

MAY

1932

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PARTY CONVENTION AGAIN DEMANDED

Conservatives of Division One Reiterate Request For Gathering.

Division One Conservative Association, which several months ago urged a provincial convention of the party, returned to the subject at a meeting Thursday night. The division endorsed a resolution recently passed by the central executive of the city association, asking for a convention at the earliest possible moment.

One speaker defended the action of the party leaders in not holding a convention at this time. He was given a stormy passage by indignant members of the audience, receiving so many interruptions that he was forced to take his seat.

President Walter H. Raines and other speakers declared that those in authority were defeating their own ends by refusal to give members of the party a right to express themselves. A convention, they asserted, will iron out most of the party's difficulties.

Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance, addressed a meeting of Division Five Conservative Association Thursday night.

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1932

WILD TALK ON P.G.E. HARMFUL

Negotiations Are Being Continued Without Fresh Development

Answering newspaper queries as to the credibility of Seattle reports on negotiations for the sale of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, Premier Tolmie said yesterday no fresh development has taken place in the matter and no sale has been effected. Negotiations are still being carried on with interests in contact with the British Columbia Government, but had not yet reached a point where public discussion would be of any service, he stated.

At the same time Premier Tolmie commented on Mainland reports dealing with the proposed construction of a motor road into the Peace area from British Columbia. Spoken to by private interests, the proposal could scarcely be considered timely and might be prejudicial to the best interests of the province in regard to the P.G.E. affair, he intimated.

THROTTLES EFFORTS

"If there is anything more likely to choke the life out of any prospect the Province has of making a satisfactory solution of its railway problem, it is the suggestion that competition be set up for the Government-owned line by fleets of motor buses running to the Peace area," the Premier commented.

A great deal of nonsense had been written about the P.G.E. negotiations, he continued, with some stories going to the length of saying the Government had already signed agreements for the sale of the road. The public might rest assured that when that day came it would be properly and fully informed. In the meantime, no good could come from misrepresentation of the facts, the Premier concluded.

House Prorogues After Two Months' Strenuous Labor

Hon. J. W. Fordham Johnson Releases Members From Many Weeks' Continuous Sittings and Heaviest Programme of Present Legisla- ture—Sixty-Seven Acts Passed

EIGHT weeks to the day from the date it convened, the fourth session of the Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia was prorogued at 11:30 o'clock yesterday morning by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. The brief ceremony included the arrival of Hon. J. W. Fordham Johnson, his assent to the acts of the session in the name of His Majesty, and the customary closing address of thanks for the passage of supply.

The battle of sessional papers and cushions followed, as Members broke the restraint of the longest and hardest session in the memory of the present Legislature.

Side by side with the sittings of the Legislature for six of the eight weeks had gone the work of the select committee on unemployment, involving almost continuous duties for a large number in the House. The report of the committee was adopted at 2 o'clock yesterday morning, after an all-night debate in which the Government was vigorously supported and which closed with a division of 25-9 on adoption of the report.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

In his closing address His Honor said:

"Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

"In closing this the fourth session of the Seventeenth Parliament of the Province of British Columbia, it is my desire to express my appreciation of the attention which you have given to the many important questions submitted for your consideration.

"The bill ratifying the agreements with the Dominion and the municipalities respecting the relief of unemployment, and providing further powers for dealing with this important subject, is expected to afford a needed measure of relief during the existing commercial and industrial depression.

"The bill providing for the issuance of provisional free miners' certificates, and the suspension of the requirements as to payment of recording fees in respect of placer mining claims, is expected to stimulate prospecting and to afford a means of useful employment, as well as development in the mining industry.

"The bill for the relief of mortgagors and purchasers of lands is expected to afford a measure of relief to owners of land who are seriously distressed by the present financial conditions.

"The bill respecting petroleum and natural gas is expected to protect the public interest in connection with the development of the petroleum and natural gas resources of the province.

"The bills amending the Bills of Sale Act and the Conditional Sales Act, for the purpose of establishing a system of central registration of liens affecting motor vehicles, is expected to afford an additional means of preventing frauds in connection with dealings in motor vehicles.

"The bill amending the Provincial Elections Act contains provisions to facilitate the more frequent revision and correction of Provincial voters' lists.

