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Contentious Labor Bill Given Second Reading

Employers and labor organizations who for weeks have waited impatiently to know what changes, if any, the Government proposed to make in Bill No. 39, first draft of which reached the floor of the House March 10, yesterday heard from Labor Minister G. S. Pearson that:

1. Provision was made for a direct strike vote under Government supervision

2. Penalties on employers for causing illegal lockouts and on unions and union officials for illegal strikes will be cut in half.

3. Original \$10 a day fine on individual union members for illegal striking will be eliminated.

4. A Labor Relations Board will be appointed ready to take over administration of the act before it comes into force. (The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act is a proclamation measure).

DESK-THUMPING GREETED PEARSON

Last week there had been some doubt as to whether Mr. Pearson would move second reading of the bill because of his opposition to Government supervision of strike votes. Yesterday afternoon prolonged desk-thumping greeted him when he rose to advance the measure through the second stage.

He told the House he did not think employers and employees had yet settled down in a proper spirit of collective bargaining—that there was too much jockeying for position. "They should realize that there is a mutuality of interest between the two," he said.

"There have been some splendid examples of collective bargaining in this province, but in the main confidence between the two parties has not been built up. When it is, we will see some real results."

The minister said the act now before the House had been drafted after a great deal of consideration. It did not differ materially from P.C. 1003, and his department had tried to follow the Dominion department's Draft Act, but had been at a disadvantage because it had been hoped that the Dominion Government would get its bill through Commons before the provincial act was presented to the Legislature.

MAIN OBJECT CONCILIATION

One of the most difficult of labor problems was that of unfair labor practices, the minister continued. It was not always satisfactory to take the parties into court, particularly where authority partly lay with Ottawa. The referee provision in the new act would give one person power to go in and investigate complaints to determine whether there was sufficient ground to take them into court, but mainly to see if the parties could be brought together.

After a brief review of other provisions in the act, Mr. Pearson came to its most contentious clause, that providing for Government supervision of votes.

"I must confess that here I am in disagreement with my colleagues," he said. "I don't want to be misunderstood. The whole question has brought a great deal of unnecessary talking without foundation. An apparent crisis has been built up out of nothing."

"I am in favor of secret ballots, but I don't think supervision is necessary as a general thing."

"The majority of our unions, particularly the old-time ones, by their constitution must take secret ballots. Under the old order both parties must take secret ballots on acceptance of an award. My feeling is that that should be extended under the present bill."

"We can depend on the honor of the unions to take secret ballots."

STORIES ON VOTING ALARM MINISTER

At the same time the minister confessed to a great deal of alarm at stories, true or false, regarding methods used by some unions in taking ballots.

"Some of those stories seem almost ridiculous," he said. "Whether they are true or not I cannot say, as I have never seen a ballot taken. What I believe doesn't matter, but what I am concerned with is the feeling by the public that there is a recklessness in the taking of ballots, and that unsound methods should be stopped."

"I tried for another reason to dissuade my colleagues. From the standpoint of administration it is cumbersome and almost impossible of administration. Had I been required to take one in the I.W.A. strike it would have taken weeks, and I wouldn't have got a satisfactory ballot."

"That is the reason why I am not in sympathy with the supervision clause. I may be placing myself in a rather foolish position bringing in a bill with clauses with which I am not in favor."

"The papers are trying to tell me what I should do, and some members of the House would, too. I have been Minister of Labor for 14 years . . . and I am conceited enough to believe I have done some good for labor in those 14 years."

"I'm human, and after the experience I've had I don't like to be told by people with only a little experience what I should do."

"I refuse to believe that because I disagree with this provision I should sever my connection with the Government and labor. I feel I still have service to give . . . People will say 'Why doesn't he get out?' . . ."

HART SAYS PEARSON COULD NOT RESIGN

Premier Hart: "You couldn't. We wouldn't let you."

Mr. Pearson said his position was awkward, but he realized that people were upset about the method of taking ballots.

Referring to other amendments in the bill, he said provision would be made that during a period of bargaining or revision of an agreement rates of pay or conditions of employment should not be varied.

Referring to the penalty clauses, he said no act was worth anything unless penalties were provided. Labor organizations, however, felt that those originally contained in the bill were too great, and they would now be cut in half. Penalty on individual union members would be removed altogether, though there would still be general penalties for violation of the act.

Leading Opposition objections, Herbert Garrahy (C.C.F., Mackenzie) described the bill as a backward step designed to cut organized labor down to the power it had in the 1930's.

Speaking of supervised ballots, he said that if the minister expected labor to accept the clause in even

stronger terms than the first draft, "he has a great deal more to know of organized labor than I have."

He declared that 99 per cent of the members of the House did not know what they were talking about when they spoke of loose methods of taking votes. Trade unions were run just as honestly as any other organization in the province.

"No legislation is going to take away their right to strike when they feel they have just cause," Mr. Garrahy asserted.

SAYS STEP FOUGHT ALL OVER WORLD

The penalty section, he declared, was one of the bill's most vicious sections, making British Columbia the first province in Canada to impose penalties on trade unions and officials, a step organized labor had fought all over the world for 50 years.

Finally, he warned:

"If Bill No. 39 is enacted, labor leaders face a choice of seeing the demands of their members frustrated, or of defying the law and suffering penalties."

Thomas Uphill (Labor, Fernie) said it was an "iniquitous" bill that could not be enforced. United Mine Workers would never give up their right to strike. The Government should have done something to promote industrial peace instead of industrial warfare.

A. J. McDonell (Cln., Vancouver Centre) said the supervision clause reflected public opinion following the loggers' strike. The bill was not wholly to regulate labor and management; there were others in the province whose right to work must be recognized.

BILL IS DISGRACE WINCH CONTENTS

Opposition Leader Harold Winch charged that the number of Coalition caucus meetings on the bill led to only one conclusion—that Tory members of the Cabinet had overruled the Liberal members and taken control of the Government. He said the bill was a disgrace.

A. J. Turner (C.C.F., Vancouver East) and E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby) added their protests before, on a division, the bill passed second reading, 35 to 11, Mr. Uphill voting with the C.C.F.

Passage of the contentious labor bill was regretted by officers of the British Columbia Federation of Labor following its second reading.

Harold Pritchett and Daniel O'Brien, on behalf of that organization, issued the following statement:

"Officers of the British Columbia Federation of Labor regret the action of the Hart Government in the passage of Bill 39, even in its amended form. The act, when proclaimed, will not make for industrial peace, but will, in its practical application, provoke industrial war and will unite organized labor and the people in opposition, and may well bring the downfall of the Government."

Ward System To Go in B.C.

The ward system of election in municipalities of British Columbia will be done away with under an amendment to the Municipal Act to be introduced in the Legislature this session, probably today.

Meanwhile, amendments to the Municipal Elections Act brought in by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald yesterday provide for machinery to be set up under the new system.

Reeves and councillors of municipalities will be elected for two-year terms under the bill to amend the latter act.

In Saanich, the new legislation will mean that members of the municipal council will be elected to represent the entire municipality rather than one ward as at present. It will also mean a change in Esquimalt, Oak Bay and Saanich, where Reeves are now elected for a one-year term.

No change will result in Victoria, where voters decided by a plebiscite last December that the mayor should hold office for two-year terms.

Forest Land Definition Now Changed

Definition of forest land in British Columbia will no longer be governed by the Cascade Range.

Under the Forest Act as it stands at present, land west of the range is rated as more productive of new forest than tracts east of the Cascades, but Forests Minister E. T. Kenney told the House last night that the governing factor in future will be the productive capacity of the soil rather than any geographical consideration.

"In future," he said, "if land is suitable for growing timber it will be called forest land."

The minister made that explanation during a two-hour discussion of more than 20 amendments which he himself introduced in committee of ways and means to the amending bill he brought down in the first week of the session.

Most of his amendments related to changes in the Government's sustained yield policy under a plan of forest management licences.

Before the House adjourned until 10:30 a.m. today, the bill was committed with the minister's amendments.

Premier Hart Congratulated

Yesterday was the 68th birthday of Premier John Hart, and when the House met for the afternoon sitting Opposition Leader Harold Winch led congratulations to the Government's leader.

Later, the Premier, ex-Premier T. D. Pattullo and Thomas Uphill, lone labor member of the House and its oldest member in consecutive years of service, were guests of honor at a reception given by the Press-Gal-

lery for all members of the House.

Premier Hart and Mr. Pattullo were told that soon they would receive scrolls entitling them to honorary life membership in the gallery, the former for 21 years of service, and the latter for 21 years completed in 1937.

To Mr. Uphill, at an informal ceremony in the Union Club, the gallery presented a brief case to mark his 27th year as member for Fernie.

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Members Showing Signs of Strain With Prorogation Due in Two Days

In the dying days of every session of the Legislature members show signs of strain, not so much from the daily sittings of the House as from the caucus meetings and discussions with delegations that fill in the 'tween sittings hours.

Yesterday, with the House due for prorogation in two more days, was no exception. Members were patently slap-happy.

Tom Uphill, the Legislature's sole Independent, wore his hat, exercising a member's prerogative.

Premier John Hart and Opposition Leader Harold Winch, life-long political enemies, but good friends for all that, exchanged pleasantries and quips across the floor of the House; and birthdays were freely

mentioned — chiefly those of the Premier, which he celebrated yesterday, and Attorney-General Gordon Wismer and veteran C.C.F. member E. E. Winch, marked during the week-end.

Harold Winch, who scorned the Legislature's new-fangled public address system when the session opened, even found favor with it last night, agreed that the Government's \$3,000 spent on the device was a good idea, but added a rider that it needed a trained man to operate it — an observation with which all members agreed.

Mr. Winch is the Legislature's sole qualified electrician, and he has answered many SOS's from members, Government and Opposition, in trouble with their switches.

Provide \$200,000 for Service By Highway Into Peace River

The Provincial Government will provide \$200,000 for purchase of buses and trucks by the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company to operate a passenger and freight service over the John Hart Highway into the Peace River district, under the 20-Year Franchise Act now before the Legislature.

This was announced by Premier Hart yesterday after a meeting of the board of directors of the railway.

It is in addition to the \$663,000 which already has been provided this year for purchase of railway rolling stock and equipment.

With the \$200,000 the company will purchase three 50-passenger buses, three seven-passenger automobiles, four trucks with a 10-ton load capacity, four four-wheeler trailers of 10-ton pay load, and four 1½-ton panel trucks for the transportation of express goods.

When Hart Highway is opened, it will be possible to make the trip from Dawson Creek to Vancouver by way of Squamish, a distance

of 747 miles, in 42 hours, the Premier said. This compares with 64 hours from Dawson Creek to Vancouver by way of Edmonton, a distance of 1,266 miles.

The bus service will provide three trips weekly, running from Dawson Creek to Quesnel, there to connect with the P.G.E. train. It will take 16 hours, including two hours for stop-overs and rest periods. Buses will have reclining chairs so that passengers may sleep en route. Passenger automobiles are to meet chartering requirements.

At the same time, Premier Hart disclosed the purpose to which the \$663,000 for railway equipment is to be put. The company will purchase 75 new standard steel box freight cars, to cost \$300,000; 21 new standard steel flat cars, \$75,000, and two new Mikado type locomotives, \$210,000.

Used equipment to be purchased will include one passenger coach, \$10,000; three sleeping cars, \$45,000; one dining car, \$13,000, and one baggage and express car, \$10,000.

Supervised Vote Stands As Strike Penalties Cut

Government supervision of strike votes will remain in British Columbia's new Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, despite Labor Minister George Pearson's opposition to the clause.

And Mr. Pearson will remain in the Cabinet as Labor Minister.

But illegal strike penalties on unions and union officials will be slashed in half, and those on individual union members washed out altogether.

These in a nutshell were major developments in the House on the labor bill yesterday afternoon after nearly a week of conjecture as to whether Mr. Pearson would give in to the Coalition caucus' determination on supervision or whether he would refuse to move second reading of his own bill; and whether, if he disowned the bill, he could remain as minister.

His public answer to the House yesterday was that he saw no reason why he should resign the port-

folio, even though he was reluctant to see the supervision clause remain in the bill.

It was a day of compromise, though Mr. Pearson told the House that amendment of the penalty section represented only a "minor" change in the bill.

Opposition members, led by Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., Mackenzie) rose in a storm of protest against retention of penalties in any amount and against the principle of Government supervision of strike ballots.

A division called on second reading saw the bill go through 35-11, with voting on straight party lines.

B.C.'s Voters Get Numbers

Provincial electors will be assigned numbers for identification purposes under an amendment to the Elections Act bill now before the Legislature.

In second reading of the bill in the House yesterday, R. H. Carson, chairman of the all-party committee that spent most of last year reviewing the obsolete act, said new registration forms would be smaller and simpler than the old. Affidavits would no longer be required, and the old requirement of 30 days' residence in an electoral district would be removed.

The bill also makes provision for advanced polls and absentee ballot.

Its major change in the existing act will be to remove the disqualification of Chinese and East Indians, though Japanese will still be denied the vote unless they have actually served in the armed forces of Canada.

House Starts Final Drive To Finish Work

The British Columbia Legislature, which has sat 41 times since February 11, today will start an all-out drive towards prorogation before Easter.

Premier John Hart last night took authority for the House to sit three times a day, instead of the normal once and the twice-a-day sittings that have been the order during the past two weeks.

Aim is to have the House complete a heavy accumulation of business by tomorrow night, though it is possible that the formal ceremony of prorogation by Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks will not take place until Thursday morning.

It means that today and tomorrow the House will sit from 10:30 a.m. until noon, from 2:30 p.m. until 6 p.m., and from 8:30 p.m. until adjournment, with no time fixed for the House to rise at the end of the night sitting. Earlier Legislatures have been known to sit until 4 o'clock in the morning.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1947

Saanich Council Debates B.C. Abolition of Wards

Comment both for and against the abolition of the ward system of election in municipalities was heard at a meeting of the Saanich Council last night.

Saanich is the only municipality in Greater Victoria that is affected by this part of the amendment to the Municipal Act proposed in the Legislature Monday by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald. Under the amendment to the act the ward system will be abolished and Reeves and councillors will be elected for two-year terms.

Councillor W. C. Kersey, representing rural Ward Six, said the people in his ward would object strongly to the move.

Stating that he has been in favor of the abolition of the ward system for many years, Councillor L. H. Passmore, Ward Seven, stated he had asked for a plebiscite on the question some time ago.

"Under an election-at-large system I feel we would see more progress and have a more broadminded council," he said.

He said he believed that each section of Saanich would continue to have good representation and cited the former Saanich school board as an example of this.

Councillor Thomas Alexander, Ward One, said he stood for the ward system up to a point.

"It started that ugly word 'secession.' I have no use for secession although I did vote for a line," he said.

Wiping out ward boundaries would mean an improvement in Saanich roads, Councillor Cummins, Ward Four, said.

Agreeing that some money spent on roads was wasted, Councillor Alexander said he did not believe roads could be improved under the present system of financing road maintenance. He advocated the local improvement system of road repairs.

Councillor George Rudd, Ward Two, said he had always stood for the principle of minority representation as a means of eliminating the fear of some wards that they would lose their representation.

Describing the Government announcement as coming "right out of the blue," he declared he certainly did not like a "despotic Government telling us to do just that."

Government Seeks Arbitration Of Higher Prices on Contracts

In a notice of motion placed on the order paper yesterday, Hon. E. C. Carson, Minister of Public Works, stated he would move that the Legislature recommend that the applications of several British Columbia contractors for an increase of the contract prices "be referred to a judge of the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal to sit as an arbitrator to determine what is the fair and equitable amount by which such contract prices should be increased."

Contracts involved include some of the largest road building projects undertaken by the Government in many years and total approximately \$8,000,000. Two of the largest undertakings are the building of the Pine Pass (John Hart) and Hope-Princeton Highways.

Requests for increases in contract prices were made by the following contractors: Campbell Construction Co., Ltd.; Fred Mannix & Co., Ltd.; Dawson, Wade and Company, Ltd.; General Construction Co., Ltd.; Emil Anderson Construction Co.; W. C. Arnett & Co., Ltd.; and Campbell-Mannix Companies.

CLAIM COSTS UP BY 80 PER CENT

Increases in wages and costs, brought about by changes in Government regulations governing these items, shortage of certain materials, difficulty in replacing or repairing contracting machinery and other causes beyond their control were said by contractors to have caused costs to rise by 80 per cent, Mr. Carson's statement said.

Terming the original contracts "surprisingly low," Mr. Carson said, "Taking the totals of the four major contracts, namely those covering the Pine Pass and Hope-Princeton projects, the accepted tenders were 21 per cent below the average of all tenders submitted, 44 per cent below the estimates submitted by our engineers when tenders were called and no less than 54 per cent below our engineers' estimates based on present costs and bids now being submitted. Furthermore, and most significant, they varied as much as 34 per cent as between each other for the same class of work."

In a petition to the Minister of Public Works in October, 1946, ten general contractors claimed they were entitled to redress on both moral and legal grounds, he continued.

Quoted by the minister, the contractors then stated that "to speculate on what changes might be made by governmental order in the prices of materials or in the wages permitted to labor during the contract period would have been impractical and, in fact, impossible."

HELD UNFORTUNATE FOR CONTRACTOR

Seeking the advice of the Attorney-General the following month, Mr. Carson said he was informed that, in the opinion of that official, "there is no legal basis for this allowance as the increased costs of material and labor is something the contractor should have taken into consideration at the time he submitted his tender for the work, and if he did not make the profit that he thought he was going to make, or in fact suffered a loss on the contract, that is unfortunate for him."

"Your Government has come to the conclusion that in view of all that has happened, the contractors that entered into contracts with the Government between April, 1945,

and July, 1946, and which contracts according to the terms of the agreements extended beyond July, 1946, should have their petition considered. It seems hardly fair to dismiss their case without a thorough investigation," Mr. Carson declared.

Falling such a course, the minister said his department "simply has not the equipment or the men to take over the work and other con-

Profession Act Brought Down For Foresters

Third "professional" act to be brought down in the Legislature this session was introduced in the House last night by Herbert J. Welch (Cln., Comox).

It provides for professional status to foresters, under an Association of British Columbia Foresters with head office in Vancouver.

Heading a slate of members of a provision council of the association is C. D. Orchard, deputy minister of forests and chief forester for the province. Subsequent councils will consist of eight members.

Membership qualification calls for a degree in forestry or allied science of the University of British Columbia, or of another college recognized by the council, and at least two years' work in forestry after graduation.

There is provision, however, for membership for men who have been engaged in forestry for at least ten years, with at least five years of practice in this province.

A board of examiners will comprise three members appointed by the council and two by the Lieutenant-Governor in council.

Annual membership fee will be up to \$50. Qualified non-resident foresters will be permitted to practise in the province for a period of one year, without registration, on a licence fee of \$25.

Only members of the association will be entitled to use the title "forester" or practise forestry, but the act will not prevent non-members from conducting logging operations or making road or railway surveys for logging.

The council will have power to suspend or cancel membership, with right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

If it passes the House, the act will not come into effect for one year.

Leave Granted To LeBourdais

The Legislature yesterday, by unanimous resolution, granted leave of absence to Louis LeBourdais, Coalition whip and member for the Cariboo, and instructed that his indemnity should be paid in full.

Mr. LeBourdais was stricken by illness in Vancouver on his way to attend the session, and spent several weeks in hospital. Although now reported on the road to recovery, his condition did not permit him to come to Victoria to put in an appearance in the House.

General Business Tax Optional For Municipalities Under Bill

Legislation empowering municipalities to impose taxes on beer licences, a 3 per cent tax on the revenues of public utilities and a general business tax was before the Legislature yesterday.

The legislation will implement some of the major recommendations of the Goldenberg report.

Annual tax on beer parlors will vary from \$85 for those who pay to the Province a licence fee of \$600 down to \$30 annually for those who pay a licence fee of less than \$350.

Contrary to the request of the executive of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the business tax is not made mandatory. It provides that the tax be based on, but not exceed 10 per cent of, the rental value of the business and allows deduction of any trade licences paid.

Utilities paying the 3 per cent tax will be exempted from the business tax and all taxes on improvements, including pole lines, buildings and tracks, but will still be required to pay land taxes.

Telephone companies will pay the

tax on the basis of 3 per cent of gross rentals from subscribers, including toll charges within the municipality. Gas and light or power companies will pay 3 per cent of revenue received from sale of gas and power.

Another measure introduced in the bill, which will ease the burden of rising costs in municipalities, provides that they need no longer pay for the transport of prisoners to the Provincial Jail or for the maintenance of those imprisoned under the Summary Convictions Act.

A bill making the business tax, the beer tax and the tax on public utilities applicable to village municipalities was introduced into the House last night by Municipal Minister R. A. MacDonald.

New Measure Sets Limits On Civic Debt

Debt limits and requirements for future borrowing by municipalities was set forth in a bill to amend the Municipal Act in the Legislature yesterday.

In line with the Goldenberg report, the bill provides that all future borrowings shall be in the form of serial debentures with a 30-year limit. Generally speaking, the aggregate of all debts shall not exceed 20 per cent of average value of the assessment on land and improvements for the three years prior to the time the debt is to be incurred.

Municipalities will be prevented from acquiring "white elephants" by a prohibition on giving or lending money to private businesses, subscribing to shares of or guaranteeing loans of or otherwise assisting such companies.

If this measure had been on the statute books some years ago, Victoria would not have acquired the now-vacant grain elevator at Ogden Point or the woolen mills property which was finally sold last year.

All revenues from tax sale properties must be reserved for making up shortages in sinking funds, for debt retirement or for special capital expenditures.

The bill provides that all money by-laws must be approved by the inspector of municipalities before being submitted to the electors.

B.C. Judges Given Raise

County Court judges of British Columbia, who get a salary of \$6,600 from the Dominion Government, will receive another \$1,000 from the Province, under an amendment to the County Courts Act introduced in the Legislature last night by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

There are 13 of them.

The amendment provides for the annual payment of \$1,000 to each judge out of an appropriation for that purpose, or, failing an appropriation, out of consolidated revenue.

County Court judges last year had their salaries increased by Ottawa from \$5,600 to the present \$6,600.

Safeguards To Be Made

Safeguards against British Columbia are to even stronger than those provided in the Industrial and Arbitration Act before the Legislature.

Amendments introduced by Minister George S. Pearse in the House now provide for a direct vote in addition to the early termination of a vote on acceptance of a conciliation.

The new section reads: "Notwithstanding anything in this act, no person shall declare or authorize a strike or an employee shall strike or vote of the employees is affected as to whether or not to strike has been taken majority of such employees have voted in favor of."

Similar provision governing employers is made concerning

Government supervision of ballots will be made mandatory on an amendment relating to acceptance or rejection of arbitration awards says the "may" direct that the secret ballot under supervision.

WINCH SAYS SYSTEM "MOST VICIOUS"

The additions to the piloted through the Hon. Attorney-General Gordon Wismer touched off another round of opposition between C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch and the supervision up the "most vicious system introduced in Canada."

Chiefly, he was concerned that he saw as a result of the time you go through a minimum and then hold a ment-supervised vote, the worker is gone," Mr. Winch declared.

"This isn't going to take time," replied Mr. Wismer, "is going to be a ballot in what objection can be proper supervision?"

"If you really want a lot, with the worker votes fit and without from anyone else, then for this clause: It isn't lay a strike one day."

He said the argument used that Government was impractical.

"By that, you are saying you're not having proper supervision," Mr. Wismer said, "leaving them to the labor leaders." Mr. Wismer

SEES NO GROUNDS FOR OBJECTIONS

The Attorney-General's grounds for objections to clauses as incapable of action, pointing out that vote was taken every day there should be no more in taking a strike vote.

"Let the Government vote really is taken in a partial manner," he said. "This doesn't take away from the fact that it will do a lot of labor unrest. To be behind you, not to have been in the past considered strikes were of activities of agitators. B. I. 'Boss' Johnson that labor would be given the carrying out of management would get that it would do more members of unions to else."

Safeguards Against Strikes To Be Made Even Stronger

Safeguards against strikes in British Columbia are to be made even stronger than those originally provided in the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act bill brought before the Legislature March 10.

Amendments introduced by Labor Minister George S. Pearson in committee stage in the House yesterday now provide for a direct strike vote, in addition to the earlier requirement of a vote on acceptance or rejection of a conciliation award.

The new section reads: "Notwithstanding anything contained in this act, no person shall declare or authorize a strike and no employee shall strike until after a vote of the employees in the unit affected as to whether to strike or not to strike has been taken and the majority of such employees who vote have voted in favor of a strike."

Similar provision governing employers is made concerning lock-outs.

Government supervision of strike ballots will be made mandatory, but an amendment relating to ballots on acceptance or rejection of conciliation awards says the minister "may" direct that the vote be by secret ballot under Government supervision.

WINCH SAYS SYSTEM "MOST VICIOUS"

The additions to the act were piloted through the House by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer. They touched off another explosion from Opposition benches, with C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch declaring that the supervision clauses set up the "most vicious system ever introduced in Canada."

Chiefly, he was concerned over delays he saw as a result. "By the time you go through the 96-day minimum and then hold a Government-supervised vote, the power of the worker is gone," Mr. Winch declared.

"This isn't going to take any extra time," replied Mr. Wismer. "If there is going to be a ballot in any event, what objection can there be to proper supervision?"

"If you really want a secret ballot, with the worker voting as he sees fit and without interference from anyone else, then you'd vote for this clause. It isn't going to delay a strike one day."

He said the argument had been used that Government supervision was impractical.

"By that, you are admitting that you're not having proper ballots now but leaving them to the control of labor leaders," Mr. Wismer declared.

SEES NO GROUNDS FOR OBJECTIONS

The Attorney-General saw no grounds for objections to supervision clauses as incapable of administration, pointing out that an election vote was taken every four years and there should be no more difficulty in taking a strike vote.

"Let the Government see that a vote really is taken in a fair and impartial manner," he demanded. "This doesn't take away any right to strike. It will do away with a lot of labor unrest. The public will be behind you, not the way they have been in the past when they considered strikes were the result of activities of agitators."

B. I. "Boss" Johnson maintained that labor would be given more from the carrying out of the bill than management would get out of it, and that it would do more to consolidate members of unions than anything else.

The new section were among 41 Government amendments to the original bill and some 50 changes proposed by the Opposition, discussed in the House yesterday. A few of the C.C.F. amendments were accepted by the minister.

Mr. Pearson—and the House—turned thumbs down on efforts by the Opposition to have prohibition of company unions included in the act. He said he did not understand trade unions' fear of competition from such small groups, numbering only 29 out of 1,793 certificates since April 18, 1944.

C.C.F. members took exception to the section prohibiting trade union representatives visiting industrial plants during working hours.

EMPLOYER'S PLANT SAYS PEARSON

Replied Mr. Pearson bluntly: "I can't see any reason why employees should have permission to take over an employer's plant. It's his plant. Trade unions are now getting to the position where they want to be handed the whole thing. That way, you'll degenerate into nothing, and the privileges you now enjoy will have to be taken away."

He said there was nothing obnoxious in the clause; nothing to stop employees talking union matters over amongst themselves.

Kerbert Gargrave (C.C.F., MacKenzie) said the Opposition was not supporting the principle that trade union representatives should take up an employer's time during working hours. But under the clause union representatives would be prohibited from entering plants even during the lunch-hour.

The minister rejected an attempt by the Opposition to insert a maintenance of membership clause in the act. He said he was not altogether opposed to it, but that the Province had not yet reached a stage where it should be a matter of legislation.

He refused, also, to accept an amendment to bring under the act persons employed in domestic service, agriculture, horticulture, hunting and trapping. It was not yet possible to regulate such forms of employment, he declared.

STANDING VOTE SOUGHT BY WINCH

Mr. Winch called for a standing vote on that amendment, and found only his own party members and Thomas Uphill (Labor, Fernie), voting with him. Members on the other side of the House earlier had pleaded the cause of domestic servants.

John McInnis (C.C.F., Fort George) called on the Government to attend to its own business and leave the unions to look after theirs.

Most strenuous objections of the day came from C.C.F. benches during consideration of penalties, cut in half by the minister in amendments to the original bill.

Mr. Gargrave charged that it was being brought in only "because of what happened in the United States to John L. Lewis."

"You can now go after a trade union's funds and break the union," he declared.

In a tirade against the penalty sections, he asserted there was no fairness or justice in them, since unions were to be subjected to exactly the same fines as million-dollar corporations.

"A hundred and twenty-five dollars means nothing to them (the corporations)," Mr. Gargrave declared. "It might pay them better to pay the fine and continue to break the law. This is the most

vicious section in the whole vicious act. I'm not suggesting that there should not be teeth in it, but in a different way. Punishment should be on individuals, instead of allowing union funds to be enjoined."

SIMILAR PROVISIONS IN FEDERAL ORDER

Mr. Pearson pointed out that similar provisions were in P.C. 1003.

On the clauses to set up a Labor Relations Board, C.C.F. members protested there was no assurance in the bill that labor would be properly represented, with members of the board to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The minister replied that he was anxious that the board should be one that could operate effectively. "I want to discuss it with organized labor and employers. Such boards are always set up on a panel submitted by both sides," he said.

Section 72 of the bill, providing for Government supervision of strike votes, provoked another storm of protest from Opposition benches.

Mr. Gargrave suggested that in the interests of harmony and industrial peace it would be better for the Minister of Labor to have power at any time to require a supervised vote to be taken, if he were satisfied that a vote was not properly conducted.

"But this," he went on, "is a blot on the industrial laws of the Province, making British Columbia the first in Canada to introduce anything of this kind."

"I don't think the Government has any more right to interfere with the way a union takes its vote than it has with any other organization."

MAKING MISTAKE CONTENTS GARGRAVE

"You're making a mistake. It's unsound and unfair, and you'll have to accept full responsibility for what you do."

