, and expenditure incurred thereon between April 1, 1911, and January 24, 1912.

MR. McKAY, chairman of the Private Bills Committee, reported that the following petitions had been compiled with standing orders: Ryerson College, City of Fernie, Corporation of Fernie, Victoria Harbor Railway, City of Prince Rupert, City of Victoria.

MR. BREWSTER asked the Minister of Railways, whether the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company had deposited their maps, plans and profiles, and whether the Minister had approved of the same. He also asked what was the maximum gradient and the maximum and minimum of curvature as shown on these plans.

HON. T. TAYLOR replied that the plans had been deposited and approved. They showed a maximum grade on the Mainland of 0.4 per cent., on Vancouver Island of 1.50 per cent. The curves were 10 degrees maximum and 4.50 minimum.

Mr. Brewster moved, seconded by Mr. Williams,—

"That whereas Canada and the mother-country are agreed that it is right and reasonable that all the partners in the Empire should contribute towards the naval defence of that Empire:

"And whereas the speedy completion of the Panama Canal must enormously increase the shipping business of this coast:

"Therefore, be it resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, respectfully requesting him to urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of taking such immediate steps as will lead to the creation of a Canadian fleet unit in the Pacific and to the establishment of a naval base on this coast with such promptitude as to make ready for the revolution in sea trade likely to be effected by the completion of the Panama Canal.

MR. BREWSTER said: "In moving the resolution before the House it is not my intention in any way to criticise or comment on the actions of any past government or political party or any authority now in power in Canada. It is my intention to bring this matter before the Legislature purely in such a manner as to point out to the Dominion authorities the necessity, from the standpoint of British Columbia, of immediate action being taken. I would not have the resolution considered as binding in any sense the Government of Canada in carrying out details. On the floor of this House we have no naval experts, and if we had it would be no place to lay down any details of policy. We are the Pacific Coast province of the great Dominion. From a naval standpoint it is unquestioned that we hold on this coast strategic points that any navy would attack if the Empire were at war, and it is our duty to consider this matter and take any action that is thought wise in maintaining for Canada a line of defence along this coast.

We have a mighty coast line, extending, as you know, from Puget Sound to Alaska, and indented with large sounds and inlets, which, in my opinion, would be more of an injury than a benefit should we wake some morning to

find that we were at war with another power, which could use these sounds and inlets as a base from which to work. As it is we would be unable to exercise any power over these sounds and inlets should an attack be made.

It is only wise in this connection that we should look at conditions as they exist in the world at the present time. One has only to look at the awakening in China to see a condition that may at no late date prove a menace to this section of the world. In the creation of a navy a considerable length of time must elapse, and this awakening of China with its multitudes of people, its hordes, if I might so call them, of uncivilised sections, which when they have thrown off the lethargy of centuries, are likely to prove a giant of such proportions as will make us realise that we have not done our duty in preparing for the contingency of war. When Oriental nations adopt western ideas, one of the first things they do is to establish an army and navy. I notice that Admiral Togo during his visit to the United States last year is reported to have said that for many centuries Japan had enjoyed the benefits of certain arts and sciences, and had shown to the world something of their ability to compete along the lines of peace, but during those centuries they were considered a heathen country. "But," he added, "when the occasion arose and we demonstrated that we could kill within a given length of time as many human beings as any other country, we were proclaimed as a civilised nation."

It is true that Japan is the ally of Great Britain, but what changes may be brought about in a short time nobody knows. Those who can read the political history of Japan can see that the nation is now being held in leash by the strong hands of those in control. These two nations, China and Japan, are already looking for some place, where they may take the people from their overcrowded lands and find another place for them, and there is no place so convenient as Canada. Therefore it behoves us to see that some action should be taken, and the details left to those who are competent to give an opinion upon it.

We have still another condition to consider. In Europe a short time ago we had a condition that menaced the peace of the world, and prominent members of the party in authority in this House, if they are to be taken seriously, gave us to believe that there was always the danger of war. I don't think that the elections, which have just been held in Germany, will make for peace. Internal turmoil seems to be in the ascendant, and it is a fact that sometimes in older countries wars have been started to distract attention from affairs at home.

There is still another feature which we cannot overlook, and which the Minister of Lands yesterday stated in such a manner as to put to the blush any attempts I may make. He spoke of the benefits to be expected from the completion of the Panama Canal, and as we have the added necessity of preparing now for the great business or trade we must be prepared to expect with the opening of the canal. We should prepare, and now is the time, for such a fleet unit of the Pacific Coast as will protect that trade and shipping when it comes. When the length of time required to create a naval base is considered we will not have a moment to spare, and while Canadians may quarrel among themselves about their own affairs, we must stand together on the question of defences. For that reason I have eliminated anything of a political character in moving this resolution, the idea being that we should, as the maritime province of the Pacific Coast, and as its representatives in this House, have the right to impress on the Dominion Government, the necessity for the inauguration of such measures as will protect this coast not only for our own immediate benefit, but for the good of the Empire; and I say for the promotion of peace between Britain and Germany or any other country, there can be no more helpful assistance than the sight of the generous support which the daughter nations are ready to give to that Empire. And in passing this resolution I hope we may stimulate any measure now being contemplated at Ottawa for the creation of a naval power, so that if Canada should be attacked, we as Canadians shall be in a proper position to do as we should do, and stand up and fight for our great Empire." (Applause.)

HON. R. McBRIDE said that it appeared that some mistake had been made in connection with the Orders of the Day. This resolution was entirely new matter and should have been on the Votes and Proceedings of the previous day, and then it could have taken its place on tomorrow's Orders or Friday's. He was not in a position to discuss the matter at the time, and he merely mentioned this to avoid the recurrence of similar errors in future.

MR. BREWSTER said he had filed it on Friday night, and it was on the Votes and Proceedings yesterday.

The PREMIER stated that even so, the rules required two days' notice. He simply wished to keep this before the House. He moved the adjournment of the debate.

Revised Statutes.

The House went into committee for discussion on the Revised Statutes. In explaining some changes in the Municipal Act, Hon. Mr. Bowser said that a year ago he had promised to put in the Act a clause that would enable municipalities to place bylaws before the people for waterworks and sewerage, without the previous petitions signed by owners of 50 per cent. of the property, which the present law required. By some mistake this had been omitted, but he had told the municipalities affected to go ahead with their bylaws and he would introduce a bill to validate them. This he would do in a few days. The municipalities particularly affected were Point Grey, South Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond and Saanich.

Mr. Williams said they had asked for a printed statement of changes in the Revised Statutes and it had been supplied them, but this was not in the statement.

Hon. Mr. Bowser said it was hard to satisfy the member for Newcastle. He asked for a statement and it had been given him, and because he was giving still a little more information he got into trouble.

Mr. Williams: "That justifies our course. By complaining we extracted this report, and by the same process we may extract a little more from the Attorney-General. I must admit that anything is right that is done in this House because of the Government's big majority, and I am always ready to submit to that majority, because I cannot do anything else." (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Bowser next explained some changes in the Land Act. One of these provided that a girl over 18 who was supporting herself, should be allowed to take up a pre-emption, and a deserted wife, whose husband had not contributed to her support for two years, would have the same privilege.

Hon. Mr. Bowser said also there was a provision that a pre-emptor could not dispose of any rights in his land before he obtained his title. During his absence in England, the revising commissioners had applied this principle to all lands acquired under purchase or otherwise. He considered that this would have the effect of keeping out of the country many persons it was desirous to have here, so he had altered it and left it as it was before.

Mr. Williams said that for once he agreed with the commissioners. "If this happened while the Attorney-General was in England," he added, "many people in this province would consider it a benefit if he remained in England all the time." (Laughter.)

The Attorney-General next explained that "may" had been changed to "shall" in a section of the School Act, so that it would compel a municipal council to hand over to the School Board all money raised under special school assessment. Under the old wording this had been left optional.

Mr. Williams and the Attorney-General got into a discussion as to whether the English laws brought into force by the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1858 were still in force in this province. The Attorney-General explained that the criminal laws were in force where they were not repugnant to existing laws of the Dominion. A change was being made to make this clear in this revision though it was omitted by Chief Justice Davis in the revision of 1897. The province had no power to leave these out, though civil laws came within their jurisdiction.

The explanations of the revision were completed when the committee rose.

Revision of the Statutes.

Victoria, January 25.—Today's was the briefest and dulliest sitting of the Legislature since it opened. The only business done was the completion of the reading in committee of the bill to validate the Revised Statutes. In the discussion of some of its clauses Hon. Mr. Bowser said that it was his personal opinion that the province had complete jurisdiction over marriage laws, and that, he believed, was the general view of the other provinces. He also stated, in reply to Mr. Williams, that members of the Legislature would be supplied each with one copy of the Revised Statutes and no more.

The following bills were given first reading and referred to the Private Bills committee: To incorporate Rye-son College, Vancouver; to validate the electric power bylaw of the City of Prince Rupert; regarding Victoria Harbor Railway Company; and bills to relieve the city and municipal corporations of Fernie respectively.

The Premier and members of the Executive had a number of engagements and an early adjournment was taken.

At the opening of the House Mr. Williams announced that he would withdraw his resolution calling on the government to take action to compel the Canadian Northern Railway Company to comply with their agreement with the government in respect to the wages of workmen. He wishes to amend it and bring it in in another form.

The House went into committee of the whole on the bill to validate the Revised Statutes, Mr. Manson (Skeena) in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Bowser explained that the revising commissioners had made a change in the Inheritance Act, which would deprive a widow, whose husband had died intestate, of a third part of the husband's estate as the law formerly provided. He had restored this to its original state.

Mr. Brewster asked in connection with this matter, whether it was the intention of the Attorney-General to re-introduce the Dower Act, which he had brought in last session, but which had been too late to get through the House and receive the Lieutenant-Governor's assent.

Hon. Mr. Bowser replied that it was not his intention. Last year there had been great opposition to the bill, and some of the ablest members of the House had opposed it. As it was a bill that worked very radical changes in the disposition of family estates he did not propose to bring it in again under the circumstances.

Mr. Williams said that the journals of the House showed that last session the bill had passed second reading without a division, so where was the opposition?

Hon. Mr. Bowser said there must have been some mistake, as there was a great deal of discussion on both sides of the House. The bill had been strongly opposed and there must have been a division. In addition to all that, while he had introduced the bill last year, since that time a great many things against it had been pointed out to him that did not suggest themselves then.

Mr. Brewster said that the bill before them was supposed to repeal all previous revisions, yet the Attorney-General had told them only yesterday that they had no power to repeal the English criminal laws proclaimed by Sir James Douglas before Confederation.

Hon. Mr. Bowser replied that the Legislature could not repeal Acts that it had no power over, but it could repeal those within its jurisdiction, and of course this was all the bill did.

Mr. Brewster asked whether the province had jurisdiction over the marriage laws for instance.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: "It is my personal opinion that the provinces have complete jurisdiction over the marriage laws, and that, I believe, is the opinion

generally held by the Dominion."

Mr. Williams wished the members would copy the statute when they were given.

Hon. Mr. Bowser mentioned this time to one each. "You know," he said, "there was a number to distribute they had to send copies in the Dominion judges and courts, as well as make."

Mr. Williams said he might do a good secondhand store that it always follows.

Hon. Mr. Bowser said that the gifts of friends known as personal that others would not row and keep their names of the merit of their copies.

The bill was reported amendments.

The following produced, read a first to the Private Bills Incorporation of J. Watson.

To validate spectra of Prince Rupert; Mr. Respecting Victoria Mr. McKay.

To relieve the municipalities of Fernie, and to Fernie; Mr. Miller.

GALLERY

Accompanying them now in the capital, the Mountain Lumber consisting of F. W. Dent, E. S. Howe, Anderson and other gentlemen in Government presence passed at the recent session. Most of them rather than P. those discussed de- tion of forests as with the desirable government, teleph province. They all the great damage Columbia interests of certain subsidia buying lumber and the American mar- was of opinion that support home ind their supplies, so f the Dominion. T minor changes in t but otherwise exp generally satisfied conference will be after the bill has mittee of the whol

A delegation fr Hon. Thos. Taylor Works, to oppose possible suggestive bridge that it in p the Columbia Riv vent arm of Kootz shirts of Nelson. tion of a bridge b ly by a strong de of Nelson.

generally held by the other provinces of the Dominion.

Mr. Williams wished to know whether the members would be given as many copies of the statutes as formerly, when they were given four each.

Hon. Mr. Bowser said it was the intention this time to restrict them to one each. "You know," he said with a smile, "there was an idea that some of the members were selling their copies before." He added that they had a large number to distribute free. For example they had to send copies to all law libraries in the Dominion for exchange, and judges and courts must also be supplied as well as many others.

Mr. Williams said that while members might do a good trade in selling to secondhand stores, he did not think that it always followed.

Hon. Mr. Bowser stated that in order that the gifts of free copies might be known as personal to the members so that others would not be likely to borrow and keep them, he had had the names of the members printed on each of their copies.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

The following private bills were introduced, read a first time, and referred to the Private Bills Committee:

Incorporation of Ryerson College, Mr. Watson.

To validate special bylaws of the City of Prince Rupert; Mr. Manson (Skeena.) Respecting Victoria Harbor Railway; Mr. McKay.

To relieve the municipal corporation of Fernie, and to relieve the City of Fernie; Mr. Miller.

GALLERY NOTES

Accompanying the Coast lumbermen now in the capital is a deputation from the Mountain Lumbermen's Association, consisting of F. W. Adolph, vice-president; E. S. Howe, A. E. Watts, D. O. Anderson and others, and this afternoon these gentlemen in conference with the Government presented the resolution passed at the recent meeting of the association. Most of them were of Dominion rather than Provincial import, but those discussed dealt with the protection of forests against fire, and also with the desirability of establishing government telephone services in this province. They also called attention to the great damage being done to British Columbia interests through the policy of certain subsidised corporations in buying lumber and other supplies from the American market. The association was of opinion that the railways should support home industry by buying all their supplies, so far as possible within the Dominion. They suggested a few minor changes in the new Forestry bill, but otherwise expressed themselves as generally satisfied with it. Another conference will be held in about a week after the bill has been before the committee of the whole House.

A delegation from Trail waited on Hon. Thos. Taylor, Minister of Public Works, to oppose at the outset any possible suggestion of removing the bridge that it is proposed to build over the Columbia River near Trail, to the west arm of Kootenay Lake on the outskirts of Nelson, where the construction of a bridge has been urged recently by a strong deputation from the city of Nelson.

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The Provincial Legislature

Bill to Validate Vancouver Elections Passed — Agreement With City of Prince Rupert Given Second Reading—Work of the Past Week.

Victoria, Jan. 26.—For the second time since the opening of the session Lieutenant-Governor Paterson came down to the Legislature this afternoon and gave his assent to a bill on the same date that it had passed third reading. Both were validation Acts. A little over a week ago it was the bill to validate the elections in Ward VII and VIII, Vancouver. Yesterday it was the bill to validate the revised statutes, so that the state would be clear for future legislation.

The only other business done was the second reading of an act to ratify an agreement between the Provincial Government, the city of Prince Rupert, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company and the Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company. The Premier in moving the second reading stated that it had been finally agreed that the railway company should pay to the city \$15,000 a year in taxation on its lands, and in return for this concession they must immediately start the construction of terminals, shops and warehouses. Furthermore they had agreed to grant to the city waterfront which could be used for the disposal of garbage, and the city would also be given entire control of fractions of lands left out from streets and blocks in the townsite survey, and these they could utilize for municipal buildings, warehouses, etc. In his speech the Premier drew a glowing picture of what had already been achieved in the city of Prince Rupert, and what were its prospects for future development. He considered that it fully justified the bargain made by the Government with the railway company a few years ago, and which had been severely criticised by the Liberals at that time, since the Government already owned in the townsite property valued at thirteen million dollars, which several years ago was not worth thirteen cents.

Mr. Manson (Skeena) said it was the strong desire of the people of Prince Rupert that the bill should pass, in order that the city might go on with its development for which they had already assumed obligations in the neighborhood of \$1,370,000. At the same time they had a total assessment of \$14,000,000, and stood in splendid credit on the money markets of the world.

Mr. Williams criticised the bill as giving the railway company altogether too low a taxation, since if the Government property of one-fourth was worth \$12,000,000, then the railway company's property being three times as much must be worth \$39,000,000. It was not remarkable that the people of Prince Rupert had passed it, since if anyone put a gun in your face and told you to hold up your hands you were likely to yield.

The bill passed second reading without division.

At the opening of the House the ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the adoption of the report on a bill respecting the Revised Statutes. By consent of the House it was also given third reading, and before the House closed, the Lieutenant-Governor came in without ceremony, and gave it his assent.

HON. R. McBRIDE moved the second reading of an Act to ratify an agreement bearing date the eight day of June, 1911, between His Majesty, the King in the sight of the Province of British Columbia, the city of Prince

Rupert, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and the Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company. In opening the Premier stated that the city of Prince Rupert was now some four years old and in that time had grown into a community of some consequence. It claimed today a population of upwards of 6,000. It had civic improvements running into hundreds of thousands of dollars in value, and residential and business property that would aggregate several millions. With the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in a short time there could be no doubt that the development of the country surrounding Prince Rupert would justify a city of 100,000 people or more. In addition to the large tracts of agricultural and mineral land tributary to Prince Rupert, there were the fisheries that were without doubt the largest in the world, and deep water fishing in British Columbia was still in its primitive stage. For years past the province had seen the development of its river fisheries and inlets, but they had now before them projects for the development of the deep sea fisheries that would call for the expenditure of millions of dollars. Sir George Doughty, who had large fishery interests at Grimsby, was here a few months ago, and he was now behind a project for the development of the northern fisheries that would call for the expenditure of large sums, and he had the assurance of Sir George that they would employ only white labor. At present it was an unfortunate thing to find that aliens for the most part had to do with the fishing along our seacoast. If this company proceeded with its enterprise as they had proposed, it would, he was sure, have the hearty co-operation of the people of this country, and if necessary the Government would assist them with any legislation that they might need.

The Premier next paid a tribute to the pioneers who had left established homes in the Kootenay and the southern part of the province to help to build up this northern city. Not many months ago he had visited the city and was struck by the evidences of prosperity on every side. The townsite was ideal and the harbor could not be excelled, but it was evident that in laying down streets, sewers and other conveniences where there were many hills and ravines, the corporation was going to have difficulty for many years in finding money to develop it adequately. At the same time one must be impressed by the businesslike way in which they had gone about it. There could be no doubt that as population increased, and if it would increase rapidly, additional expensive civic works would have to be undertaken. The Government recognized this and had not spared themselves in giving substantial aid to the municipal authorities. "Here today," he said, "we are asked to ratify an agreement of which the Government, the city, the railway company and the townsite company are part, and which provides that the Grand Trunk Pacific, in exchange for certain works to be presently undertaken and scattered interests in small fractions of land, is released from the payment of municipal taxes other than local improvement on the payment to the city each year of \$15,000. When the first agreement with the Grand Trunk Pacific Company was placed before this Legislature some years ago there was a

provision exempting them from the payment of taxes to the Government, but exemption by the municipality was not considered. We felt that when a municipality was created that the railway would be dealt with in a reasonable manner. A short time ago the question came up when it was found on assessment that the Grand Trunk Pacific would be compelled to pay to the city of Prince Rupert five times more than it paid to the city of Montreal. The Grand Trunk Pacific protested, and the result brought about the agreement before the House this afternoon, one which guarantees the construction of certain terminals in the town and a large expenditure of money by the railway company. It must not be thought that in the agreement between the Government and the railway company we were not careful to have the exact location of those terminals specified, but it would have been hard to say, "Because we have obliged you to place your terminals in a certain place you must commence construction forthwith." This agreement before us has created a very pleasing situation. So far as I can learn, differences have been settled in a friendly way, and there is a disposition to work together between the city and the railway company. Such an agreement must redound to the prosperity of the city. This agreement is not one that presents much difficulty in the way of grasping its different features. The principal matter with which the Government is concerned is that which involves the ceding of certain fractions of the townsite to the city. In surveying the townsite certain fragments of land were left, and the landscape architects were of opinion that these should be given to the city as parks. Even if the Government had been so disposed it would have been difficult to have withheld our quarter interest from these fractional sections. In this respect we have joined with the railway company in the transfer of certain portions of this land on which the city intends to erect municipal buildings and firehalls.

"There is another item with which the Government is concerned, that is in connection with some waterfrontage. In the development of the city it was found that some waterfront must be left which the city could use in sending its garbage out to sea. This the agreement has provided for. The agreement also points out that the company must build an hotel at once, and no doubt they will build one that will be creditable to the city, so that even in advance of the completion of the road, the company must spend millions of dollars in the city. All this is bound to bring to the city of Prince Rupert an added confidence that will have a marked effect on its financial conditions.

"It may be of interest to advise the House that so far as I have been able to ascertain the values that today may be reasonably placed upon Government holdings in the city of Prince Rupert are in the neighborhood of \$12,000,000. I remember that a few years ago the Government was held up to severe criticism because we had entered into a bargain that meant for a certainty the location of the Grand Trunk Pacific terminals on government property. It is a matter of some gratification to know that notwithstanding the questions then raised and the criticism indulged in we can today claim a value of \$12,000,000 where several years ago we could not have claimed 13 cents. Of course this is the property of the Government, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that its value has been enhanced by the development of the city of Prince Rupert, and it must be our duty in view of this to exercise a marked generosity towards that northern terminus. Our work must not only provide for today, but must also antici-

peate the future that lies before part of British Columbia." (Appl.) MR. MANSON (Skeena) said agreement was brought to an issue because of the dispute that had arisen the city of Prince Rupert over the location of the railway lands. After incorporation, made an assessment that was not unreasonable, but in view of the fact that some concession to railway company with its large holdings, was only reasonable, negotiations went on for some time between the city and the railway company, and it appeared at one time as if they would be unable to reach a satisfactory conclusion, though finally with the assistance of the government they arrived at the agreement before the House. In addition to ground that they needed for cemetery park sites, reservoir and municipal buildings, they needed waterfront as their method of disposing of garbage was to send it out to sea on scows. For this purpose they needed a wharf of their own and some waterfront to build it on. This the agreement provided for. On account of its one-fourth interest it was necessary for the Government to be joined in the agreement.

The city had been progressing rapidly and for this reason it had been necessary to incur heavy expenditure to put it on a satisfactory footing. On streets, sewers, waterworks, and a public lighting and telephone system they had assumed obligations in the neighborhood of \$1,370,000. So far as the city was concerned they had had no difficulty in securing financial assistance. The Bank of Montreal had dealt very liberally with them, and their action had given the city splendid standing in the money markets of the world. The assessed values of the city today amounted to about \$14,000,000, and now its difficulties with the G.T.P. were being adjusted, its credit would stand high indeed. There was a rumor at one time that unless this agreement was carried through the G. T. P. would remove its terminals from the townsite, but those who understood the conditions knew that this was impossible. At the same time this agreement providing for the immediate establishment of an hotel and the building of a drydock was a matter of such importance to the city, that considered with other things mentioned, the matter of a few thousands of dollars in taxation was one which the people of Prince Rupert would not bother about.

The agreement had been submitted to the people and was carried by a vote of 440 to 44, showing that the people were practically unanimous on it. It had been a matter of great satisfaction to have had all the way through these negotiations, the assistance of both parties had been able to come together and the negotiations were carried on in an amicable and satisfactory spirit. He also wished to thank the Government for stanting its lands to the city. It showed that they were prepared to deal generously with Prince Rupert. The actual assessment on Government lands within the city showed that the Government had a splendid asset in and around the city of Prince Rupert, and it showed also that they made a good bargain in 1906 when the terminals was arranged for at that point.

MR. WILLIAMS said that he could well understand that a large city must arise at Prince Rupert, because the development of the country along the Pacific Coast did not lend itself to the foundation of many cities. Owing to the manner in which the valleys were cut through the mountains, the number of townsites on the Coast must be limited. The Premier's references to the development of the fisheries and the employment of white labor digressed a

Continued on Page 9.

little from the bill. That certain interest in the fisheries surance that white employed. To his insurance in this connection and unless the bill were enacted they would employ white labor.

In connection with self it was rather bill of this kind brought here was a city government land complications that grew up it were. Notwithstanding this city had only two or three years, going back to the relief. The bill had been styled 'A Bill of Prince Rupert.' The Government made which the Grand Trunk erect certain buildings and now here was same effect, showing effectiveness in the it seemed to him the Pacific was getting cheaply in the way, Premier had said the holdings in Prince \$13,000,000. They the townsite and the three-quarters, so owned three times as erment their property \$39,000,000. It sh position the city it accepted a taxati on \$39,000,000. It bill had been endorsed Prince Rupert. We complied with another when he placed a told him to hold show that it was garded he might gentleman who Rupert in the House mayor of the city, favor of this agreement lessly repudiated Prince Rupert only

MR. MANSON.
MR. WILLIAMS was entitled to do but it was never candidate for the Rupert had received was badly defeated useless for him to he hoped that his regarded as an end out division.
The bill passed.
Mr. Thomson enable the city of tain inscribed stop of maturity.

WORK OF

The past week has been one of delegation. Deputations have swarmed there have clustered the doors of the ministry year they have vision from the past, in sufficient time requests crystallised full treasury draught pot draws files, and be struck no doubt carrying back a bill.

There were also complain or suggester might be nun from Burrard Inlet sections who came part of the week in timber legislation. W. R. Ross' new attitude was advising, and it Government may some of the mind suggested.

little from the bill. He had intimated that certain interests coming in to exploit the fisheries had given the assurance that white labor only would be employed. To his mind corporation assurances in this connection were worthless and unless the Premier was prepared to enact legislation to compel them to employ white labor, the assurance would prove a most flimsy one.

In connection with Prince Rupert itself it was rather surprising to see a bill of this kind brought down so soon. Here was a city that had started on government land without any of the complications that must be faced by cities that grew up of themselves as it were. Notwithstanding this, after this city had only been in existence for two or three years, they found it coming back to the House virtually to seek relief. The bill indeed should have been styled 'A bill to relieve the city of Prince Rupert.' A few years ago the Government made an agreement by which the Grand Trunk Pacific was to erect certain buildings at Prince Rupert, and now here was another bill to the same effect, showing that there was no effectiveness in the first bargain. Again it seemed to him that the Grand Trunk Pacific was getting off altogether too cheaply in the way of taxation. The Premier had said that the Government's holdings in Prince Rupert were worth \$13,000,000. They owned a quarter of the townsite and the G. T. P. the other three-quarters, so since the G. T. P. owned three times as much as the Government their property should be worth \$39,000,000. It showed the helpless position the city was placed in when it accepted a taxation of \$15,000 a year on \$39,000,000. It was claimed that the bill had been endorsed by the people of Prince Rupert. Well a man sometimes complied with another man's demand when he placed a gun at his head and told him to hold up his hands. To show that it was not so favorably regarded he might remark that the gentleman who represented Prince Rupert in the House, who was a former mayor of the city, and had spoken in favor of this agreement, had been hopelessly repudiated by the people of Prince Rupert only a few weeks ago.

MR. MANSON. "That is incorrect."
MR. WILLIAMS said the gentleman was entitled to deny it if he wished, but it was nevertheless true that his candidate for the mayoralty of Prince Rupert had received very few votes and was badly defeated. While it would be useless for him to vote against the bill, he hoped that his action would not be regarded as an endorsement.

The bill passed second reading without division.

Mr. Thomson introduced a bill to enable the city of Victoria to issue certain inscribed stock at a fixed period of maturity.

WORK OF THE WEEK

The past week in the Legislature has been one of delegation rather than legislation. Deputation after deputation has swarmed through the lobbies or have clustered like bees outside the doors of the ministers' offices. This year they have evidently learned a lesson from the past, and have come down in sufficient time to have their requests crystallized in the estimates. A full treasury draws them as a honey-pot draws flies, and while a few may be struck no doubt many will succeed in carrying back a little honey.

There were also those who come to complain or suggest, and among the latter might be numbered the lumbermen from Burrard Inlet and the mountain sections who came down in the latter part of the week to discuss the changes in timber legislation proposed in Hon. W. R. Ross' new Forestry Act. Their attitude was advisory rather than complaining, and it is possible that the Government may incorporate in the bill some of the minor changes they have suggested.

Among other visitors to the capital was Sir William Mackenzie, president of the Canadian Northern Railway Company. Sir William was affably enigmatic, and when interviewed showed himself inclined rather to be reminiscent than prophetic. He would tell of something already accomplished, but when the future was mentioned the curtain closed down and he did not know. He had a number of interviews with the Premier behind closed doors, and possibly their effect will be seen when the Government's railway policy is brought down.

The City of Vancouver has been taught again that in legislative, as in many other matters, the chain is no stronger than its weakest link. Because one of its numerous charter amendments appeared in the "Provincial Gazette" two days behind the time specified for closing advertisements it is ordained that the city must pay \$600 instead of \$300. Everything else was in apple-pie order. Whether the anxiety of the City Council to appropriate the power of the Licensing Board over licences for cafes will be worth the extra money remains to be seen.

Owing to these numerous other engagements legislation has not proceeded far during the week, but in the arena of speech there was the one largely luminous effort. This was the speech of Hon. W. R. Ross on the second reading of the Forest Act. A more lucid exposition of a big subject, or a better marshalled array of facts has seldom been heard on the floor of the House. The whole subject of forestry was analysed and its history in this province epitomized in the course of a two-hour speech, while at the same time he gave convincing reasons for the necessity of the legislation before the House. He dealt not only with forestry in a general way, but went down into minute details such as the disposal of log slash and the establishment of fire patrols behind locomotives. So far the debate has not been resumed, and it will be interesting to hear what Mr. Brewster has to say when he takes up the subject during the coming week. It is the big bill of the session up to date.

A great deal of the time of the week has been occupied by the bill to validate the revised statutes, which received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor on Friday afternoon. The Attorney-General had to explain a number of changes made by the revising commissioners, and these were freely criticised by Messrs. Brewster and Williams, but there was in them nothing of striking importance. While the bill remained on the order paper it was a boulder in the pathway of other legislation. Now that it is disposed of the other work before the House should proceed more speedily.

One notable event of the week was the appearance of the report of the Royal Commission on Taxation. The splendid arrangement of this report was a credit to the Commissioners and their

able secretary, Dr. Gray. The sweeping changes in taxation that it proposes have already been referred to, but whether they will be embodied in legislation this session is still uncertain.

On Thursday last Mr. Brewster in an able speech moved his resolution favoring the creation of a Canadian naval unit on the Pacific Ocean. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, but it is understood that this was only an act of courtesy on his part to enable his fellow Oppositionist to get the matter before the House. It is quite probable that Mr. Brewster in the near future may do the same service for some Socialist motion of Mr. Williams in which he has as little faith, as the latter generally seems to express in military or naval matters. It is understood that the Government will move an amendment to the motion to the effect that as the Dominion Government is now conferring with the Imperial authorities on naval matters, should any action be taken as an outcome, the House will strongly urge upon them the necessity for strong defences along the Pacific Coast.

As two bills have been already wiped off the slate, only three remain at present before the House, namely, the Forestry Act, an amendment to the Hospitals for Insane Act and the Prince Rupert Agreement Bill, which has already passed second reading. But doubtless a number of Government measures will be introduced during the coming week.

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Tuesday, January 30th 1912

MOVED VOTE OF CENSURE

Mr. Parker Williams Alleges
Government Failed to Make
C. N. R. Pay Proper Wages
to Laborers.

NEWCASTLE'S MEMBER PLAYS TO GRANDSTAND

Vancouver and Lumbermen's
Delegations Wait Upon Ex-
ecutive—Caucus of Con-
servative Members Is Held.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 29. — This afternoon Mr. Parker Williams moved a vote of censure on the government for its alleged failure to make the Canadian Northern Railway Company pay the same rate of wages as were paid for similar labor in the districts where the work was being done. He stated that laborers for the Canadian Northern contractors in Esquimalt district were being paid only \$2.25 a day, where men working for the government in the municipality were paid \$2.50 and \$2.75 a day. In support of this he produced affidavits signed by workmen employed by C. N. R. contractors to show that they were only receiving \$2.35 a day. He also stated that he had sent men to employment offices in Victoria to apply for work on that road and the highest the common laborer was offered was \$2.25.

Hon. Thomas Taylor, minister of railways, said he had heard no complaints or he would have had the matter investigated and remedied. As it was he would take the matter up at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Brewster seconded Mr. Williams' motion, saying that this was no new matter, as he had brought similar things to the attention of the Government in the past and they had paid no attention.

The Premier said that the member for Newcastle, in introducing the resolution, was only indulging in a bit of grandstand play. The work on the Canadian Northern had now been going on for a twelvemonth and this was the first complaint they had heard about wages. If his friend, who would make people believe that he lay awake at night weeping for the poor workingmen, was really sincere in this matter he should have written to the department long ago, and if there were anything wrong it would have been investigated and remedied. It was a matter of extreme gratification to the Government to state that while this work was proceeding in every part of the province during the past year, they had not before heard a single complaint. The Canadian Northern was fulfilling its contract in every way, and would have its trains running to the Pacific within two more years.

Mr. Williams retorted that he would as soon think of being overfair to the Government as to a rattiesnake, but in this instance he had if anything been overfair, since he had first mentioned the matter in his speech during the debate on the address, and had subsequently brought it up by questions on the order paper, but the Government had paid no attention to it. If anyone had been indulging in stageplay, it was the Premier and not himself.

The motion was voted down, only Messrs Brewster and Williams supporting it. Mr. Williams asked for a record of names, but the speaker told him that the rules of the House required that three members must ask for these before they could be recorded.

Mr. Tisdall moved the first reading of the Vancouver Charter Amendments Bill, which was referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Mr. Shaw introduced a petition for the incorporation of the city of Salmon Army.

Hon. Mr. Bowser introduced bills to amend the Municipal Incorporation Act and the Inheritance Act. The former gives the Government power to vary or reduce the limits of a municipality on incorporation as they may deem expedient, and that in so doing they may impose such conditions as they think proper. The amendment to the Inheritance Act simply nullifies a change made by the revising committee and restores it to its original state.

The Vancouver civic delegation had a long interview with the Government this morning on the question of tram franchise in Hastings Townsite and D. L. 301, on the granting of a site in Hastings for an old people's home, and on appropriations for a bridge on Renfrew Street and the improvement of Westminster Road. The Government appeared to be inclined to regard favorably the proposal that they should sell 18 1-2 acres in Hastings Townsite as the site for an Old People's Home at \$2900 an acre and also that appropriations should be made for the other matters mentioned. The question of the curtailment of tram franchises they promised to consider.

Deputations from the Vancouver Exhibition, the Horse Show Association also waited on the Government with requests for grants. They were promised that these matters would be taken up in framing the estimates.

A delegation of lumbermen also consulted with the Government on the proposed changes in forestry legislation. At the close of the afternoon's sitting a Government caucus was held and this evening the ministers are attending the annual banquet of the Press Gallery.

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The Provincial Legislature

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Mr. Parker Williams Complains That the Canadian Northern Railway Are Not Paying Proper Wages—Matter Will Be Investigated Without Delay.

HOUSE DEBATES

NAVAL PROBLEM

Whole Session is Devoted to a Discussion of Mr. Brewster's Resolution and the Premier's Amendment.

URGE ADEQUATE DEFENCE FOR PACIFIC COAST

Prime Minister's Amendment Will Be Redrafted and Moved at Latter Date by Opposition Leader.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Victoria, Jan. 30. — The time of the House this afternoon was occupied almost entirely by the debate on Mr. Brewster's naval resolution, and Premier McBride's amendment. The amendment was to the effect that since the Imperial and naval authorities are now conferring on the question of Imperial defence, in any action that should be taken as a result of that conference the Dominion authorities be strongly urged to provide adequate defences on the Pacific.

The Premier in his opening remarks said that the position of Mr. Brewster seemed to indicate a change of front on his part on the naval question, and he particularly complimented Mr. Williams, the seconder, for his new point of view in these matters. That gentleman in the past had even opposed a vote of a few hundred dollars for the militia of the province, and it was gratifying to think that he would soon take his place as a leading champion of military defence. Dealing with the resolution itself, he pointed out that the provisions for defence made by the Laurier government were ridiculously inadequate. They had purchased the Rainbow after it had been discarded by the British Admiralty, and surely what was not good enough for the British navy was not good enough for Canada.

The Conservatives had all along pointed out the fatuity of such a course of defence, and now that their party was in power at Ottawa Mr. Hazen was about to proceed to London to confer with the Admiralty authorities as to the best methods of Imperial defence. From his (the Premier's) knowledge of Mr. Winston Churchill, he was sure that Mr. Hazen would receive courteous and reasonable treatment, and if any joint action were possible between the two governments, it would certainly be taken. They could confidently await the outcome of that conference, and in the meantime any resolution from the legislature suggesting any line of action beyond a general one was premature. He was anxious to have the matter taken out of politics and asked Mr. Brewster to withdraw his resolution and second the amendment instead.

Mr. Brewster said the Premier could never get away from party politics in spite of his protestations, and his views now were quite different than when his own party was not in power at Ottawa, and he had wanted a navy at once. However, to show he was sincere in his desire to have the matter taken out of politics, he would, if the Premier agreed, move the amendment that had been suggested and the Premier might second it.

The Premier said that he had no wish to take any credit from the gentleman opposite and acceded to the suggestion.

Mr. Williams explained his position in seconding the resolution. He said that

both the Premier and the press of the country seemed to have misunderstood him. The rules of the House required that no motion could be brought before it without a mover and seconder. This meant that neither he nor the member for Alberni could get their motions before the House, without each seconding the others. For this reason, he had quite willingly seconded the resolution, though personally he was strongly opposed to any military or naval movement whatever. He stood by the Socialist movement which made for peace.

Hon. Mr. McPhillips spoke in reply to Mr. Williams. After discussing the naval problem in general, he concluded by saying that the Socialist movement instead of making for peace, made only for disorder and unrest.

On the suggestion of the Premier, his amendment is to be redrawn as an original resolution, which Mr. Brewster will move and he will second at some future date, and in the meantime the present resolution and amendment will be withdrawn from the order paper.

The only other business before the House was the consideration in committee of the bill to validate an agreement between the city of Prince Rupert and the Grand Trunk Pacific Company.

A committee of locomotive engineers consisting of Messrs. R. Mee and Matt Crawford of Vancouver, and G. W. Johnson of Cranbrook waited on Hon. Thomas Taylor, Minister of Railways, this morning, with a request that the rules prevailing on railways in British Columbia be standardized to conform with those in vogue over the rest of the American continent. At present there are a number of minor differences. Hon. Mr. Taylor promised that the request would be met as soon as possible.

Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite has returned from England and is expected to be in his seat tomorrow.

Victoria, Jan. 29. — This afternoon Mr. Parker Williams moved a vote of censure on the Government for its alleged failure to make the Canadian Northern Railway Company pay the same rate of wages as were paid for similar labor in the districts where the work was being done. He stated that laborers for the Canadian Northern contractors in Esquimalt district were being paid only \$2.25 a day, where men working for the Government or the municipality were paid \$2.75 a day. In support of this he produced affidavits signed by workmen employed by C. N. P. contractors to show that they were only receiving \$2.25 a day. He also stated that he had sent men to employment offices in Victoria to apply for work on that road, and the highest the common laborer was offered was \$2.25.

Hon. Thos. Taylor, Minister of Railways, said he had heard no complaints, or he would have had the matter investigated and remedied. As it was he would take the matter up at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Brewster seconded Mr. Williams' motion, saying that this was no new matter, as he had brought similar things to the attention of the Government in times past, and they had paid no attention.

The Premier said that the member for Newcastle, in introducing the resolution, was only indulging in a bit of grandstand play. The work on the Canadian Northern had now been going on for a twelvemonth, and this was the first complaint they had heard about wages. If his friend, who would make people believe that he lay awake at night weeping for the poor workmen, were really sincere in this matter he should have written to the department long ago, and if there were anything wrong it would have been investigated and remedied. It was a matter of extreme gratification to the Government to know that while this work was proceeding in very part of the province during the last year they had not before heard a single complaint. The Canadian Northern was fulfilling its contract in every way, and would have its trains running to the Pacific within two more years.

Mr. Williams retorted that he would soon think of being over-fair to the Government as to a rattlesnake, but in his instance he had, if anything, been over-fair, since he had first mentioned the matter in his speech during the debate on the address, and had subsequently brought it up by questions on the order paper, but the Government had paid no attention to it. If anyone had been indulging in stage-play, it was the Premier, and not himself.

The motion was voted down, only Messrs. Brewster and Williams supporting it. Mr. Williams asked for a record of names, but the Speaker told him that the rules of the House required that three members must ask for these before they could be recorded.

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Hon. Mr. Bowser introduced bills to amend the Municipalities Incorporation Act and the Inheritance Act. The former gives the Government power to vary or reduce the limits of a municipality on incorporation as they may seem expedient, and that in so doing they may impose such conditions as they think proper. The amendment to the Inheritance Act simply nullifies a change made by the Revising Commissioners and restores it to its original state.

At the opening of the House, Mr. WILLIAMS, seconded by Mr. BREWSTER, moved the following resolution of censure:

"Whereas, by subsection (c) of section 7 of the schedule to the Canadian Northern Agreement, being chapter 3 of the Statutes of 1910, it is enacted: 'That the workmen and laborers employed in or about the construction of the said

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ness of railway shall be paid such rates of wages as may be currently payable to workmen and laborers engaged in similar occupation in the districts in which the said lines of railway are being constructed; and

"Whereas it is a matter of public knowledge that workmen are paid at the rate of two dollars and twenty-five cents per day, both as rock-drillers and general laborers, on the Canadian Northern construction in the electoral district of Esquimalt; and

"Whereas the current rate of wages in the Esquimalt district for work of a similar character to the above is much higher than that paid by the Canadian Northern;

"Therefore, be it resolved that this House censure the Government for its failure to protect the workers on the Canadian Northern construction."

Mr. WILLIAMS said that when the Canadian Northern agreement was before the House he had moved an amendment to the effect that the lowest wage to be paid on the road should be \$2.50 a day. This the Premier refused to accept, but had consented to the insertion of a clause to the effect that the lowest wages to be paid should be the current rates paid for similar labor in the district where the work was being done. At the opening of the session, while speaking on the address, he had referred to the fact that in spite of this the wages being paid on Canadian Northern construction in the district of Esquimalt were only \$2.25 a day, while the lowest wage paid to Government employees in the same district was \$2.75, while the city of Victoria paid \$2 a day for hammer men and \$2.75 for pick and shovel men for an eight-hour day. He assumed that \$2.75 a day would be a fair wage on Canadian Northern construction, and it was the duty of the Government to compel them to pay it.

When at the opening of the House he had stated that only \$2.25 a day was being paid, the member for Esquimalt had taken pains to correct him. It made him think that the member for Esquimalt was paying more attention to the Conservative organization in the district than to the matter of wages. He (Mr. Williams) had secured statements on affidavit from men employed by Olson & Co. and Grant, Smith & Co., both contractors for the Canadian Northern in the Esquimalt district, and these men both swore that they were only receiving \$2.25 a day.

These affidavits he produced and read to the House.

"I could produce any number of the same," he concluded, "and I may say that these men were Irishmen, who are capable of swinging a pick and shovel with anybody." He added that as the Minister of Railways was comparatively new to his position, he might not have been able to keep in touch with this matter, and in replying to some questions he had placed on the order papers a few days ago he might have been misinformed. To make himself sure, he had sent a man down to the employment office in Victoria to enquire for work on the Canadian Northern, and he had been told also that the wages paid were \$2.25 a day.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR said this was the first intimation the Department of Railways had received in regard to this matter. Had it been brought to his attention earlier he would have caused an investigation to be made. In all contracts entered into by the Canadian Northern contractors a clause appeared to the effect that workers employed in and about construction must be paid similar wages to other laborers employed in the district. If there had been any infringement it was unknown to the Department of Railways. In regard to his answers to certain questions put by the gentleman opposite, they had been supplied by the chief engineer of the department, and he had every reason to believe that they were correct. He could assure his honorable friend that he would go into the matter thoroughly, and if he found that current wages were not being paid he would certainly insist on it as a duty of the Government to see that they were paid.

Mr. BREWSTER said that this was not entirely a new matter, as the Minister of Railways would lead the House to believe. While it might be true as regards the Canadian Northern, it certainly was not true regarding other construction work on Vancouver Island. He could well remember in 1908, when a bill regarding the exemption of certain railways from taxation was before the House, the Government was urged that if the exemption were granted at

least a clause should be inserted that in return for the privilege the railway companies should guarantee the payment of a certain rate of wages. It was also suggested that it be provided that no Orientals should be employed. This was met by the Premier with the statement that such a clause would lead to the disallowance of the act at Ottawa. It was then proposed that the wages paid should be the current wages paid to white laborers only. This did not suit the Government either, but the Premier said he would consent to insert a fair-wage clause to protect the laborer. A little later he (Mr. Brewster) went over the construction work on Vancouver Island, and he found to his surprise that not only was a white man's wage not being paid, but the pay received was meagre even for Orientals, and when 70 cents a day was taken out for board, it would leave them practically nothing. He had written a letter calling the attention of the Government to this, and yet they found the Government still complaining that some one had not called their attention to this state of things, and they expressed surprise now that their attention was being called to the fact that current wages were not being paid on the Canadian Northern. It showed they were not attending to the matter, and he considered that the explanation of the Minister of Railways was not satisfactory.

Hon. Mr. McBRIDE said that it must be quite patent to the Legislature that the motion under discussion was more or less stage-play. The member for Newcastle, with his usual aptitude to take advantage of anything that might secure for him publicity or notoriety, had discovered that on Vancouver Island the wages paid certain laborers was not up to the standard, and he must needs make a hero of himself on the floor of the House, so he let the time pass till the closing days of the month of January, then made his charge in solemn form with that deliberation he seemed to possess in dealing with matters of this kind. The work had been going on for upwards of twelve months on Vancouver Island, and if there was a grievance there had been ample time for the gentlemen opposite to present complaints to the Government so that an investigation would be forthwith made. If the gentlemen opposite were sincere, why had they not brought this matter to the Minister of Railways or to himself before this? No time would then have been lost in prosecuting an inquiry. But instead they allowed twelve months to elapse, and then in dramatic form launched their charge against the Government. The most charitable criticism that could be passed upon them was that their insincerity had been proved by the pathetic manner in which they had dealt with the question. If his friend from Newcastle, whose heart bled for the workmen, had been sincere he would have come to the Government, and they would have lost no time in seeing that the current rate of wages obtained.

"There has not," he added, "been a complaint during the whole of the time that the work has been carried on either on the Mainland or Island district, and it was natural for the Government to assume that every one was satisfied with what he was receiving in return for his labor. I felt it to be a matter for congratulation that in this tremendous undertaking there had not been a complaint in regard to these things."

He continued that in connection with the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific, complaints had been forwarded and the matter was cleared up. Of course that was a Dominion undertaking, but this before the House was purely a provincial affair, and if anything was wrong the Government would lose no time in inquiring into it. It was at least satisfactory to know that every foot of the Canadian Northern Pacific that had been bargained for with the Government was now under construction, and that the entire mileage would be completed within 24 months. In building from Edmonton west it was expected that the trackage would be at the summit of the Rocky Mountains, the eastern boundary of British Columbia, within the present year, so that if all the plans were carried out they should have trains running over the entire system in two years from date.

"The member for Newcastle would lead the House to believe," he added, "that he lies awake at night shedding tears over their grievances, but I want the workmen of this country to understand that their wages in the hands of this administration are in much safer custody than they would be in the hands

of the member for Newcastle, and if our attention is called to any wrong an investigation will be held without delay and the proper remedy applied." (Applause.)

Mr. WILLIAMS said he had never seen the Premier in a worse position than on this resolution. Though he would no more think of being over-fair to the Government than he would to a rattlesnake, he had, if anything, been

over-fair to them in this matter. He had placed the resolution on the order paper two days ago, and previous to that had called the attention of the Minister of Railways to it by a series of questions, and had also mentioned the matter when the House opened. He did not pretend to sit up at night bothering about the workmen, and if there was any one fond of grandstand play it was the honorable gentleman who had just accused him of being deficient in his duty in not seeing that the Government did what it was paid for. He would have thought that as one who sat up at night thinking about the workmen, and had tears on tap for all occasions, the member for Esquimalt would have seen to a matter that concerned his own district. Instead, when at the opening of the House he (Mr. Williams) had stated that railway laborers in Esquimalt were being paid only \$2.25 a day, that gentleman had been put up by the Government to contradict him.

Mr. JARDINE: "That is not a statement of fact. It was done on my own initiative, and without any suggestion from any one else."