"The bill amending the Insurance Act enacts new provisions respecting automobile insurance, and in connection with amendments enacted to the Motor Vehicle Act provides a needed measure of protection to the public in respect of accidents, and is expected to prevent the use of the highways by irresponsible drivers.

"The bill amending the Land Act is designed to facilitate the disposal of Crown lands by rendering it easier for settlers to acquire such lands.

"The amendments to the Municipal Act are designed to facilitate the conduct of municipal affairs.

"The bill amending the Public Schools Act is intended to extend the basis of taxation for school purposes in municipal and rural school districts, so as to relieve the burden of taxation on land.

"I trust that these and the various other laws and amendments you have enacted will inure to the welfare of the province.

"I thank you for the supplies so generously granted for the public service.

"In releasing you from your labors, I trust that the blessing of Providence will accompany you to your respective homes."

BATTLE OF PAPERS

Hon. S. L. Howe, Provincial Secretary, announced His Honor's wish that the session be prorogued, and the gubernatorial party retired. Singing of the National Anthem closed the proceedings.

The break-up and the annual battle of papers followed, sheafs of sessional documents being sent flying into the air, like doves of white pigeons, to settle in gathering clusters on the royal blue carpet of the august chamber.

Political friends and foes crossed hands in hearty adieu, while the Liberal bloc made mock ceremony around a "tombstone" to Columbia and Alberni ridings, redistributed into the limbo of amalgamated ridings of yesterday.

ROYAL ASSENT GIVEN

Forty-eight acts were assented to in the name of His Majesty, in addition to nineteen others previously ratified. The list of those assented to yesterday included the following measures in amendment of existing laws, except where otherwise noted:

Vital Statistics Act, Moving Pictures Act, Provincial Elections Act, Insurance Act, Shops Regulation Act, Execution Act, Government Liquor Act, Motor Vehicle Act, Public Schools Act, Land Act, Amusements Tax Act, Gasoline Tax Act, Municipalities Aid Act, Companies Act, Game Act, Coal and Petroleum Act, Jury Act, Company Clauses

Act, Medical Act, Distress Act, Bills of Sale Act, Conditional Sales Act, Greater Vancouver Water District Act, Barbers' Act, Savings and Loan Associations Act, Victoria Lumber & Manufacturing Company, Limited, Act, Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1921, Agricultural Act, Teachers Pensions Act, Village Municipalities Act, Taxation Act, Special Revenue Tax Act, Superannuation Act, Fuel-Oil Tax Act, Constitution Act, Revenue Act, Radium Act and Workmen's Compensation Act.

NEW LAWS PASSED

New laws were promulgated in relation to canned fish and canneries, provincial control of insurance, regulation of oil and natural gas development, the Loan Act of 1932, creation of Cultus Lake Park, the new Income Tax Act, Unemployment Relief Act, Moratorium Act and definition of the liability of municipalities in regard to institutional costs and the main 1932 Supply Act.

The Contributory Negligence Act and amendments to the Trades Licence Act were allowed to die on the order paper, both being minor changes which the Legislature did not bring into effect.

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Colonist
May 17, 1932

PATIENCE IS NEED OF DAY

Hon. J. W. Jones Gives Review of Provincial Finances in Address Here

If Canadians faced their troubles with the same fortitude and resolve shown by those in Great Britain, but little complaint would be heard in this Dominion from Halifax to Victoria. Hon. J. W. Jones commented in an address last evening to the Victoria Women's Conservative Association.

Mr. Jones gave a brief resume of Provincial finances, and stressed the fact that nearly \$5,000,000 had been sliced from British Columbia's expenditures this year. Faced with falling revenues and a gap of some \$2,000,000 between income and outgo, the Province had had recourse to additional taxation to balance its books, he contended. This additional taxation had been placed as equitably as possible, and spread over the widest possible number of

people, so that the burden would not fall too heavily on anyone.

ANSWERS MR. PATTULLO

Mr. Jones took issue with remarks made by T. D. Pattullo, leader of the Opposition, in a recent speech at Oak Bay, and declared that in the twelve years in which the Government, of which he had been a prominent and influential member, had been in office, it had added 104 new items of taxation, and had piled up the public debt to the tune of nearly \$8,000,000 for every year of its rule.