Samuel Guthrie (C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle): "Is there any country in the world with such a provision?"

Mr. Pearson: "I don't know."

The House found itself ensnared in tangled questions of interpretation of standing orders and votes and proceedings when Harold Winch tried to force a recorded vote on the section, to see which way the minister would vote. After more than half an hour of heated argument, with frequent appeals to Mr. Speaker and the House, the Opposition saw the section passed without Mr. Pearson having to indicate which way he would vote.

Temper was getting frayed by the time the House, in committee of the whole, finished with the bill and reported it complete with amendments. Report was made at 11 p.m., after morning, afternoon and night sittings on the bill. It will go to third reading today.

In the concluding stages of the longest debate of the session Mr. Pearson accepted an amendment by the C.C.F. to delete the clause giving the lieutenant-governor in council power to exclude any employee or employer groups from the provisions of the act.

He agreed that it was a dangerous clause, that should not have been included.

But he refused to accept other C.C.F. amendments to empower the Labor Relations Board to disestablish any "company-dominated" organization of employees, and to require the board to reinstate any employee discharged contrary to the provisions of the act and require the employer to make monetary redress.

A matter of pecuniary claim could not be put into a labor act, he pointed out. If there were discrimination, the matter could go to the courts.

Insurance Rate Drop Is Seen

Possibility of a reduction in public liability insurance rates for motorists was mentioned by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer in the House early this morning, during second reading debate on his bill to reproduce in British Columbia the financial responsibility plan that has been in operation in Manitoba for just over a year.

Mr. Wismer said that after one year under Manitoba's plan insurance companies operating in that province had been able to cut premiums 30 per cent.

Introduction of the system in Manitoba had increased the number of car owners claiming such insurance from 30 to 90 per cent. Similar increases had been shown by many Eastern states that had adopted a similar plan.

The House rose at 1:30 a.m. until 10:30 this morning.

Bill Authorizes Parking Meters

Authority for Victoria to install parking meters was included in amendments to the Municipal Act under consideration by the Legislature yesterday.

Expecting the new statute, the City Council on Monday authorized the public works committee to proceed with a proposed plan of where the meters should be installed, what type should be used and how much should be charged for parking.

Under the new act, municipalities are freed from liability for damages by reason of the erection or operation of the meters or by reason of a vehicle being parked on streets under the terms of a by-law authorizing their installation.

Another section of the act permits municipalities to prohibit the presence of "horses, mules, donkeys, or other animals" on any public beach, park or recreation ground.

At the request of Oak Bay, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities endorsed a resolution asking the Province to enact a statute to enable municipalities to prevent horses being driven or ridden on public beaches.

Straith Recommends Medical School In Victoria Under College Governors

A proposal that a medical school should be established in Victoria, under administration of Victoria College board of governors, was recommended to the Government for consideration in the House last night by W. T. Straith (Coalition, Victoria).

His suggestion followed reports from Vancouver that the university board of governors had resolved not to start a medical school this year.

Mr. Straith rose in the House on a question of privilege, in a matter affecting public interest. He reminded the Legislature of its unanimous resolution last Wednesday expressing the opinion that the board should proceed immediately with the establishment of a faculty.

He noted that the board had concluded that there were not sufficient teaching beds available in Vancouver, and that \$100,000 voted by the House for maintenance was "We have a board of governors insufficient."

for Victoria College which in the past has carried on its duties in an efficient and economical manner," the Victoria member continued.

"I am sure that board would be happy to take \$1,500,000 and find it adequate for a medical faculty here. It has all the facilities required, ancillary to a medical college."

Mr. Straith said that to add 200 students would not present a housing problem here, whereas Vancouver was finding provision of accommodation difficult. Victoria hospitals were well equipped with teaching beds to look after a student body of 200.

He suggested that Education Minister G. M. Weir should explore the possibilities, with a view to opening a school here in the coming fall.

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch agreed that a school should be established, but maintained that it "belonged" in Vancouver.

"Why?" demanded a chorus of voices.

Mr. Winch said Vancouver had all the facilities and hospital accommodation required, and that medical members of the House would disagree with the report that there were not enough teaching beds in Vancouver.

"It should be made absolutely clear that this Legislature, on behalf of the people of British Columbia, not only expects but demands that a faculty be established," Mr. Winch concluded.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Coalition, Victoria) adjourned debate on Mr. Winch's motion regretting that the university board had not seen its way to accept the Legislature's recommendation, and calling for reconsideration of its decision.

Dominion-Provincial Agreement Bill Under Fire From Opposition Here

The Dominion - Provincial Tax Agreement Bill came under fire from the Opposition on second reading in the House early this morning.

Describing it as "a wonderful example of involved terminology," C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch challenged anyone to say what it meant.

With the introduction of such a bill, providing for an agreement for a term of five years, there should have been given to every member an explanatory analysis of the agreement, he said.

Mr. Winch strongly criticized a section authorizing the Minister of Finance, with the approval of the Lieutenant - Governor - in - Council and the Dominion Government, to vary the agreement.

Under that clause, he charged, the Government could do anything it liked with an agreement that required statutory authority in the first instance, no matter how those changes might affect the Province.

Major bills passed through third reading last night included:

Public Schools and Forest Act amendments, Suppression of Venereal Diseases Act, and the new Societies Act. Others provide for amendments to the Hospital Act, Teachers' Pension Act, Civil Service Superannuation Act, Co-operative Associations Act and Land Registry Act.

Amendments to the Insurance Act, embodying the Manitoba act imposing safety responsibility on owners and drivers of vehicles and tightening regulations on health and death benefit societies, were put through committee stage for third reading today.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1947

Members of House Work Feverishly To Finish Business

Legislature Puts On Final Drive For Prorogation at 11 a.m. Today

Driving towards prorogation at 11 a.m. today the British Columbia Legislature last night and this morning dealt quickly with motions that have stood on the order paper for many weeks.

The House, which has held 46 sittings since opening day February 11, worked through until the early hours of this morning to clear up the annual last-minute accumulation of legislation. It sat morning, afternoon and night yesterday and the day before.

In all, 104 bills were made law.

Final reading was given last night to Attorney-General Gordon Wismer's measure to introduce the Manitoba plan of highway safety responsibility in British Columbia.

After a day of surprises, the House sat back in amazement at the sight of two top-flight Government men, Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb and Attorney-General Gordon Wismer, raising their hands in support of a C.C.F. amendment to the Provincial Elections Act that went down to defeat.

Purpose of the amendment was to stop candidates from tacking the prefix "Independent" onto party names when running for election to the Legislature, "likely to cause confusion in the public mind."

It was only one of many incidents during the Legislature's most heated debate that gave death-watch observers in the galleries good value for their money in the last business session of the House.

Parliamentary language went by the board as C.C.F. members—and a few on the other side, too—worked themselves into lather over racial questions when amendments to the Elections Act were being pushed through to conclusion.

Changes in Act Allow New Tax

Amendments to Vancouver's Incorporation Act implementing many of the recommendations of the of the Goldenberg Commission, and bringing the act largely into line with new amendments to the Municipal Act, were before the Legislature yesterday.

Permissive, rather than mandatory, clauses will allow the council to increase from 50 to 75 per cent the amount by which improvements may be taxed, and impose a business tax in lieu of business licence fees.

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer told the House Vancouver City Council intends to send a representative to other cities in Canada where business taxes have been in operation for several years. It would be left to the council to determine the amount of the tax and to fix rental values on which it would be based.

House Rejects Bill on Films

Gangster films are not half as bad for youngsters as "the kind of piffle that comes over the radio," A. B. Ritchie (Coalition, Salmon Arm) asserted in the Legislature yesterday during discussion of an Opposition bill calling for classification of motion pictures.

The bill was defeated on second reading, with only Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Coalition, Victoria) siding with the C.C.F.

Sale of By Publ

The Provincial Government has gone as far as it can go to amend the Liquor Act, General Gordon Wismer House yesterday.

"No plan can succeed unless it is a strong body of public opinion behind it, and it's not a body of liquor by the glass," he said.

Charges by Opposition of racketeering in beer licence transfers kept the House in a state of tension for many hours, as amendments to the Control Act went through the stage.

Three Coalition members, Nancy Hodges (Victoria), Gillis (Yale) and W. A. (South Okanagan), voted C.C.F. on a defeated amendment to prohibit transfer of licence together, making them responsible when premises change hands.

ADMIT ABUSES IN VANCOUVER

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer dubbed the amendments towards straightening out a man can't sell the liquor can he sell his hotel?" he conceded that there had been abuses in Vancouver "certainly undesirable" but had got hold of licences out that Government had no right to the act enabled that be dealt with.

Sale of sandwiches in hotels will not be sanctioned, House rejected an amendment after Mr. Wismer's attention to the problem "well-known rubber stamp" an alternative of closing restaurants.

Even C.C.F. members on Mr. Gargrave's amendment allow music and soft drinks in parlors, with John M. George and A. J. Turner (Centre) opposed. described "juke box things that should be drink."

The amendment was Mr. Wismer pointed out board had authority to soft drinks or music.

During second reading in the day, Opp. Harold Winch charged with "evasion, that must be faced."

He told the House sent out questionnaire representing a cross-section of the Province. Mr. Winch declared piles showed that

British Columbia felt need for changes. If General were not present in, then he should Royal Commission.

It was a disgrace people who wanted to in the evening had to lie under the table.

Sale of Liquor by Glass Not Backed By Public Opinion Wismer Declares

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"No plan can succeed unless there is a strong body of public opinion behind it, and it's not behind sale of liquor by the glass," he said.

Charges by Opposition members of racketeering in beer parlor licence transfers kept the House in a state of tension for more than an hour, as amendments to the Liquor Control Act went through committee stage.

Three Coalition members, Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Victoria), Dr. J. J. Gillis (Yale) and W. A. C. Bennett (South Okanagan), voted with the C.C.F. on a defeated amendment to prohibit transfer of licences altogether, making them revert to the Crown when premises changed hands.

ADMIT ABUSES IN VANCOUVER

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer dubbed the amendment a move towards straight confiscation. "If a man can't sell the licence, how can he sell his hotel?" he asked. He conceded that there had been certain abuses in Vancouver, where "certain undesirable characters" had got hold of licences, but pointed out that Government amendments to the act enabled that situation to be dealt with.

Sale of sandwiches in beer parlors will not be sanctioned. The House rejected an amendment by Herbert Gargrave to make that provision after Mr. Wismer had drawn attention to the problem of the "well-known rubber sandwich" or an alternative of competition with restaurants.

Even C.C.F. members were divided on Mr. Gargrave's amendment to allow music and soft drinks in the parlors, with John McInnis (Port George) and A. J. Turner (Vancouver Centre) opposed. Mr. Turner described "juke boxes" as "vile things that should be thrown in the drink."

The amendment was unnecessary, Mr. Wismer pointed out, as the board had authority to allow either soft drinks or music at its discretion.

During second reading debate earlier in the day, Opposition Leader Harold Winch charged the Government with "evasion of a problem that must be faced."

He told the House the C.C.F. had sent out questionnaires to groups, representing a cross-section of the people of the Province.

Mr. Winch declared that the replies showed that the people of British Columbia felt there was a need for changes. If the Attorney-General were not prepared to bring them in, then he should appoint a Royal Commission.

It was a disgrace, he said, that people who wanted to have a drink in the evening had to hide the bottle under the table.

Understanding of English or French Will Be Enfranchisement Condition

Adequate knowledge of either English or French will be a condition of enfranchisement under a last-minute amendment to the Provincial Elections Act passed by the House last night.

Recommended by the Legislature's special committee to review the act, the provision was omitted from the amending bill by an oversight, the House was told by R. H. Carson (Cln., Kamloops), chairman of the all-party committee.

On an application for registration, the registrar may require the applicant to appear before him to establish an adequate knowledge of either language.

If a registrar cannot understand French, he will have to get an interpreter.

The new clauses are worded in conformity with sections of the Canadian Citizenship Act.

Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., MacKenzie) suggested to the House that to carry the provision through, everything to do with an election should be printed in both French and English.

In second reading debate during the afternoon sitting the House found itself back where it started when the session began more than six weeks ago, with C.C.F. members demanding votes for Japanese citizens and compulsory registration and voting.

On the Japanese question there were the same cries of racial discrimination in an hour-long debate that was a duplicate of those that kept the House occupied earlier in

the session. Coalition members remained silent, with the exception of Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenny, who tangled with Opposition Leader Harold Winch for a few minutes on C.C.F. policy just before the war; and Dr. R. R. Laird (Cln., Similkameen), who has always been "utterly opposed to giving Japanese the franchise except those who served in the armed forces."

Much of the debate during second reading was taken up by C.C.F. attacks on Thomas King (Cln., Columbia) and D. C. Brown (Cln., Vancouver Burrard), members of the all-party elections act committee who signed a unanimous report in favor of compulsory registration and voting, but later, in the House, said they had changed their minds in deference to the wishes of constituents.

Opposition members suggested political expediency had influenced their volte face, to which Mr. King gave an emphatic denial.

Province Unable To Make Tests

Pre-marital blood tests, provision for which was made nine years ago, cannot be made law in British Columbia now because equipment available is inadequate to carry out the tests.

This was the answer given by Health and Welfare Minister G. S. Pearson in the Legislature yesterday to an amendment to the Marriage Act moved by E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby).

Purpose of the amendment was to strike out the clause making the blood test section operative by proclamation.

The bill was defeated. Had it carried, the section would have been brought into effect immediately.

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House Passes Supply Bill

The Provincial Legislature yesterday completed work on its budget for the fiscal year that started Tuesday, and passed the annual supply bill through all readings.

It provides for expenditure of \$58,781,334 in the main estimates, \$2,557,565 in the supplementary estimates for the fiscal year ended March 31, and \$392,350 under Schedule "A," to meet expenditures up to March 31, 1948, not provided for in the estimates for that year.

Pearson Votes For Inclusion Of Supervision

Labor Minister George S. Pearson yesterday voted with his Government for inclusion in the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of the clause requiring Government supervision of all strike votes.

Earlier, he had told the House that he disagreed with his colleagues on that clause.

All day Tuesday Opposition members tried in vain to force a recorded vote to see which side the minister would take.

They were frustrated on technicalities Tuesday, but achieved their aim yesterday when the bill was called for third reading.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch then moved an amendment to strike out the supervision clause, had it voted down, and called for a division.

Coalition Government and private members voted solidly for inclusion of the clause for a 35-11 victory, with Thomas Uphill (Labor, Fernie) throwing in his lot with the C.C.F.

Herbert Gargrave (C.C.F., MacKenzie) made a last effort to kill the bill by moving a six-months' hoist, and when that failed, Mr. Winch put up the Opposition's final protest by drawing Mr. Speaker's attention to the fact that the bill could not go through third reading then, since it had not been reprinted with Tuesday's amendments.

In a moment, pages appeared with the reprinted bill.

Bill Confuses Even Lawyers

Even legal men can't make head or tail of British Columbia's Corporation Income Tax Act.

Vancouver lawyer, A. R. MacDougall (Cln., Point Grey), in the House yesterday described it as the worst drawn bill he had ever read.

"Obviously," he said, "it was not drawn by our own legislative counsel, whose statutes are recognized as the best in Canada."

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb confirmed that the bill had been drafted by the National Government in strict conformity with the Dominion act and acts of other provinces.

"You've got to go to clause 39 to find out what it's about," he said. "However, I am assured by the legal department that the bill is in order."

The bill, of 45 pages and 65 sections, passed third reading.

Injunction Bill Turned Down

A C.C.F. amendment to require permission of the Minister of Labor before application is made to the courts for an injunction in industrial disputes was thrown out on second reading in the House yesterday.

Moved by A. J. Turner (C.C.F., Vancouver East), intention of the bill was to stop employers going to the courts for interim injunctions to tie up picketing for ten days or more when they knew they had no chance of getting permanent injunctions.

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer told the House the amendment to the Trades Union Act proposed by Mr. Turner would take away the rights of both sides to resort to the courts.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1947

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"No plan can succeed unless there is a strong body of public opinion behind it, and it's not behind sale of liquor by the glass," he said.

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He told the House the C.C.F. had sent out questionnaires to groups, representing a cross-section of the people of the Province.

Mr. Winch declared that the replies showed that the people of British Columbia felt there was a need for changes. If the Attorney-General were not prepared to bring them in, then he should appoint a Royal Commission.

It was a disgrace, he said, that people who wanted to have a drink in the evening had to hide the bottle under the table.

Same Old Story

One grows tired of the seemingly endless repetition of one of the commonest abuses of the parliamentary system, the leaving of important legislation to the last and its ramming through them in the dying hours of the session in a half-digested state. Some of the main bills of the present session of the British Columbia Legislature were presented in that fashion, although nearly seven weeks of talk and manoeuvre had gone before. Meanwhile an expenditure of some \$91,000,000, the five-year pact with Ottawa over crucial taxes, the results of three heavy provincial commissions of inquiry, a vast new program of employer-labor relations, and other matters of first importance to the Province have received scanty enough consideration.

In three days with triple sessions the House has attempted to wind up one of the heaviest legislative programs that has ever been laid before it. In the weeks that went before debate dragged on turgidly, with only routine and light legislation, for the most part, offered. Then, in the final gallop, the big bills came in: to be "considered," reported out, voted on and made into law in a scant few hours. Two results will be inevitable: next session the "amending" bills to cure the defects in these statutes will emerge in a shower; and the general public, which has the first interest in all laws made, will awake with surprise to learn of some of the bills that have become law while they slept.

It is a feather in no one's cap to have this happen, least of all in the cap of those whose duty it is to present public legislation. The Dominion-Provincial agreement should have been thoroughly argued. Labor relations should not rest on the view of one man, no matter how expert he may consider himself. The primary functions of making laws and exacting taxes are the chief rights of parliament, and they were not intended to be conducted in any such fashion. Major legislation, moreover, should be presented early so that the public may know what is intended. That was not done, more is the pity. It has been the same old story, haste and regret.

Increase Is Due To Extra Work

County Court judges, who are to get \$1,000 a year from the Province under a bill passed by the Legislature yesterday, will get that addition to the \$6,600 they receive from Ottawa because of extra work they do for the Province.

This explanation was given to the House by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer yesterday.

He said that in every province except British Columbia, County Court judges receive an additional amount yearly for work in connection with probate and succession duty and other matters beyond their duties as County Court judges.

Recent increases made in the salaries by Ottawa took into account the fact that judges were being paid additional amounts by the provinces, whereas that was not the case in British Columbia, Mr. Wismer explained.

Ottawa Agreement Ratified by House

Without opposition yesterday, the Provincial Legislature put through final reading Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb's bill to implement the Dominion-Provincial financial agreement negotiated in Ottawa late last year by Premier John Hart.

It is operative from April 1, but still requires ratification by the Dominion Parliament.

House To Com

Lieutenant-Governor Banks at 11 a.m. yesterday resumed the second session of the 21st that sat 46 times since February 1946.

The last sitting of the 21-year-old record by sitting from 8:30 p.m. until 11 a.m. and clearing the order every bill and motion.

In all, the House passed 102 measures, many of which were almost as much amended as the original bills.

Least understood but important as affecting the income was the act to amend the Dominion-Provincial Agreement negotiated by Premier John Hart last year.

The new Labor Act reduced the hardest fought session requires a vote under Government supervision on the conciliation awards and vision for revocable union dues.

Amendments to the Liquor Act threw out permit system of liquor provide for tighter control of parlor, and new measures drinking by minors.

Forest Act amending new system directed at of the province's natural wealth under a scheme management licences, forestation mandator for perpetual yield.

Hindus and Chinese denied enfranchisement, vote in Provincial election amendment to the Elections Act which was all-party special committee House last year. A perpetual registration with permanent number to electors for identification.

Public Schools Act correct administrative arising from implementation Cameron Report last year for automatic teachers in the B.C. education.

Three new "professional" statutory recognition of foresters, "agrolg" teachers.

Money acts included row \$5,000,000 for construction, another \$15,000,000 from revenue for a three-year plan way construction, increase the borrow the B.C. Power Commission, previously \$1,000,000, previously \$1,000,000.

A new act for the Venereal Diseases to submit to diagnosis an offence punishable fines ranging up to imprisonment up to one year for defiance of doctor.

TAX EXEMPTION UP TO \$1,000
Constitution Act create a Department previously administered by the Legislature increases up to \$1,000 indemnities, on procedures for expenses of legislative duties.
Hunter's Licence

House Sits 46 Times During Session To Complete Total of 102 Measures

Lieutenant-Governor Charles A. Banks at 11 a.m. yesterday pro-rogued the second session of British Columbia's 21st Legislature that sat 46 times since February 11.

The last sitting of the House set a 21-year-old record by deliberating from 8:30 p.m. until 5:24 a.m. and clearing the order paper of every bill and motion remaining.

In all, the House put through 102 measures, many of them followed by almost as many amendments as there were sections in the original bills.

Least understood but most important as affecting the Province's income was the act to ratify the Dominion-Provincial Agreement negotiated by Premier John Hart in Ottawa late last year.

The new Labor Act which produced the hardest fought battles of the session requires a compulsory vote under Government supervision, empowers the Minister of Labor to supervise votes on the acceptance of conciliation awards and makes provision for revocable check-off of union dues.

Amendments to the Government Liquor Act threw out the whole permit system of liquor purchases, provide for tighter controls of beer parlors, and new measures to curb drinking by minors.

Forest Act amendments set up a new system directed at conservation of the province's major source of wealth under a scheme of forest management licences. It makes reforestation mandatory to provide for perpetual yield.

Hindus and Chinese, hitherto denied enfranchisement, will get the vote in Provincial elections under an amendment to the Provincial Elections Act which was reviewed by an all-party special committee of the House last year. A new system of perpetual registration will be set up with permanent numbers allocated to electors for identification purposes.

Public Schools Act amendments correct administrative difficulties arising from implementation of the Cameron Report last year, and provide for automatic membership of teachers in the B.C. Teachers' Federation.

Three new "professional" acts give statutory recognition to the status of foresters, "agrologists," and music teachers.

Money acts include one to borrow \$5,000,000 for new bridge construction, another to appropriate \$15,000,000 from revenue surpluses for a three-year plan of new highway construction, and a third to increase the borrowing power of the B.C. Power Commission to \$30,000,000, previously \$20,000,000.

A new act for the Suppression of Venereal Diseases makes failure to submit to diagnosis and treatment an offence punishable either by fines ranging up to \$100 or imprisonment up to one year for wilful defiance of doctor's orders.

TAX EXEMPTIONS UP TO \$1,000

Constitution Act Amendments create a Department of Fisheries, previously administered by a commissioner, and give Members of the Legislature income tax exemptions up to \$1,000 of their \$3,000 indemnities, on production of vouchers for expenses chargeable to legislative duties.

Hunter's licence fees previously

fixed by the Legislature will in future be determined by the Provincial Game Board, which will include representatives of sports associations under an amendment to the Game Act.

Owners and drivers of motor vehicles who are unable or unwilling to pay for injury they may cause to other users of the highways will be permanently "grounded" under an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act which reproduces in British Columbia a plan of highway safety responsibility that has been in operation in Manitoba for just over a year.

A new Societies Act and amendments in the Insurance Act will curb illegal activities of certain health and death benefit societies which were the subject of investigation by two Royal Commissions, whose reports to the Government early this year stirred the House to storms of protest.

Fixing of Wednesday closing by municipal councils on a 75 per cent petition of businesses affected will become mandatory under amendments to the Shops Regulation and Weekly Holiday Act.

County Court judges, now paid \$6,600 a year by Ottawa, will get an extra \$1,000 from the province to remunerate them for services beyond their duties on the bench.

Bilingual Voters?

The British Columbia Legislature may have been bowing to the Canadian Citizenship Act when it introduced a requirement that new voters in provincial affairs must understand either French or English when they apply for registration, but the effect will be slight. It is extremely unlikely that the newly-enfranchised sections of the community, including East Indians and Chinese, will apply for registration in the French tongue. They are far more likely to use English, and to use it fluently and well. The same may be said of such Japanese voters as saw war service in a British uniform.

The inserted clause in the B.C. Elections Act sets a precedent in this province. Not before, in so far as we are aware, has there been any such reference on the statute books of the Province. The sober truth has been that, in spite of four generations of schooling in French in our elementary and senior schools, few Canadians who are not of French origin have acquired even a smattering of that language. The picture of poll clerks rushing for an interpreter to understand French when it is spoken has its own appeal, but it is not a very practical one.

Since the ballot papers will be printed in English and the whole election process conducted in the same tongue, one wonders why the Legislature saw fit to write this very curious section into the bill which has now become an act. For all of the good that it will do, the statute might as well have read "Chinese" or "Arabic"; indeed the former would have been a bow in the direction of at least one portion of the newly enfranchised voters of British Columbia, and there interpreters would have been available readily.

If the Province is consistent, it will now send all its poll clerks to university to learn the French tongue; a proceeding which, judging by former scholastic attainments, should not require more than twenty-five years.

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'Judgment' Fund To Protect Auto Accident Claimants

Legislation to provide British Columbia with an automobile safety responsibility plan similar to that in use in Manitoba was introduced in the B.C. Legislature Friday by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer.

The legislation, introduced as a bill to amend the Motor-Vehicle Act, also provides for an unsatisfied judgment fund, to which car owners will contribute up to \$1 per year. The sections of the bill dealing with the safety responsibility plan and the unsatisfied judgment fund will not come into effect until they have been proclaimed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

The proposed legislation provides for the superintendent of motor-vehicles to prohibit a driver from driving and suspend his auto license if he is involved in an accident in which death, injury or property damage of \$25 or more takes place until damage claims resulting from the accident have been settled and proof of financial responsibility of the driver has been produced.

If, however, the driver, whose license or registration is subject to suspension produced an automobile liability insurance card or a financial responsibility card, the suspension will not be effected.

The proof of financial responsibility required is to the extent of \$5,000 for loss or damage resulting from bodily injury to or the death of any one person in one accident; \$10,000 for more than one person, and \$1,000 property damage.

The unsatisfied judgment fund will be used to pay a person who obtained in court judgment for an amount exceeding \$100 in an action for damages resulting from bodily injury or death after Feb. 1, 1948, which the judgment debtor is unable to pay.

Provision is made that if the total amount of the fund exceeds \$250,000 the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may suspend the requirement for payment of the fee, and reimpose the fee if the fund falls below \$150,000.

The fee itself will be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council but may not exceed \$1 per car owner.

Develop Hot Springs or Arthritis Urged

Development of hot springs and other natural medicinal resources to aid those suffering from arthritis was recommended in the report of the legislative social welfare and education committee read in the B.C. Legislature Friday.

The committee also recommended "that, in view of the serious social and economic problem involved in the increasing incidence of arthritis and other rheumatoid diseases, the provincial government should take steps to increase facilities in existing hospitals for the more advanced methods of treatment for both indoor and outdoor patients."

Reject Change On Appeals By Teachers

The B.C. Legislature Friday saw the unusual situation of the C.C.F. Opposition voting with the government against an amendment proposed by a private government member.

C. W. Morrow, Coalition, North Okanagan, had proposed an amendment to the bill to amend the Public Schools Act which would provide for appeals of ratepayers to go not to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council but to the courts.

When the amendment came up for vote during committee of the whole, Mr. Morrow asked for a standing vote and won the support of several government members. But the C.C.F., as a block and the remainder of the government joined to snow under the amendment.

Mr. Morrow contended it was a "dangerous policy to restrict any ratepayers' rights to go to the courts." He contended the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, even if the amendment were approved, would have to sanction an appeal to the courts.

Education Minister G. M. Weir said the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council was responsible for the administration of the school act and permitting appeals to the courts would only bring long delays. The courts, he contended, just like the council could make mistakes.

A. R. MacDougall, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, himself a lawyer like Mr. Morrow, said he was definitely in favor of the amendment.

"I think it is a vicious thing. I am opposed to the bureaucratic tenor of this act," he said.

The amending bill, which provides for automatic registration of teachers in the B.C. Teachers' Federation, went through third reading.

To Help Prospectors

A Petroleum and Natural Gas Act, designed to encourage development of petroleum and natural gas resources in B.C., was introduced by Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney in the B.C. Legislature Friday.

The act sets out provisions for permits to prospect, licenses to drill and leases to produce both petroleum and natural gas. Provisions are also made for refunding of rentals during the first year of prospecting or drilling.

The act would also permit an operator to group adjacent licenses or leases held, not exceeding eight in number, but licenses would not be allowed to be grouped with leases.

In the case of licenses and leases the area under each would be two square miles. Every operator would be obliged to pay royalty on all products obtained from the location.

May Take Some Time To Effect Scheme

The financial responsibility plan for British Columbia motorists, provision for which is made in a bill before the B.C. Legislature today, will probably not come into effect for some time.

Both amendments to the Motor-Vehicle Act and the Insurance Act which make provision for the new scheme, copied from the Manitoba scheme, are proclamation measures to come into effect on a day to be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. Officials feel it may take some time to set up the machinery to get the plan rolling.

Included in the scheme is an unsatisfied judgment fund to which car owners will be required to pay up to \$1 annually. It is felt that this money could be collected most readily when motorists buy their auto license plates and therefore no attempt may be made to levy this fee until next February when auto licenses are again due.

The fund will be maintained between \$150,000 and \$250,000 to pay persons who are unable to collect damages awarded by courts due as a result of car accidents. The fee will be varied to maintain the fund between the minimum and maximum totals.

Winch Bill Accepted By Labor Minister

Labor Minister George S. Pearson is apparently accepting Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch's proposed amendment to the Annual Holiday's Act which will provide for sums due in lieu of holiday time be considered wages.

Mr. Winch's bill is designed to plug a loop-hole found since the original act came into effect last year.