Mr. WILLIAMS said that were so he would not have admitted it. He continued that the Minister of Railways in replying to his questions the other day had misstated the position, and had left him no other option than to bring this resolution before the House. The Minister for Railways was being paid \$6,000 a year to enforce the Statutes in this respect, and should earn his salary. If the Premier was so solicitous for the welfare of the workmen as he pretended to be, it would not have been necessary to introduce the resolution.

On question being called the motion was defeated, only Messrs. Brewster and Williams supporting it.

Mr. WILLIAMS asked for names, inquiring how many were necessary to secure the record?

"The rules requires three members," said Speaker Eberts.

"Well, that fixes it," said Mr. Williams, subsiding with a smile.

GALLERY NOTES

The Vancouver deputation, consisting of Aids. Baxter, Williamson, King, Enright, Woodside, Cameron and Trimble, with Mr. W. A. Macdonald, K.C., former city solicitor, had a long interview with the Government this morning. They placed before them the desirability of having the B. C. Electric Railway franchises in Hastings Townsite and D.L. 301 terminate at the same time as that in the city, and that if the city should see fit, it would be in a better position to buy out the company in 1918.

They also urged the expediency of the Government ceding to the city on reasonable terms 13 1-2 acres in Hastings Townsite as the site for an Old People's Home. To the Minister of Public Works, Hon. Thos. Taylor, they addressed themselves for the purpose of securing, if possible, an appropriation for the construction of a bridge over the ravine on Renfrew Street, and they also asked that provision be made for the improvement of Westminster Road in D.L. 301.

The Government seemed inclined to consider favorably the request that they would sell the land needed for the Old People's Home at the rate of \$2,000 an acre, and also that they would build a bridge on Renfrew Street and grant appropriation for the improvement of Westminster Road. The question of the tram franchises they promised to take into consideration and give an answer at a later date.

Deputations from the Exhibition Association and the Horse Show also waited on the Government with requests for appropriations. These requests the Government promised to consider in framing the estimates.

Fifteen thousand dollars was the sum asked from the Government by the deputation which came here yesterday

from the Vancouver Exhibition. This amount is a grant and an additional towards meeting the debt incurred by the deputation was made up by Miller and H. S. Rolston, respectively president of the association, Mr. Mr. William Brown, Mr. King and Baxter, Mr. Roy, Mr. Charles Doe Wolf were also present, although they were heartily endorsed by the deputation.

The deputation was all the members of the Vancouver, and all of hearty support to the

Mr. J. J. Miller, speaker, confined him to the deputation and to hope that the Government liberal as possible.

Mr. H. S. Rolston's recent defeat by the election of the bylaw making association purposes. This due not to any hostility towards the exhibition that so many money sent at the same Council of Vancouver promised to give the from the general fund for an opportunity of other bylaw to the coming summer. Last out, the attendance was 78,000. The amount expended on the ground on the buildings \$300, up or \$50,000 subscribed the association and a lion appropriated by

Mr. William Hollan excellent character of which is held in competition. Not only exhibit excellent, but heavy draft horses it was the finest exhibition, not even excelled at New York.

first in the horse show and volume the variety of classes great deal more cow assistance were given showing animals for This was one of the serving of encouragement

Mr. William Brown B. C. Floral Association opinion that if some along the lines of ever in a few years will its own in this respect Coast cities. Already annually in Vancouver those employed in the and this sum could not only to the gratify itself, but also the province as a whole

Mr. Maxwell Smith this benefit which I province is deriving The ordinary fall fair he said, does not for the proper disposal the agricultural provinces. These fall fair the professional and his best varieties for some of the income early in the season, especially peaches, and said would not advocate British Columbia or nevertheless a fruit able as showing the and for that reason aged.

Aldermen Cameron also supported the larger grant than Ald. Cameron intimated were liberal might be an incentive City Council to Alderman Baxter's intention that the defeated was because many money bylaw ple at once. "The long," said he, "an down to this bylaw tired." Ald. King had been practical proving the subsidy and would render able to the exhibition of the citizens. The Association was much in asking to what in wiping off year and in renew of \$6,000.

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From the Vancouver Exhibition Association. This amount is made up of \$6,000 grant and an additional allowance towards meeting the deficit which has been incurred by the association. The deputation was made up of Messrs. J. J. Miller and H. S. Rolston, who are respectively president and secretary of the association, Mr. William Holland, Mr. William Brown, and Alds. Cameron, King and Baxter. Mr. George E. Trorey, Mr. Charles Doering and Mr. De Wolf were also present, but did not speak, although they were understood to heartily endorse the sentiments that were expressed by the others.

The deputation was accompanied by all the members of the legislature from Vancouver, and all of them gave their hearty support to the requests made.

Mr. J. J. Miller, who was the first speaker, confined himself to introducing the deputation and to expressing the hope that the Government would be as liberal as possible.

Mr. H. S. Rolston referred to the recent defeat by the electors of Vancouver of the bylaw making a grant for exhibition purposes. This defeat, he said, was due not to any hostility of the people towards the exhibition, but to the fact that so many money bylaws were presented at the same time. The City Council of Vancouver, he added, had promised to give the exhibition a grant from the general funds, and also to afford an opportunity for submitting another bylaw to the people during the coming summer. Last year, he pointed out, the attendance at the exhibition was 78,000. The amount which has been expended on the grounds is \$775,000, and on the buildings \$300,000, which is made up of \$50,000 subscribed by members of the association and a quarter of a million appropriated by the City Council.

Mr. William Holland spoke of the excellent character of the Horse Show, which is held in connection with the exhibition. Not only was the hackney exhibit excellent, but in the matter of heavy draft horses he maintained that it was the finest display on the Continent, not even excepting the horse show at New York. Vancouver stood first in the horse show business in management and volume of entries and in the variety of classes of horses, but a great deal more could be done if some assistance were given along the lines of showing animals for breeding purposes. This was one of the strong features of the show, and he held that it was deserving of encouragement.

Mr. William Brown, president of the B. C. Floral Association, expressed the opinion that if some help were given along the lines of floriculture, Vancouver in a few years would be able to hold its own in this respect with any of the Coast cities. Already \$100,000 is paid annually in Vancouver for the wages of those employed in this line of business, and this sum could easily be doubled, not only to the great advantage of the city itself, but also to the advantage of the province as a whole.

Mr. Maxwell Smith spoke briefly of the benefit which fruit culture in the province is deriving from the exhibition. The ordinary fall fair in British Columbia, he said, does not furnish facilities for the proper display or advertising of the agricultural features of the province. These fall fairs come too early for the professional apple grower to show his best varieties and a little too late for some of the important fruits that come early in the season. Mr. Smith referred especially to the growth of peaches, and said that although he would not advocate peach orchards in British Columbia on a commercial scale, nevertheless a fruit display was valuable as showing the climatic conditions, and for that reason should be encouraged.

Aldermen Cameron, King and Baxter also supported the application for a larger grant than was given last year. Ald. Cameron intimated that if the Government were liberal in this respect it might be an incentive for the Vancouver City Council to go them one better. Alderman Baxter agreed with the contention that the reason the bylaw was defeated was because there were too many money bylaws put before the people at once. "The ballot was a yard long," said he, "and when the voter got down to this bylaw he was probably tired." Ald. King said that the council had been practically unanimous in approving the submission of the bylaw and would render every assistance possible to the exhibition despite the action of the citizens. He thought the Exhibition Association was not asking too much in asking the Government to assist in wiping off the debt incurred last year and in renewing last year's grant of \$6,000.

Premier McBride asked that a memorandum be left with the Government as to the amount wanted, and the matter would be taken up when the estimates came to be considered. "I attended the fair last fall," said he, "and was pleasantly surprised at the fine buildings and with the improvements that had been made to the grounds. I had a very cordial reception, and the exhibition, as I said then, is one that is evidently come to stay."

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The Daily Colonist

(ESTABLISHED 1858.)

VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1912

OPENING OF LEGISLATURE

Picturesque Ceremony at Buildings is Attended by Many Prominent in Life of British Columbia.

SPEECH FROM THRONE TELLS OF PROSPERITY

Important Legislation is Fore-shadowed—Little Business Transacted on First Day of Session

Brief and exceedingly business-like, despite their old-time ceremonial character, were the proceedings of yesterday incident to the inauguration of the third session of British Columbia's twelfth parliament—proceedings which even in this hurrying century yet manage to retain more than a faint suggestion of the romance and picturesqueness of those medieval times to which the origin of constitutional government may be traced. There was the glitter of gold-laced official uniforms, the brave rattle of swords and play of service colors, the quaint formality of prescribed procedure, the pomp and circumstance and dignity of government by King and People in parliament as it has been handed down through the centuries to Britons of today.

And showing through and clearly dominating all the picturesque symbolism and historic forms was ever in evidence the spirit of optimistic, conquering, self-reliance—determination to have promptly done those things surely making for greatness in this new country of infinite possibilities—the genius of practical and patriotic progress and well considered growth in nationhood.

Excellent Arrangements

As to the opening itself yesterday: Nothing could have moved with finer precision and quiet order. To the gratification of all, Mr. Speaker Eberts had sufficiently recovered from his recent indisposition to bear with his accustomed dignity and tact his principal part in proceedings inaugurating another session of the house over which he so capably presides; while Sergeant-at-Arms C. L. Cullin and his experienced aide, Mr. J. W. Lorimer, had made so complete arrangements in their important department that seemingly no minutest detail had been overlooked providing for the smooth running of the house machinery or for the comfort and convenience of the distinguished company attending as official guests of the occasion. These included a numerous representation of the corps diplomatique, and many who have played their parts in the past or today are playing them in the political, religious, professional and larger industrial life of British Columbia—the Hon. J. S. Helmcken, first speaker of the colonial assembly, former premiers Semlin and Beaven, President J. J. Warren of the K. R. V. railway, and numerous other historic or active figures in the making of British Columbia.

A single regretted and unanticipated circumstance in connection with the day's proceedings was to be noted in the many vacant seats of those reserved for members of the house, in reference to which it will be a matter of general and genuine regret that the virile and interesting representative of Nanaimo City is at present in the old country, and according to present information will not be here until late in the session at best to bear his accustomed active part in the deliberations of the assembly.

Punctual in Attendance

His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor arrived almost upon the stroke of three, attended by his secretary, Mr. Muskett, his personal aide-de-camp, Captain Tyrwhitt-Drake, and his official staff, upon which for the first time in British Columbia's history, the naval wing was representative solely of the Dominion. The staff included Commander Rose, R. N., Engineer-Commander Morgan, Sr. Lieut. Moore, Lieut. Holt, Lieut. Edwards, Engineer Lieut. Bury, Paymaster Jackson and Staff-Sergt. Smythe, all of H. M. C. S. "Rainbow," with Col. Wedmore, D. O. C., Col. Currie, C. G. A., Captain Foulkes of the permanent forces, Lieut. Mulcahy, Captain Clarke, Lieut. Gordon Smith, Captain Wollaston, Captain Longstaffe, and Lieut. Seife. The guard of honor for the day was furnished, with the excellent band, exclusively by the Fifth Regiment, and was commanded by Captain and Adjutant Stern, assisted by Lieuts. Robertson and Reid.

Upon being seated, His Honor the Lieut.-Governor was pleased to greet parliament in His Majesty's behalf and forecast seasonal activities in the following

Speech From the Throne

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It is with pleasure that I welcome you to the third session of the twelfth parliament of British Columbia.

The ceremonies attendant on the coronation of their majesties the king and queen were in no part of the empire observed with greater loyalty and affection than in this province. It is fitting to note that British Columbia was by invitation officially represented in London on that occasion.

The presence of his royal highness the Duke of Connaught at Ottawa as governor-general of Canada is regarded by the people of the Dominion as a special mark of the royal favor; and I am confident it will be a pleasing duty on your part to adopt an address of welcome to be presented to his royal highness.

Having completed his term of office as his majesty's representative in the Dominion, Earl Grey, on his return to the motherland, takes with him the warmest regard of the Canadian people. The great interest he has always evinced in this province entitles him to a lasting place in the hearts of British Columbians.

The long-standing difficulties in connection with the Songhees Indian reserve, Victoria city, have been adjusted, and the reserve has passed into the possession of the province, while due provision has been made for another reserve for the Indians.

The report of the commission appointed during the year to inquire into the subject of taxation is ready and will be presented to you in due course.

The consolidation of the provincial statutes has been completed, and the result of the work of the commission will be laid before you.

Following the report of the forestry commission, legislation has been prepared providing for a department of

forests, and a bill will be submitted dealing with the conservation and administration of the timber wealth of the province.

During the past year work has been proceeded with under the direction of the minister of public works in connection with the development of Strathcona park. You will be asked to place a sum in the estimates to provide for a vigorous prosecution of the undertaking during the coming season.

During the year the first minister, together with the attorney-general and the minister of lands, visited Ottawa to discuss with the Dominion authorities various important questions affecting the province. The papers dealing with these matters will be placed before you.

As one of the results of this conference with the federal government, it has been arranged that the administration of the water in the railway belt will be carried on under the water branch of the provincial lands department. A bill to give effect to this agreement will be submitted to you in due course.

The rapid growth of the business of the province has called for a necessary increase in public works. Under the authority of the legislation passed last session, a contract has been awarded for the much-needed extension of the parliament buildings, and the work is now proceeding.

Owing to the increased demand for transportation facilities, measures will be placed before you designed to further encourage the building of railways in the province.

It is interesting to note that substantial progress is being made with the preliminary work leading up to the establishment of a provincial university. Land clearing operations are under way at the university site, and steps are being taken to give effect to the provisions of the Act.

You will be asked to provide a sufficient grant to permit of a formal opening of the university at the fall term of 1913.

The public accounts for the past fiscal year and the estimates of expenditure for the coming year will be laid before you.

I feel assured that these and all other matters submitted to you will receive your most careful consideration, and that you will be guided in your deliberations by what you believe to be in the best interests of the province.

Upon His Honor's withdrawal with his official company—interesting motion pictures of his arrival and departure were, by the way, secured by the provincial photographic expert for exhibition uses—Mr. Spenser Eberts resumed the chair; prayer was offered by Ven. Archdeacon Scriven, and the customary pro forma resolutions marked the inauguration of the sessional business proceedings.

First Bill of Session

As precedent would seem to have ordained, the first bill of the year was introduced by Attorney-General Bowser, and took its initial reading, this being a merely technical measure amending the act which governs the administration of small estates of the insane. Returns were also brought down by Finance Minister Ellison of the public accounts for the last fiscal year, and by Hon. Dr. Young, of the fortieth report of the department of education, the first report of the provincial sanitary inspector, the fourteenth report of the provincial board of health, and the yearly report of the Hospital for the Insane over which Dr. Doherty presides.

The house shortly afterwards rose, after the formal motion by the Premier for the taking into consideration this afternoon of His Honor's speech, when

Mr. Watson (Vancouver) and Mr. Lucas (Yale) will respectively move and second the resolution in reply.

As in other years, the business sessions of the house are at the hour of two.

REVENUE FOR FISCAL YEAR

Provincial Accounts Show Total of Nearly \$10,500,000—Expenditure Estimated at Over Eight Millions

BIG INCREASE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR

Substantial Growth of B. C.—Satisfactory Showing of Finances Indicate Rapid Progress and Prosperity

The public accounts for the last completed fiscal year, which were presented to the provincial legislature yesterday by Finance minister Ellison, show in unchallengeable terms the satisfactory condition of the country's business and its substantial growth during the twelvemonth under review, an increase in revenue over that of the last preceding year of \$1,418,150.33 being recorded, while the increase in the aggregate of public expenditures, keeping pace sympathetically with the growth and development of the province, amounted to \$1,811,809.68, the grand totals for the contrasted periods being:

Net Revenue	Net Expenditure
1909-10	1909-10
\$ 8,374,741.94	\$ 6,382,993.27
1910-11	1910-11
\$10,492,892.27	\$ 8,194,143.95

At the close of the fiscal year, on the 31st March last, the balance sheet of the province showed a total of provincial assets over all obligations and liabilities of \$1,407,594.35, with a cash balance in bank and in the treasury (inclusive of the gold bar deposit of \$511.18 with the Canadian Bank of Commerce and various sums in cash in the hands of district agents aggregating \$269,395.71) of no less an amount than \$8,744,187.63.

Increase of 18 Per Cent.

Analysis of the several sources of provincial income producing the general increase of slightly better than eighteen per cent. in revenue indicates development and expansion in all departments proportionally well maintained; for while land sales constitute a notable exception in showing a decrease for the year from \$2,513,138.78 to \$2,431,231.36, this is almost offset by the one related item of land revenue, leap-

ing within the year from \$175,778.11 to \$221,536.98. Other conspicuous examples of increase are noted in the advance of license receipts from \$59,951.49 to \$92,498.00; of succession duties from \$108,495.30 to \$200,459.88 (almost doubling); of registry fees from \$409,826.15 to \$613,092.22; of wild land taxes from \$250,904.71 to \$316,150.85; of printing office receipts from \$65,194.44 to \$127,776.49; of rebates under the Chinese restriction act from \$356,300.00 to \$1,066,000.00; of fishing and cannery licenses from \$31,340.00 to \$82,657.79; and of interest from \$157,492.13 to \$282,772.40—

a very different condition from that indicated in the accounts for 1902-3 (the first year of the McBride regime) when the interest total appearing in the statement of provincial revenue amounted to exactly \$256.63.

Comparative Table

Comparatively the tabulated revenues for the two fiscal yearly periods are thus set forth in abstract:

\$22,202; real personal property tax \$34,921.27; Dr interest, \$11.70; ar cepts, \$3,005.42; a as contrasting with Vancouver city of Westminster city of Nanaimo city registry fees in this since Vancouver's 680.08, the slight revenue from the

\$22,802; real property tax, \$4.20; personal property tax, \$21,732.25; income tax, \$34,821.27; provincial home, \$407 interest, \$11.70; and miscellaneous receipts, \$3,906.42; a total of \$428,014.53, as contrasting with a total revenue for Vancouver city of \$61,208.78; from New Westminster city of \$152,226.83, and from Nanaimo city of \$72,177.11. Registry fees in this city lead the province Vancouver's showing being \$235,680.08, the slight increase in general revenue from the first mainland city

	1909-1910	1910-1911
Dominion of Canada—		
Annual payment of Interest	\$ 29,151.66	\$ 29,151.00
Annual payment of Subsidy	150,000.00	150,000.00
Annual payment of Grant per capita	142,925.60	142,925.00
Annual payment for Lands conveyed	100,000.00	100,000.00
Annual payment of special grant "B.N.A. Act, 1907"	100,000.00	100,000.00
Land Sales	2,618,188.75	2,431,231.36
Land Revenue	175,778.11	321,586.98
Survey Fees	15,871.85	18,052.97
Rents, exclusive of Land	109.00	230.00
Timber Leases	85,875.29	106,857.53
Timber Royalty and Licences	2,234,099.31	2,357,951.32
Free Miners' Certificates	53,055.07	68,937.86
Mining Receipts, General	91,256.75	105,319.55
Licences, Trade and Liquor (see note)	58,951.48	92,498.00
Licences, Game	7,280.00	7,815.00
Licences, Commercial Travelers	700.00	200.00
Fines and Fees of Court	30,734.00	46,203.69
Probate Fees	19,463.86	37,294.41
Succession Duty	108,495.39	200,458.88
Law Stamps	24,500.20	30,992.30
Registry Fees	408,826.15	613,092.22
Sale of Government Property	2,058.57	7,820.82
Marriage Licences	17,490.00	17,580.00
Revenue Tax	260,682.00	313,338.00
Real Property Tax	335,744.26	352,372.44
Personal Property Tax	161,692.88	179,052.70
Wild Land Tax (including Coal and Timber Lands)	250,904.71	346,130.83
Income Tax	190,984.16	192,824.78
Mineral Tax	102,608.93	91,038.43
Royalty and Tax on Coal	222,722.91	248,332.86
Revenue Service Refunds	1,735.25	1,463.32
Tax Sale Deeds	510.00	560.00
Tax on unworked Crown-granted Mineral Claims	39,860.65	42,020.84
Commission and Fees on Sales for Taxes		
Printing Office	65,134.44	127,776.49
Registered Taxes (all denominations)	204.72	38.91
Bureau of Mines	687.00	917.00
Hospital for the Insane	24,064.57	26,274.07
Provincial Home	3,895.83	308.30
Reimbursements for keep of prisoners	1,286.20	793.45
Chinese Restriction (Act, 1884, Dominion Statutes)	356,200.00	1,066,000.00
Traffic Tolls, New Westminster Bridge	29,901.35	23,817.81
Interest	157,493.13	248,772.40
Dykes Assessment Act, 1905 (tax on lands against capital charge)	19,080.07	19,080.07
Boiler Inspection Fees	19,614.62	30,827.04
Log-scaling Fees	21,698.75	27,518.64
Fishing and Cannery Licences	31,340.00	82,657.79
Miscellaneous Receipts	45,632.70	62,751.48
	8,818,596	10,430,968.42
Interest on Investment of Sinking Funds	56,145	61,923.85
		1
Net Revenue	\$8,874,741.94	10,492,892.27

Expenditures throughout the year have been chiefly upon public works of a permanent and reproductive character, which remain as substantial assets of the province, as shown by the subjoined table:

	1909-1910	1910-1911
Expenditures		
1.—Public Debt:—		
Interest	235,217.48	332,112.53
*Sinking Funds (chargeable to investment acct.) as follows:		
Trustees' account, interest invested, "Loan Act, 1887"		
Trustees' account, interest invested, "Loan Act, 1887"	8,577.22	8,577.22
Trustees' account, interest invested, "Loan Act, 1887"	8,786.74	9,398.08
Trustees' account "Loan Acts, 1891, '92, '95, '99 and 1902"	99,219.88	99,219.36
Trustees' account interest invested, '93, '95, '99 and 1902	47,358.92	52,525.77
Sinking Fund, "Dyking Assessment Adjustment Act, 1905"		
Premium and Exchange	2,677.18	2,968.82
Discount and Commission	5,080.64	5,411.04
Incidental Expenses of negotiating Loan, 1902		
xRedemption of Debentures (Loan Act, 1897)		
xRedemption of \$100,000 Dyking Debentures (purchased before maturity @ .91)		
xRedemption of \$71,000 before maturity @ .93	66,030.00	
xRedemption of \$25,000 before maturity @ .95		22,750.00
2.—Civil Government (Salaries)	389,700.37	503,676.44
3.—Administration of Justice (Salaries)	151,785.81	161,286.67
4.—Legislation	114,486.86	71,500.87
5.—Public Institutions (Maintenance):—		
Printing Office	90,015.58	126,815.65
Hospital for the Insane	120,605.69	131,329.73
Museum	5,224.47	6,522.72
Provincial Home	15,915.18	15,721.68
Bureau of Mines	4,201.46	4,421.03
Fisheries (hatcheries and administration)	21,728.05	17,508.86
6.—Hospitals and Charities	209,442.14	304,605.01
7.—Administration of Justice (other than Salaries)	213,386.61	223,339.36
8.—Education	587,935.91	689,141.75
9.—Transport	59,104.43	54,251.00
10.—Rent		
11.—Revenue Services	97,268.89	57,007.68
12.—Public Works:—		
Works and Buildings	811,163.79	1,060,245.74
Parliament Buildings		
Government House, Victoria	22,106.83	18,348.76
Roads, Streets, Bridges and Wharves	2,012,102.42	3,072,696.90
Irrigation		
New Westminster Bridge		
Surveys	568,462.66	473,207.06
13.—Miscellaneous	554,452.26	861,593.25
	6,616,935.51	8,392,273.38
*Less amount of Sinking Funds as above, chargeable to Investment account	163,942.24	169,720.43
	6,452,993.27	8,222,552.95
xLess Redemption of Debentures as above, chargeable against Loans	70,030.00	22,750.00
Net Expenditure	\$6,382,963.27	\$8,194,802.95

The abstract of the last fiscal year's expenditures may be thus set forth:

Public Debt	\$ 538,992.82
Civil Government (Salaries)	503,676.44
Administration of Justice (Salaries)	161,286.67
Legislation	71,500.87
Public Institutions	302,320.87
Hospitals and Charities	304,605.91
Administration of Justice (other than Salaries)	225,359.30
Education	689,141.75
Transport	51,251.00
Revenue Service	57,007.08
Public Works:—	
Works and Buildings	\$1,060,245.74
Government House, Victoria	18,348.76
Roads, Streets, Bridges, Wharves, Subsidies	3,072,696.90
Surveys and Improvement of Lands	473,267.06
Miscellaneous	4,624,558.46
Miscellaneous	861,592.23
Total	\$8,352,572.38

The following items, not included in the above Expenditure, have been paid out of the ordinary revenue of the Province:—

Nakusp and Slocan Railway, in excess of earnings	\$ 20,419.54
Victoria and Sidney Railway, 2 per cent guarantee of interest on bonds	6,300.00
Total	\$ 26,719.54
Less surplus from Shuswap and Okanagan Railway over and above payment of interest	4,167.31
Total Expenditure	\$8,414,825.61

Analysis by Districts

Further analysis of the fiscal year's revenue, by districts, shows the following sources of provincial income originating in Vancouver Island and contiguous districts:

Victoria City—Trade and liquor licenses \$896; fines and fees of court, \$1,626.14; probate fees, \$19,682.86; succession duty, \$65,329.70; law stamps, \$3,277.50; registry fees, \$253,163.49; marriage licenses, \$5,312; revenue tax,

being attributable to revenue and personal property tax collections.

Saanich District—Land sales, \$1,240; land revenue, \$111.32; trade and liquor licenses, \$190; revenue tax, \$2,700; personal property tax, \$587.80; and income tax, \$198.80—\$4,937.92.

The Islands—Land sales, \$3.35; land revenue, \$2; trade and liquor licenses \$252.50; revenue tax, \$969; real property tax, \$2,922.69; personal property tax, \$343.88; land taxes, \$846.09; income tax,

\$70.82; and interest, \$9.99—\$5,750.22.

Esquimalt—Land sales, \$12,904.30; land revenue, \$6,333; survey fees, \$518.40; timber leases, \$2,412.95; trade and liquor licenses, \$2,900; revenue tax, \$5,716; real property tax, \$17,976.11; personal property tax, \$2,036.95; land taxes, \$6,905.80; income tax, \$119.20; taxes on unworked crown-granted mineral claims, \$244.50; tax sale deeds, \$10; revenue service refunds, \$15.75; printing office, \$3.25; and interest, \$64.40—\$58,506.41.

Cowichan—Land sales, \$1,199.61; land revenue, \$540.42; survey fees, \$249.75; trade and liquor licenses, \$1,447.50; game licenses, \$85; fines and fees of court, \$296.50; law stamps, \$22.50; marriage licenses, \$50; revenue tax, \$2,790; real property tax, \$3,243.57; personal property tax, \$2,514.29; land taxes, \$11,633.17; income tax, \$178.52; tax on unworked crown-granted mineral claims, \$1,049; revenue service refunds, \$10.50; printing office, \$1.50; interest, \$26.55; and miscellaneous, \$5—\$28,237.88.

Alberni—Land sales, \$50,523.53; land revenue, \$1,661.04; survey fees, \$948; timber leases, \$20,759.95; timber royalty, \$32.53; mining receipts general, \$712.25; free miners' certificates, \$2,268.10; trade and liquor licenses, \$2,030; fines and fees of court, \$807.25; probate fees, \$1; law stamps, \$26.20; sale of government property, \$5; marriage licenses, \$45; revenue tax, \$5,445; real property tax, \$1,496.54; personal property tax, \$701.20; land taxes, \$23,025.73; income tax, \$87.95; taxes on unworked crown-granted mineral claims, \$1,411; revenue service refunds, \$32.25; printing office, \$5; royalty and tax on coal, \$104.70; interest, \$1,645.10; and miscellaneous, \$261.31—\$117,087.43.

Nanaimo City—Land revenue, \$378.25; trade and liquor licenses, \$1,204.25; game licenses, \$245; fines and fees of court, \$689.50; probate fees, \$1,267.57; succession duty, \$2,439.42; law stamps, \$615; sale of government property, \$10; registry fees, \$213; marriage licenses, \$186; revenue tax, \$7,083; real property tax, \$1,752.70; personal property tax, \$2,404.87; land taxes, \$230.95; income tax, \$662.30; royalty and tax on coal, \$50,343.33; interest, \$38.97; and miscellaneous, \$1,186.45—\$72,177.

North Nanaimo—Land sales, \$664.25; land revenue, \$1,127; survey fees, \$40; rents, \$15; trade and liquor licenses, \$772.50; fines and fees of court, \$95; revenue tax, \$4,887; real property tax, \$5,165.67; personal property tax, \$177.08; land taxes, \$3,542.46; income tax, \$30.45; tax sale deeds, \$20; interest, \$47.80; and miscellaneous, \$15—\$14,600.10.

South Nanaimo—Land sales, \$264; land revenue, \$1,646; rents, \$65; trade and liquor licenses, \$1,427.50; fines and fees of court, \$110; marriage licenses, \$10; revenue tax, \$5,646; real property tax, \$2,862.57; personal property tax, \$1,217.10; land taxes, \$14,155.05; income tax, \$284.65; mineral tax, \$240.44; tax on unworked crown-granted mineral claims, \$848.25; tax sale deeds, \$80; revenue service refunds, \$56.50; printing

Editorial

A GENERAL ELECTION

If the government shall ask the Lieutenant-Governor to grant a dissolution of the House and a new election, there will be nothing at all unprecedented in such a course. The practice both at Ottawa and London, as well as in many of the provinces, is not to allow a legislature to live out its full term, and in a province like British Columbia, into which there is a constant influx of new people, and in which new areas are being opened up, it is excellent policy to have elections at frequent intervals so that the legislature may be truly representative. If the present House is not dissolved until after its fourth session, that is in 1912, and the next House shall sit out its full term there would be one election between 1909 and 1917, which we submit is too long a period for the affairs of the province to be carried on without an appeal to the people in view of the rapid increase in the population and the changing conditions of the community.

For this reason, if for no other, if Mr. McBride shall determine to advise the Lieutenant-Governor that a dissolution after the present session is desirable, he will be consulting the public interest. Opponents of the government will no doubt object; but they will also object if he permits the House to live out its full term. Mr. McBride is not very likely to do in this or any other matter of vital importance what his captious critics say he ought to do, for experience has shown that they are never right.

tax, \$6,440.27; personal property tax, \$2,790.65; land taxes, \$51,067.82; income tax, \$304.81; taxes on unworked crown-granted mineral claims, \$557.75; tax sale deeds, \$10; revenue service refunds, \$59.75; printing office, \$14.25; provincial home, \$110; royalty and tax on coal, \$55,238.50; interest, \$195.69; and miscellaneous, \$144.57--\$177,553.26.

The general balance sheet of the province as presented by the deputy minister of finance, Mr. J. McB. Smith, and testified by the auditor-general, Mr. J. A. Anderson, appears hereunder:

ASSETS

Dominion Government, Section 2, Terms of Union.....	\$ 583,021 40
Sinking Fund Loan, 1887 (invested in London).....	288,820 21
Sinking Fund Loan, 1891, '93, '95, '99 & '02 (invested in London) (inscribed stock).....	1,673,264 80
Sinking Fund Loan, B.C. Dyking Debentures, 1897 & 1909.....	56,496 26
Canadian Bank of Commerce, account current (cash on deposit).....	5,670,979 49
Other banks within the province (cash on deposit).....	2,798,755 25
Canadian Bank of Commerce (gold bar deposit account).....	511 18
Bank of Montreal, Land Registry Assurance Fund deposit (Land Registry Act, 1906).....	56,173 95
Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., London.....	227 31
Victoria & Sidney Railway Co. (amount paid for interest on the Company's bonds).....	112,245 00
Advance to farmers for seed in 1895 (re Fraser river floods).....	15,525 33
Nakusp and Slocan Railway, mortgage account.....	647,072 00
Shuswap and Okanagan Railway Co. (amount paid for interest on bonds, etc., in excess of Dominion subsidy and net earnings).....	387,771 07
Nakusp and Slocan Railway Co. (amount paid for interest on bonds, etc., in excess of Dominion subsidy and net earnings).....	181,163 13
Security investment in B.C. 3 p.c. stock for B.C. Plate Glass Insurance Co.	970 00
Bank of Montreal, Montreal (cash deposit by the Royal Trust Co. as security under sec. 2, of the "Companies Incorporation Act, 1905").....	50,000 00
Imperial Bank of Canada, Vancouver (cash deposited by the Western Fire Insurance Co. as security under sec. 6 of the "Companies Act of Incorporation, 1910").....	15,000 00
Comox Creamery Association (loan, "Dairy Association Act").....	1,500 00
Abbotsford Creamery Association (loan "Dairy Association Act").....	400 00
Salt Spring Island Creamery Association (loan "Dairy Ass. Act").....	1,000 00
Okanagan Creamery Association (loan "Dairy Ass. Act").....	1,000 00
White Valley Creamery Association (loan, "Dairy Ass. Act").....	2,000 00
Cowichan Creamery Association (loan, "Dairy Ass. Act").....	2,000 00
Dewdney Municipality (loan "Dewdney Municipality Relief Act, 1906").....	13,369 27
Canada Zinc Co. (loan, "Canada Zinc Co. Loan Act, 1908").....	28,064 29
Thos. H. McKay, late collector, Vancouver.....	835 85
City of Prince Rupert, advances for sewers, water-works and fire protection.....	105,233 50
City of Prince Rupert, advance for compilation of assessment roll.....	905 55
Rural Districts School Tax (advances to schools).....	4,432 47
Chilliwack Dyking District (capital charge against lands, under the "Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, 1905").....	199,969 30
Coquitlam Dyking District (capital charge against lands, under the "Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, 1905").....	47,982 71
Maple Ridge Dyking District (capital charge against lands, under the "Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, 1905").....	127,338 13
Matsqui Dyking District (capital charge against lands, under the "Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, 1905").....	125,000 00
Pitt Meadows Dyking District, tract No. 1 (capital charge against lands, under the "Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, '05").....	17,815 32
Pitt Meadows Dyking District, tract No. 2 (capital charge against lands, under the "Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, '05").....	17,052 63
Coquitlam Dyking District, interest account.....	561 20
Chilliwack Dyking District, interest account.....	688 37
Maple Ridge Dyking District, interest account.....	587 23
Matsqui Dyking District, interest account.....	1,077 00
Chilliwack Dyking District, maintenance of dykes.....	2,473 52
Coquitlam Dyking District, maintenance of dykes.....	2,390 68
Maple Ridge Dyking District, maintenance of dykes.....	2,173 47
Matsqui Dyking District, maintenance of dykes.....	4,995 61
Pitt Meadows Dyking District, tract No. 1 (maintenance of dykes).....	82 27
Pitt Meadows Dyking District, tract No. 2 (maintenance of dykes).....	150 35
Advances to Departments, viz:--	
Hon. Prov. Sec.....	\$2,807 75
Supt. of Police.....	\$ 250 00
Hon. C. C. Lands.....	7,700 00
Agt.-Gen. London.....	654 00
Hon. Att.-General.....	790 00
Dept. of Agriculture.....	4,895 42
Public Wks. Engrs.....	1,400 00
Assessors.....	300 00
Public Wks. Assist.....	500 00
S. Baxter Ins. Bolders.....	150 00
Surveyor of Taxes.....	150 00
Inspectors of Offices.....	250 00
Cash balances in hands of District Agents.....	10,844 40
Cash balance on hand at Treasury.....	269,338 71
	4,553 09
	\$13,550,921 26
LIABILITIES	
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1887) bearing 4 1/2 p.c. int. pay. London \$	381,210 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1887) bearing 3 p.c. int. pay. London	2,139,141 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1893) bearing 3 p.c. int. pay. London	599,945 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1895) bearing 3 p.c. int. pay. London	2,037,000 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1899) bearing 3 p.c. int. pay. London	1,649,000 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1902) bearing 3 p.c. int. pay. London	3,496,350 00
British Columbia Loan (Act, 1903) bearing 3 p.c. int. pay. Victoria	12,000 00
British Columbia Loan (Dyking Debenture Acts, 1897, 1898 and 1899 payable at Victoria).....	475,000 00
Railway Guarantee Bonds (Nakusp and Slocan Railway Aid Act, 1894).....	647,072 00
Deposits (Intestate estates, etc.).....	267,466 35
Deposits (Sutors' funds, "Sutors' Fund Act").....	216,328 21
Deposits (surplus moneys from tax sales).....	12,487 13
British Columbia Plate Glass Insurance Co. (security deposit, sec. 3 of the Companies Incorporation Act, 1901).....	970 00
Royal Trust Co. (security deposit, sec. 2 of the Companies Incorporation Act, 1905).....	50,000 00
Western Union Fire Insurance Co. (security deposit, sec. 6 of the Company's Act of Incorporation, 1910).....	15,000 00
Real Estate Mining Claims (sec. 152, "Placer Mining Act").....	352 04
Chilliwack Dyking District, sinking fund account.....	18,403 19
Coquitlam Dyking District, sinking fund account.....	5,040 98
Maple Ridge Dyking District, sinking fund account.....	11,241 04
Matsqui Dyking District, sinking fund account.....	5,302 10
Pitt Meadows Dyking District, Tract No. 1, sinking fund account.....	1,547 46
Pitt Meadows Dyking District, tract No. 2, sinking fund account.....	1,590 66
Gold Bar Account (bullion deposit from Assay Office).....	511 18
Dyking Debentures, accrued interest on investments.....	6,832 50
Deposits under "Plans Cancellation Act".....	498 00
Deposits under section 88, Land Clauses Consolidation Act.....	2,602 50
Stumping Powder Purchase Account.....	33 50
Province of British Columbia (being balance of Assets over Liabilities).....	1,497,694 35
	\$13,550,921 26

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OPENS DEBATE ON ADDRESS

Mr. H. H. Watson of Vancouver Reviews Foreshadowed Legislation—Speaks Optimistically of Progress

MEMBER FOR YALE ON AGRICULTURAL NEEDS

Work of Session Still of Purely Preliminary Nature — Bill for Consolidation of B. C. Statutes

The first business sitting of the third term of British Columbia's twelfth provincial parliament yesterday, was almost exclusively devoted to the addresses of mover and seconder in presenting the formal resolution in reply to His Honor's speech from the throne, both Mr. Watson and Mr. Alexander Lucas being in excellent form and discussing current public affairs—without acceptance at any time of the latitude permissible in such a debate—as clear-headed men of business and patriotic British Columbians and Britishers, in such a manner as to win for their remarks the concurrence and endorsement of political foe as well as friend. Upon the completion of the seconder's too brief address, debate on the resolution was adjourned by the Liberal leader, Mr. Brewster. Discussion is not expected to be at all prolonged.

The business of the first working day of parliament proved of necessity purely preliminary. It is a most curious circumstance that not one notice of question, motion or private legislation as yet appears on the order paper, but on the floor of the house yesterday Mr. Tisdall presented the petition of Vancouver city for its extensive and complicated charter revision. Mr. Fraser (Cariboo), at the same time brought forward the petition of the British Columbia & Alaska Railway Company for various amendments in its charter. And there was also introduced by message from His Honor, brought down by the attorney-general, the short but significant bill essential for the ratification of the consolidated statutes as presented by the revising commissioners, Messrs. Charles Wilson and A. P. Luxton, K. C.'s. This bill already has advanced to second reading, and after this has been given (on Monday probably) the law officer of the crown in charge will, while it is at the committee stage, explain each detail of minor change from existent statute law which the commissioners have reported to be desirable.

Re-elected Deputy Speaker

Mr. Hayward, of Cowichan, was yesterday re-elected by the house as deputy speaker, and Mr. A. H. B. Macgowan (Vancouver) vice-chairman of the house committee and chairman of the ways and means committee, both nominations being made by the premier and affably seconded by the opposition leader. In proposing Mr. Hayward for the deputy speakership, the first minister commented that this procedure was now demanded under house rule No. 3, while he felt confident that the nomination would meet with ready endorsement by the legislature.

Mr. Brewster, in seconding, added that the house last year had enjoyed the advantage of Mr. Hayward's services as deputy speaker, and his discharge of the duties pertaining to the office had been so generally satisfactory that he had pleasure in seconding the motion for the Cowichan member's resumption of those duties.

The resolution in reply to His Honor's speech at the opening of parliament was the first item appearing on the orders, and Mr. Watson, upon rising to discharge his pleasant duties as mover, was received with a true ovation.

Mr. H. H. Watson

Mr. H. H. Watson, member for Vancouver, in moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne in the legislature yesterday afternoon, made what was undoubtedly the best speech of his career as a representative of the commercial metropolis of British Columbia. For fifty minutes he held the close attention of the assembly. His speech was frequently punctuated by the applause of his fellow members and at its close he received many hearty congratulations on his able exposition of the progress of the province as a whole during the past twelvemonth. As was but natural, Mr. Watson paid special attention in his speech to the remarkable prosperity enjoyed by the city of Vancouver. However, with his usual unflinching courtesy the member for Vancouver did not withhold recognition of the great development and progress of other cities of the province, notably Victoria, and his acumen brought forth audible expressions of appreciation from the representatives of the various ridings he honored in his remarks.

Prior to settling down to his speech Mr. Watson took occasion to express the great pleasure he felt in seeing the Speaker, Hon. D. M. Eberts, once more in his chair enjoying his usual good health. He mentioned that thousands of the Speaker's friends throughout the province viewed with alarm his recent illness and that their spirits rose and fell accordingly as good and bad reports came from the scene of his illness. Mr. Watson expressed the hope, on behalf of himself and his fellow-members, that Mr. Speaker would for many years continue to enjoy his normal robust health.

In thanking the premier for the honor done him in asking him to place his motion before the assembly Mr. Watson stated that he regarded it as an appreciation by the premier of the importance of the constituency he has the honor to represent. Continuing Mr. Watson said:

Splendid Administration

"Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Vancouver will not value this courtesy any the less from the fact that they consider a great deal of the prosperity which they are enjoying today is largely due to the splendid administration they have received at the hands of this government. I attribute, Sir, and unquestionably I am right in doing so, the wonderful change from the unsettled and unsatisfactory condition of affairs that existed prior to the year 1903, to the wise administration and stable government that we have received at Victoria, because, Sir, without wise administration and without stable government things must have gone from bad to worse, capital would have shunned the province, and private enterprise would have suffered in sympathy with the precarious and unsettled condition of our public business. It is not, however, my intention to enter into a comparison of this government with those that existed in former years, suffice it to say that, for the reasons I have already stated, the people of Vancouver appreciate immensely the honor which has been conferred on them by having one of their representatives occupying the prominent position in which I find myself this afternoon.

In glancing government at from the thro am sure will member on t well as the policy, too, w will, win the honorable gen parliamentary gramme which the hearty of British Colum result in a entire provin

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Will win Approval

"In glancing over the policy of the government as published in the speech from the throne, a policy, Sir, which I am sure will satisfy every honorable member on the floor of this house, as well as the country at large, and a policy, too, which should, and no doubt will, win the frank approval of those honorable gentlemen who constitute the parliamentary opposition, I find a programme which I am sure will meet with the hearty approval of the people of British Columbia and one which will result in a great deal of good for the entire province.

"Many important events of provincial, national and imperial interest have occurred since the last meeting of the legislature. The coronation of his Majesty King George and his royal consort in London last June was the occasion of a spontaneous outburst of loyalty from millions of devoted subjects. If the report that their Majesties will visit this Dominion within the next year or two proves correct they can be assured of the most hearty welcome from Atlantic to Pacific.

"As Canadians and British subjects those of us who remained at home were delighted at the prominent part taken by Canadian public men and Canadian soldiers in those proceedings. British Columbians, especially, read with pride of the public attention and honor shown and paid their official representatives, the leader of the government, and his colleagues, the attorney-general, during their stay in the British Isles.

"I think I express the sentiments of every Canadian when I say we all felt his Majesty gave gracious proof of his regard for Canadian loyalty when he sent us his illustrious uncle, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, to fill the high position of governor-general. I should think it would be eminently fitting that this assembly adopt an address of welcome to be duly forwarded to his Royal Highness.

"We are not unmindful of the distinguished services rendered by his predecessor, Earl Grey, and the great interest that he took in British Columbia, while it is a matter of common knowledge that he has acquired considerable property in the Okanagan, as well as in East Kootenay and that constituency so ably represented by Mr. Carson of Golden."

At this juncture Mr. Watson took occasion to express his great regret at the death of the late Col. Richard Wolfenden, one of the pioneers of British Columbia and for many years king's printer. He expressed to the relatives of the deceased the deep sympathy of the assembly in their bereavement.

Expansion of B. C.

"A survey of the provincial revenue collected from all sources for the fiscal year which ended on March 31, 1911," continued Mr. Watson in discussing the financial position of British Columbia, "shows expansion in every direction. It is a splendid reflection of the increasing prosperity of British Columbia and a triumph for the sound and prudent administration of that great financial department so ably presided over by Hon. Mr. Ellison. The gross revenue from all sources for the year referred to reaches the vast total of \$10,492,892.37."

Mr. Watson here quoted extensively from the figures of revenue for the past fiscal year which were incorporated in the statement of public accounts presented to the house by Hon. Mr. Ellison on Thursday afternoon. These figures have already been published.

"Indications point to a still better showing during the current fiscal year," proceeded Mr. Watson, "as I am given to understand that the timber and coal receipts for the nine months ending December 31 last show a most satisfactory increase. In regard to the mineral output the figures for this industry show a decrease on account of the recent strike at Fernie, though, with the settlement of the trouble, and the encouraging aspect of the silver lead industry in the Kootenay, the mining outlook for the coming year is very bright."

"With the revenues of the province never in better shape than they are today I think that the administration is fully justified in presenting the substantial programme outlined in the speech from the throne. In doing so the first minister and his colleagues have again displayed their progressive and constructive statesmanship, that has done so much in the past to ensure confidence and financial stability from one end of the province to the other; as well as to earn the gratitude of businessmen, irrespective of party affiliations.

"A single instance of the government's solicitude for the people was the appointment of a royal commission on taxation which held numerous sessions throughout the province last summer, and whose report will soon be laid before the house. I am hopeful that their recommendations will receive full consideration and that any inequalities that may have existed in the past as regards taxation will be abolished and reductions of taxation will be effected wherever possible.

"Our legal friends in this house, as well as outside, will no doubt, find subjects for rejoicing in the fact that the consolidation of the provincial statutes has been effected.

Forestry Legislation

"One result of the investigation of the forestry commission will be the creation by legislation this session of a forestry branch of the land department; also a bill dealing with the conservation and administration of the timber wealth of the province will be submitted for your consideration. In grasping the importance of this subject the minister of lands has rendered the public a great service, and has again displayed those rare administrative qualities which won him recognition from the moment he entered the cabinet. The timber wealth of this province is one of our greatest national assets. Expressing my individual opinion I think that the already efficient fire patrol service should be augmented by the establishment of wireless stations to report fires, and the work of such stations might be supplemented by the installation of telephone communication for the dissemination of information concerning outbreaks of fire. As one who has during the past year traveled a great deal through the province I wish to congratulate the minister of lands on the assiduity he has displayed in posting notices to people in regard to the danger of the careless handling of fires in the woods. For my part I think that the government would be justified in enacting legislation providing for the severest penalties upon those convicted of breaking the laws governing the setting out of fires. I do not think it would be going too far to make this punishment equivalent to that provided for arson.

"I desire to congratulate the honorable the minister of works for his excellent showing in all matters under his jurisdiction. The operations of his department vitally affect the welfare of the ranchers, the miners and the traders in all outlying districts. He is giving them a system of roads, trails and bridges that greatly facilitate access to the remote sections of the province and simplify the task of colonizing many large agricultural areas. I understand that a few years more will witness the completion of a continuous highway from the coast across southern British Columbia to the Alberta boundary. Besides serving the people along the route, these facilities can not fail to attract many thousands of automobile tourists desirous of seeing the scenic beauties of British Columbia to better advantage than from the rear platform of an Imperial Limited express.

"I am glad to note that Hon. Mr. Taylor is also making splendid progress with the development and improvement of Strathcona Park on Vancouver Island. Too much importance cannot be attached to the desirability of preserving this great beauty spot. I do not think that many years will pass before the fame of Strathcona Park as one of the most beautiful regions of the world will be attracting thousands of visitors annually."