Most of the difficulty faced by the present administration had come from the unwise policies of the late Government, including the taking over of the P.G.E. Railway, on which the Province's obligations had been initially \$20,000,000, but had grown through the years to be some \$65,000,000, Mr. Jones stated.

"WILL TELL HIM SO"

Mr. Pattullo had talked a deal of the "orgy of extravagance" indulged in by the present ministry, but in eight weeks of the last session he had been unable to point to any particular item as an extravagance for which warrant could not be found. Mr. Pattullo had criticized at every turn, and had stooped to tactics which added nothing to the public weal in his efforts to cry down the present Government. In this he had failed, and "the people will tell him so" when the appropriate day arrives, Mr. Jones predicted.

Two and a half million acres of reverted lands, and a Provincial dollar was the heritage the Province received from the late Government, he declared.

Mr. Jones discussed briefly the terms of the last budget, told the reason for taxation changes, and appealed for confidence in the ability of the Province to retrieve its former position, with courage, diligence and patience. He was accorded a hearty reception.

H. D. Twigg, M.P.P., and James H. Beatty, M.P.P., occupied seats on the platform. Mrs. F. Kilsby presided at a well-attended meeting, followed by a social hour.

Province
June 5, 1932

B. C. LONDON LOAN FULLY SUBSCRIBED

Government Congratulated By Leading Financial Authorities.

VICTORIA, June 4.—British Columbia's return to the London market for money after an absence of nearly twenty years has been attended by an outstanding success, it is apparent from reports in the hands of the treasury officials of the government.

An unsecured stock loan of \$1,500,000 was underwritten in its entirety. It was offered to the public first between 99 and 99.25 per cent, and was in brisk demand among investors.

The government has been congratulated on its move by leading financial authorities of the country, and its example will most likely be followed by other Canadian interests in the near future, it was stated at the finance department.

Sun
May 16, 1932

Tories Decide No Convention To Oust Chief

Executive Sessions End in Partial Victory for Mem- bers of Tolmie Cabinet

Honors were even at the end of a day of strenuous contention in the executive of the B. C. Conservative Association Saturday at the Hotel Vancouver.

Adherents of the Cabinet were successful in defeating by a margin of three votes the motion calling for an immediate convention of the party, the thinly-concealed object of which was to effect a change in the party leadership.

On the other hand the insurgent forces were successful in at least temporarily blocking the appointment of an organizer selected by the Cabinet.

Official statements implied that no conclusions had been reached. Comments of individual committee-men indicate, however, that this is an under-statement.

The decision not to hold a convention was an emphatic win for the hard pressed cabinet ministers. The vote on this motion was said to be 14 to 11.

MACINTOSH REJECTED

The proposal to appoint Capt. MacGregor Macintosh, M.L.A., as chief organizer of the party, with an office in Victoria and two sub-organizers in other parts of the province, met with vigorous opposition from the insurgents. There was objection to this office being held by a member of the Legislature and there was also objection to the headquarters of the party being transferred to Victoria under the thumb of the Cabinet.

Resignation of Col. W. W. Foster, as chairman of the organization committee, was accepted, but no appointment was made to succeed him. Lindley, Crease, K.C., president of the association, was instructed to take this matter in hand.

Col May 17, 1932

REGISTRATION TO BEGIN SOON

Cabinet Studies Alternative Methods of Compiling Voters' Lists

Active plans for compilation of new voters' lists in Victoria and Vancouver were under consideration by the Provincial Government yesterday, with two alternatives receiving attention as possible means of renewing the lists now cancelled.

A house-to-house canvass by enumerators, who would take applications for registration is one method being considered. The other is the opening of offices at downtown locations, and inviting the public to step in and attend to registrations there. An early decision will be reached on the matter, it was stated.

The house-to-house plan is that followed by the Federal Government, only that enumerators would have power to take applications for registration in the homes, compiling the lists from actual visits to the voters in their residences.

The central office plan, on the other hand, was followed in 1920 under a former Provincial Government, and consisted of opening registration offices in central locations, where the public could apply for registration.