Mr. Pearson has placed on the B.C. Legislature's order paper an amendment to Mr. Winch's bill which adds other provisions but does not subtract from Mr. Winch's proposal.

3 Sittings Daily Start Tomorrow

The B.C. Legislature, in a drive to wind up the current session, which started Feb. 11, by Wednesday night with formal prorogation probably Thursday, will start sitting three times a day starting tomorrow.

Morning sittings are scheduled for tomorrow morning and Wednesday morning. They will probably start at 10.30.

The House will then rise for a lunch period and reconvene at 2.30 in the afternoon. Evening sittings will be at 8.30.

Tempers Tested As Weary M.L.A.s Debate Forestry Measure



HON. E. T. KENNEY told to keep cool.

Committee-of-the-whole consideration of the proposed Forest Act amendments to set up sustained yield forestry in British Columbia got off to a fiery start in the B.C. Legislature Monday night but Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney, after a short clash with the C.C.F., successfully piloted the bill through for third reading.

It was slow, hard slugging for a while as the Legislature in committee considered the sustained yield part sub-section by sub-section and fitted into the web of the proposed legislation 17 amendments to the one section.

Drawing on the brief of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers presented to the government, C.C.F. members wanted explanations from Mr. Kenney on why these unaccepted recommendations were not accepted.

Mr. Kenney explained that representations of the society and others had been considered and those acceptable ones had been incorporated in the proposed act.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch noted that the legislation was highly technical, and since he was an electrician and the minister was a storekeeper, technical advice was needed.

"I'm not a forest engineer," said Mr. Kenney, "but I was working in the forest before you were dry behind the ears."

Mr. Winch replied that Mr. Kenney would get along a lot more quickly if the minister did not lose his temper.

"Is that a promise or a threat?" asked Mr. Kenney.

Later Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, said he was willing to work all night to get his questions answered.

H. J. Welch, Coalition, Comox, said he was satisfied the bill would make a "dam good act."

"I deplore this bickering across the floor," he said, adding that if members kept cool they would get good legislation.

Mr. Gargrave said he was not bickering, but members should have had an opportunity, by referring the bill to a legislative standing committee, to get expert advice.

Government Provide

British Columbia new labor code, past weeks has major behind-the-scenes in government through second B.C. Legislature noon after a two which wound up w

The debate heard ter George S. Pearson was in an embarrassment since he was bill with provision ment supervision a measure he did and which in his unworkable.

The debate also Winch, C.C.F., But the government, this measure, would its own defeat at next general election Uphill, lone labor dict it would lead warfare.

The bill, repeal lumbia's old Industrial and Arbitration replacing the war labor code, P.C. went through with unanimous Coalition members opposition of the bers and Mr. Uphill was called by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

WILL SEEK AM

Failing in the bill at second reading plan to attempt amendment when the committee of the whole third reading, Harold E. Winch, C.C.F., Mackenzie spokesman dictated.

Mr. Pearson's motion of sponsorship contained provisions believed in, claim much good for the past 14 years office as labor was confident had good for labor.

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Government Supervision Of Strike Votes Provided For In Bill Before Legislature

British Columbia's proposed new labor code, which during past weeks has precipitated a major behind-the-scenes struggle in government caucus, went through second reading in the B.C. Legislature Monday afternoon after a two-hour debate which wound up with a division.

The debate heard Labor Minister George S. Pearson admit he was in an embarrassing predicament since he was sponsoring a bill with provision for government supervision of strike votes, a measure he did not believe in and which in his opinion was unworkable.

The debate also heard E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, predict the government, as a result of this measure, would bring about its own defeat at the polls in the next general election, and Tom Uphill, lone labor member, predict it would lead to industrial warfare.

The bill, repealing British Columbia's old Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and replacing the wartime Dominion labor code, P.C. 1003, however, went through second reading with unanimous support of the Coalition members and unanimous opposition of the 10 C.C.F. members and Mr. Uphill. The division was called by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

WILL SEEK AMENDMENTS

Failing in their attack on the bill at second reading, the C.C.F. plan to attempt extensive amendment when the bill goes to committee of the whole House before third reading, Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, chief opposition spokesman in the debate, indicated.

Mr. Pearson defended his position of sponsoring a bill which contained provisions he did not believe in, claiming he had done much good for labor in B.C. during the past 14 years he had held office as labor minister and he was confident he could do more good for labor.

Opposition Leader Winch questioned the set-up of having Mr. Pearson opposing a section of the bill and at the same time being responsible for making that provision work.

Mr. Pearson, however, indicated he was stepping down from administration of labor affairs, turning over his duties to a board which would be set up before the bill is proclaimed. The bill will come into effect, Mr. Pearson indicated, at about the same time the new Dominion labor legislation is proclaimed.

Mr. Pearson regretted all labor



HON. GEORGE S. PEARSON
... embarrassed.

and management had not settled down to collective bargaining. There was too much jockeying for position by either side, he said.

POWERS OF REFEREE

One of the most difficult problems to be handled was unfair practice on the part of employers and employees, he continued. Provisions in the bill gave conciliation board powers of a referee to study disputes to see if they could not be conciliated without going to court.

In the matter of the supervised strike vote, the minister said many unions already included in their constitution provision for a secret ballot on the strike vote, and he believed the government could depend on the honor of labor organizations to take the secret ballot if instructed to do so by the government.

Representations of labor had caused him to reconsider penalties imposed for infractions of the act, he said, and he would sponsor amendments to provide that the penalties be cut in half. A clause in the bill which would provide penalties against the individual union members will be struck out.

Mr. Gargrave said the proposed bill was not a good one and would not do what it should. He termed it a step backward in the progress of labor. The minister, Mr. Gargrave said, was marring a good record.

The supervised strike vote could only create unnecessary antagonism on the part of labor, he continued, and said he felt Mr. Pearson should have consulted labor before the bill was drafted. However, he claimed, the bill included many clauses in line

with request found in a management brief presented in February.

'OUT OF HARMONY'

"The bill is in harmony with the thoughts of B.C. industrialists and out of harmony with the thoughts of labor in B.C.," he said.

Mr. Gargrave did not believe Mr. Pearson could excuse himself from the responsibility of introducing a bill containing clauses with which the minister disagreed.

He accused the government, particularly the Conservatives, of being willing to listen to anything said against labor in the matter of taking strike votes but warned that unions were determined no legislature in B.C. or anywhere else in the world was going to take away the right to strike.

For, so far as Mr. Gargrave was concerned, the bill would do just that. The act, he maintained, would allow employers to stall off a strike vote until they had broken all possibilities of a strike.

He termed the penalties provisions the most dangerous and reactionary sections of the act and suggested they had been included because of the wave of anti-unionism which swept North America following election of the Republicans to power in the U.S.

Mr. Uphill warned the legislature that if it passed the bill it was putting provision on the statutes which could not be enforced.

"I'm sure the minister knows that deep down in his heart," he said, "instead of industrial peace, you are going to set up industrial war," he said. "I heartily believe that the United Mine Workers of America, at least, are never going to give up their right to strike."

He denied that labor union officials were fomenting strikes and protested it was often the task of these officials to keep men at work when they had unscrupulous employers.

Mr. Uphill suggested that if the government supervised strike votes, it should supervise directors' meetings at which companies decided how to gain larger dividends.

A. J. McDonell, Coalition, Vancouver Centre, claimed labor's right to strike was preserved in the bill, but the rights and privileges of these outside unions and management must not be overlooked.

In the bill, Opposition Leader Winch saw the rule of Toryism over the executive cabinet and the decay of Liberalism in the government caucus. He charged Mr. Pearson had succumbed to sponsoring something he did not believe in because he did not wish to embarrass the government.

New B.C. Labor Code Before Legislators At Morning Session

The B.C. Legislature at 10.30 this morning began working on the government's proposed new labor code, the most contentious issue before the Legislature during the current session.

The problem involved is the passing of 76 sections and fitting into these or rejecting a total of almost 100 C.C.F. and government amendments.

In the first hour the House had passed on 10 sections of the bill.

On the first section considered today, Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch called a standing vote on whether or not a C.C.F. amendment to the bill, which would bring domestic, farm labor, hunters and trappers, under the provisions of the code. The House voted on straight party lines, with Mr. Pearson's amendments getting a steady chorus of "ayes" from the Coalition, and A. J. Turner, C.C.F., Vancouver East, losing steadily on his amendments.

COMPANY UNIONS

Mr. Turner objected to the designation of employees' organizations. They meant the same as company unions, he said, and company unions "had a pretty smelly history in B.C."

Mr. Pearson failed to see that trade unions had anything to fear from company unions. Between April, 1946, and February, 1947, he said, 1,793 unions were certified and only 29 of these were company unions.

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F. whip, Mackenzie, was dubious. To prevent formation of trade unions, employers used various methods, such as setting up benefit clubs and so on, as a hidden basis for a company union, he said, adding that these methods made it hard to prove an employer had contravened the act by setting up a company union.

The C.C.F. was also unsuccessful in efforts to have clauses struck out which prohibited trade union representatives from approaching employees during working hours. Mr. Pearson said unions now wanted everything handed to them and suggested they would degenerate to nothing if they did not have to put up some sort of fight for what they wanted.

The section would allow employers to intimidate employees by refusing to allow them to discuss formation of unions, Mr. Gargrave protested.

Two-Year Term For Aldermen, Councillors

City aldermen and municipal councillors will serve two-year terms in future.

Provision for this is contained in amendments to the Municipal Act introduced in the B.C. Legislature this afternoon. The act also provides for roughly half of present aldermen and councillors who recorded the highest number of votes to serve a second year without going to the electors.

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Contractors To Get Allowances To Provide For Rising Costs

The provincial government will make arrangements for the upward revision of public works contracts to cover rising costs caused by circumstances beyond the control of the contractors.

In a statement to the B.C. Legislature this afternoon, Works Minister E. C. Carson explained that contractors now find themselves financially embarrassed.

"This has been confirmed on reference to their bankers," said Mr. Carson. "They have petitioned the government for redress, basing their petition on both legal and moral grounds."

The government has met with their request and is planning to have the legislature approve the sending of the petition of the contractors to a judge of the Supreme Court or of the Court of Appeal "to sit as an arbitrator to determine what is the fair and equitable amount by which such contract prices should be increased."

\$15,000,000 INVOLVED

Involved is about \$15,000,000 worth of contracts, including two of the largest road building projects undertaken by the government in years—the building of the John Hart Highway to link Prince George with Dawson Creek, and the Hope-Princeton Road.

The petition was made by Campbell Construction Co. Ltd.; Fred Mannix & Co. Ltd.; Dawson, Wade & Co. Ltd.; General Construction Co. Ltd.; Emil Anderson Construction Co.; W. C. Arnett & Co. Ltd.; Campbell-Mannix Co.

The contractors have claimed that the following circumstances beyond their control have caused prices to rise:

1. Amendments to the Hours of Work Act and the Annual Holidays Act during the 1946 session of the Legislature.
2. Directives by the Regional War Labor Board, granting wage increases.
3. Orders of the Motor Carriers' Branch of the Public Utilities Commission, increasing truck hire rates.
4. Orders of the Prices Board increasing prices of materials.
5. General shortage of men, materials and machines.

Mr. Carson told the Legislature the accepted tenders for the Pine Pass (John Hart), and Hope-Princeton Road projects were 21 per cent below the average of all tenders submitted, 44 per cent below the estimates submitted by the department engineers when tenders were called and 54 per cent below the department engineers' estimates based on present costs and bids now being submitted.

The Highway Board of the works department had estimated minimum increases at 10.4 per cent due to provincial legislation and 10 per cent due to labor board awards, Mr. Carson said.

"Your government has come to the conclusion that in view of all that has happened, the contractors who entered into contracts with the government between April, 1945, and July 1946, and which contracts according to the terms of the agreements extend beyond July, 1946, should have their petition considered."

said Mr. Carson. "It seems hardly fair to dismiss their case without a thorough investigation."

He said some of the firms may be facing bankruptcy, which if it occurred would result in all sorts of difficulties.

"My department simply has not the equipment or men to take over the work; and other contractors have all they can handle at the moment," he said. "The businesslike thing to do is find some way to make it possible for the contractors now on the various projects to carry on. Otherwise there seems to be no hope of completing the work on schedule and, in the meantime, there is a large public investment of no benefit to anyone."

Province To Collect Slaughter Levy

A special provincial levy on beef cattle sold for slaughter will be augmented under an amendment to the Beef Cattle Producers' Assistance Act to provide for a 30-cent per animal tax on all animals, other than cows, shipped out of the province for slaughter.

The proposed amendment was introduced in the B.C. Legislature Monday by Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam.

The shippers will pay the tax on the cattle shipped from the province.

The revenue from the fund is turned over to cattle producers "for the promotion of work for the benefit of the beef cattle industry."

Labor Men Predict Industrial Warfare

Passage of British Columbia's proposed new labor code will provoke industrial warfare, officers of the B.C. Federation of Labor (C.C.L.) predicted today.

After the bill had gone through second reading in the B.C. Legislature Harold Pritchett and Daniel O'Brien, on behalf of the labor organization, issued the following statement:

"Officers of the B.C. Federation of Labor regret the action of the Hart government in the passage of Bill 39, even in its amended form. The act, when proclaimed, will not make for industrial peace, but will, in its practical application, provoke industrial war and will unite organized labor and the people in opposition, and may well bring the downfall of the government."

To Pay For Wastage

Wasteful forest operators will have to pay the provincial government for their wastefulness in future.

The B.C. Legislature Monday night passed an amendment to the Forest Act which will provide an entirely new principle. Under this amendment the government may assess operators to pay stumpage taxes on timber which has been wasted in forest operations.

Will Spend \$200,000 On Equipment For Government Railway

Premier John Hart announced today the B.C. Government would make available to the provincially-owned P.G.E. railway a further \$200,000 to purchase equipment for passenger and freight services to be operated over the new Hart highway.

Legislation to provide the railway company with an exclusive franchise for freight and passenger services over the highway, scheduled to be completed this fall, is now before the Legislature. The bus and truck services will be linked with those of the P.G.E. railway, providing 42-hour service from Dawson Creek to Vancouver.

The bus service will provide three trips weekly from Dawson Creek to Quesnel. From there passengers will be transferred to the railway for the trip to Squamish. Steamship connections are already provided from Squamish to Vancouver.

Inauguration of the service will cut from 64 to 42 hours the time for the trip from Dawson Creek to Vancouver. At present service is provided by the Northern Alberta Railways, linking Edmonton and Dawson Creek, and by the C.N.R. from Edmonton to Vancouver. The distance will be cut from 1,266 to 747 miles.

Mr. Hart said the appropriation would be used to purchase three 50-passenger buses, three seven-passenger automobiles, four trucks with 10-ton pay loads, four four-wheel trailers with 10-ton pay loads, and four 1½-ton panel trucks for transportation of express goods.

The three passenger buses will be of modern type, equipped with reclining chairs so that passengers may sleep en route. The three seven-passenger automobiles are to meet chartering requirements, the Premier said.

To improve services on the railway itself the government is providing \$663,000 which will be used to purchase 75 new standard steel box cars, estimated to cost \$300,000; 21 new standard steel flat cars, estimated to cost \$75,000; two new Mikado type locomotives, at \$210,000; one used passenger coach, \$10,000; three used sleeping cars, \$45,000; one used dining car, \$13,000, and one used baggage and express car, \$10,000.

Cities Get Right To Tax Beer, Business

British Columbia cities and municipalities will be given the power to impose taxes on business and beer parlors under amendments to the Municipal Act introduced in the B.C. Legislature this afternoon by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald.

Taxes on beer parlors will range from \$85 to \$30, depending on the annual license fee paid by the parlors to the Liquor Control Board.

Serial Debentures For City Financing

B.C. municipalities in the future will be required to raise money for local improvements by serial debentures rather than by loans to be paid off from sinking funds.

An amendment to the Local Improvement Act, introduced in the B.C. Legislature Monday by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald makes this provision.

Excluded from the provisions will be Vancouver and Victoria which are governed by separate charters.

The bill provides that the maximum period of loans will be 30 years.

To Check Charge Patients Neglected

Provincial Secretary George S. Pearson assured the B.C. Legislature Monday night he would look into charges made by Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, that Workmen's Compensation Board patients were not receiving proper care in hospitals.

Mr. Gargrave said one of the board's patients in a Victoria hospital had complained that he was not getting proper care.

Mr. Pearson said he would bring it to the attention of the board. If it were true, he said, he would cut off hospital grants. But he warned that the sick frequently complained of hospital services without justification.

Ward System Goes

The provincial legislature is abolishing the ward system in municipal elections.

Provisions are made for this in proposed amendments to the Municipal Elections Act introduced in the B.C. Legislature Monday by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald.

Congratulated On 68th Birthday

Monday was a day for the exchange of birthday felicitations in the B.C. Legislature.

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch said he felt sure he was supported by all members of the House in wishing Premier John Hart happy returns on his 68th birthday.

If all the signs were correct, said Mr. Winch, this was the last birthday the premier would observe in the B.C. Legislature for he would be going to the Senate shortly.

Mr. Hart, acknowledging the congratulations, said he was looking forward not so much to the Senate as to golf and fishing.

Mr. Winch also drew attention of the House to the recent birthdays of Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer and his father E. E. Winch, member for Burnaby.

Later at a reception Mr. Hart was made an honorary life member of the legislative press



PREMIER JOHN HART

gallery. Tom Uphill, veteran Labor member, was presented with a brief case.

GIVE IT A TRIAL

TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES

British Columbia's Government Liquor Act will undergo no revolutionary changes as a result of amendments which Attorney-General Wismer has submitted to the Legislature. As already foreshadowed in these columns, the permit and ration system will be discontinued, while the operation of beer parlors will be subjected to more stringent regulation than has hitherto been the case. Most people will applaud the Government for its refusal to succumb to the blandishments of the advocates of cocktail bars. Nor will many tears be shed over the fact that new facilities for the consumption of alcoholic beverages in restaurants are not included in the bill now under discussion.

When Mr. Wismer explained the amendments in the Legislature on Friday, he was careful to point out that "beyond a few editorial comments there has been no vocal expression of opinion by the public generally in favor of any planned changes in the Act." But he said he had been "inundated with resolutions, letters and telegrams, from large and influential groups protesting any change that would make liquor easier to get." In this regard, incidentally, it is interesting to note that those Vancouver newspapers that have adopted the most caustic editorial attitude toward this question have assumed an intimate knowledge of the feelings of all the people of the province toward this highly controversial subject. One afternoon daily, for example, tells us that "caucus after caucus had been held to debate it," that "some members had argued for a democratic and honest compliance with the vast majority of their constituents," and that "somewhere in the shuffle they and the public got bamboozled."

We are not familiar with the amount of time and attention the Coalition members devoted to the discussion of the amending legislation behind closed doors, or how any section of the press has reached the conclusion that "a vast majority" of the constituents of the elected representatives of the people will consider themselves "bamboozled." Such inquiries as we have made, however, convince us that practically no member of the Legislature outside of the metropolitan area of Vancouver has received specific instructions to demand such changes as those vaguely advocated by journalistic voices. On the contrary; their generally signified desire was to leave matters as they were. This means, if it means anything at all, that there is a resentful feeling in a majority of the constituencies in the province at this new manifestation on the part of certain interests in Vancouver to dominate the government.

Legislators Quit At 1.30 A.M. After Eleven-Hour Sitting

The B.C. Legislature drove towards prorogation this week, working into the small hours of this morning in an effort to clear the order paper of legislation.

At 1.30 this morning the Legislature called it quits until 10.30, having sat for almost 11 hours during the day and early morning. Progress made during the three sittings practically assures

that prorogation will be effected Thursday.

During the evening sitting 30 bills were considered, a majority of them in the committee stage followed by third reading.

Some of these measures finally passed were among the most important considered at the current session, including amendments to the Forest Act to provide for sustained yield forestry and amendments to the Public Schools Act.

Legal Terminology At Highest Peak

The bill to ratify the Dominion-provincial tax agreement was described in the B.C. Legislature early this morning by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch as the most wonderful example of involved terminology. He defied anyone to understand what it was all about.

Premier John Hart, saying the best legal talent in Ottawa had been used in drafting the agree-

ment, admitted he had been puzzled over it when it first arrived.

Mr. Winch noted there was no reference in the bill to the Green book proposals providing for a Dominion social security scheme. He interpreted this and a clause of the bill as meaning that Ottawa was giving notice they were not taking responsibility for unemployment relief.

Mr. Hart said that because Ottawa had not accepted unemployment relief in the agreement did not mean they would not.

The bill went through second reading.

Evasion Of Problem To Be Met Says Winch Of Liquor Amendment

C.C.F. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch in the B.C. Legislature today condemned Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer's amendment to the Liquor Act "merely an evasion of a problem that has to be tackled."

He condemned the government for not appointing a board of inquiry to go into the liquor question right from production to consumption.

A C.C.F. questionnaire was sent out to a cross section of groups in the province which represent about 7,000 persons, he said.

There were 48 per cent in favor of appointment of a Royal Commission to study the liquor question; 69 per cent in favor of sandwiches being sold in beer parlors; 57 per cent in favor of music in beer parlors; 75 per cent in favor of restaurants being permitted to sell beer and light wines; 81 per cent in favor of more stringent regulations requiring beer parlors to improve conditions for patrons; 40 per cent in favor of cocktail bars; 54 per cent in favor of hotels with beer licenses being permitted to serve guests in their rooms during hours; 46 per cent in favor of hotel clubs being opened between 11 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon and again from 6 in the evening to 11. An even 50 per cent favored night clubs serving drinks.

This questionnaire showed a great many believed in the need for a fundamental change in liquor regulations in the province, according to Mr. Winch.

If the Attorney-General was not prepared to bring in the necessary changes, the C.C.F. leader said, then he should have been prepared to bring in a Royal

Commission. "I think there is an imperative need for greater changes than were brought in."

The present night club situation was a disgrace, Mr. Winch continued. People could not buy drinks so took bottles which were kept under tables. The police knew but would not and could not do anything about it. "You can't enforce it and shouldn't enforce it," Mr. Winch said in support of police refusal to prosecute this type of offender against the act. On the other hand, he contended, if drinks were sold in the night clubs, then regulations governing bottles under the table could be stringently enforced.

So far as Mr. Winch was concerned, the bill was an admission by the government that it had given way to the protests of the organized "drys" and had ignored the desires of the "wets."

However, he added, the C.C.F. would support the bill because it contained some small steps in the right direction.

B.C. Judges To Get Increase Of \$1,000

An extra \$1,000 a year is provided for B.C. judges in an amendment to the County Courts Act, introduced in the B.C. Legislature by Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer Tuesday evening.

Judges already receive an indemnity of \$6,000 a year from the federal government. The provincial act would provide an addition of \$1,000 a year to their salaries to be obtained from monies appropriated annually for that purpose, and falling such appropriation, out of consolidated revenue.

Straith Suggests Victoria College Be Asked To Establish Medical School

Victoria College should be asked to establish a medical school in Victoria, W. T. Straith, Coalition, Victoria, suggested in the B.C. Legislature Tuesday night.

Mr. Straith's suggestion came following reports from Vancouver that the University of British Columbia board of governors had decided no medical school could be established in Vancouver because of a lack of teaching beds and the lack of money provided by the government. The Legislature last week had unanimously passed a resolution calling on the university board to begin a medical school this year.

"I am sure the (Victoria College) board of governors would be happy to take \$1,500,000 and find it adequate to establish a medical school," said Mr. Straith.

A medical school in Victoria, he claimed, would have the following advantages over one in Vancouver: The housing problem for students was not so acute, and distances were not so great.

Mr. Straith added that Victoria College had the necessary physics, chemistry and biology laboratories for a medical school and with facilities in the Royal Jubilee, St. Joseph's, the military, naval and two tuberculosis wards, adequate students beds for medical students.

While not wishing to criticize the decision of the U.B.C. board of governors, Mr. Straith said the record administration of Victoria College had shown a medical school could be economically

the U.B.C. Board that Vancouver lacked clinical facilities.

Moving a motion which would call on the U.B.C. Board to reconsider its decision, Mr. Winch said: "We should make it absolutely clear that this Legislature not only expects but demands a medical school in 1947."

Several members rushed to their feet to speak on the motion for the medical school has been among the most strongly supported demands of legislators this session.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition, Victoria, however moved adjournment of the debate.

Sandwiches, Music, Soft Drinks Asked For Beer Parlors

The C.C.F. opposition is attempting to make it possible for patrons in beer parlors to consume sandwiches and soft drinks, along with their beer, with musical accompaniment.

Proposed amendments to the Government Liquor Act to effect this have been placed on the legislative order paper by Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie.

He would have the following section inserted in the act:

"Sandwiches and soft drinks may be served in that part of premises specified in the beer license and there shall be no prohibition of music on such premises."

Legislature Ratifies Ottawa Tax Contract

The B.C. Legislature today finally approved the Dominion-provincial tax agreement which will guarantee British Columbia an annual minimum \$18,000,000 rental for income and corporation taxing rights on a five-year lease.

The enabling bill went through third reading this morning after Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch gave up trying to find out what the agreement meant.

Mr. Winch said he would have to put confidence in the government for he could not find a cabinet minister or a lawyer who could explain what the contract meant.

"You never did anything better," said Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb.

Provisions of the contract, yet to be ratified by the House of Commons, will be dated from April 1.

Greater Tax Rights For Municipalities Implement Report

Legislation to give B.C. Municipalities the power to impose a three per cent tax on gross revenues of public utilities is before the B.C. Legislature today.

This legislation, along with provisions to provide for a general business tax and taxes on beer parlors, was introduced in the B.C. Legislature Tuesday in the form of amendments to the Municipal Act by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald.

Utilities paying the three per cent tax, will be exempted from the business tax, taxes in improvements including poll lines, buildings and tracks, but utilities will be required to pay land taxes.

Telephone companies will be required to pay the taxes on the basis of three per cent of gross rentals from subscribers, including toll charges within municipalities.

The business tax is not mandatory. This measure provides that the tax be based on, but not exceed, 10 per cent of the rental value of the business and allows deduction of trade licenses paid.

The annual tax on beer parlors will vary from \$85 for those paying the Liquor Control Board a fee of \$600, down to \$30 annually for those paying a license fee of less than \$350.

The amendments will also relieve municipalities of the cost of transporting prisoners to provincial jails and for the maintenance of prisoners under the summary convictions act.

The measures implement some of the recommendations of the Goldenberg commission on provincial-municipal financial relations.

Amendments to the Village Municipalities Act, to make similar provisions are also before the House.

Professional Status Granted Foresters

A bill, providing for establishment of forestry as a profession, was introduced to the B.C. Legislature Tuesday evening by H. J. Welch, Coalition, Comox. It was the third act of establishment of professions to be introduced during the session.

To be eligible for qualification foresters would be required to be residents of B.C. and members of the Association of B.C. Foresters.

The act sets out the following names to constitute a body corporate under the name of the association: F. D. Mulholland, C. D. Orchard and H. A. Richmond, all of Victoria; J. E. Liersch, R. M. Brown, L. R. Andrews, J. D. Gilmour, H. J. Hodgins and E. E. Gregg, all of Vancouver, and M. W. Cormely, Nelson.

Vancouver To Get Power To Levy Business Tax

Power will be given the Vancouver City Council, under amendments to the city's charter introduced in the B.C. Legislature today, to levy a business tax and to increase the amount on which improvements may be taxed from 10 to 75 per cent.

The two provisions, Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer explained, were to give Vancouver the same powers as to be given other municipalities in proposed amendments to the Municipal Act. Both provisions were recommended by the Goldenberg commission on provincial-municipal financial relations.



W. T. STRAITH

run here. He suggested the school could be opened this year.

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch opposed Mr. Straith's suggestion saying the medical school can be and should be established in Vancouver, since it has all the necessary facilities and hospital beds, Mr. Winch said he could not agree with the decision of

C.C.F. Fail To Amend And Hoist New Labor Code In Legislature

British Columbia's new labor code went through third reading in the B.C. Legislature today after three attempts on the part of the C.C.F. Opposition to have the bill amended and third reading delayed.

The compulsory government-supervised strike vote clauses, to which the C.C.F. had strenuously objected, now have been finally passed. The bill will come into effect on a date to be proclaimed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, which Labor Minister George S. Pearson has indicated may be in June.

The C.C.F.'s final efforts against the bill came as Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch moved an amendment at third reading to have Section 72, providing for the compulsory government-supervised strike vote deleted.

In the division called by Mr. Winch, Mr. Pearson voted with the government against the amendment.

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, then attempted to have the third reading of the bill hoisted for six months. This battle was lost.

Finally, Mr. Winch said the bill could not be read a third time since it had not been reprinted.

Before the third reading motion was put, the reprinted copies of the bill were distributed in the House.

The bill then went through third reading.

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Winch Fights Strike Vote Clause In Stormy Scene Of Legislature

The B.C. Legislature Tuesday afternoon was the scene of a dramatic incident as Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch attempted to put Labor Minister George S. Pearson "on the spot." Mr. Winch's efforts failed.

The incident came at the conclusion of a six-hour, two-sitting consideration in committee of the whole of the B.C. Government's proposed new labor code. During the morning and afternoon sittings the House had worked hard on the contentious measure, on which the C.C.F. had contributed more than 50 amendments to the original bill and Mr. Pearson had contributed more than 40 amendments.

Each section of the 76-section bill, during the two sittings, was considered, along with the government and Opposition amendments if any.

Occasionally, the Opposition won a point, Mr. Pearson accepting their amendments.

Then as the bill neared completion, the major struggle of the Opposition began to shape up.

Mr. Pearson introduced an amendment to Section 72, the last but one of his long list of amendments. The amendment provided for a government supervised strike vote in all disputes. Mr. Pearson had previously announced he did not favor this clause.

