

OCT

1923

Government Assumes Responsibility for Eight-Hour-Day Bill

October 30/23

Precedent Established by Ministers Presenting 30 Reports

By C. NORMAN SENIOR
Sun Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Oct. 29.—With just a shade more of ceremony and a shade more of business, the opening of the fourth session of the fifteenth parliament of British Columbia was staged in the presence of a crowded assembly hall this afternoon. His honor Walter C. Nichol, the lieutenant governor, was gorgeously clad in his Windsor suit for the occasion, and entered the chamber escorted by a naval and military guard in full dress.

The speech from the throne contained two announcements of importance, one was that the government had assumed responsibility for the eight-hour day bill, which has been Major R. J. Burde's charge in previous years. The other was that the much abused personal property tax is to be reduced, as are also the taxes on real property. Outside of this the speech was chiefly a review of the administrative achievements of the past recess. The lands department was given credit for settlement of the age old dispute with the Dominion about foreshore ownership and it was announced that the Indian reserves question was also approaching an amicable settlement.

A precedent was established when the ministers presented no fewer than 30 reports and returns. Attorney General Manson, who prides himself on being the hard-working member of the government, started proceedings by introducing 11 of these reports by separate motions. Hon. Dr. J. D. MacLean followed with 8 reports, which he embodied

in one motion. All of these reports, however, had been printed months ago and their contents duly published. Hon. Dr. W. H. Sutherland brought up the rear with just one report.

First reading of a technical amendment to the factories act was the legislative achievement of the house for opening day and a series of motions by Premier Oliver providing for appointment of standing committees, printing of the votes and proceedings, etc., were put through.

POOLEY ALL READY

Major R. J. Burde, who always puts in an ear at some stage of the proceedings, vociferously voted "no" to the formal motion reappointing M. B. Jackson, K.C., to the deputy speakership and insisted before the vote was announced that the "noes" had it. Mr. Speaker Pauline, however, did not appear to hear him. The proceedings closed with the National anthem, to start which, the house baritone, F. W. Anderson, had been provided with a front seat. Debating begins tomorrow, when J. B. Clearhue moves the address in reply to the speech from the throne and Mrs. M. E. Smith, fresh from her trip to the Old Country, seconds it. R. H. Pooley will be the first opposition speaker, and it is expected that the party leaders will be heard from not later than Thursday.

Advance reports of the proposed redistribution bill, which is, of course, mentioned in the speech from the throne, indicate that Esquimalt, Mr. Pooley's ancestral seat, occupied by his father before him, is to be wiped out of existence and, as Major Burde described it, Mr. Pooley is ready to paw the air because he hasn't any ground left to paw.

By Canadian Press

VICTORIA, Oct. 29.—R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, will move adjournment of the debate in the legislature tomorrow afternoon. It was announced tonight.

Mary Ellen Stresses Obligation of Canada to Help New Comers

Both Dominion and Provincial Governments Must Assist Empire by Affording Homes to Hundreds of Thousands of Unemployed in Britain

By C. NORMAN SENIOR
Sun Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Oct. 30.—Immigration and industrial development formed the keynote of Mrs. M. E. Smith's address in the legislature, seconding the reply to the speech from the throne. A new note on immigration was struck by Vancouver's woman member when aside from Canada's need for greater population, she stressed the obligation of Canada to assist the empire by affording homes to the hundreds of thousands of unemployed in Great Britain.

She urged that it was the duty of Dominion and provincial governments to use every means at their disposal for assisting newcomers to populate the country's fertile valleys and plains, and appealed strongly for government aid in the establishment of basic industries.

J. B. Clearhue, junior member for Victoria, moved and Mrs. Smith seconded the reply. They were the only speakers of the day. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, follows them tomorrow and W. J. Bowser, K.C., opposition leader, will hold the floor on Thursday. It is expected that Premier Oliver will follow immediately after the leader of the opposition, possibly at the same sitting of the house.

UNUSUAL FEATURE

An unusual feature of today's speeches was the fact that the mover and seconder of reply came into sharp conflict on one vital matter which promises to be one of the high lights of the session's debates. That is the appeal for government aid in establishing an iron and steel industry. Mrs. Smith took the Victoria member sharply to task for remarks derogatory to the efforts of the Coast Range Steel company to erect blast furnaces in British Columbia with the aid of Old Country and British Columbia capital.

Mr. Clearhue spoke with the utmost optimism about the future of British Columbia. Development must be the foundation of every policy in any new country, he said. No new industry could be established without the expenditure of great sums of money and he lauded the government for its activities in this direction in the past. He cited statistics to show the prosperity of every industry in the province except coal mining, which he said was seriously affected by the dumping of cheap fuel oil into the country by California.

"If we do not spend money in development we stagnate," he said. "Stagnation means ruin."

MARY ELLEN TO RESCUE

When he came to the proposal to establish an iron and steel industry, however, he made a strong attack upon the Coast Range Steel company, which, he said, had been flooding the country with false propaganda. He declared that to place the development of an iron and steel industry in the hands of this company would be disastrous.

Mrs. Smith expressed the hope that the government would find some means of helping the coal industry and referred to the large amount of coal which would be consumed by a blast furnace. She deprecated Mr. Clearhue's bringing into the discussion the name of any individual company, but since this had been done she reminded the house they should meet the Old Country people back of the enterprise and declared that they were not of substance and of no account.

"I can say without hesitation that they are men of the highest standing whose reputations will stand the closest investigation," she said.

"I note by the speech from the throne," she added caustically, "that the geological survey is making rapid progress in investigating the province's iron resources. I hope we shall not have to wait much longer for something final so we may see an iron and steel industry established at an early date as this province needs industrial development. Knowing what an iron and steel industry would mean to B. C. after visiting some of the great plants around Sheffield recently, I hope that the government will go half way to meet those who wish to come in and develop such an industry in the province and not quibble and quarrel with them."

APPEALS FOR SETTLERS

Mrs. Smith painted a gloomy picture of conditions in England. She said unemployment and high taxation were an almost insupportable burden on the people. One man she met was paying taxes equivalent to 15 shillings on the pound of his income. A million and a half were out of work and in receipt of doles.

People with competences in 1914 found their estates so reduced that they had only a small amount to make a fresh start with and they wished to come to Canada for that purpose. As only 15 per cent of Canada's agricultural land was under cultivation she appealed to federal and provincial governments to invite settlers of the desirable class and to use existing machinery such as the soldier settlement board and the land settlement board to aid them in establishing themselves.

She urged that the people of Canada organize social effort to make newcomers welcome and to help them get established. Of the 11,000 harvesters who had come this year, she said that only 200 had proved undesirable in spite of all the criticism which this handful had brought on the shoulders of the many. Many had decided to remain, but as not all had found themselves at home in agricultural surroundings, she emphasized the necessity of industrial development to take care of all classes.

A resolution regretting the passing of the great Canadian, Rt. Hon. Andrew Bonar Law, who rose from humble beginning to become premier of Britain, was solemnly passed by standing vote of the legislature today on motion of Premier Oliver. W. J. Bowser, K.C., leader of the opposition, who was born in the same little New Brunswick village of Rexton as the deceased statesman, was not in his place when the motion was put, but J. W. Jones, voiced the opposition's approval.

Both the premier and Mr. Jones paid special tribute to the late Mr. Law's heroic public service during the war period, which was described as a primary cause contributing to the breakdown of his health. J. B. Clearhue in moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne, also paid his tribute to Mr. Law in eloquent language, and Mrs. M. E. Smith added the late British premier as a good husband and a kind father.

THEATRES HEARD FROM

In appealing for a 50 per cent reduction of the amusement tax on theatres having a vested interest, the deputations from the B.C. Amusement association laid a strong case before Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, today. The deputations consisted of J. R. Muir and R. Rowland of Vancouver and Cliff Denham of Victoria.

Amusement tax yields about \$180,000, of which theatres contribute approximately \$200,000. The flat reduction they ask, stated Mr. Holland today, amounts to \$60,000, but the encouragement which would be afforded theatres now hanging on by a thread, he claimed, would enable them to go out and improve their business, thereby making up the government's apparent loss to a considerable extent. They declare that the amusement industry which has \$5,000,000 invested in permanent plant in the province, is in bad shape financially, and that the present 10 per cent. tax on gross receipts is far in excess of the net earnings of even the most successful provincial, federal and municipal taxes imposed on other businesses and ask that this supertax on gross turnover be cut approximately in half.

A special argument used to offset the contention that theatres are luxuries is that B. C. relies on its tourist industry as a basic source of revenue and the theatres claim that the quality of amusement afforded is a factor affecting the volume of tourist business. Mr. Hart made the usual promise of careful consideration, but prospects of the reduction asked are considered to be bright.

CHAIRMAN CHANGED

In anticipation of a strenuous time in the public accounts committee of the legislature, where the opposition makes its annual investigation of the government's liquor business, Premier Oliver is making a change in the chairmanship of that important committee. J. W. deB. Farris, K.C., is to succeed J. A. Buckham, chief Liberal whip, according to the slate prepared by the premier for submission to the house in a day or two. This is the only important change in the slate of committee and of the coming session.

A special committee has been proposed by Attorney General Manson to consider the consolidation of the statutes. It consists of all the legal members of the house. These are Hon. A. Manson, J. W. deB. Farris, K.C.; M. B. Jackson, K.C.; David Whiteside, Ian MacFensie, J. B. Clearhue, W. J. Bowser, K.C.; R. H. Pooley and Joshua Hinchliffe, the ex-clergyman, who was admitted to the Bar a few weeks ago.

NIGHT SITTINGS ORDERED

In pursuance of the rumored government intention of having a short snappy session Premier Oliver on the second day of the legislature filed notice of motion for night sittings to commence on Thursday. It does not follow that the rule will be invoked as soon as adopted, but this motion has never before been filed so early in the day.

Joshua Hinchliffe has given notice to the legislature of his intention of reintroducing the bill to amend the provincial elections act, which was voted down last session. The bill provides that by-elections must be held within six months of a seat becoming vacant and is intended as a means of giving the opposition a little chance to lease the government about its failure to fill the Vancouver seat which has now been vacant for three sessions, owing to the resignation of M. A. Macdonald, K.C., in 1921.

POOLEY INQUISITIVE

R. H. Pooley, the member for Esquimalt, is inquisitive. Five pages of today's votes and proceedings of the legislature are taken up with questions which he is asking of the various ministers.

Among other things he wants to know how much government insurance has been placed with the firm of Gillespie, Hart & Todd, of which Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, is a member, since the present government took office in 1916. He wants to know whether a certain Captain Ley was sent into Prince Rupert by the liquor control board to investigate conditions, whether he made a report concerning the Skena club, and whether legal proceedings followed. He wants to know many, many things about taxes raised and moneys spent in the ancient riding of Esquimalt, which he and his father before him have represented in the legislature for more than a quarter of a century, and which the proposed redistribution bill threatens to wipe out. He also wants to know much about public expenditures in the ridings of Prince Rupert, of Omineca and Fort George, which Mr. Pooley visited on a speaking tour during recess. He wants to know all about Hon. Dr. W. H. Sutherland's visit to Peace River last summer, how much it cost and who went along.

Mr. Pooley's special hobby in the line of criticism, the liquor business, is touched only once in a series of questions about the firm which destroyed the Victoria liquor warehouses.

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EIGHT HOUR DAY LAW FOR MILLS

Embargo May Be Put on Export of Logs

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 30.—(Special to The World)—The eight hour day law which the government will likely submit to the present legislature will apply only to the lumber, pulp, shingle and allied industries, is the statement made in authoritative circles here today.

It is believed that as a concession to the lumber industries the government will bring down an act placing an embargo on the export of logs, which will have the effect of keeping much of the lumber now exported in logs in British Columbia and stimulating the lumber business generally. So far the bill has not been drawn up, but the lumber lobby is strongly in evidence.

The speech from the throne also forecast reductions in the taxes on real and personal property. The government will not abolish the latter completely, as advocated by Mr. Bowser, but a substantial reduction will be made. The Retail Merchants' Association is pressing hard for the abolition of the tax.

Clearihue Opens Debate On Address in Reply

Strong criticism of the Coast Range steel project and the advocacy of a tax on gasoline, were outstanding points made in the speech of Mr. Clearihue, member for Victoria, who moved this afternoon in the legislature the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

"Nothing can do more harm to an industry," he said, "than its hasty establishment upon insufficient data and as the result of a campaign of propaganda by over-zealous promoters. When one finds a company such as the Coast Range Steel Co. flooding the province with its propaganda based on figures not according to fact, and at the same time endeavoring to finance its schemes 100 per cent. with bonds to be guaranteed by various governments, without the expenditure of one cent by the promoters, I can only say that to trust the development of this great resource to their hands will only be disastrous to the ratepayers of this province."

Touching on the industrial progress of the province in recent years, Mr. Clearihue said:

"Since 1915, up to the close of 1922, the number of manufacturing plants have increased from 1907 to 2809, an increase of almost threefold; and employees from 20,000 to 60,000; whilst their wages have increased from \$14,567,761 to \$66,192,190, an increase of almost six times, a sure indication of our industrial prosperity and of gradual development in our industrial life."

"Our timber industry was never in a stronger position. The figures for 1923 are phenomenal. Our overseas shipments for the first six months of 1923 totalled 220,824,894 feet, as compared with 142,628,779 feet for a similar period of 1922, or an increase in one year of 54 per cent. In 1916 the total returns, royalties, stumpage, etc., amounted to \$1,826,412. In 1922 it had almost doubled to \$3,207,454."

"Figures in regard to forest fires show that in 1923 only 102,000 acres were burned, as compared with 1,668,665 acres in 1922. Indeed, sir, our service needs to be congratulated among the provinces in this branch of the work, Ontario again leading the way.

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LEGISLATURE IS SURE TO BRING DOWN MEASURE

Impost Will Not Affect Fishermen or Farmers, Is Report

VICTORIA, Oct. 30.—(Special to The World)—That a gasoline tax of two cents per gallon, which will result in about \$500,000 accruing to the revenue of the province, a great deal of which will be from outside sources, will be brought down at this session of the legislature, is regarded as a certainty.

The money so raised will be earmarked for roadbuilding purposes, and the proposed tax will loom large in the road programme of the government which will be brought down by the minister of public works during the session.

It is stated that the tax will not affect fishermen, stationary engines or gasoline used purely for agricultural purposes.

The figures are based on the turnover of the company which supplied 60 per cent. of the gasoline used in British Columbia last year, and it is expected that consumption in 1924 will be greatly increased through increased tourist traffic.

Although generally expected no objection to the proposed tax has been heard as it is conceded that in conjunction with a road programme and with the money earmarked for road building purposes it will be a popular form of revenue production.

TAKE \$175,000 FINES AND BAIL

VICTORIA, Oct. 30.—(Special to The World)—Fines for infractions of the government liquor act for the six months ending March 31 last totalled \$93,225, according to the report for that period presented to the legislature this afternoon by Attorney-General Hon. A. M. Manson. For the same period the amount collected on estreated bail amounted to \$82,401, making a total collected of \$175,626.

Figures for the various classes of prosecutions were: Drunk in a public place, 1373 prosecutions; for selling and dealing in beer and near beer, 630 prosecutions; for selling liquor or exposing liquor for sale, 187 prosecutions; for purchasing liquor illegally or taking liquor for a consideration, 120 prosecutions. Total prosecutions were 2900.

There were 319 cases of persons having unsealed liquor in possession, and 118 cases where liquor was found on premises of persons engaged in selling non-intoxicating beverages. Only 33 persons were prosecuted for consuming liquor in a public place, while 37 permitted drunkenness or gave liquor to intoxicated persons. Sixty were charged with keeping or consuming liquor in any part of a hotel other than a private guest room.

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Increase Of 2000 At Normal Schools

VICTORIA, Oct. 31.—(Special to The World)—An increase of nearly 2,000 pupils attending the normal schools of B. C. is reported by Hon. Dr. J. D. MacLean, minister of education. This increase puts B. C. second in the rank of provinces for this branch of work, Ontario only preceding her.

During the year 1922-23 the total number of those engaged in manual training was 12,217, and during the previous year it was 10,511. Figures for domestic science reveal a corresponding increase, and place B. C.

second among the provinces in this branch of the work, Ontario again leading the way. There were 3456 pupils and instructors engaged in this work last year, as compared to 3,103 in the previous year.

The Speech From the Throne

Much Important Legislation Foreshadowed by Oliver Administration

MORE important than the news that the provincial government proposes to reduce taxation this session is the fact behind the news—the fact that owing to the increasing prosperity of the province revenue is coming in so abundantly that the administration finds itself able to give relief in certain directions without impairing the public services.

Not only those who pay personal property tax and realty tax into the treasury at Victoria are to be congratulated on the announcement which looms so large in the Speech from the Throne delivered last Monday, but the people of British Columbia as a whole. If for the rest of us there is to be no remission of any part of our tribute to Caesar just now we have at least very good assurances that we shall find the tribute easier to raise.

If any part of the community were to benefit by the improvement in the fiscal situation few will deny that it should be those engaged in struggling industries and businesses and those who are extracting with much labor a living from the land. There was never any economic law that justified the personal property tax and the only pity is that the finance minister cannot yet see his way to abolish it altogether. Paid by concerns that have to pay it because they are making little profit or none, or even losing money, and, therefore, cannot be charged with income tax, it is frequently almost iniquitous in its incidence.

Realty taxes are paid to the government by those landowners only whose property is situated outside the boundaries of cities and municipalities. Many of these are farmers who already have enormously heavy school taxes to meet, a farm of 160 acres possibly paying more to a rural board of trustees than the owner of an apartment building pays to the school authority in this city. Any relief afforded the cultivators of the soil, therefore, will lighten to some extent a load which not infrequently is almost intolerable.

THE Speech from the Throne dilates on the prosperity of the leading industry of the province. Evidently it is believed that no better time could be chosen to bring that industry into line with others as regards the length of its working day.

In British Columbia, without in many cases legislation to enforce it, the eight-hour day has become the rule for almost all employees except those who labor in the lumber mills. The Speech does not specifically state that the proposed legislation fixing the length of the working day is to apply to the mills, but since there is little room for such legislation in other directions it is a fair assumption that, especially in view of the close vote on the question last session, the forthcoming bill will deal with the several occupations included in the lumber industry.