Visit to Ottawa

"All the papers dealing with the recent visit of the premier, the attorney general and the minister of lands to Ottawa to discuss various provincial matters with the federal authorities will be laid before this assembly. I am sure you are all pleased at the complete success of their mission, and in regard to which the first minister will doubtless take the house into his confidence at a later juncture. It is a matter of common knowledge that until the recent Dominion election British Columbia could not even secure common justice at Ottawa. However, times have changed and it only required an explanation of the position of British Columbia by the visitors to convince Hon. Mr. Borden and his colleagues that a speedy solution of the matters in dispute between the two governments for so many years could be speedily reached on a basis of honor to both. One result of this mission is that the vexed question of the administration of water within the Dominion railway belt has been amicably settled and all possible conflict of water records will be avoided. I understand that a bill will be introduced this session making all these complex matters clear by the transfer of the water administration in this belt to the provincial authorities.

"I think that you will all agree with me that the government has displayed broad constructive statesmanship in its decision to extend the railway policy so successfully inaugurated sev-

eral years ago. The fruits of that policy are already apparent in the railway activity prevailing on Vancouver Island and on the mainland. The Canadian Northern Railway is making remarkable progress and we are assured that the coast and prairies will be linked by the new line before the end of 1913, well ahead of the time fixed on by the premier when he brought down the policy which resulted in the building of this line. The expenditure of the Canadian Northern Railway in British Columbia last month amounted to \$750,000 and the effect of this large distribution of money is already stimulating every line of commercial activity. The C. P. R. is also doing its share in opening up Vancouver Island; it has built the Alberni branch which was opened a few days ago to traffic and it now proposes further extension in the near future to the north in the direction of Campbell river and on to the northern extremity of the island. At the same time the Canadian Northern is steadily reaching out from Victoria by another route which will open up equally rich regions. The possibilities for the development of Vancouver Island are almost inconceivable.

New Railway Policy

"I am sure that when the premier takes this house into his confidence on his new railway policy it will be found to be of the greatest importance to the province as a whole. The premier has already publicly intimated that arrangements will be made so as to ensure the construction of the railway from the coast through the great northern hinterland to the Peace River district. The people of the coast have not been slow to appreciate the possibilities of the proposed line. Public bodies have with one accord declared in favor of a railway through the center of the province to the wheat fields of the Peace River district. A line such as is proposed will serve the double purpose of opening up the intermediate region as well as finding an outlet for the surplus products of the millions of acres of land within British Columbia on the eastern side of the Rockies. Edmonton is looking with longing eyes in the same direction. The superior advantages offered by a short rail haul along the natural water grade to this coast are obvious and I look for the products of the entire Mackenzie river basin to see export via this coast. In probably 1 year's time there will not be such thing as free farm land on the prairie. Then British Columbia will come into her own and there will be a great tree to the lands of this province—such another as there has been to her cities during the past few years. Our hinterland is rich and there is a water grade from it to the coast and I look

for the time, and it is not far distant when all the products of that country will seek the coast for distribution.

"Thanks to the foresight of the minister of lands, the newcomer will find large areas of surveyed lands avail-

able for either pre-emption or purchase. These are ready for any great rush of settlers that may take place. For a country boasting of such a wealth of agricultural areas as does British Columbia the province last year made a poor showing through the importation of \$14,000,000 worth of foodstuffs. I hope that condition will not exist long; I hope that British Columbia will soon be in the proud position of being able to export all the foodstuffs which it is possible to grow in these latitudes.

Vancouver to Nelson

"I am heartily in favor of the extension of the government railway policy in the direction of securing direct railway connection between the coast and the southern interior by means of a line across the Hope mountains. The Kettle Valley line is doing important work under its contract with the government but I would like to see a railway from Vancouver to Nelson that would shorten the time of the journey between the two places by 12 hours as compared with the present schedule. Such a railway would be of great advantage to the coast cities of British Columbia.

"While I am not oblivious to the splendid progress made by Victoria and other cities of the province—and in passing I wish to congratulate Victoria on the very satisfactory arrangement that has been effected regarding that eyecore in the center of the city, the Songhees Indian reserve. That this matter should have been so amicably arranged shows that this government is ever ready to afford the most generous treatment to the aborigines. I see the Indians have set up what I consider is a preposterous claim to the ownership of the lands of the province and that they are aided and abetted in their efforts by some white people who are not so well acquainted with the true state of affairs in this connection as they might be. But, sir, while I agree with the action of the government in dealing with these matters in a generous spirit I think that the Indians might as well make up their minds that they have to step aside for the white race; they cannot hope to compete with the white races any more that the weak can run against the strong. I do not like to appear uncharitable but it appears to me that the problem has only one solution.

"Referring to the progress which has been made by the cities of British Columbia during the past year I trust I am justified in taking a pardonable pride in the remarkable strides made by the city of Vancouver. I am not one of those who believe that the growth of any city menaces the future of any other community, and I am sure that the same sentiments are entertained by other members of this house. I should like to do my share in dissipating an erroneous impression that has got abroad that the city of Vancouver owes its progress to a real estate boom, and that a period of reaction, if not of financial stringency, is bound to set in sooner or later. Such an idea is due to a misapprehension of the facts. The phenomenal growth of Vancouver is due to more far reaching economic causes. Vancouver is a seaport and an industrial centre. It is the western terminus of the C.P.R., is the prospective terminus of the Canadian Northern railway as well as the Canadian portion of the Great Northern railway. We are also on the eve of attracting the G.T.F. with its proposed branch line from Fort George. These are some of the reasons why Vancouver is a prosperous city and why she is destined to become a great city in every sense of the term. The rise in property values was only incidental under the circumstances. Some eastern publications have been particularly free in criticising the advance in values and have been disposed to regard with a certain amount of cynicism bona fide transactions that have taken place in Vancouver within the last few months. It would seem that if a phenomenal rise in real estate values is to be taken as an indication of impending disaster the city of Toronto must be in the same boat with Vancouver."

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"In conclusion umbia is worthy greatest of our her. This is a abilities and is

Here Mr. Watson quoted from a statement in a Toronto newspaper to the effect that a sale had been negotiated for the transfer of the northwest corner of King and Yonge streets at \$15,000 a foot for the King street frontage of 60 feet, said to establish a record for the value of real estate in Canada.

"Doubtless it will be some years before values on the principal streets of Vancouver reach \$13,000 per front foot," continued Mr. Watson, "but whether they ever go to that or not, the only feelings that we have are those of pride to think that another great city of our fair Dominion is making such wonderful headway."

Metropolitan Centre

"Speaking still of Vancouver, Mr. Speaker, that from a city of less than 42,000 people less than six years ago, Vancouver has become a metropolitan centre of over 110,000 people, with al-

most 50,000 additional population within the limits of the area now designated Greater Vancouver and sharing in the same complex life as the parent city on the shores of Burrard Inlet.

"Our prosperity is revealed in countless ways. The statistics prepared by municipal, provincial and federal officials all tell the same story of expansion and increasing prosperity. I will deal with some of these figures in the briefest outline, for the subject is not one that could be dealt with within the limits of my speech this afternoon.

"The total assessed values of Vancouver for the year just ended reached the magnificent figure of \$132,501,000, as compared with a total of \$136,000,000 for the year 1910.

"If we turn to the record of bank clearings, a true barometer of financial and industrial progress, we find an equally wonderful showing. Bank clearings in Vancouver increased from \$444,988,000 to \$543,484,000, or at the rate of about \$100,000,000 and compare favorably with the gross total of \$552,640,000 for Seattle; and \$557,484,000 for Portland, two larger cities, for the same period.

"Our building permits for 1911 showed a value of \$17,652,000 as compared with \$13,150,000 in the previous year, an increase of thirty-three and a third per cent. and look very imposing alongside Seattle's paltry \$7,491,000 and compare favorably with Toronto and Winnipeg.

"The revenue from the city water-works likewise shows an increase of \$100,000 over 1910.

"The healthy condition of real estate is also reflected in the books of the Land Registry Office at Vancouver; the total revenue for the past year was \$289,327, or an increase of 30 per cent. over the revenue of 1910.

"The returns from customs revenue in Vancouver show the phenomenal increase of \$2,000,000 for the year; the receipts of the year just closed were \$7,402,000 as against \$5,400,000 in 1910, and so it goes, Mr. Speaker, all of which shows what I have already contended, that the great growth of Vancouver—a growth which it is difficult for some people to understand—is fully justified by existing conditions.

"I wish to congratulate the minister of education on his efforts on behalf of the University of British Columbia. The clearing of the site at Point Gray is well under way and I understand a grant will be asked in order to ensure the formal opening of the university for the fall term of 1913. I see no reason why British Columbia, thanks to the splendid endowment, should not possess a seat of higher learning, that will enable us to educate our young people at home.

"And now, sir, just a brief reference to the census returns supplied us a few months ago. It will be apparent to everyone that the West is increasing in population in greater proportion than the East, and I would not be surprised, familiar as I am with the spirit that prevails in our western provinces, peopled by men with iron in their blood, that in the course of one or two decades the West will control the destinies of Canada. And that being so, it behooves us to see that there is no surrender of our rights under the British North America Act, and that we get our increased quota of members and senators in the federal house.

"In conclusion I say that British Columbia is worthy of the best that the greatest of our public men can do for her. This is a country of imperial possibilities and is it not a matter of great

congratulation that at this juncture her affairs are in the hands of strong, capable men, men of courage and foresight? The foundations for the future are being laid and it is essential that they should be broad and deep. And now, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor in reply to the speech from the Throne." (Applause.)

Mr. Lucas

The member for Yale, who also was received with an enthusiasm indicative of his established popularity among his fellow legislators, joined with Vancouver's second member in expressing his deep sympathy with Mr. Speaker Eberts in his recent severe illness and expressed in felicitous terms his pleasure at seeing the veteran parliamentarian who presides over the deliberations of the assembly restored to his usual good health. He, too, extended his thanks to the premier for the honor which had been conferred upon him in placing the seconding of the reply to his honor's address in his hands, an honor which modestly he took rather as a compliment to the riding which it was his good fortune to represent. He congratulated the second member for Vancouver also upon the able and very comprehensive manner in which he had dealt with the speech from the throne and commented appropriately upon its contents seriatim. So complete and sufficient had Mr. Watson's contribution to the debate been, indeed, that for his own part he might almost be content to sit down with the sincere expression that he seconded all that had been uttered by Mr. Watson—as well as the formal resolution.

"However," Mr. Lucas continued, "I may be permitted to deal very briefly and retrospectively with a few of the outstanding events of the year just ended, and note what appear to me to be the relations of those events particularly to our national and our provincial progress. Deservedly conspicuous among these events must be noted the coronation of His Majesty King George, at which great ceremonial in all parts of the empire were represented in the city of London, and none we may be sure with greater tact and adequacy than British Columbia. The coronation and the manner in which its celebration was joined in by the representatives of all the outlying portions of the empire impress me as directing attention to the tendency, now more marked than ever before, of the British Dominions toward the achievement of truly imperialistic ideals. The appointment of H. R. H. the Duke of Cornwall as representative of His Majesty in this Canadian commonwealth is also a notable event in the same connection—as a long step toward the accomplishment of sympathetic imperialism throughout the broader Britain, the succession of

events now transpiring all tending in the ultimate to imperial federation, a condition absolutely essential to the future complete and crowning achievement in the evolution of the British empire. For myself I cannot comprehend such a condition as Great Britain being at war with any foreign power and any part or unit in the empire regarding itself as disinterested any more than such a condition as any part of the empire being at war with a foreign foe and Great Britain a disinterested party. It is my own opinion that all parts of the great empire should contribute in fair proportions toward national defence, and the inevitable necessary in this will come about naturally and more rapidly when imperial federation has become a fact accomplished than could be otherwise possible.

Agricultural Industry

"Concerning the marked and gratifying progress of our own country, I fully agree with all my colleague from Vancouver city has said. There is, however, one great industry which has not shown that degree of desirable progress which might have been hoped for and expected—this comment applying not only in British Columbia but equally in the sister province of Ontario and in many of the states of the Union to the south. Indeed the

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condition of the agricultural industry is found to be such that not long ago some 15 or 16 of the American states met to discuss the situation in its realities and attempt to formulate some plan through the development of which the agricultural industry might be made more attractive and its development promoted, instead of the congestion of the cities being yet further accentuated. What present conditions in this industry are may be judged from the fact that the returns of the late census show that Ontario, while growing and developing rapidly in other directions, is virtually at a standstill in the domain of agriculture although this is described as the "backbone industry" of any stable country. The difficulties appear to consist largely in general lack of scientific methods as applied to farming, the generally limited financial resources of those who till the soil, and the necessity for the introduction of co-operative principles in profitable marketing. Attention to those being given, agriculture should make especially great strides in this province of British Columbia, our soils and market conditions being so peculiarly favorable, despite which we do not yet produce in British Columbia even sufficient for our own consumption demands. This condition it is an axiomatic economic fact that it should be our determination to remedy at the earliest opportunity.

"In connection with the recent visit of the prime minister, the attorney general and the minister of lands at Ottawa, congratulations are also in order, to the people of this province, as a first result is already in evidence in the giving to us of what is practically control of the lands of the railway belt. Under provincial administration, to secure which necessary legislation will undoubtedly be introduced, we may look for such official action as will greatly stimulate development and the influx of a large body of desirable settlers, together with an immediate and satisfactory adjustment of all water right differences.

Railroad Construction

"It is perhaps superfluous for me to say that I am in hearty accord with the enunciated principle of the government in encouraging railway construction and the resultant growth of population and productive industries. I thoroughly believe in the building of railway systems to serve every important section within the province. We all remember well, when legislation was promised for the promotion of construction of the Canadian Northern Pacific, how we looked for it with the keenest interest. That legislation was accomplished, and we have already seen the earnest

of the result. It is visible today in active construction operations virtually in all parts of the province, west to east, and perhaps nowhere more conspicuously than in my own riding of Yale. We cannot but contrast the rapidity of progress that is being made by the Canadian Northern Pacific in this province with the manner in which the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific has gone forward, and we cannot but note the evidence of superior wisdom displayed in the contract made by this provincial government to that demonstrated in the federal bargain under which construction of the G. T. P. was secured. I hope to see railway construction continue wherever arteries of communication are needed for development of the latent resources, even to the most remote confines of British Columbia, so that all the country may speedily be brought into touch with the commercial centres of the Pacific coast.

"Congratulation to the honorable the provincial secretary and minister of education is also, I feel, decidedly in order, upon the energy displayed in so advancing plans for the university establishment that we can be promised an opening of its classes in 1912. I have also noted with special appreciation the announcement made by the minister that a faculty of agriculture will be included in this university

scheme, I fully believe that the introduction of more scientific methods in farming will not only make the agricultural industry one of much greater profit to those engaging in it, but it will at the same time give the profession of the agriculturist a status making it more attractive, and tempting to engage in it a much greater portion of the population.

The Estimates

"With respect to the estimates which will be offered to the house this session, I believe from such information as I have been able to gather that adequate and ample provision will be made for the requirements of this growing province. The district which

I have the honor to represent is, I may say, advancing with as great rapidity and sureness as any in the province. From Agassiz to Ashcroft, along the main line as laid out, this development may be attributed no doubt in part to C. N. P. construction; but in the Nicola district, the present progress and prosperity is the natural outcome of the development of the rich coal measures, which now are taking an important place as contributors to the fuel necessities of the country. When the minister of works and the finance minister confer upon the estimates, I feel assured that the district of Yale will receive its fair share of the expenditures requisite for the development and continued prosperity of all parts of British Columbia. I have great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion."

The debate at this juncture was adjourned by Mr. Brewster, who will continue when the house meets again at 2 o'clock on Monday.

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVINCE

Premier McBride, in Masterly
Speech, Reviews Situation
—Encouragement Given to
Settlers by Policy

NEW LEGISLATION IS FORESHADOWED

Reduction in Taxation Among
Matters to be Considered—
Mr. H. C. Brewster's Con-
tribution to Debate

Yesterday in the provincial legisla-
ture produced two speeches upon the
general conditions prevailing in Brit-
ish Columbia and provincial hopes and
prospects for substantial development
in the near future which will stand
among the most important, interest-
ing and eloquent of the addresses of
this or any session of the provincial
parliament. The speakers were Mr.
H. C. Brewster, the member for Al-
berni, and spokesman in parliament
for the Liberal party, and Premier Mc-
Bride, who took occasion, in replying
to the opposition criticism, to deal
forcefully and earnestly with various
outstanding matters of provincial con-
cern, giving at the same time a glimpse
of broader statesmanship in his effec-
tive references to the coronation and
the coming of a member of the royal
family as viceroy to Canada, and the
related influence of these two events
in the development of the Imperial
ideal. The premier touched also upon
railway, Indian reserves, Better Terms,
and other vital interests, in a manner
commanding the undivided interest of
the house and an appreciation which
will be joined in by the entire country.

Today the consideration of the
speech will be continued by Mr. Tis-
dall, after whom Mr. P. Williams will
probably be heard. Mr. M. Manson,
Mr. MacGowan and several others on
the government side will probably
contribute to the debate before it
closes, although the expectation is that
this initial feature of sessional activ-
ity will be disposed of on Thursday or
Friday at latest. The great majority
of the members have now arrived and
entered upon their sessional duties.

Change of Route

The petition of the British Columbia
and Alaska Railway company, which
was read to the house yesterday and
took the usual course, provides for a
radical change of route in that project-
ed new agency of transport, the line
as formerly indicated having been de-
signed, in harmony with the title of
the company, to extend northerly and
westerly from Fort George to an ulti-
mate terminal at some point in Alas-
ka. Recent development changes in
the northern areas of western Canada
have induced the promoters of this
railway to materially amend their
plans, and they now seek authority to
turn easterly from Fort George, with
the intention of penetrating the Peace
river country. It is in this connection,
as well as with a request for an ex-
tension of the time prescribed in which
they must expend ten per cent. of
their capitalization in order to retain
their charter privileges, that they are
now approaching the B. C. house.

The company has changed, too, in its
composition since it last came to the
legislation, Mr. Jean Walkenstein be-
ing succeeded in the presidency by Mr.
E. C. Harris, while Mr. William C.
Pratt now acts as the company's sec-
retary.

The route, as indicated in the peti-
tion now before the legislature, is de-
scribed as from Fort George, north-
easterly to the valley of the Parsnip
river, by way of Fort McLeod, thence
along the Parsnip river to a junction
with the Peace river, and along the
valley of the Finlay, through Sifton
Pass; thence via the Stikine river to a
junction with the main line at Tele-
graph creek, with main line at Tele-
graph creek, with power to build
branch lines through Pine or Peace
river pass to the eastern boundary of
British Columbia, or by way of the
most feasible route, or in the alterna-
tive by the most feasible route be-
tween Lytton and Teslin lake; also to
build from a point on the line of the
railway to Vancouver city.

Mr. H. C. Brewster

Mr. Brewster, in rising to continue
the debate on the address in reply to
the speech from the throne, compli-
mented the mover and seconder on the
eloquence with which they had acquitted
themselves, and also congratulated Mr.
Speaker Eberts upon the improved con-
dition of health which allowed him again
to attend to his important duties. Re-
ferring to the Coronation, he was glad
to see that the premier and the at-
torney-general, who had represented the
province, had returned in safety. The
house might feel sure that British Co-
lumbia had been properly represented
at that magnificent gathering.

"Though, of course," he added, "it
has been disappointing to myself and
other members of this house, that I
am not able to address the premier
across the floor of the house as 'Sir
Richard,' but possibly that will come
at a later day." (Applause.)

"One matter of a more serious nature,
which I regret did not find a place in
the speech from the throne," Mr. Brew-
ster continued, "was the death of our
old and esteemed friend, Colonel Wol-
fenden, the king's printer. I am very
pleased, however, that the mover of the
address (Mr. Watson) took it upon
himself to comment in a proper man-
ner upon his invaluable services to this
province. An old gentleman, courteous
to all and who treated all alike, and
who, owing to the ability he brought
to bear upon his work, won the esteem
of every member of the house. I should
be pleased to join in any resolution ex-
tending the sympathy of the house to
his family and friends.

"Now as to the position of the Liberal
party on the floor of this house, as
there is only one member to do all the
talking I am not going to inflict a
lengthy address on the house this af-
ternoon. I must remember that in the
position in which I am placed, I shall
have to make a good number of
attempts at speech-making on the floor
during the session."

Important Events

Mr. Brewster continued that among
other important events to the Empire
and especially to Canada during the
past year, was the appointment of His
Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught
as governor-general of the Dominion.
He considered it a great honor to the
Dominion and would join with pleasure
in an address to him as suggested in
the speech from the throne. A matter
of importance to the Empire and the
Dominion, but more particularly to the
province of British Columbia and the
District he had the honor to represent,
was the completion of the Bulkley &
Nanaimo Railway to the terminal point
at Port Alberni on the west coast of
Vancouver Island. This railway, sub-
sidized by the Dominion government,
marked the extension of the Canadian
Pacific Railway system to that coast,
but the district needed other improve-
ments to keep pace with the tremen-
dous strides in development that were
being made in that section, and he
warned the first minister and the min-
ister of public works that great de-
mands would be made upon them for
roads and other necessities to keep pace
with that tremendous growth. One of
these roads that he had brought many
times to the attention of the govern-
ment was from Alberni along the Great
Central Lake district, and out to beau-
tiful Long Beach which would in fu-
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ture be one of the greatest pleasure resorts in British Columbia. Another was needed to connect Strathcona park with the settled portions of Vancouver Island. Unless these matters were attended to he warned the first minister and the minister of public works, that they must expect some strenuous interviews.

The Revenue Tax

"As for the speech from the throne itself," continued the speaker. "It is more remarkable for what is omitted than for what is presented. One thing we find is that in reference to the financial condition of the province it is represented as having a great surplus of about \$10,000,000, and we find that of that amount the revenue tax has contributed over a third of a million dollars. This revenue tax has been attacked on the floor of this house many times. It has been pointed out as unjust and unscientific as it does not bear upon people according to their ability to pay. It is one of those arbitrary taxes for which there is no justification. It takes the poor man, as well as the wealthy, by the throat and makes him disgorge his three dollars. This has been denounced in this house by a man who was formerly a member of the government, and who is still regarded by Conservatives and Liberals alike as a very able and astute financier.

"Then again we find among the next items that go to make up this surplus, that of land sales, and in connection with these land sales we find something that should have been considered in the speech from the throne, that is a land policy, but we do not find any land policy mentioned. It was only last session that the members of this house who follow the first minister were loud in their praises of the new minister of lands who had been appointed. They said he would bring to bear on his duties a great fund of knowledge and tremendous mental weight, and they expected him to bring down a land policy that would make not only for the good of the province, but for that of the people at large. I look in vain for any mention of this land policy in the speech from the throne. Indeed if press reports can be taken with any confidence at all, instead of a land policy we are likely to drift into something worse than before. I notice from these reports that certain titled persons from the old land are likely to purchase large tracts with a view to establishing a tenancy of landlord policy in this province. If this is the case it is certainly a great recommendation for the honorable first minister, for his shrewdness and far-sightedness and clear statesmanship—if he will allow to be placed on this province, the one province in Canada where we should be free from it, a system of this kind. With the cries of the people of the old country rising against this system, that honorable gentlemen should allow it to take place here is almost unbelievable.

Attacks Land Policy

"We find that instead of looking ahead and making a statesmanlike policy that will eventually bring this province to a foremost place in agriculture, the jingle of the present dollar that falls into the treasury from the sale of public lands, makes them blind to anything else. As a matter of fact we have no land policy, and for very good reasons. The first is that if a proper policy were put upon the statute books my honorable friend would not have the opportunity of doling out to the inside ring of his party, those who help to elect him and his friends to this house, certain choice portions of this province. They would find that the man who is shouting for them at the present day might lose his ardor and they would have fewer supporters in this house. Another reason is that when all is said and done they have no other policy to advance except that which has been advocated by the Liberal party for many years in the past. Yes, even the astute premier who smiles at that remark, can find nothing better. It is true it does not fit in with his political ideas, and so when the question was considered by the minister of lands he either had to adopt that policy or leave it alone."

Mr. Brewster continued that the government was fond of appealing to the people on the basis that it was a stable government, and did not shift around, and yet last year, when they had just adjourned, when the land policy had been discussed on the floor of the house, with no intimation of any vital change, and without taking the people affected into consideration, over-night, between two days, came forth an order-in-council raising the price of land, and putting in a bad position many who had taken up their land under the existing law. What was the cause? Was it that friends of the government had secured all they wanted, that the choicest pickings had been taken, and raising the price on what remained would add a little value to these first holdings?

"Of course there was no discussion of this on the floor of the house," continued the speaker, "and it is a fact, an awful fact, that so far as the majority of the followers of the premier and his colleagues are concerned it would be just as well for them to take it into their hands and pass everything by order-in-council, for there has not been any objection, nor is it likely there will be any acts emanating from the Napoleon of the party who sits across the floor of the house. It is true that back of the premier sits nearly the whole house, but it is also true that there are at least two who have the right to question and discuss these matters, and demand that some notice be given before such changes are made."

For the Pre-emptor

Mr. Brewster continued that the member for Vancouver, Mr. Watson, had said the other day that in a few years there would be no more free land, and then with beautiful consistency, had turned around and said that the honorable minister of lands had still any quantity of land for the pre-emptor to purchase. He could assure him that the greater part of these lands had already passed into the hands of those who could at the best use them for political ends, and what was left to give to the actual settler would not amount to a very great deal. Of course, he did not say that all the good land in British Columbia was taken up, but those sections which were in such a position as to be readily transferred had been acquired by those who were supposed to make the best use of them for their Conservative friends, and that which was left would raise blisters and backaches from those who undertook its development.

The member for Vancouver had also referred to the imports and exports of the province, and the only sound like a groan he had heard from him was when he said that the agricultural imports of British Columbia came to over \$14,000,000 a year. It was an amusing thing that a supporter of the government should have brought this to the attention of the people, since it certainly reflected no credit on the government. It was one condition which the policy of the Liberal party would have eliminated. The present government had allowed the land speculator to come in and take his profit from the actual settler before he could put a spade into the soil. Yet the member for Vancouver himself sat behind the premier whose government had brought about that condition.

Agriculture

"In the speech from the throne," he added, "there is in this connection one notable omission, and that is that the backbone industry of agriculture, without which we will become a very weak people indeed, is not even mentioned. Possibly the premier would not like to have too much agriculture going on, because in the solidly settled agricultural district the speculator would not thrive as well as in a virgin country such as British Columbia is today."

Mr. Brewster continued that further down in the speech he found the taxation commission mentioned, and the member for Vancouver, Mr. Watson, had referred to it as an evidence of the solicitude of the government for the welfare of the people. The report of the commission was not yet before the house, and he had been unable to attend its sittings, as he was too far away, but he surmised that one of its recommendations would be the abolition of that unrighteous and unjust revenue tax. Another thing he would like to see

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would be the readjustment of land taxes in the province. The people might fairly expect an exemption from improvements on agricultural lands. One of the first resolutions he had introduced in the house had been along that line. What position were we in? On the one hand we had to import \$14,000,000 of agricultural products annually, and on the other hand if a settler went on the land, cut down the trees and grubbed away at the roots and put up buildings, along came the assessor and fined him for it. It surely could not be too much to ask that the government, with its bursting treasury, should take from the back of that

worker the burden they had placed upon it.

Tariff Policy

"I don't doubt," said the speaker, "that in all their considerations in matters of taxation the policy which the Conservative party has always favored of making the person who bears most of the burdens of this world to bear the greatest portion of the burden of taxation also—I mean the Conservative policy of tariff was not dealt with by this commission. At least, I would be very much surprised if it was. Of course, they will have the usual excuse that it is a federal matter. That is a neat little scheme. We should tax a man according to his wealth or poverty, but that would not suit the Tory party. They said, 'We are men of means, and that means that we shall have to bear the whole burden and the workingman down there pay nothing. So many of our supporters are of the richer class, and we must take care of them.' So they took the Hamilton idea and called it tariff. I regret that the commission did not take up this question, which is the greatest burden on the people of Canada at the present day; but there will come a time when there will be a demand that a more equitable system shall be adopted.

Hon. Mr. McPhillips: "What did they say on the 21st of September?"

Mr. Brewster: "They said, when blinded by sentiment that was not backed up by any argument or statement of fact, that until further enlightened they were going to allow an administration by Conservatives. This argument does not sit well on my honorable friend the president of the council. After all, what was the taxation commission? It was simply, like the university commission, an attempt to throw off the shoulders of the government a disagreeable tax and place it on the commission."

Mission to Ottawa

My friend from Vancouver, always very eloquent and pleasing to listen to, waxed even more eloquent than usual over the result of the pilgrimage made by the premier and other members of the cabinet to Ottawa. I saw from the papers, that not only the royalty, the leaders of the Conservative party made pilgrimages to Ottawa, but many other members of the Conservative party have done so, as if their faith in the wisdom of Mr. Borden is not sufficient, and they must advise him. I notice in the speech from the throne some mention made of a satisfactory adjustment with the Dominion government. What does it mean? Some members of the house last year were convinced that the Dominion government stood in the way of keeping Orientals out of this province, and we had the Natal Act from the Attorney-General in season and out of season, and so if a satisfactory arrangement has been made I suppose that in a few days we shall have the Natal Act again presented. It will be passed, and as we have now no bad Grits at Ottawa to interfere with it, we shall have a country where we can easily deal with Oriental immigration. Again there came to my mind some occurrences just before the election. There was a cry of better terms, which meant increased subsidies for British Columbia, and handing over to the province many other things which the Dominion claimed the right to administer. This Better Terms question is one that you can hear at any Conservative meeting in British Columbia. All you have to do is to conjure up a picture of the premier making his grandstand play before the premiers from the other provinces at Ottawa, and they will think we were badly abused, but now, as the member for Vancouver said, the dark days are over, now we are to have better terms, we are to have

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a Natal Act, we are to have control of the fisheries, the administration of lands in Peace river, and control of lands in the railway belt. I fail to find much of this mentioned in the speech from the throne, but it does say that the administration of the water in the railway belt will be placed in the hands of the province. While this may be a benefit in doing away with conflict in administration and allowing of the readier development of these lands, when that order-in-council is read before the house, I think we will find that if there should be any moneys accruing over and above the expense of administration they will go right back to Ottawa, so that it does not look as if these pilgrimages made so far have accomplished a great deal."

Forthcoming Election

Mr. Brewster continued that it was of course necessary that attention should be directed to these matters, and the most should be made of them, as a report had gone forth that there was to be an election before long, so that it should go to the Conservative machine, from the highest to the lowest, through game wardens, constables and other officials, that British Columbia will get all it can expect simply because there has been a change of government at Ottawa.

One change in policy has been hinted at, and that was a railway policy which it was stated that his honorable friend the premier was to bring down that session to catch the voter and retain himself in power for another term.

"I don't know what that policy is," said Mr. Brewster, "but when the papers come down and we have an opportunity to study them, I will tell the house what I think of its merits and demerits. I presume the provincial government is again going to place its credit at the disposal of a corporation that might obtain it in the common manner."

He next took up the subject of the Songhees reserve. He was glad the question had been settled and the Indians removed, though they might have been removed years ago. There had been nothing in the way only that the premier did not see that there was any political kudos in it for him if there had been a settlement at that time, but just as soon as the premier saw there was some advantage for him it was done. In 1908 Mr. Pedley, of the department of Indian affairs, came out here for the purpose of settling this question with the government in order that there might be no conflict over the question of reversionary rights. He believed that correspondence passed in which the government was to give up any reversionary rights, and the city of Victoria was to receive forty-three acres of that Songhees reserve. At that time the land was of little value but now it was settled there was some value to it—but there was a string on the gold brick, and as soon as it was presented it was pulled back again, and now if the city of Victoria wanted the land they had to pay for it.

Summing Up

"And now in conclusion," said Mr. Brewster, "I want to sum up a few of the matters placed before us in the speech from the throne, and the replies of the mover and seconder of the address. First, as men honestly desiring to legislate for the benefit of British Columbia, we should look to other countries, and see how all these matters work out. We find that throughout the whole world there is a movement that will eventually reach British Columbia, and he who has tolled and borne the burden will claim his share in the government. In Great Britain at present, there are more reforms in view and more demand for a voice by the people in the legislation of the country than at any other time. In Germany democracy is forcing the classes into the corner, and even in the eastern sections of the world we find unrest. We find old China, after sleeping for thousands of years, now shaking herself and awakening, and very soon she will become a great world power. And, sir, while looking at China, dead so long to the interests of the modern world, I can even have hopes that this Conservative party, just as dead, will wake up and shake itself and realize that it is here for some purpose. What do we find in the speech from the throne? Any help for those who wish to get on the land, or who are clearing a patch for them-

selves back in the forest? Do we find any home of relief for the workman from competition with the Oriental? I have looked in vain for any of these. I looked for some one thing at least that would touch the whole people of British Columbia. I have found nothing. The same old system that has always controlled the Tory party controls the Tory speech, and is easily discerned, and that is that the few shall have and the masses shall toil." (Applause.)

Premier McBride

"I feel sure," said Premier McBride, upon rising, and after the outburst of applause had subsided which greeted his motion to continue the debate, "that the members of our legislature have followed the criticism of my friend the member for Alberni, as I have, with more than ordinary interest. We have had the opportunity before of listening to that gentleman in his now very responsible role as Liberal party leader during three sessions past, in his criticisms of the government of today, and I feel that I can term his effort of this afternoon creditable to him in a superlative degree. Considering the limited numerical strength of his party in the house at present and the other disadvantages under which he labors, I think that all members of the house will agree with me that he has today acquitted himself heroically.

"Before proceeding to deal with certain of the observations of my friend, I desire to refer appreciatively to the very bright, crisp and interesting addresses on Friday afternoon in moving and seconding the reply by the honorable the second member for Vancouver and the member for Yale. We all followed their remarks very closely, and we all must have come to the one opinion that in these two gentlemen the legislature of this country possesses two members who are both active and exceedingly able men. With respect to what was said by the honorable member for Vancouver city, one is not surprised at the breadth and statesmanship displayed in his remarks, remembering that he comes to this house as the representative of one of the wonder commercial centres of the world. We must also bear in mind that in the district of Yale recent development has been strongly marked and most satisfactory with regard not only to the mining industry, but also to that of agriculture, and the very timely references made by the representative of Yale district to these two industries stamp him as a man who is trying to follow and to assist in the development that is taking place today by every means in his power and with all the large ability at his command.

An Old, Old Cry

"Coming back to the remarks of my friend, the member for Alberni, I must again tender him my sincere congratulations upon the general excellence of his address. Of course, however, he had to present once more the threadbare indictment epitomized in the question that we have heard from him before, 'Where is the government's land policy?' That is an old, old cry. Despite the progress which is apparent on every hand and the development which every resident of this favored province must recognize and appreciate, his attitude is unchanged. With respect to this land policy of the government,

The workers, the agriculturists, the business men of the country, have, when the opportunity of elections has presented itself, shown themselves the first to come to the endorsement of this administration and its policy whenever the course of the government has been submitted to the jury of the electorate for its consideration. Instead of harping away on this one old string, instead of attempting to depreciate the efforts which are being put forth continually to promote the development and the prosperity of British Columbia, my friend the member for Alberni should come forward man-fashion and tender his congratulations to the country upon prevailing conditions, especially as to the development and settlement of the lands of British Columbia which is taking place. British Columbia is not at all comparable with either Alberta or Saskatchewan in respect to the characteristics of its land. This is

not a prairie province, and it is not possible for us to lay out our lands checker-board fashion and sell and settle them overnight. We have a country of topographical difficulties, of physical difficulties, where before we can do anything directly in the settlement of the lands it is necessary for us to construct highways and induce the building of railways, so as to bring our colonists in close touch with markets and bases of supply before they can clear the heavily-timbered lands which are the characteristic areas of this country. We haven't the prairie land to offer prospective settlers, but our timbered lands make excellent farming areas when once they have been cleared.

Unequalled Soil

The soil of the greater portion of British Columbia, when properly brought under cultivation, may be fairly said to be unequalled the world over in its productivity. But the conditions are very different here from those applying to the development of the lands of the prairie provinces which were undoubtedly in my friend's mind when he was speaking today. I would ask him whether or not he expected us to take him seriously in his references to unscrupulous land speculators in this province? Has he not been during years past one of those continually and unqualifiedly supporting with both hands the Liberal party of the Dominion of Canada, which has done more for the assistance of land speculators, to the detriment of the public interest, than perhaps any other government which Canada has ever known? Has he forgotten the Saskatchewan land deal, may I ask? He comes here and prefers

against this Government this specific indictment with respect to land speculation, and yet he is himself one of the men in Canada supporting with both hands an administration responsible for such a bargain—I use the word in all charity—as the Saskatchewan land deal. Perhaps no one is so well qualified to deal with the subject of such 'speculation' as one who has been so long associated as he with the Liberal party in Canada. What speculation could be more open to censure than that which we find has been systematically indulged in in connection with our own Pacific fisheries. Do we not find food for the most serious consideration in the manner in which fishery rights and interests in British Columbia have been systematically farmed out by the Liberal party of Canada? Having regard to these things it would seem that there is no man more qualified to address the House and the country on the subject of iniquitous speculation than one who acknowledges the same allegiance to the Liberal party as my friend opposite.

Substantial Development

"With regard to the land policy of the government it is perhaps scarcely necessary for me to repeat that our land policy is making for the substantial development of the country and that, under it, we have done and are doing what we can to restrict speculation, and if possible to prohibit speculation, and the speculator in connection with the utilization of the crown lands of British Columbia. We have at the present time an excellent credit and we propose keeping that credit strong so that our opportunities and our relations with the financial world may be such that we may continue to enjoy facilities for the colonization and the utilization of the resources of this country which is our very valuable heritage. In order to preserve our credit it is necessary for us to retain confidence everywhere and in doing this it is essential that we keep the administration of our lands upon a firm, legitimate and creditable plane. Our land laws are laws which we have reason to be proud of. They are laws which are being widely copied in other parts of the world, and they come to us as a part of the inheritance we have received from those courageous first settlers to whose genius and indomitable efficiency British Columbia owes so much. Although so large a proportion of our lands are heavily timbered, and despite those physical disadvantages under which we labor, we find that during the past year the number of pre-emptors coming into British Columbia,

apart altogether or independent of the lands acquired by fifty years ago, quickly as a matter of fact, access to pre-emptors find that it is so soon as get settlers, provide for for good set in vain. If thus scientific conditions of blindly ahead settlement s berni has do book it is n the result it advantage of

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apart altogether from those with savings or independent resources who have acquired lands by purchase, has increased by fifty per cent; and as rapidly, as quickly as we can secure the construction of railways and build roads to give access to our lands, the proportion of pre-emptors will constantly increase. We find that wherever we have good land to offer, in touch with market facilities, so soon as we can construct roads, we get settlers. So soon as we can thus provide for their necessities we can look for good settlers and we need not look in vain. If the government instead of thus scientifically studying the necessities of the situation arising from the conditions of the country were to go blindly ahead with some scheme of land settlement such as my friend from Alberni has doubtless read about in some book it is not very difficult to realize the result that might accrue to the disadvantage of British Columbia.

Every Reason for Pride

"We have every reason to be proud of our land policy and also of the manner in which the people of British Columbia have stood by us whenever an appeal has been made to them for endorsement of the course of the government, of which the land policy of necessity forms a part. In the promotion of land settlement not only do we try to provide facilities of communication in the way of railways and trunk roads, but we endeavor at the same time when the settler comes in to provide markets for his products and facilities for the education of his children fully equal to what he would have had had he remained in the Motherland or in the Eastern provinces of this Canadian Dominion. The broad policy of encouraging beneficial colonization by the making of railways and roads, the provision of markets and the establishment of public schools is unquestionably one to the credit of this Province; and I warrant you that when the final census returns are available my friend from Alberni will be greatly delighted to find how the agricultural population of British Columbia has increased and the superior position to which the farming industry has attained. We have not perhaps, been able to do everything that the most exacting critic might ask of us, but considering the conditions of British Columbia, its topography and configuration, the heavily timbered nature of a considerable portion of our lands, etc., we have, I think, managed to go far in the settlement of our lands in a manner profitable to British Columbia and creditable to the province and to the Empire.

Recognizes No "Rings"

"My friend from Alberni thought fit to make a very pointed reference in respect to the passage of a certain order-in-council providing for an increase in the price of crown lands and asked the House to believe that that order-in-council was rendered necessary at that particular time by political reasons, in order to protect what he termed 'an inside ring.' I may say to this House and to the country that this government knows or recognizes no rings or special friends. No individual or combination or aggregation of any sort or description has had any recognition from this government in connection with any public business not strictly in accordance with the law or right; and Liberal, Independent, Socialist or Laborite has as strong a place before this administration and is as certain of receiving just consideration in any dealings with it as its most hearty Conservative follower. It is not only unfair to the government, but to my friend in opposition that anyone should have put in his hands statements such as he has made today. The strongest word that can be found in the dictionary is not sufficient to properly characterize and condemn the misrepresentation of the government's administration of public lands that he has expressed in the House. I have reason to believe that if the grand total of land operations in British Columbia of recent date could be analyzed it would be found that the majority of applicants is made up of Liberals and not Conservatives, with perhaps some few Socialists as well. (laughter) And why should this not be so? The law says that a man can buy these lands or pre-empt them. We are here to ad-

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minister these lands in the public behalf. Here again my friend seems to have suffered through contact with 'an inside ring.' We in the Conservative party do not know what it is to have any inside ring. The Conservative party stands today, as it has always stood for favors to none and equal rights for all. (applause.)

Tribute to Late Col. Wolfenden

"In connection with my friend's reference to the matter, I am very glad to be able to say with reference to the demise of the late King's Printer, that I was permitted to see Colonel Wolfenden very shortly before he passed away. I shall never forget the long and pleasant and most satisfactory relations which during so many years existed between that courteous gentleman and most efficient public officer and the various governments during his long years of service in British Columbia. I had been privileged to enjoy his acquaintance since the early days. As a civil servant his place was an important one and was ably filled. And because of his zeal and his steadiness as a servant of the Crown, his Majesty King Edward had seen fit to bestow upon him the Imperial Service Order, which was duly presented by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. This honor was no more than a partial recognition of his merits, and upon his decease a special issue of the Gazette was issued announcing his regretted death, he having been until his taking away, King's Printer and publisher of the first and all official gazettes in the province of British Columbia.

Taxation Matters

"Now, as to what my friend has said with regard to taxation matters: It will be well, perhaps to defer any extended discussion of this subject until the report is presented to the House of the Royal Commission to which was entrusted the special investigation of all matters connected with assessments and the incidence of taxation throughout the province. In the appointment of that commission the government was fortunate in securing the services of two very prominent British Columbians to assist my colleagues, the Finance Minister and the President of the Council, I refer to Mr. C. H. Lugin of Victoria and Mr. W. H. Malkin of Vancouver. We have this to our credit as a government that whenever and wherever we have found it necessary and expedient to appoint a commission to investigate any special problems presenting themselves for our consideration, we have had from those commissions well studied and practical reports upon which subsequently valuable and beneficial legislation has been based. As instances in point, I may refer to the previous commission on taxation, to the commission on insurance matters, and to the commission upon the selection of a University site for British Columbia. We all are aware of the work of these past commissions and of the nature of their reports and of what has followed their reception, based upon them. When I refer today to the report soon to be presented to the House as a result of the operations of the taxation commission, I do so with full assurance that good, sound, useful legislation will in due course follow as a result of the investigations recently conducted by this tribunal. These special economic conditions with which the government, the tax collector must deal, have been thoroughly gone into, the commissioners travelling to all parts of the province in order that the most complete and authoritative data might be obtained and the soundest conclusions arrived at in respect to the special problem under examination. I understand from my colleague, the Finance Minister, who was chairman of this commission that in a very few days he hopes to be able to present, through His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the commission's report, to this House for its consideration.

Government and Farmers

"My friend has said much with respect to the attitude of the government towards the farmer. I well remember in 1904, when we were obliged to in-

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crease taxation generally, and it incidentally became necessary for us to ask the farmers for a larger contribution than they had been previously paying toward the revenues of the country. Now we were accused as enemies of the farmer, and held up to abuse for our treatment of him. And I remember well that when we then went to the farmers for their assistance how they turned out the Liberals and returned good Tories in their place. The farmers appreciated the situation as it existed, and stood by us and the country patriotically. Since then, happily, we have been able to reduce taxation on a graduated scale, and I believe that when we have had the report of the taxation commission laid before us we shall be able to come to this house, and recommend still further decreased. But the farmers are not complaining. The only one farmer that I have heard saying very much with regard to the burden of taxation is my friend the member for Alberni—and perhaps, too, the member for Newcastle. Of all the farmers of British Columbia these two appear to be the only ones who feel themselves unjustly dealt with. The others are not complaining. To a very great extent our farm lands lie within the boundaries of municipalities, and we have nothing to

do with the revenues from farming lands except where these lie in unorganized districts. And it is interesting to note in this connection the general disposition of those interested when any question of municipal incorporation presents itself. Having had experience of provincial administration of their interests, you will always find the people concerned pausing to very seriously consider the question as to whether it is wise for them to go out from the government and adopt a municipal form of government. As a general thing it is our practice to accord Home Rule whenever it is asked for. But it is worthy of remark that whenever a proposal to incorporate a municipality comes up, those in the interested districts think a long time and seriously before they endorse the change from provincial control. No, the farmer stands for a moment, and asks himself very seriously if it is for the best, because for some reason or other he does not like to leave the province—that is direct provincial administration.

My friend from Alberni said a whole lot in regard to tariffs and protection. Was he still in his humorous vein? Had he forgotten that during fifteen years or more he had loyally supported the Laurier government in its policy of free trade in name, but protection in reality and practice. If he looked over the latest election returns he will find that the farmers of this country expressed themselves as pretty well satisfied with Conservative treatment in the past, and with what they may expect to receive from the Conservative party in the future.

Better Terms

"Now with regard to Better Terms: My friend from Alberni appears to have overlooked the fact that the unanimous vote of this house has been recorded in endorsement and confirmation of the position which I took at Ottawa. He seems to have forgotten that if we were to measure in monetary terms the consideration which we asked, it would be expressed as one million dollars. About \$550,000 we have already received in increased subsidy. As one of the results of the action taken by this legislature and at Ottawa we secured an offer of one million dollars, which we refused to accept, protecting that refusal by an appeal to the home authorities on the matter of Better Terms. Our claim for a more equitable arrangement with the Dominion is therefore in just as good a position, as live an issue as ever, and in bringing pressure to bear upon the government at Ottawa with a view to securing a final settlement in this connection it is our determination to leave nothing undone in order to obtain a complete and final adjustment which will be thoroughly equitable to all interest concerned, and meet with

the unqualified approval of the people of British Columbia.

Water Rights

"Now, with regard to the water question: We have not measured the return in dollars and cents which the province is likely to get through administration of the water in Dominion lands. That administration is properly a purely local or domestic question, and the proper place for its disposal is here, and not at Ottawa, three thousand miles away. What is good for the people of British Columbia in other portions of the province should be good for the rest of those who live within the boundaries of the railway belt. We had made the same appeals in regard to this matter to the last government, but with very little success. When we went to Ottawa on the last occasion, the attorney-general, the minister of lands and I met with Hon. Mr. Rogers and the prime minister of Canada, and after a conference of a few hours with them, were able to leave the parliament buildings at the national capital with an assurance that our proposals would, and should, be taken up. It is expected that an Act will very shortly be brought down providing for our administration of this matter. The terms of agreement are now being considered by the department at Ottawa and the attorney-general here, and so soon as the text of a memorandum of agreement is decided upon, its details will be laid before this house. Meanwhile it is scarcely necessary for me to emphasize how important this matter is, meaning almost the life of the lands within the railway belt and the prosperity of the people who there have their homes and their interests. The productivity of the lands in the dry belt has only recently begun to obtain full recognition, and the Kamloops and adjacent districts are only now just coming into their own. Millions of money will be required to provide irrigation facilities for their adequate development, and soon yet more millions will be necessary in order to provide all necessary impediments for the development of these lands. We are on the spot, in the best position to advance the utilization of these lands and the development of their full productivity. At the present time it is not my intention to make more than passing reference to this question. In consequence of the privy council decision with regard to water rights within the railway belt, many questions have arisen involving very considerable hardship, which can only be removed by careful and uniform action, which the province will take at the first opportunity.

