

**JUL**

**1948**

## Millions In Flood Relief To Be Voted

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA—Special flood session of the legislature will open today, when members of the house vote millions of dollars to rehabilitate people washed out in the Fraser Valley in the last six weeks.

Coalition members met twice in caucus Tuesday, to discuss sessional plans and hear a detailed report from Premier Byron Johnson.

**MEMBERS WELCOMED** Dr. G. M. Weir, former minister of education, and M.L.A. for Vancouver-Burrard, who has been on the sick list for nearly a year. Dr. Weir was unable to attend the last session.

Only C.C.F. absentee is Arthur J. Turner, M.L.A. for Vancouver-East, who is in Europe.

Caucus decided it politically unwise to take a large indemnity and members will get only out-of-pocket expenses.

Chief Justice Sloan, in the absence of Lieut.-Governor Charles Banks, will open the session. He will be attended by naval, army and air force aides—Lieut. G. C. Dixon, Col. Brooke Stephenson and Wing Commander Con Campbell.

Every effort will be made to end the session Friday night.

### 2 Bills On Agenda

VICTORIA — (CP)—British Columbia's flood victims received new hope as parliamentary decks were cleared for the opening today of the special flood session of the provincial legislature.

Premier Byron Johnson will introduce the two main pieces of legislation:

- An overall bill covering a money vote for the flood fight and rehabilitation, the agreement with Ottawa on division of costs and the basis of flood fund distribution.

- A limited moratorium on mortgage and land sale agreements in the Fraser Valley area.

**THE MONEY VOTE** would provide further borrowing pow-

er for the government to help defray government costs for flood rehabilitation.

The moratorium on debts of farmers flooded off their properties, if enacted as legislation, would provide for delay in payment of real estate. It was not known if the moratorium would apply also to payments for household furnishings and equipment.

Government policy will be determined on the basis of a report to be presented by Hon. E. T. Kenney, minister of lands and forests, who recently completed a 12-day tour of the province's flood areas.

**PRELIMINARY** reports indicated that 1,973 homes in the Fraser Valley alone had suffered flood damage. Total loss has been estimated at \$30,000,000.

Opposition leader Harold Winch said Tuesday he had agreed to dispense with the normal debate on the throne speech. The session would be confined strictly to the flood issue.

## DAY IN THE HOUSE

## Legislature Flood Session Under Way

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—Special flood session of the legislature got under way Wednesday afternoon and should finish tomorrow night. It was necessary to call the house together so rank-and-file representatives of the people could give the government authority to spend money to rehabilitate those persons who got washed out a few weeks ago when B.C. rivers raged out of control.

Chief Justice Sloan, acting as administrator of affairs of state in the absence of Lieut.-Governor Charles Banks, opened the session.

For the Chief Justice it was a return to the chamber where, between 1933 and 1937 he sat as the youthful attorney-general.

**IN HIS ROBES** of high legal office the still youthful looking Chief Justice, dignified and slight, had often sat on the floor of the House on opening day, but this was the first time he had been the chief figure. He was attended by Naval, Army and Air Force aides—Lieut. Gar Dixon, Col. Brooke Stephenson and Wing Commander Don Campbell and the private secretary at Government House, Capt. J. G. Cromack.

The Chief Justice read the brief speech from the throne, setting out the government's reasons for calling the M.L.A.'s together.

**WHEN HIS HONOR** left the chamber there were a few formalities and then Premier Byron Johnson made a carefully prepared statement, which took an hour and a half to deliver.

He covered in detail all the government has so far done to help flood victims and made it plain further plans will be formulated to make sure rehabilitation comes about as swiftly as possible. He had praise for all who had helped in the crisis and graphically he portrayed the courage and the bravery of the flood victims. And he knows about this first-hand, for he was there, from the very start.

**BUT HE MADE** it quite plain, too that there are going to be no wholesale handouts no pork barrel; that the government expects the victims to help themselves.

Mr. Johnson spoke for the rec-

ord and the story as he told it will go down into British Columbia's historical annals.

There were a few absentees in the ranks of M.L.A.'s. Mr. Webster of Rossland-Trail is still on the sick list; Mr. Turner of Vancouver East is away in Europe. W. A. C. Bennett, who used to represent South Okanagan is no longer a member. He gambled on the federal riding of Yale, and lost, so now he has no seat anywhere.

It was good to see Dr. G. M. Weir, former minister of education, back in his place after a long illness. Many members sent him notes of welcome and he promptly replied to them all.

At the end of the sitting the government brought in the bills designed to fix the dykes, repair the flooded homes and get new crops going. Opposition leader Harold Winch said he would have something to say about the whole matter this morning.

There will be three sittings a day today and tomorrow in order that the session shall not go over the week-end.

## \$5 Million Flood Aid Plan Ready

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA—Premier Byron Johnson introduced in the legislature Wednesday bills designed to aid relief and rehabilitation of B.C. flood victims.

One bill — an act respecting floods in British Columbia — will permit the government to borrow up to \$5,000,000 and also to spend money as it sees fit from time to time, from the consolidated revenue fund.

**ANOTHER BILL** is called an act respecting the Fraser Valley Dyking Board.

It will allow setting up of a Fraser Valley dyking board, to carry on work of repairing, strengthening, constructing and reconstructing dykes in the Fraser Valley and removing water and debris from the flooded lands in that valley.

A bill brought in by the premier makes sure members will receive no indemnity this session, but only expenses to and from the capital and living expenses while here.

Members, at caucus, decided al indemnity, although some of them would not take a session-allowance in addition to expenses.

## Rehabilitation Not Enough

The British Columbia legislature, in special session, is voting millions of dollars for rehabilitation in the stricken areas of the Fraser Valley. Such steps to meet immediate human needs is the first essential.

However, as the Financial Post has pointed out, our task in the presence of recent calamity is not merely to repair the damage done. That would be merely setting the stage for another onslaught. Dykes must be strengthened, rivers straightened, and dams built to slow the rush of water. Above all, forest conservation and reforestation must be pushed forward wherever land can be spared from agriculture and other natural growth encouraged in the wild lands of the country which man has laid waste. It is going to be a long and expensive business.

Controlling and using the power of our river waters is an essential part of a plan of soil conservation. Fortunately, this generation has much conservation work to its credit. Fish resources which were in sight of being extinguished a generation ago, have been restored by prudential restraint and patience. Flood control and soil conservation must be undertaken with similar intelligence and determination.

Now is the time to push ahead in this while we are chastened by our losses. The bounties of our natural inheritance, let us remember, are the continuing gifts of God to successive generations of men. Even if we are short-sighted as to our own good, we are still the trustees of a rich heritage, which it is our duty to hand on to posterity unimpaired by our tenancy.

## SPEECH FROM THRONE

VICTORIA—(CP)—Following is the text of the throne speech:

Members of the legislative assembly:

In opening the fourth session of the twenty-first parliament of British Columbia for the special purpose of dealing with flood matters, I do so with a full realization of the urgency that exists for making adequate provision to meet the varied and distressing problems inflicted on the people by the disastrous floods which have caused such widespread damage throughout the province, particularly in the Fraser River Valley.

NEVER BEFORE in the history of Canada has so much misery and distress or loss of property been caused by flood.

It is significant, in appreciating its proportions, to observe that the Dominion government has interpreted as a national disaster the calamity which befell the Fraser River Valley.

I wish to express my deepest sympathy for those unhappy men and women who, with their children, suffered the loss of house and home for so long. All of us share their anxiety as they view the devastation and seek to re-establish themselves with the assistance tendered to them by the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

IT IS WITH gratification that I observe the agreements reached between my government and that of the Dominion of Canada for the sharing of financial responsibilities in combatting the flood, providing for immediate relief, repairing dykes, disposing of water and debris, completely reconstructing the dyking system, assisting in the rehabilitation of homes, farm buildings, and fences, and helping in the restoration of farm lands to their former usefulness.

You will be asked to provide funds and to empower the government to adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary from time to time to expedite this work.

I WISH to thank all public-spirited citizens who contributed to the British Columbia Flood Relief Fund. Their contribution will assist materially in meeting the needs of the people who have lost personal effects and household furnishings.

The prompt action of my government in grappling with the varied problems arising from the flood is to be commended, and I feel sure that you will give thoughtful and sincere consideration to such measures as will be submitted to you.

I pray the blessing of Divine Providence will attend your deliberations.

## Up-Country To Get Equal Flood Relief

VICTORIA —(CP)—Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney has recommended that \$1,500,000 be provided for relief from the ravages of the flood in areas outside the Fraser Valley.

In an address to the Legislature, Premier Byron Johnson said Wednesday that the same measures of relief will be accorded flood areas of the interior as provided for the Fraser Valley.

Mr. Kenney said that a tentative estimate of costs for the area outside the Fraser Valley placed it at \$1,013,208, made up as follows:

COMBATting the flood and protecting the dykes, \$213,536; estimated cost of restoring the dykes, \$162,000; cost of immediate relief and restoration of municipal and private property, \$467,066, and costs of replanting crops and seed, \$152,606.

While in the Fraser Valley the cost of the flood is being shared by the federal and the provincial governments the full cost of the interior floods will be paid by the provincial government.

Mr. Kenney recommended that, wherever necessary, seed and nursery stock be given gratis to interior farmers in order to rehabilitate the farms as early as possible similar to assistance being given in the Fraser Valley.

PREMIER JOHNSON said that under arrangement between the federal and provincial governments the Dominion government is making an outright grant of \$5,000,000 to the province to cover the Dominion's share of temporary emergency relief as well as the financial liability for measures of rehabilitation which the federal government agreed to accept.

The provincial government has assumed full responsibility for immediate relief and assisting in the general rehabilitation of homes, farm buildings and damage sustained by provincial and municipal property.

The federal government will pay 75 per cent and the provincial 25 per cent of the cost of repairing dykes, removing water from inundated areas, removing debris and reconstructing the entire dyking system.

Cost of protecting the dykes and combatting the flood will be shared on the same basis.

VICTORIA—(CP)—A bill introduced in the Legislature Wednesday provides only for actual travelling expenses from place of residence and living expenses while in Victoria for all members attending the flood session opened Wednesday.

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## 21,000 Cattle Fed By Flood Authority

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA. — Premier Byron Johnson, moving second reading of the Flood Relief Act in the legislature Thursday, gave the following details of what the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Authority is doing and will do:

Approximately 21,000 head of cattle from flooded areas are being supplied with hay, and in the case of milking cows with grain and mill feed.

Purchase of an additional 2500 to 3000 tons of hay has been arranged for and it is expected Boundary Bay airport will yield another 1500 tons.

To date, area of flooded lands reseeded totals 6000 acres. Seed has been requested for an additional 950 acres.

The Premier said, "Cattle from flooded areas will be provided with such food as is necessary free of charge to the owner until the present state of emergency has ended. This state will end 21 days after the owner returns cattle to his farm."

When the emergency is over, the Premier said, hay will be available to each farmer on the following basis:

**FRASER VALLEY** hay, upland and mixed hay from prairie points, mixed hay from U.S. points, \$15 a ton; alfalfa hay, \$20 a ton. Where farmers can purchase local hay of good quality, the authority will pay \$10 a ton.

In order to ensure pasture in the fall, every effort must be made to have maximum acreage planted, the Premier said, and to this end the authority will supply seed.

Where a farmer has no equipment and requires tractors and machinery the authority will pay up to \$3.25 an acre for ploughing and up to \$1.75 per acre for double discing.

**THE PREMIER** said, "The government will carry out its responsibilities to the full but we expect those who are helped to do everything they can to help themselves."

The premier announced local rehabilitation committees have been formed as follows: Chilliwack, Reeve L. Beharrell; Langley, Councillor J. Roberts; Burnaby, Reeve Morrison; Mission, Rex Cox; Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, J. M. Hesselton; Port Coquitlam, Mayor Davies; Coquitlam, Reeve J. Christmas; Agassiz-Harrison Mills, Reeve G. McCullough; Popcum-Lytton, Arthur Menzies.

## MLA's Praise Premier's Flood Crisis Action

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA — Praise for the way Premier Byron Johnson and his government have handled the Fraser Valley flood crisis was heard in the Legislature Thursday.

A. C. Hope, Coalition, Delta, said he would congratulate Mr. Johnson, "for no premier in the history of our province has done more for the people in a great disaster."

Mrs. Tilly Rolston, Coalition, Point Grey, said "a good job has been done."

J. H. CATES, Coalition, North Vancouver, said, "I do not think any man could have done more."

J. A. McDonnell, Coalition, Vancouver Burrard, criticized the inspector of dykes because, he said, part of Queensborough dyke had not been inspected for three or four years.

"I'm not paying any compliments to anyone connected with

any of the dykes," Mr. McDonnell said.

**AGRICULTURE MINISTER** Frank Putman told the government's desperate efforts to get hay to feed Fraser Valley cattle.

He said he knew there was a lot of criticism from flooded-out persons at the height of the flood, and he didn't blame them.

"Their nerves were raw," he said. "There was a feeling of frustration and anxiety. They didn't know where they were going. They couldn't think straight. Two weeks later they were different people altogether."

**THE MINISTER** deplored the high cost of hay, and said the government is buying it at the lowest possible figure, though it may have to come from as far away as Manitoba.

"The taxpayer's money isn't going to be thrown around as long as I have anything to do with it," Mr. Putman said.

## Opposition Backs Govt. 'Blank Cheque'

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA. — J. A. McDonnell, coalition, Vancouver Burrard, in the legislature Thursday night vigorously opposed what he called the legislature giving the government a blank cheque to deal with rehabilitation of B.C. flood victims.

The new Flood Relief Act gives permission to borrow up to \$5,000,000, and in addition will allow the government to take from consolidated revenue what money is needed.

Finance Minister Anscomb said to Mr. McDonnell: "I think you're right but I think you're unduly alarmed. The act will give me power to borrow \$5,000,000, but I haven't borrowed it yet, and in the meantime I must spend money on flood relief."

Premier Johnson said he would agree with Mr. McDonnell that the act is in the nature of a blank cheque but it may be necessary if the government is to finish the job it started. He said a full accounting would be given the house of all expenditures.

A. R. MacDOUGALL, Coalition, Point Grey, said it is wrong in principle to give the government permission to spend any amount of money it wants.

John McInnis, C.C.F., Fort George, agreed with the government that money from consolidated revenue might be necessary.

As MacDougall and McDonnell continued to oppose what they called the blank cheque feature of the act, Herbert Gar-

grave, C.C.F. MacKenzie, said:

"This government only has a few more years in office anyway. Let them spend what money they have."

## Moratorium To Protect B.C. Farmers

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA—If farmers in officially designated flood areas of B.C. find they cannot meet mortgages because of flood damage and losses, they cannot be thrown out of their homes, under terms of "An Act Respecting a Moratorium in Areas Damaged by Flood During the Spring of 1948," introduced in the Legislature Thursday by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

**UNDER THE ACT**, no persons shall start or continue proceedings in any court by way of foreclosure or otherwise, where such action is based on a mortgage or agreement for sale or purchase affecting land in any flood area.

Costs of an application for leave shall be in the discretion of the judge. There shall be no appeal from the decision of the judge. Where permission has been refused, the applicant may at any subsequent time renew his application.

The act will remain in force until close of the first Legislative session in 1949.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1948

## Not Bad, Mr. Premier!

By J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA.