For the rest, we are informed by the time-honored medium of the Speech that redistribution is contemplated, that the organization of the provincial police is to be improved and that the Coal Mines Act is to be amended. We shall have to wait, however, until the government is ready to bring down its bills for information as to the scope of the proposed measures.

On the whole the outlook is for a busy and interesting session, in the course of which legislation of more than usual importance will be placed on the statute-book.

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MERCHANTS WILL LOBBY MEMBERS

Committee of Six Victoria Retailers to Urge the Necessity for Abolishing Personal Property Tax in B.C.

CAMPAIGN WILL BE STARTED AT ONCE

Speakers Declare That Many Business Firms Must Pay Impost Out of Capital, as They Have Made No Profits

SIX of the most influential members of the Victoria branch of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada will immediately canvass all the members of the Provincial Legislature in the hope of persuading them of the injustices of the Personal Property Tax, and obtaining their assurances that they will do all in their power toward making its abolition a reality at the present session of the House. In addition, the secretaries of all the R.M.A. branches and the Boards of Trade in the Province will be asked to wire at once the member of their constituency, asking him to vote in favor of the removal of this impost, while the Associated Boards of Trade of British Columbia, which will convene in Vancouver on November 15, also will be urged to lend its endorsement to the repeal of the tax.

These decisions were arrived at last night by the local branch of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada at an informal supper gathering, which was held in the Dominion Hotel dining-room and attended by representatives of the various retail trades in the city. Mr. H. O. Kirkham, president of the organization, presided, and the matter of the appointment of the committee to interview and lobby the members of the local House was left in his hands.

"An Unsound Impost"

In opening the meeting, President Kirkham said that the personal property tax was recognized by all taxation authorities as an unsound one. He pointed out that the merchants paid a tax of one per cent on their stock-in-trade and equipment on December 31 of each year, whether or not they had made any profits during the twelve months. He traced the history of the campaign against the continuance of the impost, and concluded by declaring that the organization was not a political association, and did not take part in politics. He affirmed that all the big business bodies in the Province were behind the R.M.A. in its fight against the tax.

Mr. Norman T. Lee, of Smith & Champion, said that there was no difference of opinion on the question of the personal property tax among merchants, for they were solidly behind the move for its entire abolition. He said that his firm had to pay \$2,500 out of its capital last year under this tax. The revenue that would be lost to the government through the repeal of the personal property tax could be made up by the imposition of a graduated tax on incomes, properly administered and properly collected.

The speaker claimed that it would be unfair for the government to ask or expect the merchants to suggest means of how the revenue thus lost could be made up. However, if the merchants were requested to show how money could be raised, they would suggest that an income tax collected on an equitable basis be substituted for the personal property tax.

Says Business Stifled

Asserting that the trade in British Columbia had been more or less stifled by the personal property impost, Mr. Lee said that merchants did not feel like laying in big stocks and therefore did not purchase heavily. He contended that many men doing business properly in the Province were escaping the tax, for, he pointed out, the merchants were not taxed on the amount of stock disposed of during the year, but upon the value of the stock that they had on hand on December 31. He concluded with an appeal to the merchants to take steps to have the tax done away with at this session of the Legislature.

Mr. Percy R. Scurrah advocated the three suggestions as to what steps the merchants should take in their campaign that were finally adopted by the meeting. He told of the Provincial Board of the R.M.A. going to the Parliament Buildings regularly. There they had received courteous treatment from the Cabinet, which had listened to the arguments advanced by the merchants and then promised to give the matter very serious consideration. The delegations then went away, and the merchants were still paying the tax, continued the speaker.

Mr. Scurrah stated that the personal property tax was unscientific and should be repealed. No one attempted to defend it but the Premier. Professor Adam Shortt, noted economist, recently stated that the tax was "unfair and unjust."

"The government oftentimes spends money too freely. I ask you whether it is good business to spend \$400,000 for a courthouse in Prince Rupert, a town of 10,000 inhabitants? If the Provincial government spent the taxes they collect as economically as the merchants run their businesses, we wouldn't need to have any substitute for the personal property tax, after the latter has been repealed," said Mr. Scurrah.

The Government's Work

That it was not the retail merchants' business to suggest to the government how they should raise money to replace the revenue derived from the personal property tax was the contention advanced by the speaker. "This duty is purely that of the members of the government; that is what we are paying them for. They have proved very efficient in finding sources of revenue," he said.

Mr. Scurrah said that the support of all retail merchants was required to "put the campaign over." He mentioned that scores of merchants had not made any profits in their businesses during the past two years, and they were obliged to pay this "iniquitous" tax out of their capital. He stated that this drive would cost money, and urged the members to send in their subscriptions to Secretary Wallis to assist in the work.

"Your presence here tonight shows that the personal property tax is a burden and an iniquitous impost upon you," Mr. Herbert Kent told his hearers. "I can show you where my firm had to pay \$900 out of our capital for this tax, as we have not had any profits. And remember, British Columbia is the only province where such a tax is in force."

Mr. Kent quoted Professor Adams, of Yale University, who recently said that "the tax has been tried for generations, but nowhere has it been well assessed and administered. It has absolutely no virtues."

The speaker thought that the Provincial government should not require any convincing on the matter of the injustices of the personal property tax, remarking that a Royal Commission appointed at the government's instigation recently brought in a report that the impost was "unfair, grotesque and ridiculous." He said that Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, was personally distinctly opposed to the tax. Mr. Kent said that he was creditably informed that twenty-seven members of the Legislature were opposed to the tax, and he believed that the merchants had a fine opportunity now of having the tax abolished.

President Kirkham intervened to say that several hundred of the retail merchants on the Mainland and Interior districts in the Province were prepared, if it were necessary, to come down to Victoria and lend their aid in getting the repeal put into effect.

Supports Campaign

Mr. W. H. Wilkerson said that the personal property tax severely affected the jewelers, pointing out that they had articles in stock that they could not dispose of for several years, and yet had to pay a tax for the privilege of having them in their possession. He said his firm paid \$500 tax on the stock last year, and was at heart with the cause of having the tax removed.

Mr. Albert E. G. Cornwell said that the retail merchants must work hard now and do everything possible towards bringing about the abolition of the personal property tax. He considered the business men should aid the committee that will canvass the members of the House by going out and interviewing members of the Legislature that they were acquainted with.

The value of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada to retail merchants was strongly emphasized by Mr. Howard S. Stevenson. The speaker endorsed the campaign, and stated that one of the big achievements of the organization was that if it hadn't been for the R.M.A., the business men of the city would have been taxed on their rental values instead of having their licence tax increased.

Suggestions made by Mr. R. R. Taylor and Mr. J. O. Stinson that the manufacturers, wholesalers, small business men and all business bodies be asked to endorse the retail merchants' efforts to have the personal property tax abolished met with favor, and will be acted upon.

LIQUOR CASES ADD TO B.C. REVENUE

Twenty-Nine Hundred Prosecutions Brought in Province Under Government Control Act

Convictions under the Government Liquor Act resulted in a revenue to the Province of \$175,635 during the six months ending March 31 last, according to a statement presented to the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Attorney-General A. M. Manson.

The prosecutions totalled 2,900 for the six months. The greatest offenders were persons drunk in a public place, who numbered 1,372. For selling or dealing in beer or near-beer, 630 persons were prosecuted. There were 187 prosecutions against persons for selling liquor or exposing liquor for sale; while 120 persons were apprehended for purchasing liquor illegally or taking liquor for consideration.

There were 319 cases of persons having unsealed liquor in possession, and 115 cases where liquor was found on premises of persons engaged in selling nonintoxicating beverages. Only 23 persons were prosecuted for consuming liquor in a public place, while 37 permitted drunkenness or gave liquor to intoxicated persons. Sixty were charged with keeping or consuming liquor in any part of a hotel other than a private guest room.

Legislature Begins Business of Session With Due Ceremony

Representative Gathering Packs Legislative Galleries to Witness Formalities Carried Out in Less Than Half an Hour—Lieutenant-Governor Is Escorted by Speaker

MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT PRESENT ANNUAL REPORTS

COMPLETING the formal opening ceremony in considerably less than half an hour, the fourth session of British Columbia's fifteenth parliament got under way yesterday afternoon before a gathering that packed every corner of the legislative assembly hall.

Except for its extreme brevity, there was little to distinguish yesterday's proceedings from previous openings of the House. There were a few innovations, such as the escort provided by Speaker Pauline for Lieutenant-Governor Walter C. Nichol from the executive chamber to the Speaker's dais and the multiplicity of annual reports presented by the ministers, but apart from features such as those the function was without unusual happenings.

His Honor Arrives

At 3 o'clock the guns of the Work Point battery boomed a salute to His Honor and all members were in their places awaiting the coming of the Lieut.-Governor. His Honor inspected his guard of honor, lined up outside the Parliament Buildings before making his entrance. The guard of honor comprised detachments of the Princess Patricia's, Royal Canadian Artillery and Royal Canadian Engineers, under Major D. A. Clark, M.C., Captain Underwood and Lieut. Thackeray.

At 3:08 o'clock, Sergeant-at-Arms Henry Hearn, announced the arrival of the Lieut.-Governor. Mr. Hearn led the way to the Assembly Hall through the main entrance, followed by His Honor, in Windsor uniform. He was accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. H. J. S. Muskett, his aide-de-camp, Major Seldon Humphries, and Mr. Speaker Pauline. Following them were thirty-two naval and military officers, who formed a double line down the aisle, facing each other between the legislators' desks.

Without a moment's delay, the Lieut.-Governor read the Speech from the Throne, handing the document to his secretary as soon as he had finished. He was then escorted to the Bar of the House and thanked by the Speaker. Accompanied by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Lieut.-Governor left the hall, walking between the rows of officers. Just before entering the outside corridor he stood for a few seconds to pose for a photograph. The Sergeant-at-Arms returned to his place near the Speaker, carrying the Mace. Bishop C. de V. Schofield then offered the invocation.

First to Speak

The session was formally opened for business. Attorney-General A. M. Manson was the first member of the House on his feet, when he introduced a minor amendment to the Factories' Act, defining the word "child."

The Premier moved that the speech of the Lieut.-Governor be taken into consideration at the next sitting and that it take precedence over all orders except introduction of bills, until finally disposed of.

Then he moved, seconded by Hon. J. D. MacLean, that the votes and proceedings of the session be printed in the usual way. This resolution was followed by several other formal motions, such as that appointing Mr. M. B. Jackson deputy speaker.

When Mr. Jackson's name was mentioned there was a loud "No." from Major R. J. Burde, independent member for Alberni, suddenly breaking the tension caused by the long succession of formal activities. His negative, however, was not supported.

Attorney-General Manson presented twelve annual reports. The reports were those of the Department of Labor, Liquor Control Board, Inspector of Municipalities, Game Warden, Game Conservation Board, Workmen's Compensation Board, Mothers' Pensions Board, Industrial School for Girls, District Guardian, Inspector of Jails, Board of Commissioners for the Promotion of Uniformity of Legislation in

More Reports

Hon. J. D. MacLean presented the reports of the Museum, Library, Provincial Industrial School and the Department of Railways.

Reports on the alienation of Indian lands, the Forest Branch, and Department of Lands were submitted by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Finance handed in reports of the Department of Industries and the Provincial Administrator, and Hon. William Sloan, the reports of the Department of Mines and the Commissioner of Fisheries. He also submitted reports describing the administration of the Coal Mines' Regulation Act and the Iron-Ore Supply Act.

The Department of Agriculture and the Land Settlement Board reports were presented by Hon. E. D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture.

Following presentation of the report of the Department of Public Works by Hon. W. H. Sutherland, the Premier moved that the House stand adjourned until 2 o'clock today.

Everyone then joined in singing the National Anthem.

His Honor's Escort

Among the officers who formed the Lieutenant-Governor's escort were: Brigadier-General J. M. Ross, C.M.G., D.S.O., district officer commanding Military District No. 11; Brigadier-General R. P. Clark, C.M.G., D.S.O.; Lieutenant-Commander C. T. Beard, senior naval officer, and Lieutenants R. E. Oland, Stevens, Goward and Cozette, of the Esquimalt naval establishment; Lieutenant-Colonel Urquhart, M.C.; Major Wise, Captain J. Gordon Smith, Captain H. B. Bate, M.C.; Captain W. C. Merston and Lieutenants Ronald Kingham and Kirkham, of the 16th Battalion, Canadian Scottish; Lieutenant-Colonel Greer, A.A. & Q.M.G., M.D. No. 11; Major Lawrence and Major Wright, R.C.E.; Captain Westmorland, R.C.A.S.C.; Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Fifeck, D.S.O., R.O.; Major Soudemore and Captain Johnson, of Vancouver; Major Crockett, Lieutenant Ray Castle and Lieutenant Pauline, of the 5th Regiment, R.C.G.A.; Major Edwards, R.C.F.C.; Major Cobbett, R.C.A., and Colonel Ross Napier, Corps of Guides.

More than two hundred persons, many of them distinguished representatives of the community's official life, had seats on the floor of the House, while the galleries were crowded. The proceedings were watched by nearly one thousand persons.

Among those present were: Mrs. and Miss Galher, Judge and Mrs. P. S. Lampman, Judge and Mrs. J. C. McIntosh, Senator R. F. Green, Mr. Leon J. Ladner, M.P., Brigadier-General J. M. Ross, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Mrs. Ross, Lieutenant-Commander C. T. Beard and Mrs. Beard, Mr. George Phillips, O.C., and Mrs. Phillips, Mayor Hayward and Mrs. Hayward, Mayor Annandale and Mrs. Annandale, of New Westminster, Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Columbia and Mrs. Schofield, Rev. Dr. W. Leslie Day and Mrs. Day, Rev. Dr. W. S.

Sipprell and Mrs. Sipprell, Rev. A. de B. Owen and Mrs. Owen, Rev. W. Stevenson and Mrs. Stevenson, Major the Rev. Dr. Campbell and Mrs. Campbell, Rev. Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Wilson, Hon. R. B. Mosher, American Consul; Hon. Isago Gomyo, Japanese Consul, Vancouver; Hon. W. S. Terry, Belgian Consul, and Mrs. Terry; Dr. Lim Pao Heng, Chinese Consul, Vancouver; Hon. Donald Downie, Argentine Vice-Consul, Vancouver; Mrs. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. W. Schwengers, Dr. R. C. McKechnie, Vancouver; Mrs. H. E. Young, Mrs. Duncan Ross, Mrs. Pauline, Mrs. Appleby, Mrs. Jean Osborne, Miss A. M. Paterson, Dr. and Mrs. G. S. Milne, Mr. and Mrs. Walters, Mr. R. Cull, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Thomas Graham, Mrs. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Goepel, Mrs. J. W. McLean, Hon. and Mrs. Walter Scott, Mrs. A. L. Carruthers, Dr. and Mrs. R. B. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Johnston, Dr. and Mrs. T. McPherson, Mrs. W. M. Lawrence, Mrs. J. E. Griffith, Mrs. W. H. Sutherland, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Hanby, Mrs. R. R. Taylor, Mrs. Nickerson, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Willis, Miss Helen MacDonald, Miss Norma Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Bahr, Mr. F. Carlow, Mr. and Mrs. A. Johns, Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Hawthornthwaite, Mr. L. U. Conyers, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Hammond.

WANTS CHURCH TAX QUESTION SETTLED

City Solicitor Requests Legislative Committee to Decide What Will Be Asked for This Session

The Legislative Committee of the City Council is being asked by City Solicitor Pringle to consider the whole question of church taxation with a view to deciding what legislation should be sought at the present session of the Legislature. Some little time ago the matter was referred to the committee by the Council, but since then nothing has been done.

The James Bay Methodist Church has raised the question of the legality of the method by which the city has been levying the taxes upon its property since the Privy Council decreed that church sites were exempt. To cover this point, the Council authorized the seeking of powers to require a subdivision plan of the church property to be filed at the Land Registry Office, showing the exempted portion, in cases where the church property was larger than the actual church site.

The City Solicitor wishes the Legislative Committee to decide whether it believes the churches or the city should pay the cost of the subdivision plan. He will also recommend the seeking of legislation validating the city's tax levies on certain church sites during past years.

GENERAL M'RAE DEFIES PREMIER

Provincial Party Leader Renews Sniping Campaign on Day of Session Opening

General A. D. McRae, leader of the Provincial party, who has been carrying on a campaign against Premier Oliver and other members of the Provincial Government during the past year or so, chose the time of the opening of the Legislature to fire his latest broadside.

The general attack took the form of an open letter to Hon. John Oliver. General McRae repeats his P.G.E. charges against the leader of the Government and states:

"I make this demand for a Royal Commission on behalf of 20,000 enrolled members of the Provincial party. But I make it as well on behalf of the whole body of long suffering taxpayers, who, if these charges be true, are being exploited by professional politicians like yourself and your confederates. On behalf of these taxpayers I warn you, that any attempt by you to take power at the coming session of the Legislature to borrow money on P.G.E. account or to seek by the dissolution of the Legislature another term of office, before some adequate and impartial investigation is held, will be such an outrage against public morals that the electorate will show its resentment at the first opportunity."

Government Seeking Favor of Four Groups

Address From the Throne Reveals Overtures to Labor, Business and Farmers—Proposed Social Legislation Expected to Appeal to Women—Early Election Indicated

THE Oliver government intends during the present session of the Legislature to make a bold bid for popularity with four distinct groups whose numbers and voting power are important—labor, business, women and the farmers.

This intention is clearly revealed in the Speech from the Throne, which is the official embodiment of the Government's legislative policy. The speech this year was a brief one, even though longer than the average run of speeches from the Throne, and necessarily many things were eliminated that might have cast a clearer light on the Oliver programme. But enough was disclosed to indicate that the Government proposes to make a record at this session calculated to strengthen its chances at the next election, whenever that may be.

The appeal to labor is found in the paragraph of the speech announcing that a bill regulating hours of labor in certain industries will be introduced. This means that the Government will take the eight-hour day bill out of the hands of the Independents, who have previously been its sponsors, and take for itself, or divide, whatever credit may accrue from its passage.

The appeal to business is shown in the reference to the personal property tax, which is to be reduced. The extent of the reduction will be a matter of keen controversy during the session, but the Government has, at any rate, announced that the present levy will be reduced, even though it has not gone so far as Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C., Opposition leader, who has pledged himself to fight for the complete abolition of the tax.