Agricultural Problem

"In connection with the large excess of imports over production in agricultural produce, which was referred to briefly by the member for Yale and also by the second member for Vancouver, the fact must not be overlooked that relatively to population a similar excess has existed for many years. Recently it has been more marked by reason of the greater inrush of population, particularly as this inrush has been directed chiefly toward town and city centres. It has been estimated that each head of the population in British Columbia consumes of such products to the value of \$80. In 1910 it was estimated that 75,000 persons were added to the population, and in 1911 the number certainly could not have been less. The increase of consumption, therefore, for which no provision could have been made by the farming population, was no less than about six million dollars; and, considering the increase from year to year of population, it could not have been expected that anything like a balance could be struck between imports and consumption. When the minister of finance comes to deliver his budget speech we may expect to have details laid before us of this, what appears to be, astonishing disparity, and to be shown that really from the standpoint of production, agriculturally, the farmers of British Columbia are doing wonderfully well as compared with former years. Of the total of what are classed as agricultural products, it must be borne in mind that there will always be a considerable portion imported at certain seasons of the year when we do not produce to meet our own necessities, or when our supply is temporarily short. We import from Washington, Oregon, California, Aus-

tralia and New do not correspond in the happy proportion otherwise be off confidently anticipated increase, will come, and I anticipate, however development may will be able to be delighted more than we do. I regard, under but one of the rapid growth. It ers have continued product at good farmers are prospering community is not much. I do not present juncture matter of, our for the reason that considerable extent the census was to expect very short of more exact de

Bait

"Now with regard to policy you will from Alberni has practically what on the same top policy was but a pie. I read the and the Liberal this opinion. If any effort which may put forth to ment and the province by means tion as a bait, use that phrase. to be able to just to the country in Columbia of a similar means the settling of this country, those areas, the of industrious people and in our mineralized hills. been told by my friend from Alberni that I am tating a general beyond general else, for they me period, and the responsible for the try and the administrative must necessity. This government assistance for a perk I may say that any general policy that it was for the ish Columbia and ple behind me in it appears to me ment by railway cary I will go to policy, not as a benefit of the people move, and if the me they can turn friend, the leader my place, and I feeling that we administration to the best service able in our country (please.)

Not Me

"Bait! Coming virtually the whole do we need to bait? If we desire try today, with or railway policy, I would be returned. But we are not. Any government its business to st times and how it development of the touch with the foreign America and in its power to protect interests of the fit to control the finance and the people.

"I shall not touch the subject of railway later on in the session not only with the has already been existing arrangement is reasonably possible few years should be

tralia and New Zealand. Our seasons do not correspond, and therefore we are in the happy position of being able to obtain fresh products at what would otherwise be off seasons at home. We confidently anticipate that the influx of population, as well as the natural increase, will continue for many years to come, and I, personally, do not anticipate, however rapid our farming development may be, that our farmers will be able to catch up very soon. We would be delighted to grow a great deal more than we do, but this large excess I regard, under the circumstances, as but one of the incidents of our very rapid growth. It means that our farmers have continued demand for their product at good prices, and while the farmers are prosperous, the rest of the community is not likely to suffer very much. I do not consider it wise at the present juncture to go further into the matter of our agricultural production, for the reason that it must be to some considerable extent an estimate, but as the census was taken last year, we may expect very shortly to be in possession of more exact details.

Railway Policy

"Now with regard to our railway policy you will notice that my friend from Alberni has said again today practically what he said two years ago on the same topic, that our railway policy was but a bait to catch the people. I read the press of the country and the Liberal press which echoes this opinion. If it is pleased to term any effort which myself and colleagues may put forth to secure the development and the prosperity of British Columbia by means of railway construction as a bait, it is well entitled to use that phrase. I hope at all times to be able to justify to the house and to the country my offering to British Columbia of a similar bait—if that bait means the settling up of the waste areas of this country, the development of those areas, the placing of thousands of industrious people in our fertile valleys and in our timbered or our richly mineralized hills. (Applause.) We have been told by my friend the member for Alberni that I am desirous of precipitating a general election. I am no more fond of general elections than anyone else, for they mean a very arduous period, and the man who must stand responsible for the policy of this country and the administration of its affairs must necessarily feel it most. This government has now been in existence for a period of ten years, and

I may say that I have never initiated any general policy unless I have felt that it was for the advantage of British Columbia and that I had the people behind me in its initiation and if it appears to me that further development by railway construction is necessary I will go to the country on that policy, not as a bait but for the judg-

ment of the people before I make the move, and if they do not agree with me they can turn me out and put my friend, the leader of the opposition, in my place, and I can go out with the feeling that we have given an honest administration to British Columbia and the best service of which we are capable in our country's behalf. (Applause.)

Not Making Time

"Bait! Coming back to this house with virtually the whole province behind us, do we need to offer the country any bait? If we desired to go to the country today, with or without an enlarged railway policy, I feel confident we would be returned without question. But we are not here, to mark time. Any government which does not make it its business to study the signs of the times and how it can best produce the development of this province, keeping touch with the forward march of western America and doing all that lies in its power to promote the substantial interests of the country would be unfit to control the interests of this province and the people of British Columbia.

"I shall not touch at any length on the subject of railway construction as later on in the session I hope to deal not only with the details of work that has already been prosecuted under existing arrangements but also with what is reasonably possible within the next few years should the legislature see its

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way clear to accept my suggestions, which I feel confident it will. I think that up to the present it will be conceded even by my good friend, the leader of the opposition, that the railway policy of the government has been a fairly successful one. It is a matter of common knowledge that railway construction on the mainland and on the Island of Vancouver is progressing along the most favorable lines, and that every reasonable anticipation has been realized. The volume of business that has arisen out of railway construction alone has been very large indeed, and is at least one of the factors of the present prosperity enjoyed by all parts of this province.

Faith in the Future

"In proposing to submit my railway policy to this house, which I hope to do in two or three weeks, I do so with strong faith in the future of the country and with a firm determination to do everything within my power towards implementing its development through the construction of these projected and necessary roads.

"It is amusing to hear the member for Alberni once more lament the disposition of this government to sacrifice the credit of the country for the advantage of railway corporations. Why one of the last acts of the Liberal government at Ottawa was to guarantee the bonds of the Canadian Northern for no less a sum than thirty-seven million dollars. This was all very good, in the opinion of my friend, for a Liberal government at Ottawa, but for this Conservative government of British Columbia it is a high crime and misdemeanor! Consistency is a jewel which my friend, apparently, has still to go far to seek, I will promise him in his solicitude for the best interests of Vancouver Island that in the arrangement of the details of our railway policy we shall not be unmindful of the interests of his constituency and those of the entire island. I do not mean that Vancouver Island shall benefit especially, but that we shall take such measures as appear to us best for the promotion of the legitimate prosperity of the entire province of British Columbia; for what is good for Vancouver Island is good for all of British Columbia, and what redounds to the advantage of all British Columbia must be for the material benefit of Vancouver Island—for we are and ever will remain, one and inseparable. (Applause.)

The Coronation

"The member for Yale, and I think the second member for Vancouver, referred to the imposing functions connected with the coronation of King George and Queen Mary, at which I had the honor with my colleague, the attorney general, to represent the province. You are aware that British Columbia was officially represented at the coronation ceremonies in London by invitation of the colonial office, and I desire to express my sense of high appreciation of the uniform kindness and consideration that were extended to my colleague and Mrs. Bowser, and to my wife and myself during our stay in London, by the imperial authorities and by many others. The coronation itself was a wonderful and imposing ceremony carried out as the rituals are in the old home land, with absolute perfection of arrangements. Representatives were present from all sections of the empire and it was most refreshing and inspiring thus to see Britishers from all quarters of the globe fraternizing and standing shoulder to shoulder as imperial brethren should.

"The outstanding feature, the lesson to be drawn from such imposing display as that which characterized the coronation ceremony and celebration, is found in the fact that the whole of the great empire was adequately represented, and that the enthusiasm and evidences of devotion to their majesties and their majesties' dominions observed throughout, typified and represented the spirit of the empire and the spirit of every portion of the greatest empire of the world, of which we in Canada and in British Columbia are and are bound to be more and more a conspicuous part. Nothing like it could be possible in any other nation or empire the wide world over.

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"It seemed, too, as one noted carefully the spirit and sentiment of the occasion that there was constantly manifest a strong desire on the part of the home land to recognize the Dominions over the seas at their full worth and importance, and this and the meeting together of Britains from all quarters of the globe must inevitably produce a better understanding and a fuller community of interest and sympathy. And while legislative movement must necessarily be slow, it was unmistakably evidenced that the imperial idea was steadily growing; that we are being brought constantly nearer the goal; and I may say that the verdict of the Canadian

people on the 21st of September last may be taken as fully warranting us in saying that Canada is fully ready to play her part in the closer drawing of the bonds that hold the British empire together.

H. R. H. The Duke

"The mover and the seconder of the address also referred in fitting terms to the succession of H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught to the governor-generalship of Canada. This above everything else is evidence of the desire at home to give to the relations between this the chiefest of the British dominion, and Great Britain and other portions of the empire, that personal and human touch which counts so much in the affairs of nations. It is another of those indefinable ties to Motherland which binds us all together and helps to pave the way smoothly to still closer political relations, of whatever nature they may be, as the ultimate solution of the empire problem. Upon the occasion of our visit to Ottawa one of the first privileges accorded us by Premier Borden was that of an audience with His Royal Highness. He came from his office and expressed the wish that my colleagues and myself should call upon him, which we very gladly did. He treated us with a marked consideration and courtesy such as only His Royal Highness could have shown, expressing his deep interest in and solicitude of British Columbia, recalling incidents of his short visit here some 21 years ago, and expressing his intention to revisit this province in the very near future.

"When he does come to us I feel confident that he will receive such a rousing and enthusiastic welcome as will bring joy and gladness to his heart. He will find himself among Britishers and Canadians who love the land they live in and appreciate at its full worth the flag that flies above them.

King Edward's Wish

"I believe and I think it is generally understood in official circles that the appointment of the Duke of Connaught as governor-general in Canada was in deference to the expressed personal wish of the late King Edward, whose wisdom and kingly statesmanship did so much for the welfare of his people in their relations with one another and with other people. It was in accordance with his late majesty's desire that the duke should make it his very pleasurable task to come to Canada, and in consequence, that he has now thrown in his lot with the Canadian people. Taking the coronation and the appointment of His Royal Highness together we may say that here are found two of the most important and significant events in the history of the evolution of the imperial ideal—two events most notable in their empire-making effect. Another and also notably significant happening in a similar direction was the return of Mr. Borden as premier of Canada. The success of the Conservative party upon the issue which its opponents chose to give battle upon was a message to Great Britain that the heart of Canada is right—that Canada stands for the maintenance of British institutions, for reciprocal trade within the empire, for co-operation in defence and in all other matters in which British subjects the world over can work with each other for all purposes that are for the common good.

Earl Grey's Departure

"Another matter which properly is referred to in his honor's speech is that of the recent departure of Earl Grey from this Canadian Dominion. It is only a short time ago, upon the occasion of his departure, since I had from his lordship a message conveying his best wishes for British Columbia and for her people. How closely Earl Grey has followed everything of interest to Canada and to British Columbia is well known. He has at all times evinced a special interest in this province, and never neglected any slightest opportunity to bring himself into touch with conditions here and to study and become acquainted with our people. It is not too much to say that we have never had in the old land a better or more sympathetic friend than we have in Lord Grey, and when I say that the people of British Columbia wish him and his every happiness and prosperity I say nothing that is one bit extravagant.

Sympathetic Relations

"With regard to our visit to Ottawa, all details of the mission will be contained in a report which will shortly be presented to the house, and what we have done will then be open to debate and criticism. Many matters were taken up, and we are encouraged to believe that progress has been made in the accomplishment of our commission. I can promise this house that nothing will be left undone to emphasize to the full the desires of this province. I do not want the people of this province or of any part of Canada to think that we have asked for or expect any more from the Borden government than we are strictly entitled to or that we should have obtained from the Laurier government. Our present relations are those which should subsist between a province and a Dominion, of which it is an integral part, each supreme within its own limits, but willing and anxious to eliminate causes of friction where respective jurisdictions or interests seem to conflict. They are not the relations which have subsisted since the Laurier government came into power, and even before that event, and the relations which we as a government were anxious to establish long ago. I am not in a position to say at the present moment just to what extent negotiations will be carried on with the Dominion or to discuss the details of all that is proposed in the way of the settlement of outstanding matters as between the province and the Dominion. I do not think it would be right or proper to do so at the present, but I feel that you may rest assured that the progress shown in respect to the administration of water in the railway belt and the increased appropriations this province is receiving in various public works will be carried to a point where a satisfactory settlement of vexed issues can be effected.

Co-Operation

"Another thing I will say, and that is that whenever we now go to Ottawa with a case that is decent, right and fair, we will receive that treatment to

which we feel that we are as a province entitled. Papers in connection with our visit will soon be presented to the house and these will go into matters with as much detail as possible. In addition to the questions which have arisen as those already under consideration, there are many matters connected with mining, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, railway construction, immigration and labor, etc., in regard to which the two governments can and should work in co-operation, supplementing each other's efforts without impinging upon respective rights or mixing up legislative authority in any way. Towards this end I may say the two governments are now working. This I have already said might have been in the past, and it is destined to produce substantial results in the future. We are asking no favors or no discrimination in our behalf—simply recognition of that to which in all fairness we are entitled. And whatever makes for the good of British Columbia must redound to the advantage of Canada as a whole. (Applause.)

"I do not think at the present time in consideration of the position of the public account laid before the themselves. Four times are this government a surplus for the approximately two. And we have a bank. We have the same time large sums on and to do effective scale than ever the province there are necessary of the administration the development I have said on discussing the prosperity of the government can to itself the enlay claim to a responsibility for and financial affairs in such a position and the provincial community advantage the before them. This has now been a government and it necessary and to the money in pledge it to the lions our security on the best in

"As to the amount, my friend has said that it had at long ago, being an opportunity political capital him that for your ments have been about an arrangement removal of the nation might be has remained to secure a final vested question, that when we operation of the was forthcoming respect to the reserve at Esquimaux in fairness the Indians upon province retained interest, they would settlement arrived them a free reserve. We will it, because it was tance that the should be security in the old more appropriate of the people of Columbia.

"However, we are clearing up the plans with remediation, and final arrangements property to such only profitable province. We investment, and get every cent good of the public and will be rather than has influenced through.

"In respect to which my friend spoken of as Victoria under of several years friend opposite phasis upon this am a member tion is brought to fix me on the have one great the people of clear-headed and realise quite in ten years ago is Victoria of today was about two have a bustling commercial city so soon as rail

B. C.'s Revenue

"I do not think it is necessary for me at the present time to take up much time in consideration of the financial position of the province as disclosed by the public accounts. These have been laid before the house and speak for themselves. We have today a revenue four times greater than we had when this government took power. We have a surplus for the last fiscal year of approximately two and a quarter millions. And we have a cash balance in the bank. We have all this, and we have at the same time been able to expend very large sums on necessary public works, and to do efficiently and on a larger scale than ever before in the history of the province those many things which are necessary and desirable in the way of the administration of our affairs, and the development of our resources. As I have said on previous occasions in discussing these matters, and the prosperity of the people generally, while the government cannot and does not take to itself the entire credit, it may fairly lay claim to a reasonable share of responsibility for placing the political and financial affairs of British Columbia in such a position that the business element and the workingmen of this provincial community can turn to the best advantage the opportunities which lie before them. The credit of the province has now been so established that if the government and the legislature deemed it necessary and desirable, we might go to the money markets of the world and pledge it to the extent of many millions our securities today ranking among the best in the world.

Songhees Reserve

"As to the Songhees reserve settlement, my friend the member for Alberni has said that it might have been arrived at long ago, but that we were awaiting an opportune time in order to make political capital upon it. Let me tell him that for years, different governments have been endeavoring to bring about an arrangement under which the removal of the Indians from this reservation might be brought about, but it has remained for this administration to secure a final settlement of this long-voiced question. It is but fair to say that when we of necessity asked the cooperation of the Ottawa authorities it was forthcoming, save and except with respect to the disposition of the new reserve at Esquimalt. Instead of offering in fairness to take that reserve for the Indians upon the usual terms, the province retaining its reversionary interest, they would not consent to the settlement arrived at until we should give them a freehold interest in the new reserve. We were held up, and we gave it, because it was of paramount importance that the removal of the Indians should be secured, and that the property in the old reserve should be put to more appropriate uses for the advantage of the people of Victoria and of British Columbia.

"However, we have the reserve property today; we are now engaged in clearing up the title; we have under way plans with respect to railway accommodation, and we will endeavor in our final arrangements to put the reserve property to such uses as will be not only profitable but creditable to the province. We have in it a large investment, and we believe that we will get every cent back, but the general good of the public and the province is and will be our first consideration, rather than looking for profit. This has influenced our actions all the way through.

Tribute to Victoria

"In respect to the forty-three acres which my friend from Alberni has spoken of as promised to the city of Victoria under an old order-in-council of several years ago, I notice that my friend opposite has laid a special emphasis upon this, suggesting that as I am a member for Victoria if an election is brought on, he will do his best to fix me on this text. (laughter). I have one great comfort and that is that the people of Victoria are fair-minded, clear-headed and progressive. They realize quite fully that the Victoria of ten years ago is very different from the Victoria of today. Then the population was about twenty thousand; today we have a bustling, busy, rapidly-growing commercial city of 60,000 or 70,000, and so soon as railway construction and

other factories in comprehensive development have been completely arranged for, it will be a city of a hundred thousand or more. The people of Victoria look at this matter in a business way and realize that land thus brought into the business part of the city could never be allotted in large area for park purposes. If I am not right I am prepared to answer with and to the people of Victoria. They will find that in the final settlement the action taken in the Songhees matter will meet with their entire satisfaction and be acceptable also to the people of all parts of Vancouver Island and the entire province of British Columbia.

Indian Lands and Titles

"And while I am on this question of the Songhees reserve, I might refer briefly to the question of Indian reserves in general. My friend the second member for Vancouver, made some reference to this matter and perhaps left an impression that he had no desire to convey, and one which might tend to disturb the minds of the Indians throughout the province. There has been much in the papers of late with regard to an agitation brought about recently on the subject of Indian lands and titles throughout the province, and it is not so long ago since a party of Indian chiefs from all parts of British Columbia came here to confer with my colleagues and myself in this connection. Briefly their case was that they were here before the whites, that their fathers held possession of the land before them, and that we were to believe that nothing had ever been done to disentitle them to the whole province. We want you, they said, to go to the courts and show that these lands are not yours, but ours. We told them that we could not consider for a moment such a proposition. We spoke to them also of the large areas that had been assigned as reserves for the Indians of British Columbia, hand-picked lands they are, too, to a large extent. We told them that we would protect them in enjoyment of these lands, but we could go no further. We also pointed out the opportunities existing for Indians, if they so desired, to enlarge their holdings by taking advantage of the pre-emption law, and we also spoke to them of the disposition of the government to give Indians who might so desire, opportunity to work on the roads and other public undertakings. We told them generally that we desired to treat them as friends, not as foes, but that they must expect the government to stand firmly for the rights of the community. And that has since been our position at Ottawa and in England.

Will Respect Their Rights

"The object of this government in dealing with the Indians is not only to respect their rights in every way possible, but in so far as possible to assist them in taking a superior position in the future to that which they now occupy. The readjustment of the entire matter of Indian reserve under the arrangement entered into with the Dominion in 1876 has now become inevitable. It was intended from the very first that there should be rearrangements from time to time of the reserve areas. The province was to re-possess lands no longer required by the Indian tribes in proportion to their diminishment, or to increase the size of the reserves in proportion to the requirements as the tribes might increase. In attempting to give effect to the terms of that convention it cannot be said that the government is showing any disposition to break faith with the Indians with the Dominion authorities, who act as their guardians.

"It is matter of common knowledge that many of the Indian reserves, which, by the way, represent the best lands to be found in the various districts, are, if not abandoned altogether by the dying out of the Indians, almost in an abandoned condition; and a very large acreage in the aggregate is left unproductive and unoccupied. This is not a desirable condition, and is one of no advantage to the natives of the country. Some of this land has, by reason of settlement and development, become exceedingly valuable. It was in this sense, I am sure, that the second member for Vancouver spoke, for I am sure from my knowledge of him that he would be the first man in this legislature to protest against any infringement of the rights of the Indians.

Government to Stand Firm

"We are ready and glad at any time to receive in conference representative men of the Indian peoples and to discuss with them any matters legitimately worthy of consideration, such as that which has been suggested in regard to grants in fee to parts of the reserves. Necessarily extra care and patience must always be exercised in thus conferring with the original inhabitants of the land, so that there may be no misunderstanding, but, as I say, the government is determined to stand firm in the position which it has taken with respect to the crown lands. We will treat the Indians as brothers and as friends, as they are entitled to be treated, and we hope, with the co-operation of Ottawa, shortly to reach a just and equitable arrangement with regard to reserve matters generally. We cannot but note the large acreage under existing reserve in excess of the necessities of the Indians—the thousands of acres of good land lying waste which might be tilled and made contributory to the necessities of the province. It is with a view to securing the settlement and profitable utilization of these areas that negotiations are being conducted with the government at Ottawa. Not much progress has as yet been made in this matter, but we are strong in the determination to move along with it, and hope that the entire Indian question will be finally and definitely settled later on. The Indians only require to be properly advised as to their rights in this province to be entirely reasonable. The government would be inclined to go much further than the province ever yet has done in placing the Indians in a better position in the social scale, but I do not take it that the Indians can ever be better off by merely holding on to a large extent of land to which they have no fee simple, which they are entitled to have for use and occupation, but of which they make no beneficial use. Personally, I am glad to be the friend of many of their leading men, and I would be the last to suggest that they should suffer the least diminution of their legitimate rights in a land of which they were once the sole inhabitants.

Strathcona Park

"With respect to Strathcona park and its development, while we are chiefly engaged in striving to promote the material and commercial development of our province, it is but right and highly desirable that this great provincial playground should have been set aside as a place for the pleasuring and the promotion of the health of the people. I am glad to see that the Minister of Public Works has reached that point in connection with the development of the provincial park that he is now ready to ask for a substantial vote to assist in this good work, from which the people of Vancouver, Victoria, and Nanaimo are certain in the future to derive much good.

Provincial University

"With respect to the University, I hope that the Minister of Education will shortly be in a position to make an announcement to the house in connection with this great work of higher education in which he has always taken so great and so active an interest. It is certainly gratifying to all of us to know that he hopes in 1913 to be able to open the doors of this provincial educational institution, the facilities of which are to fully equal those of Toronto or McGill, an institution whose curriculum and whose staff of teachers will be fully equal to any in the world.

Mining Development

"Perhaps as Minister of Mines I should say something at this juncture with regard to the progress made by the mining industry during the just past year. Mining generally throughout the province has held its own during the year. The older properties have made about the output expected of them, and a few new properties have advanced to such a position as to ensure a substantial production in the future, such as the Britannia mine on Howe Sound and the Granby's new properties on Observatory Inlet, while in the Slocan several properties have developed ore of such quality and quantity as gives hope that the palmy days of that district are by no means past—even the hills there have a silver lining.

Statistics of the year's production are not yet complete, but an estimate by the provincial mineralogist leads us to expect a production of about \$5,187,000 in gold, \$946,000 in silver, \$1,161,000 in lead, \$4,432,000 in copper, and \$127,000 in zinc, or a total production of the metalliferous mines amounting to \$11,853,000; of coal the estimated production of \$8,623,000, of coke \$465,000, and of building material \$2,000,000, giving a total valuation of the output for 1911 of \$22,541,000, this total output being approximately \$2,500,000 less than that of 1910.

"Each of these items (except building material) shows a considerable decrease as compared with last year, which does not appear consistent with my previous remarks and would not be were it not that they are capable of explanation. The chief reason is to be found in the fact that labor troubles caused the shutting down of the Crow's Nest coal mines and coke plant for a period of eight months out of the year. This entailed directly a loss of output in coal and coke of over \$2,120,000 and indirectly, through cutting off the coke supply, thereby shutting down the large Boundary district smelters and mines, of a considerable part of the losses shown for copper and gold and part of the decrease in silver. A remaining portion of the silver decrease and also the diminution in the zinc output is attributable to the

destruction of the Kaslo and Slocan railway, cutting off transportation facilities and destroying the plant of the mines.

Industrial Peace

"With regard to the very regrettable strike referred to, I sincerely hope that we shall ere long find some machinery which will operate successfully and without injustice to any, by which such deplorable industrial disturbances may be avoided. I do not propose to enter into any discussion of the ethics of strikes. It is perhaps true that the right to strike constitutes the greatest protection which the working man enjoys. But when one goes through a district in which a strike is taking place he cannot but feel the pity of it all. It is of course disastrous to the interests directly concerned and to the business of the country, but how much worse for the men who are deprived of their opportunity of earning a livelihood for themselves and those dependent upon them, and how much worse still for their faithful wives and their little children! It is too bad that the genius of man has not yet been able to devise some means by which these most deplorable crises may be averted.

Groundhog Measures

"The outlook for the metalliferous mines of British Columbia is encouraging, and if we get a year free from labor troubles, the output of the Slocan, Nelson, Rosland, Boundary and Similkameen mines should show an increase in gold, silver and lead, while the Coast mines should show an increase in copper production. At present our coal mines produce about half of our total mineral output in value. And it would seem from the development of the past year as though we had only touched the margin of our wonderful coal deposits. The year's developments include new and great coal fields in East Kootenay, other new and important deposits in the Similkameen, and last, but probably the greatest, is the determination of what promises to be the greatest anthracite or semi-anthracite field west of Pennsylvania, on the headwaters of the Skeena river. This field is only partly developed as yet, and if but a fraction of the present promise is fulfilled it is bound to have a wonderfully stimulative effect upon the future of the province. The coal mines of Great Britain gave it its position as the manufacturing centre of the world, and our coal fields unquestionably will serve as a strong magnet to draw the manufacturing interests of the Pacific to our shores. Coal is a breeder of industries and its value to the country does not by any means end with its disposal by the mining companies.

Coal Mines Bill

"And, while I close my remarks, it will not be uninteresting to the House to know that the Coal Mines bill of two years ago, brought through its various stages with the active co-operation of all the members, has been working well. I know that my friend, the member for Newcastle, will say or will suggest that I am the coal miner's worst enemy; that the life and limb of the miner are of no consequence at all with me, so long as we promote the financial interests of our business friends. I do not think, however, that that member should arrogate to himself all the sympathetic and active interest in the miners' welfare that he has expressed in this House. The interest and assiduity displayed by the members generally in the perfection of this measure attest, indeed, quite the contrary.

"And before I announce the resignation of Mr. Thomas G. Pointment which the approbation of Newcastle, and to the industry not intended to the House—engaged in great length. I had intended the observations of the opposite further explanation.

Vancouver

In the form of the Lieutenant G the election of C and the collection of the city of Vancouver in accordance with the procedure in Glasgow from the Mr. Bowser move referred to committee measure was commencing in the and the report a first time.

Hon. Mr. Bow in the House I n pended and that will take place no vary in order that of the city of their work. Last the legislature amendments and provision for the Townsite and District. The necessary vote secured, but legis these districts, w vinctial administration of the city bill came to the I take was made sections. It was had adjourned a sent to—that a been formally ince existed, because o of the sections, n or collecting tax of voters' lists. I take. The govern the circumstances with its elections, a bill to validate the voters' list, the election of Seven and the s in Ward Eight; mayor, although I mayor was electe ity in the old was choice beyond qu case would not h vote in the two n boys dealing w money were effe new wards and th ldate. The same trustees, license c commissioners. It should be procee that the assent of ant Governor to t cured on Wednesd ver cannot trans Honor acts."

The bill was giv will be committed.

"Add before, sitting down tonight, perhaps, announce to the House that the office of chief inspector of mines, vacated by the resignation of Mr. Shepherd, was filled at the first of the year by the appointment of Mr. Thomas Graham of Nanaimo, an appointment which I am sure will meet with the approbation of every member for Newcastle, and prove of distinct advantage to the industry and to the country. I had not intended to keep you, Mr. Speaker, or the House engaged with my remarks at so great length. I have spoken longer than I had intended to speak, but I felt that the observations of my friend, the leader of the opposition, called perhaps, for some further explanation at my hands." (Applause.)

The debate was adjourned upon the motion of Mr. Tisdall.

Vancouver Charter Amendments.

In the form of a message from His Honor the Lieutenant Governor the bill to validate the election of certain aldermen and others and the collection of taxes in certain parts of the city of Vancouver was introduced before the assembly rose. Purely as a formality in accordance with parliamentary procedure in Great Britain, where messages from the King are concerned, Hon. Mr. Hower moved that the message be referred to committee of the whole. The measure was committed with Mr. A. H. B. Macgowan in the chair, was duly reported, and the report adopted and the bill read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Bower—"With the permission of the House I move that the rules be suspended and that the second reading of the bill take place now. This measure is necessary in order that the constituted authorities of the city of Vancouver may continue their work. Last year Vancouver came to the legislature seeking certain charter amendments and among these there was provision for the admission of Hastings Township and District Lot 301 to the city. The necessary votes of the electors had been secured, but legislation was necessary before these districts, which had been under provincial administration, could become portions of the city of Vancouver. After the bill came to the House in committee a mistake was made in the numbering of its sections. It was discovered after the House had adjourned and the bill had been assented to—that although the districts had been formally incorporated in the city there existed, because of the improper numbering of the sections, no machinery for assessing or collecting taxes, or for the preparation of voters' lists. It was an unfortunate mistake. The government decided that under the circumstances the city could proceed with its elections and we would bring down a bill to validate the assessment roll and the voters' list. It is necessary to validate the election of two aldermen in Ward Seven and the same number of aldermen in Ward Eight; also the election of the mayor, although I might point out that the mayor was elected by a sufficient majority in the old wards of the city to put his choice beyond question—the result in this case would not have been affected by the vote in the two new wards. A number of bylaws dealing with the expenditure of money were affected by the votes in the new wards and these it is necessary to validate. The same may be said of school trustees, license commissioners and park commissioners. It is desirable that the bill should be proceeded with tomorrow and that the assent of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor to the measure should be secured on Wednesday as the city of Vancouver cannot transact any business till His Honor acts."

The bill was given its second reading and will be committed.

Tuesday, January 16, 1912

A NOTABLE SPEECH

To say that Mr. McBride's speech in the House yesterday on the Address was a notable one is not to employ the language of exaggeration. It was notable both for its substance and form. Speaking of the latter, we may say without fear of contradiction that it was distinguished by clearness, forcefulness and good humor. Mr. McBride does not aim at oratorical effects. He is a clear thinker, and is able to clothe his thoughts in simple and direct language, which appeals to the judgment of his hearers. His observations were wholly lacking in anything like bitterness. Naturally, he made some references of a party character, but there was nothing in them that could give offence, nothing that carried any sting, nothing that was intended to injure the feelings of those to whom he is politically opposed. If we might single out any part of his speech for comment from the oratorical standpoint, we should select his reference to the Coronation, which, though exceedingly simple, must have evoked a response in the breasts of all who heard him. We wonder if he himself quite realized how admirably chosen was language in which he made the personal references inseparable from this part of his subject. Throughout his speech Mr. McBride displayed a realization of the obligations of his position, which may be well styled statesmanlike. Prolonged tenure of office is developing in him a sense of responsibility that is highly gratifying to his political friends and must be a source of satisfaction to his political opponents, for we do not suppose there is any man in British Columbia, no matter what his political allegiance may be, who does not desire that those who are charged with the administration of affairs shall measure up to the obligations of the position in the attitude of mind with which he approaches the various aspects of provincial affairs.

Perusal of the report of Mr. McBride's speech cannot fail to leave the impression upon the mind that the subjects coming within the jurisdiction of the provincial government are varied and of very great importance. They present such an extensive and diversified mass that one may well doubt if the matters to be dealt with here are not of equal moment, so far as the people of the province are concerned, as are those which occupy the attention of the federal authorities, and if they do not call for the exercise of as great ability. We recognize that it is impossible to estimate with accuracy the relative importance of provincial and federal questions, but it will not be disputed that, as Canada is made up of provinces, a prosperous and contented Dominion is impossible if provincial affairs are not administered wisely and with an eye to the public good and the advancement of the public welfare. The programme, so to speak, dealt with by Mr. McBride was one of deep interest, and its bearing upon the well-being of the people of British Columbia is hard to overestimate. One may be excused for wondering what possible inducements the so-called larger arena offered at Ottawa can present to a man who realizes, as he does, how much there is to be done in this province of almost unlimited possibilities.

It is not our intention to deal in extenso with Mr. McBride's remarks, but there are several points about which a few things may be said. Frequently reference is made in the public press to an alleged unwillingness on the part of the present administration to promote the settlement of the country and thereby lead to the production of sufficient food products to meet the requirements of the population. Mr. McBride disposed of the charge of improper administration of the public domain in a very clear and emphatic manner. It is too much to hope that what he said on this point will be accepted by Opposition critics, but it ought not to be unreasonable to expect that it will lead them to abandon an attitude of vague insinuation and make specific allegations if they are able. It is the easiest thing in the world, and the safest, to say that there has been corrupt administration in a certain department. It is quite another thing to adduce specific instances to which such a term can be applied and bring forward even colorable evidence that such a charge is well founded. Mr. Brewster has followed the lead given him on this subject by certain irresponsible parties, but we believe he will see that fairness to the ministers and an appreciation of what is due to himself will lead him hereafter to discard the employment of vague generalizations and state in concrete form the acts which he thinks call for explanation, and give the House his reasons for thinking so.

In respect to the supply of agricultural produce Mr. McBride made a point that ought not to be forgotten, and will stand a great deal more amplification than he was able to give it in such a speech or than can be given to it here. It is that the increase in the population of the province is so great that agricultural production cannot keep pace with it, not to say surpass it and overcome the deficit which has existed for years. The point may be illustrated by a concrete case. Egg production has increased remarkably during the past few years, and yet the price of eggs is as high as ever, which indicates that though the greatly augmented supply may be keeping up with the greatly increased demand, it is not exceeding it. Time is necessary to get a British Columbia farm in a position to supply any considerable surplus to the market. In view of what has to be done in clearing land in some places and establishing irrigation in others, it is a very successful farmer who is able within a few years to contribute more to the supply of farm produce within the province than he himself consumes. We are progressing towards agricultural independence in British Columbia, but as enormous development is in progress in other lines than agriculture, it will be a long time before the home product equals home consumption. As Mr. McBride pointed out, there are certain lines of produce that will always be imported, but as we note what is being done in the way of fruit-raising, we are very hopeful that it will not be very long before the exported produce will largely offset that which is imported.

Mr. McBride's reference to the railway policy of the government was highly satisfactory, and will be read with special interest by the people of Victoria and Vancouver Island. He did not say very much, and such detail as he mentioned was only called out by the observations of Mr. Brewster. Nevertheless, it is highly satisfactory to have the assurance that in the contemplated programme of railway construction the interests of the whole of Vancouver Island will be considered.

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SPEAKS ON NEEDS OF VANCOUVER

Mr. C. E. Tisdall Makes Business-like Address Before House—Hopes for Settlement of Reserve Problem

Yesterday proved, by comparison, a day of rest for the members of the provincial legislature, the session of that body being short and uneventful save for the contribution of the debate which was made by Mr. Tisdall, fourth member for Vancouver city. Mr. Tisdall was distinctly interesting and original. Features of his address this year—an address characteristically businesslike from first to last—were his references to the desirability of the elimination of the Kitsilano Indian reserve, the construction of an alternative line of tramway along the lower Fraser valley to Vancouver, the building of a bridge across the Fraser at Woodward Slough, the establishment (which has been already promised) of a home for wayward girls and, inferentially in connection with the present high price of coal, the advantage which might accrue through the development of oil and gas deposits in the province, in which connection it was suggested that the government take special steps to encourage systematic and scientific prospecting.

The debate was adjourned by Mr. P. Williams at an early hour, in order to permit of the rapid passage through committee of the bill to validate election matters in connection with recent annexations of territory to Vancouver city. This measure was reported to the house complete with some trifling and unimportant amendments originating with the member for Newcastle.

Mr. C. E. Tisdall

Mr. Tisdall continued the debate on the speech from the throne. He promised not to occupy much time as the matter contained in the speech had already been so fully commented on by the mover and seconder of the reply, by the premier in his luminous address on the previous day, and by the leader of the opposition in his criticism.

"I feel," he added, "a great deal of sympathy for the member for Alberni in his position on the floor of this house. Not only has he been plowing a lonely furrow on the floor of this house for the past three sessions, but in addition he must have met with great discouragement in the verdict of the people on the 11st of September last. The honorable gentleman partly apologized for his address, but we can assure him that he need never apologize for the speeches he makes in this house. His criticism was not very biting, and it was evident that he found little to find fault with in the speech from the throne."

The speaker congratulated the premier and the attorney-general on their healthy looks after their recent visit to the old country. It was within his recollection that a visiting team of athletes had gone over some years ago, and they were knocked out in two weeks by generous British hospitality, so that our public men must be of good stuff as shown by the looks of the premier and his colleague, and that their intellectual gifts had not suffered was shown in the programme they had placed before the house, and in the premier's speech of the previous day. The premier had spoken of the benefit to be derived through coming in contact with the great minds of the Empire, and he could readily agree with him that such visits must be followed by a quickening of Imperial ties that must result at last in such a federation of the Empire as already existed in Canada, Australia, and South Africa. For the same reasons the people of Canada were to be congratulated on the appointment of

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught as Governor-General. That a man of his years should leave his own fireside with the sole idea of helping the Empire by his action was a striking example to others, as well as an instance of his own devotion to the British Empire.

False Creek Reserve

"There are a few matters," he continued, "of importance to the constituency I represent that I would like to make reference to, and also some of interest to the province as a whole. I wish to congratulate the government upon the satisfactory settlement of the Songhees reserve question, and to remind the house that in Vancouver we have also an Indian reserve question just as acute. I am glad for the sake of the city of Victoria that this Songhees question has been settled, so that the land can now be used for public works, and will give them much needed railway facilities. But with the growth of the community our own False Creek reserve arouses a question just as acute. We have there a large stretch of land facing on the sea, land of the most useful kind that is now all built around with houses and other buildings, and being occupied for no useful purpose. Speaking from memory I do not think that one of the original tribe of Indians is now on that reserve. In that respect it is different from the Songhees reserve. There may be half-a-dozen half-breeds on it, but no others, and I trust that this government will do all in its power to settle this question in the same happy way as they

have settled that of the Songhees reserve.

Peace River Railway

"It was a source of great satisfaction to the rank and file of the government supporters to see that the ministers went to Ottawa at so early a date after the general election. It has been an acute problem for many years, this settlement of what is known as the question of the railway belt, and in time the question of the Peace river railway belt will become equally acute. It is satisfactory to know in connection with the C. P. R. belt that the government has already settled the important question of control of the water. We all know of the problems arising from dual control, and when one government handles it, it must be much better.

"In connection with this question it is to be hoped that a tram service will be instituted on the north side of the Fraser river opening up the valley in the same manner as the Chilliwack line to the south has already done. That tramway to the south has surpassed the most sanguine expectations, and has fulfilled the hope that I expressed in this house a year ago in the service it has rendered in opening up the country between New Westminster and Chilliwack.

Agricultural Problem

"I would also like to make a few remarks in reference to agriculture. It may seem strange, perhaps, that a commercial man like myself, and the representative of a city constituency should pay attention to this subject, but as a city man I have probably driven more strongly into me than the country member that there is still a considerable shortage of agricultural stuff produced in British Columbia, and we are importing from Alberta and

Washington province in this province. The mark made by that the short Columbia during this, we should make a much ago I congratulate agriculture on they had made and today I am winning a still city of New York a great deal from the government gather potatoes should gather doubt that they compete with occasion, when expects select find, in no ins order as it department on ors they have ture by demoi perimental power institutes, fruit in their in spite of the ed by the lead we shall in a ing a shortage port agricultu

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Mr. Tisdall ticed that t bring down of forestry, ful, not only for the futu was left. I spent \$200,00 was sure t would suppl amount. H own residen timber had than had be other way. dollars inve ness in the lands must determinate the very la tion. It wa so satisfact mills. The and Ocean now nearly and should

"We are far as fuel tinued. "In Vancouver coast steam now, owing of them ar of produc others we a very largely In view of it would be government thoroughly see if ther oil, and if t that we ca use. I hav that last y duced 7,369 which they ions. Surel ment might tified in fac this matter ernment in their way tion.

Washington produce that could be grown in this province. I agree with the remark made by the premier yesterday that the shortage has been increased by the great influx of people to British Columbia during the past year. But for this, we should in this respect have made a much better showing. A year ago I congratulated the department of agriculture on the splendid showing they had made with apples in London, and today I can congratulate them in winning a still greater trophy in the city of New York. (Applause.) It says a great deal for the country that when the government sent out experts to gather potatoes for this exhibition they should gather potatoes of such satisfaction that the potatoes they had to compete with were all grown for the occasion, whereas, while no doubt our experts selected the best they could find, in no instance were they grown to order as it were. I congratulate the department on this, and on the endeavors they have made to assist agriculture by demonstration orchards, by experimental poultry farms and by farmers' institutes, which must all bear good fruit in their season. I have no doubt, in spite of the pessimistic view expressed by the leader of the opposition that we shall in a few years, instead of having a shortage, be able ourselves to export agricultural products.

"In dealing with this question of agriculture a year ago I suggested that an attempt was being made to bridge the Fraser river at Lulu Island, so that the products from the other side of the river could be brought more economically into the city of Vancouver. Since then the government has established a ferry at Mission city, and I know of no move

(Continued on Page Three.)

which has been of greater service. With the tremendous surplus in our treasury I think the government should lend a friendly ear to the appeal for assistance in the construction of a bridge over the Fraser river at Lulu Island, especially as the municipality of Delta has already voted a sum of money towards it."

Forestry Policy

Mr. Tisdall continued that he noticed that the government was to bring down a bill to establish a bureau of forestry. It should prove most useful, not only in conserving the forests for the future, but also in saving what was left. Last year the government spent \$200,000 in fighting fires, and he was sure that this year the house would supply as large or even a larger amount. He believed that during his own residence in the province more timber had been destroyed by fire than had been cut or taken out in any other way. In view of the millions of dollars invested in the timber business in this country, the minister of lands must be congratulated on his determination to give the province the very last word in timber legislation. It was gratifying also to hear so satisfactory an account of the pulp mills. The new mills at Powell river and Ocean Falls he had heard were now nearly in shape to turn out pulp, and should employ many men.

"We are in a peculiar position as far as fuel is concerned," he continued. "In the past the coal mines of Vancouver Island have supplied our coast steamers with necessary fuel but now, owing to economic changes, many of them are burning oil, and instead of producing fuel for ourselves and others we are sending away for our oil, very largely from southern California. In view of this it appears to me that it would be a very good thing if the government would employ experts to thoroughly prospect this province and see if there are any indications of oil, and if there are, to bore for it, so that we can produce it for our own use. I have some figures which show that last year the United States produced 7,369,329,000 gallons of oil, of which they exported 1,153,611,000 gallons. Surely any efforts the government might make would be fully justified in face of these figures. I bring this matter to the attention of the government in the hope that they will see their way to carry out my suggestion."

Asiatic Immigration

"Another matter I would like to congratulate the government upon is the firm attitude they still maintain in reference to the admission of Orientals. Quite recently a Hindu delegation approached the government with a request to be allowed to bring in their wives and children. The experience of other parts of the empire has not been satisfactory in this respect. In the early eighties they thought they could grow sugar in Natal and imported Hindus to do the plantation work. They brought in their wives and children, and today they have gone into every branch of trade and labor, and constitute one of the great problems with which that country has to deal. These and other Asiatic races can never assimilate with us, and I think the government should, as in the past, do all in their power, and should ask the Dominion government to do all in its power, to protect us from them. (Applause.)

"I said there were some matters of particular interest to my own constituency mentioned in the speech from the throne. One of these is that dealing with the question of transportation. I cannot conceive of anything that would be more popular in my constituency, or help its growth more, than railways to open up the country, and bring to it the trade that properly belongs to it. Spokane is an instance of an American town built up by Canadian industries, and if a railway can put in to reach that trade there is no doubt that we shall reap the benefit, because as Good Canadians we may be sure that the people of Nelson, Rossland and Grand Forks are only too anxious to trade with the rest of Canada. In addition it has been reported that the Peace River country has resources which only need a railway to turn it into a well settled and richly producing district. It has been suggested, largely by the Vancouver board of trade, that a railway should be built from North Vancouver by way of Squamish, Pemberton Meadows, Lillooet and the Fraser river, to Fort George and thence on to the Peace River country, the produce of which could be used to the advantage of the people of this province. In the Peace River country they have not timber, but they grow wheat, and they could supply us with flour and we could supply them with timber. Moreover the surface indications of minerals are so great that if for no other reasons, the minerals alone would justify the building of a railway into that country.

Export Trade

"In addition to that there is at present a large quantity of export wheat sent from Pacific ports for other countries. For the information of the house I have secured some figures showing how much was exported from Portland, Oregon, and Puget Sound, Washington, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911. From Portland there were exported 7,345,734 bushels of wheat valued at \$6,314,305, and of flour 2,256,032 barrels valued at \$2,256,032. From Puget Sound there was exported of oats 276,728 bushels valued at \$133,237; of wheat 3,997,435 bushels valued at \$3,461,200, and of flour, 1,714,902 barrels valued at \$6,616,406. I am fully aware in presenting these figures that the trade they represent has been growing up steadily year by year during the past 20 or 30 years, but with the opening of the Panama canal we certainly should look forward to a large export trade, and you can judge of the value it would be to coast merchants and shippers, and the number of men it would employ. When the railway policy is brought down I have no doubt

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it will be a policy that will greatly help out our transportation problems and continue the opening up and development of British Columbia.

Vancouver's Progress

"In conclusion I might state that the material progress of the city of Vancouver, figures of which were furnished to this house by the second member for Vancouver a few days ago, has been of a most satisfactory character. There has been a great advance in commerce and industry in all lines, and work of all who were willing to labor. But with the great growth of the community we have been called upon to face problems which do not arise in smaller places. The concentration of so many human beings has caused a strain on our hospitals and orphanages, and it has called for provision being made for others. The government has recognized this and that provision must be made for taking in people from all parts of the province. I trust the government will consider this and also the need for a home for unfortunate young women. With this end in view between \$7,000 and \$8,000 has already been subscribed in Vancouver city by friends of the project, and when the people themselves are ready to act like this to help these unfortunate ones, the least the government can do is to help also. In closing I wish to congratulate the country on its general prosperity, and also to congratulate the government of the province upon the able way in which it has administered its resources and I thank the members of the house for their kindness and the attention with which they have listened to my remarks." (Applause.)

Mr. Williams moved the adjournment of the debate.

Wednesday, January 17, 1912

FUTURE OF VICTORIA

The remarks of Mr. McBride as to the future of Victoria, which he made in connection with his explanation of the proposed disposition of the Songhees Reserve, show him to be actuated by the liveliest optimism. That Victoria is just on the eve of a period of very great development is now the opinion of every one, and that development will be promoted to a very large degree by the policy which the city's senior representative has introduced and carried through the House.

In amplification of what he said in respect to the difference in the position of the city towards the Reserve from what it was only a few years ago, mention may be made of the fact that when the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway company expressed a desire to establish their workshops on the Reserve and build coal-bunkers on the waterfront a very large proportion of the citizens looked upon the proposal with a good deal of favor. No one would tolerate such an idea now.

We are not advised as to the plans which the government proposes to adopt in respect to the former Reserve, but we feel confident that the best interests of the city will be safeguarded in whatever may be done. It is very satisfactory to know that the principle on which the government will proceed in forming those plans is that provision must be made for the requirements of a great city.

A NAVAL RESOLUTION

Mr. Brewster has given notice that he will move a resolution relative to the establishment of a Canadian naval unit on the Pacific coast. We should be very glad to see such a policy adopted, but are not very clear as to the propriety of asking the Legislature at this stage to express any opinion upon it. The federal government has the whole question under advisement, and is about to consult the Admiralty as to the best cause to be adopted. Pending such consultation it seems to us that it might be regarded as premature for any parliamentary body to endeavor to influence the decision of experts. When the views of the Admiralty have been obtained we shall all be in a better position to express opinions than we are now. While the question was purely a federal one the Colonist urged as forcibly as it was able that a fleet unit should be established on this coast, and if the matter were one to be dealt with at Ottawa alone, we should continue so to urge; but since Mr. Borden has decided, and we think wisely decided, to consult the highest naval authority in the Empire before announcing any policy, it seems to us that the adoption of an advisory resolution by the legislature would be stepping a little aside of the line of duty of that body.

Lack of space yesterday prevented a reference to the very able speech of Mr. Brewster on the Address. He had a difficult task, but he discharged it in a very efficient manner. The member for Alberni has none but sincere personal friends in the Legislature, and he ploughs his "lonely furrow" with a great deal of dignity and good nature.