Premier Byron Johnson stood out as the man of the hour at the special first session of the legislature, prorogued Friday by Chief Justice Gordon Sloan.

He was in fighting mood. He would stand no nonsense from the opposition, which at first attempted to belittle everything the government had done. Indeed, the opposition started off by saying the government had bungled everything—as a matter of fact, had done nothing, was probably making just a lot of high-sounding talk.

Mr. Johnson looked genuinely surprised at this kind of talk from the opposition. His first reaction, no doubt, was to feel hurt. Then he probably quickly told himself there's no use getting a hurt feeling, if you're in politics. So he got mad instead. Being fairly young in politics, the premier has to steel himself to treat the opposition rough.

**THIS TIME HE WAS PREPARED** for the opposition; he had all the answers ready. So he plunged right in and snapped at the opposition. He said fair and honest criticism is a good thing, but he didn't like the tearing-down being indulged in by the opposition. The leader of the opposition, he said, and he pointed his finger as he said it, had gone about the country creating strife and discord and unrest.

The premier actually got under the op-

position's skin. The premier, the leader of the opposition said, is getting very, very slick in evading opposition questions, in straying from the path of straight answers. In this manner, of course, one politician compliments another; amateur politicians envy the smart ones who can evade questions and make plausible explanations and satisfy the questioner at the same time.

**MR. JOHNSON RECEIVED A LOT** of Coalition praise during the short session. He deserved it. He worked hard and long. He was out on the dykes in gumboots, he flew to Ottawa and back in less than a week; he made a good deal with the Dominion government, usually so hard-boiled where this province is concerned. He talked so persuasively, pleaded the case of the flood victims so well and earnestly that he got Ottawa to pay three-quarters of the cost of the dykes. Not bad, Mr. Premier.

The premier hasn't had an easy time since he became chief of government at the end of last year. He had to promptly fight two by-elections, something even long-experienced premiers don't like doing; then he found himself up to his neck in a long and trying session of the legislature. No sooner was that over than the floods started and he had to throw everything else aside and pay attention to them.

**JUL**

**1948**

# Session Asked to Vote \$5 Million in Flood Aid

## \$1,500,000 More Needed On Roads, Bridges

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The legislature at its special session which opened today will be asked to vote \$5,000,000 for flood relief and rehabilitation and reconstruction of dykes in British Columbia.

Of this amount \$1,500,000 will be allotted to districts outside the Fraser Valley.

The \$5,000,000, however, does not include an estimated \$1,500,000 required for reconstruction.

In a lengthy report on flood damage in the province, Lands Minister E. T. Kenney found that outside the Fraser Valley the cost of combatting the floods totalled \$231,536; it will require \$162,000 to restore the dykes; restoration of municipal and private property will cost \$467,066; and the replanting of crops and supplying seed will amount to \$152,606.

The figures, totalling \$1,013,208, are preliminary estimates and he recommended the provision of \$1,500,000 for the work.

### RESULT OF TOUR

The report, result of a tour of flood ravaged regions, also recommends that:

All other districts be treated on the basis laid down in Dominion-provincial arrangements for the Fraser Valley.

All work in these districts where the province is paying the entire bill be closely supervised.

In future all plans for subdivisions in unorganized territory be submitted to the lands department and health department for approval to prevent construction of building on land close to streams where there is danger of erosion.

Log jams in the channels of streams be cleared at government expense to prevent the formation of gravel bars which are potential flood threats.

The minister reported that in some instances the work of burrowing animals, particularly muskrats, had weakened dykes and contributed to breaks.

### TWO PARTIES

He recommended that authority be given to destroy such animals, when they are found to be undermining such works.

Concerning work on the Fraser Valley, Mr. Kenney disclosed that one survey party originally scheduled to spend the season in the Prince George district has been re-allotted to the Pitt River area.

Another party will soon be sent into the field in the Fraser Valley to provide technical information for dyke reconstruction.

Mr. Kenney's total of \$1,013,208 for the Interior is made up of \$231,536 in cost of combatting floods; \$162,000 for restoration of structures such as dykes, removing water and debris; \$467,066 for immediate relief and rehabilitation of property, both municipal and private; and \$152,606 for replanting crops.

### EACH DISTRICT

Totals for each district listed follow: Skeena River Valley \$6525; Kimberley \$164,950; Trail \$362,890; North Kamloops \$6355; North Thompson River \$42,200; Creston area \$185,000; Kelowna (outside city) \$7809; Merritt and Ashcroft \$33,953; Cawston, Christian Valley, Grand Forks, Hedley, Keremeos, Oliver, Osoyoos, Princeton and Westbridge, \$177,209; South Okanagan land project \$6817; Arrow Lake \$2500.

In addition he reports Hedley requires \$22,000 for river protection and that river bank work is necessary at Natal.

Areas that he was not able to cover personally but for which he has arranged to receive reports, bring his recommended total for flood relief to \$1,500,000.

Members also learned officially that there will be no compensation for crop losses.

Premier Johnson told the House the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Commission has been empowered to set up voluntary citizens committees throughout the valley to carry out the task of rehabilitating residents who have been washed out.

### PROVIDE FEED

The commission members, Col. D'Arcy Baldwin and W. L. Macken, have also been authorized to provide feed for livestock free of charge where needed, until the emergency is officially ended.

After that date, farmers will pay at a price to be determined by the government on the recommendation of the commission.

Terms of reference for the commission, which were quoted by Mr. Johnson, include the restoration that "the provision of livestock feed, seeds, stock plants and the restoring of farms to

their former usefulness shall not include any claims for compensation of lost crops, lost cattle or any other similar losses that may have been incurred."

### DETAILED REVIEW

The premier's address was, in general, a detailed review of the steps taken by the government during the flood crisis.

He outlined negotiations with the Dominion resulting in contributions totalling \$9,500,000 from the Federal government.

He detailed the establishment of the original local committees throughout the Fraser Valley when the river first swept over the banks.

And he reviewed the steps taken by the provincial cabinet to combat the rising waters.

Indirectly he answered the criticism of British Columbia members in the House of Commons who had charged that the province should not have accepted the Dominion's \$5,000,000 rehabilitation grant because it was too small.

"I can say" the premier declared "that the co-operation and assistance received from federal authorities was everything that could be desired and final financial arrangements satisfactory."

During the height of the flood battle, Mr. Johnson disclosed, C. J. Ferber, deputy provincial comptroller general was sent to Vancouver to work in conjunction with federal officials in passing on all accounts for equipment and material required for dyke building and relief measures.

"I find it necessary to point out action was taken by the government from time to time that might have been irregular without the sanction of parliament."

"It is needless for me to say, however, that the emergency called for swift action and the adoption of measures for which the government would have to seek ratification."

"Such action was taken to meet the rapidly changing conditions and I trust the honorable members will keep these circumstances in mind when making an appraisal of what has been done."

# 200 Miles of Road Dykes In Valley Repair Scheme

## International Experts Due To Report on Proposal

(See Debate report on Page 9)

By Canadian Press

VICTORIA—Premier Byron Johnson told the B.C. legislature today that the Fraser Valley Dyking Board will undertake the reconstruction of between 170 and 200 miles of dykes in the Fraser Valley.

He said the plan for rebuilding the dykes was to "provide a base sufficiently wide enough to support a gravel road 12 feet wide, with turnouts so that trucks may be used along the top of the dykes for transport of necessary materials in case of flood emergency as well as for general maintenance."

"When discussing complete reconstruction of Fraser Valley dykes with the Federal government, I had in mind the provision of a dyking system that would give the people of the Fraser Valley the highest sense of security that could possibly be obtained insofar as it was humanly possible so to do," he said.

Premier Johnson's remarks came as the Fraser Valley Dyking Board Act, one of five pieces of legislation to be considered at the special session of the legislature which began Wednesday, came up for second reading. It was passed after noon.

### EXPERT ADVICE

In rebuilding the dykes, the Fraser Valley Dyking Board, a joint Dominion-Provincial body composed currently of F. G. Goodspeed, chief engineer of the Dominion Public Works Department, and Bruce Dixon, provincial dyke inspector, will have the advice of experts from both Canada and the U.S. A third member who will act as chairman and will be an able administrator, will be appointed to the board by the Federal government.

Advising the board in rebuilding the dykes will be Dr. Leggett, soil mechanic expert of the National Research Bureau.

Mr. Peckover, of the same bureau, who has been in Holland and England for some time studying dyking matters will advise the board on his return from Europe toward the end of July.

Charles Senour, chief engineering assistant of the Mississippi River commission at Vicksburg, with whom Mr. Goodspeed has already conferred, will provide full information regarding construction of Mississippi dykes, including specifications of construction of Mississippi dykes, including specifications of construction, specifications of material and sample plans.

H. Darling and E. W. Webber, of the office of the chief engineer of the U.S. Army, will visit the Fraser Valley area to study post flood conditions so that they could have the benefit of their advice.

Mr. Johnson said that work was being pressed forward by Mr. Goodspeed and Mr. Dixon.

### WHEN NEEDED

Municipalities and dyking authorities in the Fraser Valley will not be charged with any of the reconstruction costs of the valley's dyking system, but will be responsible for maintenance and repairs once the levees are completed.

"No cost of reconstruction repairs, etc., will be charged to dyking or municipal authorities," he said.

"However, when dykes are completed, it will be the responsibility of local authorities to maintain and keep dykes up."

In addition, the premier reported, municipalities and dyking authorities will be required to provide property required for reconstruction of the dykes.

Bill Number 4 authorizing establishment of the Fraser Valley Dyking Authority, empowers the minister of lands and forests, the municipalities or the dyking authorities to expropriate land where it is needed. However, authorities here report that very little additional land will be required.

Work under way on Fraser Valley dykes was outlined by Premier Johnson.

It includes: "Survey parties are at Pitt Meadows, Nicomen Island and a party will start at Agassiz at the week-end."

"Samples of materials are being taken by boring parties and analyzed at the University of British Columbia as to suitability for dyke construction."

"Work is under way at Agassiz clearing up drift material and levelling silt and sand deposits."

"Suction dredge is at work improving dyke conditions at Pitt Meadows."

"Water is being pumped from areas at Matsqui and dyke has been opened there to permit more rapid drainage of flooded areas."

"Dragline is on its way to Matsqui to open up channels."

"Pumping equipment is going forward to Sumas."

### CLEAR GROWTH

"Parties are at work clearing growth from dykes at Sumas, Matsqui, Pitt Meadows, Lulu Island and South Westminster."

"All flooded areas have been visited and additional work will proceed as conditions permit."

Premier Johnson said dyking work elsewhere will be treated independently of the Fraser Valley Dyking Board, since any work outside the valley will be the responsibility of the province and not shared by the Dominion.

The Provincial government will be "well represented" when the international joint commission meets at Bonners Ferry, Idaho, on July 27, to discuss flood control for the Columbia River basin, which includes the great Kootenay country encircled by the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers.

Work of a Dominion-Provincial board to study "the entire Fraser River watershed" will go ahead shortly. Terms of reference for this board are being prepared.

## Hint Wider Valley Debt Moratorium

VICTORIA—Debt moratorium in the Fraser Valley flood areas will extend to more than land debt.

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer made this declaration in the legislature today—but he did not say how far it would go.

He made the declaration when Harold Winch, opposition leader, said: "I would like to ask if the debt moratorium will be limited to lands."

"Oh, no," Mr. Wismer said. "You changed your mind, eh?"

Mr. Winch asked: "No, we didn't change our minds," Mr. Wismer answered. "The bill isn't in (before the House) yet. But when it comes, I am sure then my honorable friend will be satisfied with it."

Mr. Winch sought to learn from Premier Johnson if the government would give tax relief to flood victims who now can not pay their municipal taxes.

The premier gave no direct answer. He said: "The provincial government will treat the municipal governments in the same fair way that the federal government treated this government when the floods struck. We will deal with the municipal authorities on a basis which will be satisfactory."

## Prem Winc

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THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1948—

## Premier Ably Repulses Winch Barrage on Flood

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau  
**VICTORIA** — The Provincial legislature listened this morning with new interest as Premier Byron I. Johnson, rising far above his performance of the year's earlier session, ably defended the policies of his government in the flood crisis.

Nominally the sitting belonged to the Opposition. It was the great opportunity for the honorable members across the floor of the House to berate the government for its failures, its inefficiency, its mistakes.

The attack, launched by CCF leader Harold Winch, failed dismally.

### MORE CONFIDENCE

There was more confidence, more assuredness in the premier's manner as he told the House he believed that the members, and he included the opposition, should be "co-operating with the local flood committees instead of looking for trouble."

Criticism, he declared, is quite justified when the government was wrong but he hinted the CCF was attempting to use the flood for political purposes.

"Let's help the committees do a job. Let's not find fault with everything they do."

Mr. Winch suggested that the government should have some control over the spending of the two million voluntary flood relief fund.

That, said the premier, is private money that should be handled privately.

### SMALL MERCHANTS

The opposition leader wanted to know what the government was going to do for the berry growers and the small merchants.

"No one realizes the plight of the berry grower better than I do," declared Mr. Johnson, "but there are limits to what the government can do."

"They are going to receive the same treatment as the other farmers. We will supply him with new crops but they may not be raspberries because there is a surplus of raspberries at the present time."

The government, continued the premier, is not in a position to help industry. On the other hand there may be specific cases that warrant aid.

### FULLY COVERED

He was surprised to hear from the opposition leader that the people of the Fraser Valley didn't know what the government planned to do for them. The reports of government policy had been fully covered by the press.

Mr. Winch replied that at a meeting in Matsqui last Friday between 350 and 400 farmers had claimed they could not find out what the government was doing about removing the water from their land.

The opposition leader's information, replied Mr. Johnson, was not complete. The residents had asked that the dykes be opened to allow the water to flow out but the dyking commissioners had argued that it would weaken the dyke when it is reconstructed.

On orders from himself, the premier continued, the dyke had been opened.

The sins of omission of past governments in dealing with the Fraser Valley flood problem were heaped upon the present administration by the leader of the Opposition.

He read lengthy sections of a government report compiled following the disastrous flood of 1894, declaring that Premier Johnson's statement to the House on Wednesday was little more than a copy of the finding of 52 years ago.

### PRESS WARNING

As far back as February, he declared, press reports and the government's own engineers had warned of the threat of high water but the administration had done nothing until the river poured over the dykes.

Mr. Winch charged that as recently as 1946, Dean F. M. Clement of UBC had recommended "heavy replacements and improvements on the dykes." He quoted Dean Clement as saying at that time that the Pitt Meadows dyke "is in a serious condition."

### IGNORED REPORTS

The government, Mr. Winch said, ignored water board reports which early in the year warned of flood possibilities. He read press clippings dated as far back as February which warned of floods.

"You could not have stopped the flood," Mr. Winch said, "but I think you could have prevented some of the vast amount of damage."

As Mr. Winch recounted visiting the dyke areas during the flood, municipal affairs minister told him:

"You were electioneering up there while the flood was on."

"I was not," Mr. Winch answered. "I was visiting the flood areas to learn all that I could. People of the province expect the leader of the opposition to know what he is talking about."