To Cut Land Taxes

The Government proposes to find favor with the farming element, which is reported to be hostile towards the Oliver administration throughout the Province, by reducing land taxes.

The speech makes no direct reference to the Government's intention of bringing down social legislation, but it is intimated by those close to the administration that this is one of the items that sometimes makes speeches from the Throne notable for what they omit to mention.

With all members of the Legislature in the city, reports that the Government will probably go to the country in the near future—probably next Fall—are rapidly accumulating. If that is the intention, this session would naturally be used to fortify the Government. The claims of members for another sessional indemnity before their tenure of office is terminated would be met by the Government calling another session for the Spring, and there has been a good deal of talk of that.

The Legislature will plunge into routine work today, when Mr. J. E. Clearhue, Liberal member for Victoria, moves the reply to the Speech from the Throne. Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, Liberal member for Vancouver, will second the motion, and Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, will move adjournment.

Following is the text of the speech from the Throne:
Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature:

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

The sympathy of the Province with the Empire of Japan in the terrible loss of life and property occasioned by recent disasters is very sincere, and my Government has forwarded a relief contribution of approximately two million feet of lumber and shingles.

Since you last met there has been a steady betterment in industrial conditions within the Province, and the bounteous harvest throughout Western Canada will tend towards further improvement.

The timber industry was never in a more prosperous condition than at present, and the outlook for the future is bright.

Forest fires during the past Summer have been fewer in number, and resulting damage much less, than in previous years.

The adjustment of the Indian reserve question, which has for many years been the subject of negotiation between the Dominion and the Province, is progressing satisfactorily toward a final settlement.

The important question of foreshore ownership in public harbors, which has been in dispute for many years between the Province and the Dominion has been adjusted by amicable agreement.

It is satisfactory to note that the metalliferous mining industry is in a healthy condition. Mining operators on the coast, in the interior and in the northern sections of the Province are enlarging and modernizing their plants to permit of greater and more economical production, and many new properties are being developed.

A bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulations Act will be submitted.

Iron Ore Examination

Under agreement with the Dominion Government the examination of the iron ore deposits of British Columbia, by the Geological Survey of Canada is making rapid progress.

Due to the increased consumption of foreign fuel oil, the coal mining industry of the Province is in a depressed condition.

During the year the Government of the Province of Alberta joined with my Government in appealing to His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council for the entire removal of the discriminatory railway transportation rates. The final outcome of the appeal has not yet been determined, but it is satisfactory to note that a substantial reduction has recently been made in the matter of grain rates.

My Government regrets that the Canadian Senate has again rejected the bill to secure to the Province the sole right of importing liquor for use within its borders.

A bill providing for the more efficient organization and regulation of the Provincial Police will be submitted for your consideration.

Revision of the statutes has now been completed and a bill confirming the same will be placed before you.

Hours of Labor

A bill regulating the hours of labor in certain industries will be submitted to you.

A bill to provide for a more equitable distribution of representation in the Legislative Assembly will be laid before you for consideration.

Satisfactory progress has been made with the construction of main highways throughout the Province, and a large mileage of settlers' roads has also been constructed.

University grant lands are in course of being cleared and prepared for sale, and satisfactory progress is being made in the erection of university buildings.

Reclamation of approximately 33,000 acres of Sumas prairie lands has been successfully completed and excellent crops on portions of this land have been harvested this season.

The service on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway has been improved and the operating deficit has been materially reduced.

The revenues of the Crown continue to be satisfactory.

Personal Property Tax

It is proposed to reduce the rate of taxation upon real and personal property and you will be asked to consider other changes in the Taxation Act.

The Public Accounts for the fiscal year 1922-23 will be brought down at an early date.

The annual report of the Liquor Control Board will be placed before you.

The estimates of revenue and expenditure, prepared with due regard to economy and the necessities of the

public service, will be submitted for your approval.

Members of the Legislature:
I leave you to your deliberations with confidence that you will give your best consideration to the questions which you will be called upon to decide, and I pray that your labors will have the blessing of the Almighty.

REDISTRIBUTION

Under any plan of redistribution, unless the intention is to increase or decrease the number of members in the Legislature, there is bound to be sectional dissatisfaction over a realignment of districts or constituencies. It would appear to be the intention of the British Columbia Government to have a redistribution bill which will still provide for 47 members in the Legislature, as at present, but which makes certain changes that, if the foreword on these is correct, appear to have been outlined in a somewhat haphazard way. Redistribution is usually carried out from the standpoint of the party government in power. It is carried out with an eye to helping that government to retain office as a result of the next following election. Without a doubt that is the guiding principle more so than any particular desire to give the people as a whole more equitable representation.

Victoria's representation in the B. C. Legislature is now four members for a population of approximately 40,000. Two members would probably be adequate under a redistribution plan which would cut down, on a pro rata basis, the representation all over the Province. There is, however, no such intention. Victoria is still to have four members but it is to be a Victoria enlarged for Provincial electoral purposes to include Oak Bay and the Municipality of Esquimalt. Thus a population of at least 8,000 will be added to this electoral district and the future population which will elect four members for Victoria, so-called, will be approximately 48,000. On the basis of what is proposed the Government has assumed that we are suffering here from a declining population, yet it might be recalled that this constituency had four members when the Dominion census gave us a population of something just over 31,000, whereas now the proposal is that we are still to have four members for a population of some 48,000.

That is only one aspect of the case. The most serious of the proposals put forward is the elimination of the constituency of Esquimalt. It appears that the urban part is to be included in Victoria and the rural community in Cowichan. We are persuaded that if this plan is followed there will be emphatic and strenuous objection raised by the inhabitants of the neighboring municipality. The Government, with the aid of the Liberal caucus, can do what it likes in this and other particulars affecting redistribution, but it can only do so by counting the cost, and the cost in this case will, undoubtedly, be of peculiar political significance. What is proposed implies that Esquimalt is to lose its importance in the scale of political representation. It is to lose it at a time when the outlook for progress in that district is particularly bright, and when there are definite and substantial evidences of growth. We say nothing of the fact that Esquimalt is now represented by a Conservative member. Its electoral elimination is serious enough from any standpoint as well as that aspect of the case. In fact there is no force of argument which could buttress up the carrying out of the elimination of Esquimalt as an electoral district. That it should ever

have been proposed suggest that the redistribution bill is, as yet, in a half baked condition and that the outline of what it purports to contain has been thrown out as a fletcher so that public opinion may be ascertained.

The hope of the people was that redistribution would be effected in such a way as to bring down the standing charges of Government. It was hoped, more especially, that this would be the case since sessional indemnities have been increased. Evidently the Government believes that British Columbia has not too many members. Redistribution here, as it has been outlined, looks like a realignment of constituencies for party political purposes. Its weakness on this ground must at once become apparent. As a matter of fact any plan of redistribution should be carried out by a committee of the whole Legislature on which every party has representation. It should not be regarded as a peculiar prerogative of Government. Where it is, there are always just and legitimate causes for complaint. How just and legitimate these are Premier Oliver and his colleagues will probably find before the present session of the Legislature is many days old.

Note and Comment

By R. B. D.

With one stroke of his pen Premier Oliver is going to demonstrate that he is a practical joker as well as a practical politician. He is going to strike out of the political map the ancient constituency of Esquimalt, one of the oldest political divisions in the Province of British Columbia.

Of course the Premier will be prepared to justify his proposal. He will defend his course upon the ground of necessity—necessity for keeping down representation in an already over-represented province, and necessity for curtailling expenditures in an already grievously over-taxed community. He will maintain that there is no political animus behind that part of his scheme of redistribution; that he has treated Esquimalt in the same way as he has treated other constituencies; but we fancy that if anyone had had access to his private office in the public buildings at the time that esquisite idea of abolishing Esquimalt entered his fertile brain a smidge of intense satisfaction and amusement would have been discovered on his beaming countenance.

Sir John Macdonald, according to Liberal political history, is said to have invented a scheme of "hiving the Brits." Hon. John Oliver has discovered a method of annihilating one party. Esquimalt has long been a political thorn in the flesh of the Liberal Party. It is traditionally Conservative. It had been in the habit of electing a Pooley for many years, and it probably would have elected another Pooley for just as many more years if the fates had not decreed that it must be punished for its political sins.

Esquimalt, which is soon to be numbered with the political dead, has been the scene of many sweet and bitter political battles. It has been represented in the Legislature by several men of public eminence. If there were any sentiment in politicians, its death warrant would never have been signed. If its present representative were of a different political faith a way would have been found of perpetrating its name. But there is no such word as sentiment in the vocabulary of the practical politician. Its constituency, deliberately and unceremoniously abolished, it must be wiped out and there is always a way of

But there is still considerable vitality in that ancient municipality and in the quaint little hamlet which is the heart and centre of its activities. Esquimalt was known throughout the world long before even Vancouver, now a prosperous and arrogant city, was heard of. It was better known in many respects than Victoria, the capital of British Columbia. It became famous because of its magnificent harbor, selected as the most suitable headquarters on the Pacific Coast for the British Navy. It was regarded as "a little bit of Old England," as one of the most desirable places in the world to settle down in after the term of service had been completed. A considerable number of old navy men are still with us, and many of their descendants are taking an active part today in the life of the community.

Esquimalt may be abolished as a political entity, but it will survive that blow at its prestige. The fact of its being politically merged with Victoria will not arrest, will not even materially affect, its social or industrial progress. A mightier force than any power that can be generated by a master political mind is directing its destinies.

Should the redistribution scheme of the Premier be accepted by the Legislature, as doubtless it will if Mr. Oliver remains master of the administration as well as Leader of the House, Esquimalt and Oak Bay will become a political part of the City of Victoria. The political interests of Victoria will become a unit. That is a consummation that should not be altogether deplorable. It should have the way for a union that will be of far greater importance to the general community than the election of a representative to the Provincial Legislature.

Wed. Oct. 31, 1928.

HOUSE GRIEVES AT STATESMAN'S DEATH

Dogfish Bay, B.C., Standing Vote Expressing Sympathy at the Loss of Mr. Bowser, Law

By a standing vote the Provincial Legislature yesterday afternoon passed on record its regret at the death of the Right Hon. Andrew Bowser, Law, former Treasurer of Great Britain.

The resolution was moved by Premier Oliver, who reviewed the career of the Canadian who became the leader of the British Empire, and was seconded by Hon. J. D. Macdonald, Provincial Secretary.

Speaking for Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C., leader of the Opposition, in the latter's absence, Mr. J. W. Jones, Conservative member for South Okanagan, expressed on behalf of the Opposition the regret felt at the loss of the British statesman.

The resolution was as follows: "That this House desires to place upon record its appreciation of the splendid services rendered to the Empire by the late Hon. Andrew Bowser, Law and its regret at his removal by death, and further that the Speaker do convey to the family of the late Hon. Andrew Bowser, Law a copy of the above resolution." Mr. Bowser, who was born in Illinois, N.E., the stepfather of Mr. Harlow, regretted neither unable to add his voice to the Legislature's expression of grief.

SAYS WEST COAST ROAD IS NEEDED

GOVERNMENT FAVORS PROJECT, MR. CLEARHURST ANNOUNCES

Message Address in Reply to Speech by Mr. Ullers Warning of Danger of Depression

At the West Coast of Vancouver Island is essential and the Government's policy is to continually press forward and improve that project, Mr. J. B. Clearhurst, Victoria's junior member, declared yesterday, in moving the address in reply to the speech from the Throne.

"Last year saw considerable improvements, especially that at Kirby Creek, where a dangerous hill was done away with and a twenty-three per cent grade reduced to ten per cent," said Mr. Clearhurst.

The Victoria member's speech was an answer to assertions that have gained publicity recently to the general effect that the country is faced by a discouraging period of depression unless the Governments of the day are overthrown.

Mr. Clearhurst urged his hearers to have hope in the future of their Province.

Ready for Future

"Throughout the speech from the Throne yesterday," said Mr. Clearhurst, "resounded the cry of a country strong in its youth, conscious of its wealth, determined in its nature, breaking the bonds of the past, and standing forth in all its power ready and able to take its place with the strongest and best in the world. That is my picture of this Province, and that is the picture presented in His Honor's speech.

"And yet there are some honorable gentlemen not so far removed who will put on clouded spectacles of pessimism and deceive themselves into finding a sickly youth broken in spirit and mind and imbibing the deadly whispers of the honorable leader of the Opposition, who as a consulting physician is anxious to hasten his end, that he may be employed in the post-mortem and burial services.

Progress Is Slogan

"With a young country, development is the foundation of every policy, the portal to progress, and the guiding thought in the mind of every man. The result of the past years goes to prove that the present administration has carried this principle into its every action.

"Just as no new industry can be founded, nor can our natural products be exploited, without the spending of money, neither can our Province nor people be developed without an enormous cost and the expenditure of great sums of money. We have, it is true, spent money, but spent it in the development of our country and above all our children and people. And I venture to say that every cent of it can be justified. If we did not spend it, we would be stagnant. Stagnation means ruin."

IMPROVING CONDITIONS

Two excerpts from the Speech from the Throne to the B. C. Legislature may be quoted as tending to emphasize conditions which should create a feeling of confidence. It is noted that "there has been a steady betterment in industrial conditions within the Province, and the bounteous harvest throughout Western Canada will tend towards further improvement." It is further noted that "the timber industry was never in a more prosperous condition than at present and the outlook for the future is bright." This improvement in industrial conditions is undoubted, for there is far less unemployment now than there was this time last year. We have turned the corner on the road to economic recovery, and, with wise methods of conservation, with hard work and the display of enterprise, there is nothing to fear about the future of this Province. The conditions affecting the forestry industry

are particularly satisfactory. It is a source of tremendous wealth to the Province and could be made a medium of even greater riches by better policies of conservation, including such legislation as would compel the manufacture of the products of our Province at home. Existing markets for the timber resources are expanding and new markets are being opened. The outlook in that respect could not be more promising.

It remains for the British Columbia Government to project legislation which will increase the confidence of investors in this Province. There is a promise that the personal property tax will be reduced. It should be abolished altogether, because it is an unfair tax and unjust in its incidence. The proposal that were it abolished an increase might be made in the income tax does not savor of constructive legislation. To give with one hand and take away with the other will not solve any of our economic problems, one of the greatest of which is the handicap on industry imposed by excessive taxation. The Government has a great opportunity to set its seal of approval on the betterment in industrial conditions which is noted in the Speech from the Throne. It can help to make those conditions better still by legislation which will improve the feeling of confidence that is abroad. That feeling should be fostered. It is a time of psychological opportunity in the affairs of British Columbia which should be taken at the flood.

ASKS MINISTERS ABOUT PAYMENTS

Mr. R. H. Pooley Wants to Know as to Government Business With Gillespie, Hart & Todd

Members of the Oliver cabinet have been asked to file answers to a long list of questions posted yesterday on the order paper of the Legislature by Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt.

Mr. Pooley wants a return from all cabinet ministers, showing the amount of insurance placed by their departments with the firm of Gillespie, Hart & Todd.

Mr. Pooley asks Attorney-General Manson to inform the House regarding the reported investigation carried on by Captain Lay, of the Liquor Board, at Prince Rupert, into liquor conditions. He wants to know if a report was ever made, and what were the contents of the report.

But those are only two of a long series of questions asked by the Esquimalt member. He inquires about the purchase of buildings at Prince George by the Government; expenditure of money by the Government on the road to the Duthie mine at Hudson Bay Mountain; reported expenditure of Government money on the Snowstorm group of mineral claims; proposed road from Prince Rupert to Terrace.

Mr. Pooley asks for a statement of the Government's policy regarding a road from Jordan River to Port Renfrew and he wants to know whether the Government proposes to alter the course of the Otter Point road to avoid Cook's Hill. He asks whether the Government proposes to extend the paving from Colwood to Metchosin.

Then he inquires about the costs of Hon. W. H. Sutherland's recent tour into the Peace River country and about those who accompanied him on that tour. He also desires information regarding the moneys paid over to the Ryan-McIntosh Timber Company in connection with the new timber cruising contract.

FORESEES FLOOD OF NEW CITIZENS

MRS. MARY ELLEN SMITH ADDRESSES LEGISLATURE

Says Government Should Welcome Immigrants and Afford Chance to Make Good on Land

Thousands of people of British stock are awaiting an opportunity of coming to British Columbia to take their place among the working citizens of the Province, and it is the duty of the Oliver Government to demonstrate to these people that they are welcome and that they will be afforded every reasonable means of making good.

That was the message delivered to the House yesterday afternoon by Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, Vancouver's lady member, who recently returned from the Old Country, where she was engaged on a mission under Dominion Government auspices for the purpose of encouraging emigration to this country. In rising to second the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, Mrs. Smith remarked that she was the first woman in the world to be given such an honor in a British legislative assembly.

She reviewed some of the conditions which she found in Great Britain and declared that people there were being crushed under a load of taxation so heavy that the inclination to cast about for a new country in which to settle was inevitable.

"Our danger is that these thousands of people who are ready to come to Canada will gain the impression that they are not welcome; that Canada is not desirous of increasing her army of industrial workers or peopling her plains," said Mrs. Smith. "Yet Canada is the land of their heart's real desire, and unless this propaganda of discouragement finally gains the upper hand, these immigrants, from whom the best type of citizens can be made, will come here of their own free will and take their place in the life of the community.

Mrs. Smith urged the Government to go ahead with a land settlement policy that would afford a genuine inducement for these new immigrants to go on the land.

Pleads for Co-operation

"There are some who say there is no chance for the farmer; that prices are too low to make his toil worth while," she said. "It is my opinion that the problems of the farmer can be settled by co-operation in distribution and prices just as co-operation has rewarded other industries with success. I think, too, that more should be done in the way of encouraging trade between the Motherland and the dominions. During my stay in England I urged that buyers insist on getting British Columbia apples and Canadian wheat, and if such advice as that were followed the story of present conditions on the farms of this country would be vastly different.

"Surely Canada is big enough; surely our outlook is broad enough to make it possible for us to absorb these new citizens. We should make it clear to them that there is plenty of room and a real welcome for all those who wish to toil. This country should no longer give ear to those who want the doors of opportunity closed and locked to those who wish to come in."

Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, adjourned the debate and he will be the first speaker at this afternoon's session, which commences at 2 o'clock.

LANDAHL SCHEME CAUSES A BREAK

Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith Defends Coast Range Project and Deprecates Mr. Clearihue's Criticisms

Sharp disagreement between Mr. Joseph B. Clearihue, member for Victoria, and Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, member for Vancouver, in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, as to the merits of the Coast Range Steel project, gave promise of a lively debate on that subject later in the session and developed the fact that supporters of the Oliver Government are not united in their attitude towards Mr. H. J. Landahl's scheme.

Such an early clash between members of the same party on an issue that is likely to be a fairly important one this session was regarded as particularly significant.

Mr. Clearihue, who is a member of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce committee which condemned the Coast Range Steel scheme recently, made a spirited attack on the enterprise while moving the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mrs. Smith, who has held frequent conferences with promoters of the Coast Range project, both in Vancouver and in the Old Country, defended Mr. Landahl and his associates and criticized Mr. Clearihue for mentioning them in the way he did.

Scores Promoters

"Nothing can do more harm to an industry than its hasty establishment upon insufficient data and as a result of a campaign of propaganda by over-zealous promoters," said Mr. Clearihue. "When one finds a company such as the Coast Range Steel Company flooding the Province with its propaganda, based on figures not according to fact, and at the same time endeavoring to finance its schemes 100 per cent with bonds to be guaranteed by various governments, without the expenditure of one cent by the promoters, I can only say that to trust the development of this great resource to their hands will only be disastrous to the ratepayers of this Province."

When Mrs. Smith rose to second the address, practically her first statement was directed to Mr. Clearihue and his anti-Landahl references.

Defends Mr. Landahl

"I deprecate names being brought into a discussion of this character," said Mrs. Smith. "If a cause is not worthy of support it will not get it, and it is not for us to condemn. Those behind the Coast Range Steel venture are men of worth and character and I have no hesitancy in saying that they are men of the highest standing whose veracity has never been questioned, whose standing has never been inquired into."

"How do you know there has been no inquiry?" interjected Major R. J. Burde, Independent member for Alberni.

"There was never any reason for inquiry," replied Mrs. Smith.

"That's a good one," remarked Major Burde, and Mrs. Smith went on to tell of her observations of the steel industry in Great Britain.

"Knowing what the steel industry means to a country, I am sure that the Government will not quarrel or quibble with those who wish to come in and give the industry a chance of development," she said.

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BUSY SESSION FORECASTED BY SPEECH FROM THRONE

The Speech from the Throne delivered by Lieutenant-Governor Walter C. Nichol at the opening of the Provincial Legislature to-day indicated that the Government intends to bring down important legislation during the session now under way. The Speech from the Throne was as follows:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature:
I welcome you to the fourth session of the Fifteenth Parliament of British Columbia.

Sympathy With Japan

The sympathy of the Province with the Empire of Japan in the terrible loss of life and property occasioned by recent disasters is very sincere, and my Government has forwarded a relief contribution of approximately two million feet of lumber and shingles.

Since you last met there has been a steady betterment in industrial conditions within the Province, and the bounteous harvest throughout Western Canada will tend towards further improvement.

The timber industry was never in a more prosperous condition than at present, and the outlook for the future is bright.

Forest fires during the past Summer have been fewer in number, and resulting damage much less than in previous years.

The adjustment of the Indian reserve question, which has for many years been the subject of negotiation between the Dominion and the Province, is progressing satisfactorily toward a final settlement.

The important question of foreshore ownership in public harbors, which has been in dispute for many years between the Province and the Dominion has been adjusted by amicable agreement.

Mining Industry

It is satisfactory to note that the metalliferous mining industry is in a healthy condition. Mining operators on the coast, in the interior and in the northern sections of the Province are enlarging and modernizing

their plants to permit of greater and more economical production, and many new properties are being developed.

A bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulations Act will be submitted. Under agreement with the Dominion Government the examination of the iron ore deposits of British Columbia, by the Geological Survey of Canada is making rapid progress.

Due to the increased consumption of foreign fuel oil, the coal mining industry of the Province is in a depressed condition.

Railway Rates

During the year the Government of the Province of Alberta joined with my Government in appealing to His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council for the entire removal of the discriminatory railway transportation rates. The final outcome of the appeal has not yet been determined; but it is satisfactory to note that a substantial reduction has recently been made in the matter of grain rates.

My Government regrets that the Canadian Senate has again rejected the bill to secure to the Province the sole right of importing liquor for use within its borders.

A bill providing for the more efficient organization and regulation of the Provincial Police will be submitted for your consideration.

Revision of the statutes has now been completed and a bill confirming the same will be placed before you. A bill regulating the hours of labor in certain industries will be submitted to you.

A bill to provide for a more equitable distribution of representation in the Legislative Assembly will be laid before you for consideration.

Highways

Satisfactory progress has been made with the construction of main highways throughout the Province, and a large mileage of settlers' roads has also been constructed.

University grant lands are in course of being cleared and prepared for sale, and satisfactory progress is being made in the erection of university buildings.

Reclamation of approximately 32,000 acres of Sumas prairie lands has been successfully completed and excellent crops on portions of this land have been harvested this season.

The service on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway has been improved and the operating deficit has been materially reduced.

The revenues of the Crown continue to be satisfactory.

LIQUOR FINES TOTAL \$93,225 FOR LAST SIX MONTHS

Estreated Bail Makes Revenue From Court Proceedings \$175,635

Fines collected for infractions of the British Columbia liquor laws during the six months ending March 31 last totaled \$93,225, according to the annual report of the Liquor Control Board laid before the Legislature this afternoon by Hon. A. M. Manson, Attorney-General. Estreated bail during this period amounted to \$82,410, making a total of \$175,635 taken in as a result of infractions of the law.

Prosecutions under the Government Liquor Act totaled 2,900 for the six-month period. The greatest offenders were persons drunk in public places. These numbered 1,372. For selling or dealing in beer or near-beer, 630 persons were prosecuted. There were 187 prosecutions against persons for selling liquor or exposing liquor for sale, while 120 persons were apprehended for purchasing liquor illegally or taking liquor for consideration.

There were 219 cases of persons having unsealed liquor in possession, and 115 cases where liquor was found on premises of persons engaged in selling non-intoxicating beverages. Only thirty-three persons were prosecuted for consuming liquor in a public place, while thirty-seven permitted drunkenness or gave liquor to intoxicated persons. Sixty were charged with keeping or consuming liquor in any part of a hotel other than a private guest room.

LEGISLATION TO CUT TAXES AND REGULATE LABOR HOURS PLANNED

Reduction of Real and Personal Property Levies Forecasted in Speech From Throne; Colorful Ceremony Marks Formal Opening of Fourth Session of Fifteenth Parliament by Lieutenant-Governor

The fourth session of the Fifteenth Parliament of British Columbia was opened here this afternoon by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, who, in his Speech from the Throne, indicated that important legislation will be brought down by the Government before the House adjourns.

The Government's legislative programme, it was stated, will include bills to regulate the hours of labor in certain industries, to reduce the present taxation on real and personal property, to effect other amendments to the Taxation Act, to redistribute electoral constituencies, to reorganize the Provincial Police force and to consolidate and revise all British Columbia statutes.

The formal opening of the House to-day, more colorful than it has been in recent years, was witnessed by crowded galleries. The Lieutenant-Governor arrived at the Parliament Buildings dressed in his Windsor uniform, at three o'clock. After inspecting the guard of honor, composed of soldiers from Work Point Barracks, under Major D. A. Clarke, His Honor immediately went to the executive chamber. Here he was formally greeted by Mr. Speaker Pauline and Sergeant-at-Arms Hearns, who escorted him to the assembly hall. After the Lieutenant-Governor had delivered the Speech from the Throne he left the hall, Mr. Speaker accompanying him to his limousine. Mr. Speaker then returned to his own rooms and, re-entering the assembly hall, took his chair.

After prayers by Right Rev. C. de Schofield, Bishop of Columbia, in accordance with an ancient practice, by which the Legislature asserts its right to deal first with public business as it sees fit, Hon. A. M. Manson, Attorney-General, formally introduced the first act of the session, a bill to amend the Factories Act.

Debate On Speech

Premier Hon. John Oliver then moved that His Honor's speech be taken into consideration to-morrow and take precedence over other business except the introduction of legislation. The Premier also moved that the speech be printed in the Votes and Proceedings of the House. These motions, and another appointing M. B. Jackson, K.C., Liberal member for the Islands, Deputy Speaker, were quickly passed.

Start Work Immediately

Evidently determined to start the transaction of the business of the session with a minimum of delay, the Government immediately laid before the House voluminous reports covering the work of practically all departments during the last year.

Hon. A. M. Manson, Attorney-General and Minister of Labor, presented reports covering the work of the Department of Labor, the Liquor Control Board, the Inspector of Municipalities, the Game Conservation Board, the Provincial Game Warden, the Industrial School for Girls, the Inspector of Insurance, the Official Guardian, the Prisons of the Province and on the Uniformity of Law Commissioners.

Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary, Minister of Education and Minister of Railways, also presented a number of important reports. These covered the work of the Railway Department, the Boys' Industrial School, the Provincial Library and Archives, the Public Library Commission, the Provincial Museum and the Superintendent of Neglected Children.

The annual report of the Department of Mines and the Fisheries Department were presented by Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines and Commissioner of Fisheries.

Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, presented his annual report covering the work of his Department for the year and another report on the work of the Forest Branch.

Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance and Minister of Industries, presented the report of the Department of Industries and of Official Administrators.

After arranging for the appointment of the usual standing committees, the House adjourned to reconvene to-morrow afternoon.

Personal Property Tax

It is proposed to reduce the rate of taxation upon real and personal property and you will be asked to consider other changes in the Taxation Act.

The Public Accounts for the fiscal year 1922-23 will be brought down at an early date.

The annual report of the Liquor Control Board will be placed before you.

The estimates of revenue and expenditure, prepared with due regard to economy and the necessities of the public service, will be submitted for your approval.

Members of the Legislature:

In leaving you to your deliberations I have confidence that you will give your best consideration to the questions which you will be called upon to decide, and I pray that your labors will have the blessing of the Almighty.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1923.

LUMBER INDUSTRY WILL OPERATE ON EIGHT-HOUR DAY

New Law Regulating Labor Hours to Affect Lumber and Allied Industries Only

Legislation which the Oliver Government plans to introduce shortly to regulate hours of labor in British Columbia business will apply only to lumbering and kindred industries like pulp mills, it is understood at the Parliament Buildings now. The Government's Bill, it has become known, does not aim at the establishment of an eight-hour day in all industry.

Major R. J. Burde, independent member for Alberni, who has been waging a lone fight for years for the passage of an eight-hour-day law, has always urged that the measure apply now only to lumber and allied industries, it was pointed out to-day.

While the Government has announced through the Speech from the Throne yesterday that it is planning legislation on the eight-hour day, Major Burde intends to clinch his arguments in favor of an eight-hour-day bill with statistics which he gathered last week in Washington State.

Major Burde's tour through American sawmills convinced him that an eight-hour-day law will not place any unfair restriction on British Columbia's lumber industry.

"All mills in Washington State are operating on an eight-hour day and in every case laborers are being paid \$1 a day more than laborers in British Columbia mills," Major Burde said to-day. "Besides this, there is no Oriental labor in Washington State mills. I cannot see, in view of these facts, how British Columbia mills would be unable, with an eight-hour day, to compete with the American mills. That idea, I believe, is without basis."

B.C. Legislature Records Regret on Bonar Law's Death

The Provincial Legislature this afternoon recorded its regret over the death of the late Rt. Hon. Andrew Bonar Law, former Premier of Britain, in a resolution proposed by the Premier, the Hon. John Oliver, and seconded by the Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary.

The resolution read:

"That this House desires to place upon record its appreciation of the splendid service rendered to the Empire by the late Rt. Hon. Andrew Bonar Law and its regret at his removal by death, and further that Mr. Speaker do convey to the family of the late Rt. Hon. Andrew Bonar Law a copy of the above resolution."

Warm tributes to the late statesman were paid by Premier Oliver.

SAYS B. C.'S RAPID PROGRESS SILENCES DEPRESSION TALK

But Province Must Be Careful in Encouraging Development, Clearihue Declares; Urges Revision of Motor Licenses and Tax on Gasoline; Asks Action on Dumping of American Oil

British Columbia's paramount need to-day is the development of her vast natural resources, and this development is proceeding at a rate which completely blasts the arguments of those who are spreading about "whispers of death," J. B. Clearihue, junior Liberal member for Victoria, told the Provincial Legislature to-day when he moved the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

While British Columbia needs development in every direction it must be careful, Mr. Clearihue warned, not to establish industries upon insufficient data. He vigorously assailed the plans of the Coast Range Steel Company for the establishment of a steel industry in this Province, asserting that

this concern was "flooding the Province with its propaganda, based on figures not according to fact and at the same time endeavoring to finance its schemes with bonds to be guaranteed by various governments without the expenditure of one cent by the promoters."

Revision of motor licenses and the imposition of a gasoline tax to secure revenue from those who use the Province's roads were strongly advocated by Mr. Clearihue. He also called upon the House to consider the plight of British Columbia's coal industry, hard hit by heavy importations of American fuel oil, and added that there is reason to believe that American oil is being dumped into British Columbia to-day.

Ridicules Death Whispers

"Throughout the Speech from the Throne yesterday," said Mr. Clearihue, "resounded the cry of a country strong in its youth, conscious of its wealth, determined in its nature, breaking the bonds of the past, and standing forth in all its power ready and able to take its place with the strongest and best in the world. That is my picture of this Province, and that is the picture presented in His Honor's speech."

"And yet there are some honorable gentlemen not so far removed who will put on clouded spectacles of pessimism and deceive themselves into finding a sickly youth broken in spirit and mind and imbibing the deathly whispers of the Honorable Leader of the Opposition, who as a consulting physician is anxious to hasten his end, that he may be employed in the post-mortem and burial services."

"But the great majority of this

House, and indeed of the Province, are not of that thinking.

"Let me examine for a moment the duties of any government who may take power in this our Province. They are, to develop our resources, develop our people, and develop our Dominion, imperial and international relations. Every act of the government should be a reflection of one or other of these duties."

Development Greatest Need

"With a young country, development is the foundation of every policy, the portal to progress, and the guiding thought in the mind of every man. The result of the past years goes to prove that the present administration has carried this principle into its every action."

"Just as no new industry can be founded, nor can our natural products be exploited, without the spending of money, neither can our Province nor people be developed without an enormous cost and the expenditure of great sums of money. We have, it is true, spent money, but spent it in the development of our country and above all our children and people. And I venture to say that every cent of it can be justified. If we did not spend it, we would be stagnant. Stagnation means ruin."

To prove that British Columbia industry is improving, Mr. Clearihue quoted figures to show that since 1915, up to the close of 1922, the number of manufacturing plants in the Province has increased from 1,007 to 2,809, an increase of almost threefold; and employees from 20,000 to 60,000; while their wages have increased from \$14,567,751 to \$86,192,190, an increase of almost six times.

Less Unemployment

"Labor statistics," Mr. Clearihue stated, "show that fewer men sought work this year than last, while at the same time there was a greater demand for help and a larger number of men and women placed in employment. Indeed, during the last few months, the demand for help in the lumber and mining industries could not be satisfied."

"Whilst unemployment and industrial chaos still grips Great Britain and Europe, an aftermath of the war, British Columbia, in the strength of its youth, strides triumphantly forward to the foremost rank in the industrial world. Figures speak stronger than the whispers of death of those who would condemn their country for political greed."

Mr. Clearihue quoted striking figures to show the expansion of the lumber industry this year. He also painted a bright picture of the revival of the mining industry.

Attacks Steel Plan

"By agreement between the Dominion and Provincial Government," he went on, "Dr. G. A. Young has been conducting an examination of our iron ore deposits during the last two years. The important magnetite deposits of the east coast of Vancouver Island, the adjacent islands, the Mainland coast and the Queen Charlotte Islands have been carefully surveyed. During 1924, I understand, it is his intention to inspect the magnetite deposit of the west coast of Vancouver Island."

"With regard to our iron industry, I firmly believe that the future of Vancouver Island will be greatly affected by its development. In this we will find the foundation of future prosperity and the establishment of any basic industries. The work now being performed will be of the greatest value to a successful exploitation of that great industry."

"Nothing can do more harm to an industry than its hasty establishment upon insufficient data, and as the result of a campaign of propaganda by over-zealous promoters. When one finds a company such as the Coast Range Steel Company flooding the Province with its propaganda, based on figures not according to fact, and at the same time endeavoring to finance its schemes 100 per cent with bonds to be guaranteed by various governments, without the expenditure of one cent by the promoters, I can only say that to trust the development of this great resource to their hands will only be disastrous to the ratepayers of this Province."

Coal Industry Hit

The only "gloomy spot" in the mining industry, Mr. Clearhue said, is the coal mining business, which is suffering seriously as a result of heavy importations of American fuel oil.

"In 1910," he said, "coal production reached a total of 2,800,067 tons, and since that period it has never been as great. In 1922 it stood at 2,559,414 tons. This is attributable very largely to the competition which it is meeting in imported fuel oil. This should be given grave consideration in our deliberations this Session."

"The coal industry is an important factor in our every-day life. Figures show that if our coal industry was to supply the fuel now taken care of by fuel oil, it would mean a production of about 1,900,000 tons more per annum than is now necessary. It would mean an additional Provincial revenue of \$100,000. This is merely incidental to what it would mean in increased employment, additional local expenditures and generally increased prosperity in all industries."

"Dumping Oil"

"The introduction of the Fordney tariff in the United States struck a blow to our coal mining. By a duty of 53 cents a ton, its export market is practically eliminated. In 1913 the monthly production of fuel oil on the coast was 8,155,598 barrels, with a consumption of a little less. In

1922 the production reached 11,625,573 barrels per month, with a consumption of 9,947,543; whilst during the first seven months of this year, the production has reached 20,337,143 barrels per month, with a consumption of 17,337,143 barrels. And figures show it will average this year 25,000,000 barrels per month. This is producing a considerable surplus which has to be marketed some place, and there is reason to believe that it is actually being dumped into British Columbia to-day.