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MR. P. WILLIAMS ON LEGISLATION

Socialist Member for Newcastle Attacks Government on General Principles—Pays Tribute to Colonist

Mr. Parker Williams had the floor of the house to himself yesterday afternoon in a speech of an hour and twenty minutes duration, the rest of the time being devoted to routine work, with the exception of an intermission of fifteen minutes which was allowed to enable the lieutenant-governor to come down to the house and give assent to the bill to validate the Vancouver civic elections. As the Vancouver city council could not proceed with business till this had been done, it was considered necessary that it should be done expeditiously.

Mr. Williams' speech was for the most part a treading over familiar and well-beaten paths, though enlivened in places with some strokes of sarcastic humor. He sharply attacked the Victoria Colonist for its attitude towards the government and the patronage that he asserted that it received. He admitted that the premier looked like a statesman, but said that he did not act like one. He instanced the land policy, which he declared gave all the best land in the province into the hands of speculators and kept the preceptors out. While conditions might have improved for the capitalist it was hard to see where the laborer was better off. Statistics showed that the cost of living had increased 37 per cent. in the last ten years, while the wages of miners had only increased 10 per cent., and in those of railway workers, judging from the wages paid on the Canadian Northern on Vancouver Island at the present time there had been an actual decrease. He again attacked the provincial university scheme, declaring that the money put into it should have gone to the rural and primary schools. He censured the appointment of Mr. Graham as inspector of mines, because he had relatives and friends in the mine business, and the miners' representatives had not been consulted as to his appointment. Further than that in 1902, Mr. Graham had been superintendent of the mine in which he (Mr. Williams) worked and had dismissed him simply because he supported the eight hour bill for coal mines.

Mr. Jardine moved the adjournment of the debate.

Petitions and Questions

The following petitions were received:

From E. W. Stapleford and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate Ryerson college. (No. 1.)

From the municipality of Penticton, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate the "Kettle River Valley Aid By-law, 1911." (No. 10.)

From the corporation of the city of Fernie, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate certain by-laws. (No. 4.)

From the corporation of the city of Fernie, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate certain by-laws. (No. 5.)

From the Victoria Harbor Railway company, for leave to introduce a private bill granting the company further time for commencing work, etc. (No. 6.)

The house proceeded to the orders of the day.

Bill (No. 3) entitled "An Act to validate election of certain aldermen and others of the city of Vancouver, and the collection of taxes in certain parts of the city of Vancouver" was read a

third time and passed, and received the assent of the lieutenant-governor.

Mr. Williams asked the hon. the minister of railways the following questions:

1. What number of workmen are employed on construction of the Canadian Northern Railway: (a) On mainland of British Columbia? (b) On Vancouver Island?

2. What rates of wages are paid on each section respectively?

3. What rates are charged for board on the said work?

The Hon. Mr. Taylor replied as follows:

"1. (a) 5,644, average during month of December, 1911; (b) 351, average during month of December.

"2. On mainland—Foremen, \$4 to \$6 per day; blacksmiths, \$90 per month and board; carpenters, \$3.50 to \$4.50 per day; shovel engineers, \$150 per month and board; firemen, \$75 per month and board; cranesmen, \$100 per month and board; bridgemen, \$4 per day; axemen, \$2.75 per day; laborers, \$2.75 per day. On Vancouver Island—Foremen on grades, \$3.25 to \$5 per day; axemen, \$2.75 and \$3 per day; rock-drillers, \$2.75 per day; laborers, \$2.50 per day; bridge foremen, \$150 per month and board; bridge carpenters, \$3 to \$4.50 per day; team and teamster, \$7 per day; teamsters, \$35 to \$50 per month and board; blacksmiths, \$75 to \$90 per month.

"3. On mainland—\$6 per week. On Vancouver Island—25 cents per meal and \$5.25 per week, with bunk-house accommodation."

The following petitions were presented and laid on the table:

By Mr. Cotton—From John Y. McNaught and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the corporation of the district of West Vancouver. (No. 3.)

By Mr. Manson—From the city of Prince Rupert, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate a certain by-law. (No. 5.)

Mr. Williams continued the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. He said that ever since he had been in the house he had availed himself of this opportunity to express himself, and he was more anxious to do so on this occasion than ever because he found more and more to criticize as time went on. He was sorry that the member for Nanaimo was absent, but was able to announce that in a few days he would be back in his seat, and the house would be the better for his presence. He would omit mention of the first paragraph of the speech, but speaking of the death of the King's printer, there was "something intangible" about that good old gentleman that no one else could fill.

"From my position in the house," continued Mr. Williams, "it would be a loss of time for me to analyze the affairs of the province from the standpoint of the Socialists. All we can do is to review its actions from the standpoint of the moral code of the present day. It is usual to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address, and on this occasion I can do so. I understand to some extent the figure used sometimes in ancient history where certain people were asked to make bricks without straw, and these gentlemen deserve credit for the manner in which they have dealt with this particular speech, which has nothing in it whatever."

Passing over the opening parts of the speech from the throne, Mr. Williams touched upon the proposed railway policy. The gentleman from Vancouver who moved the address was willing to take the premier on faith though the premier had displayed more confidence to his henchmen at the New Westminster convention than he had to the house. The member for Vancouver

Mr. Watson: "The second member for Vancouver."

Mr. Williams: "Well, if the working men of Vancouver have anything to say he will probably be the sixth member at the next election if only five are elected for the house. As for the finances of the province, I usually feel rich if I have 'six bits' on me and can hardly be expected to deal with money running into ten million dollars. The member for Vancouver repeated the time-worn story that in years past

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British Columbia was on the rocks financially and a political Moses rose and rescued it. The facts lead to no such conclusion. It would have needed great skill to prevent whatever change has occurred. The change, I have repeated it several times and am willing to repeat it as long as the financial Moses is trotted out in this house, is due to the fact that the province is parting with its natural resources. If we are asked to believe that a financial Moses brought this about in British Columbia the same political Moses must have bobbed up in every other province in Canada and every state of the American union. Yet the Hon. Richard McBride stands for all the credit like a hero and accepts it without a smile.

Mr. Williams added that except for the injustice known as the poll tax, taxation was of little interest to the workers of the province. The government was fond of appointing commissions, but was careful to put on them only its own supporters. This government which sat up at night teaching

patriotism, might well in this respect learn a lesson from the Old Country where the commissions were of no particular character, and, if appointed by parliament, contained members of both parties. But the government here dealt out positions to its own supporters and consequently they saw commission after commission "covorting" over the province.

At this juncture it was announced that the Lieutenant-Governor was coming down and there would be an intermission of fifteen minutes. His Honor entered without ceremony and gave assent to the Vancouver Validation Act.

The Colonist

Mr. Williams resuming said that he must thank the government for the intermission as it had enabled him to get a few figures that otherwise he would not have got. He wished to pay his respects to the Victoria Colonist which paid a great deal of attention to him. He wished to remark on the way it was edited. He knew the members of the press gallery and he had not the slightest doubt that what came from the gallery was a truthful representation of what occurred in the house, but the way it was doctored by the paper was hardly fair, since careless and indiscreet remarks made by government supporters were carefully eliminated; but wherever anything is found to the disadvantage of the other side it was worked to the very limit. The Colonist was one of a band of spoon-fed papers which existed from two sources: from advertising various notices under the Land Act and advertisements paid for by the government. Outside papers in the province did not keep reporters in the gallery, but took their reports from papers like the Victoria Colonist, so that they were poisoned at the source. Anything that was British never failed to appeal to the Victoria Colonist; it was always full of praise for British system, and at the same time its own actions were "redolent with leechery and graft of the worst kind." By the accounts of last year he found that no less a sum than \$5,740 was fed into the unscrupulous maw of this publication. To understand the character of this sort of thing he would remind the house that there was in the city of Victoria another paper called The Times and the public accounts showed that last year the Times received from the government for advertising the magnificent sum of \$28,400. There must be some motive, other than reaching the public, to justify the expenditure of this money, and the service rendered was to give the keynote to other party publications in British Columbia.

"Pontius Pilate-Like"

The government had a habit of referring to September 21st, and certain bye-elections to prove that its method was correct. Well Pontius Pilate proved his actions to be correct by just the same kind of boast. (Laughter.) A year ago the Colonist had endeavored to publish an evening paper in Victoria. To judge from the patronage it gave the Times the government seemed to consider that an evening paper was no good to advertise in, yet this particular evening paper he had referred to has drawn \$8,492 from the provincial treasury. That was the policy of the Hon.

Richard McBride in dealing out money from the provincial treasury to his own party papers. Time and time again in the past the Conservatives at Ottawa had condemned the spoils system, but where was a "rotten" instance of the spoils system than this? He drew no line between the government that would tolerate such a thing, and the paper that would accept it.

He continued that while it had been omitted from the report of the speech of the member for Vancouver (Mr. Watson) which had appeared in the Colonist, he had understood him to say that workers throughout the province were so struck by the high wages paid by the government for fighting bush fires that they had deliberately set out bush fires so that they might have the pleasure of eating smoke while beating them out. (Laughter.) He considered a slander of that kind on the people of the province was very ill-advised, and the gentleman was fortunate in having a paper that would carefully eliminate it. The present Bush Fires Act was so nicely adjusted that no permit to burn off brush was available at the only time you could burn it. The government selected some man for firewarden who knew nothing about the difficulty of clearing land, and would not allow anyone to start a fire until there had been so much rain that the brush would not burn. Under these circumstances they could not wonder if a man burned without a permit.

"In fact," he added, "the only thing that will cause a man to apply for a permit is out of regard for the 42 men who compose this house, though if he put here himself for a time he would have mighty little regard for any of us. (Laughter.) This Bush Fires Act is so beautifully worded that if a man is prosecuted he has to prove his own innocence, instead of making the prosecution prove his guilt. This system started in Spain, and then got to Russia, and never spread further until it got to British Columbia." He added that if they put good men in as firewardens it would be unnecessary to plaster every fence and gatepost in the province with notices offering rewards to people who informed on anyone starting a bush fire.

Wages and Cost of Living

He continued that the fourth member for Vancouver (Mr. Tisdall) after a long speech on the prosperity of the province had called upon the government to increase the size of orphanages, hospitals and lunatic asylums. (Laughter.) It was said the province was enjoying great prosperity. Well, he had with him a copy of the Labor Gazette, published by the department of labor at Ottawa, and this showed that the cost of living had increased in ten years 37 per cent. How had wages fared in comparison? Fifteen years ago he had himself earned \$2.50 a day on railway construction, and at the present time men were working for \$2.25 a day for the Canadian Northern Railway Company on Vancouver Island. Among miners there had been a ten per cent. increase in wages in ten years, but they had to go on a strike to get it. In the agreement the government had made with the Canadian Northern Railway Company it was provided that current wages should be paid to railway workers, but the wages they were paying showed a fall of ten per cent. while the cost of living had increased 37 per cent.

"In spite of all the nice things that have been said in press reports, it seemed to me that the premier was in an irritable mood, and was rather snappy in his remarks when he was replying to the member for Alberni the other day. It seems to me that all the fulsome praise that has been showered on the premier in recent years is having an ill effect, and is spoiling that good nature which made him so well-known through all this province. I have heard it said: 'That is the best thing to do to Hon. Richard McBride, his intense, good-nature and good memory for faces.' So he has got to think that because his picture stands behind any policy it must not be attacked. For my part I see the wisdom of the remark of the newspaperman who said, 'No man can be half as wise as the Hon. Richard McBride looks.' (Laughter.) And if I have any

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powers of imagination it runs to looks and nothing else. I admit that the Honorable Richard McBride looks like a statesman, but I am going to try to find out whether he acts like one." (Laughter.)

Unsettled Areas

Mr. Williams continued that if there was a place where the premier could lew out for himself a place as a statesman, it was in dealing with the vast, unsettled areas of the province. He admitted that since the government had been in power they had enough railways under construction to open up a great deal of country, but where were the pre-emptors who should reap the advantage of it? Where was the land available for them? It was easy to color maps red, but they found the papers filled with the notices of land speculators. The census reports showed that the greater part of the population of British Columbia was on the peninsula between Burrard Inlet and the Fraser river, while the great wild lands were still lying undeveloped. If the land were available for pre-emptors a hundred thousand men would settle on it just as soon as the fact became known. The trouble was that people directed by the land department had gone out and found no land.

Personalities

Mr. Williams, continuing, said, that the portion of the policy of the Hon. Richard McBride that appealed to him most strongly was that of land sales. During the year 1903, the year in which the McBride government came into power, the sales of lands in British Columbia amounted to \$64,000 and during the last fiscal year they were \$2,181,000, an increase of over 3000 per cent. As an instance of how the public lands were disposed of he quoted from what he termed "that great publication with British Ideals and Saskatchewan Indian morals, the Premier's personal organ the Victoria Weekly." This paper was brought into existence for the sake of eulogizing the Hon. Richard McBride and published his picture once at least every four months. He read from it an account of a little band of pioneers and explorers and how they had discovered in the northern interior a valley two hundred miles long, which the government knew all about ten years before. Of the land they discovered 60,000 acres was disposed of to J. S. Rear, of Vancouver, and a second instalment of 90,000 to Norton Griffiths, M. P. T. P. O'Connor in praising the Hon. Richard McBride had said that he inherited something of his abilities from his Orange father and his Catholic mother from Ireland. Well he (Mr. Williams) would like to know from which side of the family he got his love for the curse of Ireland, landlordism, which he had carried over six thousand miles of land and sea and planted its poisonous seed in British Columbia. That was one reason why future generations would remember the Hon. Richard McBride.

The Speaker: "The honorable gentleman will please not mention names. It is against the rules."

Mr. Williams: "Well I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker, I forgot. If I was not a Welshman I would be proud to be called an Irishman because the average Irishman will fight landlordism to a finish, yet strange to say it remains for a descendant of that race to plant landlordism in British Columbia today."

Mr. Williams continued that he could not accept the statement of the Premier that more Liberals than Socialists were buying lands in British Columbia than Conservatives. It so it was strange that so few land notices appeared in Liberal or Socialist papers. These notices showed that the applications of Conservatives as against Liberals and Socialists was at the rate of three to one.

Provincial University

In speaking of a provincial university the Premier had told him that they were going to build up an institution equal to Oxford and Cambridge and the big universities in the Eastern States, though the Colonist had mercifully reported him as saying that they would have one equal to Toronto or McGill. His (Mr. Williams) idea of universities was that their growth was as natural as that of a tree and they could not buy the atmosphere of Oxford or Cambridge with all the money they could spend in the province. He had only referred to this university question because of his interest in the public schools. He contended that while the government had dealt in a generous way with the university they had neglected the primary and rural schools. In the six years during which he lived in a rural district they had several different teachers and his own son who had been studying for the high school when he left Nanaimo found himself still unable to graduate. It was impossible to make any progress with such continuous changes of teachers and he had told his boy that he would have to go to school (if he had William's like Uncle Sam before he would get through under such a system. (Laughter.) The rural school was of such a nature that no one under twenty ever remained in it long enough to get into the high school.

Dealing with the appointment of a chief inspector of mines in the place of Mr. Shepherd, the government lost sight of the old idea behind this inspection, which was to reduce the number of accidents. If the government was anxious about the miners they would endeavor to find out the wishes of the representative of the miners in the district, but they had done nothing of the kind.

Was Never Consulted.

"I was never consulted in this matter," said Mr. Williams, "the first that I heard of Mr. Thomas Graham's appointment as Chief Inspector of Mines was through the newspaper reports. I wrote at once to the Premier to protest against it and I received a reply that was so brief that I felt like framing it, and also one I received from him seven years ago on the same subject as showing the evolution of thought of the Minister of Mines. At that time, seven years ago, the Premier seemed to recognize my right to protest at least, but on the recent occasion his letter was so brief that in future it will stand as a model to me when I want to tell somebody to mind his own business."

He continued that he did not think that anyone who had borne the same relation to a manager of mines in Nanaimo as Mr. Graham had done should be appointed chief inspector for the province. He had formerly been superintendent of the mines managed by Mr. Stockett. Well there was another Mr. Stockett in the mining business of British Columbia and there was another Graham, a brother of the superintendent, in charge of mines in one district, and that blood relationship must be expected to interfere with the performance of his duties. "I hope," said Mr. Williams, "that he is a different man from what I take him to be, but I insist we should carefully canvass the situation and select a man who has as

few ties as possible with mine owners or miners in this province. Eight years ago in this House I did my share in passing an eight-hour law for coal mines, though mine managers requested me not to do so. When I got back home after this, Mr. Graham was superintendent of the mine in which I had been working, and that gentleman very promptly placed me on the roll for my activity in this matter. Mr. Stockett was manager of the mines and Mr. Graham was superintendent, and he must take the responsibility of refusing me work."

In conclusion, Mr. Williams said that he would like to see an independent auditor appointed to audit the public accounts. He had the greatest respect for the present auditor, and he could not help thinking that he would be placed in a position where his duties would be a little different than they are at the present time. He asserted that the government of the province cost \$23.00 per head of the population while Manitoba, the next dearest province in the Dominion, cost only \$10.00 per head, and what had we received in return for this heavy taxation during the last ten years? Absolutely nothing. The cost of government had increased three hundred per cent, and the population about one hundred per cent. The government was like a spendthrift, and it had enough to spend beyond what it required to keep the machine in good running order. (Applauds.)

Mr. Jardine moved the adjournment of the debate.

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January 19 1912

LAND POLICY OF GOVERNMENT

Two-thirds of Entire Area of
Province is Now Held Under
Reserve for the Benefit of
the Pre-Emptor

HON. W. R. ROSS REPLIES TO CRITICISM

Debate on Address is Closed,
Among Concluding Speak-
ers Being Messrs. J. Jardine,
W. Manson and M. Manson

The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was closed yesterday afternoon by a ringing speech by the Hon. W. Ross, minister of lands, in which he vindicated the policy of his department from the attacks that had been made upon it by the members for Alberni and Newcastle. He showed clearly that the government had a land policy, and one that was making for the conservation of the lands of the province. He pointed out that it was impossible to get settlers on land away from railways, and in the past the only available land contiguous to railway had been in the Canadian Pacific railway belt, which was under the supervision of the Dominion government, and up to this time had been the most stagnant portion of the entire province.

He then showed how, step by step, the McBride government had been making the alienation of land more difficult to the purchaser, and withdrawing one area after another from sale, until at the present day practically two-thirds of the entire province was held under reserve for the pre-emptor. Of this area, 800,000 acres had already been surveyed and was ready for the pre-emptor. He pointed out how in 1901 the government had taken the first step by dropping the classification known as third-class lands, which increased the prices of crown lands by about 200 per cent., and later in the same year they had also put a reserve on all unalienated timber lands. In 1908 they commenced a system of surveys which had been kept up steadily ever since. In that year they had also set aside one-third for the exclusive benefit of the pre-emptor, one-third for university endowment and one-third for purchase or pre-emption under the Land Act. In 1909, 1910 and 1911 still further areas were withdrawn from sale and lease, and coincident with this step came the determination to increase the price of crown lands 100 per cent., which had gone into effect last year. The policy provided that during the coming year further areas would be surveyed, and particularly along the North Thompson and along the line of the G. T. P. the government would provide surveyed lands for settlers in advance of their arrival. On the mainland, with the exception of lands in the immediate vicinity of Vancouver, all were open to the pre-emptor and closed to the purchaser.

The other speakers on the address yesterday were Messrs. Jardine, Wm. Manson, Skeena, and M. Manson, Comox. Mr. Thomson presented a petition from the city of Victoria in reference to the confirmation of certain bylaws.

Petitions

The following petitions were received:

From John Y. McNaught and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the corporation of the district of West Vancouver. (No. 3.)

From the city of Prince Rupert for leave to introduce a private bill to validate a certain bylaw. ((No. 8.)

Mr. Williams asked the hon. the minister of finance the following questions:

1. What was the total cost of the hon. the premier's visit to the coronation?

2. What was the total cost of the hon. the attorney-general's visit to the coronation?

The hon. the minister of finance replied as follows:

"1. \$11,000.

"2. \$3500."

Standing Committees

The standing committees were appointed as follows:

Private bills and standing orders—

Messrs. Mackay, Miller, McGuire, Manson (Dawdney), Shatford, Shaw, Brewster, Hawthornthwaite and Williams.

Mining—Messrs. Manson (Comox), Hunter, Braden, Fraser, McDonald and Williams.

Railways—Messrs. Parson, Cayen, Callanan, Fraser, Lucas, Behnsen, Jackson, Tisdall, Wright, Jardine and Hawthornthwaite.

Public accounts—Messrs. Gifford, Schofield, Wright, Daye and Williams.

Municipal matters—Messrs. Watson,

Davey, Manson (Skeena), Schofield, Cowley, Mackenzie, Hunter, Brewster and Hawthornthwaite.

Agriculture—Messrs. Cawley, Jackson, Lucas, Callanan and Jardine.

Printing—Messrs. Tisdall, Behnsen, Braden and Mackenzie.

Notices of Motion

By Mr. Brewster—On Monday next—

Questions of the hon. the minister of lands:

1. Have any person or persons or body corporate made application to the government to acquire any portion of the lands known as the Songhees Indian reserve in the city of Victoria?

2. If so, what persons or bodies corporate have made such application?

3. How much land has been applied for in each case?

4. For what purpose was these lands required?

5. Will the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway company be entitled to obtain a free grant of any of these lands under the provisions of paragraph (d) of clause 13 of the schedule to chap. 3, 1910?

By Mr. Brewster—On Monday next—

Questions of the hon. the minister of lands:

1. Has the government sold any town lots in District Lot 851, known as South Hazelton?

2. If so, was any intimation given to the purchasers of these lots that a station would be established there by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company?

3. Has the government received any information that the railway commission of Canada has ordered the station in question placed on another section, some distance from District Lot 851?

4. If so, does the government intend to refund the moneys paid by purchasers of lots?

5. If not, does the government intend to take any further action in the matter?

By Mr. Williams—On Monday next—

Questions of the hon. the minister of finance:

1. What sum has been paid the Colonist Printing and Publishing company for advertising during each year from July 1st, 1901, to March 31st, 1911?

2. What sum has been paid the said corporation during the same period for all other services?

3. What sum was paid the Colonist Printing and Publishing company for

advertising year 1910?

Mr. Jardine the address the throne. speakers, in speech of 1 of the mos am sorry to remarks of were of the might expe time consid bers of the have great for Alberni, extent the der. As for the house al yesterday h were of a have been b lifted his w his remarks were no dou anxiety to b so dear to l ber that it respect of th the time bel

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Wages on

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Mr. William for a nine or Mr. Jardine nine hours. He ber for Newc comparisons from the gove bla by the V received by th however, to o the Times ha

Mr. William do with Otta Mr. Jardine from those h should not be to them for i of patronage. ing that from 31, 1909, the C the Dominion while the Tin That would i tunity to jud of the two s patronage.

advertising in "The Post" during the year 1910?

Mr. J. Jardine

Mr. Jardine continued the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. In complimenting preceding speakers, he said he considered the speech of the premier to have been one of the most brilliant of his efforts. "I am sorry to say," he added, "that the remarks of the member for Alberni were of the political nature which we might expect from him. At the same time considering the diminished numbers of the Liberals in this house I have great sympathy for the member for Alberni, because I know to a great extent the difficulties he is placed under. As for the member for Newcastle, the house always enjoys his efforts, and yesterday his remarks and witticisms were of a high order, but it would have been better probably had he mollified his words with a little ointment. His remarks about the first minister were no doubt made in the heat of his anxiety to bring about reforms that are so dear to him, but he should remember that it is as well to speak with respect of those placed in authority for the time being."

Mr. Jardine continued that he was quite as anxious as the member for Newcastle to bring about any reforms that would be of benefit to the people of British Columbia, and as long as he was a member of the Conservative party he would support any reforms with that end in view. It did not matter much from which party they came so long as they did come. He confessed that he would like to see this province settled as much as possible with people from the British Isles, so that we might have a homogeneous race, though he would not hesitate to welcome into citizenship people from other nations of Europe. He could not, however, agree with the member for Newcastle, who in his zeal for immigration, said that 100,000 people might be at once settled

on the vacant lands of British Columbia. Before the people came, accommodation should be provided for them in highways and transportation, or it would only lead to confusion.

He was aware that there was difficulty in securing teachers for rural schools, and if salaries stood in the way they should be provided. He did not see eye to eye with the member for Newcastle on the question of the provincial university. He believed that it would be made so that the poorest child in the land could receive the benefit of it.

Wages on Railroad Construction

He was rather surprised at the statement of the member for Newcastle as to wages paid on the Canadian Northern construction on Vancouver Island. He had taken some trouble to go into the matter himself and had secured from two of the contracting firms figures as to the wages paid their men. These ran in both cases from \$2.50 a day for laborers, up through other grades to as high as \$3 for axemen, \$3 to \$4.50 for bridge carpenters, \$7 for teamsters and \$3.25 to \$5 for foremen, while the cost of board was \$5.25 a week with bunkhouse accommodation.

Mr. Williams asked if the \$2.50 was for a nine or ten hour day?

Mr. Jardine said it was for a day of nine hours. He continued that the member for Newcastle had seen fit to draw comparisons of the amount received from the government of British Columbia by the Victoria Colonist with that received by the Times. He was careful, however, to omit any mention of what the Times had received from Ottawa.

Mr. Williams: "We have nothing to do with Ottawa."

Mr. Jardine: "We often take a leaf from those higher in authority, and it should not be impossible for us to look to them for an example in the matter of patronage." He quoted figures showing that from June 30, 1905, to March 31, 1909, the Colonist had received from the Dominion government only \$6.25, while the Times had received \$7,423.05. That would give the house an opportunity to judge of the relative merits of the two governments in dispensing patronage.

Steady Growth in All Lines

Referring to his own constituency he said he had seen fit to support the Canadian Northern agreement, and as a result of it there had been a steady growth in the province in all lines, and the work being carried on in his own constituency was of the highest class, and must result in great development right through to the west coast of Vancouver Island. They could see what had taken place in the city of Victoria since the announcement of the Dominion government that they would build a breakwater there. They could not begin to compute what all these things meant to the city and the adjacent district. He believed that within ten years they would easily have a city as large as Vancouver was now, because he had been told on good authority that geographically situated as Victoria was she must command the greater part of the commercial shipping of British Columbia.

Mr. W. Manson

Mr. Manson (Skeena) said that in spite of Opposition critics on the government's land policy he knew that settlers were coming rapidly into this district and taking up the land. He considered the policy of the government during the past two years in setting aside large sums of money for land surveys would settle many difficulties. At the present time the surveying of lands by private parties led to many complications, and it was one of the difficulties they had to face in his constituency. Timbermen, coal men and pre-emptors had taken out records and after being on their land for some months they would find they were involved with others. There was overlapping and conflict and the time had arrived when some drastic step should be taken to meet the difficulty. He thought the government should appoint one or more pre-emption inspectors, who would go over the land and examine the stakings, and see who was the real owner.

One of the drawbacks of a new district was lack of transportation. This was being remedied to some extent by the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. It was true also that liberal appropriations had been made for roads and other public works, but they were still quite adequate to the great development going on, and he trusted they would be increased. He would like also to see the government supply cheap power to settlers for clearing purposes. In that way they would assist the settlers, if not taking a real part in clearing themselves.

Another difficulty they had to contend with was the Administration of Justice. He considered the time was now ripe for the establishment of an assize court at Prince Rupert, and they should also have their own courthouse and gaol and so save the expense of transporting prisoners from the north to New Westminster, as this cost about \$50 per head for every prisoner taken down.

Mr. Manson (Comox) took up the clause in the address, dealing with the Forestry commission. He said the district he represented was producing more than one-third of the total cut of timber in British Columbia. Last year in that district there had been cut 350,000,000 feet of timber. Many of the recommendations of the Forestry commission would materially assist the timber men, but there was one he wished to take exception to, and that was the recommendation that hand-loggers' licenses should be abolished. He could only think that the commissioners did not have all the evidence before them or they would not have come to such a conclusion. The commission held no sittings north of Nanaimo, and probably there were not half a dozen men engaged in hand-logging within 100 to 500 miles of them. The sittings were also held in the summer, which was the harvest, so to speak, of the hand-loggers, and as they were all men of small means it was out of the question for them to attend and give their evidence at Nanaimo or Vancouver. At the same

time the big timber-holders who had their offices in the large centres had every opportunity of placing their views before the commission, and so they only heard one side of the story. The reason given for the recommendation was that hand-loggers' licenses led to the abuse of their privileges. In a residence of 35 years on the coast he knew many of these hand-loggers well and they would compare in honesty with any other class, and because a few might transgress it was no reason why they should all be condemned. He hoped the Minister of Lands would not follow the report in this recommendation when framing his amendments to the Land Act, as it would deprive these men of the opportunity to make a honest living in their business.

Progress in the Skeena

Referring to the progress made in his district during the past year, Mr. Manson mentioned the Powell River Pulp and Paper mills. These had been completed and would have been running but for an accident to their machinery; but in a few days they would commence operations, turning out 100 tons of pulp and paper a day and employing many men. In Comox the Canadian Western Lumber Company had pushed on their logging railway for a large number of miles and were conducting extensive operations. Large workshops and machine shops had been built and electric light plants installed. The coal mines of his district had paid into the treasury almost 25 per cent of the total coal taxes of the province, which showed that they had produced practically a quarter of the coal, and they were preparing for even more development in the future. They were putting in a new electric light and power plant, and it was expected that within the next two years \$2,000,000 would be spent in one place in development work. This would have a more far-reaching effect than mining, since it would also provide a market for the produce grown in the district. Moreover the electric power plant would supply settlers with light and power for miles around.

He hoped that when the railway policy of the government was brought down it would be found that provision had been made for the construction of a railway to the north end of Vancouver Island, as there were immense quantities of timber and ore to be opened up, and it would also develop large tracts of agricultural land. In addition to that the fine scenery would be the means of drawing people of leisure and means there to spend their vacations. These people would spend their money freely, and the province would reap the benefit.

Hon. W. E. Ross

Hon. Mr. Ross, who was received with applause on rising, said: "I note Mr. Speaker, that the hon. the leader of the opposition has been searching for the land policy of this government in the speech from the throne, and having failed to find it there has concluded the government has no such policy, and if further proof were necessary he cites a newspaper story to the effect that it has been possible for the Duke of Sutherland to purchase some lands in the northern portion of the province with a view to assisting certain of his old country tenants to try their fortune in this province of opportunity."

As the member of this government, having immediate control over the department of lands, it affords me great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to assure the hon. the leader of the opposition that, although he has failed to find it in the speech from the throne, this government has a land policy, and one which is making for the conservation of the lands of the province. (Applause.) It may be that it has not developed as rapidly as I and many other members of this house would wish, but it is making steady and very satisfactory progress, all things considered. Until a few years ago, Mr. Speaker, the energies of the men entrusted with the administration of the affairs of this province were of necessity confined to the raising of sufficient money to keep things moving and keep alive the hopes and aspirations of the pioneers who first cast their lot in with the development of British Columbia. There was comparatively no demand for the lands or timber of the province. A very small portion of the province had

the advantage of railway communication, and that portion of the province which enjoyed this advantage, and known as the Railway Belt, was administered by the political friends of the hon. the leader of the opposition at Ottawa and was, and continues to be, notwithstanding the statutory obligation to make the same available to the settler, the most stagnant portion of the entire province. (Applause.)

It is hardly under conditions such as existed up to this time that one would look for the development of a progressive land policy, but when the change came, when the demand for the timber of the province was followed by an even greater demand for the vacant crown lands, it became possible to put into effect many changes, all making for the good of the people of the whole province.

Commencement of Policy

The first important change came in the year 1907, when the prices of crown lands were increased something like 200 per cent by the dropping of the classification known as third class land, and a much closer inspection of classifications generally. Later, in the closing months of the same year, it was decided that sufficient of the timber areas of the province had been brought under special timber licenses to meet all legitimate milling requirements for some time to come, and the timber lands of the province were withdrawn from alienation entirely.

In 1908 the government undertook a somewhat extensive system of surveys of the vacant lands, and to correct abuses which had obtained in the past, created reserves against sale or lease in the areas set aside for survey.

Another new departure was then made of the lands surveyed. The government set aside one-third for the exclusive benefit of the pre-emptor, one-third for the university endowment, and one-third for purchase or pre-emption under the provisions of the land act.

Comprehensive Surveys

In 1909 and 1910 further large areas were withdrawn from sale or lease, and even more comprehensive surveys undertaken. And in 1911 a further development of the land policy of the government took form in the withdrawal from sale or lease of the vacant lands of the crown in the districts of Cariboo and Lillooet and the Kamloops division of Yale district, practically one-third of the area of the entire province.

Coincident with the withdrawal of these lands came the decision to increase the price of lands acquired by purchase 100 per cent. A decision

which, I may remark in passing, occasioned the political friends of the hon. the leader of the opposition, consternation.

About this time, finding themselves shut out of other portions of the province by reserves, investors in crown lands turned their attention to the provincial lands in the Peace River section in such numbers that the Times newspaper of this city, saw in the movement another trek of the friends of the government to all that remained desirable of the provincial lands.

It is not so long ago, but most members of this house can remember how the members of this government were vilified for continuing a laxity in the land laws which would permit of the gobbling up of the natural resources of the Peace River district, and the Times, in pointing out this grievous error of the government lamented exceedingly that the government could not check the spoilers because they were all friends of the government.

Peace River Lands

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tion under the Land Act, and the balance for University Endowment purposes. At the present time two-thirds of the entire area of the province is held under reserve for the pre-emptor.

In the face of these facts it is difficult to see how any unprejudiced person can accuse the government of giving away the lands of the province. Indeed having regard to the difficulties which prevail here, and to the fact that there are large areas as yet practically unexplored, it would seemingly be hard to map out a better policy for conserving the land for the people. The policy is on the face of it a convincing one, without ramifications which might perplex the lay mind. It is an open book, which everyone can read and judge for themselves.

Since taking up the portfolio of lands Mr. Ross has shown an administration which is both capable and comprehensive. His grasp of his duties was evidenced by yesterday's exposition in the House. It was a statement of policy worthy of a minister in such a great province as British Columbia.

THE WEST COAST

In his speech on the Address yesterday Mr. Jardine spoke of the great development to be expected on the West Coast of the Island as the result of railway construction. That part of British Columbia abounds in the elements of material prosperity, and the highest anticipations that have been formed of its future are likely to be more than realized.

Heretofore progress has necessarily been slow. The only transportation that could seriously be considered was by water, and that involved the voyage around Cape Beale, which is not the pleasantest place in the world to be "when the stormy winds do blow." The steamship service was probably as good as the business offering would warrant, but it was not the kind of service to attract travel. Hence the Coast was more or less side-tracked from the general progress of the country.

A change has been brought about. The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway is running trains to Port Alberni; the Canadian Northern will be at tide water on the canal possibly within twelve months from this date. With two railways, both divisions of transcontinental lines, reaching the protected waters of the West Coast, a very great impetus ought to be given to the whole region, industrially and otherwise. A high authority in such matters said, as the result of careful investigation, that there is more timber that can be made tributary to railways reaching Alberni Canal than made a prosperous city at Vancouver. There are other great resources to be utilized and scenic attractions to be exploited, which are surpassed nowhere in the world.

SESSIONAL REPORTS

An observation was made by one of the members of the Legislature, who is not in sympathy with the government, in regard to the sessional reports appearing in this paper, which, if uncontradicted, might give some color to the suggestion that these reports are edited so as to misrepresent or conceal what some members may say, if it is thought desirable to do so for political reasons. We wish to state as emphatically as we can that such an insinuation is absolutely without foundation. The reports printed in the Colonist from day to day are exactly as they are received from the press gallery. The reporter in charge of that work for the Colonist has had many years' experience in that capacity, and the paper trusts wholly to his judgment as to the space that shall be devoted to any speaker and accepts his version of what is said as accurate. It may sometimes happen that the reporter finds himself compelled by physical limitations on his part or by what he knows about the space available, to omit some things a speaker may say, and it is also possible that in so doing he may omit something which a speaker may think was of more importance than something which is reported. It is also possible that a speaker may not be as intelligible to others as he is to himself. But the suggestion that anything is omitted from our reports of sessional debates for political or personal reasons, or that the reports are altered after they have been sent in is absolutely without even a semblance of foundation. The Legislature treats the press with every courtesy, and the Colonist hopes it knows too well what its duty towards the members of that body and to its readers, not to say what is due to the members of its staff, to alter in the slightest particular the reports of debates supplied from the press gallery.

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FOREST ACT IS BROUGHT DOWN

Creation of Bureau to Have
Jurisdiction Over All Crown
Timber Lands in British Col-
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LICENCE BY TENDER SYSTEM INTRODUCED

Bill Provides for Increase in
Reforestation and Conserv-
ation of Great Natural Re-
source

A number of important changes in timber regulations are contained in the amendment to the Land Act brought down in the legislature yesterday by the Hon. W. R. Ross, minister of lands. In most respects they follow closely the recommendations of the forestry commission which sat two years ago, though some provisions have been modified to meet practical conditions. First, it provides for the creation of a forestry board with a chief forester and other officials, who are to have wide power over timber matters.

When any portion of the timber reserve shall be opened in future there will be a drastic change in the method of obtaining licenses. The bill provides for the adoption of the Ontario plan of license by tender. Tenders will be called, and the tenderer who offers the highest cash bonus per thousand feet in addition to royalty on timber that may be cut in future, will be given the license, or the minister may decide to accept the highest lump sum for the whole limit. This does not affect present licenses in any way.

Handloggers' licenses will in future be issued only at the discretion of the minister of lands in districts where they are not likely to work injury to crown lands or other property. An increase in royalties is provided for on a graduating scale, the royalties differing according to the grade of lumber cut from the timber, three grades being named. Restrictions for the prevention of forest fires are rigid and the penalties severe.

A Comprehensive Act

The new Act is divided into 14 parts as follows:

- Part I.—Forest branch of department of lands and provincial forest board.
- Part II.—Prevention of trespass upon crown timber lands and protection of crown timber.
- Part III.—Holding and method of disposition of crown timber.
- Part IV.—Timber leases.
- Part V.—Timber licenses.
- Part VI.—Rights-of-way.
- Part VII.—Royalties, taxes and charges; collections, accounts and returns.
- Part VIII.—Timber scaling and measurement.
- Part IX.—Timber marking.
- Part X.—Manufacture within province.
- Part XI.—Fire prevention.
- Part XII.—Rules and regulations.
- Part XIII.—Penalties and procedure.
- Part XIV.—Repeal.

Jurisdiction of Board

The first part deals with the forestry branch of the department, which is to be called a lands and provincial forest board, which shall have jurisdiction over and control and administer all matters. Its powers are enumerated as follows:

- (a) All the rights, properties, interests, claims and demands of the crown in right of the province of British Columbia in forests, timber lands and timber.
- (b) All revenues and moneys of the crown, in right of the province of British Columbia arising from forestry, timber lands, timber, trees and products of the forest.
- (c) Conservation of existing forests.
- (d) Reforestation.
- (e) Prevention of forest fires.
- (f) Sales and dispositions of and tenancies of timber lands, or timber, or trees, or forest products belonging to the crown in right of the province of British Columbia.
- (g) Cutting, classifying, measuring, manufacturing, branding and exporting of trees, logs, timber and products of the forest; and
- (h) Statutes, rules and regulations relating to the regulation of forestry and the protection of forests.

Timber Licenses

In regard to timber licenses it is provided that all surveys of special licenses shall be completed before the 15th of March, 1912, the government retaining the power to compel and control surveys. If due diligence be not observed by the holder the department may direct surveys to be made and charge expenses up to the holder. Simple regulations are put in force for surveying land held under timber licenses as distinct from lands surveyed for agricultural or other purposes.

In part 6, there are numerous provisions governing the arranging for the carriage and transport and price of the products of the forest and for the taking and using of land for right-of-way.

The present provisions of the Land Act in respect to timber scaling and measurement are not interfered with, but in districts where there are no efficient scalers provisions analogous to those in the Ontario Cutlers Act will be put in force requiring examination and licensing of inefficient scalers.

Prevention of Fire

The present law in respect to timber marking and manufacture within the province of timber products will practically remain unchanged. The most important features of the law relate to the prevention of fire, and these are entirely new. For practical purposes they may be divided into two parts. One relates to the disposition of debris, and the second to the precautions to be preserved in the use of fires. In regard to the first it is made compulsory to dispose of dangerous accumulations. The department while recognizing the recommendations of the forestry commission were careful to recognize the financial difficulties in the way of putting them completely into effect. The new regulations will conform largely to those which are in force in the western states. Special provisions are made for the clearing away of debris around camps, mines, mills, sawmills on rights-of-way, telephone, telegraph, electric power and other lines. In respect to railways a safety zone is created on either side to the width of two hundred feet, which must be kept clear of all combustible material. In every case the department retains the power of doing at the expense of the party responsible what that party fails to perform in accordance with the requirements of the act.

Logging operators may be required in the case of dangerous slash, to make special provision for the prevention of fire when the minister requires it by cutting out fire lines.

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Forest Protection Fund

The main feature of the provisions in respect to fire prevention is the creation of a forest protection fund. Every owner of timber lands, whether in the nature of crown grants, lease or licenses will be required to contribute a cent an acre toward this fund, and shall in addition be required to pay two and a half cents per thousand feet cut as a contribution to the expense of looking after fires and fitting out fire crews. Crown granted lands which do not pay royalty on the cut are required to pay two cents an acre. Against the amounts contributed the government puts dollar for dollar. These contributions are not in the nature of taxation, but go to create a fund which is expended for specific purposes, enumerated as for the expenses of patrol, telephone and telegraph appliances, the making of trails, etc., according to the most up to date and improved methods of fighting fire. An automatic arrangement is put into effect for special assessments if the funds so created is not adequate for its requirements in any particular season. On the other hand where the fund so created is more than sufficient for the requirements of any season arrangement provision is made for a proportionate reduction in the contribution, both from the timber owners and the government.

No special provisions are made to restrict the methods of lumbermen in the cutting on timber limits, but provision is made for assessing by royalty on account of unnecessary waste of material.

Railroad Patrol

It is well known that railway locomotives are responsible for a great many of the forest fires which take place, and the framers of the act have gone pretty thoroughly into the methods of preventing the occurrence of such fires. Power is taken by the forestry bureau to compel patrol after the passing of each train. This is not altogether new, as it

already exists in the Dominion act. Expenses of this patrol are to be borne by the railway companies, who must also maintain a force of fire wardens during construction of their line, and are also required to obtain certificates that the right-of-way has been cleared up before starting operations. A fine not exceeding one thousand dollars is imposed on the railway companies in case of fires, which are started negligently. Adequate provision is made for the use of preventive devices in the case of logging engines, locomotives, steamboats, portable engines, etc. Proper precautions are also to be taken in the operation of open burners and incinerators.

Contributors to the regular fund for fire protection who have trouble with fires, and who are placed at expense for extra protection and in fighting bush fires are recompensed by the government to the extent of one half of their expenditure. This in a measure has been the practice for some years past, but is now for the first time made a part of the law. In cases of extremity the officials of the forestry bureau will have power to press men into service to meet all such emergencies.

The old system of fire permits will be continued very much as formerly.

Hand Loggers' Licenses

In regard to hand loggers' licenses it is provided that the lieutenant-governor-in-council may from time to time authorize the minister to grant such licenses in districts in which injuries to crown or other timber lands are not likely to result, subject to certain exceptions enumerated in sub-sections.

The pages from twenty-four to thirty-one in the act are devoted to part seven, which deals with royalty, taxes and charges, collections, accounts and returns. The provisions of this part are detailed to be enumerated within reasonable space, and may be described as covering all kinds of timber products. The scale of royalties has been materially increased, and in respect to the royalties on lumber cut they are imposed according to grade, the grades being divided into Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

CONSOLIDATION OF B. C. LAWS

Bill to Validate Voluminous
Compilation of Commissioners
Passes Its Second Reading

MR. BOWSER EXPLAINS
SCOPE OF REVISION

Graceful Resolution to Duke of
Connaught Shows Gratification
of Province at His Appointment to Ottawa

The last business day of the first business week of the present session of the legislature witnessed the adoption by standing vote of the house of a gracefully-phrased resolution expressive of the satisfaction experienced by British Columbians in connection with the recent appointment of his royal highness the Duke of Connaught as governor-general in Canada. The final sitting of the week was also notable as witnessing the second reading of the bill ratifying and giving the full force and effect of law to the 1911 revision and consolidation of the provincial statutes; while just prior to the rising of the house, until Monday, there was introduced by the minister for lands, Hon. Mr. Ross, the new measure for the conservation and administration of the forests and forest products, which measure marks an innovation in forestry matters generally and is based to a large extent upon the practical investigations and recommendations of the commission on forestry, which sat at various places throughout British Columbia during the year 1910. Mr. Brewster's resolution touching the naval policy of Canada was "passed over" at the request of the Liberal leader, and finds place on the orders of the day for Monday. As no seconder has yet been secured for it, it may then be further postponed, if, indeed, it comes up at all. The report of the royal commission on taxation matters is also expected to make its appearance in the house on Monday afternoon.

Premier's Tribute

The premier, in moving the resolution of congratulation to his royal highness the Duke of Connaught on his appointment as governor-general of the Dominion, recounted his conference with his royal highness during his recent visit to Ottawa and the promise his royal highness had given to pay British Columbia an early visit.

"I need not," Hon. Mr. McBride said, "emphasize in any way the very great satisfaction that has been enjoyed by all loyal Canadians because of the circumstance of the appointment of one of the royal house to the position of governor-general of the Dominion. Together with the fact that the Duke of Connaught has won for himself a reputation imperial-wide as an excellent man and a brilliant soldier, there was general appreciation of the fact that one so near in relationship to his majesty the king should be assigned to this high and responsible office. Here was another tangible evidence of the great and far-reaching importance which Canada has attained in these days as an integral part of the British empire. It is now history that during his lifetime the late King Edward expressed the wish that arrangements might come about whereby his brother, the Duke of Connaught might become his represent-

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"I have gre the premier, welcome to hi Mr. Brewster conferring up onding the res

ative in the federal capital. Notwithstanding his untimely death and the fact that there were many and varied responsibilities at once placed upon the shoulders of our king, George V., there was never for a moment, so far as we can ascertain, any idea of departing from the expressed wish of the late king, and we found on the completion of the term of office of Lord Grey, the press despatches at once announced that the Duke of Connaught would be the new governor-general, and that he would leave for Canada as soon as circumstances would permit.

No Stranger to Canada

"The governor-general is no stranger to Canada. I understand that as far back as in the early seventies he was assigned certain military duties which caused him to reside for some time in Quebec and afterwards in Montreal, and those still alive and in mature years who were privileged to reside here

at that time are still loud in their praises of his conduct in Canada. He was always known for his unassuming and manly bearing. Apart altogether from the princely bearing which was his privilege, he was looked upon as an excellent type of man and a good soldier. The other day at Ottawa his royal highness reminded us of the fact that on his way home from India, where he had been in command of the imperial forces some 21 years ago he had arranged his journey home overland by the C. P. R., and he told us with what pleasure and what interest he enjoyed every moment of the time journeying through Canada. Though the trip was a very hurried one, it had made on him an impression of the size and possibilities of Canada that would always last.

"I am quite satisfied that in the welcome we shall give the governor-general when he comes to our shores next summer there will be that hearty and spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm which has always witnessed in this portion of Canada the welcome of the representatives of his majesty the king. There is nothing, to my mind, and I claim very considerable acquaintance with the people of British Columbia, that seems to bring out the loyalty and patriotism of Canadians resident here as when the occasion presents itself for the representative of his majesty to visit this province, because we are privileged to live under the Union Jack and enjoy the liberty for which it stands.

Historic Document

"It appears, on looking over the records of years gone by, that the name of our province was assigned to us by our governor-general's mother, the late Queen Victoria. I have here a copy of the letter written by her majesty to Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, at that time colonial secretary, in which she made the suggestion, and which I will read, with the permission of the house."

The letter referred to reads:

Osborne, 24th July, 1858.

The queen has received Sir E. Bulwer Lytton's letter stating that objections were being made in France to the name of New Caledonia being given to the proposed colony between the Pacific and the Rocky Mountains. If the name of New Caledonia is objected to as being already borne by another colony or island claimed by the French, it may be better to give the new colony west of the Rocky Mountains another name. New Hannover, New Cornwall and New Georgia appear from the maps to be the names of subdivisions of that country, but do not appear on all maps. The only name which is given to the whole territory in every map the queen had consulted is "Columbia," but as there exists also a Columbia in South America, and the citizens of the United States call their country also Columbia, at least in poetry, "British Columbia" might be, in the queen's opinion, the best name.

"I have great pleasure," continued the premier, "in moving an address of welcome to his royal highness."

Mr. Brewster thanked the premier for conferring upon him the honor of seconding the resolution.