IS ADDITIONAL MEANS

Which ever method is finally chosen, it will be in addition to the normal means of registration, open at all times to the electorate, under which registrars and duly qualified voting commissioners can handle applications for inclusion on the voters' lists.

Under recent amendment to the Provincial Elections Act, provision is made for monthly sittings of the court of revision, so that if the lists are not complete at any one period, they can be reviewed at a subsequent sitting of the court.

Members of the Government made it plain that the fullest possible opportunity will be offered to people to get their names on the new Provincial voters' lists. Victoria and Vancouver areas are the only centres affected by the cancellation of lists.

OFFER ACCESS TO NEW LISTS

B.C. Gov't Ready to Appoint Liberal Supervisors on Registration

Acting through Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, the Government extended yesterday an offer to British Columbia Liberals to name five men to act in connection with provincial voters lists in Victoria and Vancouver, to have full access to all arrangements for the coming registrations in the two cities. If accepted, the five nominees would be made supervisors, one in Victoria, and four in Vancouver, to act in conjunction with the supervisors already appointed in these areas.

Mr. Hinchliffe summarized the reasons for the cancellation of the lists in Victoria and Vancouver, and observed no objection could be taken in any quarter to genuine efforts to improve the lists, and accord as full representation to the electorate as possible.

SIGNATURES OUTDATED

"It is of great importance to remember that the signature on the application form made by an applicant to be placed upon the voters' list is the final evidence that is relied upon to establish the identity of a voter when he claims his ballot at the polls," Mr. Hinchliffe said. "It is essential, therefore, that the signature on the original application should be available in perfect form as possible. Of original applications now in use, a great many were made in 1920.

"At the present time it is found that a large proportion of the forms on which those applications were made are in a torn and dilapidated condition, as a result of constant usage during the last twelve years. It is difficult in many cases to decipher the signatures.

"The handwriting of individuals changes with the lapse of years, and the signatures of many individuals as made today are entirely different from the signatures as they appear on the applications made twelve years ago.

MANY VOTERS MARRIED

"Since making their applications many women have married, and their present signature cannot be used to compare with the signatures on the original applications.

"If reports be true, there are a very large number of people who have not their names on the voters' lists, though they are entitled to be registered as voters. It is also possible that there are names on the voters' lists of persons who are not entitled to be so registered.

"Since 1912 many voters have changed their residence and occupation.

"Considering the whole situation and the necessity for improving the voters' lists in the various ways indicated, the Government came to the conclusion that the cheapest, most satisfactory and quickest method to adopt would be to cancel the old voters' lists entirely and make complete new lists, with signatures and addresses up to date, and with applications on forms that would be in good condition.

CANCELED ALL LISTS

"In 1920 the Liberal Government came to the conclusion that it would be to the advantage of the province to have a revision of voters' lists, and it decided that the best way to secure more up-to-date voters' lists was to cancel the old ones. The Liberal Government, therefore canceled the lists throughout the whole of the province.

"This Government has come to the conclusion that at the present time, so far as Vancouver and Victoria are concerned, the most satisfactory way to obtain as complete voters' lists as possible, is to begin with a complete cancellation of the old lists in these two cities," Mr. Hinchliffe concluded.

Slashing Attack Returns Fire of Opposition Chief

Utter Failure to Contribute to Solution of Present-Day Problems Laid at Door of T. D. Pattullo by City Members—B.C. Has No Suit to Cloth Available and Shows Well Under Test

SLASHING attack was directed against T. D. Pattullo, Liberal leader, for failure to contribute anything of value to the solution of problems facing British Columbia in its greatest hour of need, in addresses before the Oak Bay Conservative Association last evening by the four Victoria members.

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe and H. D. Twigg, M.P.P., delivered a galling fire, returning charges made by the Opposition leader with compound interest. They were followed by James H. Beatty, M.P.P., and Reginald Hayward, M.P.P., who described events of the last session.

Mr. Hinchliffe challenged Mr. Pattullo to state why the Government of which he had been a member had failed in four years to act on the recommendations of the Putman-Weir educational report, for which they had paid \$40,000 in 1925.