"All who have the interest of their country at heart must give serious consideration to the condition of this industry," Mr. Clearhue urged.

Mr. Clearhue emphasized the importance of agricultural development, and quoted figures which showed big growth in the business since the Liberal Government came into power.

Tourist Trade Grows

Turning to the growth of British Columbia's tourist business, Mr. Clearhue proceeded: "The completion of the Pacific Highway brought a flood of American tourists this Summer and left in our Province, it is estimated, some \$20,000,000 with our merchants. Victoria and Vancouver, and indeed the whole Province, especially benefited from the direct expenditure upon our roads. I firmly believe that there should be a readjustment of our motor-car taxation and that with a tax upon gasoline the tourist will contribute to the upkeep of the roads which he now uses, and the incidence of the tax will be more equitable upon our taxpayers. It is my hope that the Government will find such a tax expedient."

"The West Coast road is especially of interest to this community, it is a road that necessarily must be built, but one which is exceeding expensive. Last year saw considerable improvements, especially that at Kirby Creek, where a dangerous hill was done away with and a twenty-three per cent grade reduced to ten per cent. It is the policy continually to press forward and improve this road."

Japanese Question

"We have many questions of Imperial and international relations which are yet to be solved. I refer especially to the Japanese question. One must be conscious of the fact that we as a Province are an integral part in the British Commonwealth of nations, a very important part. Our vision must not be narrow. We must deal with these questions in a broad and generous spirit, and I believe that we will finally reach a happy solution which will bring satisfaction and justice to all."

ACROSS THE BAY

Premier Hon. John Oliver refused to-day to answer or discuss General A. D. McRae's charges, contained in an open letter which was published in newspapers last night. The leader of the Provincial Party in his letter charged the Premier and Hon. A. M. Manson, Attorney-General, with failure to answer his previous accusations in connection with the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

"I have nothing to say about General McRae's letter now," the Premier stated to-day.

It is taken for granted that the Premier will answer General McRae fully and with complete figures before the present session is finished. It is pointed out that the meetings of the public accounts committee of the House will afford an opportunity for the presentation of figures which would refute Gen. McRae's charges.

While the Premier refused to discuss the matter to-day, he appeared to regard General McRae's accusations as absurd.

Agricultural Education Spreads

Agricultural education is making substantial progress in British Columbia now, according to figures released to-day by Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education. The enrolment in agricultural classes in high schools in 1923 totalled 510 students, as against 457 in 1922, these figures show. Altogether 5,000 students are securing training in agriculture in elementary schools now.

Twelve high schools are now carrying on, under specialists, the regular two-year course in agriculture. Seven of the instructors also supervise courses in elementary agriculture in the rural districts in which their respective high schools are located. These seven district teachers direct the work in seventy public schools with approximately 160 teachers and 5,000 children. Three of the agricultural specialists confine their time to high school work in science and agriculture. These men are appointed under school boards with the approval of the Department of Education. The district super-

visors are appointed by the Provincial Government.

Start Statute Revision

A committee to go over all British Columbia statutes as consolidated and compiled by officials of the Attorney-General's Department will be appointed by the Legislature on Wednesday. Hon. A. M. Manson, Attorney-General will propose that the following members compose the committee, Messrs. Manson, Farris, Whiteside, Jackson, Ian A. Mackenzie, Clearhue, Bowser, Hinchliffe and Pooley. This committee will examine all the laws altered in the course of the consolidation now completed, and its findings, it is expected, will be accepted by the House.

The standing committees of the House will be named late to-day or to-morrow. It is understood that there will be little change in the membership of last year.

Redistribution Undecided

Plans for the redistribution of British Columbia electoral constituencies have not been finally fixed, as stated in mainland newspaper reports, it was explained at the Parliament Buildings to-day. The whole question of redistribution has yet to be discussed and decided. It was stated. Preliminary suggestions on redistribution were laid before the Liberal caucus here last week-end. These suggestions, while they will form the basis of future discussion, may be altered in many directions before redistribution has been completed by the Legislature.

Amusement Tax Fight On

Representatives of British Columbia theatre owners arrived at the Parliament Buildings to-day to carry on their fight for a reduction in the present ten per cent amusement tax. Following their interview with Premier Oliver and Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, recently, the theatre owners are planning to conduct a vigorous fight this session for a cut of fifty per cent in the amusement levy. R. Rowe Holland, counsel for the Associated Amusements of British Columbia, has charge of the theatre owners' interests here.

LEGISLATIVE FARE

If the usual Speech from the Throne is more often conspicuous for the material which it does not contain than for what it promises, it cannot be said that the message which the Lieutenant-Governor delivered to British Columbia's lawmakers yesterday afternoon betrays anything approaching poverty of subject.

The people of the Province, and particularly the business element of the population, will welcome the announcement that the Legislature intends to discuss the personal property tax. This is not a just impost and the widespread objection to its continuance should result in its abolition altogether. There should similarly be no hesitation on the part of the House to look with favor upon the request which the moving picture operators have made in support of a reduction of the amusement tax.

There is plenty of elbow room for discussion upon the subject of redistribution and the future of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway will no doubt furnish ample opportunity for such forensic effort as may be neglected when unimportant matters like "booze" demand attention that should be paid to more vital considerations. It is satisfactory to observe that the trans-provincial highway is included in the legislative fare. The people of the Province are ready for the investment that will be entailed in the completion of the "missing link" and will expect the appropriation to go through—with an early announcement of the work's commencement.

Immigration in general and the best method of obtaining more new people for British Columbia in particular should give scope to every member of the House with practical ideas. The question is provincially and nationally important and there is no need for the indulgence of political bias when it is under discussion.

In the balance of the fullest of programmes with which the Legislature will be called upon to deal there will be the usual crop of amending legislation that invariably adds its own particular spice to debate.

Monday Oct 31/22

ACROSS THE BAY

New report about log embargo denied.
Everything possible being done to stop log export.
Barbers start fight for new profession law.
McRae not candidate for Third Party leadership.
Pooley inquisitive about many things.

No further action to stop the export of unmanufactured timber from British Columbia to the United States is contemplated by the Provincial Government, which has gone as far as it can in efforts to curb this movement of logs, Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands announced to-day. Reports in Vancouver newspapers yesterday declared that the Government was contemplating a stricter embargo on the export of logs.

"The Government has done everything it is legally able to do to curb the export of unmanufactured timber," Mr. Pattullo stated this morning. "We have gone to the limit of our powers under Dominion Government law."

"As a matter of fact, the recent agitation over the export of logs was exaggerated and carried on for political purposes. There is no large movement of unmanufactured timber going to the United States now. Under the Government's policy of encouraging the manufacture of timber here this export is very small."

Barbers Start Fight

British Columbia barbers will start their fight for the passage of a law to make barbering a profession shortly. They will base their argument in favor of such a law on the necessity of keeping all barber shops in a sanitary condition. The average shaving public is very conscious of the fact that a dirty barber shop and an untidy, incompetent barber, is a menace not only to the public health, but to the general stability of the profession, says a statement given out to-day by barbers sponsoring the new law. The intelligent public knows that a law calling for the maximum perfection in sanitation and efficiency of workmanship at the minimum of expense on the part of the barber and with no added expense to the public, will have a tendency to lift this stigma from the profession.

"The proposed requirements and regulations make the public protection the first consideration, assuring the public, in small towns and cities, the same sanitary protection and efficiency of workmanship observed in barber shops of larger cities. For the protection of the profession itself, it will have the same influence over the barber as the Medical Act has over the medical profession."

Third Party Active

The Provincial Party is becoming active on the Mainland again. At a meeting in Vancouver Monday night General A. D. McRae announced that he was not a candidate for the permanent leadership of the party. "He has been acting as temporary leader since the party's formation."

"I am just the opposite to the Premier," General McRae said. "This is not my job and I don't like it. I have only been discharging what I felt was a citizen's obligation which I could find no honorable way of avoiding. I am not a candidate for the leadership. My large contributions to the cause might well subject me to the charge of trying to buy my way into the premiership. I have large investments in the natural resources of the Province, which are more than likely to come before the Legislature for consideration at any time. These, I feel, add to my lack of qualifications for the work."

What Pooley Wants to Know

Questions ranging from the construction of roads in northern British Columbia to the insurance on public buildings have been placed on the order paper by R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt. Mr. Pooley wants to know all about the Government's purchase of property in Prince George, the fire in the Government liquor warehouse here, the construction of roads on Hudson Bay Mountain in the Omineca ridings, whether the Government intends to build a road from Prince Rupert towards Terrace and to change the road at Fitzgerald's Hill on the Shawinigan Lake cut-off road in the Esquimalt ridings, whether the Public Works Department has investigated the possibility of building a road along the West Coast of the Island from Jordan River to Port Renfrew, and whether it proposes to build such a road, and whether the department intends to continue the paving of the highway from the end of the present highway at Colwood towards Met-

Mr. Pooley also is inquisitive about Hon. W. H. Sutherland's trip into the Peace River country last Summer, and wants to know just how much it cost. He also asks information on the building of various roads and bridges in the north of the Province. Mr. Pooley requests a return from Cabinet Ministers showing the amount of insurance carried by their departments with the firm of Gillespie, Hart & Todd, and information regarding the moneys paid over to the Ryan-McIntosh Timber Company in connection with timber cruising contracts.

Oriental in Mines

Samuel Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, is asking the Minister of Mines how many Orientals have been dismissed from the Cumberland mines since the last explosion, which occurred in February of last year.

Advocates "Purer Beer"

"Purer beer" will be advocated in the Legislature shortly by Major R. J. Burde, Independent member for Alberni.

"There is much talk now about beer clubs and beer plebiscites, but one seldom hears any discussion of the quality of beer sold in Government stores," Major Burde said yesterday. "The quality of this beverage should be raised. The beer sold now is far from satisfactory. Indeed, it has proved positively injurious to the health of some people who drink it. I believe that the assistance of medical men should be secured to test the present beer and recommend some

alterations which would improve its quality. The trouble is that we are paying too much money for glass bottles, and not enough for beer. If beer could be sold from barrels this difficulty would be overcome. Under present conditions so much bottled beer is drunk that small boys are making their pocket money gathering up the empty bottles and selling them."

Press Gallery Officers

At the annual election of officers of the Legislative Press Gallery, C. Norman Senior, of The Vancouver Sun, was elected president, succeeding R. E. Walker, Victor E. Andrew, New Westminster British Columbian, was re-elected secretary. Other officers are: Honorary president, Hon. W. H. Sutherland, Minister of Public Works; honorary vice-president, Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, and W. W. Esling, Conservative member for Rossland, and a former newspaper proprietor.

Service Revolutionized

The service on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway has been revolutionized, according to J. M. Yorston, M.P.E. for Cariboo, who is in the city attending the session of the B. C. Legislature. He states that the residents still hope for early completion of the line to Prince George, as the ultimate destiny of the system. He is satisfied that when the earnings of the line are next reported upon they will show a substantial improvement.

Mr. Yorston reports considerable improvement in the ranching interests in his district, in spite of the low price of cattle. Gold mining is showing much improvement, particularly around Barkerville and in the Cedar Creek district. In the latter area there has been a stimulus since a new company took over the abandoned efforts which marked the ebb of interest when that camp declined in public favor. The Transprovincial Highway issue is already beginning to occupy attention among the private members who are assembling for the Legislature. There is expected to be a distinct sentiment expressed at the meeting of the Associated Boards of Trade convention, called in Vancouver on November 15, at which almost all delegates from the Interior are being asked to pledge themselves one way or the other for either the Fraser Canyon or the Hope-Princeton route.

FARRIS TO RULE OVER BATTLES ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Both Sides Prepare For Lively Committee Sessions

Former Railway Official Who Makes Charges For Third Party to be Haled

J. Rossiter, former employee of the railway department of the Provincial Government, who has been making alleged sensational charges in an affidavit in the "Searchlight," in the interest of General A. D. MacRae's Third Party, is to be haled before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature to prove some of his charges.

This was given out to-day at the Parliament Buildings.

The Third Party attacks have been made against both the old parties of the Province.

In preparation for the lively time that will develop the public accounts committee is being strengthened by the addition of Mr. Farris, former Attorney-General, who is familiar with all railway affairs.

The battle over the railway question is likely to prove as bitter as that over liquor.

Preparations were being made to-day for the waging of some big battles this session before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature.

It is before this committee that a big play is always made by opposition forces to gain campaign material. Mr. Bowser and R. H. Pooley, who are leaders of the Conservative probing forces on the committee, said to-day that the committee according to plans they are making would likely prove more lively than it was last year. Mr. Pooley said that he had gathered all sorts of liquor facts, both in Victoria and Vancouver, and on his trip north with Mr. Bowser, and he intends to start something if he can find anything to start.

It was explained at the Parliament Buildings to-day that rumors of an approaching election are acting as an incentive to fireworks before the committee. The battle will be waged chiefly over liquor board affairs.

In preparation for a lively time the Government to-day arranged to place J. D. de B. Farris, K.C., former attorney-general and representative of the Province before the Privy Council in London last Summer, in charge of the committee. Membership of the committee will remain about the same as last year.

Oct 31st

B.C. SECOND IN MANUAL TRAINING, DOMESTIC SCIENCE

Many More Students Receiving Practical Training, New Figures Show

British Columbia stands second only to Ontario now in manual training and domestic science work in public schools in Canada, according to figures made public to-day by Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education.

Numbers of students receiving manual training in British Columbia increased substantially during the year 1922-23, Dr. MacLean's figures show. In the past year 12,217 pupils attended manual training classes as against 10,511 in the previous year. Pupils receiving manual training in elementary schools numbered 10,507 this year as against 8,930 last year, while those in high schools numbered 1,664 this year as against 1,540 last year.

"These figures rank British Columbia second in Canada, Ontario being the only province which does better," says a statement given out at the Department of Education today. "In Ontario the Government pays the whole cost of equipment in three yearly instalments while the Government of British Columbia pays fifty per cent. of the cost."

Efficient Instructors

"The standing of British Columbia is due to efficient instructors who have been selected from a class of practical craftsmen and trained at Saturday classes conducted by the Department of Education to teach and appreciate the educational outlook."

Girls receiving domestic science training in this Province also have increased in number. The total number attending domestic science classes this year was 8,546 as against 8,103 last year. Elementary school pupils attending these classes numbered 6,784 this year as against 6,570 last year and High School pupils, 1,662 this year as against 1,436 last year.

Instruct Teachers

These figures rank British Columbia second only to Ontario in domestic science education in Canada. Ontario pays the full cost of domestic science equipment while British Columbia pays half the cost. Saturday classes for domestic science teachers, similar to those for manual training teachers have been organized in British Columbia and marked progress is expected to result.

There are now seventy-nine manual training centres in British Columbia and fifty-one domestic science centres. At the manual training centres sixty-seven instructors are employed as compared to sixty-two last year and in the domestic science centres forty-nine instructors as against forty-six last year.

SAYS HONESTY OF STEEL PROMOTERS BEYOND QUESTION

Mrs. Smith, Answering Mr. Clearihue's Attack, Warmly Defends Landahl Backers

Canada Must Prepare to Welcome Thousands of Britishers, Lady Member Says

Britishers who are promoting the establishment of an iron and steel industry in British Columbia, through the Coast Range Steel Company, are men of unquestioned integrity, Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, Liberal Member for Vancouver, asserted in the Legislature yesterday when she answered J. B. Clearihue's attack on the Company's "propaganda."

"I deprecate the fact that any names should have been brought into the discussion," Mrs. Smith remarked in referring to the statements of the Junior Member for Victoria, that the Coast Range Steel promoters were not confining themselves to the facts in their propaganda. "If a cause is unworthy it will not stand investigation," Mrs. Smith went on. "Nothing need be said about it. We can pass it over."

"My experience in England showed me that the people behind the Coast Range Steel Company are men of worth and character, and of the highest standard, men whose position has not been questioned, whose veracity has not been inquired into."

"If it has never been investigated how do you know it cannot be questioned?" interjected Major R. J. Burde, Independent Member for Alberni.

"There has never been any reason to enquire into it—that's the answer," Mrs. Smith retorted.

"That's a good one," Major Burde remarked.

"A very good one," Mrs. Smith agreed. She added that she hoped that progress would be made in the development of British Columbia's vast iron resources and that a great iron and steel industry would be established. She was confident, she said, that there would no disposition on the part of the government to quarrel with interests which were seeking to establish such an industry.

Foresees Prosperity

Mrs. Smith, seconding the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, said she looked forward to new prosperity in Canada as a result of this year's record-breaking crop. The boom in Western Canada's great lumber industry, she added, would contribute to this prosperity.

Mrs. Smith believed, she went on, that the people of British Columbia were enjoying a greater feeling of confidence now than they had felt for some years.

She urged the House to consider the plight of the British Columbia coal industry which is suffering as a result of American fuel oil importation.

Many Immigrants Coming

Mrs. Smith said she felt that her recent immigration mission to Great Britain had been quite satisfactory. "Conditions over there are such that when people complain here I hardly see what they have to complain about," she went on.

She told of the serious unemployment problem facing Britain and of the necessity of keeping large numbers of people by government doles. The dole system, she declared, had many disadvantages, but without doles it was difficult to visualize what would happen in the old country.

"Industry is paralyzed, markets are shot to pieces, and it will be some time before the European situation permits business to get back to normal," Mrs. Smith declared.

British people, she said, are only managing to "carry on" under these conditions and with a staggering load of taxation.

Oct 31st cont'd

Many Wish to Emigrate

"The idea of people emigrating to Canada is taking root in the British mind," Mrs. Smith proceeded. Many Britishers, she stated, felt that with means depleted by the war, they could find prosperity in Canada. Numerous Britishers who came to Canada this year to work in the grain fields, will settle here, Mrs. Smith declared. Out of the 11,000 harvesters who came here, she stated, only 200 were undesirables. Canada, Mrs. Smith asserted, offered wonderful opportunities to these men, as to all British immigrants. She urged that machinery like the Land Settlement Board, and public organizations already in existence, should be used to handle British immigration.

Would Welcome Britishers

Canadians, Mrs. Smith emphasized, should welcome British people and let them see that they are wanted here.

Looking forward to the future, I can see only prosperity like that we enjoyed from 1896 to 1911," Mrs. Smith affirmed. "We have in this country, a golden opportunity for people to go on the land. It is said that prices of farm produce are too small. What is needed is co-operation on this question. I hope, too, that Great Britain will purchase her produce here rather than in foreign countries."