Among Mr. Winch's recommendations were: Appointment of authority to deal with flood areas outside of the Fraser Valley; creation of a permanent dyking authority for the Fraser Valley; compensation for others, besides farmers — "after all, garagemen and merchants lost their all, too;" payments for crop losses "where same is deemed necessary;" limiting boat speed on Fraser River to cut down wave wash on dykes; "a statement by the government to the effect it will seek the help of the Federal government in the establishment of a TVA plan for British Columbia in order to develop power and assist in flood control."

## Flood Rehabilitation Bills Go Before Legislature

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

**VICTORIA** — Authorization for the Provincial government to borrow \$5,000,000 for defraying the cost of dyke construction, relief and rehabilitation in the flood-affected districts of British Columbia was placed before the legislature Wednesday afternoon.

In a bill "respecting floods in British Columbia," the lieutenant-governor-in-council would also be empowered to draw funds from consolidated revenue in repairing flood damage.

The bill authorizes the government to:

"Carry out such measures as may from time to time be considered practicable, necessary and advisable for the rendering of aid in the mitigation of damage caused by the flood" either alone or in conjunction with the Dominion, the municipalities, or other public bodies.

Enter into an agreement with the Dominion to pay for cost of repairing, strengthening, constructing and reconstructing the dykes in the Fraser Valley on the basis of the Dominion paying 75 per cent of the total cost.

Enter into agreements with any public authority in the province as to the institution and carrying out of any measures for relief and rehabilitation required because of the floods.

Contribute or lend to any public authority such proportion of the cost of any flood relief measure undertaken by such public authority with the approval of the lieutenant-governor-in-council.

### WIDE PROVISION

The bill, with wide provisions for providing relief and rehabilitation measures and with power to draw on consolidated revenue in addition to the \$5,000,000 loan, will give the government great latitude in dealing with flood measures.

It authorizes the setting of the Fraser Valley rehabilitation authority with W. L. Mackin and Col. D'Arcy Baldwin, as its members.

It provides for the setting up of similar boards in other flood-stricken areas, with remuneration to be fixed by the lieutenant-governor-in-council.

Powers of the boards will be fixed from time to time by the lieutenant-governor-in-council.

### SECOND BILL

A second bill introduced Wednesday afternoon authorizes the Provincial government to enter into an agreement with the Dominion for the setting up of the Fraser Valley dyking authority and to pay 25 per cent of the cost of "repairing, strengthening, constructing and re-constructing

the dykes in the Fraser Valley and removing water and debris from the flooded lands in that valley."

Where it is deemed necessary in the reconstruction of the dykes, the minister of lands and forests is empowered to expropriate lands or to order a municipality or a dyking commission to carry out such expropriations.

In his report on government work in combatting the Fraser River flood, Premier Johnson digressed frequently from his prepared text.

Talk of damming the Fraser, he declared, did not necessarily supply an adequate solution to the problem. Millions have been spent on the Mississippi and Columbia River systems, yet both rivers have flooded in spite of the dams constructed, he said.

"If you had 20 dams on the Fraser and they were all filled at the time of a flood it wouldn't make any difference."

## Special Session Ends, Five Flood Bills Passed

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—In eight hours Thursday members of the provincial legislature approved the policies of the government in dealing with British Columbia's disastrous floods, passed the five bills placed before them and prepared to return to their homes.

When Premier Byron Johnson adjourned the House at 10:30 p.m., all of the business of the special session had been completed and only prorogation by Administrator Gordon McG. Sloan, scheduled today, remains.

By all standards the two-day session is scored as a government victory.

At the three sittings Thursday opposition members found little ground on which to attack the past performance or future plans of the administration in dealing with the flood problem.

They scored the government for failing to take earlier action in the face of warnings as early as February that there was grave danger of flood conditions in the province.

### NO WARNING

But it was difficult to meet the reply from the Coalition benches that if the danger was imminent CCF members should have voiced a warning when the House was in session in April.

They opposed the government plan to hand over the dykes to local authorities when reconstruction is completed and Premier Johnson promised the matter would be considered further at the 1949 session.

There were numerous formulas for future protection of the Fraser Valley.

Allan McDonnell (Coalition, Vancouver Centre), and A. R. MacDougall, (Coalition, Point Grey), recommended a series of dams up the river to control the water during flood periods—a policy, incidentally, earlier advocated by Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

### REMOVE SILT

Capt. John Cates (Coalition, North Vancouver) suggested that removal of silt from the bed of the Fraser as far east as Mission would assist in keeping the river within its banks.

Lands Minister E. T. Kenney, reported he could find no evidence that dykes had been a permanent cure for floods and declared that the only solution lies in preventing people from settling on lands where there is danger of flooding.

The government, said Herbert Gargrave (CCF, Mackenzie), usually an ardent critic of the administration, had handled the flood problem in a commendable manner.

He congratulated the premier for obtaining the deal that he did with the Dominion government, declaring, "when you can gouge \$5,000,000 out of those gentlemen in Ottawa it is an achievement."

### SOME DETAILS

Two Coalition members provided most of the opposition to the legislation at the evening sitting.

Mr. McDonnell and Mr. MacDougall were not opposed to the principles of the flood relief bill but there were technical details in the measure of which they did not approve.

Their arguments, in the end, were talked down.

The government, declared Mr. McDonnell, was asking the legislature to vote a blank cheque and he did not feel that this was good legislation. Mr. MacDougall joined him in criticism of the bill.

The premier admitted that the legislation provided for a blank cheque but declared that because of the inability of the government to estimate flood costs at the present time such a policy was necessary.

"I can tell you that this government is going to do everything that we feel should be done."

Mrs. T. J. Rolston, (Coalition,

Vancouver-Point Grey), and Mrs. Nancy Hodges, (Coalition, Victoria), joined forces in a futile effort to place a woman on the Fraser Valley rehabilitation commission.

## Three Bills To Cover Flood Loss

VICTORIA, B.C. — The provincial legislature in its two-day special session passed three statutes dealing with the flood problem and set up a program that will cost the Dominion and B.C. governments a total of \$14,500,000.

The bills approved by the House authorize:

Formation of the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Commission and similar boards in other districts of the provinces that have suffered from flood damage.

Formation of the Fraser Valley Dyking Board with powers to reconstruct the dykes in the Fraser Valley.

Moratorium on all debts of persons who are unable to meet the obligations because of flood losses. The moratorium will last until the end of the 1949 session of the legislature.

The province will contribute \$5 million to the estimated \$14,500,000 needed for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the dykes with Ottawa contributing the balance.

Of this amount \$6 million will be spent on the dykes, \$1,500,000 in districts outside the Fraser Valley and the remaining \$7 million for relief costs, the rehabilitation of farms and homes, and the purchase of feed and seed for the Fraser Valley.

## Premier Outlines Flood Assistance

VICTORIA—Detailed plan of government assistance for farmers affected by the flood was outlined in the legislature Thursday by Premier Byron I. Johnson.

Cattle from flooded areas will be provided with free feed until 21 days after the stock is returned to his farm.

After that date hay will be available to farmers on the following basis: Fraser Valley hay, upland and mixed hay from prairie points, mixed hay from the U.S. \$15 a ton Alfalfa hay, \$20 a ton.

Grain and mill feed will be available from distributors at 25 per cent below list prices.

### \$10 SUBSIDY

A subsidy of \$10 a ton will be paid where a farmer is in a position to buy local hay of good quality.

Feed will be supplied free of charge until Sept. 30 for poultry stock that has been evacuated. After that date farmers will be able to get it from distributors at a 25 per cent discount.

Hog raisers will get a maintenance ration for brood sows only. Feed may be supplied to flocks of sheep. Owners should be encouraged to sell at the present good prices.

### FEED SUPPLIED

Feed may be supplied for work horses. There will be no allowances made for pleasure horses.

Where evacuated cattle were pastured on private fields or where hay fields were cut for green feed the owner of the field will receive a cash payment of not more than \$20 an acre.

Seed will be supplied on the following basis: oats, 120 pounds per acre; wheat, 100 pounds per acre; barley, 100 pounds per acre; corn 20 pounds per acre; grass 15 pounds per acre.

### ALLOWANCES

Fertilizer will be supplied up to 100 pounds per acre.

A farmer who has no equipment and requires cultivation for re-seeding will be allowed \$3.25 an acre for plowing and \$1.75 an acre for double discing. Farmers with machinery will get no assistance.

**JUL**

**1948**

# All Flooded B.C. Regions To Receive Provincial Aid

## Legislature Hears Relief Program

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, July 7.—Flood victims in the Kootenays and other sections of the province will get the same rehabilitation assistance as Fraser Valley residents.

This was disclosed to the special "flood" session of the B.C. Legislature this afternoon by Premier Byron Johnson.

The only difference is that the provincial government will have to pay the entire cost of this aid, whereas the federal government is contributing to the Fraser Valley relief.

At the same time, the Premier made the first official announcement that the government will not pay any claims for compensation for lost crops, lost cattle or other similar losses.

The Premier's announcement came during an hour-long review of the flood crisis to the MLA's immediately after the special session had been opened by Chief Justice Gordon McG. Sloan as official administrator.

## Recommended After Tour

He said the decision to extend the same assistance to the other flood regions was made on the recommendation of Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney, who has just finished a two-week tour of the areas.

Here are the specific terms of the rehabilitation program, as cited in the authority of the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Commission and read to the House by the Premier:

1—To organize in each affected area such voluntary citizen committees as seem desirable to secure the voluntary co-operation and assistance of the people in each district in order to get the people back into their homes as quickly as possible and to set up such other organizations, administrative or otherwise, as you deem necessary to undertake the general work of rehabilitation.

2—Rehabilitation, for the purposes of the commission, shall be interpreted to mean the rendering of assistance to farmers and others in restoring their homes, farm buildings and fences damaged by the flood to as near

the same condition as existed prior to the flood.

3—To use every effort to make available feed for livestock not only for immediate use but also for next winter's supply. Once the commission has declared the emergency to be past this feed to be purchased by the farmers at a price to be determined by the government on the recommendation of the commission.

4—To make available sufficient seed and plants as may in their opinion be deemed necessary in order to give farmers an opportunity to re-start their agricultural pursuits.

5—To consider ways and means of restoring the land to as near its former usefulness as possible and to submit recommendations in connection therewith to the government for their consideration.

6—The provision of livestock feed, seeds, stock plants and the restoring of farms to their former usefulness shall not include any claims for compensation of lost crops, lost cattle or any other similar losses that may have occurred.

## Worst in B.C. History

In the course of his address the Premier described the Fraser Valley flood as the worst such disaster in B.C.'s recorded history, worse even than the 1894 flood because the high water lasted longer.

He gave no figures of what the relief and rehabilitation program will cost the provincial treasury, although there have been well-founded reports that a loan bill for \$5,000,000 is to be submitted to the House.

(The Federal Government has already put up \$5,000,000 by way of a direct grant for relief and rehabilitation and has voted \$4,500,000 as its 75 percent share of rebuilding the Fraser Valley dykes. This would make a total of \$14,500,000 expenditure by the two governments, but is not believed to cover the entire outlay. In addition the \$2,000,000 public subscription fund is being used for relief to families.)

In tracing the history of the flood crisis, Premier Johnson said the government had been forced to act quickly to meet the emergency.

"I find it necessary to point out that action was taken by the government from time to time that might have seemed irregular without the sanction of the Legislature.

"It is needless for me to say, however, that the emergency called for swift action and the adoption of measures for which the government would have to seek ratification. Such action was taken to meet the rapidly-changing conditions and I trust the honorable members will keep these circumstances in mind when making an appraisal of what has been done."

The Premier's address includ-

ed direct personal tributes to the flood workers of the Fraser Valley, the flood victims and the host of officials who helped in the fight.

In the brief Speech from the Throne opening the House, Chief Justice Sloan declared never before in the history of Canada has so much misery and distress or loss of property been caused by flood.

He expressed sympathy with the families who have been deprived of their homes and commended all agencies who have taken part in the battle.

With the objective of finishing the special session by Friday night, the House will hold three sittings tomorrow to debate the flood program and deal with the loan bill.

Provincial government experts have declared the 1948 flood in the valley as the worst in B.C.'s history.

Premier Johnson gave their calculations to the legislature.

He showed that while the water in the Fraser rose slightly higher in 1894 it was above the 20-foot danger mark for only 11 days on that occasion but this year it was 31 days over the 20-foot level.

This meant soggy dykes and embankments through seepage, taxing the ingenuity of the dyke workers to the utmost.

"I think it is a very great tribute to the skill and untiring energies of the workers that the waters were confined to 51,000 acres.

"Had the city of Chilliwack been inundated our losses would have been doubled.

"The flooding of the Delta and Lulu Island would have doubled the total acreage covered by water," the Premier said.

## VOTE RECOMMENDED

Interior Flood Costs  
Estimated \$1,500,000

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, July 7.—A vote of \$1,500,000 for the flood battle rehabilitation of flood victims outside of the Fraser Valley has been recommended by Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney.

As the result of a two-weeks tour through the Kootenays, Okanagan and Northern and Central B.C., Mr. Kenney has tentatively estimated the costs of the task at \$1,013,208, but suggests the larger vote to take care of areas he was not able to visit.

This program will enable the government to rebuild dykes and restore homes and farms on the same basis as those in the Fraser Valley. The province will pay the whole cost, however, because Ottawa is only sharing in the national disaster region of the valley.

Besides the losses to private property, Mr. Kenney, who tabled his report at the opening of the special legislative session this afternoon, says the public works

He divides cost of the flood battle and relief as follows:

- 1—Combating flood and protecting dykes, \$231,536.
- 2—Estimated cost of restoring dykes, \$162,000.
- 3—Immediate relief and restoration of municipal and private property, \$467,066.
- 4—Replanting crops and seed, \$152,606.

In the restoration of homes Mr. Kenney recommends each farmer be allowed a cash credit against which he can draw for wages while helping to restore his property.

For farm crops he proposes seed and nursery stock should be given free so new crops can be put in immediately.

The following tabulation of costs by areas was given by the minister:

Skeena River Valley, \$6525 for relief and rehabilitation.

Kimberley, \$50,000 for combating the flood and \$114,950 for restoration.

Trail, \$125,000 for combating flood and \$114,950 for restoration.

North Kamloops, \$4710 for flood fight and \$1645 for replanting crops.

North Thompson Area, \$2200 for flood battle, \$10,000 for rebuilding dykes, \$15,000 for relief and rehabilitation, and \$15,000 for replanting crops.

Creston Area, \$35,000 for flood battle; \$150,000 for restoring dykes.

Kelowna (outside city), \$7809 for flood battle; \$33,953 for relief and rehabilitation.

Merritt and Ashcroft \$2000 for rehabilitation and \$15,000 for replanting crops.

Area covered by Cawston, Christian Valley, Grand Forks, Hedley, Keremeos, Oliver, Osoyoos, Princeton and Westbridge: \$56,748 for relief and rehabilitation, \$120,461 for replanting crops, and a special \$22,000 for river protection at Hedley. No estimate made yet of restoring dykes.

South Okanagan land project, \$6817 for flood battle.

Arrow Lakes \$2000 for restoring dykes, \$500 for replanting crops.

department has estimated cost of repairing provincial highways and bridges at a further \$1,500,000.

Gov't May Ban  
Home Building  
In Flood Areas

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, July 7.—While the Provincial government is helping to pay for restoration of flood ravaged homes, it is considering a policy of preventing people from putting up houses in obvious danger areas where they are threatened by high water each year.

This was indicated to the Legislature today in the report of Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney.