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., MacKenzie, then moved an amendment to Mr. Pearson's amendment which would leave the strike vote to the discretion of the minister.

"Answering Mr. Gargrave, Mr. Pearson said that so far as he knew British Columbia would be the first province in Canada to enact compulsory government supervised strike vote legislation.

The Gargrave amendment was defeated and the Pearson amendment accepted.

The section was then adopted in committee of the whole.

Mr. Winch appealed the decision of the chairman, Tom Love, Coalition, Grand Forks-Greenwood. This, Mr. Winch hoped, would provide an opportunity for a recorded vote, in which Mr. Pearson would be forced to vote with the Opposition or reverse his previous stand of being opposed to the compulsory supervised strike vote clause.

"I expect Mr. Pearson to vote against Section 72," Mr. Winch had said.

Mr. Speaker Norman W. Whittaker, K.C., then took the Speaker's chair. He said the division should have been called in the committee of the whole.

APPEALS DECISION

Mr. Winch appealed from Mr. Speaker's decision. He claimed the committee chairman could not call a division since he could not enter the Speaker's chair to ring the division bell.

Mr. Speaker Whittaker said the only appeal from his decision was to the House.

"I appeal to the House," said Mr. Winch.

For a dramatic moment 32 government members present stood to have their vote recorded, while Mr. Pearson remained seated.

Then slowly and deliberately Mr. Pearson rose to have his vote recorded with the government members.

This vote, however, on a ruling of the Speaker, was a far cry from that which Mr. Winch had anticipated.

As the House returned to committee of the whole, Mr. Winch asked for a division on whether or not the House would accept the contentious compulsory strike vote clause.

"My honorable friend has lost his opportunity," said Premier John Hart.

"You're not going to get away with that, Mr. Premier," retorted Mr. Winch.

Mr. Winch asked Chairman Love for his ruling.

Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer supported the Premier that the vote could not be put now.

Mr. Love ruled the division could not be put.

Mr. Winch appealed from Mr. Love's decision on a point of order.

Mr. Hart noted that the question was whether or not the Chair should be sustained.

Mr. Winch pleaded with him to reserve his decision on the point of order.

Mr. Speaker Whittaker said he would find it impossible to advise on a report so meagre as that given him by the committee chairman.

Mr. Winch, in a final effort, asked Mr. Hart to consent to having the decision reserved.

The question was put and lost by the C.C.F.

During the evening sitting when the bill again came up in committee of the whole for consideration of two sections which had stood over during the afternoon, the Legislature was again the scene of cross-fire.

"If you guys don't want to shut up, you'll stay here all night," said Mr. Gargrave, when he was interrupted during the debate.

When someone suggested he should withdraw a remark, he retorted: "He'll have to ring his bell till kingdom come to make me withdraw."

A little later three Coalition members, when they unwittingly voted against a C.C.F. amendment endorsed by Mr. Pearson, complained that they didn't hear the proceedings.

AND THE STORM PASSED ON

NOTHING THE COALITION GOVERNMENT in general or the Minister of Labor in particular can do will please all the public and all the trade unionists all the time. So none was surprised that when Mr. Pearson explained the full implications of what has come to be known as Bill No. 39—amending the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act—he mixed his personal views of the legislation with conflicting opinions held by his ministerial colleagues. If these candid expressions from the Minister in charge of the measure must be considered solely from the standpoint of Cabinet dissension, however, and thus deplored by certain disciples of rigid parliamentary custom, then our concept of democratic requirement may differ from that with which the public is familiar. For our part, on the other hand, we are of the opinion that Mr. Pearson's explanation of his attitude toward this highly controversial subject was correct in every sense of the term.

As far as the stand taken by the Minister is concerned, the difficulty he experienced in reconciling his own views with those apparently held by the majority of his cabinet colleagues resided solely in the Bill's stipulation for government supervision of any vote to decide whether or not to strike. British Columbia's more or less recent experience in this regard is public property. Less than a year ago the lumber industry of this province was completely disrupted, output from the forests substantially reduced, and the welfare of a large number of families jeopardized through a strike determined largely on decisions taken by a show-of-hands vote. While this particular case of industrial and economic dislocation may not be considered the basic reason for important amendments to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, it obviously illustrated a procedure under which serious consequences can accrue in the absence of elementary safeguards. It threatened British Columbia's potentialities for expansion of its share of the nation's external trade in a competitive world market.

Apart altogether, therefore, from Mr. Pearson's honest expression of opinion, and regardless of fantastic "explanations" in certain quarters, no conscientious union member will seriously object to government supervision of strike votes. It may be, of course, that a Minister of Labor might find it altogether impossible to oversee ballot box proceedings in every community of the province. But in view of the fact that Bill No. 39 provides for the establishment of a Labor Relations Board to take over the administration of the Act when it comes into force, it would be a relatively simple matter to relegate the responsibility of such duties to an official or officials whom the Board would be able to appoint for that specific purpose.

When all is said and done, the insistent demand of a majority of the people of British Columbia is that the relations between labor and management shall be placed on a mutually-cordial, mutually-beneficial, and practical basis. Of course the C.C.F. members of the Legislature have called the amending measure nasty names. This is understandable. In its main essentials Bill No. 39, under the wise administration of the machinery contemplated, should bespeak industrial stability for the province. Political extremists, by the way, make little party capital when employer and employee enjoy harmonious relationship.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1947

WORTH INQUIRY

IT IS FOR THE EXPERTS TO DETERMINE the feasibility of Mr. W. T. Straith's suggestion to the Legislature that a medical school be established in Victoria under the administration of the Victoria College Board of Governors. Only those conversant with the requirements for such a course are in a position to pass judgment on its practicality. The plan, however, is one deserving of earnest consideration. To the lay mind, some of the requisite facilities seem available here. Certainly some of the disadvantages noted in Vancouver, specifically those relative to housing accommodation for students, are much less severe here than in the mainland centre. The city, moreover, holds its hospitals in high esteem. And the tempo of Victoria seems suited to that of a university town.

Authoritative opinion is obviously required to determine the abilities of this community to supply fundamental requirements for the training of young men and women desiring to enter the faculty. Without it no constructive approach can be made to the question. The point raised by Mr. Straith, however, merits inquiry and discussion. We are not convinced that the proposed medical school "belongs" to Vancouver simply because one of the elected representatives from that city says so.

Gargrave Critical Of Liquor System

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, chief opposition critic of the government's proposed amendments to the Liquor Act, charged the government was side-stepping its responsibility, and was in effect condoning the present conditions.

The debate on second reading of the bill came during the small hours of this morning. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch moved adjournment of the debate after Premier John Hart had refused to give him assurance that his resolution, regretting no Royal Commission on liquor would be set up, would be debated.

Mr. Gargrave charged the government was in effect, in failing to initiate further amendments to the Liquor Act, condoning beer-swilling and bedroom drinking.

He called on the government again to have a Royal Commission inquiry into conditions of manufacture of liquors, particularly the beer monopoly, which he said should be put under the searchlight of publicity.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1947

Longest Sitting In Thirty Years Ends Legislature

The second session of the 21st Legislative Assembly of British Columbia was formally prorogued at 11 this morning after what is believed to be the longest sitting in 30 years or more. Dawn was creeping in through the windows of the legislative chamber as the last business sitting of the House ended at 5.24 this morning.

The prorogation was formally effected, after a five-hour adjournment, by Lieutenant-Governor C. A. Banks, who gave assent to 104 acts.

To the knowledge of veteran members of the House the sitting which started at 8.30 Wednesday night and ended at 5.24 this morning was the longest on record. The House had sat twice before on Wednesday, during the morning and afternoon.

As the longest sitting wore on, the population of the House fell to a low, during a short period, of 24. At the end of the last business session 30 of the 47 members were present.

Some of the members had left before midnight to catch the boat to Vancouver.

During the last business sitting the House went through section by section in committee of the whole and passed at final reading 13 bills. Also considered and adopted or rejected were 14 motions.

Among the bills considered at the longest sitting were such important and contentious measures as amendments to the Public Schools Act, including clauses for automatic membership of teachers in the B.C. Teachers' Federation; amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act, providing for the safety responsibility plan; amendments to the Electric Power Act to provide for a third \$10,000,000 for the B.C. Power Commission; amendments to the Municipal Act, providing municipalities with new sources of revenue, and professional acts for agronomists and foresters.

During the session the House held 46 sittings.

The Legislature had convened on Feb. 11, amid most of the pomp and splendor of prewar days. It was prorogued this morning amid a similar display of splendor.

THREW, TORE PAPERS

John Cates, Coalition, North Vancouver, threw a ball of paper across the floor of the House just after His Honor had left after formally proroguing the House. Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch tore the 46 order papers and 46 votes and proceedings out of their holders and hurled them up over the Speaker's throne. But for the most part legislators seemed more interested in saying goodbye to their fellow legislators and getting out of the chamber.

The formal prorogation ceremony took but 15 minutes.

Mr. Speaker Norman W. Whitaker had read the prayers and the members waited patiently for their discharge.

The list of 104 acts passed by the Legislature during the session and assented to by the Lieutenant-Governor were then read. This was followed by the reading of the beribboned throne speech.

Among those present on the floor of the House for the ceremony were Mrs. Banks and Mrs. John Hart.

Opposition Balks At \$1,000 Increase For B.C. Judges

C.C.F. members fought to the last ditch against government legislation during the last hours of the second session of the 21st legislature early today.

They fought tooth and nail to block an amendment to the County Courts Act which will provide for the provincial government to pay county court judges a \$1,000 annual allowance on top of their salaries paid by the Dominion government. The bill was made law.

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch said the bill if enacted would be ultra vires.

Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer said there was some question about the legality of the bill, but similar measures had been passed in all other provinces.

Not only was the bill outside the jurisdiction of the provincial government because of the Dominion Act, but also because of the British North America Act, contended Mr. Winch. He noted the Dominion had just recently increased county court judges' salaries by 33-1-3 per cent.

"The Attorney-General has not the right to ask the Legislature to pass any act of this Legislature in violation of the B.N.A. Act," said Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, adding that in doing so the Legislature would be violating in effect the constitution of Canada.

He charged Mr. Wismer knew the bill was ultra-vires and he knew it was unlikely any person would challenge it.

"I intend to contact the federal minister of justice about it," he said, "I'm going to ask him to determine its constitutionality."

C.C.F. Flays Traffic In Beer Licenses As Liquor Act Changes Become Law

Final reading was given to Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer's contentious amendment to the Liquor Act in the B. C. Legislature Wednesday afternoon.

The bill went through after the Coalition had beaten down Opposition and amendments of the C.C.F. which sought many changes.

C.C.F. whip, Herbert Gargrave, Mackenzie, lost an amendment through which he sought to halt transfer of beer licenses, but won the support of three Coalition members: Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Victoria; W. A. C. Bennett, South Okanagan, and Dr. J. J. Gillis, Kelowna.

In proposing the amendment, Mr. Gargrave charged there were many instances of trafficking in beer licenses in B.C. He wanted to make licenses non-transferable requiring each new purchaser of a parlor to apply for a new license. Mr. Wismer opposed the amendment, claiming it would mean confiscation of all beer-parlor licenses throughout the province.

Both Dr. Gillis and Mr. Bennett agreed with the C.C.F. whip that the traffic in beer licenses was becoming a racket. Mr. Gillis pointed out that he knew of several deals which involved \$100,000 and yet the government obtained no more than \$25 on the transfer.

Mr. Gargrave said he knew of an instance in Vancouver where a beer parlor which sold for \$19,000 eight years ago was now up for sale at \$85,000. Beer parlors were only being sold like this because of the money being made out of "gypping" the customers, he charged.

Another amendment lost by the C.C.F. whip asked for sand-

wiches, soft drinks and music in beer parlors. Again Mr. Wismer opposed the amendment. However, he said the Liquor Control Board already held power to allow music and soft drinks, but the board's present policy was opposed to such amenities.

In defending his bill, Mr. Wismer said that while the government felt perhaps it had not gone very far . . . this year . . . it felt it had gone as far as it could. So far as the Attorney-General was concerned no liberal liquor plan could succeed unless public opinion was behind it and he said he had failed, at present, to find opinion sufficiently crystallized. He had stated earlier that the only ones to make strong representations to him regarding the act were the "drys," who opposed any relaxation of the act.

Regarding heavy drinking in beer parlors, Mr. Wismer was of the opinion this was created by rationing and the desire of people to make sure they got their share. Now the supply was better he expected to see an improvement in this situation.

House Turns Down Last C.C.F. Stand To Franchise Jap

Legislators indulged in impassioned rhetoric during the last hours of the Legislature Wednesday night on whether or not the Japanese of B.C. should be enfranchised, but the C.C.F. amendment to provide for this was thrown out.

However, the C.C.F. did well, although they lost, on an amendment seeking to restrict the use of party names and to prohibit any candidate from using a designation sufficiently similar to the name of any recognized party which might cause confusion in the public mind.

On the amendment vote, the opposition drew into their fold Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb and Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer.

On observing the show of hands, Mrs. T. J. Rolston, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, observed to the opposition leader Harold E. Winch, "You're making headway, Harold." Mr. Winch, with two ministers of the government on his side, agreed he was.

The amending bill to the Provincial Elections Act, providing for a form of perpetual registration of voters and for votes for East Indians and Chinese, was finally passed. The debate on the Japanese lasted an hour and nine minutes participated in it.

Opposition leader Winch led the C.C.F. push to have the Japanese enfranchised as he moved the proposed amendment and claimed the government's stand was un-Christian, contrary to the Atlantic Charter, Yalta agreement and Canadian citizenship. British Columbia and South Africa were the only parts of the British Empire having such discriminatory legislation, he said.

"Are you going to give them back their fishing licenses?" asked Mrs. Rolston.

Mr. Winch said he would not deprive any one living in Canada the right to carry on his means of livelihood.

At one time Herbert Gargrave, C. C. F., Mackenzie, shouted: "Shut up, will you!"

FOR AND AGAINST

Supporting Mr. Winch's amendment were John McInnis, C.C.F., Fort George, and Mr. Gargrave; and W. T. Straith, Coalition, Vancouver. Speaking to oppose Mr. Winch were John Cates, North Vancouver, B. I. "Boss" Johnson, New Westminster, Alec Hope, Delta, and Dr. R. R. Laird, Similkameen—all Coalitionists.

Inserted into the bill were provisions to exclude from the voters' lists all persons lacking an "adequate knowledge" of the English or French language. It will be left up to the registrar of voters to determine whether an applicant's knowledge of one of the languages is adequate.

Stormy Session In Wee, Small Hours Over Forestry Bill

The C.C.F. opposition decided in the wee, small hours of this morning to start a storm in the B.C. Legislature because a piece of legislation had been introduced only 24 hours before the final business sitting of the House.

The C.C.F. got their back up and for two hours the proceedings of the Legislature resembled more closely a cat and dog fight than anything heard in the august, marble-pillared chamber for years.

The whole thing was unfortunate for H. J. Welch, Coalition, Comox, who had to take it through no fault of his own. He explained the bill, entitled an act respecting the Practice of Forestry had been lost in the Attorney-General's department for three weeks, and, thus the late arrival in the House.

Repeatedly C.C.F. members demanded the bill be withdrawn, but Mr. Welch stood firm, piloting the legislation through committee-of-the-whole consideration. He stood at his desk like a captain guiding his ship through stormy, treacherous waters.

Mr. Welch said he was ready to sit through until dawn.

The bill provides professional standing for foresters of B.C.

BATTERED AND SMASHED

Time after time Chairman Tom Love's warning bell sounded, trying to bring order to the House. Time after time the bill drifted dangerously close to hazardous amendments, offered by both C.C.F. and Coalition members, but on third reading it emerged, battered and smashed, but more or less in its original condition.

Repeatedly the C.C.F. said they were not opposed to the measure, but repeatedly they demanded explanations.

"We're just punishing ourselves," said A. J. McDonnell, Coalition, Vancouver Centre.

"I think you should take it more seriously," said Premier John Hart. "This is getting to be a joke."

At a near stalemate Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer suggested the House pass the bill as is because it would not come into effect for a year, so it could be changed in the meantime.

"What sort of legislation is that," demanded Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch, repeating his efforts to have the bill stood over for a year.

House To Consider Plans To Protect Interest Of Wives

Despite their desire to clean up all business early this morning legislators did not miss the opportunity for a little fun-making late Wednesday night.

Wise-cracking across the floor of the House came during the debate on Mrs. Nancy Hodges' motion asking the Attorney-General to explore ways and means to protect the interest of wives in family homes with a view to appropriate legislation being introduced next session.

Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer rose quickly to say he would accept the motion.

"All us married men will agree," said Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

Finance Minister Herbert Anscomb thought this was another invasion of the sanctity of men and he hoped some provision would be made for men to have similar protection if they married rich widows.

Someone suggested the women should be consulted.

Mr. Winch said that the speed with which Mr. Wismer accepted the motion indicated that not only had he consulted the women but he had been intimidated by them.

Women are always safe in my hands, said Mr. Wismer.

Blood Test Before Marriage Voted Down

The B.C. Legislature Wednesday rejected an attempt of E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, to require pre-marital blood tests for syphilis.

The House voted down at second reading Mr. Winch's bill after Health and Welfare Minister George S. Pearson had reported laboratory facilities were not available for the tests.

Legislation to require the tests has been on the statute books since 1938 but has never been proclaimed. Mr. Winch's bill would have struck out the clause which provided for these sections to come into effect on proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Mr. Pearson told the House, however, that as soon as he had been assured that laboratory facilities were available for the required work he would place the question before the executive council.

Legislature Rejects Curb On Injunction

A C.C.F. move to have applications for injunctions in labor disputes go to the Minister of Labor for approval before the courts was defeated in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday.

The proposal was submitted in proposed amendment to the Trade Union Act by A. J. Turner, Vancouver East.

The bill failed to gain the support of the government, Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer claiming the bill if enacted would take away the rights of both employers and employees of resorting to the courts.

Press U.B.C. To Start Medical School As Soon As Possible

The final business act of the provincial legislation before rising at 5:24 this morning was to pass a resolution asking the University of British Columbia to reconsider its position on the establishment of a medical school.

The motion was proposed by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

An amendment to the motion, proposed by Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition, Victoria, would have suggested the government undertake an investigation of the availability of hospital accommodation throughout the province for medical school purposes.

An amendment to the amendment, proposed by Mrs. T. J. Rolston, Coalition, Vancouver-Point Grey, would have urged the university to establish a medical school and hospital on the campus, and if that could not be done to take advantage of the available facilities.

Mr. Speaker Norman W. Whitaker ruled Mrs. Rolston's amendment out of order, saying, "This amendment has neither beginning or end."

The House then voted down Mrs. Hodges' amendment.

Mr. Winch's motion was approved after Education Minister G. M. Weir had said he found himself in sympathy with it.

Previously W. T. Strath, Coalition, Victoria, had suggested Victoria College governors should be asked to consider establishing the medical school here.

Earlier in the session the Legislature had passed a resolution urging the university board of governors to proceed with the building of a medical school. The government had appropriated \$1,500,000 for a medical school building on the university campus and \$100,000 for operating expenses.

Winch Gets O.K. On Holidays Bill

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch made history for himself early this morning in the B.C. Legislature.

During the waning hours of the session Mr. Winch experienced the pleasure of having one of his own bills finally passed. It was the first time in his 14 years in the House and attendance at 16 sessions that he had piloted a bill through to final passing, he said.

Mr. Winch's act amends the Annual Holidays Act, clearing up a technicality which has arisen during the year-long life of the original act.

Labor Minister George S. Pearson had a couple of amendments to Mr. Winch's bill, adding provisions.

"I accept the amendments," said Mr. Winch with glee.

After the bill had finally passed, he rose to congratulate himself.

Prorogation Speech Urges Medical School

The prorogation speech for the second session of the 21st Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, read in the House today by Lieutenant-Governor C. A. Banks, hinted the University of British Columbia should begin immediately to establish a medical faculty.

"Provision of adequate funds for the establishment of a medical faculty at the University of British Columbia should give great encouragement to the board of governors to begin immediately with the institution of so important and so urgently needed a faculty," said the speech.

In relieving the members of their legislative duties, the governor, on behalf of the government, said "the measures you have enacted and the provisions you have made will inure to the benefit of the people . . ."

Noting the various pieces of legislation affecting the natural resources of the province, the speech said these "and many other steps taken by my government give evidence that no opportunity is being overlooked in the effort to open up our vast resources and thereby create a wide range of opportunities for our young men and women who are equipping themselves to play their part in the development of this great province."

Classification Out For Motion Pictures

A C.C.F. amendment to the Moving Pictures Act, seeking to bring in more rigid classifications of films was lost on second reading in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Coalition, Victoria, said she supported the amendment for two reasons: she thought it was time something was done, and she was chairman of the committee which last year advocated such an amendment and she had found nothing in the past year to alter her opinion.

R. Harding, C.C.F., Kaslo-Slocan, a school teacher, protested present films of a certain type affected juvenile delinquency. One had only to pick up a paper to find some child had committed a crime which was probably dictated by a film he had seen, Mr. Harding said.

A. B. Ritchie, Coalition, Salmon Arm, believed radio was as much if not more to blame for the trouble. Some children listened to a radio program and 10 minutes later were outside trying to shoot each other, he said.

Business Tax Left For Cities' Decision

Premier John Hart told the B.C. Legislature early today British Columbia municipalities had requested the provincial government to enact mandatory business tax legislation so that the municipalities could blame the government for it.

The Legislature approved legislation to give the municipalities power to levy a business tax if they wish. In this way municipalities levying the tax

Judge To Determine Amount To Be Allowed Government Contractors

Application of seven construction companies, holding B.C. government contracts for several millions of dollars worth of road work, for increases in their contract prices will be referred to a judge "to determine what, if any, is the fair and equitable amount by which such contract prices should be increased."

The B.C. Legislature decided on this solution to a difficult problem following an hour-long debate early this morning.

The motion, providing for the reference of the application of the companies to a judge of the supreme or court of appeal, won the support of Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

"Strangely enough I am afraid I'll have to support this motion

although I don't like it," said Mr. Winch.

"We don't like it either," said Works Minister E. C. Carson.

Mr. Winch noted the minister was asking the Legislature to help out those who didn't know their own capitalistic system and penalize those who recognized the situation.

Several of the companies involved, Mr. Winch said, after studying the submissions to the government, were in bad financial condition.

The companies claim their difficulties arose through no fault of their own, but as a result of government actions in increasing wages and prices, and the unforeseen difficulties of securing equipment.

Winch Asks \$50,000 For Temperance Plan

A minimum of \$50,000 a year will be needed to conduct the liquor education program proposed in Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer's amendment to the Liquor Act, according to E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby.

In the B.C. Legislature Wednesday Mr. Winch suggested the program should include use of billboards, a weekly education program, encouragement of community activities among youth, and a director and well-qualified staff, which, he estimated, would cost a minimum of \$50,000, a sum he expected to increase as the program increased.

Education Minister George M. Weir had earlier suggested \$20,000 for the program, but Mr. Winch said he felt that sum to be totally inadequate.

Municipalities To Be Given Option On Ward Systems

British Columbia municipalities will be given the option to abolish ward systems.

During the last business sitting of the B.C. Legislature, Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald introduced an amendment to his bill which puts the abolition of the ward system on a permissive basis. The original plan had made it mandatory. The amendment, which was adopted, provides that unless municipalities pass a resolution to retain the ward system by June 30, the wards will automatically be abolished.

RECORD SESSION

WHEN THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES of the people of British Columbia concluded the business of the second session of the 21st Legislature a trifle before 5:30 this morning they set a record on more than one count. Their deliberations had covered a period of seven weeks and two days. Yesterday's and this morning's sittings had consumed nearly 20 hours. Never before had provincial law makers left the Parliament Buildings to be lighted on their way by the newly-risen sun.

The foregoing matters of record, of course, are not important as they relate specifically to the conduct of the public affairs in the Legislature. What should nevertheless go down on the record is the fact that not in the history of provincial legislative proceedings for the last 30 years had the government of the day so carefully prepared and thoroughly discussed the numerous bills as during the session which the Lieutenant-Governor prorogued this morning. Naturally enough, final decisions on numerous highly-controversial and vitally-important questions were reached only in the last few days and the last few hours of the Legislature's deliberations. But most of those measures, particularly their essentially controversial provisions, had been subjected to lengthy discussion before the House convened last Feb. 11. Consequently, both government and opposition members were in full possession of the implications of nearly all the contentious details. As a result of the foresight and regard for the public interest, demonstrated by the Premier, the Minister of Finance, and the Attorney-General, moreover, the conclusions reached during the final debates were based on adequate knowledge.

Particularly gratifying was the rapid dispatch of the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne and the discussion on the budget. All in all, then, the second session of the 21st Legislature will go down in the parliamentary annals of British Columbia as a most useful one and an essentially constructive one. And it is obvious that the Coalition administration has emerged stronger than ever. This in itself will be a matter of satisfaction to the people of the province generally.

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One Woman's Day

By NANCY HODGES

SIXTEEN-HOUR DAY

THIS IS WRITTEN AT THE end of a day which commenced at 7 o'clock one morning and finished at 5.25 the next. For I am tapping away at my typewriter at the end of the final day of the Legislative session.

So if the resultant column seems more than usually foolish and incoherent, please put it down to sheer sleepiness.

For weeks past we have been going into caucus at night—when not in night sessions—and remaining at the Parliament Buildings until anywhere around midnight.

On Wednesday morning we left the House just before midnight after struggling through many contentious bills.

DAY TO DAYLIGHT

BUT WERE BACK AGAIN in our seats at 10.30 the same morning. In the interval I had snatched a few hours' sleep, tidied up the house, made the beds—and written a column.

From 10.30 till 1.10 p.m. we wrestled with more bills—and wrestled is the word—then adjourned for lunch.

Back again at 2.30, the House got down again to business in double-quick time, sitting till 6.25, when we recessed for dinner.

By 8.30 p.m. we were at it again—with quite a crowded gallery to watch us in the winding-up stages.

They must have found us a jaded-looking lot! But who wouldn't be after seven weeks of argument, rhetoric, forensic fireworks, and just plain whatnot?

SILENTLY FADE AWAY

SOME INDEFATIGABLE SOULS on both sides of the House were still in fine fettle and rose gallantly to their feet to explain or to argue over second readings.

But the majority of the members were content just to occupy the sidelines, so to speak.

As the hours slid by till midnight, the spectators in the gallery began to thin out. One by one, like the Arabs in the poem, they folded their tents and silently stole away.

I missed the quartette of patriarchal, bearded East Indians who had spent day after day in the galleries awaiting the passing of the Elections Act.

I missed the wives of out-of-town members who had looked down on us from the ladies' gallery, week after week. Most of them had either preceded their husbands home or were busy packing ready for their departure.

SEEK STIMULANT

FROM TIME TO TIME, members slipped out of the House for the parliamentary restaurant, there to snatch a cup of tea or coffee.

One or two left before midnight to catch the night boat for the mainland. But most of us remained on in our seats.

As the hands of the clock moved remorselessly on we plodded through more bills which reminded me of a local naval man's parody of Omar Khayyam's lines:

"Dreaming when yet the Night was far from Day,
Methought I heard a Phantom Voice then say,
'Oh why do Mortals have repressive Laws,
Their Life is short—so why not make it gay?'"

SLIPS AND SNOOZES

BETWEEN 2 AND 3 O'CLOCK some of the members began to slip a little lower in their seats and, here and there, a head began to nod.

One or two snoozed quite soundly, then would wake up and look somewhat sheepishly around to see if their lapse had been noted. But by that time the galleries were emptied and even the press gallery was bare of all but a few hardy souls.

Meanwhile, the argument and the cross-fire still went on. For, as Sir Ernest Benn once said: "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it wrongly, and applying unsuitable remedies."

At last, the last "I" was dotted and the last "t" crossed, and those of us who had stuck it-out, rose from our seats wearily at the hour of 5.25 a.m.

And went out into the dewy freshness of a lovely spring morning—to arrive home with the milkman!

OFFICIAL STATUS

THE PROVISION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA's new enfranchisement act which specifies that a knowledge of French as well as English may qualify a citizen to vote in provincial elections is a timely recognition of the new citizenship status of Canadians, with its traditional concomitant of two national tongues.

The idle comment that it is not likely either Chinese or East Indians who appear at the registration offices will speak French has no bearing on the point at issue. The law was rightly drawn to open the franchise to those who speak, not merely the language most prevalent in British Columbia, but the official language of Canada. And the official language of Canada is either English or French, at the discretion of the voter.

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Employers Urge Labor Bill Backing

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 29.—Coalition members were bombarded with telegrams today from employer groups supporting the government-supervised strike ballot in B.C.'s proposed new labor bill.

They are urging members to stand fast in their attitude that the curb on labor must go through.

Meanwhile the labor bill, No. 39, significantly was not called for debate before the House adjourned Friday afternoon for the weekend. It must come up Monday or Tuesday if the House is to finish before Easter.

Most sources here believe Labor Minister George S. Pearson, despite his opposition to the supervised ballot, will move the second reading of the bill.

One report here is that some other cabinet minister, possibly the attorney general, might be asked to guide the bill through the House. But observers here regard this as unthinkable unless Mr. Pearson resigns as Labor Minister.

It is not thought Mr. Pearson is ready to take such drastic action at this stage of the game.

But it is quite on the cards that after the session ends he may ask Premier Hart to be relieved of the Labor portfolio and permitted to carry on in the Health and Welfare Ministry which is expanding and requires a full-time minister.

'No Ballot, No Strike' Labor Code Vote Gains

Bill Passes Second Reading 35 to 11, Under Hot Fire From Opposition

VICTORIA, April 1.—B.C.'s new labor code, contained in highly contentious bill No. 39, was given second reading in the legislature Monday afternoon by a vote of 35 to 11. All Coalition members joined against a solid Opposition vote against it.