"I think," he added, "that in common with every member on the floor of this house and the people of Canada, I have felt for many years that in reality Canada is becoming the bright, particular star in the great empire of Britain; and it is with very great satisfaction indeed that we find now that this view has evidently been taken by the royal house in the motherland, for we have had given to us now as governor-general the uncle of the present king and the son of our great Queen Victoria. In view of the work that has been done by the great man who has been sent to us, I think Canada may well feel proud. I can add little to what the premier has said, but I am sure that the house will rise in passing the resolution and honor it in a proper manner.

Text of Resolution

The Speaker read the resolution which follows, and it was carried unanimously by a standing vote:

To Field-Marshal His Royal Highness Prince Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strathern, Earl of Sussex (in the Peerage of the United Kingdom), Prince of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Duke of Saxony, Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, K. G., K. T., K. E., P. C., G. M. B., G. C. S. I., G. C. M. G., G. C. L. E., G. C. V. D., Personal I. E., G. C. V. O., Personal A. D. C. to A. D. C. to His Majesty the King, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada:

May it please Your Royal Highness,—

We, the Speaker and members of the legislative assembly of the province of British Columbia, in parliament assembled, loyally present to your royal highness and to her royal highness the Duchess of Connaught, our heartfelt congratulations upon your safe arrival in the Dominion of Canada.

The honor conferred upon the Dominion of Canada by the presence of a near relative of his majesty the king affords us a deeper gratification than can be expressed in words, and is highly significant of his majesty's desire to emphasize the unity of the empire.

We trust that your administration of public affairs will be as pleasurable to your royal highness as it will be bene-

ficial to the people of this great Dominion; and should your royal highness, with your illustrious consort, favor the province of British Columbia with a visit, a warm and loyal welcome will be extended to you.

Consolidation Bill

Attorney-General Bowser, in moving the second reading of the bill ratifying and giving effect to the recent revision of the provincial statutes, informed the house that in certain of the provinces of the Dominion the custom is to have such revision performed every ten years. There was no fixed rule in this regard in British Columbia, but the present revision had been rendered necessary by a variety of conditions. The first revision made in British Columbia was in 1871, this being not so much a revision proper as a compilation of the then existing statutes. And to show how our statutes had grown, this first compilation comprised but six hundred and thirty pages, containing the statutes of the colony of Vancouver island, and the then colony of British Columbia, which was the mainland, and also the legislation adopted after the two colonies merged into one. In 1877 another consolidation was made embracing the statute laws up to that period. And in 1888 there came another revision, a more effective one, when commissioners were appointed for the purpose of revising, classifying and consolidating the laws as they stood at that date.

1897 Revision

The work of the commissioners then was not so great as it was in 1897, when the revision upon which the commissioners had been actively engaged during some years, became the law of the land, this revision having been undertaken by the late Chief Justice, Hon. Theodore Davis. He had not only then revised and consolidated the statute

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laws of the province, but had included as well those English laws which he considered to be in force according to the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1858. It was unnecessary for him to comment upon the great work of this revision or the value rendered to the country by the late Chief Justice, and those engaged with him in the work. The revision of 1897 was an admirable one in every respect, but there had been so large additions to the statute law since that time that it had been determined to appoint another commission to bring the revision and consolidation up to date, the personnel of that commission consisting of Mr. Charles Wilson, K. C., of Vancouver, an ex-Attorney-General of the province, and Mr. A. P. Luxton, K. C., of Victoria. Since the time of their appointment some two years ago, these commissioners had been working with a competent staff upon a new revision of the statute law, which he had now the pleasure of presenting to the house in three volumes. The commissioners had not only revised all the statute laws of British Columbia up to last year, but had included also the legislation of last session, so that this revision and consolidation embraced all the laws upon the statute book up to the 31st December, 1911. It had been thought at first that the revision would be ready for presentation to the house last year, but the work proved to be so voluminous and to require so great care and attention, that it had been thought better to devote another year to it, and it was the result of this work which this present bill dealt with. He thought that this revision would be found to reflect the highest credit upon the commissioners. The arrangement of the statutes was perhaps an improvement upon that of past revisions, and would be found to facilitate access to those statutes to which reference might be desired from time to time. Many statutes were passed by the house, which were, in a way, of a temporary character, and other statutes which accidentally duplicated or repeated the contents of other acts. The commissioners had gone into all these matters very carefully, and had striven to eliminate duplications, and to make the consolidation as complete and as thorough as possible.

Growth of Legislation

As evidence of the growth of legislation in this province he pointed to the fact that while the revision of 1871 contained but six hundred and thirty pages, that of 1897 was contained in 2280 pages, in two volumes, and that of 1911, in three volumes, showed a growth from 630 pages in 1871 to 3,197 pages today. He fully realized the task that was set before the commissioners in the revision of the provincial statute law, and it had been their aim to harmonize and to bring into unison with one another, all the various laws, similar language and forms being retained insofar as possible. In some features of the revision, the commissioners had found it necessary and desirable to encroach slightly upon the legislative power, but wherever this had occurred they had first consulted with him, and any changes made had been with his consent. He had a complete list of these minor changes, and in regard to them he would be glad to instruct the house, showing where in the different acts the commissioners had gone a little beyond their power in the direction of legislation. It might not be out of place to look at one or two of these and show in what manner the legislative function had been slightly usurped. The administration act afforded an example, in point. Legislation with respect to the administration of estates had been scattered all through the statute book. These various references to the subject had been brought together by the commissioners, and an act presented dividing the subject into nine parts, all relating to the administration of estates. The result had been to secure a more simple law and conveniently codify the several features of legislation on the subject. The same applied to legislation dealing with infants.

Municipal Clauses Act

In the Municipal Clauses Act a simplification had also been brought about. All members of the house were well aware that the amendments to the Municipal Clauses Act from time to time had been very numerous, and evidence of this would be found in the number of pages devoted to the Municipal Clauses Act and contained in the revision of today, as compared with the space given to this subject in earlier revisions. The compilation of 1871 gave just one and a half pages. In 1898 this had been extended to forty-two pages, and now it occupied one hundred and eighty-

eight pages, but put in better arrangement, and so that less difficulty would be occasioned in finding any desired reference than heretofore. He thought this was perhaps one of the most frequently referred to acts in the statutes and the simplification of arrangement would be most acceptable. With regard to taxation, too, there had been many related acts scattered throughout the statute book, and all these had now been brought into one taxation act.

Semi-Public Statutes

The bill which he now offered for second reading, had for its object the validation of the recent revision, the idea

being that the house should at once repeal all the old statute law, and this become the statute law of the province early next week, upon this measure receiving the assent of the lieutenant-governor. The legislation of the present session might then be made to amend the consolidated statutes where any change was desired; otherwise considerable inconvenience would obviously occur. In this consolidation were included all the English statutes considered, to be in force and applying to this province under the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1858. In the revision were also included many statutes of

the province of what might be termed a semi-public character, such as the Canadian Northern railway legislation, the Kettle River Valley Act, the legislation with the Grand Trunk Pacific in respect to the Prince Rupert townsite, the City of Vancouver Incorporation act, and the acts relating to the city of New Westminster and Victoria and other legislation of a similar nature. There was also in preparation a fourth volume in which would be found a list of all private acts passed by the legislature and which are regarded by the commis-

sioners as still being in existence; these acts were not republished but a list merely given so that any one who might be interested could see which were still alive and where they might be found. The attorney general pointed to the excellent work which had been done in the printing and binding of the 3,000 copies of the consolidation, making 9,000 volumes, and thought that members on looking at their copies would agree that the work reflected the highest credit on the king's printer and his staff. He had had no opportunity to go through the entire work, but such portions as he had been able to look into he had found exceedingly well arranged, and he thought the house would appreciate the great attention and the time that had been given by the commissioners to the revision, which work would enhance the high reputation that they already enjoy among the leaders of the bar in British Columbia. He moved the second reading of the bill.

Mr. Brewster's Criticism

Mr. Brewster had listened with interest to the explanation made by the attorney general, but as a mere layman himself was inclined to regard the procedure adopted as a little peculiar. He did not for a moment desire to discredit the special professional ability of the revising commissioners, but with so tremendous a work it might be that they had been led into error, as they were only human after all. This being the case it was a somewhat serious matter for the house to pass offhand this validating act and make their revision the law of the land, the object of the present bill being nothing more nor less than to ratify the revision, the house accepting the work on faith. He did not wish to indulge in any harping criticism, but if even the attorney general had not been able to go through the complete work and vouch for its satisfactory character throughout, how could a mere layman on the floor of the house vote with confidence to make this consolidation the law of the land. He had hoped that, year by year during the progress of the revision, drafts might have been submitted to the house, with any changes made indicated by italics, so that the members might note the character of these changes and pass upon them. In decisions of law great weight was frequently laid by the judges upon the specific wording of the act. The house was now told that this revision

had been made by with a view to harmonizing acts or different particular subject fore possible that the legislature in law might have commissioners and coincide with the content of the enact house had had a laid before it it have appointed judges to go care whole revision, changes as had been ing if these had the meaning of the tors had intended legislature might responsibility and authority in the gentlemen. Even too late for the consider the revision of a draft copy a gard the old statute an impartial and sion, say of judges to go carefully the speaking in this the slightest desire integrity or the emmissioners, but it sible to avoid error at all events be the perfection of

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Mr. McI to Mr. Brewster adopted principle acting as mem should not be en or revision of l the bringing of into effect it w tion to assume not in every wa of the commiss their commissio and it was not enact any new dent of the cou tively to the w late Chief Ju Davie, and c commissioners their work in a rections given t been in the ma the statutes ar had been to se It would not tions to make a in the law and proper if any o volved. He co the house fall suggestion of t Mr. P. Willia reading on gro to those taken The second ever, without being asked fo

had been made by the commissioners with a view to harmonizing the different acts or different references to any particular subject and it was therefore possible that the real meaning of the legislature in the enactment of the law might have been missed by the commissioners and their work fail to coincide with the true purpose and intent of the enacting body. If the house had had a draft of the revision laid before it it might advantageously have appointed a commission of judges to go carefully through the whole revision, checking up such changes as had been made and deciding if these had in any way affected the meaning of the law as the legislators had intended it. Otherwise the legislature might as well abandon its responsibility and put all legislative authority in the hands of these two gentlemen. Even now it might not be too late for the attorney general to consider the revision as in the nature of a draft copy and continue to regard the old statutes as effective until an impartial and competent commission, say of judges, might be appointed to go carefully through the work. In speaking in this manner he had not the slightest desire to reflect upon the integrity or the efficiency of the commissioners, but it was almost impossible to avoid error, and there should at all events be a double check upon the perfection of so important a mat-

ter. Until such a committee as he had suggested was in a position to give its certificate that the changes made do not alter the meaning and effect of the law as placed upon the statute book, he did not think that the house should be asked to ratify a revision which they must necessarily take on faith otherwise.

No New Legislation

Hon. Mr. McPhillips replied briefly to Mr. Brewster, pointing out the adopted principle that judges while acting as members of the judiciary should not be engaged in the drafting or revision of laws. With regard to the bringing of these revised statutes into effect it was an incorrect position to assume that the revision was not in every way correct, as the scope of the commissioners' duties under their commission was well understood and it was not within their power to enact any new legislation. The president of the council referred appreciatively to the work performed by the late Chief Justice Hon. Theodore Davie, and contended that if the commissioners now had performed their work in accordance with the directions given them, their duties had been in the main merely to consolidate the statutes and their condensation had been to some extent mechanical. It would not be one of their functions to make any material alterations in the law and it would be most improper if any organic change were involved. He could see no objection to the house falling in line with the suggestion of the attorney general.

Mr. P. Williams opposed the second reading on grounds somewhat similar to those taken by Mr. Brewster.

The second reading passed, however, without a division of the house being asked for.

REVISION OF B. C. STATUTES

Consolidation Work is Being Considered by Legislature
—Prince Rupert Bill Advanced to Second Reading

Yesterday's sitting of the provincial legislature proved peculiarly flat and uninteresting to all save the few representatives in the house of the legal profession, and these only in so far as their particular interest was excited in connection with the revision and consolidation of the statutes, which came before parliament at the committee stage of the ratification bill.

Upon the house going into committee on this measure, Hon. Mr. Bowser announced his purpose, before serious consideration of the bill itself was taken, to run through the revision hurriedly, pointing out to the members wherein minor clerical or technical changes had been made, with the object of removing ambiguities or for securing general harmony in the various consolidated statutes.

As to the merit of the consolidation, it all came down in the final reckoning, as in the majority of such matters, to a question of confidence in the commissioners, who, with a competent staff, had been for the past two years engaged upon the work. He directed particular attention to a "wonderful table contained in the third volume," on which, by a system of cross-indexing, every chapter and section in the old statutes would be found conveniently classified, and its exact place in the consolidation indicated.

A Changing Act

As to the perfection of the revision, differences of opinion were bound to exist even between lawyers or members of the bench, and quite possibly amendments to acts incorporated might be deemed desirable at some future session. The intention was to introduce a number of amending acts even this year, but it was thought best to first pass the revised statutes, and then introduce any necessary revisions as upon the new consolidation. As a case in point he proposed later to bring down certain amendments to the Municipal Clauses Act, which was of necessity changing constantly, amending the old section 68 of the act with respect to the sub-division of lots and the approval thereof by the municipal authorities.

When this revision was put through, by the present ratifying bill, the real work of legislation for this session might begin. He intended, as a preface to the work of the committee, to point out briefly where changes in the direction of the legislative had been made by the commissioners, as in the Interpretation Act, the Administration Act, the Arbitration Act, the Attachments for Debts Act, the act dealing with the powers of infants under the law, etc. The precise nature of each of these changes was explained, the Attorney-General referring to the commissioners' memorandum accompanying the work. Objection was not raised to any of the suggested variations of language or tenor, but Messrs. Brewster and Williams contended that members should be furnished with memoranda such as that possessed by the law officer of the crown, in order more intelligently to grasp the purport of the changes to which he made reference.

Hon. Mr. Bowser said that he would have no possible objection, and such

a brief will be furnished before the committee sits again.

This committee consideration of details of the revision virtually monopolized the legislative day. During the sitting of the house, however, authority was granted for an extension of the time in which petitions for private bills may be presented, and Mr. Brewster was granted permission to withdraw from the orders his resolution with the naval question as its text, he explaining that it is his desire to redraft it.

The bill ratifying and confirming the agreement reached on the 18th June last between the province, the city of Prince Rupert and the G. T. P. railway and G. T. P. Construction company was also introduced by message from His Honor and advanced on the premier's motion to the second reading stage.

The synopsis and report of the commission on taxation (which will be found fully analyzed and reported elsewhere in this issue, was laid before parliament by Finance Minister Ellison and the seventh annual report of the Provincial Industrial Home by Attorney-General Bowser.

During the afternoon, too, Mr. Williams asked of the finance minister:

1. What sum has been paid the Colonist Printing and Publishing Company for advertising during each year from July 1, 1901, to March 31st, 1911?
2. What sum has been paid the said corporation during the same period for all other services?
3. What sum was paid the Colonist Printing and Publishing Company for advertising in the Post during the year 1910?

Hon. Mr. Ellison replied: 1, from July 1, 1901, to March 31, 1911, \$23,476.03; 2, \$51,607.65; and 3, \$8,942.30.

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TIMBER POLICY OF GOVERNMENT

Hon. W. R. Ross Delivers Masterly Speech in Explaining History of Development Leading to Forest Act

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Purpose of New Legislation to Conserve Areas, Ensure Protection from Fire, and Promote Prosperity

A masterly, even statesmanlike, address occupying a little more than an hour in its rapid delivery was made in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. W. R. Ross, minister of Lands, in presenting for second reading the bill for the creation of a bureau of forests and the reorganization—perhaps it might be better termed, organization—of the fire prevention, forest conservation and timber administration system for British Columbia. The Minister spoke from headings, with a fluency and unbroken continuity doing infinite credit to his oratorical ability.

Incidentally, announcement was made that the government had engaged as consulting forester for British Columbia, Mr. Overtop W. Price, who was in large measure responsible for the organization of the United States forestry service, while Mr. Gifford Pinchot will also lend his friendly supervision and co-operation and will visit the province in this connection some time during the coming summer.

The legislative history of forest administration in British Columbia was traced through its various epochs an especially close analysis being made of the history of timber administration since the present government acceded to power, which event proved the turning point in provincial affairs. After comprehensive study of other systems of timber administration, the Minister expressed the conclusions of the government in favor of the established system in vogue here in its principle, using these words:

Fears No Comparison

"The more that other countries are studied, the more clear it becomes that the forest policy of British Columbia need fear no comparisons. In its main features it stands by itself as the soundest, the most effective, most profitable, and most convenient method of obtaining a steady flow of revenue from the forests that has been as yet evolved by any country."

The results produced by the initiation of the timberlands policy of 1905, which "let loose the flood of British Columbia prosperity," were summarized by the minister as follows:

"You all know how successful the government's policy has been. The forest policy of 1905 began it all. Capital flowed into the province to invest in our timber. Attention was thereby directed to our other natural resources; investment in these followed; population grew, and the revenue as a result increased. The government, backed by the timber revenue, was able to survey millions of acres of agricultural lands, to open up new regions to the settler by a network of public roads. Our cities grew—look at Victoria now—look at Vancouver—and think what they were in 1905! Our industries have expanded; the workman has found steady employment at increased wages; the farmer has shared the general prosperity of the country and British Columbia has become in part a great fruit-growing land. It has become possible to promote railway expansion without the heavy sacrifice of the public domain which had been obtained in the past.

"To clinch the matter—to make sure that the forest resources should not be merely foundational but should also build up the whole fabric of the lumbering industry and strengthen the entire commercial system of the province—the government in 1906 adopted a thorough-going policy that the timber of British Columbia must be manufactured within the province. We see from the history of

Quebec how forests can be cut out, their product being shipped to other countries, leaving the province only the small profit in the sale of raw material and the wages of temporary labor. The British Columbia government saw this result in the future, and determined that it should be guarded against in this province and that the whole profit arising through the manufacture of raw material in timber should belong to and benefit the citizens of the province. Hence the emphatic prohibition of export decided upon, clinching the policy of 1905.

Let Loose Prosperity

"I am not claiming that, like the Laurier administration, the Provincial government caused the sun to shine. What I do claim, and I think it is plain enough and no more than justice, is that good management at opportune times has helped enormously to remove such obstacles as might have delayed this prosperity that has come to British Columbia. Good management seized the right moment to strike—to divert the progressive western development and expansion movement hitherwards. The forest policy of 1905 and its success as caused the world to recognize British Columbia infinitely or resources. The forest policy of 1905 let loose that flood of prosperity that the province has been enjoying ever since. The forest policy of 1905 produced in seven years over thirteen million dollars for development works within the province—for roads, for surveys, for other essentially necessary public works. The forest policy of 1905 established the credit of the province in the financial centres of the world and thereby strengthened the hands of the government to embark upon that vigorous railway policy that has already caused many hundred miles of construction, and is about to produce the construction of a much better greater development of railway.

Discussing more particularly the forest policy of the government of which the bill before the House is the epitome and the elaboration, the Minister said:

"What must be done to conserve our forests—to give the province a permanent supply and a permanent instead of a short-lived lumbering industry?—We must in this new province face the same problems which were faced by the United States government only a few years ago. The first essential, as it was in the neighbor republic, is in the creation of a thoroughly efficient forest service. The second is necessarily the expenditure of money. The examples set by the United States, Prussia, India and other lands show that conservation costs money. The forests that have yielded us that thirteen millions in the past seven years are worth spending money on. Hence a substantial vote is asked for in the estimates now in preparation.

"The government has referred to the best advice the striking proposal of the Forestry Commission that royalty should be regarded as forest capital, and so soon as the needs of the provincial forests have been ascertained, this matter will be dealt with.

Comprehensive Surveys

"The duty of the experts who will form the forest service staff will be to ascertain with exactitude what timber there is within the province. There is reason to believe that the reserved timber is much greater than most people think. To facilitate this work licenses must be all surveyed as soon as possible, and in any event before 1913. Simplified regulations have been introduced to facilitate and cheapen the method of timber surveys, which will result in considerable advantage not only to the province but to the province but to license holders.

"As needed and desirable, sales of crown stumps on the existing reserve will be made. In considering such sales, the fact is being constantly kept in mind that the British Columbia license tenure is the best yet anywhere provided. Uniformity of tenure is also most desirable, so that no commercial handicaps shall be created between different classes of holders of crown timber. Therefore all through this forest bill, every effort has been made, consistent with the existing rights of holders, to put all holdings upon an equality. For this reason all future sales will be of licenses, conditions of each sale being regulated by the individual circumstances. There will also be sales for immediate logging, as in the case of burned timber liable to spoil; there will be sales on the basis of bonus per thousand feet in addition to royalty payable when the timber is cut—that being the improved Ontario method ensuring that the government is paid for everything that is standing on the land, while at the same time benefitting the purchaser, because the government, very properly, assumes the fire risk. Sometimes as for example in the sale of small fractions not justifying the expense of cruising, the sale may be for a lump sum down

as bonus, as in the older dominion and Ontario methods.

"Pulpwood timber will be sold under license, a few simple modifications being made in the conditions of the license to cover the question of saw timber included in the pulpwood areas. With respect to pulp concessions granted by previous governments, the recommendation of the Forestry Commission that a cruise and thorough examination of these be made on the ground, has been adopted by the government, and trained experts from the forest branch will be detailed for this duty."

Reafforestation

"The report been in content rate of royalty Minister. Tonic reafforestation ed that it is in by the creation essential prelim being fire prev arose either th inflammable de use of fire. De be in future cor of a forest pro all holders of tim contribute on the acre, the govern viding an equal fund the grate estry, namely t ging slash, will interests of rea

It was shown proaching comp Canal and the lars now being ports of the Prince Rupert to San Diego, on will revolutioni the lumbering mense advantag

Mr. Brewster, Minister's address ment of the de view of the de measure and its cussion on this over until Thurs

Upon the meet terday, the legis of the premier, p orders of the da received with a move the second erving the estab branch and the r of the forest and system in Britis

"Since taking ster of lands, M Mr. Ross, "I hav me the serious p mitted to my ca has the responsi driven home to than in the anx preceded the int bill; and it is that I now rise upon this momen conservation, an reading of this b weary this asser shall confine my ment and expos the aims and obj of the present explained and m bearings, it will begin with a bri history of the l vince that desia

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fact, gave away land as a matter the advent of th removal of the which the provi from the rest of tefore, the mark every business v force by the tur the first time sta a value, and th price of fifty ce crown stumpage, remained uncha twenty-three ye crown timber la stopped at this p 1896 that the p principle of stat was made by th sale of timber la

"And stopped added the minis phasis.

"The report that a change had been in contemplation in the present rate of royalty was contradicted by the Minister. Touching the great work of reforestation, the Minister explained that it is intended to facilitate this by the creation of forest reserves, the essential preliminary to reforestation being fire prevention. The fire risk arose either through the creation of inflammable debris or by the careless use of fire. The menace of fire is to be in future controlled by the creation of a forest protection fund, to which all holders of timber will be required to contribute on the basis of one cent per acre, the government on its side providing an equal amount. Through this fund the greatest problem in all forestry, namely the disposition of logging slash, will be handled in the best interests of reforestation.

It was shown finally that the approaching completion of the Panama Canal and the hundred million dollars now being spent by the various ports of the Pacific Coast, from Prince Rupert to Victoria and south to San Diego, on harbor improvements, will revolutionize the conditions of the lumbering industry, to the immense advantage of this province.

Mr. Brewster, upon the close of the Minister's address, moved the adjournment of the debate, asking—that in view of the great importance of the measure and its many features—discussion on this question may stand over until Thursday.

Upon the meeting of the house yesterday, the legislature, upon the motion of the premier, proceeded directly to the orders of the day, Hon. Mr. Ross being received with applause upon rising to move the second reading of the act governing the establishment of the forest branch and the reorganization generally of the forest and timber administration system in British Columbia.

A Serious Task

"Since taking up the duties of minister of lands, Mr. Speaker," said Hon. Mr. Ross, "I have often had borne upon me the serious nature of the task committed to my care, but on no occasion has the responsibility of that office been driven home to me with greater force than in the anxious deliberations which preceded the introduction of this forest bill; and it is with an humble spirit that I now rise to address the house upon this momentous subject of forest conservation, and to move the second reading of this bill. I do not intend to weary this assembly with statistics; I shall confine myself to general argument and exposition, but in order that the aims and objects of the forest policy of the present administration may be explained and made clear in all their bearings, it will be necessary for me to begin with a brief recapitulation of the history of the legislation of this province that deals with forest matters."

Continuing, Hon. Mr. Ross pointed out that in the early days in British Columbia the forests were regarded merely as a huge natural phenomenon, like mountains, glaciers and rivers. They were "a beautiful accessory to the scenery, but regarded as of no value as commercial assets. The legislature, in fact, gave away the timber with the land as a matter of course. Soon after the advent of the C. P. R. and the removal of the barrier of isolation by which the province had been cut off from the rest of this continent, therefore, the marked stimulus given to every business was felt with peculiar force by the lumbering industry. For the first time standing timber was given a value, and the legislature placed a price of fifty cents a thousand upon crown stumpage, a valuation that has remained unchanged for the past twenty-three years. The alienation of crown timber lands was not, however, stopped at this period. It was not until 1896 that the first recognition of the principle of state ownership of forests was made by the legislature, and the sale of timber lands stopped.

"And stopped let us hope forever," added the minister with marked emphasis.

Learned Wisdom in Time

"We see today that other countries such as Germany, France and Austria are spending millions to recover forest lands from private ownership. Nearer home we have seen the United States alienate four-fifths of its standing timber for a song. British Columbia, however, learned wisdom in time. After 1896 the only breach in the principle of public ownership of forests occurred when timber was alienated in the grants in aid of railway construction—a policy that was put on the scrapheap by the present administration. Instead of giving timber lands we now give guarantees.

"The universal experience of modern times, added to the experience of centuries, has been that forests are best kept in public ownership, the chief reason being that forestry, meaning the perpetuation of the timber supply, requires an investment stretching over generations that hitherto has been too long for private owners. The member for Newcastle will, I have no doubt, regard with favor my statement that public ownership is peculiarly advantageous in respect to forests."

Taking 1888 as a starting point again, one found that the legislature, desirous of encouraging the lumbering industry, adopted the policy of granting cutting rights over crown timber lands to any person who would build or operate a sawmill. The charge made was but nominal—a few cents an acre—and the timber was not required to be paid for until it had been cut, being thus sold on credit, to the great advantage of the industry, operators thus not being obliged to sink capital in the purchase of stumpage. These grants of cutting rights were known as timber leases.

In 1895 a new and most important principle was introduced in legislation, that contains the germ of the modern provincial policy. The existence of the investor was recognized, and timber leases granted to non-operators. The encouragement of the lumbering industry was still, however, kept in view, and leases granted to operators at lower rates than to non-operators. It was unnecessary to follow the subsequent legislation in detail, and he would merely mention that the last phase of the timber lease period was entered upon in 1903-4, when the present government came into power and raised the rental to 25 cents an acre. In 1905 the present administration, having had time to look carefully into the whole question of forest policy, realized that the leasing system was an extremely bad one, the timber being sold for twenty-one years ahead at the low prevailing rates then ruling.

It was obvious that rates would show great change in twenty-one years, and therefore the public timber was being sold at a sacrifice price. It was accordingly decided to abolish this antiquated system and to substitute a constructive forest policy which should make a radical change and revolutionize conditions in the province. This marked the beginning of the modern epoch in forest policy.

In the Old Days

"For years," Mr. Ross continued, "the province had been in a bad way. The public revenue was insufficient. Development was slow and starved for want of money; and the opening up of the province was being delayed, because the necessary surveys, roads and other public works could not be undertaken. Each annual budget was a nightmare. Deficits and liabilities were piling up in millions. The credit of the province was low and immigration had been reduced to a thin trickle. As for the lumbering industry, of course, these prevailing conditions could not do more than retard its progress, but the cut was small. So also was the forest revenue, which was only \$465,000 in the year 1904. There existed then the extraordinary situation that in a country of magnificent forest resources, the revenue derived from them was only about one-seventh of the scant provincial revenue of some three million dollars.

"We all remember the distressing semi-stagnation of those days, when few realized the value of the forests and none could foretell with confidence when their utilization would take place. The forest wealth of the province was locked up—it was no help to the progress of the young community. The province was starving for capital, and had no means of drawing upon its natural wealth. And yet the west of the continent was even then beginning to realize that the timber supply was insufficient—in fact a shortage, a timber famine, was predicted in thirty years by those in a position to know. Flourishing lumbering regions such as Michigan were declining; important Eastern species such as white pine were getting cut out; stumpage prices all over the United States and Canada were going up by leaps and bounds; the campaign for conservation that resulted in the withdrawal of 170,000,000 of U. S. lands and the constitution of that great timber reserve known as the national forests was under way.

The Crying Need

"Stumpage in consequence was being sought almost feverishly by investors. Here in British Columbia was the timber; here the crying need for public revenue to open up the province, for capital to invigorate our anaemic industries and there—throughout the older regions of the continent—was the capital we needed, capital which was seeking to invest itself in the fast diminishing western reserve of timber that in consequence of the exhaustion of the eastern forests was destined to control the lumber markets of America before another thirty years should pass.

"It was a moment of danger for the province; it was the parting of the ways. British Columbia was not the first young country that had languished for want of capital; it was not the first young country that has sought to obtain capital by the sale of natural resources. Modern history is full of sad examples of young countries determined to get capital at any price; at any ruinous sacrifice of their future. The public loan policy that has saddled the Australian states with a crushing indebtedness is a case in point. British Columbia might have done the same, but at this crisis in her history there was found a strong administration in control—an administration that had sized up the continental situation. That government was faced by the hardest problem that governments have to face—how to deal with an enormous natural resource—and although everything looks feasible enough after success has been achieved, yet seven years ago, in 1905, the ingenuity and foresight of the statesman were needed to invent a forest policy to meet the situation.

"Legislation is usually a somewhat prosaic affair, and that is why I lay emphasis upon the Forest Act of 1905, because it reveals a stroke of true genius, because in its bold and sweeping features it is unlike anything attempted in any other country, and because, while others might be blind and perplexed and fearful of such decisive steps yet the statesman's intuition could foresee the results and consequences that it would have far down the future years.

Public Ownership

"The administration of 1905 nailed its colors to the mast; its motto was 'public ownership of forests.' Yet it saw that the province had failed to obtain money in spite of its enormous forests, that it was impossible or that it would take years to organize a service that could cruise and value crown timber, area by area, and sell it as do Germany and other old established countries. The prices of western stumpage were very low in 1905, the future increase in value was obviously large, and the problem was to sell at that date without sacrificing this future rise in value.

"Again it was essential to encourage one of the mainstays of the province—the lumbering industry; also it was essential to give a supply of timber for the future operations of existing mills;

to encourage by the same means the building of new mills—yet it would have been most inadvisable to have obliged operators to sink their capital in buying stumpage outright, since this would have sapped the vitality of the industry. The best interests of the province required that operators' capital should be left to them as working capital, for the development of their business, for circulation as wages, especially since wages represented four-fifths of the cost of manufactured lumber. The points enumerated above show how the problem before the government bristled with difficulties. The province was stagnating; capital was essential; cheap stumpage was necessary for the lumbering industry; the people's timber was to be made to yield immediate revenue, yet there was to be no throwing away of the future rise in stumpage. The unearned increment was to be preserved to the people for whom the government was trustee.

Straightforward Simplicity

What, then, did the government do? How did it solve the problem of forest policy? The solution looked extraordinarily simple now because the legislation that solved it had become so familiar and was working so smoothly that the short-sighted criticism of former years had been silenced. Looking at the bungling attempts of other young countries to deal with natural resources it would be seen that the legislation of 1905 was truly great in its straightforward simplicity. He merely rehearsed what everyone knew. The government threw open all crown timber lands and anyone was allowed to secure the right to cut timber. In this way sawmills could obtain timber for future operations and the present and future of the lumbering industry was assured. The lumbermen of the continent was encouraged to come and operate in the province for they could get here all the stumpage that they needed. The investors of America, Europe, and of Europe—were offered investments. The government merely handed over the cutting rights, giving an option on the timber, which was only to be paid for when it should be cut. In return for the cutting privileges granted them, licensees were only required to pay annual interest on the value of the timber reserved for them. No tenure could be simpler, and none more advantageous, since it rendered possible the holding of timber until a market should be favorable for the cutting of it, the holder obtaining every advantage of the purchaser of stumpage. In this way 15,000 square miles, or over nine and half million acres were taken up, and the forest revenue doubled and trebled itself.

Revenue of \$13,000,000

In 1904 the revenue from timber sources was \$455,000; in 1908 it had risen to \$2,785,000, and no less than thirteen million dollars were yielded to the treasury in seven years. Since then, members of the opposition had at times talked fantastically about the giving away of timber to speculators, he would refer in some detail to the principles that had actuated the government. In every country the securing of revenue from forests offered most difficult problems. From the forestry point of view revenue should be collected when the forest crop was cut. Collected that way, however, the revenue was spasmodic, since it depended upon trade conditions, and that was an unsatisfactory revenue to support the public works necessary for the opening up of a new country. Again, collected in that way, revenue might be deferred even for decades in such a way as to be useless for a young country requiring revenue for its immediate development. An immediate, steady revenue was the life blood of a growing new country such as B. C. Yet, on the other hand, to levy heavy charges every year on one and the same crop of standing timber would have the worst effect on conservation, since it would encourage the butchery of timber. It was therefore necessary to compromise between the

system of charging for crown timber when it should be cut and the system of levying upon it a heavy annual charge, and that was the compromise that the government made. Instead of drawing an uncertain, spasmodic revenue from the forests that would depend upon the condition of the timber market, a revenue that would be insufficient today when the annual cut is small and that would be heavy twenty or thirty years hence, when the province would not have the same crying need for money as now—instead of that, the government's policy was to extract a steady, even flow of annual revenue from the vast area of standing timber that might, perchance, not be exploited for fifty years to come. The government's policy was to make the whole forest yield annual revenue, the poor timber along with the good. With that immense revenue thus obtained, no less than two and half times that of any other province and half the total forest revenue of Canada—with this immense revenue the government meant to take advantage of the continental movement towards the west and to place the province in a position to obtain its full share of western development.

Profit From Forests

Profit was extracted from forests in two ways—by holding of standing timber and, alternatively, by the cutting of it. The usual Canadian system, as practiced in Ontario and other provinces, had been to sell crown timber in return for three payments. First, a lump sum down at the time of the sale to secure a share of the holdings' profit; second, a nominal annual rental; and thirdly, a royalty when cutting took place, to secure a share of the manufacturing profit. Now the collection of royalty when timber is cut was a perfectly sound means of securing the government's share of manufacturing profit; but the collection of a lump sum down at the time of sale (just as in the case of any real estate transaction) could not always be trusted to yield the true holding value of standing timber, especially when a vast number of sales were being made within a short period of years. It was obvious that such lump sums might be seriously affected by general busi-

ness conditions at the time; that when much timber was to be sold a market might very easily be glutted; and that further, the future increase in timber values might possibly not be properly realized by the public when the sales were being made. For all three reasons timber under this sale system might be alienated at far below its intrinsic value. The striking originality of the B. C. policy of 1905 was the avoidance of this difficulty, and the avoidance of the years of work and the enormous expense that the cruising of millions of acres of crown timber lands would have necessitated. The government asked for no lump sum bonus; it modified essentially the ordinary Canadian system; it developed the humble license system that already existed and secured the share of profit coming from the holding of timber in a very perfect manner by an annual charge, namely rental, that was essentially different from the nominal rental of the other provinces.

Policy of 1905

Dealing with the results of the policy of 1905, the Minister pointed out that it was but fair to claim that that policy had inaugurated the new era. One thing led to another. Capital began to flow into the province to invest in timber; attention was thus attracted to our other natural resources; investments therein followed; population followed and the public revenue increased. The government, backed by the forest revenue, was able to survey millions of acres of agricultural land and to open up new regions for the settler by a system of public roads. Our cities grew—look at Victoria and Vancouver today, and remember what they were in 1905!

"Owing to the expansion that ensued in every industry the workingman found steady employment and increased wages; the farmer shared in the general prosperity, and it became possible to promote railway expansion without the heavy sacrifices of the public domain that had obtained in the past. To clinch the matter and to make sure that our forest resources should not merely be the foundation but should also build up the whole fabric of the lumbering industry and strengthen the whole commercial system of the province, the government in 1906 adopted a thoroughgoing policy that timber must be manufactured within the province. One could see from the history of Quebec how forests might be cut and wood shipped to a foreign country, leaving in the province of its origin only the small profit coming from the sale of raw material and from the wages paid to temporary labor. With this example before it, the government determined that the profit in manufacturing raw material should benefit our citizens, and hence it clinched the policy of 1905 by an emphatic prohibition of timber export."

Mr. Parker Williams at this juncture rose to a point of order, claiming that the minister was "rehearsing a lot of past history" instead of dealing with the bill before the House.

Hon. Mr. Ross: "I am endeavoring to show the similarities between the present bill and that of 1905."

Mr. Speaker Eberts: "Comparing old legislation with the new; I think that is quite in order."

"I objected, Mr. Speaker," said Mr. Williams, "because the minister is simply taking credit to the government for what it has done in the past instead of dealing with the principles of this bill."

Good Management

"The actions of this government," retorted Hon. Mr. Ross, "have been so uniformly good that it is impossible to say anything but good about them." Continuing, the Minister pointed out that he was not claiming that the provincial government, like the Laurier administration, had caused the sun to shine and the grass to grow greener. What he did claim was that good management, at the opportune time, had helped enormously to remove obstacles that might have delayed the prosperity that has come to this province. It was good management that had seized the right moment to strike, the right moment to divert the western movement to B. C. The forest policy of 1905 and its success, without a shadow of doubt had caused the world to realize something of this country's resources; that forest policy had produced in seven years over thirteen million for roads and surveys and other public works; that forest policy established the credit of the province in the financial centres of the world and strengthened the hands of the present government to embark upon that vigorous railway progress that is being crowned with such success; that forest policy let loose the flood of prosperity that the province has enjoyed ever since.

Triumphant Conclusion

By the end of 1907, the first stage in this policy had been brought to a triumphant conclusion, and an annual revenue of two and a half million dollars had been secured. This being sufficient for the opening for settlement of central British Columbia and other new regions, the government ceased to issue timber licenses and placed the remaining timber lands under reserve until such time as further sales should become necessary. The issuance of cutting rights over nine and a half million acres placed the government of course in a position of very heavy responsibility, both as trustees of the people's timberlands and in respect of its duty of fostering the lumbering industry and recognizing the just rights of licensees. In consequence the government determined to take plenty of time for a careful and deliberate study of the working out of the system that it had established, and in consequence in 1909 it appointed a royal commission of investigation, composed of the Hon. F. J. Fulton, K.C., the then commissioner of lands, Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt of Victoria, and Mr. A. S. Goodve,

the representative of the Dominion parliament held many collected an immense visiting in the con every important ce One of the first p was the question of limit for cutting t and the commission lation in advising logical sequel of the

it was not in the i servation to force by arbitrary regula of a time limit was terest of the publi better security of cense. The comm and a half in s phases of the fores itself in touch with of other provinces with the federal go ington, where the ment under the H and President Roo such remarkable f painstaking inquiry ported at the end ister here remarked with the Commiss later stage, when reral aspects of t would only direct point to the strik as the commission circulated—so muc demand from ever the thousands of necessitated a fres tically not a voice senting from its ments.

Conservative

During this per the government ha It gave an enthus conservation move own policy was an tion; it did not co talk, but at once b ideas in a practical essential of fores the prevention of government first putting on a force by fighting fires. ment spent \$46,000 work. In the yea about \$220,000. T the new fire prev easy matter, and ization was somev at first, but it b brought to a muc efficiency by the under divisional controlling these ors. During the p was covered with trols, about one men being on res pens of \$110,000 the results of patt a striking mann fires. Of course able season, but that the expense been brought do and that very lit had been caused. forest conservatio the essential pre sides getting the control, the gover fully studying th other provinces results. The ex Quebec and the I structive and s states of the U Minnesota, New to mention but ideas. In parti policy of the Uni ministration of it ests repaid most cially since it ga dealing with wes although studyin elsewhere and ca ful methods that experience, the careful not to c imitation. The of other countri clear that the f

the representative of the Kootenays in the Dominion parliament. This commission held many public sittings and collected an immense mass of evidence, visiting in the course of its inquiry every important centre of the province. One of the first points referred to it was the question of removing the time limit for cutting timber under license, and the commission had had no hesitation in advising that removal as the logical sequel of the forest policy, since

it was not in the interest of true conservation to force cutting at any time by arbitrary regulations. The absence of a time limit was not only in the interest of the public, but also gave a better security of tenure to the licensee. The commission spent a year and a half in studying the many phases of the forest problem; it placed itself in touch with the administrations of other provinces and states and also with the federal government at Washington, where the conservation movement under the Hon. Gifford Pinchot and President Roosevelt had gathered such remarkable force. After a most painstaking inquiry the Commission reported at the end of 1910. The Minister here remarked that he would deal with the Commission's findings at a later stage, when referring to the general aspects of the Forest Bill, and would only direct attention at this point to the striking fact that, widely as the commission's report had been circulated—so much so that the large demand from every quarter exhausted the thousands of copies printed, and necessitated a fresh edition—yet practically not a voice had been heard dissenting from its careful pronouncements.

Conservative Movement

During this period of investigation, the government had also been at work. It gave an enthusiastic welcome to the conservation movement of when its own policy was an effective interpretation; it did not confine itself to mere talk, but at once began to carry out its ideas in a practical manner. The great essential of forest conservation was the prevention of fire, and this the government first attacked, both by putting on a force of fire wardens and by fighting fires. In 1909 the government spent \$48,000 on this practical work. In the year following it spent about \$220,000. The organization of the new fire prevention force was no easy matter, and naturally that organization was somewhat rough-and-ready at first, but it had gradually been brought to a much higher pitch of efficiency by the placing of wardens under divisional inspectors, and by controlling these in turn by supervisors. During the past year the province was covered with a network of patrols, about one hundred and twenty men being on regular duty at an expense of \$110,000 for the season, and the results of patrol being evidenced in a striking manner in the diminution of fires. Of course it had been a favorable season, but it was remarkable that the expense of fighting fires had been brought down to about \$30,000 and that very little damage to timber had been caused. This was practical forest conservation, or rather it was the essential preliminary to it. Besides getting the fire menace under control, the government had been carefully studying the forest policies of other provinces of Canada and their results. The experiences of Ontario, Quebec and the Dominion were all instructive and suggestive, and many states of the Union such as Idaho, Minnesota, New York or Washington, to mention but a few, gave us good ideas. In particular, the efficient policy of the United States in the administration of its great national forests repaid most careful study, especially since it gave an object lesson in dealing with western conditions. But although studying the policy pursued elsewhere and carefully selecting useful methods that had been tested by experience, the government had been careful not to confine itself to mere imitation. The more so as the study of other countries had made it very clear that the forest policy of B. C.

need fear no comparisons. In its main features that policy stood by itself as the soundest, most effective, profitable and convenient method of obtaining a steady flow of revenue from the forests that has yet been evolved by any country.

Lessons of Other Countries

The minister next touched upon the fact that Russia, the United States and Canada are the three great soft-wood countries of the world; that more than half the timber of the United States is in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific forests, and that more than half of Canada's timber stands in British Columbia. To illustrate the exhaustion of supply that has already been felt in the East, he touched upon the downfall of Michigan and other lake and New England states as lumber producers, and the rise of Washington and Oregon, which states already cut between them more than the whole of Canada. The westward shifting of the source of supply was also shown by the downfall of Quebec, which in 1909 yielded to this province second place as a lumber producer among the provinces of the Dominion. In 1910 British Columbia practically tied with Ontario as to quantity of lumber produced, and yet this province was only beginning its career, and had scarcely touched its forests! Even the comparatively small progress as yet made had necessitated the erection here of no fewer than 270 mills, employing tens of thousands of men, and enriching the province by a no less amount than \$34,823,000 in 1910. With the East showing signs of exhaustion everywhere and with our forests still unexploited, British Columbia held a strong position indeed with regard to the future, and there was in addition the great and glorious fact that our forests were in public ownership, and that every citizen was thus a timber-owner. As the forestry commission's report remarked, "The bulk of our timber is under government control; the rate of growth upon the Pacific coast is twice the average for the United States, and to cap the climax the provincial policy has made the government a sleeping partner in forest exploitation—a sharer in the profits of the lumbering industry. Two things are, therefore, plain: One, that the value of standing timber in British Columbia is destined to rise to heights that general opinion would consider incredible today; the other, that under careful management heavy taxation need never fall upon the population of this province. The profits from a permanent crown timber business should make British Columbia that phenomenon of statecraft and good fortune—a country of semi-independent means."

Permanent Income

The public accounts just presented spoke eloquently of the progress that good management had brought about without the taxing of the people in any burdensome degree, no less than two and a half millions being realized by land sales, and an equal amount through forest revenue. Land sales, of course, were only temporary, but the forest income was permanent, and under a commonsense conservation policy would steadily increase. Without such a policy the cutting of the present crop of timber would ruin and lay waste our timber lands. The young growth would be burned, inferior species would replace the Douglas fir; by the denudation of our watersheds soil erosion would take place on mountain slopes, irrigation would be endangered, the lumbering industry would gradually decline, and British Columbia would sink into the stagnant insignificance that has overtaken other worked out forest regions. That dismal fate, however, should never overtake this province, because we nowadays knew how to avert it, and because the present government of this province would see that necessary and essential measures were taken. The government would do this now—not when all would be too late.

The First Essential

Dealing with the bill itself, the minister discussed what must be done to conserve the forests, and to assure a permanent instead of a short-lived lumbering industry. Facing the same prob-

lem that the United States faced only a few years ago, the government realized that a thoroughly efficient forest service was a first essential of conservation, and like the United States, it hoped to create one that should be a model for the continent. For the coming year, the United States estimates provided for over six million dollars for forest purposes, including one million for fire prevention. Prussia, with half our forest area, spent no less than fourteen million dollars, or over fifty cents an acre as a matter of current business routine; India spent four millions, and the government had its eyes open to the fact that bricks cannot be made without straw, and that conservation costs money. The forests that had yielded thirteen millions in seven years were worth spending money on, and hence it was intended to ask a substantial vote for their protection in the coming estimates. In this connection the government had noted the striking proposal of the forestry commission that royalty should be regarded as forest capital, and it was glad that it would be able to refer this and other important matters of finance to the best expert advice on the continent.

Expert Advice

Under the Hon. Gifford Pinchot, the practical organization of the United States forest service had been accomplished by Mr. Overton W. Price, now vice-president of the National Conservation Association. Mr. Price was recognized as one of the very foremost experts of the conservation movement, and the government after months of

search for the best available talent was glad to announce the engagement of Mr. Price in an advisory capacity as consultant forester to the province. It was also a matter for congratulation that the Hon. Mr. Pinchot had taken so keen an interest in our forestry problems that he was coming to British Columbia on his own account to overlook the field with Mr. Price. Quoting from a letter from Mr. Price, the minister said that that gentleman in accepting appointment had written that "Mr. Pinchot heartily approves of my taking up the proposed consulting work. I am particularly glad to tell you that he displays keen interest in the work itself, and has expressed to me his entire willingness to give it as far as practicable his general oversight and co-operation. He hopes to visit British Columbia during the coming summer in the interests of constructive work in forest organization. This is a source of great gratification to me as I know it will be to you. You have, I believe, written to Mr. Pinchot on behalf of yourself and the premier, expressing the hope that he will identify himself with this work. On my part I shall take up my duties with a particular interest and enthusiasm. Through a combination of circumstances familiar to you, I believe this work offers an unequalled chance for important public service. So far as I am aware no country has ever had the opportunity now before British Columbia to build up a forest service that will be a model in efficiency and a model in its contribution to the public welfare. It goes without saying that an opportunity to share in such work is a high privilege."

Mr. Pinchot had written, the minister continued, "it will give me great pleasure to go carefully over Mr. Price's plans, and unless I am disappointed, to spend also some time in the field in British Columbia. This latter I cannot yet definitely promise, because I do not yet know what the demand for the summer may be, but if I can manage it, I will come to British Columbia on behalf of the work with the greatest pleasure. May I ask you to convey my warmest good wishes to Mr. McBride."