Mr. Kenney has suggested that all plans for subdivisions in unorganized territory be submitted for approval to the lands department and the health department and public works department before being registered.

On the advice of these departments, he proposes authority be granted to refuse subdivision plans, if it is shown that people are building too close to streams where their property is in danger of erosion.

Winch Charges Gov't  
Flood NeglectAnscomb Says \$4,500,000 Spent  
On Dykes; Levies for Dykes Opposed

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, July 8.—CCF Leader Harold Winch charged in the Legislature this morning that provincial governments of the past have been negligent in not guarding the Fraser Valley against the 1948 flood.

"I am not, of course, trying to charge the government with being negligent," Mr. Winch asserted. "Fortunately the government doesn't yet control the weather like it does most other things."

"But I do say that the governments have been inefficient in not taking precautions, and are to blame at least for the amount of damage done."

## BACK TO 1877

Mr. Winch made his attack on two main points:

1—Ever since 1877 reports have been made recommending better dykes and flood control, but nothing comprehensive was done.

2—The present government was warned as early as February this year to expect flood conditions, but was too late doing anything about it.

Mr. Winch demanded an assurance that the government really intends to carry out proper protective measures this time, as was not done after former floods.

## "ALREADY HAVE THAT"

"Don't you think you already have that?" said Premier Johnson, who had just finished a half-hour address on the plans of the new Fraser Valley Dyking Board.

"No, not yet," retorted Mr. Winch, "I can go right back to 1894 and show that the same things were being said then."

Mr. Winch declared after the 1894 flood the Dominion put up \$50,000 for a commission on flood control, the same as it has done now. "Rather a coincidence," he said.

## \$4,500,000 FOR DYKES

"Yes, but you don't mention the \$4,500,000 for actual rebuilding of the dykes," Premier Johnson interjected.

Mr. Winch then got into a crossfire with the Premier about the methods of constructing dykes. In 1894 it was recommended that no trees should be allowed to grow on the levees, he said, and this certainly was not followed.

## 'ARGUMENT DOESN'T HOLD'

"I agree there were trees on the Canon dyke, but there were no trees anywhere near the major break at Matsqui," the Premier said. "Your argument doesn't hold."

Mr. Winch declared that as recently as 1946 Dean F. M. Clement, in his report on dyking and irrigation, had recommended extensive repairs and reconstruction of the Valley dykes to guard against erosion and improve farm lands.

Dyking Commissioner Bruce Nixon, in the same year, made similar recommendations but

conceded there was the difficulty of raising the dyking levies from farmers.

## HUGE SNOW STORAGE

"It was the government's duty to see that the work was governed by the requirements and not the problem of increasing the levies," Mr. Winch asserted.

"So far as I know nothing was done. That is why I say the government must accept some responsibility."

He also read the early spring reports of the Water Rights Branch, showing huge snow storage in the mountains and predicting floods if the run-off conditions developed abnormally as they later did.

"You had warnings early, but when did the government swing into major action—not until the flood had taken place," he declared.

Mills Won't  
Get Flood  
Compensation

By Sun Staff Reporter  
VICTORIA, July 8.—Premier Byron Johnson told the legislature this morning the government will not give compensation to lumber mills or other industries on the Fraser River shut down by the floods.

He also declared in rehabilitating berry growers, they will not necessarily get complete replacement of crops they were growing.

The government is treating the berry growers exactly the same as other farmers, to put their homes, barns and lands back into producing shape," he said.

The premier's declaration came in the midst of an impassioned reply to Opposition Leader Harold Winch, who, criticizing the handling of the floods, said growers in the Fraser Valley still don't know what's going to happen to them. Mr. Winch also demanded how the \$2,000,000 subscription fund is being spent.

Mr. Johnson slapped sharply back at Mr. Winch, told him the members of the House, himself included, should spend more time in helping local committees work out the reconstruction and rehabilitation problems, instead of listening to carping criticism.

## EUROPEAN, U.S. EXPERTS TO ADVISE

## 170 Miles of Causeway Dykes Planned for Fraser Valley

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, July 8.—The new Fraser Valley Dyking Board will get expert advice from Holland, England and the Mississippi basin in the reconstruction of the dykes to hold back future floods, Premier Byron Johnson told the Legislature today.

When he moved second reading of the bill setting up the new Dominion-provincial board, the Premier said the board is authorized

to rebuild between 170 and 200 miles of new dykes sufficiently wide to carry a 12-foot roadway for trucks along the top, with turnouts for the vehicles.

An official of the soil mechanics branch of the National Research Bureau is already in England studying dyking and will return at the end of this month to advise the board.

In addition, F. G. Goodspeed, Dominion representative on the board, has arranged to get full data on specifications, materials and dyke construction from Charles Semour, chief engineering assistant of the Mississippi River Commission at Vicksburg.

Further advice will come from H. Darling and E. W. Webber, U.S. Army engineers, who assisted in the flood crisis. They will make a post-flood study of the Valley for the purpose.

"We have in mind the provision of a dyking system to give people of the Fraser Valley the highest sense of security that could possibly be obtained insofar as it is humanly possible," the premier declared.

## PLAN PROVEN

Experience on the Vedder Canal, the Rosedale-Chilliwack and Semlaul dykes at the height of the flood proved that breaks can be fought successfully when the dykes are wide enough for trucks to rush rocks and rubble to the scene quickly.

Under the new plan the whole valley dyking system will be serviced in the same way.

For the Fraser Valley the Dominion pays 75 percent of the cost and the province 25 percent of the cost.

The Provincial government, on its own, will undertake similar dyke rebuilding for other flood areas.

## MUST PROVIDE LAND

The Premier disclosed that while municipal councils and present dyking commissions will not have to contribute anything toward rebuilding the barriers, they will be expected to provide the land strips that may be necessary for widening and straightening the dykes.

Provision is made in the bill for expropriating such properties, but the government will expect the local authorities to arrange this.

In addition, he said, the local authorities will be charged with the responsibility of maintaining them as they have been in the past.

## PROGRESS REPORTED

The Premier gave the House the following progress report on what is being done so far to drain the valley lands and start reconstruction of dykes:

Survey parties are at Pitt Meadows, Nicomen Island, and party will start at Agassiz this weekend.

Samples of materials are being taken by boring parties and analyzed at University of British Columbia as to suitability for dyke construction.

Work is underway at Agassiz in clearing up drift material and levelling silt and sand deposits.

Suction dredge is at work improving dyke conditions at Pitt Meadows.

Water is being pumped from

areas at Matsqui and dyke has been opened there to permit more rapid drainage of flooded areas.

Dragline is on its way to Matsqui to open up channels.

Pumping equipment is going to Sumas.

Parties are at work clearing growth from dykes at Sumas, Matsqui, Pitt Meadows, Lulu Island and South Westminster.

All flooded areas have been visited and additional work will proceed as conditions permit.

## ON TWO FRONTS

Apart from rebuilding dykes, Premier Johnson declared the provincial government is now participating on two fronts for a solution of the flood control problem in B.C.

On July 27 Deputy Lands Minister George Meirose will attend a meeting of the International Joint Commission at Bonner's Ferry to discuss the Columbia River problem with American representatives, and the newly nominated nine-man joint Dominion-Provincial board on the Fraser will go into action without any delay.

"In short," said the Premier, "every step has been taken with a view to meeting the flood problems of the province."

## "BLANK CHEQUE"

Premier Johnson, in introducing legislation to the house Wednesday, disclosed the government is asking for the power to borrow \$5,000,000 to cover flood damage and rehabilitation costs, and for use of unstated general money from consolidated revenues to help pay the flood bill and the rebuilding of dykes.

Effect of the relief and dyking bills is to give the government practically a "blank cheque," since it would not be limited to the stated loan.

The two main pieces of legislation are the Flood Relief Bill and the Fraser Valley Dyking Board Bill.

In the first, the government is given the loan powers and authority to make an agreement with Ottawa for a division of the flood costs on the basis of 75 percent paid by Ottawa and 25 percent by the province.

Also ratified by the measure is the appointment of W. Lyle Macken and Col. D'Arcy J. Baldwin as the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Commission. In addition the government is given power to set up rehabilitation boards for other parts of the province.

## BOND RATIFIED

Both bills were given first reading in the legislature Wednesday.

A third bill introduced by the premier will limit the allowances to M.L.A.'s attending the special session to their actual out-of-pocket expenses.

Also on the legislation list is a measure providing a moratorium on mortgages and land sale agreements in the flood regions, but introduction of this measure was deferred until today.

The effect of the flood relief and dyking bills is to give the government practically a "blank cheque" in paying for the damage and rehabilitation. It will not be limited to the \$5,000,000 loan, since it will be permitted to use general revenues as well, if this is found necessary.

The premier said at one point he doubted if a system of control dams on the upper regions of the Fraser would have averted much of the flooding in the Valley.

WEIR'S RETURN  
HAILED IN HOUSE

VICTORIA, July 8.—(CP)

—Dr. George M. Weir, former minister of education, who has been absent from the legislature for some months, was in his seat at the opening of the flood session Wednesday and was warmly greeted.

James L. Webster, (CLN-Rossland-Trail) is still ill and was absent. Arthur J. Turner, (CCF-Vancouver East) also was absent. It is understood he is abroad.

# Flood Relief Session Ends

All Measures for Rehabilitation of Stricken Areas Win Approval

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, July 9.—The special "flood" session of the B.C. Legislature came to an end this morning with assent to five laws which embody the government's policy for relief and rehabilitation of the flood areas.

Chief among them is the "blank cheque" measure authorizing the government to borrow \$5,000,000 and spend whatever it requires from consolidated revenue on restoring the flood ravaged areas; and the setting up of the new Fraser Valley Dyking Board to rebuild the dykes.

## MLA'S GET EXPENSES

In addition the new laws provide for a moratorium—subject to court approval—on mortgage and property sale agreements in the flood regions.

The incidental bills provide for payment of expense accounts to MLA's here for the session and for the inclusion of the new acts in this year's revised statutes.

The House sat until 10:35 p.m. Thursday to debate and ratify the laws which went through without a dissenting voice.

The only really sour notes of the day came from Alan J. McDonnell (CLN, Vancouver Centre) and A. R. McDougall (CLN, Point Grey) who protested that giving the government a "blank cheque" for expenditure was wrong in principle.

## CHARGES POLITICS

Both Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb and Premier Byron Johnson conceded that it amounts to a blank cheque but said the members need not be alarmed, since all expenditures will be put before the House in a separate report.

"If the loan is not enough we will have to go into general revenue," Premier Johnson said.

Earlier in the day the Premier replied very sharply to an attempt by Opposition Leader Harold Winch to tax the government with neglect for not taking precautions before the floods started.

Mr. Johnson, interrupting Mr. Winch's formal speech, implied that he was trying to play politics and told him to help with the flood crisis rather than go around "looking for trouble" by listening to carping criticism.

In round figures, the estimates of what the flood is going to cost the two governments total around \$16,000,000.

## GET TIME TO PAY

# Moratorium For Flood Sufferers

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, July 9. — A property owner in the Fraser Valley and other flood areas of the province will have the right to receive a moratorium ruling from the courts on mortgages and other land payments.

Legislation to carry this into effect—assured of passage—was introduced in the B.C. Legislature Thursday afternoon by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

Main point of the new law—to help people who have been washed out in the flood areas—is to give them a chance to go to court and prove that they cannot make payments that are due.

The moratorium is not automatic if the person to whom money is owed thinks otherwise.

In such a case, the debtor can take the matter before a judge and get a ruling whether he should be paid or not.

Where a judge rules that a flood victim need not pay at the present time, the debtor can go again to court at a future date and ask for his payments.

The moratorium covers all persons who had such debt up to May 15 and were in the flood areas.

# Gov't to Probe Tax Relief in Flood Areas

VICTORIA, July 9.—The question of rebating municipal taxes for flood victims will be discussed by the provincial government with the municipal authorities concerned, Premier Johnson said in the Legislature today.

Under demand by CCF leader Harold Winch for tax relief for individuals, the premier said:

"These taxes are a municipal matter. If, in the light of developments, they need assistance, we will deal with them on a basis that will fully satisfy them."

# Flood Session of Legislature Ends

This includes \$7,000,000 for relief in the Fraser Valley, of which the Dominion has put up \$5,000,000, and \$1,500,000 for other flood regions.

Rebuilding the dykes is figured at \$6,000,000, with the Dominion putting up \$4,500,000.

And repairs to roads and bridges will cost about \$1,500,000.

## THE RELIEF PLAN

Premier Johnson outlined specifically how farmers are to get help in the Fraser Valley and elsewhere:

1—He said "cattle shifted from their home lands will be given free feed until the state of emergency ends, this being time as of 21 days from day he gets his cattle back to the land."

2—After that farmers will get hay at special prices: \$15 a ton for hay from the valley, upland and mixed hay from prairie points and U.S.; \$20 a ton for alfalfa; grain at 25 percent under normal list prices from regular distributors.

3—Where an owner can purchase local hay the Fraser Valley rehabilitation authority will pay \$10 a ton toward the cost.

4—Farmers themselves will have to pay for salt, mineral and veterinary service.

5—Poultrymen will get free feed for anything evacuated up to September 30, after that they will get it for 25 percent off list price.

6—Hogs, sheep and horses. Brood sows get maintenance rations. Feed can be supplied to flocks of sheep and to work horses, but not for pleasure horses. Owners will be encouraged to sell their animals at present good prices.

7—People who used their pasture hay crops to feed cattle during evacuation will be paid off in cash not to exceed \$20 an acre. (Some settlements have already been made for \$10 and \$18 an acre).

8—Seed supplies for new crops will be given on the following basis: Oats 120 lbs. per acre; wheat 100 lbs. per acre; barley 100 lbs. per acre; corn 20 lbs. per acre.

9—Fertilizers will be given on approval of a Dominion representative, on a scale according to nature of the material.

10—If a farmer has not got the equipment the rehabilitation commission will pay up to \$3.25

per acre for plowing and \$1.75 an acre for double discing, but nothing for harrowing, rolling and seeding. Farmers who have their own machinery will not get any cash payments. Garden seeds will be given as needed.

## MUNICIPAL ROADS

Premier Johnson also announced the government will help with the rebuilding of municipal roads—but he said for this purpose it will not pay the costs of anything done by municipal road departments.

Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam, who gave further detail on the program for the farmers, said the flood came at a time when the hay supply was the worst in years.

He told how his officials went to Yakima, Wash., and Alberta for hay. But when they reached Manitoba, they found they would have to pay \$18.55 a ton freight, which was too much.

Public Works Minister E. C. Carson, reviewing road damage, said it will be essential to keep heavy traffic off the repaired roads while they are still soft.

## CHEER FOR PREMIER

Mr. Carson said that in the long range plan of the nine-man commission for planning control of the river it might take two or three years before a satisfactory scheme is worked out.

From almost every district where the flood waters hit members spoke on the problems of their own ridings.

Alex Hope (CLN, Delta), half of whose farm went under water, drew a cheer for the premier when he declared "no government leader in history did so much when the people were faced with a disaster."

## 'ACTION WHEN NEEDED'

Capt. John Cates (CLN, North Vancouver), who did some dyke-fighting work himself, declared "the premier gave us action when action was needed."

Mr. McDonnell demanded the appointment of practical men from the flood area to the dyking board.