The vote brought to an end the "crisis" which has rocked the legislative corridors since the middle of last week.

Labor Minister George S. Pearson moved the bill and told the House that just because he still objects to the government-supervised strike ballot which it contains, is no reason why, after 14 years directing labor policies, he should resign the portfolio.

He disclosed the strike ballot clause is to be made even stronger than it was in the original draft bill. In that it was provided that supervised secret ballots should be held on conciliation awards.

BALLOT BEFORE STRIKE

Now it will be specifically stated that no strike can take place until a secret supervised ballot is taken.

At the same time Mr. Pearson announced penalties on unlawful strikes will be lightened from the original plan.

Fines upon individual strikers will be wiped out, and fines for employers and unions who cause illegal lockouts and strikes will be cut in half.

The labor minister also revealed that he will turn over a lot of the detailed administration of the labor policy to the Labor Relations Board which will be set up under the act.

Mr. Pearson's declaration on the bill drew hot fire from the CCF, who charged the whole thing is a disgrace, thoroughly objectionable to organized labor and will bring about the government's downfall at the polls.

FAVORS OLD FORMULA

Mr. Pearson bluntly stated on the strike ballot:

"In this I am in disagreement with my colleagues.

"But I feel I have been misunderstood on the whole question—and an apparent crisis has been built up out of nothing.

"I have always been in favor of the secret ballot in labor matters. But I don't think the supervised ballot is necessary as a general thing.

"The majority of our unions, especially the older ones, have always respected the secret ballot.

"My own view is that the old ICA formula, where supervision was up to the minister, is the extent to which we should go. We can depend on the honor of our labor unions to take proper ballots.

"However there is a great deal of alarm among the public about what is done in union votes. There have been many stories, some of them no doubt ridiculous, about methods that are used. I don't know if they are true. I've never watched a strike vote.

"But I am convinced there is a lot of public feeling about carelessness in conducting the ballot in some cases. And if disastrous strikes are called by such methods they feel it should be stopped."

Mr. Pearson continued:

"My other objection is that the supervised ballot is cumbersome and in some cases almost impossible to apply.

"If, for instance, in last year's IWA strike it had been required there would have been weeks and

weeks of delay and I don't think we could have got a true vote.

"DONE MY BEST"

He added:

"I may be placing myself in a foolish position by saying that I bring in a bill containing a clause to which I object.

"The papers have been trying to tell me what I should do, along with a lot of other people.

"But I have been minister of labor for 14 years and have done my best to serve the people of this province. I think I have done some good for labor in that time.

"I must be forgiven if I don't like to be told by people without much experience what I should do and what is good and what is bad.

"I refuse to believe that because I disagree on this clause I should sever my connection with the government, nor, in particular, with the Department of Labor.

OPPOSITION ATTACKS

"It is an awkward position, perhaps. It may look queer. And some people may say, 'Let him go anyway, we've had enough of him. Why doesn't he get out?' But I feel I have something to give from the experience I have had.

"And I realize people are alarmed at what happened last year. The ballot section will be amended to provide that no strike can be called until a supervised vote has been taken."

Mr. Pearson went on to explain that although the main bill will not come into effect until the new Dominion law with which it works, probably around June 15, he will set up the new Labor Relations Board in the meantime.

Herbert Gargrave, CCF whip, Mackenzie, led off a devastating opposition attack, declaring the bill puts B.C. in the forefront of a backward step for labor.

"You are marring a good record," he said.

He insisted the bill would create discord rather than harmony in the labor-management picture.

"Nor do I see how the labor minister can refuse responsibility for the supervised strike vote when he has brought it down."

CCF leader Harold Winch declared:

"The Tory influence in the cabinet has reached the point of rotting Liberalism and the former progressive thought we had. The premier and the labor minister have lost control. This bill is conclusive evidence the Tories rule the cabinet."

He declared the Tories must have swung the Liberals to their way of thinking or Mr. Pearson would never have been so embarrassed as to tell the House he was not in favor of part of the bill.

"Out of his own self-respect a minister should not be placed like that. It is only because of his own integrity that he does not want to embarrass the government."

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1947

Undefeated Champ, John Hart, 68 Today

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 31.—A man who has never tasted political defeat in 23 years, and, except for his first session, has never sat anywhere in the Legislature but on the treasury benches, today celebrates his birthday.

He is British Columbia's No. 1 commoner, Premier John Hart, who at 68 remains the dominating factor in the province's political affair—and also the biggest question mark.

Purely from the political standpoint Mr. Hart's record is probably unique in Canada.

He has never sat in Opposition.

Always he has been a cabinet minister since he entered politics in 1917, and in that he was the chief government whip.

Government members staged a special demonstration for the Premier when he opened the House sitting this afternoon.

For many of them think this may be his last appearance in the legislature. They believe he will be elevated to the Senate before the House meets again.

Bill Gives Skippers Fish Sale Freedom

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, March 31.—An amendment to the Co-operative Association's Act now before the legislature will give operators of fishboats more leeway in deciding where they will sell their catch and will not force them to deliver it to a co-operative even though the crew may want to do so.

Introduced by Trade and Industry Minister Leslie S. Eyres, the amendment reads: "Every person who uses any property belonging to another person to catch, produce or collect fish or other marine products shall not be bound by a co-operative marketing contract with respect to the sale, delivery, or other disposal of such fish or other marine products."

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Contractors To Get More Than Agreed

Increased Costs Of Road Work Require Grants

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 1.—In order to get its huge public works program finished the provincial government probably will have to pay contracting firms engaged on the jobs more money than their contracts call for because of the increases in wages, price of materials and other costs since the contracts were let.

Public Works Minister E. C. Carson announced this in the Legislature this afternoon and declared the government intends to let a senior court judge sit as arbiter and decide how much contractors should get.

Seven big contracting firms are concerned:

Campbell Construction Company, Fred Mannix and Co. Ltd., Dawson Wade and Co., General Construction Co. Ltd., Emil Anderson Construction, W. C. Arnett and Co. and the Campbell-Mannix Companies.

ALL OVER PROVINCE

They were engaged in government projects all over the province, including the Peace River-Pine Pass Highway, the Hope-Princeton Highway and various road-building jobs.

Contracts totalling in the neighborhood of \$15,000,000 are affected. Some of the work has been going on 18 months or more, and Mr. Carson explained that when the contractors put in their original bids they could not foresee labor and material conditions that have developed since then.

The companies have applied for more money on the following grounds:

- 1—Application of the 44-hour week which started last July.
- 2—War Labor Board directives increasing labor's wages.
- 3—Increase in truck hire rates allowed by the Public Utilities Commission.
- 4—Material price increases allowed by the WPTB.
- 5—The general shortage of men, material and machines.

Mr. Carson outlined the full history of how contracts were called and let to the lowest bidders. But, he said, neither the contractors nor the engineers could have predicted that costs would increase the way they have since the contracts were let.

CCF Losing On Labor Bill

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 1.—B.C.'s new labor bill was battled clause by clause through the committee stage in the legislature this morning.

CCF members, offering 46 amendments, carried organized labor's fight against the bill into the House, seeking to ease the curbs the bill places on labor. But they were turned down one after the other.

WHO WILL WRITE INSTRUCTION BOOK?

Victoria Experts Experiment In 'Proper Use of Alcohol'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 1.—The government's program to educate people in the "proper use of alcohol" will be an extensive one, a survey disclosed here today.

There are two ways to use alcohol. Internally and externally.

In many cases alcohol is used externally, mostly at steam baths and gymnasiums, after too much of it is used internally. Masseurs fight alcohol with alcohol, attacking the spirits on the inside by rubbing in spirits from the outside.

This is an endless war, the victim usually being rubbed so weak he has to take more alcohol on the inside to get mobile again.

Statistics prove that alcohol taken on the outside is more beneficial than that taken on the inside. In hospitals they rub you with it on the outside to stop bed sores. In bootlegging places they swirl you with it on the inside to make heads sore.

Alcohol on the outside can be mixed with wintergreen and olive oil and serve as a fine rubdown for athletes, helping them perform amazing feats.

Alcohol on the inside can be mixed with anything from water to more alcohol and it makes strange characters who also perform amazing feats such as looking very silly in women's hats.

There is argument as to who should write the instructions on the proper use of alcohol. Usually the politicians hire experts for work like this but it is pointed out here that the politicians themselves are the outstanding experts.

There is a danger here, however. Some of the politicians are reformed users of internal spirits and the fear is that they may advocate only the use of external spirits.

Supporting this fear is the report that R. J. McIntyre has been asked to write the

introduction to the instruction book.

Dogmatic technicians in Victoria are asking if the "proper use" will be contingent on what you want to accomplish.

For instance, what is the proper use if you want to get up courage to ask the boss for a raise or tell him off. Would you take six or 16 ounces, straight or mixed?

What is the proper use the morning after, if you insist on having a morning after? And, if you insist on having a morning after, what proper amount should you have?

And what is the proper use if your wife leaves you or won't leave you?

In fact, what is proper anyway about anything that makes you something you ordinarily aren't, especially when it is so expensive?

The answer, many claim, is the book should be re-titled "To educate people on how not to use alcohol."

CLAUSES QUOTED

Here's Core Of Final Labor Bill

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 1.—Here is what all the fight's been about in British Columbia's new labor bill:

Wording of the strike ballot clause, as redrafted by the Coalition caucus, was made public for the first time today, when Labor Minister George Pearson offered it as an amendment to the original draft of the bill.

FOR BOTH SIDES

It reads:

Section 31A: Notwithstanding anything contained in this act no person shall declare or authorize a strike, and no employee shall strike until after a vote of the employees in the unit affected as to whether to strike or not to strike has been taken and the majority of such employees who vote have voted in favor of a strike.

Section 31B: Notwithstanding anything contained in this act, where more than one employer is engaged in the same dispute with their employees, no person shall declare or authorize a lockout and no employer shall cause a lockout until after a vote of all employers as to whether to lockout or not to lockout has been taken and a majority of such employers who voted in favor of a lockout.

SUPERVISED VOTE

Section 72 of the bill provides that all strike and lockout votes must be supervised by the labor minister or some one appointed by him.

But the new amendment removes the necessity for supervising votes on conciliation awards unless the minister decides that it should be supervised.

Forestry Bill 'Starts Fire' In Legislature

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 1.—B.C.'s new forestry bill was battled through the committee stage in the legislature Monday night by Forest Minister E. T. Kenney under a warm attack by opposition members.

The debate reached a hot point when Harold Winch, CCF leader, told Mr. Kenney to keep his temper or "you won't get your bill through."

"Is that a threat or a promise?" asked Mr. Kenney.

"You can take it any way you like," retorted Mr. Winch.

Mr. Kenney put through 20 amendments to his original bill, explaining that these were offered as a result of discussions with the industry.

One of the important ones was that the logging operators will have to pay stumpage taxes on timber wasted.

CCF members, in opposing the bill, and claiming it will not bring about sustained yield forestry as desired, said they had had advice from forestry engineers who were just as competent as the men advising the government.

The bill was reported complete at midnight with all the government amendments included. The CCF offered none.

Gov't 'Broke' Says Winch; It's April 1

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 1.—The legislature had its April Fool's Day joke, too.

On the stroke of noon, Opposition Leader Harold Winch rose to inform the government that again it is broke, because the new fiscal year has started and the House has not yet formally passed the budget for fiscal year 1947-48.

Finance Minister Anscomb, quick as a flash, retorted: "Ah, yes, but I've arranged to pay all the members of the House, except the Opposition."

"Just try it," shouted Herbert Gargrave, CCF whip, "and just see when you get the session over."

It was the only light side to a slogging match over the clauses in the Labor Bill.

Pearson Warns 'Greedy' Labor

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 1.—Labor Minister George Pearson gave a warning to trades unions in the Legislature today that if they persist in demanding more and more rights they will run into a reversal of feeling that will take away everything they have gained.

Rejecting a CCF amendment to the labor bill, Mr. Pearson said at the rate they are going now, wanting everything handed to them, unions will degenerate into nothing. They want their dues collected for them. They want to practically take over plants for organization purposes, they want concessions at every turn, he said.

"Where do you end up with a thing like that? You find that everything is taken away from you."

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1947

Government Misses Boat On Liquor

By Roy W. Brown, Editorial Director, The Sun

DRINKS WITH MEALS THE WAY TO MODERATION

The Victoria government's official excuse for doing almost nothing this year in the way of intelligent liquor legislation—namely, that there was lacking any public agitation in favor of cocktail bars—was the thinnest kind of subterfuge. The fact of the case is there was too great pressure in behalf of the vested interests for the administration to withstand.

In assessing the reasons why the caucus was unable to make up its mind on a progressive policy, one interesting fact stands out. History repeats itself in that once again in British Columbia the temperance people joined forces with the beer barons, but of course for differing reasons.

For the beer manufacturers and dispensers the present situation in this province represents paradise. The system based on emporiums for guzzling beer achieves the highest attainable consumption of beer. And the vested interest of the government, making a profit of almost a million dollars a month in sales of various beverages, including the clandestine drinking in hotel rooms, is of tremendous importance in its final influence.

To me the most surprising and inconsistent factor in the Attorney-General's announcement was the intimation the government will attempt by educational agencies to train the people in the proper use of liquor. The government meanwhile will set an example of the most improper use

of drink that could possibly be imagined. In the fundamental logic of the government's educational plan the first lesson in a broad conception of moderate and right drinking must be consideration of taking a light dram of liquid along with food.

It was this innovation, indeed, which the B.C. government promised, at the last election, to bring about. The attorney-general of that day, R. L. Maitland, was convinced the pathway to true temperance lay along the line of encouraging the people to take some beer and light wines with their meals. He would have issued special licenses to hotels and good, honest restaurants so that if a patron called for a bottle of beer or a glass of wine he could have it served at table.

Maitland Plan

The Maitland plan was received with a good deal of public acclaim at the last election campaign. It is important to recall that its basis was the proposition that licensees would have to supply the public with good accommodation. This original design was completely lost sight of in the recent discussion which led to the failure of the government to do anything worthwhile. Some in authority carelessly or by devilish cleverness—I don't know which—transposed the original plan into a campaign for "cocktail lounges"—something not necessarily contemplated originally at all. Because

it says there was no public enthusiasm for "cocktail lounges," the government now finds an excuse for forgetting the whole thing.

The Disappearing Hotel

In rural British Columbia years ago there were regular hotels having good, clean bedrooms with dining rooms serving excellent food under the same roof as the bar which dispensed liquor. The hotelmen may have made his greatest profit in the sale of spirits and beer, but at the same time he was compelled to provide good accommodation for the travelling public. The old "bar" system—if you wish to call it that—at least possessed that merit.

What is the situation today? In scores of places the hotel has disappeared. In its place is a cheap beer-hall which maintains no dining room at all and in many cases farms out to an irresponsible concessionaire the minimum number of rooms required for the holding of a beer license.

The liquor question becomes very closely allied with the business of catering to tourists. There are no adequate places for tourists to get food or to put up for the night. Auto camps and fishing resorts are doing a fine job, but for the casual tourist who has not been able to make bookings months ahead, there is today literally no accommodation and none in sight.

The beer people, with no public obligation

except to force more suds down the throats of the patrons, have no interest in anything except their own pockets. Literally a bonanza has been developed by a kind and complacent public in awarding beer licenses which have now become of priceless value. A few chairs and tables, a lease and a provincial beer license have become worth \$50,000 in some places in this province, according to fantastic deals which have already been recorded. And the effect of the policy of the government is to run up the paper values to double the present figures!

For Real Temperance

I believe the one way to achieve real temperance in B.C. is to get back on the beam of a fair conception of the public good—not to run the liquor business for the highest cash profits of the vested interests, including the government itself, or even in the narrow interest of the so-called temperance organizations. Beer and light wines should only be sold by people who are willing to serve the public with good food or good sleeping accommodation or both. The obscene guzzling system which merely develops a gold mine out of a beer hall will finally be discarded. If the government is sincere in its idea of developing good drinking habits by the public, that is the first lesson to be realized.

Alcoholic Instruction

The original impression that Gordon Wismer was going to teach people how to drink turns out to be an over-simplification. The Attorney-General isn't going to deliver "sip slowly" lectures or urge the lusher to shake well before using. Not he. He's going to hire someone else to explain the proper use of alcohol and educate the people therein.

British Columbians are going to be made to see the evil of their ways. En route to the liquor store they will feel a gentle tugging at their mental coat-tails. A still, small voice will tell them, as they whisper their order to the vendor, that the stuff isn't worth the money. On their way out they will run into pickets carrying placards proclaiming "Bill Kennedy Unfair to Temperance," "Beware the Whisky Lurking in Every Bottle," and suchlike slogans.

They will learn through government propaganda that 40 percent of the contents of the 25-ounce reputed quart is pure alcohol. To imbibe it is sinful and a social disgrace. No one should be allowed to see the consumer in the act of consumption except a few close friends and the bell-boy who brings the mixer. Under no circumstances should the jug be left around after the seal is broken. The only safe bottle is an empty

bottle. If you must drink, do it quietly and secretly and sadly and get it over with.

The 507,000 citizens of this province who bought liquor permits in the last year of record will be shocked to learn of their real infamy. They are indebted to Education Minister G. M. Weir for a comparison. Dr. Weir says that the mentor employed by the government will "correspond in temperance to Dr. Williams in control of venereal disease." This may show what the government thinks of the people from whom it takes \$11 millions annually in liquor profits.

Dr. D. H. Williams is remembered as an earnest young man who worked with fanatic zeal—and great credit to himself—to stamp out a loathsome social evil. Morally and medically, he was the scourger and the crusader on a scale never before seen in B.C. Unfortunately, the Legislature was told only last week that venereal disease is also worse now than it ever was and that sterner measures than education are required in the fight.

So it may be with liquor. Before this thing is finished, the government may even discover that true temperance is a state of mind and that the place for education to begin is in the councils of the legislators who maintain a liquor system conducive to drunkenness.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2, 1947

Legislative Balance Sheet

The second session of the 21st Legislature of British Columbia is winding up today, so it is timely to assess its achievements in its 37 working days. What did British Columbia get for the \$3000 apiece paid in indemnities to 48 members? This works out at about \$10 an hour, generously estimating that the legislators averaged eight hours a day. And \$1500 of their \$3000 indemnity is to be tax free.

It must be remembered that the Coalition members probably worked much harder than the CCF opposition. The Coalition group held the unprecedented number of 18 caucuses. The caucus proved a useful device for the administration, but perhaps not for the people. It was noticeable that although some of the most contentious legislation in a decade was before this Legislature, the public debates lacked both depth and spirit.

The CCF was unequal to the task of criticizing, and the Coalition MLA's evidently had done their debating in the secrecy of the government members' room. The wrecking of two important bills—probably the most important the House had before it—took place behind that guarded door. These were the Liquor Bill and the Elections Act Bill. Mr. Pearson's long-drawn battle over government-supervised strike ballots went on there. It was a fine way to hide the weaknesses of the Coalition. Whether it was conducive to honest legislation and good government is another question.

The session was historic in some respects. There was the budget of \$59,000,000, largest in the history of the province, and the \$20,000,000 works program. Mr. Hart and

Mr. Anscomb both deserve congratulations for these achievements, and Mr. Hart had his particular triumph with the House's ratification of his taxation agreement with Ottawa, which made the other achievements possible.

The program of a sustained yield for our forests, prime source of the wealth of British Columbia, got its start in the Forest Act. This was a considerable step forward. So, in another sphere, was the passage of the Motor Vehicle Act amendments to impose financial responsibility upon auto drivers. Mr. Wismer deserves particular credit for this last measure, and also for the revival of Borstal.

There were other useful measures—the creation of a department of fisheries and the controlling of death benefit and health and accident societies. Commendation, however, must be mingled with a feeling that the positive deeds hardly needed the expenditure of 37 days of valuable legislative time. When the session began, its main work was expected to be liquor reform, electoral reform, labor law reform. About these controversial matters, unfortunately, the controversy will continue to rage because the work was ill-done. The fact that reasons were given in caucus, and details settled there, hardly informs the public mind.

It must be granted that the tinkering with the Elections Act was worthwhile to the extent that it gave votes to the Chinese and Hindus and improved the voters' registration system. But the secret caucus killed chances of real electoral reform when it tossed out compulsory voting, just as it killed real liquor reform when it recoiled from the necessity of fundamental changes in the law.

New Business Tax Optional to Cities

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 1.—The new business tax recommended in the Goldenberg Report will be made optional at the discretion of municipal councils.

Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald today submitted to the House amendments to the Municipal Act which made this provision.

Also in the bill are clauses that carry out the Goldenberg Report. Cities now will be able to tax beer parlors at rates ranging from \$30 to \$85 a year, depending on the size of each parlor.

They are given the power to levy a 3 percent tax on the revenues of electric light, telephone and transportation companies, as tax on their equipment and buildings.

MLA's Would Give Victoria Med. Faculty

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 2.—Decision of the University of B.C. Board of Governors that they cannot start a medical faculty this year was like waving a red flag to a bull for B.C.'s Legislators.

The governors' decision, announced in Tuesday afternoon papers, had immediate repercussions in the House, which last week passed a resolution urging the university to start immediately.

W. T. Straith, Cln., Victoria, jumped to his feet as soon as the House convened Tuesday night and declared if UBC won't start the school the government should give the money to Victoria College and let them start it in Victoria.

Harold Winch, CCF leader, followed close behind and said it is time the House demanded in no uncertain terms that the university start the medical school.

He moved a resolution regretting the decision of the university board and urging that it be reconsidered.

The House did not come to a vote on the motion because Nancy Hodges (Cln, Victoria) adjourned the debate.

Gargrave Gives Tip to Lawyers

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 2.—Herbert Gargrave, sharp-witted CCF whip, who hails from London, England, advised the lawyers in the legislature Tuesday how to say things.

He called a clause in the government's labor bill "ultra vires," but added quickly "or that's what the lawyers say about something that shouldn't be in that is."

LESSON I

Leg So

By Sun Staff

VICTORIA, British Columbia got a lesson in the complicated finance as the federal government. And it implications.

Last week brought in a clause that \$15 sessional income by the member. This was to chance to cla exemptions.

But Tuesday sudden surprise was in claiming that \$ shall be con penses.

It looked, to

if someone v whittle down members will income tax.

But legal s ed it differen "It's one e if we give t get less; and less they get.

The federal provides that, one-half of their indem claimed as ex ers are prod.

But by decl was indem expenses, th only left the them to get \$750, or half indemnity.

Now, by demnity at \$ can claim up penses, in a other \$1000 expenses.

It's all ver but if you re you'll see ho will you?

The bill als Opposition I \$2000 session expenses, not

LESSON IN CONFUSION

Legislators Take More Pay So There'll Be Less to Tax

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 2.—British Columbia's legislators got a lesson Tuesday night in the complications of high finance as determined by the federal Income Tax Department. And it had personal implications.

Last week the government brought in a bill which declares that \$1500 of the \$3000 sessional indemnity received by the members is expenses. This was to give them a chance to claim income tax exemptions.

But Tuesday night, in a sudden surprise, an amendment was put through declaring that \$1000, not \$1500, shall be considered as expenses.

It looked, for a moment, as if someone was trying to whittle down the savings members will make on their income tax.

But legal sources explained it differently:

"It's one of those cases if we give them more they get less; and if we give them less they get more."

The federal income tax law provides that, for legislators, one-half of the amount of their indemnity may be claimed as expenses if vouchers are produced.

But by declaring that \$1500 was indemnity and \$1500 expenses, the original bill only left the way open for them to get deductions of \$750, or half of their \$1500 indemnity.

Now, by setting the indemnity at \$2000, members can claim up to \$1000 as expenses, in addition to the other \$1000 they get as expenses.

It's all very complicated, but if you read it over twice you'll see how it works. Or will you?

The bill also declares that Opposition Leader Winch's \$2000 sessional allowance is expenses, not salary.

HOUSE PASSES NEW B.C. LABOR CODE

CCF's Seven-Hour Fight Fails to Kill Strike Ballot, Penalties

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 2.—Despite a hot attack by the CCF, the government-supervised secret strike ballot in the new B.C. labor bill was passed by the legislature Tuesday, along with penalties on unions for illegal strikes.

Debate on the measure went on from 10:30 a.m. until 5:45 in the afternoon, with a break for lunch, and culminated in two divisions secured by CCF leader Harold Winch.

Both times the government, with a solid Coalition majority, rejected attempts by the CCF to defeat features of the supervised vote, and to remove penalties on unions for striking illegally.

Herbert Gargrave, CCF whip, who led the opposition attack on the bill, declared the strike penalties were fought successfully by British trade unions 45 years ago.

FINES REDUCED

"The only reason you're doing this is because of what was done in the United States with the United Mine Workers," he declared.

"Under this you can break a union and make it impossible to function," he added.

(Fines in the bill were cut in half by Labor Minister Pearson, but a union or employer can still be charged \$125 a day for an illegal strike or lockout.)

Mr. Pearson insisted the illegal strike penalties are not new and were contained in PC-1003, the wartime labor code.

"Yes, but no one was ever fined, so obviously it wasn't good law, and isn't now," Gargrave retorted.

In discussion of the supervised strike vote, Attorney-General Wismer disagreed with members who said it will not work, by pointing out that it can be held just as easily as provincial elections are held.

DRAMATIC MOMENT

There was a dramatic moment when Opposition Leader Winch tried to force a recorded vote on the supervised strike ballot.

Since the House was in committee no vote could be obtained on the issue directly, but Mr. Winch manoeuvred a division on a technical ruling from the committee chairman.

Again the Coalition voted solidly. But Labor Minister George S. Pearson, who had previously announced his opposition to the strike ballot, rose very slowly from his chair to stand beside the Coalition members.

Mr. Winch had a heated clash with Premier Hart, attempting to get another vote on the question directly but was outgeneraled in parliamentary procedure and failed to get it.

Mr. Gargrave said the supervised vote is a blot on industrial relations of the province and shows the government has no confidence in unions.

"You've no more right to interfere with their affairs than you have with any other society," he declared.

"You may be trying to rub it into the unions, but don't forget

sometimes when you do that you find your hand cut with a piece of glass."

One or two minor CCF amendments in wording of the act were accepted by the government, but most of their 46 changes designed to remove curbs on labor were rejected by the House.

"You can't settle the problem by cutting the wings of labor," shouted Mr. Gargrave. Sam Guthrie (CCF, Cowichan-Newcastle) warned the act is a vital mistake because it takes rights away from labor they got 40 years ago.

"SMACKS OF FASCISM"

"It smacks of Fascism," he said.

"You can call strikes illegal if you want," but you'll have them just the same," declared Mr. Gargrave. "You can never take away the labor man's right to strike."

In reply to E. E. Winch, CCF, Burnaby, who sought an amendment forcing labor representation on the new Labor Relations Board, Mr. Pearson said this is intended anyway.

Sandwiches, Music For Beer Parlors

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 2.—Herbert Gargrave, CCF whip, today launched an attempt to get sandwiches and music into beer parlors.

He gave notice of an amendment to the liquor act which would wipe out the present bans against serving food and playing of music in the parlors. Also he proposes they should be able to serve soft drinks as well as beer.

His motion is slated for debate later in the day.

Vancouver Voted New Tax Powers

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 2.—Vancouver today was given the power to levy a new business tax and to charge taxes on 7 percent of the assessed value of improvements.

Amendments to the city's charter having this effect were passed by the legislature.

MUNICIPALITIES MAY KEEP WARD SYSTEM

Retention Permitted Under Amendment to Municipal Act

VICTORIA, April 3.—(CP)—An amendment to the Municipal Act introduced in the House early today by Municipal Affairs Minister MacDonald provides that any municipality in the province may pass a resolution before June 30 to retain the ward system.

If a municipality retains the ward system, councillors will serve one-year terms, but if the wards are abolished all municipalities will come under the amendment which provides for staggered two-year terms for councillors.

MEDICAL SCHOOL

The final business act this morning was adoption of a resolution asking University of British Columbia to reconsider its position on the establishment of a medical school. The motion was proposed by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

Proposals for the university to establish a medical school and hospital on the campus and that the government undertake an investigation of the availability of hospital accommodation in the province for medical school purposes were not acted upon.

A bill was adopted giving farmers with degrees in agriculture professional status as agrologists. Eligible for membership are graduates in agriculture of University of B.C. or holders of a university degree, and a three-year term of training must follow enrolment.

CCF OBJECTION

A bill giving foresters a professional standing got a two-hour rough ride before receiving final reading. Objection was taken by CCF and Coalition members to introduction of the measure one day before prorogation.

The \$1000 salary increase for County Court judges passed third reading, but CCF members objected, holding it ultra vires of the Legislature. They plan to take it up with the federal minister of justice.

Attorney-General Wismer agreed there was some question of the legality of the measure, but it was something that all other provinces but Quebec and Prince Edward Island were doing for years.

A resolution on an application by road contractors for increase in contract prices on jobs underway on the Hart Highway and the Hope-Princeton Road was adopted.

A referee who will be a judge of the supreme court or of the court of appeal will sit as an arbitrator to determine if higher rates are due the contractors.

Legislature Ends Session; 104 Laws

Lt.-Gov. Banks Gives Assent To New Bills

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 3.—British Columbia's 21st Legislature ended its second session this morning after sitting since February 11 and passing 104 pieces of legislation.

Lieut.-Governor Charles A. Banks arrived at the Legislature Buildings shortly before noon to give assent to the bills approved by the members.

As it affects the people of the province, one of the most important bills passed by the House was that dealing with labor relations which sets up, for the first time in Canada, a supervised ballot before a strike can be called.