Governments, Mrs. Smith said, cannot do everything. "Something is left to the imagination of the people," she asserted. "What we need is to organize for social effort and make people who may come here feel more at home and that they have come to a land that is willing to welcome them, a land where they can make good if they are willing to work."

Must Absorb Immigration

Mrs. Smith appealed to Canadians to face the necessity of absorbing British immigration. Canada, she said, should be willing to allow all Britishers of good character to come here. In Britain, she stated, the impression prevailed that many parts of Canada were opposed to British immigration and wished to close the doors to it. Such opinions, she asserted, were fortunately confined to very small groups. Britishers, she

said, had the right to seek prosperity in Canada.

"It is our duty to make Canada safe for those already here, to prepare the ground for those who will come and to make it possible for every man to earn a living in this, the greatest gem of the British Crown," she affirmed.

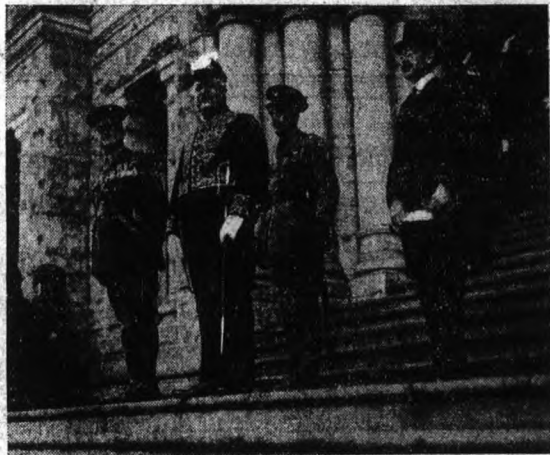
Mrs. Smith urged that lands be thrown open in Canada for settlement. Instead of the old slogan, "Look after the cities and the country will look after itself," Canada, she argued, should adopt the slogan, "Take care of the country and the cities will look after themselves." Referring to the movement of people from Canada to foreign countries, Mrs. Smith declared that Canada needed, not "lip patriotism," but a patriotism that would build up the Dominion and restore normal conditions.

R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, adjourned the debate.

OCT

1923

**LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR NICHOL
OFFICIATING AT OPENING OF
PARLIAMENT HERE YESTERDAY**



—Photo by Goodenough.

BUSY SESSION FORECASTED BY SPEECH FROM THRONE

The Speech from the Throne delivered by Lieutenant-Governor Walter C. Nichol at the opening of the Provincial Legislature to-day indicated that the Government intends to bring down important legislation during the session now under way. The Speech from the Throne was as follows:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature:

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

Sympathy With Japan

The sympathy of the Province with the Empire of Japan in the terrible loss of life and property occasioned by recent disasters is very sincere, and my Government has forwarded a relief con-

tribution of approximately two million feet of lumber and shingles.

Since you last met there has been a steady betterment in industrial conditions within the Province, and the bounteous harvest throughout Western Canada will tend towards further improvement.

The timber industry was never in a more prosperous condition than at present, and the outlook for the future is bright.

Forest fires during the past Summer have been fewer in number, and resulting damage much less than in previous years.

The adjustment of the Indian reserve question, which has for many years been the subject of negotiation between the Dominion and the Province, is progressing satisfactorily toward a final settlement.

The important question of foreshore ownership in public harbors, which has been in dispute for many years between the Province and the Dominion has been adjusted by amicable agreement.

Mining Industry

It is satisfactory to note that the metalliferous mining industry is in a healthy condition. Mining operators on the coast, in the interior and in the northern sections of the Province are enlarging and modernizing

their plants to permit of greater and more economical production, and many new properties are being developed.

A bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulations Act will be submitted.

Under agreement with the Dominion Government, the examination of the iron ore deposits of British Columbia, by the Geological Survey of Canada is making rapid progress.

Due to the increased consumption of foreign fuel oil, the coal mining industry of the Province is in a depressed condition.

Railway Rates

During the year the Government of the Province of Alberta joined with my Government in appealing to His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council for the entire removal of the discriminatory railway transportation rates. The final outcome of the appeal has not yet been determined, but it is satisfactory to note that a substantial reduction has recently been made in the matter of grain rates.

My Government regrets that the Canadian Senate has again rejected the bill to secure to the Province the sole right of importing liquor for use within its borders.

A bill providing for the more efficient organization and regulation of the Provincial Police will be submitted for your consideration.

Revision of the statutes has now been completed and a bill confirming the same will be placed before you.

A bill regulating the hours of labor in certain industries will be submitted to you.

A bill to provide for a more equitable distribution of representation in the Legislative Assembly will be laid before you for consideration.

Highways

Satisfactory progress has been made with the construction of main highways throughout the Province, and a large mileage of settlers' roads has also been constructed.

University grant lands are in course of being cleared and prepared for sale, and satisfactory progress is being made in the erection of university buildings.

Reclamation of approximately 32,000 acres of Sumas prairie lands has been successfully completed and excellent crops on portions of this land have been harvested this season.

The services on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway has been improved and the operating deficit has been materially reduced.

The revenues of the Crown continue to be satisfactory.

Personal Property Tax

It is proposed to reduce the rate of taxation upon real and personal property and you will be asked to consider other changes in the Taxation Act.

The Public Accounts for the fiscal year 1922-23 will be brought down at an early date.

The annual report of the Liquor Control Board will be placed before you.

The estimates of revenue and expenditure, prepared with due regard to economy and the necessities of the public service, will be submitted for your approval.

Members of the Legislature:

In leaving you to your deliberations I have confidence that you will give your best consideration to the questions which you will be called upon to decide, and I pray that your labors will have the blessing of the Almighty.

LIQUOR FINES TOTAL \$93,225 FOR LAST SIX MONTHS

Estreated Bail Makes Revenue From Court Proceedings \$175,635

Fines collected for infractions of the British Columbia liquor laws during the six months ending March 31 last totaled \$93,225, according to the annual report of the Liquor Control Board laid before the Legislature this afternoon by Hon. A. M. Manson, Attorney-General. Estreated bail during this period amounted to \$82,410, making a total of \$175,635 taken in as a result of infractions of the law.

Prosecutions under the Government Liquor Act totaled 2,900 for the six-month period. The greatest offenders were persons drunk in a public place. These numbered 1,372. For selling or dealing in beer or near-beer, 630 persons were prosecuted. There were 187 prosecutions against persons for selling liquor or exposing liquor for sale, while 120 persons were apprehended for purchasing liquor illegally or taking liquor for consideration.

There were 319 cases of persons having unsealed liquor in possession, and 115 cases where liquor was found on premises of persons engaged in selling non-intoxicating beverages. Only thirty-three persons were prosecuted for consuming liquor in a public place, while thirty-seven permitted drunkenness or gave liquor to intoxicated persons. Sixty were charged with keeping or consuming liquor in any part of a hotel other than a private guest room.

LEGISLATION TO CUT TAXES AND REGULATE LABOR HOURS PLANNED

Reduction of Real and Personal Property Levies Forecasted in Speech From Throne; Colorful Ceremony Marks Formal Opening of Fourth Session of Fifteenth Parliament by Lieutenant-Governor

The fourth session of the Fifteenth Parliament of British Columbia was opened here this afternoon by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, who, in his Speech from the Throne, indicated that important legislation will be brought down by the Government before the House adjourns.

The Government's legislative programme, it was stated, will include bills to regulate the hours of labor in certain industries, to reduce the present taxation on real and personal property, to effect other amendments to the Taxation Act, to redistribute electoral constituencies, to reorganize the Provincial Police force and to consolidate and revise all British Columbia statutes.

The formal opening of the House to-day, more colorful than it has been in recent years, was witnessed by crowded galleries. The Lieutenant-Governor arrived at the Parliament Buildings dressed in his Windsor uniform, at three o'clock. After inspecting the guard of honor, composed of soldiers from Work Point Barracks, under Major D. A. Clarke, His Honor immediately went to the executive chamber. Here he was formally greeted by Mr. Speaker Pauline and Sergeant-at-Arms Hearn, who escorted him to the assembly hall. After the Lieutenant-Governor had delivered the Speech from the Throne he left the hall, Mr. Speaker accompanying him to his limousine. Mr. Speaker then returned to his own rooms and, re-entering the assembly hall, took his chair.

After prayers by Right Rev. C. de Schotfield, Bishop of Columbia, in accordance with an ancient practice, by which the Legislature asserts its right to deal first with public business as it sees fit, Hon. A. M. Manson, Attorney-General, formally introduced the first act of the session, a bill to amend the Factories Act.

Debates On Speech

Premier Hon. John Oliver then moved that His Honor's speech be taken into consideration to-morrow and take precedence over other business except the introduction of legislation. The Premier also moved that the speech be printed in the Votes and Proceedings of the House. These motions, and another appointing M. B. Jackson, K.C., Liberal member for the Islands, Deputy Speaker, were quickly passed.

Start Work Immediately

Evidently determined to start the transaction of the business of the session with a minimum of delay, the Government immediately laid before the House voluminous reports covering the work of practically all departments during the last year.

Hon. A. M. Manson, Attorney-General and Minister of Labor, presented reports covering the work of the Department of Labor, the Liquor Control Board, the Inspector of Municipalities, the Game Conservation Board, the Provincial Game Warden, the Industrial School for Girls, the Inspector of Insurance, the Official Guardian, the prisons of the Province and on the Uniformity of Law Commissioners.

Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary, Minister of Education and Minister of Railways, also presented a number of important reports. These covered the work of the Railway Department, the Boys' Industrial School, the Provincial Library and Archives, the Public Library Commission, the Provincial Museum and the Superintendent of Neglected Children.

The annual report of the Department of Mines and the Fisheries Department were presented by Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines and Commissioner of Fisheries.

Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, presented his annual report covering the work of his Department for the year and another report on the work of the Forest Branch.

Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance and Minister of Industries, presented the report of the Department of Industries and of Official Administrators.

After arranging for the appointment of the usual standing committees, the House adjourned to reconvene to-morrow afternoon.

LUMBER INDUSTRY WILL OPERATE ON EIGHT-HOUR DAY

New Law Regulating Labor Hours to Affect Lumber and Allied Industries Only

Legislation which the Oliver Government plans to introduce shortly to regulate hours of labor in British Columbia business will apply only to lumbering and kindred industries like pulp mills, it is understood at the Parliament Buildings, now. The Government's Bill, it has become known, does not aim at the establishment of an eight-hour day in all industry.

Major R. J. Burde, independent member for Alberni, who has been waging a lone fight for years for the passage of an eight-hour-day law, has always urged that the measure apply now only to lumber and allied industries, it was pointed out to-day.

While the Government has announced through the Speech from the Throne yesterday that it is planning legislation on the eight-hour day, Major Burde intends to clinch his arguments in favor of an eight-hour-day bill with statistics which he gathered last week in Washington State.

Major Burde's tour through American sawmills convinced him that an eight-hour-day law will not place any unfair restriction on British Columbia's lumber industry.

"All mills in Washington State are operating on an eight-hour day and in every case laborers are being paid \$1 a day more than laborers in British Columbia mills," Major Burde said to-day. "Besides this, there is no Oriental labor in Washington State mills. I cannot see, in view of these facts, how British Columbia mills would be unable, with an eight-hour day, to compete with the American mills. That idea, I believe, is without basis."

B.C. Legislature Records Regret on Bonar Law's Death

The Provincial Legislature this afternoon recorded its regret over the death of the late Rt. Hon. Andrew Bonar Law, former Premier of Britain, in a resolution proposed by the Premier, the Hon. John Oliver, and seconded by the Hon. J. D. MacLean, Provincial Secretary.

The resolution, read: "That this House desires to place upon record its appreciation of the splendid service rendered to the Empire by the late Rt. Hon. Andrew Bonar Law and its regret at his removal by death, and further that Mr. Speaker do convey to the family of the late Rt. Hon. Andrew Bonar Law a copy of the above resolution."

Warm tributes to the late statesman were paid by Premier Oliver.

SAYS B. C.'S RAPID PROGRESS SILENCES DEPRESSION TALK

But Province Must Be Careful in Encouraging Development, Clearihue Declares; Urges Revision of Motor Licenses and Tax on Gasoline; Asks Action on Dumping of American Oil

British Columbia's paramount need to-day is the development of her vast natural resources, and this development is proceeding at a rate which completely blasts the arguments of those who are spreading about "whispers of death," J. B. Clearihue, junior Liberal member for Victoria, told the Provincial Legislature to-day when he moved the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

While British Columbia needs development in every direction it must be careful, Mr. Clearihue warned, not to establish industries upon insufficient data. He vigorously assailed the plans of the Coast Range Steel Company for the establishment of a steel indus-

try in this Province, asserting that this concern was "flooding the Province with its propaganda, based on figures not according to fact and at the same time endeavoring to finance its schemes with bonds to be guaranteed by various governments without the expenditure of one cent by the promoters."

Revision of motor licenses and the imposition of a gasoline tax to secure revenue from those who use the Province's roads were strongly advocated by Mr. Clearihue. He also called upon the House to consider the plight of British Columbia's coal industry, hard hit by heavy importations of American fuel oil, and added that there is reason to believe that American oil is being dumped into British Columbia to-day.

Ridicules Death Whispers

"Throughout the Speech from the Throne yesterday," said Mr. Clearihue, "resounded the cry of a country strong in its youth, conscious of its wealth, determined in its nature, breaking the bonds of the past, and standing forth in all its power ready and able to take its place with the strongest and best in the world. That is my picture of this Province, and that is the picture presented in His Honor's speech."

"And yet there are some honorable gentlemen not so far removed who will put on clouded spectacles of pessimism and deceive themselves into finding a sickly youth broken in spirit and mind and imbibing the deathly whispers of the Honorable Leader of the Opposition, who as a consulting physician is anxious to hasten his end, that he may be employed in the post-mortem and burial services."

"But the great majority of this

House, and indeed of the Province, are not of that thinking.

"Let me examine for a moment the duties of any government who may take power in this our Province. They are, to develop our resources, develop our people, and develop our Dominion, imperial and international relations. Every act of the government should be a reflection of one or other of these duties.

Development Greatest Need

"With a young country, development is the foundation of every policy, the portal to progress, and the guiding thought in the mind of every man. The result of the past years goes to prove that the present administration has carried this principle into its every action.

"Just as no new industry can be founded, nor can our natural products be exploited, without the spending of money, neither can our Province nor people be developed without an enormous cost and the expenditure of great sums of money. We have, it is true, spent money, but spent it in the development of our country and above all our children and people. And I venture to say that every cent of it can be justified. If we did not spend it, we would be stagnant. Stagnation means ruin."

To prove that British Columbia industry is improving, Mr. Clearihue quoted figures to show that since 1915, up to the close of 1922, the number of manufacturing plants in the Province has increased from 1,007 to 2,809, an increase of almost threefold; and employees from 20,000 to 60,000; while their wages have increased from \$14,567,751 to \$86,192,190, an increase of almost six times.

Less Unemployment

"Labor statistics," Mr. Clearihue stated, "show that fewer men sought work this year than last, while at the same time there was a greater demand for help and a larger number of men and women placed in employment. Indeed, during the last few months, the demand for help in the lumber and mining industries could not be satisfied."

"Whilst unemployment and industrial chaos still grips Great Britain and Europe, an aftermath of the war, British Columbia, in the strength of its youth, strides triumphantly forward to the foremost rank in the industrial world. Figures speak stronger than the whispers of death of those who would condemn their country for political greed."

Mr. Clearihue quoted striking figures to show the expansion of the lumber industry this year. He also painted a bright picture of the revival of the mining industry.

Attacks Steel Plan

"By agreement between the Dominion and Provincial Government," he went on, "Dr. G. A. Young has been conducting an examination of our iron ore deposits during the last two years. The important magnetite deposits of the east coast of Vancouver Island, the adjacent islands, the Mainland coast and the Queen Charlotte Islands have been carefully surveyed. During 1924, I understand, it is his intention to inspect the magnetite deposit of the west coast of Vancouver Island.

"With regard to our iron industry, I firmly believe that the future of Vancouver Island will be greatly affected by its development. In this we will find the foundation of future prosperity and the establishment of any basic industries. The work now being performed will be of the greatest value to a successful exploitation of that great industry.

"Nothing can do more harm to an industry than its hasty establishment upon insufficient data, and as the result of a campaign of propaganda by over-zealous promoters. When one finds a company such as the Coast Range Steel Company flooding the Province with its propaganda, based on figures not according to fact, and at the same time endeavoring to finance its schemes 100 per cent with bonds to be guaranteed by various governments, without the expenditure of one cent by the promoters, I can only say that to trust the development of this great resource to their hands will only be disastrous to the ratepayers of this Province."

Coal Industry Hit

The only "gloomy spot" in the mining industry, Mr. Clearhue said, is the coal mining business, which is suffering seriously as a result of heavy importations of American fuel oil.

"In 1910," he said, "coal production reached a total of 2,800,067 tons, and since that period it has never been as great. In 1922 it stood at 2,559,414 tons. This is attributable very largely to the competition which it is meeting in imported fuel oil. This should be given grave consideration in our deliberations this Session.

"The coal industry is an important factor in our every-day life. Figures show that if our coal industry was to supply the fuel now taken care of by fuel oil, it would mean a production of about 1,000,000 tons more per annum than is now necessary. It would mean an additional Provincial revenue of \$100,000. This is merely incidental to what it would mean in increased employment, additional local expenditures and generally increased prosperity in all industries.

"Dumping Oil"

"The introduction of the Fordney tariff in the United States struck a blow to our coal mining. By a duty of 53 cents a ton, its export market is practically eliminated. In 1913 the monthly production of fuel oil on the coast was 8,155,598 barrels, with a consumption of a little less. In

1922 the production reached 11,655,573 barrels per month, with a consumption of 9,847,543; whilst during the first seven months of this year, the production has reached 20,337,143 barrels per month, with a consumption of 17,837,143 barrels. And figures show it will average this year 25,000,000 barrels per month. This is producing a considerable surplus which has to be marketed some place, and there is reason to believe that it is actually being dumped into British Columbia to-day.

"All who have the interest of their country at heart must give serious consideration to the condition of this industry," Mr. Clearhue urged.