Even from Herbert Gargrave (CCF, MacKenzie), there was commendation for the premier, particularly on his deal with Ottawa to pay 75 percent of the dyking costs.

FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1948

## Maybe Dykes Aren't Enough

The legislature is making a commendable start in passing appropriations to make good the flood damage. But nobody will believe that, with the expected end of this special session today, the last word will have been heard in B.C. legislative halls about the river devastation of 1948.

It is gratifying to note that the Victoria Colonist supports a viewpoint emphasized on the editorial page of The Sun recently. The Victoria newspaper rightly urged the government to devote the present session to financing the flood recovery program and to leave permanent engineering policy to the mature judgment of experts. In the nature of things that must occupy some time.

We suggest that Premier Johnson should have profited by the reminder. In the House on Wednesday afternoon he expressed an opinion that control dams would be of little use in harnessing the Fraser against future floods. He said: "You might have had 20 dams, but if they were all full when the

freshet came, I doubt very much whether the river could have been contained within its banks."

The Premier may be guessing quite right—or he may be wrong. The point is that he is not called upon at this time to pass upon engineering problems. Some capable engineers have been thinking that up-country dams might perhaps play a part in curtailing future Fraser floods. This subject must be looked into by experienced technical men. It is unwise for the Premier to allow himself to encourage a state of mind in which he sets himself against flood control of the upper tributaries before that subject has been investigated and authentic reports obtained.

The public will insist on knowing, through expert channels, if future Fraser flood control is a matter of more efficient dykes or of up-river control or a combination of the two. There is just one way to find out and that is to get qualified engineers to investigate.

**JUL**

**1948**

## Special Flood Session Opens



BRITISH Columbia's Legislature opened yesterday for a brief special flood session. Upper picture shows Premier Byron I. Johnson, bare-headed, shaking hands with Chief Justice Gordon McG. Sloan on steps of Legislative Building. Left to right are Capt. J. G. Cromack, private secretary of Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks; Premier Johnson; Percy Richards, secretary to the Premier; Chief Justice Sloan; Wing-Commander D. Campbell, R.C.A.F. aide; Lt. G. G. Dixon, R.C.N. (R), retired, Naval aide. In the lower picture, members stand as the procession enters the hushed Legislative chamber. In the procession are Lt. Dixon, Lt.-Col. Brooke Stephenson, Wing-Commander Campbell, Capt. W. R. Webster (sergeant-at-arms), Capt. Cromack, Chief Justice Sloan, Premier Johnson.

# Measures Would Allow Government Free Hand In Flood Relief Expense

## Cabinet May Borrow \$5,000,000, Appoint Administrative Boards

Measures giving the Government a virtual "blank cheque" to spend whatever money is considered necessary were introduced yesterday at the opening sitting of the special flood session of the Legislature.

The Government also would be given authority to borrow \$5,000,000 and wide powers to appoint and pay administrative boards.

Members got down to work with a minimum of ceremony. Following the Throne Speech, delivered by Chief Justice Gordon McGregor Sloan, Provincial Administrator, acting in the absence of Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks, Premier Byron Johnson gave a review of the flood situation and the action taken by the Government to combat it.

The House resolved to have three sittings daily until Friday or until business is concluded—from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and from 8:30 p.m. until adjournment.

### BILLS INTRODUCED

This was followed by introduction of the major bills, the Flood Relief Act, providing for rehabilitation and relief work through the Province, and the Fraser Valley Diking Board Act.

Another bill provides that members will forego their sessional indemnity and will receive only actual expenses.

In addition to authorizing virtually unlimited expenditure, the Flood Relief Act permits the Government to enter into "any agreement" with the Dominion for sharing the costs of Fraser Valley rehabilitation. It may enter into agreements with any public authority for carrying out rehabilitation work and may contribute or lend money to any such authority with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

### MAY PAY FOR WORK

Municipal councils may enter into agreements with the Province for rehabilitation work and may pay for such work as part of their ordinary expenditures without approval by ratepayers at the polls.

The Cabinet may appoint any boards deemed necessary, set their pay and confer upon them any powers considered necessary.

Specifically the "Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Authority," composed of W. L. Macken and Col. D'Arcy Baldwin, and which was appointed previously by Premier Johnson, is charged with rehabilitation work for the Fraser Valley and the Cabinet

is empowered to ratify any action taken by the authority up to now.

The Government is permitted to set up similar boards for rehabilitation work in other parts of the Province and to set their pay.

The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may also make any other regulations required for the functioning of any board appointed.

Wide powers are given to the Fraser Valley Diking Board, charged with the job of repairing, constructing and reconstructing dikes in the Fraser Valley under the agreement with the Federal Government.

It will have power, without giving notice to any person, to enter upon and take possession of, and use for any time as the board may think necessary, any lands required to carry out its job. It may also expropriate lands, but must pay compensation.

### BOARD SUPREME

In the event of any conflict with any drainage of diking district, any municipality, improvement district or any village municipality, the powers of the board will supersede the powers of any of these bodies.

It will be financed out of consolidated revenue of the Province or from the \$5,000,000 loan authorized in the Flood Relief Act.

The board will not be liable for any damage caused by flooding and may not be subject to any action by way of mandamus or injunction. Both Dominion and Provincial Cabinets may give it direction, however.

## Complete Flood Review Outlined to Legislature

Complete review of the situation created by floods in British Columbia and the action taken by the Provincial Government to provide relief and rehabilitation was given by Premier Byron I. Johnson at the opening of the special flood session of the Legislature yesterday.

The flood this year, Premier Johnson said, was the worst in the known history of the Province and represented the worst flood disaster ever recorded in Canada.

Peak of water in the great flood of 1894 was slightly higher, but it was of only ten days' duration, as compared with more than a month of high water in this year's disaster, the Premier said.

Due to the great skill and untiring efforts of all those who worked on the dikes, Mr. Johnson said, the water was confined to 51,000 acres.

### HIGH PRAISE

He had high praise for the work of numerous individuals who directed the flood battle in the early stages, for the hundreds of citizens who worked voluntarily on the dikes and for the work of the army, navy and air force.

The Premier then reviewed his conference with members of the Federal Government and the agreements which were reached for sharing relief and rehabilitation costs in the Fraser Valley. He stressed that food costs outside the Fraser Valley would be entirely a Provincial responsibility.

The Dominion Government, he recalled, would make an outright grant of \$5,000,000 toward emer-

gency relief costs and rehabilitation. The Province would assume full responsibility for immediate relief and assisting in the general rehabilitation of homes, farm buildings and provincial and municipal property. Cost of reconstructing dikes, removing water and debris would be shared 75 per cent by the Dominion and 25 per cent by the Province. Cost of protecting the dikes during the flood and combating the flood generally would be shared on the same basis.

### FIRST TIME

For the first time the Premier disclosed terms of reference given to the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Commission.

Making the first definite statement on crop losses, Premier Johnson said: "The provision of livestock feed, seeds, stock plants and the restoring of farms to their former usefulness shall not include any claims for compensation of lost crops, lost cattle or any other similar losses that may have been incurred."

Otherwise, the commission, composed of W. L. Macken and Col. D'Arcy Baldwin, was instructed to get people back to their homes as soon as possible, to render assistance to farmers and others in restoring their homes and farm buildings, to make available feed for livestock, both for immediate use and for next winter's supply, to make sufficient seeds and plants available to allow farmers to restart their crops and to consider ways and means of restoring lands to their former usefulness.

## Thro Faci

The Throne the Legislatu Justice Gordo the absence o ant-Governor follows:

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THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1948

## Throne Speech Stresses Problems Facing Victims of Fraser Floods

The Throne Speech, delivered at the Legislature yesterday by Chief Justice Gordon McGregor Sloan in the absence of His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks, follows:

"Members of the Legislative Assembly:

"In opening the Fourth Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of British Columbia for the special purpose of dealing with flood matters, I do so with a full realization of the urgency that exists for making adequate provision to meet the varied and distressing problems inflicted on the people by the disastrous floods which have caused such widespread damage throughout the province, particularly in the Fraser River Valley.

"Never before in the history of Canada has so much misery and distress or loss of property been caused by flood.

"It is significant, in appreciating its proportions, to observe that the Dominion Government has interpreted as a national disaster the calamity which befell the Fraser River Valley.

"I wish to express my deepest sympathy for those unhappy men and women who, with their children, have suffered loss of house and home for so long. All of us share their anxiety as they view the devastation and seek to re-establish themselves with the assistance tendered to them by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia.

"It is with gratification that I observe the agreements reached between my Government and that of the Dominion of Canada for the sharing of financial responsibilities in combating the flood, providing for immediate relief, repairing dikes, disposing of water and debris, completely reconstructing the diking system, assisting in the rehabilitation of homes, farm buildings, and fences, and helping in the restoration of farm lands to their former usefulness.

"You will be asked to provide

funds and to empower the Government to adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary from time to time to expedite this work.

"I wish to thank all public-spirited citizens who contributed to the British Columbia Flood Relief Fund. Their contributions will assist materially in meeting the needs of the people who have lost personal effects and household furnishings.

"The prompt action of my Government in grappling with the varied problems arising from the flood are to be commended, and I feel sure that you will give thoughtful and sincere consideration to such measures as will be submitted to you.

"I pray the blessing of Divine Providence will attend your deliberations."

## Minister Recommends \$1,500,000 For Relief Outside Fraser Valley

At least \$1,500,000 should be provided for relief from the ravages of flood waters in British Columbia outside the Fraser Valley. A further \$1,500,000 should be provided for repairing British Columbia roads and bridges.

These were the major recommendations yesterday of Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney, who was appointed by the Cabinet three weeks ago to survey flood damage outside the Fraser Valley. His findings were outlined in a 15-page report released yesterday.

### SAME BASIS

Despite the fact that the Dominion Government is sharing in rehabilitation costs for the Fraser Delta while the Province must bear the entire costs outside this area, Mr. Kenney recommended that all persons suffering flood damage anywhere in the Province be treated on exactly the same basis.

He gave the following tentative analysis of flood costs outside the Fraser Valley: combatting flood and protecting dikes, \$231,536; estimated cost of restoring dikes, \$162,000; immediate relief and restoration of municipal and private property, \$467,066, and replanting crops and seed, \$152,606.

Totals for each district included: Skeena River Valley, \$6,525; Kimberley, \$164,950; Trail, \$362,890; North Kamloops, \$6,355; North Thompson River, \$42,200; Creston area, \$185,000; Kelowna (outside

city), \$7,800; Merritt and Ashcroft, \$33,953; Cawston, Christian Valley, Grand Forks, Hedley, Keremeos, Olliver, Osoyoos, Princeton and Westbridge, \$177,209; South Okanagan Land Project, \$6,817; Arrow Lake, \$2,500.

In addition, Mr. Kenney reported that Hedley required \$22,000 for river protection and that river bank work is necessary at Natal.

### NOT COVERED

Areas he was not able to cover personally, but for which he received reports, bring his total recommended relief expenditure to \$1,500,000.

In the reconstruction of dikes outside the Fraser Valley, Mr. Kenney recommended the work should be under the strict supervision of an engineer, and said there were a number of places in which dikes would have to be completely rebuilt.

"In the restoration of private homes," he continued, "I would suggest that an agreed upon credit should be set up from which the home owner could draw his wages and materials, so that he may be usefully employed during the time his property, such as farm lands, is being relieved of excess water and becomes in a fit state for cultivation."

Seeds and nursery stock, Mr. Kenney said, should be supplied free so that farms rehabilitation could be carried out as soon as possible.

"My attention was repeatedly

called to the desirability of bank protection and the dredging of channels of streams," he reported.

This would necessitate an enormous expense as in such mountainous country as British Columbia. Where the river gradients are great, the damage to properties adjacent to streams will continue for all time, he said.

Mr. Kenney recommended that all plans for subdivision of land in unorganized territory be submitted to the Lands Department and the Health Department for approval.

# House Finishes Program On Flood Rehabilitation Session Will End Today

## Members Approve All Phases Of Government Relief Project

Members of the Legislature placed the stamp of approval on all phases of the Government's British Columbia flood relief and rehabilitation program in three sittings yesterday and prepared for prorogation at 10:45 today.

The Government was authorized:

1. To borrow \$5,000,000 for relief and rehabilitation.
2. To spend any further money considered necessary.
3. To set up a Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Board to administer (jointly with the Dominion) rehabilitation along the Fraser and any other boards required for other parts of the Province.
4. To set the Fraser Valley Diking Board for reconstruction (jointly with the Dominion) of dikes in the Fraser Valley.
5. To ratify all action taken by either of the above bodies up to the present.
6. To provide relief and rehabilitation for all parts of the Province on the same basis.
7. To provide a moratorium on debts and a prohibition against repossession of property for flood victims.

### TENTATIVE PROGRAMS

The tentative financial program as outlined by Premier Byron Johnson and other members of the Cabinet yesterday, was as follows:

For Fraser Valley diking, \$6,000,000, of which \$4,500,000 is to be provided by the Dominion and \$1,500,000 by the Province.

For Fraser Valley Rehabilitation, \$1,000,000, of which the Dominion is to provide \$500,000 and the Province, \$500,000.

Outside the Fraser Valley, \$1,500,000.

This brings the total financial program of the two Governments to \$14,500,000.

Premier Johnson emphasized that this was only a tentative program. He said:

### MORE AVAILABLE

"If more is required, both Governments will put up the money to finish the job."

In addition, more than \$2,000,000 is available from the B.C. Flood Relief Fund, raised by public subscription, which will be used for replacement of personal belongings and furnishings lost in the flood.

Only major opposition to the Government program came from the Conservative ranks of the Coalition. No important objections were offered from the C.C.F. benches.

On the contrary, C.C.F. Whip Herbert Gargrave declared he had to commend a Government which could "gauge" \$5,000,000 "from that gang in Ottawa."

Allan J. McDonnell (Cln., Vancouver Centre) and A.R. MacDougal (Cln., Point Grey) objected to the "blank cheque" provisions of the Flood Relief Act.

### ANSCOMB REPLIES

Replied Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb: "You are right, but I think you are unduly alarmed."

"Frankly, it is a blank cheque," said Premier Johnson. "If we find the loan is not enough for the work, we will have to go to the consolidated fund."

Premier Johnson pointed out that all the moneys spent would be accounted for in a separate report to the Legislature.

Early in the day, C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch launched an attack on the Government. He contended the Government could not be blamed for the flood but could not slough off responsibility for the damage caused by the flood. He read from several reports to the Government, dating back as far as 1877, which warned that action must be taken if a major catastrophe was to be avoided some day.

The Government did not act until the emergency was upon them, he charged.

He wanted to know what was to be done for compensating store and garage owners who had suffered in the flood just as much as farmers, and what would be done for industry.

### STEERING CLEAR

Mr. Johnson replied that the Government had tried to steer clear of compensation for industry but that small commercial establishments would receive consideration.

## Bill Would Prohibit Property Seizure On B.C. Lands Damaged During Floods

**B**ILL providing a virtual moratorium on debts and prohibition on repossession of personal property for those in flooded areas of British Columbia was given third reading by the Legislature yesterday after introduction by Attorney-Governor Gordon S. Wismer.

Flooded areas are to be defined by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The bill provides that, except with the permission of a judge, no one may commence or continue an action for enforcement of a lien or judgment for payment of money or foreclosure of a mortgage.