Here are some of the chief acts passed by the House:

A record budget of nearly \$59,000,000.

The carrying out of the Goldenberg report, which gives the municipalities \$1,800,000 in extra grants.

Approval of the tax agreement with the Dominion government negotiated by Premier John Hart under which the province gets nearly \$23,000,000 in return for surrender of its income tax and succession duty rights.

The setting up of a system of forest management licenses that is designed to start the forest industry of a sustained yield basis.

Abolition of liquor permits and the establishment of a fund to educate people in temperance drinking.

An elections act which gives Chinese and Hindus the right to vote in British Columbia for the first time.

Restrictions upon death benefit assessment clubs and health and accident societies.

The legislature passed three acts giving professional rights to certain classes of society. Teachers will be forced to join the B.C. Teachers' Federation. Agrologists and foresters are given professional status.

CCF 'GALLUP POLL' SHOWS LIQUOR TREND

Music in Beer Parlors, Cafe Win Wanted; Few Favor Cocktail Bars

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 3.—A "gallup" poll on the liquor question has been taken by the CCF Party, Opposition leader Harold Winch told the Legislature Wednesday.

It favors sandwiches and music in beer parlors, is against cocktail bars, but favors beer and light wines in restaurants.

Mr. Winch, declaring the government has evaded the whole liquor problem, and insisting that greater changes must be made, said his party's analysis covered between 6000 and 7000 people all over the province.

Following are the questions asked and the percentage of favorable replies received:

Do you favor the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate all matters relative to liquor distribution and policies pursued in other provinces and the U.S. prior to making any changes in the present B. C. system? 48 percent.

Should beer parlors be permitted to sell sandwiches? 69 percent.

Should beer parlors be permitted to have music? 57 percent.

Should restaurants be permitted to sell beer and light wines? 75 percent.

Should regulations governing the licensing of beer parlors be made more stringent so as to ensure the most pleasant surroundings possible for patrons? 81 percent.

Should the province permit, under proper regulations, the opening of cocktail bars? 39 percent.

Should the province permit hotels, holding a beer license to deliver bottled beer to the rooms of guests during beer parlor hours? 54 percent.

Should the province permit hotels, of acceptable standards, to have hotel clubs wherein a guest and friends could obtain drinks between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.? 39 percent.

Are you in favor of night clubs, subject to strict regulations, being permitted to serve drinks between certain hours? 50 percent.

HOUSE TURNS DOWN THREE BILLS OF CCF

Collection of Back Pay in Lieu Of Holidays Wins Gov't Approval

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 3.—The Legislature Wednesday rejected three CCF bills and accepted one as the legislators speeded up toward prorogation.

Accepted was Opposition Leader Harold Winch's bill to give workers the right to collect back pay in lieu of the annual holidays they are entitled to under the government holiday bill.

Defeated were:

1.—An attempt by J. H. Corsbie, Peace River, to have moving pictures classified according to the age of people who can see them.

2.—A move by E. E. Winch, Burnaby, to put pre-marital blood tests into force immediately.

3.—A bill by Arthur J. Turner, Vancouver East, to prevent injunctions in labor disputes unless they are approved by the labor minister.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Victoria, voted with the CCF on the movie classification bill, saying it would help stamp out juvenile delinquency.

Arthur B. Ritchie (Coalition, Salmon Arm) declared the movies are not alone responsible and asserted if the government is going to suppress movies it should deal with radio as well.

"Why," he said, "I know boys who listen for 10 minutes to The Lone Ranger and then go out to try and shoot each other." "Crime Doctor" and "Gang Busters" have the same effect, he maintained.

On pre-marital blood tests, Health Minister George Pearson said that when a new laboratory is built in Vancouver he will consider bringing them in, but in the meantime the department has not the facilities to carry them out.

Uneasy Coalition

John Hart may not be indispensable to good government in British Columbia, but he comes close to being indispensable to the Coalition government. Too close. The very thought of his withdrawal has been enough to shake its foundations.

For six years he has been a capable manager of provincial affairs. The government hasn't been permitted to get too far behind in its promises, nor its members too far out of line to preserve the united front. Mr. Hart's talents as a mellow conciliator have been invaluable.

But during the legislative session now ended the Liberals and Conservatives didn't perform together as smoothly as they used to do. Members seemed more restive—as if they suffered from harness galls. The man in the driver's seat couldn't keep such a tight rein on them.

And, when he steps down, who will take over? People have gained the impression that Mr. Hart may not be on hand for another session. The quieter life of a senator would be less tiring. He has lined up a program which should keep him occupied as premier until the end of this year but he isn't committed beyond that.

The line of succession isn't obvious by any means. Mr. Anscomb's great abilities do not include a capacity to unbend far enough to appeal to unreconstructed Liberals. Indifferent health rules out Mr. Pearson as a candidate. Both Mr. Wismer and Mr. Kenney would have a certain following among their Liberal colleagues. A Wismer boom began

to gather momentum a little while ago but it ran into too many rugged Conservatives.

By the time a Liberal executive meeting discusses the dilemma late this year the situation may be clearer. In the meantime Mr. Hart is left to do as much as he can for a province for which he has already done so much.

Mr. Hart is a PGE enthusiast. The railway could be sold to land-hungry Americans if he would reinstate the original land grants. But he will soon go East to try to arrange an all-Canadian partnership to extend the rails northward and keep the ownership at home. He will attempt to persuade the Dominion Government, the CPR and the CNR to co-operate for the good of the country—and the incidental relief of the B.C. taxpayers now carrying PGE deficits.

His notable bargaining powers will also be used to revive the Green Book proposals for universal employment, old-age pensions and health insurance. Some federal spokesmen have said that the better cash terms given seven provinces for taxation rights require modification of social security assistance offered by the federal government. Mr. Hart wants to get a meeting between the provinces which have signed the tax agreements, and the Dominion authorities, to work out the details along the original lines.

Whatever progress he can make toward these aims will reflect credit upon his Coalition government. It will also demonstrate, once again, that the Coalition and its future depend too much upon one man.

GOV'T DEFEATS CCF MOVE TO END LICENSE TRAFFIC

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 3.—The legislature Wednesday defeated, on a show of hands vote, a CCF attempt to prevent traffic in beer parlor licenses by declaring they are not transferable.

Herbert Gargrave (CCF, MacKenzie), who moved the clause, said he knew of one license in Vancouver that had turned over three times in the last eight years, first for \$19,000, then for \$27,000 and now is offered at \$85,000.

"The government is aiding and abetting this traffic in licenses. There is no reason why when a man is finished with his license

it should not be cancelled," he declared.

Attorney-General Gordon Wismer rejected the plan because, he said, it amounted to outright confiscation since the sale of a hotel goes with a license.

But three Coalition members, Nancy Hodges, Victoria, Dr. J. J. Gillis, Yale, and W. A. C. Bennett, South Okanagan, voted with the CCF in the attempt to get it passed.

Mr. Wismer said he wouldn't subscribe to the idea that all hotel men and beer parlor operators are "rogues and rascals" and said the government does not intend to stop men selling their hotels if they want. There is already restriction on transfers of

beer licenses, controlled by the liquor board.

Mr. Gargrave declared the government already has such a section to govern club licenses and he could see no difference.

"Ah, but clubs are composed of a group of men gathered for social purposes. It is not the same principle," retorted the attorney-general.

Last Minute Flare-Up

HOUSE APPROVES ELECTIONS BILL

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, April 3.—When the next election rolls around in B.C. for choice of members of the Legislature, Chinese and East Indians will be able to cast ballots.

The Legislature Wednesday brought this about by passing the new elections bill. But Japanese are still barred from the vote.

There was a last minute flare-up on the bill when Harold Winch, CCF leader demanded the removal of all race discrimination in the law.

"The bill shows," he said, "this government agrees with the Fascist idea of making people second class citizens because of their racial origin."

The House wrote into the bill a provision that voters must have an adequate knowledge of the French or English language. It is the first time such a condition has been called for in the B.C. law.

A P R

1947

Legislature Still Hopeful Of Prorogation This Week

By GORDON ROOT
From the Vancouver Daily Province
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Legislature today moved into what is expected to be its final week with the order paper still filled with work.

Private members, anxious to get home after eight weeks in Victoria, are hopefully planning prorogation for Wednesday night. Morning sittings will likely start Tuesday in an attempt to clear up the remaining business.

However, there are still a number of vitally important bills to be considered and there is still some prospect of an Easter adjournment.

The contentious labor bill, it is expected will take a full day to pass through second reading and committee. Opposition members, who will carry labor's battle to the floor of the House, have more than 50 amendments and the government will also have a number of minor changes.

The Forest Act, providing for perpetuation of British Columbia timber lands, is ready to go into committee but Lands Minister E. T. Kenney has a score of amendments to the bill and there will be a lengthy discussion of many of the clauses.

Amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act, providing additional financial protection for traffic accident victims, and changes in the Provincial Elections Act, both subjects that the CCF will be eager to debate, have still to come up for second reading. The Liquor Act amendments are not yet through second reading.

Changes in the Municipal Act, including amendments recommended by the Goldenberg Report, have not yet been introduced in the House.

Altogether there are 16 bills on the order paper for second reading, 17 others at the committee stage and 12 resolutions to be debated.

Labor Bill Action Again Delayed

From The Vancouver Daily Province
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Another Coalition caucus discussed the contentious Labor Bill throughout the morning, breaking up at 12:15 noon, and first reports seeping into Parliament Building corridors said members were "standing pat."

There was no indication whether the bill would be presented to the Legislature today; no indication who would present it.

The bill, much protested by labor, provides for government supervision of strike votes.

New Labor Code Bill Approved 35 to 11

VICTORIA (CP)—Safeguards against strikes are to be made even stronger than those originally provided in the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act bill.

Amendments introduced by Labor Minister Pearson in committee stage in the House today provide for a direct strike vote, in addition to the earlier requirement of a vote on acceptance or rejection of a conciliation award. Similar provision governing employers is made concerning lock-outs.

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The government crisis over the new provincial labor code, developed through a half-dozen angry meetings of the Coalition caucus, collapsed like a pricked balloon Monday afternoon when Labor Minister George S. Pearson rose to pilot the bill through second reading in the House.

The bill was given second reading, 35-11, with opposition members voting in a block against it. The bill, which had resulted in mass labor lobbying at the legislative buildings, provides for government supervised compulsory secret strike votes and penalties for illegal strikes and lockouts.

Though the bill has received second reading, it was obvious a battle will be waged in the House when compulsory strike vote sections are considered. CCF members have indicated they will make every effort to have the act changed in this respect.

The Legislature spent two hours of this morning plodding through 15 sections of the act.

The opposition attempted unsuccessfully to obtain removal of all reference to employees' organizations and to have domestic servants, farmers, horticulturists, hunters and trappers included in the act.

With frankness unusual among members of the cabinet in public, the labor minister told the House he did not agree with the sections of the bill that insist on compulsory voting with unions under government supervision.

BOWS TO PEOPLE'S WILL

But he also expressed belief that public opinion in British Columbia strongly favors the move and he was prepared to bow to the will of the majority.

For an instant when Premier John Hart called "Bill No. 39 in second reading" there was an obvious tension. Then, as the minister of labor rose to explain principles of the bill, Coalition members pounded their desks in resounding applause for him.

It was obvious Mr. Pearson had swallowed his personal beliefs to accept the will of his party.

And after the debate, when Opposition Leader Harold Winch called for a division on the bill's passage through second reading, Coalition members voted solidly for it.

Mr. Pearson spoke his piece in 25 minutes, then listened for an hour while opposition members blasted his position.

Herbert Gargrave (CCF-Mackenzie) was sorry "that the minister had married his 14 years of service to the province by

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instruct them."

"But I must admit there is a great deal of alarm among the public about the way some unions are taking ballots."

Some of the stories, the minister continued, in his belief, were fantastic.

"What I believe doesn't matter.

I am convinced there is a general feeling on the part of the public that some votes have been taken in a wrong manner."

Mr. Pearson expressed the opinion that government supervision of votes would be almost impossible to apply. He cited the IWA strike in 1946 where, he said, such a vote would have taken weeks.

TELLS DISAPPROVAL

"Maybe I am placing myself in a rather foolish position when I stand before the House and bring in a bill which has clauses of which I don't fully approve.

"The papers have been trying to tell me what to do and no doubt some members in this House would like to tell me what to do."

Briefly the minister reviewed his 14 years as director of the government labor policy and added:

"I am concelled enough to think that in that time I've done some good for labor.

"I refuse to agree that because I disagree with some sections of the Act I should sever connections with the government and with the department of labor.

PULLS NO PUNCHES

Mr. Gargrave, as chief Opposition critic of labor, followed Mr. Pearson—and he pulled no punches in his criticism of the new Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

He was of the opinion that the Act was designed to cut down organized labor to the power it had in the 1930's.

He viewed with alarm the declaration of the labor minister that the government supervised strike vote, "which had one or two redeeming features" is to be made even stronger.

"If he expects organized labor to accept provisions of this kind he has a greater knowledge of organized labor than I have."

"The bill is in harmony with the thoughts of industrial leaders of British Columbia and similarly out of harmony with the thoughts and ideas of organized labor."

CLAIMS "TORIES" RULE

Introduction of the Bill, said Opposition Leader Winch, is concrete evidence that Tories rule the cabinet.

He wondered how the labor minister would be able to administer the Act when he was opposed to at least one important section.

Allan J. McDonell (Coalition, Vancouver Centre) declared the bill preserved the rights of organized labor as well as looking after the unorganized person who wants to work.

supporting such a bill."

"I thought he would come into the House in sack cloth and ashes and give up the ghost. I still think he should give up the ghost."

"LACK OF KNOWLEDGE"

Opposition Leader Harold Winch suggested Mr. Pearson "had succumbed to the wishes of those who hadn't the experience of knowledge he had."

The Coalition has not recognized the value of the labor minister's experience and wisdom, declared E. E. Winch, (CCF Burnaby).

There are to be two important changes in the bill as it was introduced, Mr. Pearson reported.

Penalties against individual members of a trade union will be eliminated and other penalties will be reduced by 50 per cent. But union members will be called on to vote, by secret ballot and under government supervision, specifically on whether they wish to go on strike.

From the minister's speech there was no denying there had been a crisis in caucus.

At one point he admitted he had disagreed with the caucus on the question of secret ballot-voting.

"I'm afraid that I have been misunderstood due to the great deal of unnecessary talking."

He favored the secret ballot, Mr. Pearson said, but he was convinced the trade unions were capable of handling their own affairs.

"A great many old time trade unions must take a secret ballot before they call a strike. My own feeling is that that should be the extent of the secret ballot."

"DEPEND ON UNIONS"

"My own view is that we can depend on labor organizations to take a secret ballot when we so

LAST DAYS OF THE LEGISLATURE

Wrangling Mingled With Mild Pleasantries

From The Vancouver Daily Province
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Although the House still plans to prorogue before Good Friday and despite the pressure of business that must be completed in the next three days, the Legislature on Monday found time to remember the little niceties of life, and even to wrangle.

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch heartily congratulated Premier John Hart on his birthday.

He believed the congratulations next would be offered in the Senate.

The premier admitted the birthday was his 68th but declared that he felt much younger.

SPECIAL CAUCUS

Within the following minute the House was hurried into the most dramatic scene it has witnessed during the current session.

Members of the opposition and the press gallery knew a special Coalition caucus to discuss the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act had ended two and a half hours previously.

Outside the walls of the government members room, where caucus meetings are held, there had been no hint of Labor Minister George S. Pearson's attitude.

His reading of the bill brought loud bursts of applause and protests thundered around Herbert Gargrave, CCF whip when he cracked back at Mr. Pearson.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch had queried the minister on what was to be done, if anything, on the bringing of railway employees under the B.C. labor laws.

He noted the courts had ruled against the CPR over the refusal by the company to grant employees of the Empress Hotel a 44-hour week in compliance with B.C. legislation.

The minister said he believed the case was going to be appealed, and stated his department would take over jurisdiction of the railway employees if it was practical.

But, he pointed out, it would be a difficult situation if the employees of one company were governed by the labor laws of the nine provinces.

Mr. Gargrave suggested that the minister was perhaps afraid of the CPR, it being such a large company, to which Mr. Pearson replied:

"I'm not afraid of the CPR or any other company. But I'm not going to make a fool of myself on a matter as involved as this."

Mr. Gargrave shot back; "You did this afternoon."

Members of the House, led by Premier Hart, jumped to their feet demanding a withdrawal of the remark and an apology to the minister. Voices were raised and for a time Chairman Thomas Love had difficulty being heard in his demands for order.

Mr. Gargrave finally withdrew the remark, telling the minister he was sorry.

Tom Uphill, the legislature's sole independent, wore his hat—exercising a member's prerogative.

Harold Winch, who scored the legislature's new fangled public address system when the session opened, even found favor with it, agreeing that the government's \$3000 spent on the device was a good idea, but added a rider that it needed a trained man to operate it—an observation with which all members agreed.

Mr. Winch, who is the legislature's sole qualified electrician, has answered many SOS's from members—government and opposition—in trouble with their switches.

The evening debate lacked the drama of the afternoon sitting but there were hectic moments as Lands Minister E. K. Kennedy pushed the revised forestry bill through committee.

Opposition Leader Winch took exception to the method in which the Lands Minister was explaining sections of the new act.

"Neither of us knows anything about forestry," commented Mr. Winch.

"I was in the logging business," replied Mr. Kennedy "before my honorable friend was dry behind the ears."

Members were patently slap-happy.

Press Gallery Honors Premier, Veteran Members

VICTORIA (CP) — Premier John Hart, ex-Premier T. D. Pattullo, and Thomas Uphill, lone Labor member of the House and its oldest member in consecutive years of service, were guests of honor at a reception given by the Press Gallery for all members of the House Monday.

Premier Hart and Mr. Pattullo were told that soon they would receive scrolls entitling them to honorary life membership in the Gallery, the former for 21 years of service, and the latter for 21 years completed in 1937.

The Gallery presented a brief case to Mr. Uphill to mark his 27th year as member for Fernie.

Vote Act Sets Language Limit

VICTORIA—British Columbia's new Election Act will include a provision that Chinese and East Indians must have an adequate knowledge of English or French before they are given the vote.

This recommendation was made today by the Election Act committee and will be included in the bill, now in second reading stage in the House. The provision previously was in the bill, was deleted, now is going back in again.

PGE To Get 50 Buses For Peace River Run

By Canadian Press

VICTORIA — The Provincial Government will provide \$200,000 for purchase of buses and trucks by the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company to operate a passenger and freight service over the John Hart highway into the Peace River district, under a 20 year franchise act now before the Legislature, Premier Hart announced after a meeting of the railway's board of directors.

It is in addition to the \$633,000 already provided this year for purchase of railway rolling stock and equipment with the \$200,000 the company will purchase three 50 passenger buses, three seven passenger automobiles, four trucks with a 10 ton pay load capacity, four four-wheeler trailers of 10 ton pay load, and four 1½ ton panel trucks for the transportation of express goods.

When the Hart highway is opened, it will be possible to make the trip from Dawson Creek to Vancouver by way of Squamish, a distance of 747 miles in 42 hours. The premier said

this compares with 64 hours from Dawson Creek to Vancouver by way of Edmonton, a distance of 1266 miles.

The bus service will provide three trips weekly, running from Dawson Creek to Quesnel, there to connect with the PGE train. It will take 16 hours, including two hours for stop-overs and rest periods. Buses will have reclining chairs so that passengers may sleep enroute. Passenger automobiles will meet chartering requirements.

At the same time, Premier Hart disclosed the purpose to which the \$663,000 for railway equipment is to be put. The company will purchase 75 new standard steel box freight cars, to cost \$300,000; 21 new standard steel flat cars, \$75,000; and two new Mikado type locomotives, \$210,000.

Used equipment to be purchased will include one passenger coach, \$10,000; three sleeping cars, \$45,000; one dining car, \$13,000; and one baggage and express car, \$10,000.

Voting Staff Can Handle Strike Ballot

From The Vancouver Daily Province
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Gordon Wismer told the Legislature this afternoon that provincial election machinery could handle government supervision of strike votes as called for in the new B.C. Labor Bill.

Strongly supporting the measure now before the House for second reading, the attorney-general declared there could thus be no objection to the measure on the grounds it could not be properly administered.

"I have been a supporter of labor for years," he said. "I can see no argument against a government-supervised vote. Those who opposed the measure, saying it is not possible, thus admit that you don't have a secret ballot when you go on strike."

Supporting Mr. Wismer, B.I. "Boss" Johnson, flatly denied that only Progressive-Conservative members of the Coalition had sponsored the compulsory government-supervised strike vote.

Beef Exports May Be Taxed Thirty Cents

VICTORIA (CP) — Agriculture Minister Putnam introduced a bill into the House Monday providing that "every person, including every co-operative association, shall pay to the minister the sum of 30 cents for each bull, steer, or female of the Bovine species, other than a cow, shipped by him for slaughter to a place outside the province; and he shall make returns and make payment to the minister in the manner and at times provided in respect of a packer by this act."

Attorney General Wismer introduced an amendment to the Escheats Act providing that where lands, tenements or heritaments, or any personal property, any interest or equity, has escheated or become forfeited to the Crown, the lieutenant-governor in council may appoint a person to take possession of all or part and manage it for some time as he thinks proper; may rent or sell by private sale any part, advertise for sale by tender or sell at public auction. The proceeds shall be freed from any claims, legal, equitable or moral.

An act to amend the local Improvement Act introduced Monday provides that in all municipalities except Victoria and Vancouver, all new loans or refunding loans must be issued on a serial basis, with a maximum of 30 years for repayment.

End of Liquor Permits Seen Big Aid to Tourist Traffic

By CLYDE GILMOUR,
Daily Province Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — British Columbia's two champion publicists put their heads close together here today like old-fashioned barber-shop harmonizers and sang a glad little April-the-First song—and they weren't fooling.

The warblers: Leo Sweeney, president of the Evergreen Playground Association and past president of the Vancouver Tourist Association, and George Warren, secretary-manager of the Victoria and Island Publicity Bureau.

"Make no mistake about it," said Mr. Sweeney, "the removal of liquor rationing and the abandonment of the pesky permit system, effective today, will be of tremendous help in encouraging tourist traffic in 1947."

RECORD YEAR

"You're right," said Mr. Warren. "All the signs point to an all-time record tourist year."

Mr. Sweeney conferred with Mr. Warren before boarding the ferry for Port Angeles in a two-day tour of B.C. and the state of Washington. His program includes talks with mayors and tourist officials in Port Angeles, Olympia, Tacoma and Seattle.

In Victoria, boosters Sweeney and Warren promptly ran into cheering news.

George Taulin, local agent for the Black Ball ferry line, told them plans are complete for installation June 1 of a new and vastly improved ferry service linking Seattle, Port Angeles and Victoria.

"We expect to carry 40,000 cars during June, July and August," said Mr. Taulin. "Probably 70 per cent of them will pass through Vancouver either coming or going. All previous records will be smashed."

Identification Numbers For Voters

VICTORIA (CP) — Provincial electors will be assigned numbers for identification purposes under an amendment to the Elections Act Bill now before the Legislature.

In second reading of the bill in the House Monday, R. H. Carson, chairman of the all party committee that spent most of last year reviewing the obsolete act, said new registration forms would be smaller and simpler than the old. Affidavits would no longer be required, and the old requirement of 30 day's residence in an electoral district would be removed.

The bill also makes provision for advanced polls and absentee ballot.

Its major change in the existing act will be to remove the disqualification of Chinese and East Indians, though Japanese will still be denied the vote unless they have actually served in the armed forces of Canada.

Contracts Worth \$15 Million In Road Work To Be Reviewed

From The Vancouver Daily Province
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Revision of government construction contracts totalling at least \$15,000,000 will be considered by a senior court judge.

In the Legislature Public Works Minister E. C. Carson gave notice of a resolution that would refer the applications of seven contractors for increases in their contracts to a supreme court or appeal court judge.

The companies, working on major projects in the province, including the Hope-Princeton and John Hart Hiways, have asked that their bids on the work be increased because of additional costs.

In a brief to the government they have pointed out that amendments to the Hours of Work Act and the Annual Holiday Act, passed in 1946, have substantially increased their costs on contracts accepted prior to the last session of the Legislature.

Similarly, they said, other government regulations had boosted costs beyond the estimates made when tenders were submitted.

Construction firms here have long sought provision of the "escalator clause" in government contracts, as is the case in the majority of ordinary commercial building contracts nowadays.

Rising costs, building men say, make it impossible to undertake work of any size at a fixed price, unless a clause is inserted in the agreement providing that if labor or materials advance, the added costs will be borne by the party ordering the work done.

Such a clause is known as the "escalator." The government is the only body which refuses to enter contracts containing escalator clauses. For this reason many contractors now decline to bid on government work.

CCF Advocates Co-op Supervision

VICTORIA — Supervision of co-operatives the same as with credit unions was advocated by CCF members led by Joseph Corsbie, Peace River member, in the House Monday.

Their pleas went unanswered during debate on second reading of an act to amend the Co-operative Associations Act.

Amendment to the act wipes out a ruling that owners of fish boats can not bid on fish caught by their boat if any crew members were members of co-operatives.

Minister Warns B.C. Hospitals

VICTORIA — If any hospital should be found to be discriminating against Workmen's Compensation Board patients, Labor Minister George S. Pearson told the House Monday night; "As provincial secretary I will cut off its grant."

Herbert Gargrave (CCF-Mackenzie) said he had been told that a Victoria hospital had failed to give proper service to a Workmen's Compensation board patient.

The minister pointed out that if any such case had arisen, a report should be made to the authorities immediately. But he added, it should be remembered that often times sick persons would grumble without justification about the service they received.

Labor Minister Urges Safety Drive

From The Vancouver Daily Province
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The increasing number of accidents in industry could be cut in half if employers took an interest in a safety program and urged employees to take precautions, Labor Minister George S. Pearson said in the House Monday night.

Arthur Turner (CCF-Vancouver East) asked the minister during estimates discussion if he could give any reason why the number of accidents was increasing.

Mr. Pearson said green hands were one reason, he guessed. Few accidents happened from faulty equipment.

Ward System To Be Abolished

VICTORIA — Abolition of the Ward system and automatic two-year terms for reeves and councillors is provided for in an act to amend the municipal elections act introduced in the House Monday by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald.

Labor Bill Passed By House

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, storm centre in the Coalition caucus in the Legislature for two weeks, was given third reading today and requires only the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor to be placed on the statute books.

The new provincial labor code will become law when dominion wartime labor regulations are withdrawn, probably in June.

The bill was passed only after members of the CCF opposition had resorted to every parliamentary weapon in efforts to prevent passage.

TRY TO DELETE CLAUSE

In third reading, almost invariably a formality, opposition members again tried to have the clause providing for government supervision of a compulsory strike vote deleted.

They forced a division but government members, including Labor Minister George S. Pearson who had expressed personal opposition to the clause, stood solidly in favor of its retention.

By a vote of 35-11 the House defeated an amendment introduced by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

PLENTY OF FIGHT

But there was still plenty of fight in the CCF.

Herbert Gargrave (CCF-Mackenzie), moved a second amendment to postpone third reading for six months, which in effect would have killed the bill.

That move, too, was lost.

Then Mr. Winch tried another dodge.

As the bill was up for third reading, he pointed out that in accordance with parliamentary procedure there should have been reprinted copies containing amendments passed in committee.

BILLS PRODUCED

After a three-minute delay the reprinted bills were produced and third reading was given.

In a lengthy battle Tuesday, Premier Hart had avoided a direct vote on the government supervision of strike votes clause, apparently to protect his labor minister whose opposition to the clause had brought a major crisis in caucus.

Today, there was no attempt by government members to dodge the issue. Without hesitation Mr. Pearson took his stand alongside his colleagues.

New On U Beer

VICTORIA — Empowering those taxes three per cent of public business legislature.

The legislation some of the provisions of the BEER PAR.

Annual tax vary from \$1 to the province \$600 down those who less than \$1.

Contrary executive of Municipality is not made voids that but not ex-mental value allows de-licenses pa-

Utilities cent tax wi-business ta-vements buildings a-be required

Telephone the taxes per cent of subscri-charges w-Gas and panies wi-of revenue gas or po-

COSTS E. Another the bill wi-den of rishties provie-longer pa-prisoners or for the imprisone-Conviction

Debt lin-for future cipalities to amend the legisla-

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Authori-ing meter is given

Car Plan

VICTORIA — is aimin public l least 90 motorist

Vehicle came be night fo-bate or-journed

British based on der whi-ists tak-ance ha-cent to-said he-followin-plan un-satisfac-

New Taxes On Utilities, Beer Parlors

VICTORIA (CP)—Legislation empowering municipalities to impose taxes on beer licensees, a three per cent tax on the revenues of public utilities and a general business tax was before the legislature Tuesday.

The legislation will implement some of the major recommendations of the Goldenberg Report.

BEER PARLOR TAX

Annual tax on beer parlors will vary from \$85 for those who pay to the province a license fee of \$600 down to \$30 annually for those who pay a license fee of less than \$350.

Contrary to the request of the executive of the union of B.C. Municipalities, the business tax is not made mandatory. It provides that the tax be based on, but not exceed 10 per cent of the rental value of the business and allows deduction of any trade licenses paid.

Utilities paying the three per cent tax will be exempt from the business tax and all taxes on improvements including pole lines, buildings and tracks, but will still be required to pay land taxes.

Telephone companies will pay the taxes on the basis of three per cent of gross rentals from subscribers, including toll charges within the municipality. Gas and light or power companies will pay three per cent of revenue received from sale of gas or power.

COSTS EASED

Another measure introduced in the bill which will ease the burden of rising costs in municipalities provides that they need no longer pay for the transport of prisoners to the provincial jail or for the maintenance of those imprisoned under the summary Convictions Act.