Headquarter Control

The next few years, the Minister continued, would see the forest service in process of formation, and during this period of organization it was particularly necessary to provide a strong headquarter control. Provision was therefore made in the bill for the con-

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stitution of a Forest Board of experts who would keep in touch with and coordinate the many different phases of the work. Composed of practical men actually engaged in the service, the Board, under the direction of the Minister, would carry out the vigorous policy that the government had outlined. Under it a general investigation of the timber resources of the province—both those under lease, license, reserve or in private ownership—would be undertaken, with a view to ascertaining exactly what timber the province contained. There were reasons for belief that the timber now under reserve was much greater in extent than most people thought. In connection with this investigation, the gov-

ernment would require all licenses to be surveyed as soon as possible and at latest by 1918; and to facilitate and cheapen such surveys, simplified regulations had been introduced into the bill for the survey of timber lands. As the timber still unsold was ascertained, and as needed and desirable in the public interest, sales of crown stumpage would be held.

Two facts had been kept in view in deciding upon the method of tenure: firstly, the B. C. license tenure was the best yet devised anywhere; secondly, uniformity of tenure throughout the province was most desirable since it avoided creating any commercial handicap between different classes of holders of crown stumpage. Therefore all through the Forest Bill, every possible effort consistent with the existing rights of holders had been made, to put all holders upon an equality. In accordance with this principle, all future sales would be sales of licenses, and the conditions of these would vary according to circumstances. Sometimes sales would be for immediate logging, for example to save burnt timber liable to spoil; some sales would be on the basis of bonus per thousand feet in addition to royalty, payable when the timber was cut, this being the improved Ontario method which ensures that the government gets paid for everything standing on the land, while benefitting the purchaser, because the government very properly assumes the fire risk. In other cases, for example in the sale of small fractions not justifying the expense of cruising, sales might be for a lump sum down as bonus, as in the older Dominion and Ontario methods. Pulpwood timber would be sold under license, a few simple modifications being made in the conditions of the license to cover the question of the saw-timber included in pulp areas.

Supply in U. S. A.

In this connection the Minister referred to the well known fact that the United States supply of pulpwood is hopelessly insufficient for the present needs of the great republic. Already that country imports one-quarter of the raw material for its pulp mills from Canada, and in addition Canada supplies to it over \$4,000,000 worth of manufactured pulp. Already the industry has begun a rapid growth in the west, six mills having been established in Oregon and Washington. In this movement, British Columbia had not lagged behind, five mills having been already built within the province. Upon the large pulp and paper mill at Powell river, three million dollars had been already spent; a million and a half represented the investment at Ocean Falls; and mills had also been completed both at Swanson Bay and Howe Sound. Small towns had been created on the mainland coast through this new industry, and future developments in this province were most promising. The minister then referred to the report of the U. S. tariff commission which showed that on an average the wood used in every ton of pulp cost five dollars less in Canada

than in the U. S., and that the 560 square miles of pulp concessions granted by former governments of this province give the companies who held them a strong advantage even over their Canadian competitors. The Forestry Commission Report dealt at length with the question of the saw-timber included in the pulp concessions granted in 1901, and the Commission recommended that a cruise and thorough examination of these concessions be made to ascertain the facts of the situation. The government in adopting this proposal would detail trained experts from the Forest Branch to study the problem where it should be studied, that was, on the ground—on the pulp lease-holds themselves. In dealing with the extremely complex situation involved in the holding of this saw timber, the government guided by two principles, namely that the good name of the province must not be smirched by any repudiation of pledges given by former governments and that at the same time the interests of the public, as owner of the timber, must be fully protected. Concerning the present rates of royalty, the Forestry Commission had made no recommendation, but widespread press reports had given the mistaken impression that rates had been altered in the present Bill so as to levy royalty, according to the grade of timber. Since these reports had been given currency, he desired to take the present opportunity of contradicting them, as well as the statement that the royalty on lease-holds had been raised to \$1.50.

Creation of Reserves

To facilitate the work of reforestation, the government had adopted a policy put in practice by Ontario, the Dominion, and the United States government—namely the power to proclaim forest reserves over lands suitable only for the growing of timber. Much land in this province was among the best in the world for this important purpose, and both to perpetuate the timber supply and to protect the watersheds, considerable areas would necessarily be held for reforestation purposes. As an example of this policy, the minister referred to the recent action of the Dominion government in reserving the entire eastern watershed of the Rocky mountains. Reforestation, however, and a permanent lumbering industry alike were idle dreams unless we devised means for the control of human carelessness and the prevention of forest fires. We were faced by the appalling fact that more timber has been destroyed by fire during the last century than the lumbermen of the continent had cut. Forest fires and the sensational advertisements they received had depressed the value of standing timber, deterred investment and hindered the progress of the lumbering industry, adding a certain element of uncertainty to its financing. But the injuries felt today in consequence of the destruction of merchantable timber were only the more visible and immediate effects of fire, the injuries to the reproductive power of the forests were far more serious. As an illustration of this, there was the oft-quoted result of investigations conducted in the United States which revealed the fact that over eighty million acres of cut-over lands in the country were not re-stocking, having been burned and re-burned until they had become sterile. Already in this province we had districts that were not re-stocking—wasted, desolate areas, useless for anything, as the result of repeated fires that often had been caused by an almost imbecile carelessness. He would say nothing of the lives that had been lost in various forest fires in British Columbia, the valuable property that had gone up in smoke, the ruin of individuals and the loss to the government. He came himself from Fernie, and all knew what a neglected forest fire that seemed to be nobody's business, had done to Fernie. Nor would honorable members have forgotten the appalling conflagrations that had scarred with death and destruction the records

of the entire west in 1910—that disastrous year during which one million dollars was poured out by the United States treasury alone in the controlling of fires that should never have been allowed to spread.

Caused by Human Agency

Now the vast majority of forest fires were not a phenomenon of inanimate Nature. They were caused by human agency in two very simple ways: firstly, by the creation of inflammable debris through the felling and removal of standing timber, and secondly, by the careless use of fire in or near the forests. Year after year a great variety of operations were being conducted in timbered country. Thousands of acres had been logged over, and with the removal of the merchantable timber, the land had been left covered with tree-tops, limbs, shattered young growth and cut brush. Every summer this rubbish became timber-dry and a menace not only to the debris-surrounded young growth representing the coming crop but also to merchantable timber in every district. Imagine this process continued year after year, and it would be seen that our forest wealth would in time be represented by islands of merchantable timber surrounded by vast areas of slash that were bound to catch fire sooner or later to the great menace of the valuable remainder. Imagine again a continuation of the methods hitherto employed in cutting right of ways for railways, power lines, telegraph lines, trails and flumes, in making roads, in every sort of work in or near the woods—methods as a simple matter of course. It was easy to see that if this process were to continue the province in time would

become one immense fire-trap, and not only would the patrolling of immense dangerous areas be enormously expensive, but also this patrolling would be ineffective because in most sections fire would consume the fire-traps sooner or later in spite of every effort. It was therefore obvious that the debris menace must be made an end of.

Railways Co-Operating

There were places in which the existence of debris could not be tolerated at any price, as for instance on railway rights-of-way. He was glad to say in this connection that the lessons of 1910 had brought forth fruits, and that the railway companies during the past year had been co-operating in fire prevention in a most gratifying manner. To illustrate this, he would only mention the \$50,000 spent in clearing up debris on the Canadian Pacific railway between Crows Nest and Kootenay Landing. To cope with accumulations of debris, which on account of their nature or their situation threatened life or property, the government required the power to condemn such accumulations as public nuisances. The government also desired to compel the immediate surroundings of mines, camps, open burners, etc., to be safely cleared of rubbish, and his honorable colleague, the minister of public works, would make it a feature of his good roads policy to compel road foremen to stop their highly dangerous custom of throwing debris alongside roads.

The main problem, however, was the slash from logging operations. Various other governments had already attempted to deal with this important matter. The Idaho and Oregon laws required the annual burning of logging slash; the Minnesota law gave absolute power to compel disposal of it, and this law was being vigorously enforced; New York state compelled logging, and of course in all timber sales in the United States national forests, an essential condition imposed upon the operator was that he should burn, pile, lop or otherwise dispose of logging slash as the forest officers might direct. The recommendation of the British Columbia forestry commission was that all operators in this province should be required to dispose of the debris they make in a satisfactory manner.

In recent years men's associations and through their efforts, a strong movement has been started in British Columbia. In British Columbia the government has been successful in dealing with slash, and the officials private had been encouraged to say fire at the time it was recognized as a fire for the proper disposal of slash. Another use of fire in logging operations was better to that could be than accident those for the important time past summer, the time between the thousand dollar slash. He emphasized the necessity and no panacea for every region, which the use to the forests was too many there were debris slash than by the tion of expense pointing out the compulsory increase the content that has and that it was him at this stage with workable comment these matters ment had the that individual later to isolate slash itself to est service at fund with which deal.

Volunteers

In the west and lumbermen circumstances to their own expense volunteer firemen in Idaho, only four associations in Washington there were also local organizations patrol of various These volunteers and firelines, teams and establishments while maintaining to patrol the expense of the from year to year figure it might per acre per it had run as one case 13 cents. These unfortunates western states tion to patrol belonging to the tion they must stingy neighbors to the amount of \$270,000 was by the volunteers

during the past prevention of taken up on a tario and Que compelling the sufficient force own expense. tario government compelling license land to pay ha vention, but tw was abandoned, province were entire cost of ing. In B. C. holders had no volutary associ to be done to pr had been theref emergency that stepped in and e all over the pro the Consolidated acting, pending

Logging Slash

In recent years, through the lumbermen's associations in the western states, and through the various state governments, a strong movement had arisen in the west in favor of burning logging slash. In British Columbia also the government had been paying for the successful destruction of many fire-trap areas, and through the efforts of its officials private owners of cut-over lands had been encouraged to consume their debris by the use of fire. Fire, that was to say fire at the right time, was now recognized as essential in many regions for the proper reproduction of the Douglas fir. Another strong argument for the use of fire was that fire would come into logging slash in any event, and it was better to have purposeful burning that could be supervised and controlled than accidental conflagrations such as those for example that swept up two important timbered valleys during this past summer, and caused an expenditure between them of twelve or thirteen thousand dollars of public money. But he emphasized the fact that, generally necessary and useful as fire is, it was no panacea suitable to the conditions of every region. There were districts in which the use of fire would be injurious to the forests; others in which its use was too dangerous; others in which there were better methods of handling slash than by burning. Again the question of expense came in, the lumberman pointing out with obvious justice that the compulsory disposal of slash would increase the cost of logging to an extent that has not yet been ascertained, and that it would be unfair to burden him at this more or less experimental stage with what might prove an intolerable commercial handicap. Taking all these matters into account the government had therefore taken the position that individual operators should merely be required at the direction of the minister to isolate any particularly dangerous slashings by firelines, leaving the slash itself to be dealt with by the forest service at the expense of a certain fund with which he now proposed to deal.

Volunteer Fire-Fighting

In the western states timber owners and lumbermen had been obliged by circumstances to protect their timber at their own expense. The organization of volunteer fire-fighting associations began in Idaho, and today there were not only four associations in that state, two in Washington and one in Oregon, but there were also a large number of small local organizations that undertook the patrol of various timbered districts. These voluntary associations cut trails and firelines, installed telephone systems and established look-out stations, while maintaining a force of fire wardens to patrol their membership holdings and to burn dangerous slashings. The expense of this work of course varied from year to year, but taking a general figure it might be put at 2-1/2 to 3 cents per acre per annum, although in cases it had run as high as 6 cents and in one case 13 cents.

These unfortunate lumbermen of the western states were obliged in self-protection to patrol about double the area belonging to them, since in self-protection they must safeguard the lands of stingy neighbors who refuse to contribute to the association fund. About \$270,000 was spent in the western states by the voluntary efforts of lumbermen

during the past summer. In Canada the prevention of forest fires had been taken up on a large scale, both by Ontario and Quebec, the latter province compelling limit-holders to employ a sufficient force of patrolmen at their own expense. Ten years ago the Ontario government began a system of compelling licensees of crown timber land to pay half the cost of fire prevention, but two years ago this system was abandoned, and licensees of that province were now required to pay the entire cost of patrol and of fire-fighting. In B. C. lumbermen and timber holders had made no attempt to form voluntary associations. Something had to be done to protect the forests, and it had been therefore to meet an existing emergency that the government had stepped in and equipped a patrol system all over the province at the expense of the Consolidated Revenue fund. In thus acting, pending its decision as to the

that it would ultimately adopt in fire prevention, the government had in view a temporary provision only; and it had now decided to require timber owners to pay half the cost of fire prevention, the other half being contributed by the Consolidated Revenue on behalf of crown timber and watershed protection. One cent an acre would be levied on timber holders for the protection of their property and a trifling contribution would also be required from operators on account of the expense caused by the supervision of their operations and the great annual expense caused by fires arising in connection with these operations.

Protection Fund

Although contributions to this fund from each owner or operator would be trifling, in bulk the forest protection fund created by these contributions, plus the government's dollar for dollar, would represent a large sum of money—upwards of a quarter of a million dollars—to begin with. This fund would be entirely separate from the provincial revenue and the amounts required to be contributed to it would not be taxation, since they would be expended for the direct benefit of contributors. Through the powerful agency of this fund the province would be covered by a far closer network of patrols than hitherto, and moreover an important improvement would be made in the somewhat rudimentary system hitherto in force, which had been the mere employment of wandering patrolmen who were sometimes hard to find when fire broke out. Great stress would be laid upon permanent improvements, the forest districts would be covered by rough and ready telephone systems as in the western state, the patrolmen would connect with the main lines of these systems by portable light wires, and would thus be able to keep in touch with the headquarters of their districts while remaining on emergency work at the site of any fire. Trail-cutting and the construction of fire lines and the establishment of look-out stations on high elevations and other works of this description would within a very short period of time vastly increase the efficiency of the protective service, and he trusted that it would be possible to carry out the suggestion that had been made by an honorable member and to utilize wireless telegraphy at no distant date. Prompt arrival was the secret of successful fire-fighting.

Greatest Problem of All

It was in connection with the problem of the disposal of logging slash that the forest protection fund would prove its great utility. It would create a force of men that at the proper seasons of the year would be available for dealing with dangerous accumulations of inflammable material. Under the direction of expert forest officers these men would be making a regular business of handling slash and the work done in this manner by professionals would be carried out with far greater safety, efficiency and economy than it could be by ordinary gangs of workmen. Another important point would be that under the direction of technical foresters the slash would be disposed of in the best interests of the young growth and re-forestation, matters to which the ordinary operator could not be expected to devote attention. In this matter the government was feeling its way carefully, but he was of opinion that through the Forest Protection Fund British Columbia would be able to solve that greatest problem of all forestry, the disposal of logging slash—that problem that had baffled and was still the bugbear of both governments and operators in other regions. It would achieve this without imposing any serious burden on either the government or the operators. Fire prevention on a small scale might often be an expensive matter, but on a large scale it could be made in time extremely cheap—by the abolition of the causes of fire. What the fund would spend in slash disposal it would in the long run save in patrol expense, and by thus diminishing the fire hazard, which had dominated this province over long, it would make the task of conservation possible. He ventured to direct attention to the remarkable results that might be achieved through this fund, which, by its successful operation would place British Columbia at a bound in the front rank of the countries of the world in the matter of forest protection.

Enlightened Control

He would not upon this occasion discuss the many other provisions of the bill that dealt with fire prevention. They were too numerous and he would

confine himself to a brief reference to the question of railway fires. The construction and operation of railways had been for Canada in the past one of the greatest national disasters that any new country had ever had to face. Of course the railways were necessary but the ghastly destruction of forest regions through gross carelessness was not necessary. Nowadays, he was glad to say, more enlightened men had come into the control of the Canadian railways—men who recognized the danger to the forests that their locomotives caused, and he was glad to testify to the willing co-operation in fire-prevention that the railways of the province were now giving. So far no satisfactory means other than oil-burning, which was not always practicable, had been discovered that would abolish the danger of fire from locomotives, and hence patrol after trains was essential for the protection of timbered districts. Patrol such as this should not be left to the discretion of local railway officials, but should be established by force of law. That was why the government had had a complete inspection of provincial railways made by supervisors of the forest protection service during the past autumn, and had elaborated in detail a plan of patrol for each railway, following this up by formal application to the Dominion board at Ottawa that has jurisdiction over most of the railways of British Columbia. This application requested the board to exercise its authority and to establish these needed patrols officially and, he was happy to say, that the hearing of this application would take place during the next few weeks. In the bill the government was asking for the same powers to compel patrol on provincial railways that the Dominion board already possessed on railways under federal charter.

Every Phase Considered

At this stage he would not enter into the many details of the drastic provisions of the forest bill that were designed to control the reckless use of fire by careless individuals, whether among railway men or other classes of the population that are accustomed to use fire near the forests. He would only say that every phase of the subject had been carefully provided for. The release of agricultural land from the areas held for forest purposes was of course an elementary duty of any government and would of course be dealt with by his department as a matter of routine. As for the suggested alteration of the customs tariff to encourage the utilization of low-grade lumber, this did not fall within the provincial jurisdiction. Having mentioned these two matters he pointed out that every recommendation of the forestry commission had been dealt with either in the bill or in his foregoing remarks, and it only remained for him to express the thanks of the government to the capable members of that commission for their painstaking, useful and masterly presentation of the forest problem as it confronted the province.

"In the framing of this Forest Bill," said the minister, approaching his final remarks, which had been listened to with the closest attention by the house, "the government has had in view a sane and businesslike policy of conservation free from sentimental extravagance, and taking into account the many practical difficulties, impediments and risks the lumberman must encounter in his strenuous occupation. Nature alone places sufficient obstacles in his way, but to these the commercial conditions existing in the West at the present stage of its development have added others of a most serious kind—the curse of overproduction, the spoiling of his present markets by the dumping into them at cut-throat rates of foreign surplus stocks, and the consequent hardship that this disorganization of proper trade conditions is only too apt to cause in the financing of his operations. It is plain, however, that serious as these troubles may be at the present day, they are but the transitory growing-pains felt by a sound and growing industry. The gigantic task of opening an outlet for western commerce through the Isthmus of Panama will be completed within the space of two short years. He would be a bold man indeed who would venture to prophesy the effects upon this province of the opening of that canal. Upon its completion British Columbia will be the Far West no longer; the canal—halving the distance to Europe—will cause new currents of the world's commerce to flow to and from our coast, and the great European markets will be brought within the selling range of our main provincial industries."

Harbors Preparing

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Already our harbors are under preparation for the flood of trade that will come upon us when our present inaccessibility from Europe has been removed forever. All up and down the Pacific coast from Prince Rupert to Vancouver, Victoria and southward to San Diego, every port is busy building breakwaters and elevators, dredging, constructing and renovating docks and getting ready in every way for the coming trade. One hundred million dollars is in process for expenditure upon the ports of the Pacific coast. No industry, I venture to predict, will make more rapid or more solid growth in the general sunshine of prosperous development that will fall upon this province when the canal is opened than our lumbering industry. Cheap freight rates are the essence of successful lumbering; cheap freight rates, in spite of the scare concerning tolls that has been ardently encouraged by certain interests, will be the inevitable feature of the route by Panama, because the builders of that canal have no alternative. Looking to far countries, we see that the steady depleting of the world's timber will make prominent our forest province as one of the great natural reservoirs of supply. Looking eastward, we see that this province grows the timber, the prairies grow the wheat, and that if B. C. and the great prairie provinces supply each other's vital need in many ways besides. Directly by export trade eastward and westward, indirectly by the expansion of other industries within our provincial boundaries—by both these reasons our lumbering industry will grow and flourish.

Personal Appeal

"To honorable members of this house I desire before closing my remarks to

make a direct personal appeal. Until lately the setting of forest fires by carelessness has been too often looked on with the indulgence that is habitually extended by many citizens to petty violations of the customs regulations. But we are beginning to make our people realize that general carelessness in the use of fire is no trifling matter, that in its consequence this bad citizenship can prove ruinous to a country depending, as B. C. does, directly and indirectly on its forests for a great share of its prosperity. Hence I make my appeal to honorable members of this house to co-operate with my department in educating the public mind, and to take a firm stand in their constituencies against the reckless, careless element in the population that still exists. It is the disagreeable duty of my department to bring to punishment at times citizens who, although otherwise of good standing in the community, have not yet learned the lesson that carelessness with fire means disaster to B.C. When violations of the fire-prevention clauses of the Forest Act occur in any constituency, I ask the honorable member who represents it in this house to take an open stand alongside the members of the forest service engaged upon their duty, and neither to seek to palliate the carelessness nor shield the offender. And now, sir, I approach the end of what I have to say. We are in session here today—in ordinary session—peacefully engaged upon the accustomed duties of the year, amending and enacting laws, making our annual attempt to improve the conditions under which we and our fellow citizens must live. We meet together in this house day after day for six or seven weeks, and legislation with most of us has grown to be a familiar and uneventful task. So pass the sessions year after year, and like the minute workers that create the coral islands of the southern ocean upon which mankind has built his habitations, so do we through our labors gradually create that massive structure of law upon which the happiness, prosperity and future of this fast-growing community of the splendid West, so largely depend.

The New Epoch

"An epoch, sir, is drawing to a close—the epoch of reckless devastation of the natural resources with which we, the people of this province, have been endowed by Providence. That rugged, rudimentary phase of pioneer activity is doomed to end. The writing is on the wall; the writing—to put the simple fact—is in this Forest Bill. Armed with that weapon, as forged by this honorable assembly, the government of British Columbia will undertake the work of forest conservation.

Sir, a certain solemnity of its own surrounds the introduction of this Forest Bill. An epoch is condemned, a new epoch inaugurated, a turning point in the development of this great young province reached. We raise ourselves today above our transitory interests of this week, this year; we glance down the vista of the years to come, and, turning from that vision of the future, we call the world to witness that we legislate today not only for ourselves and for

the requirements of the present generation, but also and no less for our children's children, and for all posterity—that we may hand down to them their vast heritage of forest wealth, unexhausted and unspoiled."
Amid prolonged applause the minister resumed his seat.

DEFENCES PACIFIC

Mr. H. C. Brewster
Resolution
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The outstanding sitting of the legislature. Brewster's speech during the Dominion a Canadian naval ocean. The resolution Mr. Parker Williams generally expressed that gentleman. Mr. did not attempt to lution and the pro-ourment of the

Mr. Brewster as ful to eliminate ar nature from the r attempted to deal which it should be but there were mo portance in the wor it imperative that done to defend a from Puget Sound dented with many which some future utilize for strategi ed to China now lethargy of ages, half-civilized peopl in leash by the rulers. One of the tal nation did in methods was to e navy, and these t ready looking for s could transfer th overcrowded lands, convenient as Car the recent menace did he consider th held in Germany v "Internal turmoil and it is a fact t countries wars ha distract attention

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He pointed to commerce that the ama canal must br said that consider to create a navy, to begin taking that commerce. W might quarrel abo must stand toget defence. As repres cific Coast provin were within their impress upon the the inauguration c would protect this resolution he hope late any measure plated at Ottawa of a naval power.

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DEFENCES OF PACIFIC COAST

Mr. H. C. Brewster Introduces Resolution Urging Establish- ment of Naval Unit—Pre- mier Adjourns Debate

The outstanding feature of yesterday's sitting of the legislature was Mr. H. C. Brewster's speech on his resolution urging the Dominion government to create a Canadian naval unit on the Pacific coast. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Parker Williams, in spite of the generally expressed anti-militarism of that gentleman. Mr. Williams, however, did not attempt to speak on the resolution and the premier moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Brewster said he had been careful to eliminate anything of a political nature from the resolution, nor had he attempted to deal with the details by which it should be brought into effect, but there were movements of great importance in the world today, which made it imperative that something should be done to defend a coastline stretching from Puget Sound to Alaska, and indented with many sounds and inlets which some future enemy might easily utilize for strategic purposes. He pointed to China now awakening from the lethargy of ages, with its hordes of half-civilized people and to Japan held in leash by the strong hands of its rulers. One of the first things an Oriental nation did in adopting western methods was to establish an army and navy, and these two nations were already looking for some place where they could transfer the people from their overcrowded lands, and no place was so convenient as Canada. He pointed to the recent menace of war in Europe, nor did he consider that the elections just held in Germany would make for peace. "Internal turmoil is in the ascendant and it is a fact that at times in older countries wars have been started to distract attention from affairs at home."

Panama Canal Influence

He pointed to the great maritime commerce that the opening of the Panama canal must bring to our shores, and said that considering the time it took to create a navy, it was none too early to begin taking measures to protect that commerce. While as Canadians we might quarrel about our own affairs we must stand together on questions of defence. As representatives of the Pacific Coast province he thought they were within their rights in trying to impress upon the Dominion government the inauguration of such measures as would protect this coast. In passing the resolution he hoped they might stimulate any measure now being contemplated at Ottawa towards the creation of a naval power.

Consolidation Bill

The rest of the afternoon was passed in committee on the revised statutes. Attorney-General Bowser pointed out some changes that had been made, and the revision was freely criticised by Messrs. Brewster and Williams. The attorney-general pointed to one change in the land act, by which a girl over eighteen who is supporting herself will be allowed to take up a pre-emption. The same rule will apply to a woman deserted by her husband after he has ceased to contribute to her support for two years. He explained that in another section dealing with purchased but unpatented crown lands, the revising commissioners, during his absence in England had changed it so that it would be impossible for a purchaser to make any bargain for the transfer of his rights before he had obtained full title.

In view of conditions here he did not consider that wise and was altering it. In the school act he pointed out that a change had been made to making it mandatory on a municipal council to hand over to the school board all moneys specially assessed for school purposes. The former wording left it optional. He further stated that the English laws brought into force by the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1858, were still in force where not repugnant to the criminal laws of Canada, and even then they were not invalid until their repugnancy had been determined by the courts.

While the attorney-general completed his explanation of changes in the statutes, the bill to validate them is still in committee.

In reply to questions by Mr. Brewster as to the position of the government on lands sold by auction in South Hazelton, Hon. Mr. Ross stated that the matter was being appealed, but if the decision of the railway commission was upheld the purchasers would be notified and their money refunded.

At the opening of the House, Hon. Price Ellison presented a statement of special warrants and expenditures incurred thereon between April 1, 1911, and January 24, 1912.

Mr. McKay, chairman of the Private Bills committee, reported that the following petitions had complied with standing orders: Ryerson College, City of Fernie, Corporation of Fernie, Victoria Harbor Railway, City of Prince Rupert, City of Victoria.

Mr. Brewster asked the Minister of Railways whether the Canadian Northern Pacific railway company had deposited their maps, plans and profiles, and whether the Minister had approved of the same. He then asked what was the maximum gradient and the maximum and minimum of curvature as shown on these plans.

Hon. Mr. Taylor replied that the plans had been deposited and approved. They showed a maximum grade on the mainland of 0.4 per cent, on Vancouver Island of 1.50 per cent. The curves were 10 degrees maximum and 4.30 minimum.

Mr. Brewster moved, seconded by Mr. Williams:

"That whereas Canada and the Mother-country are agreed that it is right and reasonable that all the partners in the Empire should contribute towards the naval defence of the Empire:

And whereas the speedy completion of the Panama Canal must enormously increase the shipping of this coast:

Therefore, be it Resolved, That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, respectfully requesting him to urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of taking such immediate steps as will lead to the creation of a Canadian fleet unit in the Pacific and to the establishment of a naval base on this coast with such promptitude as to make ready for the revolution in sea trade likely to be affected by the completion of the Panama Canal."

Mr. Brewster said, "In moving the resolution before the House it is not my intention in any way to criticize or comment on the actions of any past government or political party or any authority now in power in Canada. It is my intention to bring this matter before the legislature purely in such a manner as to point out to the Dominion authorities the necessity, from the standpoint of British Columbia, of immediate action being taken. I would not have the resolution considered as binding in any sense the Government of Canada in carrying out the details. On the floor of this House we have no naval experts, and if we had it would be no place to lay down any details of policy. We are the Pacific Coast province of the great Dominion. From a naval standpoint it is unquestioned that we hold on this coast, strategic points that any navy would attack if the Empire were at war, and it is our duty to consider this matter and take any action that is thought wise in maintaining for Canada a line of defences along this coast.

"We have a mighty coast line, extending, as you know, from Puget Sound to Alaska, and indented with large sounds and inlets, which in my opinion, would be more of an injury than a benefit should we wake some morning to find that we were at war with another power, which could use these sounds and inlets as a base from which to work. As it is we would be unable to exercise any power over these sounds and inlets should an attack be made.

Conditions That Exist.

"It is only wise in this connection that we look at conditions as they exist in the world at the present time. One has only to look at the awakening in China to see a condition that may at no late date prove a menace to this section of the world. In the creation of a navy a considerable length of time must elapse, and this awakening of China with its multitudes of people, its hordes, if I might so call them of uncivilized sections which when they have thrown off the lethargy of centuries are likely to prove a giant of such proportions as will make us realize that we have not done our duty in preparing for the contingency of war. When Oriental nations adopt western ideas, one of the first things they do is to establish an army and a navy. I notice that Admiral Togo during his visit to the United States last year is reported to have said that for many centuries Japan had enjoyed the benefits of certain arts and sciences and had shown to the world something of her ability to compete along the lines of peace, but during these centuries she was considered a heathen country. 'But' he added, 'when the occasion arose and we demonstrated that we could kill within a given length of time as many human beings as any other country, we were proclaimed as a civilized nation.'

"It is true that Japan is the ally of Great Britain but what changes may be brought about in a short time nobody knows. Those who can read the political history of Japan can see that the nation is now being held in leash by the strong hands of those in control. These two nations, China and Japan are already looking for another place where they may take the people from their overcrowded lands and find another place for them, and there is no place as convenient as Canada. Therefore, it behooves us to see that some action should be taken, and the details be left to those who are competent to give an opinion upon it.

The European Menace

"We have still another condition to consider. In Europe a short time ago we had a condition that menaced the peace of the world, and prominent members of the party in authority in this House, if they are to be taken seriously, gave us to believe that there was always the danger of war. I do not think that the elections which have just been held in Germany will make for peace. Internal turmoil seems to be in the ascendant, and it is a fact that sometimes in older countries, wars have been started to distract attention from affairs at home.

There is still another feature which we cannot overlook, and which the minister of lands yesterday stated in such a manner as to put to the blush any attempts I may make. He spoke of the benefits to be expected from the completion of the Panama canal, and so we have the added necessity of preparing now for the great business or trade, we must be prepared to expect with the opening of the canal. We should prepare, and now is the time, for such a fleet unit of the Pacific Coast as will protect that trade and shipping when it comes. When the length of time required to create a naval base is considered we will not have a moment to spare, and while Canadians may quarrel among themselves about their own affairs, we must stand together on the question of defences. For that reason I have eliminated anything of a political character in moving this resolution, the idea being that we should, as the maritime

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province of the Pacific Coast, and as its representatives in this house, have the right to impress on the Dominion government the necessity for the inauguration of such measures as will protect this coast, not only for our own immediate benefit but for the good of the empire; and I say for the promotion of peace between Britain and Germany or any other country, there can be no more helpful assistance than the sight of the generous support which the daughter nations are ready to give to the empire. And in passing this resolution I hope we may stimulate any measure now being contemplated at Ottawa for the creation of a naval power, so that if Canada should be attacked, we as Canadians shall be in a proper position to do as we should do, and stand up and fight for our great empire." (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. McBride said that it appeared that some mistake had been made in connection with the orders of the day. This resolution was entirely new matter and should have been on the votes and proceedings of the previous day, and then it could have taken its place on tomorrow's orders or Friday's. He was not in a position to discuss the matter at the time, and he merely mentioned this to avoid the recurrence of similar errors in future.

Mr. Brewster said he had filed it on Friday night and it was on the votes and proceedings yesterday.

The premier stated that even so, the rules required two days' notice. He simply wished to keep this before the house. He moved the adjournment of the debate.

Revised Statutes

The house went into committee discussion on the revised statutes. In explaining some changes in the municipal act, Hon. Mr. Bowser said that a year ago he had promised to put in the act a clause that would enable municipalities to place bylaws before the people for waterworks and sewerage, without the previous petitions signed by owners of 50 per cent of the property which the present law required. By some mistake this had been omitted, but he had told the municipalities affected to go ahead with their bylaws and he would introduce a bill to validate them. This he would do in a few days. The municipalities particularly affected were Point Grey, South Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond and Saanich.

Mr. Williams said they had asked for a printed statement of changes in the revised statutes and it had been supplied them, but this was not in the statement.

Hon. Mr. Bowser said it was hard to satisfy the member for Newcastle. He asked for a statement and it had been given him, and because he was giving still a little more information he got into trouble.

Mr. Williams: "That justifies our course. By complaining we extracted this report, and by the same process we may extract a little more from the attorney-general. I must admit that anything is right that is done in this house because of the government's big majority, and I am always ready to submit to that majority because I cannot do anything else." (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Bowser next explained some changes in the land act. One of these provided that a girl over 18 who was supporting herself, should be allowed to take up a pre-emption, and a deserted wife, whose husband had not contributed to her support for two years, would have the same privilege.

Pre-emptor's Rights

Hon. Mr. Bowser also said there was a provision that a pre-emptor could not dispose of any rights in his land before he obtained his title. During his absence in England, the revising commissioners had applied this principle to all lands acquired under purchase or otherwise. He considered that this would have the effect of keeping out of the country many persons it was desirous to have here, so he had altered it and left it as it was before.

Mr. Williams said that for once he agreed with the commissioners. "If this happened while the attorney-general was in England," he added, "many people in the province would consider it a benefit if he remained in England all the time." (Laughter.)

The attorney-general next explained that "may" had been changed to "shall" in a section of the school act, so that it would compel a municipal council to hand over to the school board all money raised under special school assessment.

Under the old wording this had been left optional.

Mr. Williams and the attorney-general got into a discussion as to whether the English laws brought into force by the proclamation of Sir James Douglas in 1858 were still in force in the province. The attorney-general explained that the criminal laws were in force where they were not repugnant to existing laws of the Dominion. A change was being made to make this clear in this revision though it was omitted by Chief Justice Davie in the revision of 1897. The province had no power to leave these out, though civil laws came within their jurisdiction.

The explanations of the revision were completed when the committee rose.

Thursday, January 25, 1912

AN ADMIRABLE SPEECH

The speech of the Minister of Lands on the introduction of the Forest Act was one of the ablest in point both of form and substance that has been delivered in the Legislature in many years. Mr. Ross has given his subject very great consideration and he marshalled his facts and arguments with much skill. We congratulate him upon his speech and the Legislature upon a Minister who could give so clear and interesting exposition of an important and many-sided question. As we have already commented upon the Forest Act, we do not feel it to be necessary to add any additional observation. The bill appears on the face to have been framed with a great deal of care, but we venture to express the hope that, on its passage through committee, it will be carefully discussed, not so much with the expectation that any important amendments may be made, but in order that the public through newspaper reports of what is said may be familiarized with its provisions.

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In consequence of capital of various absent personages government of each and all of were anxious to co as speedily as possible of the legal brief and uneventful consideration of resolution continued upon the new For minister of lands last, and which it will proceed to criticism of business is next of debating the topics, prospect which had filled somewhat larger the house yesterday most exclusively attention in committee the bill ratifying consolidation of the settled but little cross shortly reported a trifling amendment referring to the in son College (Mr. W. Rupert, providing hydro-electric control of water, light and northern city at a William Manson), principal corporation of of Fernie (Mr. M. the time for the in tion of constructive inner harbor railway preliminary reading, automatically to the committee. Mr. P. requested permission draw his resolution government to take action of compelling ern Pacific Railway fully comply with agreement with the aspect to the wages explanation was the paper might profitably intimation was added be re-introduced later in the session was, of course, granted.

Inheritance

During committee the bill to validate the revising commission a slight change in which, if not altered widow whose husband, of her third is as formerly provided statute law. This its original status.

In connection with Brewster inquired intention of the law to reintroduce the I had brought into the but which had passed just too late to be sent.

Hon. Mr. Bowser not his intention so matter was before session so much opposition and from some of the of the house, that no sense concentrated measure. He had that it might probably until there was another

CONSOLIDATING B. C. STATUTES

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Complete with Some Slight
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In consequence of the presence in the capital of various delegations and prominent personages on business with the government or individual ministers, each and all of which visiting bodies were anxious to complete their missions as speedily as possible, yesterday's session of the legislature was singularly brief and uneventful. Neither was the consideration of Mr. Brewster's naval resolution continued, nor the debate upon the new Forestry Act, which the minister of lands presented on Tuesday last, and which the opposition leader will proceed to criticize when this order of business is next taken up. Instead of debating these two interesting topics, prospect of discussion upon which had filled the galleries with a somewhat larger audience than usual, the house yesterday devoted itself almost exclusively to further consideration, in committee, of the details of the bill ratifying the revision and consolidation of the statutes. The bill excited but little cross-discussion, and was shortly reported complete with a few trifling amendments. The private bills referring to the incorporation of Ryerson College (Mr. Watson), for the validation of bylaw 59 of the city of Prince Rupert, providing confirmation of the hydro-electric contract for the supply of water, light and power to the new northern city at a cost of \$550,000 (Mr. William Manson), to relieve the municipal corporation of Fernie and the city of Fernie (Mr. Miller) and to extend the time for the initiation and completion of construction of the Victoria inner harbor railway, all received preliminary reading, and were referred automatically to the interested standing committee. Mr. P. Williams also requested permission of the house to withdraw his resolution calling upon the government to take action in the direction of compelling the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company to faithfully comply with the terms of its agreement with the government in respect to the wages of workmen. His explanation was that he thought the resolution as appearing on the order paper might profitably be amended, and intimation was added that it would probably be re-introduced in other form later in the session. The leave desired was, of course, granted.

Inheritance Act

During committee consideration of the bill to validate the revised statutes, Attorney-General Bowser explained how the revising commissioners had made a slight change in the Inheritance Act which, if not altered, would deprive a widow whose husband had died intestate, of her third interest in his estate as formerly provided for by provincial statute law. This he had restored to its original status.

In connection with this matter, Mr. Brewster inquired whether it was the intention of the law officer of the crown to reintroduce the Dower Act, which he had brought into the house last session, but which had passed the legislature just too late to obtain his honor's assent.

Hon. Mr. Bowser replied that it was not his intention so to do. When the matter was before the house last session so much opposition had developed, and from some of the ablest members of the house, that opinion appeared in no sense concentrated in favor of the measure. He had thought, therefore, that it might probably be better to wait until there was another legislature. As

this was a measure which worked very radical changes in the disposition of family estates, it did not appear to him wise to bring it forward again under present circumstances.

Mr. Brewster humorously agreed that the next legislature might very probably be a better one than this, but suggested that some of the members, even of the present house, might have learned wisdom during the recess.

Mr. P. Williams took exception to the statement of the attorney-general as to the volume of antagonism to the Dower Bill last session, citing the journals of the house in proof that the bill had passed its second reading without a division of the members.

In regard to this Hon. Mr. Bowser thought that there must have been some mistake in the record, as the matter had been much discussed, and the house apparently had divided almost evenly upon it. The bill had been so strongly opposed that he thought there must have been a division. In addition, while he had introduced the bill last year, many things against it had been brought

to his notice since that time, which had not previously suggested themselves.

English Criminal Laws

Mr. Brewster observed that the bill before the house was supposed to repeal all previous revisions, yet the attorney-general had told the house no later than Wednesday that power did not exist in this legislature to repeal the English criminal laws proclaimed to be in force in this colony by Sir James Douglas, in ante-Confederation days.

Hon. Mr. Bowser replied that the legislature necessarily could not repeal acts over which it possessed no power, but it could repeal all those within its jurisdiction, and of course this was all that the present bill did.

Mr. Brewster then enquired whether the province possessed jurisdiction, for example, over the marriage laws?

"It is my personal view," Hon. Mr. Bowser replied, "that the several provinces have complete jurisdiction over their marriage laws, and that, I believe, is the opinion held generally by the other provinces of the Dominion."

Copies of Statutes

The only other debate arising during committee consideration of the bill was raised by Mr. P. Williams, who desired to be informed whether or not members would be given as many copies of the statutes as formerly.

He was informed that it was the intention to restrict the issue to one set for each member, cabinet ministers being in the same position as private members.

"You know," said Mr. Bowser with a smile, "that there was an idea before that some of the members were selling their copies."

The attorney-general added that a very large number would necessarily be disturbed gratuitously. Copies had to be sent to all law libraries in the Dominion, in exchange, and judges and courts and various public officials would also necessarily be supplied.

Mr. P. Williams remarked that while members might do a little trade in selling their copies to the second-hand stores he did not think that it was a practice generally adopted. He noticed, however, that the attorney-general had taken the precaution to have the members' names stamped upon their copies, as a possible deterrent of such business.

Hon. Mr. Bowser explained that in order that the gifts of free copies might be known as personal to the members, and so that others might not be so likely to borrow and not return them, he had had the name of each member printed on his copy.

No further debate arose prior to the rising of the committee.

PRINCE RUPERT'S NEEDS AIRED

Premier McBride in Championing Bill to Ratify Agreement with G.T.P. Dwells on City's Importance.

MEASURE PASSES SECOND READING

Fishery Enterprise in Northern Waters Will Employ White Labor Exclusively—B. C. Statutes Are Consolidated.

The city of Prince Rupert, its present, and its future, virtually monopolized the attention of parliament yesterday, when the bill to ratify the agreement reached in June last and to which the government of the province, the city and the Grand Trunk Pacific railway and development companies are parties, passed its second reading, after an eloquent address by the Premier, in whose hands the measure is. Mr. William Manson, member for the district and until recently mayor of the interested city, also spoke briefly in explanation of the necessity for the measure, and Mr. P. Williams contributed a few characteristic remarks in opposition. During the afternoon the report of committee on the bill ratifying and validating the recent revision of the statutes was adopted by the House, this measure taking third reading by consent and receiving His Honor's assent before the sitting closed. It is, therefore, now in full force and effect, and all statutory laws of British Columbia up to the present sitting of parliament are embodied within the covers of its three volumes. The only other business of yesterday was in connection with the bill to enable the city of Victoria to issue and inscribe a registered stock of uniform date of maturity, which was introduced by Mr. Thomson, and is set for second reading on Monday. It is also expected that the resolution of Mr. Brewster on naval matters, to which it is understood an amendment will be offered by the government, and the continuation of the debate on the Forestry Bill will attract an interested concourse to the spectators' gallery during this first sitting of the new week.

Remarkable Development

The Premier in moving the second reading of the bill to ratify an agreement bearing date the 6th day of June, 1911, between His Majesty the King in right of the province of British Columbia, the city of Prince Rupert, the Grand Trunk Pacific railway company, and the Grand Trunk Pacific Development company, stated that the new terminal city of the north was now some four years old. In that short time it had attained to considerable commercial consequence and so far as his information went, he believed that it had today a population of upward of 6,000. In addition to this, municipal works and improvements had been established running into hundreds of thousands of dollars while the residential and business properties would aggregate several millions. Referring to the wonderful growth of this new northern terminal, the First Minister remarked that no surprise would be felt at the remarkable development already achieved. It had been anticipated from the first when the site was selected as that of the terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific on the Pacific seaboard, that it was inevitably destined to become one of the

most important of Pacific ports. There was now no doubt in regard to the early completion of the railway, nor could anyone question the extent or value of the vast tributary country, capable when developed of supporting a city of several hundred thousand souls.

In addition to the large tracts of agricultural and mineral lands tributary to Prince Rupert, there were in the immediate vicinity fisheries which perhaps, in their extent and variety, would rank as the greatest in the world. Deep water fisheries on this coast were as yet in a primitive stage of development. River fishing heretofore had been the first consideration, and deep sea fishing next. Of late the deep sea fisheries of British Columbia had been attracting considerable attention abroad, an latest news from London and from Eastern Canada contained frequent references to large projects for the development of the northern fisheries which would involve the expenditure of millions of dollars.

When one considered the magnitude of this fishery interest and the vastness of the agricultural and mineral territory at the city's doors, one could grasp something of the importance of Prince Rupert's destiny.

White Labor Only

The Premier made special reference to the fishery enterprise inaugurated by Sir George Doughty, who had large interests at Grimsby, who visited this province a short time ago and who was now particularly identified with a project for the development of the northern fisheries with headquarters at Prince Rupert. In connection with this it gave him pleasure to announce that he had the personal assurance of Sir George that it was the purpose of his company to employ white labor exclusively, a departure which would be received by this province as good news indeed.

With regard to our sea coast activity now that the naval defense of the Pacific had become a very lively issue, it was a most unfortunate thing to find that aliens have for the most part to do with the fisheries of British Columbia's coastal waters. If this company proceeded with its enterprise as proposed, it would, he felt confident, have the hearty endorsement and support of the people of this country and they would more especially watch the good results which must accrue from the employment of white labor only. And if it were necessary that legislation should be designed to assist, it would be the duty of the government and of the house to go to the extreme length in emphasizing its hearty cooperation.

He did not desire to forget the efforts of those who had pioneered the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and placed it in the position in which it was found today, able to carry on municipal government in a manner demanding approbation on all sides and the respect and confidence of the financial world. The city had the advantage in the foundation-laying stage of having the assistance among its citizens of many who had left established homes in the Kootenay and in the southern portion of the province to cast in their lots with the new north. Their past experience had undoubtedly been of material benefit to Prince Rupert when steps were first taken for laying the foundations of a great city in the right way. To these men the country owed every recognition.

Ideal Farm Site

It had been his good fortune to visit Prince Rupert not long ago, when he had been struck with the enterprise and public spirit on every hand made manifest. The townsite was an ideal one and the harbor one that could scarcely be excelled, but it was evident that in the development of the townsite, the laying out of streets, sewers and all other necessary facilities, where there were so many hills and ravines to contend with, very considerable difficulties would have to be met and overcome, and it would be a formidable task for the corporation to find the money for adequate and permanent upbuilding—for streets, sewers, sidewalks, bridges, etc. At the same time one must be impressed with the businesslike and

systematic way in which the citizens of Prince Rupert had gone about their great undertaking. It was notable that their plans were laid for permanency and he hoped that they would continue in the way in which they had begun, as this was the plan which would return full value for every dollar expended.

The townsite covered a most extensive area and there would be much hard pioneering work yet to be done. Population was certain to increase with rapidity, and preparation for that population would be costly. This the government fully recognized, and whenever it had felt justified in meeting requests for special assistance this had not been spared. Proceeding to explain in detail the situation leading up to the agreement which the bill is to ratify, the premier said:

Government's Interest

"Here today we are asked to ratify an agreement to which the city, the railway company and the townsite company are parties, and which provides that the Grand Trunk Pacific in exchange for certain works to be presently undertaken, and scattered interests in small fractions of land, is released from the payment of municipal taxes other than local improvement on the payment to the city each year of \$15,000. When the first agreement with the Grand Trunk Pacific company was placed before this legislature some years ago there was a provision exempting them from the payment of taxes to the government, but exemption by the municipality was not considered. We felt that when a municipality was created the railway would be dealt with in a reasonable manner. A short time ago the question came up when it was found on assessment that the Grand Trunk Pacific would be compelled to pay to the city of Prince Rupert five times more than it paid to the city of Montreal. The Grand Trunk Pacific protested, and the result brought about the agreement before the house this afternoon, one which guarantees the construction of certain terminals in the town and a large expenditure of money by the railway company.

"It must not be thought that in the agreement between the government and the railway company we were not careful to have the exact location of those terminals specified, but it would have been hard to say: 'Because we have obliged you to place your terminals in a certain place you must commence construction forthwith.' This agreement before us has created a very pleasing situation. So far as I can learn, differences have been settled in a friendly way, and there is a disposition to work together between the city and the railway company. Such an agreement must redound to the prosperity of the city. This agreement is not one that presents much difficulty in the way of grasping its salient features. The principal matter with which the government is concerned is that which involves the ceding of certain fractions of the townsite to the city. In surveying the town-

site certain fragments of land were left, and the landscape architects were of opinion that these should be given to the city as parks. Even if the government had been so disposed it would have been difficult to have withheld our quarter interest from these fractional sections. In this respect we have joined with the railway company in the transfer of certain portions of this land on which the city intends to erect municipal buildings and firehalls.

Must Build Hotel

"There is another item with which the government is concerned, that is in connection with some waterfront-ages. In the development of the city it was found that some waterfront-ages must be left which the city could use in sending its garbage out to sea. This the agreement provided for. The agreement also points out that the company must build a hotel at once, and no doubt they will build one that will be creditable to the city. So that even in advance of the completion of the road, the company must spend millions of dollars in the city. All this is bound to bring to the city of Prince Rupert an added confidence that will have a marked effect on its financial conditions.