Except with the permission of a judge no one may take proceedings for attachment, seizure or repossession of any chattels which were in flooded areas before May 15 of this year.

## To Keep Heavy Traffic Off Flood-Hit Highways

The Government will be forced to keep heavy traffic off many flood-damaged highways until the road bed thoroughly dries out, Works Minister E. C. Carson informed the Legislature yesterday.

Otherwise, he said, heavy trucks would destroy thousands of dollars of work on provincial roads.

Answering several members of the House, who claimed that the Government's dike reconstruction program should be supplemented by a long-term flood control scheme, Mr. Carson pointed out that for a long period his department had been urging an overall study of flood control for the Fraser watershed. Recently Ottawa had appointed representatives to a Dominion-Provincial commission.

The study of such a vast area would be a long-term project, however, the minister warned. It was hoped that storage dams could be built but the expense would be enormous and could not be undertaken without the aid of the Dominion.

### GOING AHEAD

Meanwhile the bridge and highway rebuilding program was going ahead as fast as possible.

"It must be remembered, however, that we can't get two bulldozers all at once where we only had one before, and the same ap-

plies for asphalt and other materials," he said.

The department was endeavoring to replace obsolete bridges which were washed out by the flood with fill or modern bridges.

Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam warned there may be a milk shortage this Winter because cattle in the flood areas had been taken from their usual habitat and would not be receiving usual fodder.

## Will Rebuild Premier J

From 170 to 200 miles of dikes in the lower Fraser Valley will be constructed, Premier Byron Johnson told the Legislature this morning in explanation of the Fraser Valley Diking Board bill.

The base of the dikes will be sufficiently wide to support a road 12 feet wide, with turnouts that trucks may be used along top of the dikes during flood emergency or for general maintenance.

None of the costs of reconstruction or repairs will be charged to the diking or municipal authorities, Johnson explained, but when construction work is completed maintenance will be their responsibility.

In accordance with the agreement, Mr. Johnson said, the Dominion will pay 75 per cent of the cost, the Province 25 per cent. The provincial share will be paid from two sources, the \$5,000,000 loan and the consolidated revenue of the Province.

### NO EFFORT

No effort is being spared in obtaining the services of experts, the Premier said.

F. G. Goodspeed, Federal representative, had advised him that Leggett, soil mechanic expert of the National Research Bureau, offered the services of his men.

Mr. Peckover, of the same had been in Holland studying works and will return at the July to advise the diking board. Chief engineering assistant of the Mississippi River Commission conferred with Mr. Goodspeed offered full information re specifications for dike construction.

H. Darling and E. W. Webb of the office of the chief engineer of the United States Army, visited the Fraser Valley to study conditions and to give the diking board the benefit of their advice, Johnson asserted.

### THIRD MEMBER

A third member of the still to be appointed by the Government, Mr. Johnson said, he will act as chairman. In meantime, the work is going forward under Mr. Goodspeed, Bruce Dixon, provincial diking commissioner.

### An active reconstruction

is already under way, the said. Survey parties are working at Meadows and Nicomen Island. A party will start at Agassiz week end. Samples of soil are being taken by boring and analyzed at the University of British Columbia as to suitability for dike construction. Cleared drift material and levee and silt deposits is already being removed at Agassiz. At Pitt Meadows suction dredge is improving condition of the dikes.

Water is being pumped out of areas at Matsqui and the dikes have been opened there to permit

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Water is being pumped from areas at Matequi and the dike has been opened there to permit more

rapid drainage. Pumping equipment is going forward to Sumas. Parties are at work clearing growth from dikes at Sumas, Pitt Meadows, Lulu Island and South Westminster.

All flooded areas have now been surveyed by the diking board, the Premier said, and work will continue as conditions permit.

## Province Not Santa Claus Kenney Says

Warning that claims for Government aid from flood sufferers in British Columbia will need careful scrutiny was given to the Legislature yesterday by Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney.

Like Premier Byron Johnson, he made it clear during debate on the flood bill yesterday, that while the Government intended to do everything possible to get flood victims re-established, it did not intend to play Santa Claus.

### ATTACKS CRITICS

Mr. Kenney also struck back at those offering advice on dike reconstruction and blaming the Government because the dikes broke in the floods.

"Everyone is posing as an authority on diking and hydraulics," he declared. "We have had floods from the beginning of time and we will have them again," the minister asserted, "and no amount of diking is going to change it."

There was no hope of complete protection from dikes. The only perfect solution would be to prohibit people from settling on bottom lands—and this was exactly where some of the most fertile soil was found.

### BETTER THAN U.S.

Mr. Kenney acknowledged that some of the material used in dikes has not been satisfactory. But apparently it had not been much better in the United States, where 13 dikes had broken.

In the meantime tests were being made on materials which would be satisfactory.

The Government, he contended, was attacking the flood problem with the same fortitude as the people of the province had shown in combatting it.

## Farmers in Flood Area To Benefit by New Bill

The farm rehabilitation program for flooded areas in British Columbia was outlined on second reading of the Flood Relief Bill yesterday by Premier Byron Johnson and Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam.

Cattle from flooded areas will be provided with free feed until the emergency is over, which means 21 days after the owner returns his cattle to his farm.

When the emergency is ended, hay will be supplied to each farmer at \$25 a ton for alfalfa and \$15 a ton for mixed hay.

Grain and mill feed will be supplied by the regular distributors at 25 per cent under the list price. Salt, minerals and veterinary service will be the responsibility of the owner.

Where a farmer is in a position to purchase local hay, the rehabilitation boards are authorized to pay \$10 a ton toward the cost.

### SUPPLIED FREE

Poultry feeds will be supplied free to growing and old stock until the end of September and afterward will be provided through regular distributors at 25 per cent under the list price.

A maintenance ration will be sup-

plied for brood sows and may be supplied for flocks of sheep and work horses but not for pleasure horses.

Stressing that every effort must be made to plant grains, grasses and legumes in order to provide ensilage this Autumn, Premier Johnson said, the rehabilitation board will supply seed to the extent of 120 pounds of oats per acre, 100 pounds of wheat, 100 pounds of barley and 20 pounds of corn. Grass seed will be provided at the rate of 15 pounds per acre and farmers wishing to lay a heavier seed bed must pay for any additional seed themselves.

Fertilizer will be supplied to farmers, where Agriculture Department officials feel it can be used to advantage at the rate of 75 to 100 pounds an acre.

Where a farmer has no equipment and needs to hire a tractor and machinery in order to cultivate before re-seeding, the rehabilitation boards will pay up to \$3.25 an acre for ploughing and up to \$1.75 an acre for double discing. Harrowing, rolling and seeding are the responsibility of the farmer himself.

The agricultural work will be carried on by a sub-organization under the direction of Mr. Putnam.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1948

## Legislature Members Pack, Head for Home

Members of the Legislature packed up and headed for home yesterday after one of the shortest sessions in British Columbia history.

In a five-minute ceremony, just before 11 a.m., Chief Justice Gordon

McG. Sloan gave assent to five bills and prorogued the House.

For brevity, the session was equalled only by the special session of 1940, called to give the Government power to take over gasoline companies.

On the whole, members of the House including those from the C.C.F. benches were loud in their praise of the Government's flood rehabilitation program and the emergency action to combat the flood taken by Premier Byron Johnson.

Two Coalition members, Allan J. McDonell and A. R. MacDougal objected to the "blank cheque" given to the Government to spend virtually unlimited sums and the wide powers given to the Fraser Valley Diking Board for entering upon and taking possession of private property.

The rehabilitation program calls for expenditure of an estimated \$14,500,000, with more to be provided if it is needed. Of this amount, \$9,500,000 is to be provided by the Dominion under an agreement negotiated by Premier Johnson and \$5,000,000 by the Province.

**JUL**

**1948**

# All Flood Areas To Get Same Aid Johnson Reports

The British Columbia Legislative Assembly, meeting in a special flood session this afternoon, learned that flood areas of the British Columbia interior will receive the same assistance as has been and will be instituted for the Fraser Valley.

This was made clear shortly after the 47 members of the Legislature convened in the grey-marbled assembly chamber at 3 this afternoon by Premier Byron Johnson in a lengthy review of action taken by the Provincial government to fight the floods and to provide for rehabilitation of the areas in which the flood waters are now receding.

Purpose of the special session is to have the provincial Parliament ratify extraordinary measures taken by the government during the emergency and to consider proposals of the government to solve the problems arising from the flood.

"During my remarks today I intend to review in detail my negotiations with the federal government but I can say at this time that the co-operation and assistance received from the federal authorities was everything that could be desired and final financial arrangements satisfactory," said Mr. Johnson.

The Speech from the Throne was read by Chief Justice Gordon McG. Sloan, administrator for the province in the absence of Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks.

For the first time Premier Johnson disclosed details of the terms of reference for the provincial Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Commission, composed of W. L. Macken and Col. D'Arcy Baldwin.

Here are the terms of reference:

"1. To organize in each affected area such volunteer citizen committees as seem desirable to secure the voluntary co-operation and assistance of the people in each district in order to get the people back into their homes as quickly as possible and to set up such other organizations, administrative and otherwise as you deem necessary to undertake the general work of rehabilitation.

"2. Rehabilitation, for the purposes of this commission shall be interpreted to mean the rendering of assistance to farmers and others in restoring their homes, farm buildings and fences damaged by the flood to as near the same condition as existed prior to the flood.

"3. To use every effort to make available feed for livestock not only for immediate use but also for next winter's supply. Once the commission has declared the emergency to be past, this feed to be purchased by the farmers at a price to be determined by the government on the recommendations of the commission.

## M.L.A.'s To Get Only Expenses For Session

Members of the provincial Legislature meeting in special flood session will not receive salary, only expenses.

The members will be asked to submit expense accounts covering their traveling, hotel accommodation and meals. It was reported today at the Legislative Buildings.

With no debate on the Speech from the Throne, and with immediate introduction of legislation, the session is expected to conclude Friday night.

## Text Of Speech From Throne

The text of the Speech from the Throne read this afternoon by Chief Justice Gordon McG. Sloan in the Provincial Legislature is as follows:

In opening the fourth session of the 21st Parliament of British Columbia for the special purpose of dealing with flood matters, I do so with a full realization of the urgency that exists for making adequate provision to meet the varied and distressing problems inflicted on the people by the disastrous floods which have caused such widespread damage throughout the province, particularly in the Fraser River Valley.

Never before in the history of Canada has so much misery and distress or loss of property been caused by flood.

It is significant, in appreciating its proportions, to observe that the Dominion government has interpreted as a national disaster the calamity which befell the Fraser River Valley.

I wish to express my deepest sympathy for those unhappy men and women who, with their children, suffered the loss of house and home for so long. All of us share their anxiety as they view the devastation and seek to re-establish themselves with the assistance tendered to them by the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

It is with gratification that I observe the agreements reached between my government and that of the Dominion of Canada for the sharing of financial responsibilities in combating the flood, providing for immediate relief, repairing dikes, disposing of water and debris, completely reconstructing the diking system, assisting in the rehabilitation of homes, farm buildings, and fences, and helping in the restoration of farm lands to their former usefulness.

You will be asked to provide funds and to empower the government to adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary from time to time to expedite this work.

I wish to thank all public-spirited citizens who contributed to the British Columbia Flood Relief Fund. Their contributions will assist materially in meeting the needs of the people who have lost personal effects and household furnishings.

The prompt action of my government in grappling with the varied problems arising from the flood are to be commended, and I feel sure that you will give thoughtful and sincere consideration to such measures as will be submitted to you.

I pray the blessing of Divine Providence will attend your deliberations.

## To Restart Damaged Farms

"4. To make available sufficient seed and plants as may in their opinion be deemed necessary in order to give farmers an opportunity to restart their agricultural pursuits.

"5. To consider ways and means of restoring the land to as near its former usefulness as possible and to submit recommendations in connection therewith to the government for their consideration.

"6. The provision of livestock feed, seeds, stock plants and the restoring of farms to their former usefulness shall not include any claims for compensation of lost crops, lost cattle or any other similar losses that may have been incurred."

Under the arrangement between the federal and provincial governments the Dominion government is making an outright grant of \$5,000,000 to the province to cover the Dominion's share of temporary emergency relief as well as the financial liability for measures of rehabilitation which the federal government agreed to accept.

The Provincial government has assumed full responsibility for immediate relief and assisting in the general rehabilitation of homes, farm buildings and damage sustained by provincial and municipal property.

The federal government will pay 75 per cent and the provincial 25 per cent of the cost of repairing the dikes, removing water from inundated areas, removing debris and reconstructing the entire diking system.

The cost of protecting the dikes and combatting the flood will be shared on the same basis.

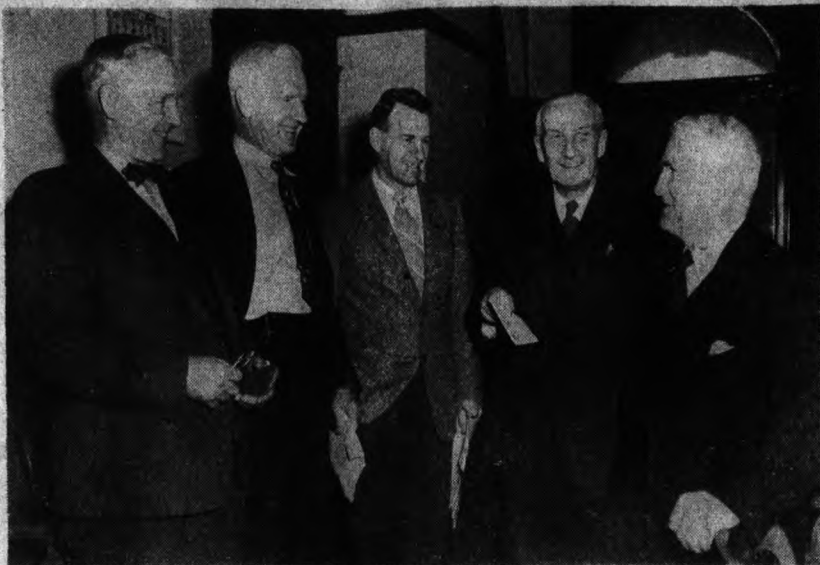
Premier Johnson reminded the members that action taken by the government during the flood might have seemed irregular without the sanction of parliament.

"It is needless for me to say, however, that the emergency called for swift action and the adoption of measures for which the government would have to seek ratification," he said. "Such action was taken to meet the rapidly changing conditions and I trust the honorable members will keep these circumstances in mind when making an appraisal of what has been done."

He expressed appreciation of the government "to every organization and to each and every person who has worked or is working so diligently in connection with the floods not only in the Fraser Valley but throughout the entire province."

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1948

### Members Prepare For Special Flood Session



Members of the Provincial Legislature from all parts of the province are in Victoria today for the special three-day flood session. Here are five of the up-country members, pictured this morning at the Parliament Buildings. They are, left to right: W. J. Johnson, Revelstoke; Walter Hogg, Cariboo; W. D. Smith, Atlin; T. A. Love, Grand Forks, and Dr. J. J. Gillis, Yale. All are government members.



The mace, symbol of authority in the B.C. Legislature, is brought out for the special flood session of the Legislature by its custodian, W. Tranter.

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## Floods Outside Fraser Valley To Cost Province \$1,500,000

Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney has recommended that \$1,500,000 be provided for the relief from the ravages of the flood in areas outside the Fraser Valley.