Debt limits and requirements for future borrowing by municipalities was set forth in a bill to amend the Municipal Act at the legislature Tuesday.

The bill provides that all money bylaws must be approved by the inspector of municipalities before being submitted to the electors.

Authority for installing parking meters in municipalities also is given in the bill.

Car Insurance Plan for B.C.

VICTORIA — The Government is aiming at the taking out of public liability insurance by at least 90 per cent of the province's motorists through the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act which came before the House Tuesday night for second reading. Debate on the reading was adjourned on motion of Arthur Turner (CCF, Vancouver East).

British Columbia's plan was based on the Manitoba plan under which the number of motorists taking out liability insurance had jumped from 27 per cent to 90 in a short time. He said he would not recommend following the Saskatchewan plan until it had been proved as satisfactory.

Poll Favors Beer Sale In Cafes

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Indication that majority of British Columbians favor sale of beer and light wines in restaurants came this afternoon when Opposition Leader Harold Winch released result of a CCF-inspired questionnaire answered by 7000 persons.

Seventy-five per cent said the Liquor Act should be so amended.

He declared 48 per cent wanted a Royal Commission investigation of the liquor situation "from production to distribution."

Mr. Winch was speaking during second reading of Liquor Act amendments.

He said 69 per cent of the 7000 people want food in beer parlors; 57 per cent want music in beer parlors; 81 per cent want more stringent beer license regulations; only 40 per cent favored cocktail bars; 50 per cent said night clubs should be subject to strict regulation.

The CCF leader accused the Coalition Government of evading the liquor problem. He said if the government is not prepared to amend the liquor regulations to provide for fundamental changes it should at least appoint a board of enquiry.

Wisner Denies Accusations Made by LPP

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Gordon S. Wisner denied in the House Tuesday night accusations he said had been made by Vancouver Labor Progressive Party representatives that he had misrepresented the facts in supporting the Vancouver Enabling Act.

He made the statement when the act came up for third reading and was passed. The act allows the City of Vancouver to grant a 20-year transportation franchise to the B.C. Electric Railway Company Ltd.

The attorney-general said there was no foundation to claims by John Turner, secretary of the Vancouver Labor Council, that he was pushing through the act against the wishes of responsible organizations in Vancouver.

Passage of the act was not opposed by the CCF. Opposition Leader Harold Winch stated he would not object as the agreement with the transportation company would hasten public ownership of the transportation system.

Straith Asks House to Study Medical School for Victoria

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — On learning that UBC board of governors had decided not to proceed with plans to establish a medical faculty at the university this year, W. T. Straith, (Coalition - Victoria) urged in the House Tuesday night that the minister of education investigate the possibility of putting a medical school into operation in Victoria.

His recommendation was overridden by a motion of Opposition Leader Harold Winch that the UBC board be asked to reconsider its decision. Debate on the subject was adjourned by Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Coalition-Victoria) until the next sitting.

The opposition leader said it

should be pointed out to the governors that the legislature not only expects but demands that a medical faculty be established this year.

WANTS IT IN VANCOUVER

He argued that to establish it in Victoria we unnecessary. "It can be, and should be in Vancouver, where all the needed facilities are available," he stated.

Mr. Straith had said that the board of governors of Victoria College had carried on in an efficient and economical manner in the past, and he was certain the college governors would be happy to have \$1,500,000 to establish a medical school. "I'm sure they would find that amount adequate, too," he said.

Victoria was well equipped with hospitals and most of the laboratory facilities required were available. Victoria, he said, was an ideal place for a medical school.

MLA's to List Part of Pay As Expenses

VICTORIA (CP)—The Legislature Tuesday night rushed through all three readings a further amendment to the Constitution Act that will make yet another change in the designation of MLAs' sessional indemnities.

Last week, the House approved an amendment that would enable them to escape income tax on up to \$1,500 of their \$3,000 indemnities by changing expenses in connection with legislative duties, on production of vouchers.

Changes Tuesday night will mean that of the total annual payment, \$2,000 will be shown as salary and the remainder as expenses, to enable members to show up to \$1,000 for expenses in income tax returns.

Provision also was made for the additional \$2000 paid as an allowance each year to the leader of the opposition to be shown as expenses.

City Given Tax Powers

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Additional amendments to the Vancouver charter empowering the city to implement the taxation recommendations of the Goldenberg report were rushed through the Legislature today.

Attorney-General Gordon S. Wisner explained that the legislation, which is permissive, provides the city with the authority to increase taxation on improvements to 75 per cent of the assessed value and to levy a business tax.

The attorney general stressed that the change would not necessarily mean these taxes will be imposed. The City Council now will have power to introduce them if it sees fit.

Forestry To Be Profession

VICTORIA (CP)—Third "professional" act to be brought down this session was introduced in the House by Herbert J. Welch (Cln-Comox).

It provides professional status to foresters, under an association of B.C. foresters with head office in Vancouver.

Heading a provisional council of the association is C. D. Orchard, deputy minister of forests.

DEGREE IN FORESTRY

Membership qualification calls for a degree in forestry or allied science of B.C. University or another recognized college, and at least two years in forestry after graduation.

There is provision for membership for men engaged in forestry for at least 10 years, with at least five years' of practice in this province.

FEES UP TO \$50

Annual membership fee will be up to \$50.

If passed, the act will not come into effect for one year.

B.C. Judges Get Pay Boost

VICTORIA (CP) — The 13 county court judges of British Columbia, who get a salary of \$6600 from the Dominion Government, will receive another \$1000 from the province, under an amendment the County Courts Act introduced in the Legislature Tuesday night by Attorney-General Wisner.

Petroleum Act

VICTORIA—Hon. E. T. Kenny, minister of lands and forests, told the House Tuesday he believed passage of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act would induce large oil companies to prospect oil fields in the northern sections of the province. The act was given second reading.

CCF Charges 'Fascism' As Strike Vote Passed

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA—British Columbia's Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, including the compulsory strike vote clause, will become law when the Dominion Wartime Labor Code is withdrawn.

With a half-dozen other important bills, the Act was passed through committee in the House Tuesday. It will come up for third reading today.

Bitter opposition to the compulsory strike vote under government supervision developed as opposition members charged the government with "Fascist tactics."

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch declared, "there can not be a strike of any kind in the province unless there is a government-supervised vote."

"By this," he said, "you are actually curtailing the only effective strength that the organized worker has."

Herbert Gargrave (CCF-Mackenzie), who asserted British Columbia "was going to stand out like a beacon," because of the legislation, urged that the section be replaced by the clause in the old Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act which gave the minister of labor power to order a government-supervised vote.

"It would be a blot on the industrial laws of the province to pass this section we are discussing."

"We are signifying that this legislature has no confidence in the ability of the trade union movement in B.C. to run its own affairs."

"I don't think unions have al-

Sought to Trap Minister

Repeatedly they tried to trap Labor Minister George S. Pearson on his own admission that he personally could not support the clause calling for government supervision of strike votes.

At one time it appeared Opposition Leader Winch would force a recorded vote on the issue but, with Premier John Hart spearheading the counter-attack, government forces forestalled the effort.

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Herbert Gargrave (CCF-Mackenzie) charged the government with side-stepping when the Liquor Act was up for second reading. He again urged a Royal Commission, claiming such a body would show beer interests contributed to campaign funds, and that brewers were being protected by the government. Refusal of application of the Veterans' Brewery (Holding) Ltd., was an instance of such protection, he charged.

Labor Minister Carson said the government will make arrangements for upward revision of public work contracts to cover

rising costs caused by circumstances beyond the control of contractors.

GARGRAVE

Liquor

From The Vancouver Daily Province
VICTORIA—The Provincial Liquor Commission, headed by Herbert Gargrave, told the House today that the Commission is in the process of being set up in British Columbia.

Mr. Gargrave said the Commission is now in its second reading stage. It is a body which will be controlled by the government. There is a possibility of its being set up in the future.

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"It is no provincial matter," replied Attorney-General S. Wismer. "The Commission is only the first step in the process of setting up a new liquor commission."

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As a result of the visit, the attorney-general had nothing to say about the province. He said the Commission is now in its second reading stage. It is a body which will be controlled by the government. There is a possibility of its being set up in the future.

Second adjournment. Harold

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1947

GARGRAVE CRITICAL

Liquor Act Changes Called Disappointing

From The Vancouver Daily Province
Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Amendments to the Provincial Liquor Act, Herbert Gargrave (CCF-Mackenzie) told the House "are a disappointment to the people of British Columbia."

Mr. Gargrave, speaking on second reading of the liquor bill, again raised the case of Veterans Brewery Holding Ltd. charging that the beer industry in B.C. is controlled by a monopoly.

LICENCE UNUSED

There is a beer licence in Vancouver, he charged that is not in use and should logically be turned over to the veterans brewery organization.

"It is not a question for the provincial government to decide," replied Attorney General Gordon S. Wisner. "It is something that only the Dominion Government can settle."

The member for Mackenzie renewed his plea for a royal commission to investigate the whole liquor problem.

He made no attempt to hide his displeasure at the failure of the government to take steps to eliminate the faults in the present liquor distribution system.

VISITED ENGLAND

The attorney general, he noted, had visited England during the past year and had indicated he planned to study the liquor legislation in that country.

As a native of England, Mr. Gargrave was supposing the attorney general could find nothing more substantial in the Old Country's liquor laws than the amendments that had been introduced.

Second reading of the bill was adjourned by Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch.

The Trade Union Vote

THOUGH he says he believes that government supervision of compulsory secret strike votes is almost impossible of administration, Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, moved second reading of his industrial bill and at the same time denied any suggestion that he resign because he disagreed with his cabinet colleagues.

He said he is in favor of secret ballots "but I do not think supervision is necessary as a general thing. We can depend on the honor of the unions to take secret ballots." He admitted concern, however, at the public feeling that there was faking in strike ballots.

Mr. Pearson is naive if he believes in the honor of all the unions. Some of them act with integrity in the matter of the ballot but it's because others are not so honest—others whose leaders are irresponsible racketeers—that there is need for supervised voting. Those unions which guard the secrecy of the vote can have no objection to this added protection of the rights of members; those who have failed in their responsibility have made the loud protests.

The object of this clause is to ensure that the wishes of the ordinary union member should become clearly known because the rank and file have not previously had a full and free voice in the actions of their leaders.

British Columbia is on the eve of vast development. Prospects for the future are rosier than they have ever been. What we make of the chances is in the hands of both unions and management. The unions are an integral part of the plans to exploit these opportunities; they can make or mar them. In the wide field for expanded enterprise that now lies ahead of us, management has a right to be assured of the co-operation of labor.

If that is done, if there is reasonable assurance of a long industrial peace, then all will share in the prosperity.

Meanwhile it is a healthy sign that the majority of the government members and the majority of the members of the Legislature recognized the importance of the issue and gave it courageous consideration.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1947

CCF Loses Fight to Give Japanese Vote

From The Vancouver Daily Province
Victoria Bureau

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The Municipal Elections Act which gives the vote to Chinese and East Indians who have an adequate knowledge of English or French, but excludes Japanese, was given second reading during the afternoon.

Then at the night sitting, verbal missiles began to fly again when the Act was being discussed in committee of the House.

FOR EVERYONE

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Asked by Mrs. Tillie Rolston (Coalition-Point Grey) if he was in favor of giving back fishing licenses on this coast to the Japanese, Mr. Winch stated he was in favor of giving everyone living in Canada, naturalized citizens or citizens by birth, the right to make a living.

Hon. E. T. Kenney, minister of lands and forests, asked if he was speaking for the CCF party.

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As he started to answer, A. R. MacDougall (Coalition-Point Grey) called out: "Answer yes or no."

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"The lady doesn't have to worry. Someone else will catch her some fish, if she ever cooks any," he stormed.

CCF Charges 'Fascism' As Strike Vote Passed

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA—British Columbia's Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, including the compulsory strike vote clause, will become law when the Dominion Wartime Labor Code is withdrawn.

With a half-dozen other important bills, the Act was passed through committee in the House Tuesday. It will come up for third reading today.

Bitter opposition to the compulsory strike vote under government supervision developed as opposition members charged the government with "Fascist tactics."

Opposition Leader Harold E. Winch declared, "there can not be a strike of any kind in the province unless there is a government-supervised vote."

"By this," he said, "you are actually curtailing the only effective strength that the organized worker has."

Herbert Gargrave (CCF-Mackenzie), who asserted British Columbia "was going to stand out like a beacon," because of the legislation, urged that the section be replaced by the clause in the old Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act which gave the minister of labor power to order a government-supervised vote.

"It would be a blot on the industrial laws of the province to pass this section we are discussing."

"We are signifying that this legislature has no confidence in the ability of the trade union movement in B.C. to run its own affairs."

"I don't think unions have al-

Sought to Trap Minister

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LEGISLATURE ENDS SECOND SESSION

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA—The second session of British Columbia's twenty-first Legislature this morning passed into history. In the Legislative Chamber where, for the past seven weeks, political philosophies, and the problems of the province and its constituent municipalities have been vigorously debated, Lieutenant Governor Charles A. Banks gave formal assent to more than 100 new bills.

The forty-seven private members who participated in the session are departing for their homes and for the next ten months the province will be run by the Executive Council.

It is impossible to evaluate the legislation that today was written into the statute books of the province. But the number and volume of the new acts to which His Honor today gave Royal assent far exceeds anything the Provincial Legislature has produced in recent years.

In his prorogation address, the lieutenant-governor noted the government plans to spend \$50,000,000 on roads, bridges and buildings in the province and that \$10,000,000 has been provided as additional capital for the development of the B.C. Power Commission operations.

Revision of the B.C. liquor laws, he said, will tend to improve the administration of the sale of liquor.

The deliberations of the House have produced some notable changes in the everyday life of the people of B.C.

No longer does a customer have to produce a permit to make a purchase in a liquor store.

HOLD VOTES

Labor Unions, when the statute becomes effective, (probably in June) will have to hold strike votes under government supervision before their members can walk off the job.

Provision has been made to place responsibility for damages arising out of injuries received in a traffic accident on the motorist.

A completely new system of forestry has been introduced in the province.

Canadian citizens of the East Indian and Chinese races will be permitted to vote in Provincial and Dominion elections.

Rigid restrictions have been placed on the operations of mutual benefit societies that provide death, accident or sickness benefits.

Provincial income taxes will be shelved for another five years.

School teachers in the future will automatically become members of the B.C. Teachers Federation.

Provision has been made for payment of 80 per cent of all social welfare charges by the province in accordance with the Goldenberg recommendations.

County Court judges will receive an additional \$1000 annually for their duties in succession duty and probate cases.

Labor Lack Delays Road Construction

VICTORIA — One contracting firm in British Columbia is bankrupt, a second is on the verge of bankruptcy, and contracts on the Hope - Princeton and John Hart Highways may be delayed because of their perilous financial condition.

In the dying minutes of the Legislature early today, Opposition Leader Harold Winch, speaking on a resolution to enable contractors employed on a dozen specific governments job to seek revision of the contracts, reported the condition of the companies involved.

In a reply to a question by the opposition leader, Public Works Minister E. C. Carson reported that no work could be done on the John Hart Highway anyway at the present time because of snow conditions.

MORE FUNDS

Dealing with the Hope-Princeton Highway, Mr. Carson said he understood that if the Legislature agreed to the resolution, the bank would be willing to advance additional funds to the contractor involved on that job.

J. H. Corsbie (CCF-Peace River) outlining some of the difficulties faced by contractors on the John Hart Highway, reported that irresponsible employees had wrecked trucks, tractors and other equipment.

The contractors, Mr. Corsbie said, were forced to employ these men because there was no other labor available.

The resolution was approved despite opposition from W. A. C. Bennett (Cln-South Okanagan) who maintained that since the contractors had taken the work for a set figure, they should receive no additional aid.

Blood Test Bill Beaten

VICTORIA — The pre-marital blood test provision, which has been on British Columbia's statutes for some years but has never been enacted, can not be put into effect until the Department of Health and Welfare has the facilities for handling the tests.

Health Minister George S. Pearson, speaking on second reading of a bill introduced by E. E. Winch (CCF-Burnaby) that would make the tests effective at once, told the House Tuesday afternoon that as soon as the facilities are available he will advise the Executive Council.

Weary B.C. Members Call It a Day—at 5.24

By GORDON ROOT

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—At 5:24 a.m. today, with dawn breaking over the Olympic mountains, members of British Columbia's Legislature filed out of the chamber ending the longest single sitting in the provincial house in more than 20 years.

For nine solid hours the representatives of the people of the province had debated, argued, threatened, cajoled, promised and complained.

But when they finally called it a day the order paper was cleared and the work of the session was at an end.

Since the morning sitting opened at 1030 am there had been 15 hours of passing laws, or rejecting them, of deciding what is good and what is bad for the people of British Columbia.

To the final vote there was lengthy discussion with Premier John Hart and opposition leader Harold E. Winch still leading their respective forces.

AMAZING KEENNESS

There was a keenness that was virtually amazing.

It was natural that after 46 sittings and seven weeks of talking, the members should go a little berserk—and they spent the night "doin'-what comes naturally."

For instance—two cabinet ministers, Mr. Anscomb and Mr. Wismer, voted against the government in supporting a CCF amendment to the Elections Act.

Herbert Gargrave, (CCF-Mackenzie) told government members in general and A. R. MacDougall (CLN-Vancouver Point Grey) in particular, to "shut up."

WOMEN'S PARTY

Mrs. Nancy Hodges (CLN-Victoria) gazed into the future and predicted that some day she might lead a women's party in the province.

John McInnis (CCF-Fort George) glared across the floor of the House and declared "that Liberals make me sick."

Although they knew they were staying in session until the order paper was cleared, the 46 speaking members in the House started out at 830 with an amazing amount of vigor. By midnight they were beginning to fade and at one am all but a few die-hards were prepared to call it a day.

The Elections Act, without a compulsory voting clause, was finally passed, but it took two hours to get the bill through the committee.

Ward System Not Ruled Out

VICTORIA—The ward system in British Columbia municipalities, slated for abolition in the amendments to the Municipal Act introduced this week, will not necessarily disappear when the act becomes law.

An additional amendment introduced early today by Municipal Affairs Minister R. C. MacDonald will permit those municipalities now using the system to continue if they pass a resolution to that effect before June 30 of this year.

Liquor Act Amendments Defeated

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The distribution and consumption of liquor in British Columbia remained the outstanding subject among members of the Legislature as the House completed its duties for the year with three long winded sittings Wednesday.

The Opposition, with some support from the government benches, sought passage of amendments to the Government Liquor Act that would permit the sale of soft drinks and sandwiches in beer parlors, and would prevent the sale of beer parlor licenses.

Attorney General Gordon S. Wismer stood firm against both amendments, but three government members, W. A. C. Bennett (South Okanagan), Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Victoria) and Dr. J. J. Gillis (Yale), voted with the opposition on the elimination of license transfers.

The CCF led by Herbert Gargrave, (Mackenzie) charged that in many cases beer parlor proprietors were making excessive profits from the sale of licenses issued by the government.

Harold Winch Finally Puts First Bill Through

VICTORIA (CP) — For the first time in 16 sessions in 14 years of his career as a member of the Legislature, Opposition Leader Harold Winch put a bill through third reading early this morning. It was an amendment to the Annual Holidays Act adding a section providing the "holidays due or accruing due or their equivalent in wages and moneys due and accruing under the act shall be deemed to be wages payable to employees for work done."

Labor Minister Pearson strengthened the bill by amendments but permitted Mr. Winch to pilot it through third reading.

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Thursday, April 3, 1947

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Love—the Hustler From Grand Forks

By ERIC RAMSDEN

THERE are some things in public life that Tom Love hasn't done. But whatever they may be, it's only because the well known Grand Forks MLA simply hasn't had time.

And his public service stretches through so many fields that where his name is mentioned the response will depend upon the group that hears it, for he is known in municipal circles, in the halls of government, in newspaper editorial rooms and executive offices, in sports arenas and on ball grounds.

Now he goes to Victoria as representative for Grand Forks-Greenwood. But between sittings he has been pressing forward his newest venture, a brick manufacturing plant, soon to go into production.

Tom Love was Ontario-born and educated. He left school in his teens—something about a scrap with a teacher that he doesn't enlarge upon. When he was 19 he was city clerk and treasurer at Rainy River, Ont. He conducted civic elections there before he was old enough to vote himself.

Then he got into the newspaper business—first at Morden, Man., in 1905; next at the now-extinct mining town of Phoenix in 1908; and then at Grand Forks in 1911.

His Grand Forks Gazette became one of the most widely known weeklies in western Canada, not only through Mr. Love's activities in newspaper associations, but as a winner in Canada-wide competitions. Four times the Gazette received the Savage Cup as the best paper in its circulation class in Canada.

When Mr. Love retired in 1942 he was the senior weekly editor in B.C.

Between times he served terms as president of the B.C.-Yukon Press Association and vice-president of the B.C. Weeklies. He took time out in 1924 to

go to Britain with Hugh Savage of Duncan. They were B.C. representatives with a Canadian weekly press delegation.

During World War I he was commissioned as a lieutenant and recruited nearly 400 men in Grand Forks district. In World War II he campaigned for victory loans and helped keep Grand Forks' flag up at the top.

Those activities would have been enough for most men, but Tom Love had wider interests. He put in seven years as school board chairman and served as mayor of Grand Forks for 16 years. In that period he was continuously on the executive of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, and served five years as a vice-president and two years as president.

But Tom Love saw other fields to conquer as well. So after years on the executive of the Conservative Association of British Columbia he became its president for 1937-38.

His sports connections dip into the historic, wild and woolly Boundary Hockey League in which rip-roaring teams from Phoenix, Grand Forks and Greenwood played almost as much for scalps as for goals. As Phoenix secretary he challenged eastern Canada champions of the day for the Stanley Cup, but by the time Phoenix' turn came there was no ice in the Boundary "so it never came off."

One of the earliest ski clubs in the west, at Phoenix, elected him its honorary president.

Evidently a believer in the old adage that it takes a busy man to get things done, Tom Love tucked in a few other activities—such as holding office in the Masonic and IOOF orders, and putting in a term as president of Grand Forks Gyro Club.

And all this while his four children, a son and three daughters, were growing up.

Plan to Tax Capped Wells

VICTORIA — Lands and Forests Minister E. T. Kenney agreed with Opposition Leader Harold Winch in the House Wednesday that additional taxation should be levied against oil companies which cap oil wells capable of producing.

The minister said, on third reading of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act, that he would study the question with a view to amending the act next year to give this provision.

Winch Gets Last Motion Approved

VICTORIA—Opposition Leader Harold Winch was victorious on the last piece of Legislation before the second sitting of the 21st Legislative Assembly.

His motion that the government urge the UBC board of governors to reconsider its decision on the establishment of a medical faculty, was passed at exactly 5.21 this morning.

The board earlier announced it would not take advantage of the government's offer of \$1,500,000 this year to set up a medical school.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1947

The Session Ends

THE SECOND session of the 21st Legislature ended in time for the Easter holidays. It was a busy seven weeks in which much progressive legislation was passed. It was notable for the size of the budget brought down by Hon. Herbert Anscomb and a record plan of public works.

The inauguration of a new forestry system to ensure perpetual yield, the establishment of financial responsibility in motor accidents, the enfranchising of East Indians and Chinese, the supervision of labor strike votes, the restrictions on mutual benefit societies, and the establishment of a fisheries department were all measures from which the province will benefit.

The most notable thing the government did not do was to bring in an adequate revision of the Liquor Act.

The session ended with two matters in the minds of the legislators: speculation as to whether Premier John Hart will go to the Senate before the Legislature meets again, and what will be the solution of the PGE problem. It is generally believed that when the railway matter is settled the premier might consider another appointment. This will involve the future of the coalition and its leadership and therefore important developments are possible before the next session.

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1947

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1947

Legislative Funk

By J. P. FELL

Again we are told that the B.C. Legislature is going to put off any real improvement of the provincial liquor laws. The reason given is that the parties in caucus cannot agree among themselves or between parties on the necessary amendments.

A few minor improvements may be made, such as doing away with permits, and establishing liquor stores in outlying districts. But the stupidest, most hypocritical and irritating regulations of all are to remain in force, a monument to the blundering timidity of our legislators. It is to continue to be illegal to drink anything alcoholic with your food in public, or eat anything when you drink beer in public.

Salt used to be the only thing supplied free in beer parlors, and probably is still, because it increases the capacity for absorption.

Furthermore, the worst element of all is to be enlarged. The beer parlors are to be increased in number. This gives a key to the mystery. The party leaders cannot afford to refuse the help which the brewers and the beer parlor owners may offer to party funds, and the private members are told that they can get no help from these funds if subscriptions are not freely forthcoming.

So beer swilling and bedroom boozing is to remain one of the great secondary industries of British Columbia. All this at the request of the brewers, beer parlors and bootleggers who apparently hold the whip hand over our legislators without regard to party and amid the restrained applause of a small band of well-meaning but wrong-headed teetotallers. Common horse sense and a frank regard for the ordinary citizen seem to be rare virtues in our legislative halls.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1947

PEOPLE TELL ME - Al Williamson

SILENT ASSENT: Newspaper editorials and comment which has come our way, indicates there are a great many wishful thinkers who believe Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., attorney-general, should have pushed through a number of revolutionary reforms to the Liquor Act during the session which we watched in action in Victoria yesterday.

There is one thing those people have overlooked. That is that they were not at all vocal on the subject. Mr. Wismer, during the last two months, has received a great many carefully-considered and strongly-supported protests against any amendments to the act. To use the attorney-general's own description, he has a "whole room full" of resolutions, "briefs and messages vigorously protesting any changes to the Liquor Act which would in any way broaden its operation. On the other side of the picture, Mr. Wismer hasn't a single line to show why there should be any changes toward improvement of the act. Oh, yes. Some acquaintances have told him during informal discussions that British Columbia's Liquor Act is antiquated, that it is a hindrance to the tourist trade and that it tends to make law-breakers out of otherwise respectable citizens. But not one of these persons has taken a single step to counteract the volume of protests from the "drys" who, if given their way, would tighten the act to the point of complete prohibition. Upon the thousands who are disappointed that there has not been modification of our drinking laws rests the responsibility.



They just didn't move a hand to bring about the changes they ostensibly desire. Blaming the attorney-general is just the lazy man's way of shirking that responsibility.

FISH FRY: Although there is no complaint about the way in which Hon. Leslie H. Eyres has administered the portfolio of fisheries, there is a movement afoot in the Parliament Buildings at Victoria to transfer the mantle to Tom King, the genial member for Golden. Reason for this is the fact that Mr. King on Monday dined the entire legislature on fresh-caught fish. The idea of a fishing expedition originated with W. T. Straith, member for Victoria. But the free meal in the parliamentary restaurant was strictly Mr. King's idea.

Two boats set out from Brentwood on Sunday, heavy-laden with notables of the House. One contained Air Vice-Marshal L. F. Stevenson, Mr. Straith, Hon. E. C. Carson, Art Ritchie, Bert Welch and Jim Mowat. In the other boat were R. H. Carson, Jim Webster, W. A. C. Bennett, W. J. Johnson and Mr. King. Rods flayed the air and grise and salmon were dragged out of the water at very brief intervals. The total take was 23 fish and next day, in the parliamentary restaurant, the chef duplicated the fete of the fishes and the loaves of bread and served not only the members, but the press gallery, the sessional staff and several visitors. Old-timers remarked it was the biggest crowd they had ever seen in the restaurant, which normally is a very quiet, sparsely-occupied back room on the top floor of the buildings.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1947

Day in the House

By J. K. NESBITT

MINISTER OF LABOR DISAGREES

VICTORIA, April 1.—A tense Legislature Monday listened to the minister of labor announce he disagrees with his colleagues in the government and in the Coalition caucus on the supervised strike vote in the new labor bill, but, despite that he sees no reason why he should sever his connection with the government.

Mr. Pearson said some people made it appear in recent days that a crisis had arisen in government ranks over the labor bill. He said that was not so. And then he said his position is very awkward and that a new labor relations board will handle administration of the act.

There is no more sincere person than George Pearson. As he spoke Monday he was deep in

conviction he was doing the correct thing. He presented his case, in straightforward manner, on the most difficult situation he has ever had to face. He announced the compromise by which the government was saved—the strike vote stays in, the penalties on employees for illegal strikes goes out.

Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, first speaker for the opposition, said he was sorry Mr. Pearson should mar 14 years in the labor portfolio by bringing in so backward an act. He termed it a vicious act and said that under it reactionary employer interests will have their hands strengthened, but, despite that, unions are determined no legislature will take away their rights.

WINCH FEARS LIBERALS ROTTING

Labor member Tom Uphill said that, under the bill, there will be industrial war, instead of industrial peace. Mine workers he warned, will never give up their right to strike. He said that, if the government has the right to supervise strike votes, why shouldn't it take the right to supervise meetings of directors of corporations. He termed the bill most undemocratic.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch saw in the bill a sign the Conservative wing of the government has now reached the point of rotting Liberalism and stifling any progressive

thought the Liberals ever had. To him it appeared the bill proves Premier Hart, even though controlling the majority of the Coalition, has lost control to the Tories.

"This bill proves conclusively and concretely the Tories now rule the government—otherwise we would never have had seen this type of legislation," Mr. Winch said. He wondered how it is possible to have a minister of labor opposing one of the most important sections of his own legislation. "It just can't be done," he said.

THE PREMIER WOULD RATHER FISH

Burnaby's C.C.F. Mr. Winch paid tribute to Mr. Pearson, who, he said, has done more than any other cabinet minister to build up the stature of the government—and it is regrettable—"members of the Coalition, in their ignorance, have not recognized the value of his wisdom."