FAILED TO ACT

The Weir report had drawn attention to 650 school districts in which not one cent of the cost of teachers' salaries was paid by the people sending children to school in those districts. It had been left for the present Government to act on the report, by provision of a tax of one mill on the dollar in these areas, followed later by the abolition of the assisted school district at the last session, and a new basis for meeting costs in these areas.

The Weir report had recommended a superannuation plan for teachers to obviate payment of the whole cost of pensioning by the Province, with the result that in a few years teachers would carry all of the cost themselves on a self-supporting and wholly contributory pension basis.

The Weir report had recommended that all land be assessed for school purposes, and this recommendation, also, had been first put into effect by the present Government.

"OUR COUNTRY"

He had been accused of meddling, and the charge had been made that if Mr. Pattullo was returned he would have to undo everything that the Minister of Education had done, the speaker

continued. This would, in addition to the Weir report changes, eliminate soldiers' dependents' educational allowances run by an independent returned soldiers' committee, without administration costs; the teachers' training courses, and would return to the roll of accepted school books many works speaking of the Stars and Stripes as "Our Flag," and of America as "Our Country," Mr. Hinchliffe continued.

Mr. Hinchliffe charged the late Liberal Government had sunk to use of school books to forward Liberal propaganda, and cited passages from a Canadian history "specially prepared for use in British Columbia," which described Sir John A. Macdonald as a dissolute man by choice, and "Liberalism as that force in humanity which made for progress and betterment," as opposed to "Conservatism, opposed to change and inclined to let sleeping dogs lie," with many other similar and uncomplimentary allusions.

PROVINCE WAS UPHELD

H. D. Twigg, chairman of the select standing committee on unemployment at the last session, discussed its results. As a result of the findings of the committee, he showed the Federal Government had settled all of its differences with the Provincial Government; had contracted to pay \$2,400,000 outstanding on Federal accounts, and had dispensed with the intermediacy of M. H. McGeough, whose evidence had been discredited at the hearings of the committee.

The carload of radios, the Blue River piano episode, the 104 carpenters at the Deroche camps, and the "mystery letter" in which Hon. J. W. Jones was alleged to have pleaded with Ottawa to cut British Columbia municipal relief, were all tested and exploded as false before the committee, Mr. Twigg said.

Reginald Hayward, M.P.P., dealt with legislation of the last Session, showing in the various acts passed, and the purpose of these. He said the Government and its supporters had sincerely faced perhaps the most difficult task ever laid before a provincial Legislature in this province, and had done their best under very trying conditions. It was the legitimate function of the Opposition to criticize, but not for political self-preference, he commented.

EXPENDITURES CUT

James H. Beatty, M.P.P., paid a tribute to Hon. J. W. Jones, and said treasury control now implemented, would insure a balanced budget at the end of the year. The best proof of the soundness of the Province's position was the last loan in London, with its success, he averred.

All members of the Government, backed by the Conservative members in caucus, had united to cut expenditures to the bone this year, as essential to the safe position of the province. In this over \$4,500,000 had been sliced from the estimates, for a reduction in cost of more than 22 per cent this year.

The Government had come into power on the wane of boom conditions and had had to adjust itself, and the public making demands

on it, to a vastly different set of conditions in the worst depression in modern history. Under all the circumstances, the Government had done well, and had the testimony of its position in the open financial market to back its policies.

Hugh Allan presided at a meeting attended by approximately 500 people.

*Provision
June 8, 1932.*

BENNETT CRITICAL OF JONES MESSAGES

Copy of His Telegram to B. C. Minister Tabled at Reid's Request.

In response to a motion by Mr. Thomas Reid, M.P. for New Westminster, asking for a return of correspondence between the Dominion and Provincial governments on the financing of unemployment relief, a copy of the following telegram from Premier R. B. Bennett to Hon. J. W. Jones, minister of finance for British Columbia, was tabled in the House of Commons on the last day of the session.

Ottawa, Jan. 29, 1932.

Hon. J. W. Jones,
Minister of Finance,
Victoria, B. C.

Do you think it serves any useful purpose to send telegrams to us merely for the purpose of being able to show them to municipalities and others and thereby endeavor to establish that responsibility for existing conditions in your province is attributable to Federal and not provincial administration?