In an address to the Provincial Legislature this afternoon Premier Byron Johnson said that the same measures of relief would be accorded flood areas of the interior as provided for the Fraser Valley. Mr. Kenney said that a tentative estimate of costs for the area outside the Fraser Valley placed it at \$1,013,208, made up as follows:

Combating the flood and protecting the dikes, \$231,536; estimated cost of restoring the dikes, \$162,000; cost of immediate relief and restoration of municipal and private property, \$467,066; and costs of replanting crops and seed, \$152,606.

This was made following a survey made by Mr. Kenney in which he traveled 700 miles by air, 2,000 miles by auto and 80 miles by motor boat to the interior flood areas.

"In view of the impossibility of visiting all areas and including all losses, I would recommend that at least \$1,500,000 be provided for the relief from the ravages of the flood," he said.

While in the Fraser Valley the cost of the flood is being shared by the federal and provincial governments the full cost of the interior floods will be paid by the provincial government.

### DIKE RECONSTRUCTION

Mr. Kenney in his report recommended that the provincial government detail an engineer to organize and supervise the reconstruction of the dikes in the interior. In a number of instances long lengths of the dikes which indicated weaknesses during the flood should be entirely rebuilt, he said.

In the restoration of municipal property the officials of the municipalities would supervise the work as agreed on with the government officials, he suggested.

"In the restoration of private homes I would suggest that an agreed upon credit should be set up from which the homeowner could draw for his wages and material, so that he may be use-

fully employed during the time his property, such as farm lands, is being relieved of the excess of water and becomes in a fit state for cultivation," he said.

"I would recommend that, wherever necessary, seed and nursery stock should be given gratis in order to rehabilitate the farms as early as possible similar to the assistance being given in the Fraser Valley."

To preclude the possibility of persons building close to the banks of streams which might be eroded during floods and to ensure reasonable sanitary provisions, Mr. Kenney recommended that all plans for subdivision in unorganized territory be submitted for approval by the lands department and the health department as well as at present to the public works department before they are registered at the Lands Registry office.

### DETAILS OF COSTS

Mr. Kenney broke down the costs of combating the flood and protecting the dikes as follows: Kimberley \$50,000, Trail \$125,000, North Kamloops \$4,710, North Thompson River \$2,200, Creston diking district \$25,000, Creston reclamation farm \$7,000, Nicks Island diking district in the Creston area \$3,000, Keowna (outside the city) \$7,809, South Okanagan project \$6,817.

The estimated cost of restoration of the structures such as dikes, works, removing water and debris, was made up as follows: North Thompson River \$10,000, Creston diking district \$50,000, Creston reclamation farm \$100,000, and Arrow Lake \$2,000.

The costs of immediate relief and rehabilitation of the property, both municipal and private, were made up as follows: Skeena River Valley \$6,525, Kimberley \$114,950, Trail \$237,890, North Thompson River \$15,000, Kelowna (outside city) \$33,953, Merritt and Ashcroft \$2,000, southern Okanagan and border country, \$56,748.

Breakdown of the costs of replanting crops was as follows: North Kamloops \$1,645, North Thompson River \$15,000, Merritt and Ashcroft \$15,000, South Okanagan and border country \$120,461 and Arrow Lake \$500.

## \$5,000,000 Loan Planned For B.C. Flood Relief Costs

The B.C. Government has asked the Provincial legislature to approve a \$5,000,000 loan to help pay for the costs of the floods.

The borrowing authority is sought in the flood relief bill introduced in the Legislature Wednesday afternoon by Premier Byron Johnson.

In this proposed act and in the Fraser Valley diking board bill, also introduced on the opening day of the special flood session, the government seeks a "blank cheque" to pay for the costs of the flood and the rehabilitation of the flooded areas.

The flood relief bill provides for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to "constitute such boards as he thinks necessary and he may from time to time confer such powers as he thinks necessary to enable it to carry out the provisions of this act."

The two-man board for the Fraser Valley, to be known as the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Authority, is composed of William L. Mackin and Lt.-Col. D'Arcy J. Baldwin. Other persons may be added to the board by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

### OTHER BOARDS PLANNED

The government is also seeking the power in this bill to

name boards for other flood areas. The boards will be bodies politic and corporate.

"The Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall have power to ratify any act in relation to the flood done by the said William Lyle Mackin and Lt.-Col. D'Arcy James Baldwin, M.B.E., before the enactment of this act and before the constitution of the board known as the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Authority," the bill reads.

The bill will empower the government to fix the remuneration of the board.

"A board may from time to time appoint such employees as are required by it and fix and pay remuneration," says the bill.

The employees shall hold office during the pleasure of the board and the boards during the pleasure of the government.

Further authority is sought by the government to prescribe the duties of the boards, damage in respect of which aid may be rendered, extent and nature of the work the boards shall take to prevent further floods.

### RATIFIES AGREEMENT

The bill also ratifies the agreement which B.C. and the federal government have made to pay for the costs of the Fraser Valley floods. Details of this agreement have been announced previously.

The Fraser Valley diking board bill provides for the setting up of the board to be directed jointly by the federal and provincial governments.

Among the wide powers given the board are the following:

"The board shall have power, without giving notice to any person, to enter upon, take possession of, and use for such time as the board thinks necessary, any lands that in the opinion of the board are required to carry out its purpose, and to place on any of such lands any works that are authorized by the said agreement."

The powers of the board will supersede the powers of any drainage or diking district or of any improvement district or municipality.

Arrangement is made for the expropriation of lands needed by the board.

## Tax Relief Urged For Flood Victims

Farmer victims of the Fraser Valley floods should have their taxes paid for them by the provincial government, if they are unable to pay, Harold Winch, C.C.F. Leader of the Opposition, said today in the House.

If the farmers are unable to pay their taxes the municipalities will be in worse position than they are already, Mr. Winch said.

"It might cost you millions but this is a national disaster," he said.

Premier Byron I. Johnson said the government was not making a statement on the matter but added that municipalities would be treated in a fair and impartial manner.

"The people are worried—they care about their taxes," Mr. Winch interjected. "It is a matter of policy and the government should make a statement."

## Members To Receive Living, Traveling Costs

A bill to provide traveling expenses and living costs to members of the Legislature during the current special flood session was given formal first reading by the House Wednesday afternoon.

The bill dispenses with the regular sessional allowance and mileage allowance and in lieu provides for paying the actual traveling expense of each member from his residence to Victoria and back "and his living expenses while present in Victoria by reason of his attendance at the session as fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council."

## Johnson Pleads For Co-operation In Huge Flood Undertaking

Premier Byron Johnson at noon today in the B.C. Legislature pleaded for co-operation and assistance from all in the rehabilitation of Fraser Valley flood victims, and he criticized in the strongest terms those who are stirring up problems and finding faults.

His statement came in the midst of Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch's first attack on the government's dike-repairing program.

Mr. Winch wanted to know what the government was going to do for berry growers and orchardists who have lost plantations and orchards in the Fraser Valley flood. He also wanted to know what the government would do to rehabilitate commercial and industrial undertakings in the flooded areas, suggesting that they are entitled to the same relief as that to be recorded farmers.

The opposition leader added that there were hard feelings in the Fraser Valley about the handling of the \$2,000,000 B.C. Flood Relief Fund.

### SHARP COMEBACK

Mr. Johnson spoke back sharply.

He said that the government had made a contribution to the B.C. Flood Relief Fund but had no part in its distribution. This was being undertaken by the Canadian Red Cross Society which would review individual cases and name local prominent citizens to help in distributing the money where it was most needed.

Mr. Johnson said he had not heard in the Fraser Valley the criticism which Mr. Winch had heard.

As for the berry growers, Mr. Johnson warned there is a limit to what the government can do.

"The government will do everything it can within reason," he said.

But he warned that there is a surplus of raspberry plantations in the province and it is doubtful that all the raspberries to be produced this year can be sold.

### STEER CLEAR OF INDUSTRY

"I don't think this government is in a position to deal with industry," said the Premier. "We have tried to steer clear of compensating industry."

The Premier expressed surprise that Mr. Winch had said flood victims did not know what the government was going to do for them.

Details of the government's plans had been described in the press and given to the flood victims at meetings.

"I appeal to every member of this House, to all of you: Let's approach this thing on a basis of trying to fix it up instead of trying to find faults. Let's not try to create problems," the Premier said.

## Legislature Gets Down To Work With 3 Sittings Daily

The Provincial Legislature today got down to hard work with three sittings planned each day during the remainder of the flood session which expected to conclude Friday.

Provision was made on the first day for the House to sit three times daily. The motion, proposed by Premier Byron Johnson, provides for sittings from 10.30 in the morning until 1 in the afternoon; from 2.30 to 6 and from 8.30 until adjournment.

The debate on the Speech from the Throne, which at regular sessions occupies the House for 10 days or more, was completely dispensed with Wednesday afternoon. The formal motion, thanking His Honor for the address, was put through immediately following the reading of the speech by Chief Justice Gordon McG. Sloan.

The opening of the special session was totally lacking in the color which accompanies such ceremonies in peacetime.

There were few guests on the floor of the House, no ceremonial robes of members of the judiciary, clergy, universities. The galleries, however, for the start of the opening were about three-fourths full, a majority of the spectators being women.

## C.C.F. Presents 11-Point Program On Floods; Asks Policy Statement

Establishment of a permanent diking commission, immediate removal of all diking assessments and an immediate policy statement by the government as to what assistance will be given flood victims, was recommended by Harold Winch, Leader of the Opposition, in an 11-point statement of C.C.F. policy, in the Legislature today.

The recommendations are:

1. Immediate appointment of an authority to exercise powers in the flood areas outside the Fraser River, similar to those now being granted the Fraser River Rehabilitation Authority.
2. Establishment of a permanent diking commission, with jurisdiction over all provincial dikes.
3. Employment of world experts on diking and flood control.

4. Compensation for non-farmers on the same basis as farmers.

5. Removal of diking assessments, the financial responsibility in the future to rest upon the provincial government.

6. Provision for crop loss where necessary.

7. Financial assistance to farmers who cannot get crop returns for a considerable period.

8. Government statement on assistance to displaced persons.

9. Limit the speed of boats on the Fraser River to cut wave wash.

10. A general moratorium where financial circumstances warrant.

11. Federal aid in the establishment of a plan to develop power and control floods.

### WHERE HONOR IS DUE

IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY EVIDENT

to every listener in the Legislative chamber yesterday, and to all who have read Hon. Byron Johnson's report on the recent flood, that the elected leader of this province played a noteworthy part in organizing and carrying out assistance to the many citizens who were overcome by the tragedy. Although his message to the special meeting of the House made but little mention of his own devotion to the work, the simple outline of his activities throughout those days of emergency provides the framework of a story of unceasing labor, of personal "shirt-sleeve" effort at the scene of the inundation, and of masterly organizing and delegation of authority to achieve the speediest relief.

From the first news of the flood and Mr. Johnson's preliminary trip up the Fraser to the affected areas, the work moved smoothly forward. Here, in sequence, are the events which provide a fast-moving example of able administration and capable acceptance of responsibility when these were needed most:

Almost immediately came the appointment of "personal representatives" by the Premier to give on-the-spot administration. A second visit to the ravaged districts was followed by organization of the B.C. Flood Relief Committee, the declaration of a state of emergency and the setting up of army control. A third trip to the flooded lands preceded appointment of a federal-provincial commission to handle relief and rehabilitation, and then came Mr. Johnson's flying trip to Ottawa to arrange federal financial help. A special session of the provincial Legislature was called, financial arrangements were finalized, and the B.C. Flood Relief Fund Commission was organized. The Provincial Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Commission also was set up, and finally the meeting of the Legislature took place to ratify all that had been done.

The Premier's report paid high tribute to the work of volunteer groups at the scene of the flood, to those who helped in organizing relief, to the three armed services, and to other agencies and individuals who were instrumental in aiding the cause. We feel that the moment should not pass without a similar tribute to the man who, by virtue of his position as head of the province, was placed in a position calling for the highest qualities of organization, initiative, ability and courage. These qualities Mr. Johnson showed in full measure.

## Weir Back In House

The opening day of the special flood session of the British Columbia Legislature saw the return to his desk of former Education Minister George M. Weir.

Dr. Weir was unable to attend the session this spring because of illness.

His duties as education minister were taken over last December by W. T. Straith of Victoria.

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# U.S. Experts Aid Canadians In Dike Security

## Greatest Safety Policy Explained By Premier In Legislature Today

Premier Byron Johnson told the B.C. Legislature today that the Fraser Valley Diking Board will undertake the reconstruction of between 170 and 200 miles of dikes in the Fraser Valley.

He said the plan for rebuilding the dikes was to "provide a base sufficiently wide enough to support a gravel road 12 feet wide, with turnouts so that trucks may be used along the top of the dikes for transport of necessary materials in case of flood emergency as well as for general maintenance."

"When discussing complete reconstruction of Fraser Valley dikes with the federal government, I had in mind the provision of a diking system that would give the people of the Fraser Valley the highest sense of security that could possibly be obtained in so far as it was humanly possible so to do," he said.

Mr. Johnson's remarks came as the Fraser Valley Diking Board Act, one of five pieces of legislation to be considered at the special session of the Legislature which began Wednesday, came up for second reading.

In rebuilding the dikes, the Fraser Valley Diking Board, a joint Dominion-provincial body composed currently of F. G. Goodspeed, chief engineer of the Dominion public works department, and Bruce Dixon, provincial dike inspector, will have the advice of experts from both Canada and the U.S. A third member, who will act as chairman and will be an able administrator, will be appointed to the board by the federal government.

Advising the board in rebuilding the dikes will be Dr. Leggett,

soil mechanic expert of the National Research Bureau. He has placed the resources of his research department at the disposal of the diking board.

Mr. Peckover, of the same bureau, who has been in Holland and England for some time studying diking matters, will advise the board on his return from Europe toward the end of July.

Charles Senour, chief engineering assistant of the Mississippi River Commission at Vicksburg, with whom Mr. Goodspeed has already conferred, will provide full information regarding construction of Mississippi dikes, including specifications of construction, specifications of material and sample plans.

H. Darling and E. W. Webber of the office of the chief engineer of the U.S. Army, will visit the Fraser Valley area to study post flood conditions so that they could have the benefit of their advice.

Mr. Johnson said that work was being pressed forward by Mr. Goodspeed and Mr. Dixon.

### Outlines Work Under Way

He outlined work underway in connection with dike reconstruction as follows:

1. Survey parties are at Pitt Meadows, Nicomon Island.

2. A party will start at Agassiz this week-end.

3. Samples of materials are being taken by boring parties and analyzed at the University of British Columbia as to suitability for dike construction.

4. At Agassiz clearing up of drift material and leveling silt and sand deposits is under way.

5. A suction dredge is at work improving dike conditions at Pitt Meadows.

6. Water is being pumped from areas at Matsqui and the dike there has been opened to permit more rapid drainage of flooded areas.

7. A dragline is on its way to Matsqui to open up channels.

8. Pumping equipment is going forward at Sumas.

9. Parties are clearing growth from dikes at Sumas, Matsqui, Pitt Meadows, Lulu Island and South Westminster.

10. All flooded areas have been visited and additional work will proceed as conditions permit.

Mr. Johnson said that every step has been taken with a view to meeting the flood problems of the province.