Mr. Clearhue emphasized the importance of agricultural development, and quoted figures which showed big growth in the business since the Liberal Government came into power.

Tourist Trade Grows

Turning to the growth of British Columbia's tourist business, Mr. Clearhue proceeded: "The completion of the Pacific Highway brought a flood of American tourists this Summer and left in our Province, it is estimated, some \$20,000,000 with our merchants. Victoria and Vancouver, and indeed the whole Province, especially benefited from the direct expenditure upon our roads. I firmly believe that there should be a readjustment of our motor-car taxation and that with a tax upon gasoline the tourist will contribute to the upkeep of the roads which he now uses, and the incidence of the tax will be more equitable upon our taxpayers. It is my hope that the Government will find such a tax expedient.

"The West Coast road is especially of interest to this community. It is a road that necessarily must be built, but one which is exceeding expensive. Last year saw considerable improvements, especially that at Kirby Creek, where a dangerous hill was done away with and a twenty-three per cent grade reduced to ten per cent. It is the policy continually to press forward and improve this road."

Japanese Question

"We have many questions of imperial and international relations which are yet to be solved. I refer especially to the Japanese question. One must be conscious of the fact that we as a Province are an integral part in the British Commonwealth of nations, a very important part. Our vision must not be narrow. We must deal with these questions in a broad and generous spirit, and I believe that we will finally reach a happy solution which will bring satisfaction and justice to all."

ACROSS THE BAY

Premier Hon. John Oliver refused to-day to answer or discuss General A. D. McRae's charges, contained in an open letter which was published in newspapers last night. The leader of the Provincial Party in his letter charged the Premier and Hon. A. M. Manson, Attorney-General, with failure to answer his previous accusations in connection with the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

"I have nothing to say about General McRae's letter now," the Premier stated to-day.

It is taken for granted that the Premier will answer General McRae fully and with complete figures before the present session is finished. It is pointed out that the meetings of the public accounts committee of the House will afford an opportunity for the presentation of figures which would refute Gen. McRae's charges.

While the Premier refused to discuss the matter to-day, he appeared to regard General McRae's accusations as absurd.

Agricultural Education Spreads

Agricultural education is making substantial progress in British Columbia now, according to figures released to-day by Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education. The enrolment in agricultural classes in high schools in 1923 totalled 510 students, as against 457 in 1922, these figures show. Altogether 5,000 students are securing training in agriculture in elementary schools now.

Twelve high schools are now carrying on, under specialists, the regular two-year course in agriculture. Seven of the instructors also supervise courses in elementary agriculture in the rural districts in which their respective high schools are located. These seven district teachers direct the work in seventy public schools with approximately 160 teachers and 5,000 children. Three of the agricultural specialists confine their time to high school work in science and agriculture. These men are appointed under school boards with the approval of the Department of Education. The district super-

visors are appointed by the Provincial Government.

Start Statute Revision

A committee to go over all British Columbia statutes as consolidated and compiled by officials of the Attorney-General's Department will be appointed by the Legislature on Wednesday. Hon. A. M. Manson, Attorney-General will propose that the following members compose the committee, Messrs. Manson, Farris, Whiteside, Jackson, Ian A. Mackenzie, Clearhue, Bowser, Hinchliffe and Pooley. This committee will examine all the laws altered in the course of the consolidation now completed, and its findings, it is expected, will be accepted by the House.

The standing committees of the House will be named late to-day or to-morrow. It is understood that there will be little change in the membership of last year.

Redistribution Undecided

Plans for the redistribution of British Columbia electoral constituencies have not been finally fixed, as stated in mainland newspaper reports, it was explained at the Parliament Buildings to-day. The whole question of redistribution has yet to be discussed and decided. It was stated. Preliminary suggestions on redistribution were laid before the Liberal caucus here last week-end. These suggestions, while they will form the basis of future discussion, may be altered in many directions before redistribution has been completed by the Legislature.

Amusement Tax Fight On

Representatives of British Columbia theatre owners arrived at the Parliament Buildings to-day to carry on their fight for a reduction in the present ten per cent amusement tax. Following their interview with Premier Oliver and Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, recently, the theatre owners are planning to conduct a vigorous fight this session for a cut of fifty per cent in the amusement levy. K. Rowe Holland, counsel for the Associated Amusements of British Columbia, has charge of the theatre owners' interests here.

LEGISLATIVE FARE

If the usual Speech from the Throne is more often conspicuous for the material which it does not contain than for what it promises, it cannot be said that the message which the Lieutenant-Governor delivered to British Columbia's lawmakers yesterday afternoon betrays anything approaching poverty of subject.

The people of the Province, and particularly the business element of the population, will welcome the announcement that the Legislature intends to discuss the personal property tax. This is not a just impost and the widespread objection to its continuance should result in its abolition altogether. There should similarly be no hesitation on the part of the House to look with favor upon the request which the moving picture operators have made in support of a reduction of the amusement tax.

There is plenty of elbow room for discussion upon the subject of redistribution and the future of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway will no doubt furnish ample opportunity for such forensic effort as may be neglected when unimportant matters like "booze" demand attention that should be paid to more vital considerations. It is satisfactory to observe that the trans-provincial highway is included in the legislative fare. The people of the Province are ready for the investment that will be entailed in the completion of the "missing link" and will expect the appropriation to go through—with an early announcement of the work's commencement.

Immigration in general and the best method of obtaining more new people for British Columbia in particular should give scope to every member of the House with practical ideas. The question is provincially and nationally important and there is no need for the indulgence of political bias when it is under discussion.

In the balance of the fullest of programmes with which the Legislature will be called upon to deal there will be the usual crop of amending legislation that invariably adds its own particular spice to debate.

ACROSS THE BAY

New report about log embargo denied.
 Everything possible being done to stop log export.
 Barbers start fight for new profession law.
 McRae not candidate for Third Party leadership.
 Pooley inquisitive about many things.

No further action to stop the export of unmanufactured timber from British Columbia to the United States is contemplated by the Provincial Government, which has gone as far as it can in efforts to curb this movement of logs. Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands announced to-day. Reports in Vancouver newspapers yesterday declared that the Government was contemplating a stricter embargo on the export of logs.

"The Government has done everything it is legally able to do to curb the export of unmanufactured timber," Mr. Pattullo stated this morning. "We have gone to the limit of our powers under Dominion Government law."

"As a matter of fact, the recent agitation over the export of logs was exaggerated and carried on for political purposes. There is no large movement of unmanufactured timber going to the United States now. Under the Government's policy of encouraging the manufacture of timber here this export is very small."

Barbers Start Fight

British Columbia barbers will start their fight for the passage of a law to make barbering a profession shortly. They will base their argument in favor of such a law on the necessity of keeping all barber shops in a sanitary condition. The average shaving public is very conscious of the fact that a dirty barber shop and an untidy, incompetent barber, is a menace not only to the public health, but to the general stability of the profession, says a statement given out to-day by barbers sponsoring the new law. The intelligent public knows that a law calling for the maximum perfection in sanitation and efficiency of workmanship at the minimum of expense on the part of the barber and with no added expense to the public, will have a tendency to lift this stigma from the profession.

"The proposed requirements and regulations make the public protection the first consideration, assuring the public, in small towns and cities, the same sanitary protection and efficiency of workmanship observed in barber shops of larger cities. For the protection of the profession itself, it will have the same influence over the barber as the Medical Act has over the medical profession."

Third Party Active

The Provincial Party is becoming active on the Mainland again. At a meeting in Vancouver Monday night General A. D. McRae announced that he was not a candidate for the permanent leadership of the party. He has been acting as temporary leader since the party's formation.

"I am just the opposite to the Premier," General McRae said. "This is not my job and I don't like it. I have only been discharging what I felt was a citizen's obligation which I could find no honorable way of avoiding. I am not a candidate for the leadership. My large contributions to the cause might well subject me to the charge of trying to buy my way into the premiership. I have large investments in the natural resources of the Province, which are more than likely to come before the Legislature for consideration at any time. These, I feel, add to my lack of qualifications for the work."

What Pooley Wants to Know

Questions ranging from the construction of roads in northern British Columbia, to the insurance on public buildings have been placed on the order paper by R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt. Mr. Pooley wants to know all about the Government's purchase of property in Prince George, the fire in the Government liquor warehouse here, the construction of roads on Hudson Bay Mountain in the Omineca riding, whether the Government intends to build a road from Prince Rupert towards Terrace and to change the road at Fitzgerald's Hill on the Shawnigan Lake cut-off road in the Esquimalt riding, whether the Public Works Department has investigated the possibility of building a road along the West Coast of the Island from the Jordan River to Port Renfrew,

and whether it proposes to build such a road, and whether the department intends to continue the paving of the highway from the end of the present paving at Colwood towards Metchoin.

Mr. Pooley also is inquisitive about Hon. W. H. Sutherland's trip into the Peace River country last Summer, and wants to know just how much it cost. He also asks information on the building of various roads and bridges in the north of the Province. Mr. Pooley requests a return from Cabinet Ministers showing the amount of insurance carried by their departments with the firm of Gillespie, Hart & Todd, and information regarding the moneys paid over to the Ryan-McIntosh Timber Company in connection with timber cruising contracts.

Orientalists in Mines

Samuel Guthrie, Socialist member for Newcastle, is asking the Minister of Mines how many Orientalists have been dismissed from the Cumberland mines since the last explosion, which occurred in February of last year.

Advocates "Purer Beer"

"Purer beer" will be advocated in the Legislature shortly by Major R. J. Burde, Independent member for Alberni.

"There is much talk now about beer clubs and beer plebiscites, but one seldom hears any discussion of the quality of beer sold in Government stores," Major Burde said yesterday. "The quality of this beverage should be raised. The beer sold now is far from satisfactory. Indeed, it has proved positively injurious to the health of some people who drink it. I believe that the assistance of medical men should be secured to test the present beer and recommend some alterations which would improve its quality. The trouble is that we are paying too much money for glass bottles, and not enough for beer. If beer could be sold from barrels this difficulty would be overcome. Under present conditions so much bottled beer is drunk that small boys are making their pocket money gathering up the empty bottles and selling them."

Press Gallery Officers

At the annual election of officers of the Legislative Press Gallery, C. Norman Senior, of The Vancouver Sun, was elected president, succeeding R. R. Walker, Victor E. Andrew, New Westminster British Columbian, was re-elected secretary. Other officers are: Honorary president, Hon. W. H. Sutherland, Minister of Public Works; honorary vice-presidents, Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, and W. W. Essling, Conservative member for Rossland, and a former newspaper proprietor.

Service Revolutionized

The service on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway has been revolutionized, according to J. M. Yorston, M.P.P. for Cariboo, who is in the city attending the session of the B. C. Legislature. He states that the residents still hope for early completion of the line to Prince George, as the ultimate destiny of the system. He is satisfied that when the earnings of the line are next reported upon they will show a substantial improvement.

Mr. Yorston reports considerable improvement in his district, in spite of the low price of cattle. Gold mining is showing much improvement, particularly around Barkerville and in the Cedar Creek district. In the latter area there has been a stimulus since a new company took over the abandoned efforts which marked the ebb of interest when that camp declined in public favor.

The Transprovincial Highway issue is already beginning to occupy attention among the private members who are assembling for the Legislature. There is expected to be a distinct sentiment expressed at the meeting of the Associated Boards of Trade convention, called in Vancouver on November 15, at which almost all delegates from the Interior are being asked to pledge themselves one way or the other for either the Fraser Canyon or the Hope-Princeton route.

FARRIS TO RULE OVER BATTLES ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Both Sides Prepare For Lively Committee Sessions

Former Railway Official Who Makes Charges For Third Party to be Haled

J. Rossiter, former employee of the railway department of the Provincial Government, who has been making alleged sensational charges in an affidavit in the "Searchlight," in the interest of General A. D. MacRae's Third Party, is to be haled before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature to prove some of his charges.

This was given out to-day at the Parliament Buildings.

The Third Party attacks have been made against both the old parties of the Province.

In preparation for the lively time that will develop the public accounts committee is being strengthened by the addition of Mr. Farris, former Attorney-General, who is familiar with all railway affairs.

The battle over the railway question is likely to prove as bitter as that over liquor.

Preparations were being made to-day for the waging of some big battles this session before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature.

It is before this committee that a big play is always made by opposition forces to gain campaign material. Mr. Bowser and R. H. Pooley, who are leaders of the Conservative probing forces on the committee, said to-day that the committee according to plans they are making would likely prove more lively than it was last year. Mr. Pooley said that he had gathered all sorts of liquor facts, both in Victoria and Vancouver, and on his trip north with Mr. Bowser, and he intends to start something if he can find anything to start.

It was explained at the Parliament Buildings to-day that rumors of an approaching election are acting as an incentive to fireworks before the committee. The battle will be waged chiefly over liquor board affairs.

In preparation for a lively time the Government to-day arranged to place J. D. de B. Farris, K.C., former attorney-general and representative of the Province before the Privy Council in London last Summer, in charge of the committee. Membership of the committee will remain about the same as last year.

B.C. SECOND IN MANUAL TRAINING, DOMESTIC SCIENCE

Many More Students Receiving Practical Training, New Figures Show

British Columbia stands second only to Ontario now in manual training and domestic science work in public schools in Canada, according to figures made public to-day by Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education.

Numbers of students receiving manual training in British Columbia increased substantially during the year 1922-23, Dr. MacLean's figures show. In the past year 12,217 pupils attended manual training classes as against 10,511 in the previous year. Pupils receiving manual training in elementary schools numbered 10,507 this year as against 8,930 last year, while those in high schools numbered 1,564 this year as against 1,540 last year.

"These figures rank British Columbia second in Canada, Ontario being the only province which does better," says a statement given out at the Department of Education to-day. "In Ontario the Government pays the whole cost of equipment in three yearly instalments while the Government of British Columbia pays fifty per cent. of the cost."

Efficient Instructors

"The standing of British Columbia is due to efficient instructors who have been selected from a class of practical craftsmen and trained at Saturday classes conducted by the Department of Education to teach and appreciate the educational outlook."

Girls receiving domestic science training in this Province also have increased in number. The total number attending domestic science classes this year was 8,548 as against 8,108 last year. Elementary school pupils attending these classes numbered 6,784 this year as against 6,570 last year and High School pupils, 1,662 this year as against 1,486 last year.

Instruct Teachers

These figures rank British Columbia second only to Ontario in domestic science education in Canada. Ontario pays the full cost of domestic science equipment while British Columbia pays half the cost. Saturday classes for domestic science teachers, similar to those for manual training teachers have been organized in British Columbia and marked progress is expected to result.

There are now seventy-nine manual training centres in British Columbia and fifty-one domestic science centres. At the manual training centres sixty-seven instructors are employed as compared to sixty-two last year and in the domestic science centres forty-nine instructors as against forty-six last year.

SAYS HONESTY OF STEEL PROMOTERS BEYOND QUESTION

Mrs. Smith, Answering Mr. Clearihue's Attack, Warmly Defends Landahl Backers

Canada Must Prepare to Welcome Thousands of Britishers, Lady Member Says

Britishers who are promoting the establishment of an iron and steel industry in British Columbia, through the Coast Range Steel Company, are men of unquestioned integrity, Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, Liberal Member for Vancouver, asserted in the Legislature yesterday when she answered J. B. Clearihue's attack on the Company's "propaganda."

"I deprecate the fact that any names should have been brought into the discussion," Mrs. Smith remarked in referring to the statements of the Junior Member for Victoria, that the Coast Range Steel promoters were not confining themselves to the facts in their propaganda. "If a cause is unworthy it will not stand investigation," Mrs. Smith went on. "Nothing need be said about it. We can pass it over."

"My experience in England showed me that the people behind the Coast Range Steel Company are men of worth and character, and of the highest standard, men whose position has not been questioned, whose veracity has not been inquired into."

"If it has never been investigated how do you know it cannot be questioned?" interjected Major R. J. Burde, Independent Member for Alberta.

"There has never been any reason to enquire into it—that's the answer," Mrs. Smith retorted.

"That's a good one," Major Burde remarked.

"A very good one," Mrs. Smith agreed. She added that she hoped that progress would be made in the development of British Columbia's vast iron resources and that a great iron and steel industry would be established. She was confident, she said, that there would be no disposition on the part of the government to quarrel with interests which were seeking to establish such an industry.

Foresees Prosperity

Mrs. Smith, seconding the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, said she looked forward to new prosperity in Canada as a result of this year's record-breaking crop. The boom in Western Canada's great lumber industry, she added, would contribute to this prosperity.

Mrs. Smith believed, she went on, that the people of British Columbia were enjoying a greater feeling of confidence now than they had felt for some years.

She urged the House to consider the plight of the British Columbia coal industry which is suffering as a result of American fuel oil importation.

Many Immigrants Coming

Mrs. Smith said she felt that her recent immigration mission to Great Britain had been quite satisfactory. "Conditions over there are such that when people complain here I hardly see what they have to complain about," she went on.

She told of the serious unemployment problem facing Britain and of the necessity of keeping large numbers of people by government doles. The dole system, she declared, had many disadvantages, but without doles it was difficult to visualize what would happen in the old country.

"Industry is paralyzed, markets are shot to pieces, and it will be some time before the European situation permits business to get back to normal," Mrs. Smith declared.

British people, she said, are only managing to "carry on" under these conditions and with a staggering load of taxation.

Many Wish to Emigrate

"The idea of people emigrating to Canada is taking root in the British mind," Mrs. Smith proceeded. Many Britishers, she stated, felt that, with means depleted by the war, they could find prosperity in Canada.

Numerous Britishers who came to Canada this year to work in the grain fields, will settle here, Mrs. Smith declared. Out of the 11,000 harvesters who came here, she stated, only 200 were undesirable. Canada, Mrs. Smith asserted, offered wonderful opportunities to these men, as to all British immigrants. She urged that machinery like the Land Settlement Board, and public organizations already in existence, should be used to handle British immigration.

Would Welcome Britishers

Canadians, Mrs. Smith emphasized, should welcome British people and let them see that they are wanted here.

"Looking forward to the future, I can see only prosperity like that we enjoyed from 1896 to 1911," Mrs. Smith affirmed. "We have in this country, a golden opportunity for people to go on the land. It is said that prices of farm produce are too small. What is needed is co-operation on this question. I hope, too, that Great Britain will purchase her produce here rather than in foreign countries."