We have forwarded you \$2,300,000 of which \$600,000 was an open advance, the remaining \$1,800,000 being secured by treasury bills for provincial and municipal expenditures on authorized relief works.

Apparently you have used these funds in whole or in part for provincial purposes at the expense of amounts due municipalities.

We have no contract with municipalities and can only look to provinces to discharge their obligations and must obviously direct them to you for payment.

Total accounts received here, including those returned for revision, do not aggregate \$1,400,000. Assuming that one-half the total sums advanced are properly chargeable against the Dominion you have been paid for the province and municipalities the full amount to which you are entitled.

Ladner, who represented your government, must understand situation. Suggest you show him this message and take appropriate steps to deal with matter on a business basis, as other provinces do.

(Signed) R. B. BENNETT,
Prime Minister.

*Submitted
June 5/32.*

MR. PATTULLO'S OAK BAY SPEECH

Sir.—One wonders if Mr. Pattullo will ever grow up and recognize the responsibility of his position as Leader of the Opposition. He makes the wildest of statements, relying no doubt upon the shortness of memory and the lack of energy on the part of his audience to check him up. Almost every statement of his speech at Oak Bay, on May 12, can easily be proved to have been contrary to the facts.

As reported by The Times of the 13th, Mr. Pattullo stated, in part, "when we took office in 1916 the first thing we did was to balance the budget." Mr. Pattullo would have been more correct had he said that the first thing the Liberal Administration, of which he was a member, did was to get a big headline in the Liberal press saying "we are balancing our budget." Anyone familiar with the records of the twelve years of Liberal misrule knows perfectly well that what the party said it would do, and what it actually did, were entirely different things.

Here are the records of the way the Liberals "balanced" their budget:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| First Four Years, 1917-18 to 1920-21 | |
| 1917-18 (deficit) | \$ 466,504 |
| 1918-19 (deficit) | 1,181,006 |
| 1919-20 (surplus) | 351,330 |
| 1920-21 (deficit) | \$4,407,416 |

Total (deficit)

\$6,054,926
The net deficit during the first four years was \$5,703,596, and during this period there were more than twenty new taxes put on, while the public debt was increased by about \$40,000,000. A truly wonderful record, of which Mr. Pattullo can hardly be proud. Expenditures increased at the rate of \$2,500,000 a year, and debts at the rate of \$10,000,000 yearly, in spite of new taxation.

Perhaps four years may not have given them enough time to carry out their desire (?) to balance the budget, so we will see what happened during the next four years.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Second Four Years, 1921-22 to 1924-25 | |
| 1921-22 (deficit) | \$1,790,792 |
| 1922-23 (deficit) | 1,180,561 |
| 1923-24 (deficit) | 1,838,561 |
| 1924-25 (deficit) | 1,846,405 |

Total deficit in second four years, \$6,656,319.

Public debts were increased by another \$16,000,000, more new taxes were put on and expenditures had, by this time, increased from \$9,349,350 to \$21,227,916. It will be interesting to see how Mr. Pattullo proposes to untwist himself out of the conflict between the actual facts and the fiction he gave his audience.

H. HASTINGS.

1510 Belcher Avenue, Victoria, B.C.,
June 2, 1932.

*Seen
May 30 1932*

BROWN CRITICAL OF LONDON LOAN

Warns of Danger in Increasing Canada's External Debt.

British Columbia's latest financial move in floating a loan in London, England was deplored by Major Harold Brown, president of Board of Trade, before the Laurier Club today.

"If I had been minister of finance," he said, "I would rather have floated a \$15,000,000 loan at home than half that amount abroad. If the people of Canada are not magnanimous enough to support such a loan, then we should go along living strictly within our income."

He warned that Canada's external debt is greater than that of any other country, and danger lies in increasing it.

*Province
Monday, June 6, 1932.*

Examining Heads

PREMIER Tolmie, home from his visit to Ottawa, says there is not going to be a provincial general election this year. The Premier is quite emphatic about it. He says it is out of the question, absurd; he says that people who suggest plunging the country into such a turmoil at a time like this should have their heads examined. Wherever that suggestion originated, whatever its motive, Dr. Tolmie equally repudiates it and waves it away. We should say, judging by the Premier's choice of language, that he means what he says; we should say, barring a major political accident, that British Columbia is not likely to add to its public distractions this year the excitement and the burden of an appeal to the country.