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"It may be of interest to advise the house that so far as I have been able to ascertain, the values that today may be reasonably placed upon government holdings in the city of Prince Rupert are in the neighborhood of \$13,000,000, where several years ago we could not have claimed thirteen cents. I remember that a few years ago the government was held up to severe criticism because we had entered into a bargain that meant for a certainty the location of the Grand Trunk Pacific terminals on government property. It is a matter of some gratification to know that notwithstanding the questions then raised and the criticism indulged in, we can today claim a value of \$13,000,000, where several years ago we could not have claimed thirteen cents.

"Of course, this is the property of the government, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that its value has been enhanced by the development of the city of Prince Rupert and the activity of the railway, and it must be our duty in view of this to exercise a marked generosity towards that northern terminus. Our work must not only provide for today, but must also anticipate the future that lies before that part of British Columbia." (Applause.)

Explains Agreement

Mr. Manson (Skeena) said the agreement was brought to an issue because of the dispute that had arisen in the city of Prince Rupert over the taxation of the railway lands. The city, after incorporation, made an assessment that was not unreasonable but in view of the fact that some concession to the railway company with its large holdings was only fair, negotiations went on for some time between the city and the railway company and it almost appeared at one time as if they would be unable to reach a satisfactory conclusion, though finally with the assistance of the government they arrived at the agreement before the house. In addition to ground needed for cemetery, park sites, reservoir and municipal buildings, the city needed waterfront as their method of disposing of garbage was to send it out to sea on scows. For this purpose they needed a wharf of their own and some waterfront to build it on. This the agreement provided for. On account of its one-fourth interest it was necessary for the government to be joined in the agreement.

The city had been progressing rapidly and for this reason it had been necessary to incur heavy expenditure to put it on a satisfactory footing. On streets, sewers, waterworks and a public lighting and telephone system they have assumed obligations in the neighborhood of \$1,370,000. So far as the city was concerned it had had no difficulty in securing financial assistance. The Bank of Montreal had dealt very liberally with the city, and its action had given Prince Rupert a splendid standing in the money markets of the world. The assessed values of the city today amounted to about \$14,000,000, and now its difficulties with the G. T. P. were being adjusted, the city's credit would stand high indeed. There was a rumor at one time that unless this agreement was carried through, the G. T. P. would remove its terminals from the townsites, but those who understood the conditions knew that this was impossible. At the same time this agreement providing for the immediate establishment of a hotel and the building of a drydock was a matter of such importance to the city, that, considered with the other things mentioned, the matter of a few thousands in immediate taxation was one which the people of Prince Rupert would not bother about.

The agreement had been submitted to the people and was carried by a vote of 440 to 44, showing that the people were practically unanimously for it. It had been a matter of great satisfaction to have had all the way through those negotiations the assistance of the premier. Through his assistance both parties had been able to come together and the negotiations were carried on in an amicable and satisfactory spirit. He also wished to thank the government for granting its lands to the city. It showed that they were prepared to deal generously with

Prince Rupert. The actual assessment on government lands within the city was \$1,450,000. This, with the large tracts they possessed outside the city showed that the government had a splendid asset in and around the city of Prince Rupert, and it showed also that they made a good bargain in 1906 when the terminus was arranged for at that point.

Mr. P. Williams

Mr. P. Williams could well understand that a large city must arise at Prince Rupert, because the conformation of the country along the Pacific coast did not lend itself to the foundation of many cities. Owing to the manner in which the valleys were cut through the mountains, the number of townsites on the coast must be limited. The premier's references to the development of the fisheries and the employment of white labor digressed a little from the bill. He had intimated that certain interests coming in to exploit the fisheries had given the assurance that white labor only would be employed. To his mind corporation assurances in this connection were worthless and unless the premier was prepared to enact legislation to compel them to employ white labor, the assurance would prove a most flimsy one.

In connection with Prince Rupert itself, it was rather surprising to see a bill of this kind brought down so soon. Here was a city that had started on government land without any of the complications that must be faced by cities that grow up of themselves as it were. Notwithstanding this, after this city had only been in existence for two or three years, it was found coming back to the house to seek relief as it were. The bill indeed should have been styled 'A bill to relieve the City of Prince Rupert.' A few years ago the government made an agreement by which the Grand Trunk Pacific was to erect certain buildings at Prince Rupert, and now here was another bill to the same effect, showing that there was no effectiveness in the first bargain.

Again it seemed to him that the Grand Trunk Pacific was getting off altogether too cheaply in the way of taxation. The premier had said that the government's holdings in Prince Rupert were worth \$13,000,000. They owned a quarter of the townsite and the G. T. P. the other three-quarters, so since the G. T. P. owned three times as much as the government, their property should be worth \$39,000,000. It showed the helpless position the city was placed in when it accepted a taxation of \$15,000 a year on \$39,000,000. It was claimed that the bill had been endorsed by the people of Prince Rupert. Well a man sometimes complied with another man's demand when he placed a gun at his head and told him to hold up his hands. To show that it was not so favorably regarded he might remark that the gentleman who represented Prince Rupert in the house, and was a former mayor of the city and had spoken in favor of this agreement had been hopelessly repudiated by the people of Prince Rupert only a few weeks ago.

Mr. Manson: "That is incorrect."

Mr. Williams said the gentleman was entitled to deny it if he wished, but it was nevertheless true that his candidate for the mayorality of Prince Rupert had received very few votes and was badly defeated. The election could only be interpreted as repudiation of this agreement. While it would be useless for him to vote against the bill, he hoped that his action would not be regarded as an endorsement.

The bill passed second reading without division.

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PRINCE RUPERT

There will be universal accord with the optimistic views expressed in the House yesterday by Mr. McBride as to the future of Prince Rupert. The Colquhoun only voices the opinion of the people of Victoria when it says that it hopes the northern city will fulfill the expectations of its most sanguine citizens. On the six degrees of latitude, which constitute the Western seaboard of Canada there is room for several great cities, and of these the terminus of the National Transcontinental Railway can hardly fail to be one.

But Prince Rupert has more than a railway to make it a point of great importance. The wealth of the north on land and sea is beyond computation and that city must inevitably be a centre from which it will be exploited to a large extent.

It is interesting to remark the thorough manner in which this young city is dealing with the very grave problems presented by its inauguration. Our Western cities begin at a point where some eastern cities leave off. They demand and they secure all the appliances of civilization from the outset. In the case of Prince Rupert to provide these is a matter of no inconsiderable difficulty and expense, but the manner in which the citizens grapple with the various questions as they arise is a guarantee of success.

We do not know what the Premier will say in regard to the appointment of a commission to inquire into the price of coal, but we do know that there may be very serious difficulties in the way of such a step. It is possible that Mr. McBride may be able to see his way around them, but as we regard the matter there may be grave doubt as to the ability of any commission which the provincial government might appoint to enforce the attendance of witnesses and the giving of testimony. Trade and commerce are matters within the jurisdiction of the federal parliament, and it is an open question, at least, how far the provincial authorities have a right to deal with a subject that comes under these heads. As we have said, there may be a way around this difficulty, and, if there is, we should be glad to see the commission appointed.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Price Ellison in his addresses to the associations connected with husbandry in its several aspects has presented many excellent ideas. Mr. Ellison is a practical farmer, and he is also a public man who has utilized his exceptional opportunities to learn what the requirements of agriculture in this province are. The Department of Agriculture under his supervision, has done very excellent work, and is being equipped for even better service.

It is an admirable thing to have in the position of Minister of Agriculture a gentleman who knows what he is talking about when he discusses questions coming directly under his supervision, a man who has learned by experience what the difficulties are, we are glad to be able to say, what the rewards of successful agriculture and ranching are. Mr. Ellison's career as a farmer and cattle raiser is of itself an encouragement and inspiration to all who may contemplate making either of these industries their life work. The intelligent interest which he is able to take in all matters relating to farming, the good advice he is able to give, and his abiding faith in the future of British Columbia are invaluable assets to any public man.

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WAGE QUESTION IS DISCUSSED

Socialist Alleges Rate Paid to Laborers on C.N.P. Construction is Below Standard—Government's Reply

Socialists' representatives occupied the centre of the provincial legislature stage yesterday. Mr. J. E. Hawthornthwaite because he has returned after an extended visit to the Old Country, to receive a most cordial welcome home from his fellow-members and his comrade, Mr. F. Williams, because of his presentation in the House of his vote of censure upon the government, based upon an allegation that the Canadian Northern Railway is not paying the standard wages on construction of its island sections that are current in the localities. Presumably the Canadian Northern Pacific is referred to but Mr. F. Williams, both in his motion and his address referred only to the Canadian Northern, which has no corporate existence in this province. He stated that laborers for Canadian Northern contractors in the Esquimalt district, are being paid only \$2.25 a day, where men working for the government or the municipalities receive \$2.50 and \$2.75. In support of his statement he produced affidavits signed by workmen employed by Canadian Northern Pacific contractors to show that they were receiving but \$2.25 per day. He also stated that he had sent men to employment offices in Victoria to ask for work and they were informed that \$2.25 was the highest wage payable to common laborers.

The motion was voted down, only Messrs. Brewster and Williams supporting it. Mr. Williams asked for a record of names, but the Speaker told him that the rules of the House required that three members must ask for these before they could be recorded.

Mr. Tisdall moved the first reading of the Vancouver charter amendments bill, which was referred to the private bills committee.

Mr. Shaw introduced a petition for the incorporation of the city of Salmon Arm.

Amending Bills

Hon. Mr. Bowser introduced bills to amend the Municipalities Incorporation Act, and the Inheritance Act. The former gives the government power to vary or reduce the limits of a municipality on incorporation as they may deem expedient, and that in so doing they may impose such conditions as they think proper. The amendment to the Inheritance Act simply nullifies a change made by the revising commissioners and restores it to its original state.

Mr. Brewster asked the Hon. the Minister of Lands the following questions:

- 1.—Have any person or persons or body corporate made application to the government to acquire any portion of the lands known as the Songhees Indian Reserve in the City of Victoria?
- 2.—If so, what persons or bodies corporate have made such application?
- 3.—How much land has been applied for in each case?
- 4.—For what purpose was these lands required?
- 5.—Will the Canadian Northern Pacific railway be entitled to obtain a free grant of any of these lands under the provisions of paragraph (d) of clause 13 of the Schedule to chap. 3, 1910?

The Hon. Mr. Ross replied as follows:

"1.—Yes.

"2.—(a.) C. E. Stewart; (b.) William

Turpel; (c.) W. J. Pendray; (d.) Corporation of the City of Victoria; (e.) Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway; (f.) The Victoria Harbour Railway.

"3.—(a.) Lots 6 and 7; (b.) Area not stated; (c.) Nine-tenths of an acre; (d.) Twenty-five acres; (e.) and (f.) Area not stated.

"4.—(a.) and (b.) Shipyard purposes; (c.) Manufacturing purposes; (d.) Park and school purposes; (e.) and (f.) Right-of-way and terminal purposes.

"5.—No."

Mr. F. Williams' Arrangement

Mr. Williams said that when the Canadian Northern agreement was before the house, he had moved an amendment to the effect that the lowest wage to be paid on the road should be \$2.50 a day. This the premier refused to accept, but had consented to the insertion of a clause to the effect that the lowest wages to be paid should be the current wages paid for similar labor in the district where the work was being done. At the opening of the session, while speaking on the address he had referred to the fact that in spite of this, the wages being paid on Canadian Northern construction in the district of Esquimalt were only \$2.25 a day, while the lowest wage paid to government employees in the same district was \$2.75, while the city of Victoria paid \$3.00 a day for hammer men and \$2.75 for pick and shovel men for an eight-hour day. He assumed that \$2.75 a day would be a fair wage on Canadian Northern construction and it was the duty of the government to compel them to pay it.

When at the opening of the house he had stated that only \$2.25 a day was being paid, the member for Esquimalt had taken pains to correct him. It made him think that the member for Esquimalt was paying more attention to the Conservative organization in the district than to the matter of wages. He (Mr. Williams) had secured statements on affidavit from men employed by Olsen & company, and Grant, Smith & company, both contractors for the Canadian Northern in the Esquimalt district, and these men both swore that they were only receiving \$2.25 a day.

These affidavits he produced and read to the house.

"I could produce any number of the same," he concluded, "and I may say that these men were Irishmen, who are capable of swinging a pick and shovel with anybody." He added that as the minister of railways was comparatively new to his position he might not have been able to keep in touch with this matter, and in replying to some questions he had placed on the other papers a few days ago he might have been misinformed. To make himself sure, he had sent a man down to an employment office in Victoria to inquire for work on the Canadian Northern and he had been told also that the wages paid were \$2.25 a day.

Hon. Mr. Taylor's Reply

Hon. Mr. Taylor said this was the first intimation the department of railways had received in regard to this matter. Had it been brought to his attention earlier he would have caused an investigation to be made. In all contracts entered into by the Canadian Northern contractors a clause appeared to the effect that workers employed in and about construction must be paid similar wages to other laborers employed in the district. If there had been any infringement it was unknown to the department of railways. In regard to his answers to certain questions put by the gentleman opposite, they had been supplied by the chief engineer of the department and he had every reason to believe they were correct. He could assure his honorable friend that he would go into the matter thoroughly, and if he found that current wages were not being paid he would certainly insist on it as a duty of the government to see that they were paid.

Liberal Member's Statement

Mr. Brewster said that this was not entirely a new matter, as the minister of railways would lead the house to believe. While it might be true as regards the Canadian Northern if certain was not true regarding other construction work on Vancouver Island. He could well remember in 1908, when a bill regarding the exemption of certain railways from taxation was before the house, the government was urged that if the exemption were granted, at least a clause should be inserted that in return for the privilege the railway companies should guarantee the payment of a certain rate of wages. It was also suggested that it be provided that no Orientals should be employed. This was met by the premier with the statement that such a clause would lead to the disallowance of the act at Ottawa. It was then proposed that the wages paid should be the current wages paid to white laborers only. This did not suit the government either, but the premier said he would consent to insert a fair wage clause to protect the laborer. A little later he (Mr. Brewster) went over the construction work on Vancouver Island and he found to his surprise that not only was a white man's wage not being paid, but the pay received was meagre even for Orientals, and when 75c a day was taken out for board it would leave them practically nothing. He had written a letter calling the attention of the government to this, and yet they found the government still complaining that someone had not called their attention to this state of things and they expressed surprise now that their attention was being to the fact that current wages were not being paid on the Canadian Northern. It showed they were not attending to the matter, and he considered that the explanation of the minister of railways was not satisfactory.

Stage Play

Hon. Mr. McBride said that it must be quite patent to the legislature that the motion under discussion was more or less stage play. The member for Newcastle with his usual aptitude to take advantage of anything that might secure for him publicity or notoriety had discovered that on Vancouver Island the wages paid certain laborers was not up to the standard, and he must needs make a hero of himself on the floor of the house, so he let the time pass till the closing days of the month of January, then made his charge in solemn form with that deliberation he seemed to possess in dealing with matters of this kind. The work had been going on for upwards of 12 months on Vancouver Island, and if there was a grievance there had been ample time for the gentleman opposite to present complaints to the government so that an investigation would be forthwith made. If the gentleman opposite were sincere why had they not brought this matter to the minister of railways or to himself before this. No time would then have been lost in prosecuting an inquiry. But instead they allowed 12 months to elapse, and then in dramatic form launched their charge against the government. The most charitable criticism that could be passed upon them was that their insincerity had been proved by the pathetic manner in which they had dealt with the question. If his friend from Newcastle, whose heart bled for the workmen, had been sincere he would have come to the government and they would have lost no time in seeing that the current rate of wages be obtained.

Matter for Congratulation

"There has not," he added, "been a complaint during the whole of the time that the work has been carried on either on the mainland or island district, and it was natural for the government to assume that everyone was satisfied with what he was receiving in return for his labor. I feel it to be a matter for congratulation that in this tremendous undertaking there had not been a complaint in regard to these things."

He continued the construction of cific, complaints h and the matter w course that was a ing, but this before ly a provincial an was wrong the go no time in inquiri least satisfactory foot of the Canad that had been bar government was n tion, and the entir completed within 2 ing from Edmonte pected that the tr the summit of th the eastern bounda hia within the pre all the plans we should have train entire system in ty

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Mr. Williams sa the premier in e on this resolution, more think of be government than l snake, he had, if fair to them in placed the resoluti two days ago, and called the attentio railways to it by and had also menti the house opened, to sit up at night workmen, and fond of grandita honorable gentlem cused him of being in not seeing tha what it was paid thought that as on thinking about the tears on tap for a ber for Esquimalt a matter that co trict. Instead, wh the house, he (Mr. that railway labor being paid only \$ feiman had been ment to contradic

Mr. Jardine: "T of fact. It was do tive and without anyone else."

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On question be was defeated, only Hawthornthwaite

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THE SONGHEES RESERVE

There is every indication that the government is fully alive to the future industrial and commercial possibilities in Victoria, and that whatever is the nature of the partition of the former Songhees Reserve will redound considerably to the advantage of the city. An early announcement of what it is proposed doing may be expected. It is safe to say that in the plans now under consideration special regard is being given to the projected harbor improvements in the immediate vicinity. As already pointed out in the legislature no special privileges will be granted to railway companies. If there has been some delay in an announcement of the government's plans it is because it has not been easy to arrange matters of such great importance without numerous conferences, and the composing of differences between rival interests. We are now in a position to say that very satisfactory progress has been made within the last few months, and that when the partition of the reserve is announced the government's action will meet with warm approval from the citizens as conducive to the best interests of Victoria.

He continued that in connection with the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific, complaints had been forwarded and the matter was cleared up. Of course that was a Dominion undertaking, but this before the house was purely a provincial affair, and if anything was wrong the government would lose no time in inquiring into it. It was at least satisfactory to know that every foot of the Canadian Northern Pacific that had been bargained for with the government was now under construction, and the entire mileage would be completed within 24 months. In building from Edmonton west it was expected that the trackage would be at the summit of the Rocky Mountains, the eastern boundary of British Columbia within the present year, so that if all the plans were carried out they should have trains running over the entire system in two years from date.

In Safe Custody

"The member for Newcastle would lead the house to believe," he added, "that he lies awake at night shedding tears over their grievances, but I want the workmen of this country to understand that their wages in the hands of this administration are in much safer custody than they would be in the hands of the member for Newcastle, and if our attention is called to any wrong, an investigation will be held without delay and the proper remedy applied." (Applause.)

Mr. Williams said he had never seen the premier in a worse position than on this resolution. Though he would no more think of being over fair to the government than he would to a rattlesnake, he had, if anything been over fair to them in this matter. He had placed the resolution on the order paper two days ago, and previous to that had called the attention of the minister of railways to it by a series of questions, and had also mentioned the matter when the house opened. He did not pretend to sit up at night bothering about the workmen, and if there was anyone fond of grandstand play it was the honorable gentleman who had just accused him of being deficient in his duty in not seeing that the government did what it was paid for. He would have thought that as one who sat up at night thinking about the workmen, and had tears on tap for all occasions the member for Esquimalt would have seen to a matter that concerned his own district. Instead, when at the opening of the house he (Mr. Williams) had stated that railway laborers in Esquimalt were being paid only \$2.25 a day, that gentleman had been put up by the government to contradict him.

Mr. Jardine

Mr. Jardine: "That is not a statement of fact. It was done on my own initiative and without any suggestion from anyone else."

Mr. Williams

Mr. Williams said if that were so he would not have admitted it. He continued that the minister of railways in replying to his questions the other day had mis-stated the position, and had left him no other option than to bring this resolution before the house. The minister for railways was being paid \$4000 a year to enforce the statutes in this respect and should earn his salary. If the premier was as solicitous for the welfare of the workmen as he pretended to be, it would not have been necessary to introduce the resolution.

On question being called the motion was defeated, only Messrs. Brawster and Hawthornthwaite supporting it.

Mr. Williams asked for names, inquiring how many were necessary to secure the record.

"The rules require three members," said Speaker Eberts.

"Well, that fixes it," said Mr. Williams subsiding with a smile.

Member's Statement

said that this was not matter, as the minister would lead the house to it might be true, as re-dan Northern if certain regarding other construction Vancouver Island. He member in 1908, when a he exemption of certain taxation was before the rument was urged that n were granted, at least be inserted that in re- sible the railway, ld guarantee the pay- ain rate of wages. It eted that it be provided ls should be employed. y the premier with the uch a clause would allowance of the act at as then proposed that should be the current white laborers only. suit the government premier said he would rt a fair wage clause laborer. A little later) went over the con- on Vancouver Island and surprise that not only e's wage not being paid, elved was meagre even and when 75c a day was board it would leave ly nothing. He had r calling the attention ent to this, and yet they rument still complain- ne had not called their is state of things and surprise now that their being to the fact that were not being paid on Northern. It showed tending to the matter, ed that the explanation of railways was not

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**POLICY WILL BE
ADEQUATE ONE**

**Premier McBride Moves an
Amendment to Naval Reso-
lution Which is Accepted by
Mr. H. C. Brewster**

**EXPLAINS ATTITUDE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Is Certain that Conjoint De-
cision of Federal Govern-
ment and Admiralty Will be
Acceptable to All**

The outstanding feature of yesterday's proceedings in parliament was the short but interesting address by Premier McBride upon the text of Mr. Brewster's naval resolution, in the course of which the First Minister elaborated his reasons for non-concurrence with certain portions of the motion of the Liberal leader, emphasized the necessity for early and adequate action for the protection of the British Pacific seaboard, and in conclusion offered an amendment which was seconded by the President of the Council, suggesting alternately that Mr. Brewster might possibly accept the amendment as his main motion. This was eventually agreed to by the member for Alberni upon condition that the resolution stand in his name, with the Premier as a seconder—a compact acceptable to all. The matter now stands in abeyance until Mr. Brewster again presents his motion, in its amended form. Mr. Williams, whose name had originally appeared on the order paper as seconder of Mr. Brewster's motion, was subjected to considerable quiet badinage from the Premier, based upon his apparent change of front in regard to matters naval and military, and hastened to explain that he remains unconverted, his seconding being merely a courtesy to his neighbor from Alberni, necessitated by the House rules, which insist upon all motions being seconded—although, the member from Newcastle quietly suggested, under present conditions the House might be generous enough to waive the regulation. Mr. Hawthornthwaite was present in the lobbies during the afternoon, but has not yet taken his seat in the House.

Seaboard and Navy

Premier McBride, continuing the debate upon Mr. Brewster's naval defence resolution—adjourned upon the Prime Minister's initiative several days ago—prefatorily congratulated the member for Alberni, and also particularly his colleague from Newcastle, on the interest displayed by them, even thus early in the session, on so worthy a subject as the naval defence of the British Pacific seaboard. In this instance the member for Newcastle had, somewhat contrary to his common practice, displayed a zeal for the well-being and safety of his country unquestionably most refreshing to the members of the legislature, as it doubtless would be also to his constituents. —members of the House had been accustomed to quite another attitude adopted by the member for Newcastle, especially when in the preparation of the estimates insignificant appropriations were prepared, running usually into not more than a few hundred dollars, toward the support of the various

rifle associations of the service. On such occasions, as a rule, the most bitter opposition was offered by the honorable member. The House had, however, never given up hope that he might live to see the error of his ways and to recognize the duty of the House in so far as it might consistently go in that direction, to encourage and promote along proper channels the fitting of the people of British Columbia for usefulness, if necessary, in their country's defence. In the present case, while the member for Alberni had not seen fit, nor had the member for Newcastle, to make any suggestions with respect to national defence in so far as the land forces were concerned, still all were pleased to find them both in this session of 1912 so greatly concerned as to what is being done at Ottawa with a view to the provision of ade-

quate naval defence. And from the attitude these members now assumed, he took it for granted that when the movement for the perfection of the Canadian navy secured its proper recognition, in the forefront of national defence proposals, these members would be found enunciating and supporting a strenuous, patriotic policy that would measure up to the requirements of the situation.

No Criticism Then

He felt that it was but right to specially congratulate the member for Newcastle upon the evidence offered for his change of heart. With respect to the position taken by his friend the leader of the Liberal opposition—his friend, the Liberal opposition—he recalled that whenever the naval policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was under consideration the member for Alberni had never any doubt as to the superlative wisdom of the great Liberal chieftain and the policy for which he stood. He had had no criticism to offer—no complaint to make, in so far as the Liberal programme in connection with the establishment of the Canadian navy was concerned. On the contrary, there was nothing he could say too good, too strongly commendatory for the Liberal naval policy of the day. The people of British Columbia had thought that programme insufficient, they had been unable to agree with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and with his supporter the member for Alberni, that the purchase of the "Rainbow" and her subsequent disposition as headquarters vessel on this coast were in any way adequate in the provision of a sufficient fighting force on the British Pacific seaboard. The people of British Columbia had been told that the "Rainbow" was purchased and intended primarily for use merely as a training ship, and that while she had been practically taken from the naval scrapheap at home in the Old Land she was the most suitable vessel available for the purpose had in view by the government in its first efforts toward the establishment of naval defences on this coast.

British Columbia Concerned

The people of British Columbia had also been naturally more concerned as to the part that would be played by the new Canadian navy in the event of war involving the Motherland, and it was found by the Hansard that by no procedure and under no conditions would the Canadian navy come in co-operation with the imperial navy. Sir Wilfrid when questioned as to this found himself unable to give the Conservatives of Canada that full and frank explanation of this feature of his policy as generally characteristic of his pronouncements on such occasions. All would remember too with what surprise it was learned that no satisfying answer was forthcoming when it had been as, if, in case of war, Canadian vessels and British warships were in close touch, the Canadian ships would be obliged to go back for orders from the Canadian authorities, or would they stand by the ships of Britain and fight with them under the Union Jack?

The whole thing as enunciated and expounded was a monstrous absurdity, and the position taken by the Liberal leader and party in no way tenable. The Conservatives had challenged the wisdom and the sufficiency of that naval policy, in the first place because the preliminary action taken thereunder

was notoriously insufficient and failed to provide for the assembling in these waters of an efficient fighting force; and in the second there was a lack of that essential co-operation and cohesion between the Canadian and the imperial authorities absolutely essential in the event of war. The position taken by the governments of Australia and New Zealand went much farther than any to be hoped for from the explanation and pronouncements from the Liberal benches at Ottawa.

An Obsolete Navy

Beside purchasing the "Niobe" and the "Rainbow," it was proposed in the naval arrangements of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to devote a very considerable sum from the federal treasury toward the construction of new Canadian vessels, year by year, so that eventually Canada might be able to claim proprietorship over a decent-sized navy. Since the change in government, the people of Canada had very recently from the new minister of marine, Hon. Mr. Hazen, a very specific statement to the effect that expert advice taken by him condemned the policy of his predecessor in office on the practical ground that, following out that policy, by the time it was carried out the only result attainable would be the assembling of a number of vessels a majority of which would necessarily be obsolete, out of date and of no fighting efficiency.

This statement of Hon. Mr. Hazen and the course of the government generally since the assumption of office attested the sincerity and genuineness of Rt. Hon. Mr. Borden and his colleagues in the desire to perfect the Canadian naval policy, and this was quite what was to have been expected from them. Such a matter was not capable of determination in a day. The new government had been in office but a short time—only three or four months—but as soon as time permitted it might be depended upon to enunciate and carry forward a policy of an efficient Canadian navy and relieve the tension now obtaining on both the Pacific and Atlantic seaboard of Canada.

Nothing Too Good

In attempting to bring about adequate naval defence, he asked, why should Canada stop short of having the most modern, most powerful, thoroughly efficient warships, the very last word in naval equipment? If it was essential that Great Britain have such craft, why not equally for Canada? If the "Rainbow" was regarded as not good enough to retain a place in the active list of the British navy, she was in his opinion not good enough for the Canadian navy. In view of the far-reaching importance of the right development of Canadian naval policy, and in view of the pronouncement made by the minister as to his intentions and

his determination, fair opportunity should be given Mr. Borden and his government to frame and perfect their naval policy before offering criticisms without proper warrant, or taking action which would be regarded as at least precipitate.

There was no question as to Canada's financial ability to provide her own navy; she need no longer go as a suppliant to the Old Country for protection of this nature. He thought that Canadians might confidently expect, when the new administration had had opportunity to confer with the Admiralty, to witness the consummation of a naval policy creditable to the Dominion and alike acceptable to Liberals and Conservatives. As true and loyal Canadians, all should look upon this question from the broad, patriotic, national standpoint, and he sincerely hoped that it might be taken out of politics altogether and placed on a higher plane. It would be well for the House of Commons to grapple with this question of the establishment of the Canadian navy independent altogether of political differences.

Added to the Coast

We on the Coast must naturally at times experience some slight irritation some sense of impatience with those of the other provinces in their apathy

in regard to navy was a disposition on the sea at times through Canadians living at the disposal of them to regard that might very day to day. Yet other trans Canada, two of ing rapidly forwarding understanding of the coast when throughout Canadians would ingly in the prov efficient Canada be a credit to an He had said th particularly app for the provision fente, and there why this should of British Colum the construction portant railway terminals on tid inevitably that years the invest money which within the c British Colum ports must run l lions. As a matt ourselves and to their capital in should therefore tresting the peo provinces and t urgency of immed preparedness for fine.

A Ensl Some weeks ago Victoria theatre/ tion was under- said upon the re mitted that it was while we were so building up our their interests an vestments, of mo going absolutely their protection, tional enthusiasm no doubt felt, or, matter, it was a ness policy that r given to the fact be provided of the shore and of the along. Within tw years the Panama pected to be compl home the situation emphasis. Because tion of our ave lises and their large investments our seaboard tow must these invests completion and op am Canal was ta a development fac There had of la comment in the A by no means allog acter, but by every al law and the it could be depend tent would be r States to prohibit British vessels thr derful waterway over the situation into account by bu cial development w the three years fo of the canal, old, the situation as to infinitely the more

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Added to the Coast e Coast must naturally at fence some slight irritation of impatience with those e provinces in their apathy

in regard to naval possibilities. There was a disposition among those resident on the seaboard to be discouraged at times through the apathy of the Canadians living in the inland provinces—at the disposition displayed by them to regard this question as one that might very well stand over from day to day. With the construction of yet other transcontinental railways in Canada, two of which were now forging rapidly forward, and with a better understanding of conditions prevailing on the coasts, the time would come when throughout the entire Dominion Canadians would join heartily and willingly in the provision of a strong and efficient Canadian navy which would be a credit to any nation in the world.

He had said that we on the coastline particularly appreciated the necessity for the provision of adequate naval defence, and there were good reasons why this should be so. The province of British Columbia was involved in the construction of a number of important railway enterprises with their terminals on tidewater. This meant inevitably that within the next few years the investments of Canadian money which would be placed within the corporate limits of British Columbia's various seaports must run into hundreds of millions. As a matter of honest duty to ourselves and to those who invest their capital in our industries, we should therefore spare no effort in interesting the people of the eastern provinces and the prairies in the urgency of immediate action toward preparedness for defence of the coastline.

A Business Policy

Some weeks ago, at a meeting in the Victoria theatre when the naval question was under discussion, he had said upon the resolution then submitted that it seemed folly indeed that while we were so actively engaged in building up our seaport towns and their interests and securing large investments of money therein, we were doing absolutely nothing to assure their protection. Aside from the national enthusiasm which the majority no doubt felt, or should feel, in this matter, it was a cold-blooded business policy that recognition should be given to the fact that assurance must be provided of the safety of our seaports and of the investments there along. Within two or two and a half years the Panama Canal might be expected to be complete and this brought home the situation with even stronger emphasis. Because of the construction of our several transcontinental lines and their industrial connections large investments had been made in our seaport towns. How much larger must these investments be when the completion and operation of the Panama Canal was taken into account as a development factor?

There had of late been considerable comment in the American press of a by no means altogether friendly character, but by everything in international law and the comity of nations it could be depended upon that no attempt would be made by the United States to prohibit the navigation of British vessels through that most wonderful waterway. When one looked over the situation generally and took into account by how much our provincial development would be hastened in the three years following the opening of the canal, did not the urgency of the situation as to naval defence come infinitely the more strongly home?

He had no hesitancy in accepting the assurance from Ottawa that it was the government's intention to act quickly and efficiently in naval matters. The press had already given the news that Hon. Mr. Hazen was leaving shortly for London to discuss with the British Admiralty the various phases of the Canadian naval situation. He felt confident that the Canadian minister would find in the first lord of the admiralty, the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, a friend and a man equal in every way to the responsibilities of his high office, who would leave nothing undone to give Canadians evidence that the home authorities are with them in their determination to provide an efficient coast defence. After Hon. Mr. Hazen's visit to London one might look very shortly for a specific and definite policy that would relieve all anxiety and assure quiet, sensible and adequate action.

The Amendment

He proposed to offer an amendment to the resolution as presented to the house by the opposition leader. He found no fault with the gentleman opposite for the course he had taken, but in view of the fact that the government at Ottawa had but newly taken up its responsibilities, it was but right and fair that it should have opportunity to shape its plans and enunciate them before precipitate criticism or suggestion was offered. The house might well emphasize, however, its recognition of the urgency of the case, and his amendment would be taken as evidence of the earnestness of the people of this province to see something

done and in a fitting degree, with regard to the protection of our Pacific seaboard. The amendment, seconded by the president of the council, was as follows:

That all the words in the resolution after the word "coast" in the second paragraph be struck out, and the following words be substituted therefor:

"And whereas the government of Canada has decided that any scheme of naval defence, to be effective, must be by co-operation with the mother country and the other parts of the Empire:

"Therefore, be it resolved, that the Dominion government be urged that, in view of the great importance for the immediate and adequate protection of the Pacific Coast of Canada, the question of naval defence be considered at the earliest possible date:

"And be it further resolved, that his honor the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to forward a copy of the resolution as amended to the honorable the secretary of state at Ottawa."

It might be, Hon. Mr. McBride observed in conclusion, that the member for Alberni might find it possible to re-cast his original resolution along the lines of the amendment, or even adopt the amendment. If so and his zealous colleague from Newcastle were of kindred opinion, the resolution could then pass with unanimity. And if what he had predicted as to the course of the government at Ottawa were not redeemed by events within a few months he would himself be found with his friend from Alberni pressing this matter to the front, for he most sincerely appreciated the general desire of British Columbia for an efficient navy capable of protecting the coastline of this province.

A Matter of Courtesy

Mr. Parker Williams followed the Premier in what was primarily a matter of explanation, the text being the seconding of the resolution presented by Mr. Brewster. The Premier, he observed, had given him too much credit for a change of front, and this assumption had been echoed by the newspaper press. As a fact, he had experienced no change of heart as suggested, his seconding of the resolution having been merely a courtesy to Mr. Brewster, necessitated, if the resolution were to be brought before the house, by the legislative rules. With but one Liberal and one Socialist in the chamber reciprocal accommodations became necessary if either was to introduce a motion or initiate any business in parliament for neither had as yet gone to a Conservative for favors. The rule requiring a seconder was not common to all parliaments, and he suggested that under present circumstances the house might well see its way to waive it.

As for the naval question he still held the position of being in no way in sympathy with the principles of militarism in whatever form it might be presented. Yet he fully appreciated the worth of British institutions and hoped to see the continuance of the British empire—and of its naval and military strength so long as these were necessary for the security of that empire. But what was the situation today? These two great civilized nations England and Germany were rushing as fast as possible towards financial bankruptcy through their respective endeavors to outvie one another in the matter of naval strength. The whole course of the two was most inconsistent, for the crux of the naval question as latterly illustrated by Great Britain and Germany was that there was no finality possible. The one built great battleships and the other produced some expert who introduced some new feature rendering them obsolete.

The struggle for naval supremacy was such that no one in either country could see the end; they could see no further than the day, almost the moment. The only escape from the mad militarism of Europe, in his opinion, was to be hoped for through one or other of the rival nations exhausting its resources. Were it not for this militarism poverty would perhaps be unknown, for certainly were the moneys spent in pursuit of military dominance devoted to the amelioration of the conditions of the poor, want and poverty might be banished.

Excites His Contempt

In regard to the Canadian naval question more particularly, he held that it had been considerably overplayed for political ends. It was a species of flag-waving, exciting his contempt, and a notable feature in connection with it was its frequently obvious insincerity. Those who were loudest in shouting their patriotism from the housetops too frequently were the last to illustrate it in their deeds. He noted in this connection that one of the most lusty-lunged champions of naval preparation against foreign war was Mr. Bell-Irving of Vancouver, the gentleman who had introduced Japanese labor as a dominant factor in the British Columbia fishing industry. It was all very well for the Premier to suggest that the question should be taken out of politics—now that his party had got in—but there was no suggestion that this was the proper course so long as a contest was pending and the naval programme an attractive cry wherewith to win votes. The desire to see the question removed from politics was possibly as sincere as Mr. Bell-Irving's wordy patriotism. For his own part he would be glad indeed to see Great Britain have a navy here so strong that it should be a perpetual guarantee of peace—so strong that any other nation would realize at the outset that there was no advantage to be gained in going against it.

It was said that a strong navy was the best guarantee of a continuance of peace. That meant that if a man had a club big enough he could keep his neighbor away and do as he liked with him, but there was nothing to prevent a neighbor getting just as big a club and fighting it out. He considered the rapid spread of Socialism the surest guarantee of international peace today, because it was an international movement. War between Norway and Sweden had been prevented because the Socialists in those countries in a recent crisis had refused to fight. Before the war with Italy, Turkey had also appealed to the International Socialist executive. If the workmen refused to fight there would soon be no war, since the men of the cities and professions sickened at the smell of gunpowder. In Germany the Socialists in the late elections sent 110 members to the Reichstag. This was peculiarly significant since these 110 represented sixty per cent of the German people, conclusively evidence that the International Socialist movement is growing, to become the greatest possible guarantee of the world's peace.

Mr. H. C. Brewster

Mr. Brewster held that it seemed impossible for the premier to get politics out of his make-up in discussing a resolution of this kind. He had also heaped ridicule on the member for Newcastle because he had seconded the motion. It looked as if he wanted no opposition in the house at all. As these resolutions could not be got before the house without a seconder, it would be a graceful thing on the part of the premier if he would allow one of his supporters to second them in order that they might be discussed. Instead of that he accused the member for Newcastle, who had seconded a motion out of courtesy, of facing about and coming to the house a changed man. If there was anybody who changed about it was the premier himself, who took one position in the country and another on the floor of the house. Speaking in Victoria in March, 1910, he had said that something should be done about a navy, and done at once. Now he had reversed his position in order that he might have

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a ding at his political opponents. Mr. Borden in the House of Commons at Ottawa had also said in March, 1911, that it was the immediate duty of the house to place at the disposal of the British government a sufficient sum to build two Dreadnoughts. Yet now they found the premier of British Columbia counselling hesitation and delay. He had also hinted that he (Mr. Brewster) had brought this motion in at the instance of some persons, who wished to embarrass the government at Ottawa. In that he was entirely mistaken, as he had brought it in at his own instance, and had consulted nobody. The premier said that he wished to have the matter taken out of politics, and he would take him at his word. Since they saw the premier bending his knee to the Nationalist power at Ottawa, which seemed also to have spread to British Columbia, he (Mr. Brewster) would consent to withdraw his resolution if the premier would agree that he should move the amendment and the premier second it. It might at least place upon the government at Ottawa the responsibility of consideration for their request for defences on the Pacific coast.

Would Have Succeeded

Hon. Mr. McPhillips said that had the Liberals at the last election adopted such a policy as was proposed by the member for Alberni, the result might have been different; but while the other Dominions of the Empire were doing what they could to assist the motherland in the hour of peril, they had found that the Liberal government at Ottawa had scouted the suggestion that the Dominion should contribute from \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000 from its treasury to help the British government in creating a real fleet unit in the Pacific ocean. If the member for Alberni had thought at the last election as he did now, he should have succeeded from his party. It was now refreshing to find this resolution in favor of a fleet unit coming from the attenuated Liberal representation in the house. He did not say this in a deprecatory manner as he had the greatest respect for the member for Alberni, but it was a pity that they had not been able to size up public opinion in their own ranks earlier. Now that the member for Alberni had adopted the Conservative policy he was trying to get the house to express an opinion, before the government responsible had an opportunity to formulate its policy. It could only be intended to embarrass that government. He would not hear it said that the Conservatives of Canada had ever been derelict in any way upon this subject. It was the Conservatives who had first raised their voices in calling for assistance for Great Britain in the Boer war; it was the Conservatives who had proposed to contribute from \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000 to assist Great Britain in her more recent hour of peril, and they might be sure that the policy to be followed by them now would be consistent with their past acts, and make for the greater safety of Canada.

Distribution of Money

He took issue with the member for Newcastle in saying that when one nation sided with another in navy building it was wasted money. The men employed in building those ships received good wages, and the money was distributed. Nor did he agree that it was only the workmen who fought the battles of the country. While the major portion might be recruited from the agricultural and laboring classes, it was not less true that at a social club in London during the Boer war in one evening, three hundred had enrolled themselves for war. The member for Newcastle was also indiscreet in his statement that the socialist movement was making for peace. Instead it was making for unrest and trouble, and arousing the masses of the people into thinking that they were living under wrong conditions at a time when high wages were being paid and conditions were good.

Hon. Mr. McBride said he had no wish to deprive the member for Alberni of the credit of moving the amendment that he (the premier) had proposed. If the house was content they could eliminate the present resolution and amendment, and introduce the latter as a new resolution.

Mr. Brewster asked if he might be allowed first to reply to the president of the council.

The speaker ruled that he had already spoken once to the amendment and could not speak again.

The Premier said that when introducing the amendment as a new resolution, the member from Alberni would have plenty of opportunity to address the House.

This was agreed to, and the resolution left over to another sitting.

Hon. Mr. Ross presented a return of alienations of Indian reserves under section 30 of the Land Act. Petitions were received from the city of Nanaimo for leave to introduce a private bill in connection with the municipal tramway projected and from J. W. McCallum and others for the private bill to incorporate the city of Salmon Arm.

Questions and Answers.

Mr. Brewster asked the Minister of Lands:

1. How many acres of land have been pre-empted in each year, 1905 to 1911, inclusive?

2. How many acres of land have been Crown-granted to pre-emptors in each year, 1905 to 1911, inclusive?

3. How many acres of land have been Crown-granted to purchasers in each year, 1905 to 1911, inclusive?

4. How many acres of land have been Crown-granted to the public in each year, 1905 to 1911, inclusive?

5. What were the classifications of the lands sold in each year from 1905 to 1911, giving amount of land under classification?

6. What amount of revenue has been received in each year, 1905 to 1911, inclusive, from the sale of Crown lands?

Hon. Mr. Ross replied:

1.—Taking the number of records issued and assigning 166 acres to each record, the amounts are as follows: 1905, 152,300 acres;

1906, 151,600 acres; 1907, 151,750 acres;

1908, 245,600 acres; 1909, 229,200 acres;

1910, 227,550 acres; 1911, 227,550 acres;

1911, 251,250 acres.

2.—1905, 50,101 acres; 1906, 225,853 acres;

1907, 213,510 acres; 1908, 181,211 acres;

1909, 645,230 acres; 1910, 2,006,173 acres;

1911, 515,869 acres.

3.—1905, 41,000 acres; 1906, 45,000 acres;

1907, 50,000 acres; 1908, 44,553 acres; 1909,

60,256 acres; 1910, 69,348 acres; 1911, 107,

682 acres.

4.—1905, 94,153 acres; 1906, 275,145 acres;

1907, 523,419 acres; 1908, 162,224 acres; 1909,

253,390 acres; 1910, 249,965 acres; 1911,

330,215 acres.

5.—The classification of lands is not given in the Crown grants, and would have to be extracted from the district registers.

6.—1905, \$141,510.82; 1906, \$183,391.22;

1907, \$662,035.31; 1908, \$548,404.54; 1910,

\$2,615,188.75; 1911, \$2,481,231.26.

Mr. Williams asked the Minister of Railways:

1. What rates of wages are paid to rock-drillers and laborers, respectively, on the Kettle River Valley railway construction?

2. What is the lowest rate of wages paid on above work?

Hon. Mr. Taylor replied:

1. Rock-drillers, \$2.75; laborers, \$2.50.

2. Above.

Before the close of the sitting the Prince Rupert agreement ratification bill was advanced to the report stage; it will probably receive third reading today.

THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

In the course of his speech at the Press Gallery dinner Mr. McBride laid great stress upon the progress which is assured, humanly speaking, to British Columbia during the next four years. Our own convictions are that it is impossible to measure what this progress will be, unless unforeseen circumstances arise. We venture, however, to suggest that among other things we will see within that time the much talked-of rail connection with the Mainland well on the way towards completion. What this will mean to Victoria each of our readers can judge, but we venture to say that none of them will put the resulting advantages at too high a figure.

We are not now speaking with any knowledge of any railway policy, which Mr. McBride may have in contemplation, when we say that nothing can stop the making of that connection at an early day, except a period of prolonged business disaster. The transportation is so developing that this connection will be made beyond any doubt. We are quite prepared to believe that if any of the railway chiefs were asked about it, they would refuse to admit the soundness of this proposition; but that is a way railway men have. They never tell the public what they have in the back of their heads, and this is good business, for it is a good plan for people in any line of activity to keep their ultimate plans to themselves.

But we are going to have the Bute Inlet railway, and we are going to have the Seymour Narrows bridge. At first the connection will be by car-ferry, and it is going to be very satisfactory. Our only fear on this point is that it will be so satisfactory as to retard the construction of the bridge. This, however, is a detail. Victoria is going to have the railway promised by Sir John Mac-

donald away back in 1873, and she is going to become the ocean terminus of the transcontinental system of railways. Before four years have passed matters will have so far progressed that even the most extreme of the "doubting Thomases" of today will be running around and telling people: "I told you so."

Wednesday, January 31, 1912

THE NAVAL RESOLUTION

The naval question, brought before the Legislature by Mr. Brewster, has been disposed of in a very satisfactory manner, the member from Alberni appearing to accept the Premier's amendment. There is really no difference of opinion among the people on this subject, that is, excluding what we believe is a small minority, which has not learned as yet to appreciate the necessity of naval defense. We took no exception to the views presented by Mr. Brewster, and we do not think the most ardent Liberal will find any fault with those expressed by Mr. McBride. Individually, we may hold strongly certain ideas as to the form which Canadian naval policy ought to assume, but pending the contemplated consultation between the Minister of Marine and the First Lord of the Admiralty, it would seem to be premature for the Legislature to place itself on record in respect to any details. The new resolution will have no uncertain meaning and as it will voice the sentiments of practically the whole Legislature, it will leave no doubt upon any one's mind as to where British Columbia stands on this vital question, or as to the opinions of the people of this province as to the importance of the adequate defense of the Pacific coast.

On Naval Defense the Colonist has taken its own course quite irrespective of the attitude of its political friends or those to whom it was politically opposed. It has felt that upon this new issue, upon the proposal that Canada should take a share of the burden of imperial defense, there ought to be a full and frank expression of opinion. Irrespective as far as possible of party affiliations. Therefore of the policy of Sir Wilfred Laurier as far as it went, we expressed approval, but we also expressed the opinion that it did not go far enough. We did not hesitate to say that something was accomplished in the right direction when Parliament had stated in the most solemn terms known to our institutions that Canadians must assume a new responsibility, neither did we hesitate to say that the measure of the responsibility as set forth in the naval programme of Sir Wilfred Laurier was not equal to the necessities of the case or to the dignity and the importance of the Dominion. We have throughout taken the position that in the policy as presented by the Liberal Prime Minister there was no adequate recognition of the importance of the defense of the Pacific coast or of the necessity of Canadian co-operation in the maintenance of British naval prestige in the waters of the Pacific.

Holding these views, which we think the Colonist was, if we are not mistaken, the first to express, we have only unqualified approval of the remarks made by Mr. McBride yesterday, and we are very glad indeed that a way has been discovered whereby Conservatives and Liberals can stand on common ground in respect to what we look upon as an issue of the first importance.

PRICE OF TO

B. C. Government Commission Federal Act

MR. H. C. B.

Liberal League Policy is the Liberal Years Ago

An announcement in the legislature to the effect that the action to be taken at the next session of the legislature of coal to the summer. The price of coal to the minister Ottawa, on Feb. 18th, 1911, was ment considered the Dominion that it was the government that to have an inquiry.

"An acknowledgment from the department 18th, 1911, was would be brought council at an early date."

"A further acknowledgment from the province 20th, 1911, to and commerce. tion had been received, data that the matter attention of the commerce at the time."

"Owing to the intervening, and since of the sub-erment intended matter again Dominion government inquiry. In the negative, provincial government inquiry to be made."

The concluding, recording, eminent to investigation in the ing taken by was received w satisfaction by Dr.

Hon. Mr. Ell has now given ply, preliminary estimates is expected the before the leg of next week, mediately follow Yesterday a cupied almost ater in his c bill, his address than an hour measuring up previous effort in the matter presentation, I Hayward will to the motion the principle o