Reconstruction of dikes outside the Fraser Valley will not be done by the Fraser Valley Diking Board because this work will be the full responsibility of the provincial government and will not be shared by the federal government, Mr. Johnson said.

The bill provides for the province's share of the cost of rebuilding the Fraser Valley dikes from the \$5,000,000 loan and from Consolidated Revenue of the province.

### Program Statement

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## Charges Government Negligent In Not Repairing Dikes

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch today opened the C.C.F. attack on the government's flood relief program, charging the government was negligent in failing to strengthen the Fraser River dikes.

Warnings of high water had been made by old-timers and government departments consistently since February of this year, he said. And, he added, engineers and dike experts had warned since the great flood of 1894, and before, what had to be done to prevent the Fraser River from causing a major calamity.

The first recorded Fraser Flood, he said, was in 1839.

Mr. Winch red reports showing the similarity of pre-flood weather conditions in 1894 and this year and said this alone should have given the government sufficient warning to take action before the waters began to rise this year.

Two years ago, said Mr. Winch, Dean F. M. Clement of the University of British Columbia agriculture department told the government what work was needed on the dikes of the Fraser Valley. He told of work on the Matsqui and Pitt Meadows dikes to put them in good shape.

This report was followed by another by Bruce Dixon, provincial dike inspector, in 1946. He had warned of work needed on the Fraser Valley dikes and had told of the difficulties of making levies on the land to carry out the repairs.

"It should have been the responsibility of the government to see that the work was not governed by what money the inspector could levy but what was required," and Mr. Winch.

Had the government taken head of the warnings, the flood could not have been prevented, but the damage could have been kept down, he continued.

"This government and past governments cannot shirk responsibility," the opposition leader declared.

One break in the Matsqui dike occurred at a point where work on the dike had not been completed, Mr. Winch said.

The opposition leader also criticized the government for the slowness in replacing washed-out roads and bridges.

## Lawmakers Go Home After Voting Wide Powers For Flood Relief

Chief Justice Gordon McG. Sloan prorogued the special flood session of the British Columbia Legislature at 11 this morning.

The legislators wound up their business at 10.30 Thursday night, cutting shorter the session than many had expected. Passed during the two-day session were five measures.

Among the last bills to receive final third reading were the two major works of the session, the Fraser Valley Diking Board Act and the Flood Relief Act. The debates on the third readings of all the five bills lasted only two hours.

### WOMAN WANTED ON BOARD

Among the major points raised were inclusion of a woman on the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Authority; provision in the flood relief act for the diking board to pay compensation for damages to property during building of the dikes and the delegating of such wide powers to the diking board and the rehabilitation authority. None was incorporated in the legislation.

The two women members of the House, Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition, Victoria, and Mrs. Tilly Rolston, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, wanted a woman representative on the rehabilitation authority.

Mrs. Hodges said that she felt

this was the time when the women's point of view should be given. Much of the success of farm operations, she said, rested on the women and she foresaw the situation of some women not wishing to return to their farms, particularly because of the tasks they would face.

Premier Byron Johnson said that there would be plenty of opportunity for women to serve on local committees advising the rehabilitation authority.

A. H. MacDougall, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, and Allan McDonnell, Coalition, Vancouver Centre, led the attacks on the "blank cheque" provisions the government was asking and the failure of the government to provide for the diking board to pay for compensation to farmers whose property is damaged during construction of the dikes.

Treasury benches said the "blank cheque" was needed because there was no estimate of the total cost available.

Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer contended that there was nothing in the diking bill to prevent a farmer taking action to get compensation for damages against the diking board.

### MORATORIUM MEASURE

The bill to provide for a moratorium on debts of flood victims throughout the province went through the two last readings

during the Thursday night session. Mr. Wismer said that bill did not provide for a general moratorium. To secure a deferment of his debts a flood victim must show to a judge that he was unable to pay because of circumstances of the floods.

The bill provides that no action could be taken to collect debts of any type without the leave of a judge. The cost of an application for leave to take action is left to the discretion of the judge. There is no appeal from the judge's decision.

The act will remain in force until the end of the first session of 1949.

The two other measures provided for the payment of expenses of members for the session and the inclusion of the legislation passed at the session in the 1948 revised statutes of the province.

The legislators authorized the government to borrow \$5,000,000 to help pay its costs of rebuilding the dikes and paying the costs of rehabilitation. Unlimited further payments may be made from consolidated revenue of the province.

## Shortage Of Milk Feared This Winter Because Of Floods

Fears of a milk shortage as a result of the Fraser Valley floods were expressed in the Legislature Thursday afternoon by Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam.

During periods of low output on Vancouver Island as high as 50 per cent of Greater Victoria's fluid milk supply comes from Fraser Valley farms.

Mr. Putnam, himself a farmer who suffered heavy loss in the Creston floods, warned that the cattle, as a result of the ordeal they have gone through during the flood, will not return to maximum milk production this year. He blamed changing of feeds and of quarters for this.

"Consequently I feel we have to give every encouragement to the dairy farmers so that Vancouver and adjoining areas will have an adequate milk supply this winter," he said.

His statement came after Mrs. Tilly Rolston, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, had questioned the advisability of the recent two-cent a quart milk price boost.

"I wonder if that extra two cents is going to be beneficial to the farmers," she said, reminding that the law of diminishing returns would enter the picture.

She urged the government to study this point.

## Members See Movies Of Fraser Floods

A group of members of the Legislature saw motion pictures of the Fraser Valley flood area in a showing in the studio of the B.C. Government Travel Bureau today.

The pictures were taken by Frank G. Edwards of Chilliwack from a plane, a boat and on the ground after trips aboard trucks. They showed farm houses and farm buildings toppled over by the flood water all along the Fraser River, wrecked bridges and broken dikes. The scenes also showed bulldozers and trucks in operation and volunteers working on the dikes.

The M.L.A.'s were welcomed by the deputy minister of trade and industry, E. G. Rowebottom, and his chief clerk, T. L. Sturgess.

## Fraser Flood Control Long, Costly Project

Works Minister E. C. Carson warned in the Legislature Thursday that flood control of the Fraser River was a job which would take years to study and would cost tremendous sums to effect.

He recalled that the Dominion and provincial governments had arranged for a committee to study all problems involved in the controlling of the river.

"That is going to be a very expensive problem," he said. "It can only be carried out if the federal government provides the necessary funds."

Allan McDonnell, Coalition, Vancouver Centre, earlier in the debate of the Flood Relief bill, had expressed regret that no provision had been made by the government for up-river, flood control.

"You can't prevent floods with dikes," said the member. "But you can with storage dams plus dikes."

Mr. Carson also warned that citizens should not expect to be able to use highways just as soon as the water receded. A lapse of time would be required for the foundations to dry out, otherwise the traffic would do thousands of dollars more damage to the highways.

## Legislation To Aid

Measures to aid farmers in Canada and rehabilitation were outlined in the Legislature Thursday by Minister Frank Putnam.

For the past several days after the relief a state be assumed returns his. During the the government of charge the care for the. When the ended May each farmer basis:

1. Valley mixed hay points, at \$1

2. Alfalfa

Grain and available for 25 p ruling list p

The farm to provide veterinary s

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Mr. John the farmer purchase quality, the habilitation the rehabi \$10 a ton to

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## Legislature Told Of Measures To Aid Farmers Of Flood Areas

Measures to aid Fraser Valley farmers in caring for their stock and rehabilitating their farms were outlined in detail in the Legislature Thursday by Premier Byron Johnson and Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam.

For the purpose of providing relief, a state of emergency will be assumed to exist until 21 days after the date the owner returns his cattle to his farm. During the state of emergency the government will provide free of charge the feed necessary to care for the cattle.

When the emergency has ended hay will be available to each farmer on the following basis:

1. Valley hay, upland and mixed hay from prairie and U.S. points, at \$15 a ton.
2. Alfalfa hay, at \$20 a ton.

Grain and mill feed will be available from regular distributors at 25 per cent less than the ruling list prices.

The farmer himself will have to provide salt, minerals and veterinary services.

"There appears to be ample supplies of grain in sight to meet all requirements," said Mr. Johnson. "Every possible effort is being made to ensure that sufficient hay is available and the outlook is assuring."

Mr. Johnson added that when the farmer is in a position to purchase local hay of good quality, the Fraser Valley Rehabilitation Authority, which does the rehabilitation work, will pay \$10 a ton toward the cost.

### FREE POULTRY FEED

Feed will be supplied free of charge to evacuated growing poultry stock and old stock until Sept. 30, the premier said. After that it will be available through regular distributors at 25 per cent under ruling list prices.

The authority will also help farmers to get their land back

into crop. Where a farmer has no equipment and requires to hire tractors and machinery for re-seeding, the authority will pay up to \$3.25 per acre for plowing and up to \$1.75 per acre for double discing.

"This is but part of the farm rehabilitation program," he said. "Other measures will be devised when it becomes possible to make appraisal of circumstances upon recession of the water."

"The same type of action is and will be taken by the Fraser Valley authority with respect to homes and farm buildings. It is not possible to set a rigid policy on detail until we know all the problems involved."

Mr. Johnson said that the fullest co-operation would be rendered in the rebuilding of bridges and rehabilitating of roads.

"The government will carry out its responsibilities to the full, but in doing so it will be expected that those who are helped will help themselves," the premier warned.

Mr. Johnson said that one board or local authorities would be set up to carry on similar work outside the Fraser Valley.

### TO RESTORE CULTIVATION

"The government is going to do everything it can to get every possible acre under cultivation just as soon as possible," he said.

He warned, however, that the government had no intention of hiring municipal equipment or employing municipal help to build roads and bridges.

"The municipal authorities are expected to do all they can," he said.

Mr. Putnam assured that the taxpayers' money would not be thrown away in the rehabilitation program.

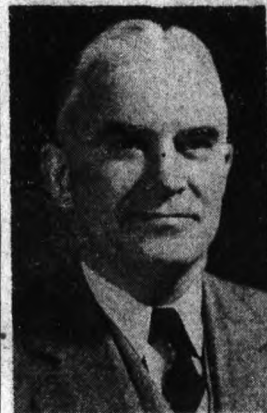
He warned that it may be necessary to import hay from as far away as Manitoba and that the railways and federal government had been approached in an effort to get favorable freight rates for this.

## Premier's Flood Work Wins Bouquets From Legislators

The debate on the second reading of the flood relief bill in the Legislature Thursday brought many bouquets from private members for Premier Byron Johnson's work during the Fraser Valley flood.

Alec Hope, Coalition, Delta, said he believed no other premier had done more for the people in a great disaster than Premier Johnson. He said the premier had walked the dikes, driven through the flood area and flown over the flood area.

"He wanted to be among the people who were in distress and



he was there," he said, adding congratulations to other members of the provincial cabinet.

### WONDERFUL DEAL

Of the deal made with Ottawa to finance rehabilitation of flood areas, Mr. Hope said:

"I think it is a wonderful deal. I think the farmers and the people of the Fraser Valley should be very thankful for what is going to be done."

John Gates, Coalition, North Vancouver, said that he believed no one could have done more than Mr. Johnson.

The cheers of approval also came from the opposition benches. Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, commended the premier for "gouging" \$5,000,000 out of the federal government.

"The federal government came very well to the fore in this situation," he said. "I believe the federal government has faced up to the situation for once so far as B.C. is concerned."

## No Dikes Will Halt Rivers Flooding, Kenney Tells House

Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney, scoring members who had suggested the government was negligent in failing to give farmers adequate protection against the flooding Fraser River, told the Legislature Thursday no amount of dikes would stop the silting up of river beds and the consequent flooding of low-lying levels.

"We'll have floods to the end of time," said the minister, noting that there had been floods since the beginning of time. He said that nowhere had dikes been built which would withstand the onslaught of rampaging rivers after silt had clogged their beds.

Mr. Kenney suggested there was only one way to prevent damaging homes, buildings and farms along the low banks of rivers. That was to prevent people from entering these areas.

"Surely anyone going down there should realize the river will flood," he said. But they went to those areas because they were the choicest soils.

He urged members not to be critical and attempt to place the responsibility on the government.

The minister said, however, that no one would be neglected in receiving government aid for damage done by floods throughout the province. True, it would be necessary to scrutinize the claims for damage carefully, but his department, he said, was still open to receive claims for damage from areas where they had not already been made.

## Muskrats Menace In Dike Areas

Muskrats, according to A. C. Hope, Coalition, Delta, were a menace to the B.C. flood dikes and should be classed with predatory animals for destruction.

Mr. Hope said that muskrats were of greater danger in the dike areas than coyotes and wolves in the interior because muskrats might endanger many lives. He said red tape should be slashed so that muskrats could be shot on sight in the dike areas.

Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer said the provincial game board would co-operate with the dike authorities on the question.

## Stage Of Milk Reduced This Winter Cause Of Floods

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FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1948

#### MR. WINCH FORGOT NOAH

**T**HOSE WHO KNOW THEIR BIBLICAL history will recall that Noah earned fame as the reputed hero of The Deluge. He was the patriarch who, because of his blameless piety, was chosen to perpetuate the human race after his wicked contemporaries had perished in The Flood. But he built his Ark on divine instruction, having received warning from the same impeccable source; so his course was clear. The rest of the story can be left to the reader.

It is not our intention to wade out into the allegorical realm. We have merely wandered away into the mists of time's dawning because of our surprise that Mr. Harold Winch, leader of the C.C.F. opposition in the Legislature, omitted all reference to The Flood and its hero when he figuratively threw "bell, book and candle" at the Coalition administration yesterday morning for not anticipating the tragic happenings along the Fraser Valley. Not that he ignored historical precedent altogether; he harked back to the first recorded flood in the Mainland region so recently inundated. That was 40 years before Winch the Elder was born. To be sure, the Younger had something to say about the tragedy which struck the people living on the banks of the great waterway 13 years before he first saw the light of day in the little English village of Loughton in Essex—about the time the present Premier of the province was looking forward to his fifth birthday party. We are mentioning these facts to try to impart a little of the flavor of erudition to the castigation which the leader of the opposition directed at the Coalition government benches for what he implied was sheer negligence in respect of measures calculated intelligently to anticipate Nature's ugly mood in 1948.

Reports of the proceedings of the Legislature in yesterday's and today's issue of this newspaper will, of course, prove conclusively to the public of British Columbia that Mr. Winch was trying to make political capital out of tragedy—a reprehensible procedure which does neither him nor the party he leads much credit. It is so easy to be immensely wise after the event. And when, during his 15 years as a member of the Legislature, has the presiding genius of the C.C.F. opposition risen in his seat to warn successive governments of the dangers of flood in the Fraser Valley or elsewhere in British Columbia? When has he supplied the elected representatives of the people with a formula similar to that which Premier Johnson was working out on the trouble spots—while Mr. Winch was electioneering? Let him tell us.

It is naturally extremely difficult for the leader of the C.C.F. opposition to be fair, or even sympathetic, to the government in this grim hour, or especially to present his comments in orderly fashion, when he is obliged all the time to be looking over both shoulders for the antics of those gremlins who wear the regalia of the Labor Progressive Party. Assuredly he often must feel like tearing his raven locks and wishing he could be saved from his "friends." But we still wish he had made some fleeting reference to Noah and The Deluge—even if he did not have the courage to admit that every move Premier Johnson made was determined by the absolute necessity for quick action.