Governments, Mrs. Smith said, cannot do everything. "Something is left to the imagination of the people," she asserted. "What we need is to organize for social effort and make people who may come here feel more at home and that they have come to a land that is willing to welcome them, a land where they can make good if they are willing to work."

Must Absorb Immigration

Mrs. Smith appealed to Canadians to face the necessity of absorbing British immigration. Canada, she said, should be willing to allow all Britishers of good character to come here. In Britain, she stated, the impression prevailed that many parts of Canada were opposed to British immigration and wished to close the doors to it. Such opinions, she asserted, were fortunately confined to very small groups. Britishers, she

said, had the right to seek prosperity in Canada.

"It is our duty to make Canada safe for those already here, to prepare the ground for those who will come and to make it possible for every man to earn a living in this, the greatest gem of the British Crown," she affirmed.

Mrs. Smith urged that lands be thrown open in Canada for settlement. Instead of the old slogan, "Look after the cities and the country will look after itself," Canada, she argued, should adopt the slogan, "Take care of the country and the cities will look after themselves."

Referring to the movement of people from Canada to foreign countries, Mrs. Smith declared that Canada needed, not "lip patriotism," but a patriotism that would build up the Dominion and restore normal conditions.

R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, adjourned the debate.

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REPLY WILL BE MADE TO M'RAE CHARGES

Records of P.G.E. May Come Before Public Accounts Committee.

VICTORIA, Oct. 30.—No statement can be secured from Premier Oliver on the open charges made by General A. D. McRae, leader of the Provincial Party, against the government in connection with accounts of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and the Northern Construction Company.

The government leader commented upon the matter but would not state his course of action. He dismissed the charges as absurd but left the impression that they could not go unanswered.

It is probable that the McRae charges will be investigated later in the session. When the public accounts committee is appointed an opportunity probably will be given to go fully into all the accounts in question.

THE SESSION OPENS.

In this province and elsewhere the speech from the throne has long since ceased to be prophetic and become historical. In the opening address at Victoria thirteen paragraphs are statements of historical fact, or what is claimed to be fact, though some of them are controversial and will be disputed. Most of these statements are reports of progress. Five paragraphs promise bills on as many different subjects, two promise to bring down information, one is a statement of fact, concluding with an expression of satisfaction, one a statement of fact, including an expression of regret. As usual the address closes with prayer.

This inaugural meets the necessities of the case. It mentions twenty-six matters of public interest, all of which are legitimate subjects of discussion in the Legislature. With so many themes the speakers on the address will not be short of texts. This is the main service now performed by the speech from the throne.

As to the measures proposed, revision of the statutes and redistribution were expected. Legislation about coal mines, the reorganization of the provincial police and hours of labor may be important measures. But the one item on the bill of fare which will gain most attention is that which promises a reduction of taxation upon real and personal property.

The public has long ago discovered that the business which the government proposes to bring before Parliament is not to be measured by the forecasts in the address. The session which opened yesterday may be exceedingly important. It will certainly have some political significance, since it is liable to be the last before a general election.

POINT GREY NOT TO GET ANOTHER SEAT

Premier Oliver Says Redistribution Reports Are Mere Guesswork.

(Special to The Province.)

VICTORIA, Oct. 30.—Consternation reigns in some government circles over the reported plans of the administration with regard to redistribution. Erroneous reports appeared in certain mainland newspapers on Saturday but Premier Oliver states there is no truth in these reports, which were mere guess work. Redistribution was discussed at Friday's caucus.

Changes were reported to be outlined which would eliminate Esquimalt and re-divide the lower mainland, adding a new seat in Point Grey. Nothing of the kind has been decided, according to ministers, but the full plan will have to be approved by the caucus before being submitted to the legislature.

BILL WILL NOT APPLY TO ALL INDUSTRIES

Lumbering and Allied Trades Only Affected By Eight-Hour Law.

Member for Victoria Moves Address in Reply to Speech.

Reviews Progress of Province in Address Marked By Optimism.

Promoters of Coast Steel Plant Denounced Strongly By Speaker.

VICTORIA, Oct. 30.—Legislation which the Oliver government plans to introduce to regulate hours of labor in British Columbia will apply only to lumbering and kindred industries. It is understood at the Parliament Buildings. The government's bill, it has become known, does not aim at establishing an eight-hour day in all industries.

Major R. J. Burde, independent member for Alberni, who has been waging a lone fight for years for the passage of an eight-hour day law, has always urged that the measure only apply to lumber and allied industries.

While the government has announced through the speech from the throne that it is planning legislation on the eight-hour day, Major Burde is planning to clinch his arguments in favor of an eight-hour day bill with statistics which he gathered last week in Washington State, where he inspected lumber mills.

MOVES ADDRESS IN REPLY.

For the second time within two years the honor of moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne has fallen to Mr. J. E. Clearihue, junior Liberal member for Victoria. When the Legislature resumed business this afternoon Mr. Clearihue took up the task of outlining tentatively the government's proposals for the session, first formally thanking his Honor Lieutenant-Governor Nichol for his speech of Monday, a speech notable, said the Victoria member, for its abounding optimism and faith.

"Throughout His Honor's speech there resounded the cry of a country strong in its youth, conscious of its wealth, determined in its nature, breaking the bonds of the past and standing forth in all its power ready and able to take its place with the strongest and best in the world," said Mr. Clearihue, and hearty applause followed.

REVIEWS CONDITIONS.

Mr. Clearihue refrained from commenting largely upon prospective legislation, only hinting here and there what might be expected from the government. He devoted most of his time to a review of conditions in the province.

The first duty of any government, he said, was to develop the resources of the country, the people, and also develop Dominion, Imperial and international relations. This, he claimed, the Oliver administration had done. While the past year had not shown sensational improvement in general conditions, the industrial atmosphere was decidedly better than for two or three years. The department of labor reported an upward tendency in wages, in many instances employers paying as much as fifty cents a day more than last year.

Speaking of the iron and steel situation, Mr. Clearihue mentioned the work of Dr. G. A. Young in examining iron ore deposits, work which will be continued next year. This should assist materially in the development of an important industry, he remarked, an industry which would mean much to the province.

SMALLER TAX, MORE REVENUE

More Will Go to Theatres If Tax Is Cut, Claim Owners.

EDUCATIONAL GROWTH

VICTORIA, Oct. 30.—Theatre owners and other amusement interests are losing no time in commencing their lobby for the cutting in half of the amusement tax which now amounts to nearly 10 per cent.

Recently a delegation waited upon Premier Oliver and Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, and were promised the full consideration of the executive council.

The claim is made that the theatres can not continue in business if forced to pay a 10 per cent. tax. The government appears desirous of assisting the amusement people, provided it can afford to reduce the tax. Strong efforts are being made to show the administration that, if the tax were cut in half, more people would attend shows and other amusements and in the long run the provincial exchequer would be the gainer.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Agricultural education is making substantial progress in B. C. now, according to figures released today by Hon. J. D. MacLean, minister of education. The enrollment in 1923 in agricultural classes in high schools totalled 510, as against 457 in 1922, altogether 5000 students are securing training in agriculture in elementary schools now.

Twelve high schools are now carrying on under specialists, the regular two-year course in agriculture.

The University summer school at Vancouver had substantially larger classes, and it is claimed that all schools are greatly improving the standard of work done in the public schools of the province.

WORK AMONG DEAF.

A report issued by Hon. Dr. MacLean, provincial secretary, shows that during the year ending September seventy children, thirty-eight boys and thirty-two girls, attended the school for the deaf at Point Grey, that institution becoming the school for the deaf and blind. Formerly children afflicted with blindness attended the school for the blind under control of the Vancouver School Board. Fifty-eight of the seventy children were deaf and twelve blind. Four of the blind pupils have made such rapid progress that they have been advanced to high school work.

Regarding school accommodation throughout the province, Hon. Dr. MacLean states: "In some localities the ratepayers declined to vote money for the erection of permanent school buildings. In such districts boards of trustees experienced difficulty in providing suitable classroom accommodation for all pupils. However, the ratepayers of North Vancouver, Burnaby, Trail, Maple Ridge and Mission City provided funds to meet the cost of erecting modern high school buildings. The high school in South Vancouver was enlarged by four rooms. Besides, schoolhouses were erected at Abbotsford, Ferndale (Matsqui), Haney (Maple Ridge) and a few other localities." Reports received at the office would indicate that in many districts the equipment and sanitary arrangements were much improved during the year."

CONDENSERS STEEL PROJECT.

The Victoria member had a word to say about the Coast Range Steel project, which he condemned.

"Nothing can do more harm to an industry than its hasty establishment," he proceeded, "if there is insufficient data or as the result of a campaign of propaganda by over-zealous promoters. When one finds a company such as the Coast Range Steel Company flooding the province with its propaganda based on figures not according to fact, and at the same time endeavoring to finance its schemes 100 per cent. with bonds to be guaranteed by various governments, without the expenditure of one cent by the promoters, I can only say that to trust the development of this great resource to their hands would only be disastrous to the ratepayers of this province."

He remarked that the province generally never was in better condition and that statements to the effect that British Columbia was on the verge of collapse were pessimistic falsehoods calculated to deceive the electorate.

Committee of Lawyers To Consolidate Statutes

VICTORIA, Oct. 30.—Mr. M. B. Jackson, K. C., member for the Islands, has been chosen deputy speaker of the Legislature, a position which he held last year. The post carries with it an indemnity of \$500.

A select committee, consisting of the following members of the Legislature, has been appointed to examine into the revision, classification and consolidation of all provincial statutes: Messrs. Manson, Farig, Whiteside, Jackson, Ian Mackenzie, Clearihue, Bowser, Hinchcliffe and Pooley.

For the first time in the life of the Oliver government a select committee consisting entirely of lawyers has been named. The consolidation of the statutes has been under way for several years, and the task is a heavy one.

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REVIEWS VISIT TO MOTHERLAND

Woman Member Says Many There Are Anxious to Emigrate.

REFERS TO STEEL PLANT

VICTORIA, Oct. 31.—Immigration problems and the iron and steel industry in British Columbia were the outstanding features of the speech of Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, who seconded the address in reply to the speech from the throne in the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

Commenting upon the Coast Range steel project, which had been vigorously denounced by Mr. J. B. Clearhue, mover of the address, Mrs. Smith said that the Britishers who were promoting the establishment of an iron and steel industry in this province were men of unquestioned integrity. She deprecated the fact that names should have been mentioned in the discussion, saying that if a cause were unworthy it would not stand investigation.

MEN OF WORTH

When visiting in Great Britain, Mrs. Smith said she had found that the men there behind the Coast Range Steel project were men of worth and character, of the highest standing, men whose veracity had not been enquired into.

Major Burde wanted to know how it was that the veracity of these men could not be questioned if no enquiry had been conducted into their affairs. Mrs. Smith replied that there never had been any need for an enquiry.

She hoped that there would be a development of British Columbia's vast iron and steel resources and that a great industry would be established. She felt that the government would not wish to quarrel with the interests seeking such an end.

Mrs. Smith referred to her visit to the Old Country and reported progress on her mission regarding immigration. When people complain in this country, she said, she could not understand it, considering the serious unemployment and other conditions overseas. Doles were handed out from necessity in Great Britain, the member added, despite their unpopularity. Without them it would be difficult to visualize what would happen.

ARE LOOKING TO CANADA.

She spoke of the paralyzed condition of industry in Europe, the shattered markets, and the staggering load of taxation. "Many people are now considering emigrating to Canada," added Mrs. Smith. "A large number of those who came to Canada as harvesters this year will remain. Some 11,000 of these worked in the harvest fields, and of that number only 200 were considered as undesirable."

The speaker urged that such organizations as the land settlement board and public bodies should make every effort to assist in handling British immigration. Canadians should extend a welcome to fellow Britishers wishing to make Canada their home, she added.

The Vancouver member said governments could not do everything; the people must use their imagination. They should organize for social effort and make homes for those willing to come here and work. She said the impression in Great Britain was that Canada did not wish Britishers as settlers, but she held that Britishers had the right to come to this country and seek prosperity.

No Change in Law Regarding Embargo Of Logs from B.C.

VICTORIA, Oct. 31.—There will be no further change on the export of logs from this province, states Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands. Rumors have been circulated that the government intended to change the regulations in this regard, but the minister gave an emphatic denial. At present, he said, only a small percentage of timber was being exported in an unmanufactured condition and most of this was of poor quality. No changes whatever will be made.

MEMBER IS IN CAUSTIC MOOD

R. H. Pooley Scores Administration of Liquor Act In the North.

HOME MARKET NEEDED

VICTORIA, Nov. 1.—Continuing the debate on the speech from the throne in the Legislature Wednesday afternoon, Mr. R. H. Pooley, Conservative member for Esquimalt, confined his remarks chiefly to a scathing criticism of the Oliver administration. He repudiated the charges that Conservatives were spreading "whispers of death" around the country and criticized the mover of the address, Mr. J. B. Clearhue, for the use of so much flowery language in singing the praises of the government and painting such a rosy picture of conditions in this province.

Mr. Pooley said the government was doing little to better conditions and the people needed something with which to fill the dinner pail. He had found conditions in Central British Columbia very bad, with thousands of people leaving the country, despite good crops. He urged the government to provide markets for farm produce, pointing out that the government could do this and the producers could not.

SCORES BUSINESS METHODS.

"The government should abolish its rotten business methods," he remarked. "British Columbia products should be manufactured in this province and she should not send her unfinished materials to other places."

Mr. Pooley said it was easy for government members to say that there were fewer unemployed men in the province. This was true, because so many hundreds had gone to other places where they could earn a living.

The Esquimalt member congratulated Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith upon her safe return from the Old Country and criticized her speech in the Legislature as being entirely devoid of interest. The lady member had had a good time at the expense of the country. He first said at the expense of the province, but retracted the statement when Premier Oliver objected.

Mr. Pooley dismissed her by advising that she, the ministers of finance and agriculture, and ex-Attorney-General Farris would do well to stay at home putting their house in order rather than holiday abroad. There was plenty for them to do at home.

The speaker harked back to the Liberal picnic at Goldstream, and spoke of Mr. M. A. Macdonald's statement that Hon. S. F. Toimie was a two-party man. He said Mr. Macdonald, of all people, should not throw stones.

OPPOSED TO TAX.

Mr. Pooley went on record as being opposed to the personal property tax. He referred to the Game Board investigation of a year ago and charged the government with having spent large sums of money on an enquiry, when the work could have been done by a select committee of the House without cost to the people.

He maintained that the attorney-general was tampering with the administration of justice by discharging justices of the peace and then refusing to reappoint certain good men. Hon. Mr. Manson entered a denial.

Mr. Pooley then dwelt at some length upon the liquor question. He said last year's public accounts committee had discovered that the friends of the government had been served. He declared himself against prohibition and warned that present conditions must change or there would be a return to a dry state.

The Esquimalt member referred to conditions in Prince Rupert, saying the town was wide open and mentioning the name of one Ole Bessner as a friend of the government who had profited through club operations. Mr. Pooley said Mr. Bessner would never be sent to jail so long as Attorney-General Manson held office.

REMARK IS WITHDRAWN.

This brought a hot protest from the minister, who demanded a retraction. After some delay Mr. Pooley withdrew his remarks, but he insisted that conditions in Prince Rupert should be cleaned up.

Mr. Pooley had a page-boy distribute photographs of the Skena Club. He claimed that the place was government property and that fishermen were entitled to spend their wages. He also wondered why Mr. Bessner had transferred his legal business to the firm of which the attorney-general is a member.

He attacked the proposal of using school pigeons and said the sooner they were put in jail the better. The laws should be enforced in a decent British way, he concluded.

Mr. Bowser adjourned the debate.

INDUSTRIES ARE FORGING AHEAD

Compensation Board's Report Shows Big Increase During Year.

VICTORIA, Nov. 1.—According to the sixth annual report of the Workmen's Compensation Board, just presented to the Legislature, industrial conditions throughout the province have improved greatly during the past year. At the beginning of last year 6393 industrial establishments within the scope of the act were in operation. At the end of the year the number had grown to 6524, a net increase of 131 firms. There was a corresponding increase of slightly over \$4,000,000 in the provincial payroll, the aggregate payrolls of the industrial establishments amounting to \$134,000,000.

During the year 19,647 industrial accidents were reported to the board, 169 proving fatal. Compensation is paid only after three days layoff through accident, and 8789 accidents were serious enough to necessitate workmen laying off for longer than this period. Workmen left with some physical handicap of a permanent nature numbered 492. The cost of accidents to industry was \$2,224,465.

The lumber industry continued to be the most hazardous, 43 per cent. of all accidents having occurred in this industry.

PREMIER WILL SPEAK AFTER W. J. BOWSER

Session Opens Quietly, But Storm Thought to Be Gathering.

VICTORIA, Nov. 1.—Following the precedent which was established last year, Premier Oliver will speak on the address in reply to the speech from the throne after Mr. Bowser. He maintained it was desirable to cut the debate down as much as possible and by having the two leaders speak early in the session their followers would have a better idea of both government and opposition proposals.

This year's opening of the session has proved the quietest in recent years, but in some quarters that is considered merely the calm before the storm. The session of 1919 commenced like a funeral dirge but ended in a blaze of glory, after twelve weeks.

Attorney-general Manson has practically all his legislation prepared and the administration will only be held up on account of matters which must come before the caucus.

In the legislative calendar it is taken for granted that this will be the last session before a general election and before it is over many hot fights will have been staged. These will centre around beer, the personal property tax and the P. G. E.

HOUSE WILL HEAR ROSSITER CHARGES

Former P. G. E. Official To Be Summoned Before Committee.

VICTORIA, Nov. 1.—J. Rossiter, former employee of the railway department of the Provincial Government, who has been making alleged sensational charges in an affidavit in the "Searchlight" in the interest of General A. D. McRae's third party, is to be haled before the public accounts committee of the Legislature to prove some of his charges.

This was given out at the Parliament Buildings. The third party attacks have been made against both the old parties of the province.

In preparation for the lively time that will develop the public accounts committee is being strengthened by the addition of Mr. Farris, former attorney-general, who is familiar with all railway affairs.

The battle over the railway question is likely to prove as bitter as that over