Also, we should say, with nearly as much emphasis as the Premier uses, that no responsible citizen wants an election in this province this year. We can not believe that any politician, unless he is utterly bemused with party politics, expects one. Least of all can we believe that Mr. Pattullo, that eminently practical party politician who leads the provincial opposition, expects there will be an election. But no doubt Dr. Tolmie, if he were not a sportsman and a gentleman, and if the thing could be done within a decent application of the rules of the game, would like to have Mr. Pattullo's head examined. At the very least, Dr. Tolmie, if he were not the soul of discretion, would probably confess a natural curiosity to know what Mr. Pattullo has got up his sleeve.

Perhaps a little, if only a little, of that curiosity is to be satisfied. For Mr. Pattullo is preparing a convention of the Grand Old Party. Mr. Pattullo may not expect an election this year—although he would be drawn and quartered before he would say so—but Mr. Pattullo isn't going to take any chances of being caught unprepared. There is no pretzader to Mr. Pattullo's office of leader; there is every evidence that the G. O. P. has been lately active in the various processes of party organization. If Mr. Pattullo is preparing for a party convention, there can be only one reasonable cause assigned for it: Mr. Pattullo and his party are going to construct and exhibit their party platform.

We shall all await that exhibition with a lively curiosity. If it is nothing but a gross canard and libel that there is no essential difference of purpose and policy between the nominal parties in this province—except the difference that one of them is in and the other out—then we can hope to learn it pretty soon. If Mr. Pattullo and his political friends have got the political salvation of British Columbia in their heads, if they have got a new hope and a new dispensation up their sleeves, then we are going to have the thing produced for our inspection. In this perfectly correct and courteous sense, therefore, we welcome the forthcoming public examination of Mr. Pattullo's head.

*Seen
June 7/1932*

EXAMINE THEIR HEADS!

Whose head should be examined, the Province newspaper's or Dr. Tolmie's?

Three and a half years ago the Province newspaper elected Dr. Tolmie to office. Now it is abusing the Doctor and his Conservative party and every other party with it.

The Province newspaper should be careful. The British system of government was built on the two-party system. It is the system which has been found to work best. But the party system of government only works best, or works at all, when the leaders and critics of the party itself are at least consistent.

The one reason why fat, good-natured but totally incapable Dr. Tolmie is Premier of British Columbia, is the Province newspaper.

At the Kamloops convention it was no party secret that the Province had "thumbs down" on young, energetic men like Leon Ladner, M.P., and Hon. R. L. Maitland. St. James Street orders were that they knew Dr. Tolmie, and Dr. Tolmie knew them and knew their ideas and their ideals, and that he would fit in with their plans.

Well, he has fitted in with their plans, and he has played their game, and he has wrecked the finances of British Columbia in the process, and now the Province newspaper wants to blame it on the party system, and on the Liberal party, and even on the poor old Doctor himself.

One man in the Oliver Government who was outstanding for his administrative and business ability was Hon. T. D. Pattullo.

One man who was not afraid to run contrary to public opinion when it affected good administration was Mr. Pattullo.

No one better than the Province newspaper, and The Vancouver Sun too, for that matter, knows how Mr. Pattullo stuck to his guns in the Capilano timber controversy. Popular clamor was wrong and Mr. Pattullo was right. But Mr. Pattullo had to take a lot of public and newspaper and party criticism to finally show that he was right.

It is men of the Pattullo type, with courage and business ability, who will do the courageous thing and pull British Columbia out of its present mess. Ask any one of fifty lumber heads or business men who have had contacts with Mr. Pattullo in the past 15 years.

Parties that will put and keep in office a weak man like Tolmie when there are numbers of young, vigorous men in their party available for the position; and newspapers like the Province, which openly demand their election and for years openly support them, are hardly capable critics of a party system.

Most systems, political, financial and social, in vogue today, are good systems; there certainly is room for improvement, but that can be done if those able are willing to do it. But if there are any revolts or revolutions to take place, those revolutions, like in the case of a family, should take place inside rather than outside the party.

Conservatives can thank the Province newspaper for the mess they have got into.