The day had a pleasant moment. It was Premier Hart's 68th birthday, so Opposition Leader Winch wished him many happy returns. It is always a pleasure to honor Mr. Hart, said Mr. Winch—though never, never, politically. Mr. Winch noted that if all the signs are correct, it will be the last opportunity to honor Mr. Hart in this House, though, as far as Mr. Winch could figure out, Mr. Hart certainly hasn't

enough rheumatoid, arthritis or paralysis, except in a political sense, of course, to go to the Senate. Mr. Hart, all smiles, thanked the House and said he doesn't look forward to the Senate nearly as much as he does to playing golf and going fishing.

The premier served notice the grind is now on. He moved that the House go in to three sittings a day—morning afternoon and night, in a desperate attempt to prorogue by Wednesday night. Three more messages bills came in at the close of Monday afternoon, the opposition groaned aloud and Mr. Winch said "it's getting to be a bad habit." In the opinion of long-time observers of the Legislative scene, never before have so many bills come in in the dying hours of a session.

Special to The News-Herald 'UP TO MUNICIPALITY'

VICTORIA, April 1.—Amount of the business tax, proposed in the Goldenberg report on provincial-municipal financial relations, will be left to the municipalities. Amendments to the Municipal Act, expected to be brought into the legislature today will give the municipalities power to levy such a tax, but by what amount is up to the municipalities concerned.

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B.C. Labor Act OK'd, 35 to 11

**Pearson, Strike Vote Check Stay;
Some Penalties Dropped from Bill**

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA, April 1 — Government supervised strike votes will remain in B.C.'s new Labor Act, but proposed penalties of \$10 a day on employees striking contrary to the act will be cut out and \$250 a day fines for employers and trades unions causing lockouts or strikes reduced to \$125 a day, Labor Minister George Pearson told the legislature Monday in moving second reading of the new Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

A labor relations board called for in the act, Mr. Pearson said, will be set up as soon as possible to administer the act.

'DISGRACE' SAYS WINCH

Opposition Leader Harold Winch termed the bill a disgrace to British Columbia.

On division 35 government members voted solidly for second reading and Tom Uphill (Labor-Fernie) opposed it with the 10 C.C.F. members.

Mr. Pearson said it is quite true he does not agree with his colleagues as far as the supervised strike vote is concerned.

"I don't think a supervised secret strike vote is necessary as a general thing," Mr. Pearson said.

"The majority of our unions—particularly the old time unions, must, according to their constitutions take secret ballots before they go on strike.

"My own view is we can depend on the honor of our labor organizations."

"DEPEND ON LABOR"

Mr. Pearson said there is no doubt a great deal of alarm "among the people of British Columbia regarding stories—true or false—about the way unions take their votes." He said many of these stories, to him, are ridiculous.

One of the most difficult of labor problems was that of unfair labor practices. It was not satisfactory to take the parties into court, particularly where authority partly lay with Ottawa.

The referee provision in the new act would give one person power to go in and investigate complaints to determine whether there was sufficient ground to take them into court, but mainly to see if the parties could be brought together.

EXPLAINS POSITION

Of the most contentious clause, that providing for government supervision of votes, Mr. Pearson said:

"I must confess that here I am in disagreement with my colleagues. I don't want to be misunderstood. The whole question has brought a great deal of unnecessary talking, without foundation.

"I am in favor of secret ballots, but I don't think supervision is necessary as a general thing.

"I tried for another reason to dissuade by colleagues. From the standpoint of administration it (the supervised vote) is cumbersome and almost impossible of administration.

"Had I been required to take one in the I.W.A. strike it would have taken weeks, and I would not have got a satisfactory ballot.

"I have been minister of labor for 14 years. I'm human, and after the experience I've had I don't like to be told by people with only little experience what I should do.

"WOULDN'T LET YOU"

"I refuse to believe that because I disagree with this provision I should sever my connection with the government and labor. I feel I still have service to give . . . people will say 'Why doesn't he get out?'"

Premier Hart interrupted to say: "You couldn't. We wouldn't let you."

The minister said that just because he disagrees with some clauses of the bill, is no reason why he should sever his connection with the government.

Mr. Pearson said both unions and management have not settled down in the proper spirit of collective bargaining, that there is too much jockeying for position.

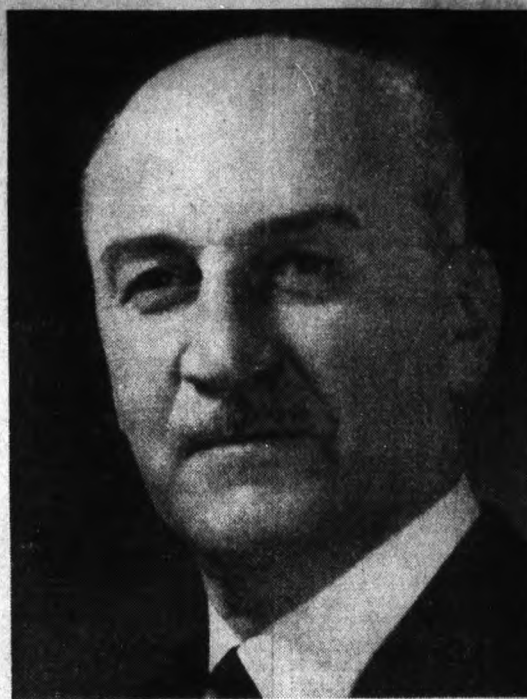
"If they can't get down to true collective bargaining we are all going to suffer," Mr. Pearson said.

Herbert Gargrave, (C.C.F., Mackenzie), said if the bill is enacted, there will be no industrial peace in B.C. for many years to come.

"The reactionary employer interests will have their hands strengthened," Mr. Gargrave said. "Unions are determined the legislature of B.C. is not going to take away their rights."

Thos. Uphill, Labor, Fernie, said if the bill is passed "instead of industrial peace, you are going to get industrial war."

A. J. Turner (C.C.F., Vancouver East) opposed the bill as a backward step.



—Pictures and Comment by Charach.

IN WAR AND NOW IN PEACE.—Leigh Stevenson, Coalition member of the Legislature for Vancouver-Point Grey, made a name for himself in the R.C.A.F. during the war when he rose to the rank of air vice-marshal. He is similarly making good in politics in this, his first session. He was elected at a by-election last year. A man of distinction, confidence and capability.

Bovine, Escheats Bills Introduced

VICTORIA, April 1.—(CP)—Agriculture Minister Putnam introduced a bill into the House Monday providing that "every person, including every cooperative association, shall pay to the minister the sum of 30 cents for each bull, steer, or female of the bovine species, other than a cow, shipped by him for slaughter to a place outside the province; and he shall make returns and make payment to the minister in the manner and at times provided in respect of a packer by this act."

Attorney-General Wismer introduced an amendment to the Escheats Act providing that where lands, tenements or heritaments, or any personal property, any interest or equity, has escheated or become forfeited to the Crown, the Lieutenant-Governor in council may appoint a person to take possession of all or part and manage it for some time as he thinks proper; may rent or sell by private sale any part, advertise for sale by tender or sell at public auction the proceeds shall be freed from any claims, legal equitable or moral.

Pearson OK's Winch Bill

VICTORIA, April 1.—(CP)—Labor Minister George S. Pearson is apparently accepting Opposition Leader Harold Winch's proposed amendment to the Annual Holidays Act which will provide for sums due in lieu of holiday time be considered wages.

Mr. Winch's bill is designed to plug a loophole found since the original act came into effect last year.

Mr. Pearson has placed on the B.C. Legislature's order paper an amendment to Mr. Winch's bill which adds other provisions but does not subtract from Mr. Winch's proposal.

Liquor Curbs Off Today

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA, April 1.—Rationing and liquor permits end in British Columbia today. Actual amendment to the Liquor Act, outlawing permits, will not become legal until the lieutenant-governor signs the bill Wednesday, but the Liquor Control Board has ruled that, starting today, liquor may be purchased without a permit.

P.G.E. Gets New Grant For Buses

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA, April 1.—A further \$200,000 will be provided by the government to purchase passenger and freight service equipment for the Hart Highway into the Peace River district, it is announced by Premier John Hart.

This road service will be operated by the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, of which Mr. Hart is president.

The new sum is in addition to \$663,000 already provided this year to purchase necessary equipment for the railway itself.

With the \$200,000 the company will buy three 50-passenger buses; three seven-passenger automobiles; four trucks, with a 10-ton payload capacity; four four-wheeler trailers with 10-ton payload capacity; and four one-and-a-half-ton panel trucks for express goods.

RAILWAY CARS

Mr. Hart also announced details of the equipment to be purchased for the railway with the \$663,000. This will comprise 75 new standard steel box freight cars, costing \$300,000; 21 new standard steel flat freight cars, costing \$75,000; two new Mikado type locomotives, costing about \$210,000.

Used equipment to be bought will include one passenger coach, \$10,000; three sleeping-cars, \$45,000; one dining-car, \$13,000; one baggage and express car, \$10,000.

When the John Hart Highway is opened in the spring of next year it will be possible to make the trip from Dawson Creek to Vancouver, via the P.G.E. and steamer from Squamish, a distance of 747 miles, in 42 hours, compared with 64 hours from Dawson Creek to Vancouver via Edmonton, a distance of 1,266 miles.

The bus service will give three trips weekly over the new highway, which is costing the government \$6,000,000. Run from Dawson Creek to Quesnel, to connect with the P.G.E., will take 16 hours.

The three passenger buses will be of modern type with reclining chairs. The three 7-passenger automobiles are for charter parties.

B.C. Voters to Get Identification Nos.

VICTORIA, April 1.—(CP)—Provincial electors will be assigned numbers for identification purposes under an amendment to the Elections Act now before the legislature.

Insurance Plan Won't Begin Immediately

VICTORIA, April 1.—(CP)—The financial responsibility plan for British Columbia motorists, provision for which is made in a bill before the B.C. Legislature Monday, will probably not come into effect for some time, because of the complexity of the machinery.

Included in the scheme is an unsatisfied judgment fund to which car owners will be required to pay up to \$1 annually.

The fund will be maintained between \$150,000 and \$250,000 to pay persons who are unable to collect damages awarded by courts due as a result of car accidents. The fee will be varied to maintain the fund between the minimum and maximum totals.

Day in the House

By J. K. NESBITT

IT WAS AN EXHAUSTING DAY

VICTORIA, April 2.—All day Tuesday the Legislature slugged through the new labor bill, the most contentious issue of the session. It started at 10:30 in the morning, continued to 1; started again at 2:30 and adjourned at 6 to 8:30 p.m. It was the most exhausting day of the session.

The C.C.F. battled section by section. Most of the opposition amendments to the bill were snowed under by the solid Coalition majority. Caucus had made sure there would be no bolters on so important a bill. However, one or two minor C.C.F. amendments were allowed, just to prove the Coalition isn't too stubborn.

Labor Minister Pearson and Attorney-General Gordon Wis-

PEARSON LOOKS UNHAPPY

It must be said that Mr. Pearson, who had been all smiles, looked unhappy at this embarrassing point. Actually, it was a distressing moment—to see one of this province's most outstanding labor ministers loyally going with the government, bowing to the will of the majority, against his own better judgment.

There were fascinating moments during this manoeuvring; the speaker was called to the chair several times to rule. White-haired Mr. Hart and black-haired Mr. Winch, their

GARGRAVE LEADS C.C.F. ATTACK

Mr. Gargrave said no government has no more right to interfere in union affairs than it has to interfere in the affairs of any other organization. He thought it might be a good idea, following through, he said, if a C.C.F. member was named to supervise the vote at the next Liberal convention. As to the supervised strike vote he said: "It is unnecessary, unsound and unfair—

ONLY PROVINCE

Opposition leader Winch asked if any other province has such a clause. "I have no knowledge of it," replied Mr. Pearson.

Mr. Gargrave fought on. The strike vote clause, he said, is a blot on the industrial relations laws of B.C.—it suggests to the public a section of the Legislature has no confidence in the trade unions to conduct their own affairs.

Burnaby's Mr. Winch tried to have it made law that the Labor Relations Board, which will administer the act, will be equally composed of representatives of organized employees and employers. Mr. Pearson said that is his intention, but discretion should be left in the hands of the government.

mer sat side by side as the lengthy bill was gone through. Frequently they had consultations. The man who knows more about labor in this province than any other and the man who knows most about law kept their heads together, and their wits sharp.

Most bitter argument came on the clause calling for government supervised strike votes. This was the clause of which Mr. Pearson, the day before, admitted he and his colleagues could not see eye to eye. The opposition tried desperately, on a technicality, to get Mr. Pearson to stand with it to oppose this clause. The government was equally as determined that its labor minister should not be put on the spot.

personal friendliness forgotten, all their political enmity aroused, fought the good legislative duel.

The government won; Mr. Pearson did not have to vote with the opposition against his own government.

Astute Herbert Gargrave was chosen by the C.C.F. to do most of the battling on the labor bill. Vancouver East's Arthur Turner was his henchman. The two of them did a nice job. The two Winchs, father and son, helped them out from time to time.

I warn you."

Mr. Turner noted the House had not heard a single reason why there should be support for the strike vote clause. Hadn't the minister of labor himself opposed it? Sam Guthrie asked Mr. Pearson if he knows of any other country in the world where there is such a strike clause in a labor act. Mr. Pearson answered: "No."

Mr. Turner noted: "We're pioneering."

TURNER SHUDDERS

The C.C.F. intimated that, much as it hates the new act, it would feel happier if Mr. Pearson would always be in the government to be in charge of it. Mr. Turner expressed downright fear of what might happen if Mr. Pearson ever left. He went almost into a panic when he figures that some day Finance Minister Anscomb might be in charge of the act. "Heaven forbid," snorted E. E. Winch. Mr. Gargrave said he has some confidence in Mr. Pearson but none, absolutely none, in his Tory colleagues.

The attorney-general and Mr. Gargrave had a number of tussles. At one point Mr. Wismer told Mr. Gargrave to go easy. "I know what I'm doing," said Mr. Gargrave, to which Mr. Wismer replied, in that quick way of his: "you may know what you're doing, but you don't know what you've done."

The House is tired, and still the message bills come in. What shape your M.L.A.'s will be in by tonight is anyone's guess. It's no wonder the galleries get shocked at the way laws are rushed through around here.

House St Labor Bi

VICTORIA, April 2.—(CP) British Columbia's controversial labor bill providing for government supervision of secret votes and penalties for strikes and lockouts, highly sittings of the provincial assembly again Tuesday as the government announced increased guards against strikes in province.

Amendments to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act introduced by Labor Minister Pearson during committee in the House provide for a strike vote in addition to earlier requirement of a vote acceptance or rejection of conciliation board award.

The additions touched heated debate with opposition leader Harold Winch that the supervision clause "most vicious system ever introduced in Canada."

BALLOT DEFENDED

Opposing the supervisory Mr. Winch said: "By the way you go through the 96-day process and then hold a secret-supervised vote, the of the worker is gone."

Attorney-General Winch who piloted the bill through House said: "This is not to take any extra time. It is going to be a ballot event, what objection can be to proper supervision."

The new sections were 41 government amendments to the original bill and changes proposed by the opposition discussed in the Tuesday. A few of the amendments were accepted by the minister.

REJECTED BY PEARSON

Mr. Pearson and the turned thumbs down on by the opposition to the prohibition of company unions included in the act. He did not understand the unions' fear of competition such small groups, only 29 out of 1,792 unions since April 18, 1946.

C.C.F. members took to the section providing trade union representation in industrial planning working hours.

Mr. Pearson said nothing obnoxious clause; nothing to stop workers talking union matters amongst themselves.

STRONG OBJECTION

The minister rejected the attempt by the opposition to insert maintenance of ship clause in the act refused to accept amendment to bring under the act sons employed in domestic, agriculture, hunting and trapping.

Most strenuous of the day came from benches during consideration of penalty clauses, cut the minister in amendment to the original bill.

Herbert Gargrave (Kenzie) charged that being brought in on of what happened in States to John L. I can now go after the funds and break the

House Strengthens Labor Bill Checks

VICTORIA, April 2—(CP)—British Columbia's contentious labor bill providing for government supervision of secret strike votes and penalties for illegal strikes and lockouts, highlighted sittings of the provincial House again Tuesday as the government announced increased safeguards against strikes in the province.

Amendments to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act introduced by Labor Minister Pearson during committee stage in the House provide for a direct strike vote in addition to the earlier requirement of a vote on acceptance or rejection of a conciliation board award.

The additions touched off a heated debate with opposition leader Harold Winch terming the supervision clauses the "most vicious system ever introduced in Canada."

BALLOT DEFENDED

Opposing the supervised vote, Mr. Winch said: "By the time you go through the 96-day minimum and then hold a government-supervised vote, the power of the worker is gone."

Attorney-General Wismer, who piloted the bill through the House said: "This is not going to take any extra time. If there is going to be a ballot in any event, what objection can there be to proper supervision?"

The new sections were among 41 government amendments to the original bill and some 50 changes proposed by the opposition discussed in the House Tuesday. A few of the C.C.F. amendments were accepted by the minister.

REJECTED BY PEARSON

Mr. Pearson and the House—turned thumbs down on efforts by the opposition to have prohibition of company unions included in the act. He said he did not understand trade unions' fear of competition from such small groups, numbering only 29 out of 1,793 certifications since April 18, 1944.

C.C.F. members took exception to the section prohibiting trade union representatives visiting industrial plants during working hours.

Mr. Pearson said there was nothing obnoxious in the clause; nothing to stop employees talking union matters over amongst themselves.

STRONG OBJECTIONS

The minister rejected an attempt by the opposition to insert maintenance of membership clause in the act and also refused to accept an amendment to bring under the act persons employed in domestic service, agriculture, horticulture, hunting and trapping.

Most strenuous objections of the day came from the C.C.F. benches during consideration of penalty clauses, cut in half by the minister in amendments to the original bill.

Herbert Gargrave (CCF-Mackenzie) charged that it was being brought in only "because of what happened in the United States to John L. Lewis. You can now go after a trade union's funds and break the union."

MLA Proposes Med. Faculty For Victoria

Associated Press Science Writer
VICTORIA, April 2—W. T. Straith, K.C., (Coalition Victoria) in the Legislature Tuesday night in view of reports that U.B.C. governors in defiance of a resolution of the Legislature, will not start a medical faculty this year said the government should move to start a medical school in Victoria.

He said it could be operated in conjunction with Victoria College, Jubilee and St. Josephs, naval and military hospitals here.

A U.B.C. board of governors statement Tuesday said board members would reopen discussion on the medical faculty with the government "at the close of the present session."

WINCH ASKS ACTION

Opposition Leader Winch said the medical school should be established in Vancouver.

"I am sure all members of this House regret the decision of the board of governors" Mr. Winch said. "We should make it clear to the board this legislature, on behalf of the people of the province, not only expects, but demands that a medical school be started this year."

Foresters Seek Own Association

VICTORIA, April 2.—Bill to give professional status to foresters was introduced in the Legislature Tuesday night by H. J. Welch, Coalition, Comox.

Bill sets out a body corporate, under the name, Association of B.C. Foresters and composed of F. D. Mulholland, C. D. Orchard and Hector A. Richmond, all of Victoria; John E. Liersch, Roscoe M. Brown, Leonard R. Andrews, John D. Gilmour, Hugh John Hodgins, E. E. Gregg, all of Vancouver and M. W. Gormely of Nelson.

Council of management of the Association is set up in the bill. No person shall be eligible for membership unless he is a member of the Association and resident in B.C.

COUNCIL TERMS EXTENDED

VICTORIA, April 2.—(CP)—City aldermen and municipal councillors will serve two-year terms in future.

Provision for this is contained in amendments to the Municipal Act introduced in the Legislature Tuesday.



TOM KING — Legislative camera study of the member for Columbia, who is today being talked of in Victoria as the next cabinet minister. The portrait brings out his characteristics — those of a wise, considerate and likeable gentleman, known personally to every adult resident in his spacious riding of which the town of Golden is the centre.

Govt. To Meet Rising Costs Of Works Program

VICTORIA, April 2.—Agreements providing for more than contract prices to be paid contractors employed in the public works program will be arranged by the provincial government to meet rising costs of labor and materials beyond the control of the contractors.

This was announced Tuesday by Public Works Minister E. C. Carson.

He explained that the contractors have petitioned the government for redress, and that the government is prepared to meet their request and intends to have a judge of the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal sit as an arbitrator to determine a fair amount by which contract prices should be increased.

Firms concerned in the petition are:

Campbell Construction Co., Fred Mannix and Co., Dawson Wade and Co., General Construction Co., Emil Anderson Construction, W. C. Arnett Co., and the Campbell Manix Co.

They are engaged on contracts worth \$15 million, including two of the largest road building projects undertaken by the government in years, the Peace River-Pine Pass Highway and the Hope-Princeton Road.

Municipalities Given New Taxes

VICTORIA, April 2.—(CP)—Legislation empowering municipalities to impose taxes on beer licensees, a three per cent tax on the revenues of public utilities and a general business tax was before the legislature Tuesday.

The legislation will implement some of the major recommendations of the Goldenberg report.

Annual tax on beer parlors will vary from \$85 for those who pay to the province a license fee of \$600 down to \$30 annually for those who pay a license fee of less than \$350.

The business tax is not made mandatory. It provides that the tax be based on, but not exceed 10 per cent of the rental value of the business and allows deduction of any trade licenses paid.

The changes in the Municipal Act do not apply to Vancouver, civic officials state, but similar changes in the Vancouver Incorporation Act are expected.

Aldermen Charles Jones and J. D. Cornett were in Victoria Tuesday discussing with provincial officials the possibility of having the business tax unrestricted in the Vancouver act.

Getting Down to Earth

In the campaign for a medical school at the University of British Columbia, there has been too much insistence on "a first-class school, or nothing."

This has been a mistaken approach and unrealistic. No matter how much money the provincial government devoted to the purpose, it could not thereby produce a first-class medical school right at the start. The few top medical schools on this continent have been the result of years of slow growth, with gradual development of techniques and traditions, and the time-testing of staff. Pouring out money on buildings, equipment and staff has been tried, but has not automatically produced first-class medical schools elsewhere. There is no reason to expect it would here.

What is required here is to provide now a good standard course for British Columbia students who desire to enter medicine and who because of overcrowding of established medical schools will be denied a professional career unless a school of medicine is inaugurated here. Facilities for specialization are not requisite at first. They will come later. The need of the moment is for a basic school that will enable students to gain a graduate degree of a standing that will be accepted by older institutions to which students, following the general practice of medical graduates today, go for postgraduate or specialization work.

Once these facts are recognized and some of the grandiose ideas which have prevailed hereabouts are dispelled, it may be possible to get down to reality and make a beginning on a medical faculty for U.B.C.

There is available today \$1,500,000 for building and equipment for pre-clinical departments. There is also \$100,000 as an annual grant from the provincial government. This grant would provide for the first year course. With this the governors say

they will be glad to provide the first year course, on the understanding that further monies will be available as required for the other three years as they are added.

At present there is not in Vancouver the hospital accommodation sufficient to make available the necessary 400 teaching beds for the clinical work on which medical students would enter in their third year. However, it will be three years from now "before the first class of medical students will be ready for clinical work at the hospitals; the governors say it will be impossible to launch the medical course in 1947 and the first two years will be spent in non-clinical work.

At the end of three years, the hospital situation in Vancouver should be bettered. It cannot get worse. Today the city is short 1,000 hospital beds, on the basis of six hospital beds for each 1,000 population.

It has been proposed that a 500-bed hospital should be built at the University at a cost of \$3,000,000 and up, to serve as a clinical hospital for the medical school and thus keep everything "on the campus." On the basis of cost alone, it is not likely that serious consideration will be given to this proposal. The sensible and economical course would be to enlarge the existing hospital facilities. Centralization will be to the advantage of college clinical work as well as public services.

Prospects for a medical faculty at U.B.C., thus depend on; 1. Assurance from the government of financial support for the second, third and fourth year courses. 2. Assurance of a sufficient number of hospital beds for clinical courses at the end of three years. By now coming down out of the clouds and getting on the hard ground of what is financially possible, we are nearing the moment when a medical course at U.B.C. will be a reality.

B.C., Victoria Trade Property

VICTORIA, April 2.—(CP)—Premier John Hart announced Tuesday that arrangements had been completed between the provincial government and the City of Victoria for the transfer of properties which will give the province lots at Government and Belleville Streets, for a new administrative building, and the city lots on Topaz Avenue for a new school site.

Judges' Boost Paid By B.C.

VICTORIA—B.C.'s 13 county court judges are each going to get another \$1,000 a year.

Amendment to the County Courts Act, introduced in the Legislature Tuesday night by Attorney General Wismer gives the county court judges this sum from the B.C. treasury in addition to their \$6,600 salaries, paid by Ottawa.

House Approves Minor Changes To Liquor Act

VICTORIA, April 3.—Fine of \$300 on minors found in beer parlors or illegally in possession of liquor has been reduced to \$50 under a new amendment to the government liquor act, brought into the Legislature Wednesday by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

The House defeated amendment of Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., Mackenzie, asking that "every beer license shall be issued in the name of the applicant and no beer license shall be transferrable, nor shall the holder of a beer license allow any other corporation or person to use the license."

TEMPERANCE FUND

Education Minister George Weir said he thought \$20,000 might be enough to start the governments temperance campaign. E. E. Winch, C.C.F. Burnaby, said the starting sum should be at least \$60,000.

Mr. Wismer said no further changes can be made in the liquor act until public opinion comes out solidly in favor of one thing or the other. He said he failed to see any opinion favoring liquor by the glass.

"AS FAR AS WE CAN GO"

"The government feels, while we haven't gone very far, perhaps we have gone as far as we can," Mr. Wismer said.

Answering opposition requests for establishment of a type of English pub system in B.C. the attorney-general said that, from his own personal observations, the people of England seem to be able to drink more sensibly than the people of British Columbia.

B.C. Can't Do Pre Marital Blood Tests

VICTORIA, April 3.—(CP)—Pre-marital blood tests, provision for which was made nine years ago, cannot be made law in B.C. now because equipment available is inadequate to carry out the tests, Health Minister G. S. Pearson said in the legislature Wednesday.

Gangster films are not half as bad for youngsters as "the kind of piffle that comes over the radio," A. B. Ritchie (Cln.-Salmon Arm) asserted during discussion of an opposition bill calling for classification of motion pictures.

The bill was defeated on second reading with only Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Cln.-Victoria) siding with the C.C.F.

She said that the time "has come when we've got to do something."

What Our M.

By J. K. NESBITT

VIC Session of the legislature, today at Victoria, has seen that of a number of important new. Despite the unseemly haste last few days, some first-class has been accomplished. House during the last seven.

The new labor act is the question mark. Organized two opposing factions have joined in opposition to it; the group threatens revolt in of it. The minister of labor has been put in the extraordinary position of opposing some of the of his own act—leading to nouncement in the House labor relations board—and minister—will administer. How all this will work out eagerly watched during the PUSSYFOTING ON LIQUOR.

The government's announcement of doing so about the liquor fell complete. All the ballyhoo—and the sounding phrases of private A.—ended in nothing. Government and the Coalition were afraid to face this as there has been pussyfooting system of purchasing liquor been abolished—a good itself—and there are a few minor changes but, by a where liquor is concerned just where we were. Our system of automobile back hotel bedroom swilling parlor guzzling will continue.

It is too bad the government wasn't as bold with liquor with the new act for the venereal disease. This is harsh on some individuals. Health and Welfare Minister explained to the House has teeth and if strictly will do much to stamp out B.C.'s increasingly serious health scourges.

VOTES FOR ORIENTAL

The new Forest Act is a reversal. If, however, it is to perpetuate our primitive wasting forests—as Land and Forests Minister Kenney says—certainly should be given

Mr. Wismer and B.C.E.R.

To try to get the B.C. Electric Franchise Bill through the Legislature, Attorney-General Wismer has resorted to representations, in moving and reading of the B.C. 20-year Franchise Bill in the Legislature.

Misrepresentation No. 1: the statement attributed to Wismer in the press that the Gilman Report was a public ownership of the system. Anybody who has glanced through the Report, and certainly Mr. Wismer, knows that the feasible plan for a public ownership of the city system without a cent to the taxpayers. I was, on the basis of a authoritative report that based our demand in interview with the government that the whole power and sit system be taken over publicly operated.

No. 2: Mr. Wismer every other government civic representative to we have directed our talks, as if we were simply posing municipal ownership.

What Our M.L.A.'s Did in 7 Weeks

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA

Session of the legislature, ending today at Victoria, has seen the birth of a number of important new laws. Despite the unseemly haste of the last few days, some first-class work has been accomplished by the House during the last seven weeks.

The new labor act is the great question mark. Organized labor's two opposing factions have been joined in opposition to it; the leftist group threatens revolt in defiance of it. The minister of labor has been put in the extraordinary position of opposing some of the clauses of his own act—leading to his announcement in the House that a labor relations board—and not the minister—will administer the act. How all this will work out will be eagerly watched during the year.

PUSSYFOOTING ON LIQUOR

The government's announced determination of doing something about the liquor fell completely flat. All the ballyhoo—and the high-sounding phrases of private M.L.A.'s—ended in nothing. The government and the Coalition caucus were afraid to face this issue. So there has been pussyfooting. Permit system of purchasing liquor has been abolished—a good step in itself—and there are a few other minor changes but, by and large, where liquor is concerned, we are just where we were. Our peculiar system of automobile back-seat and hotel bedroom swilling and beer parlor guzzling will continue unabated.

It is too bad the government wasn't as bold with liquor as it was with the new act for the control of venereal disease. This act may be harsh on some individuals—as Health and Welfare Minister Pearson explained to the House—but it has teeth and if strictly enforced will do much to stamp out one of B.C.'s increasingly serious public health scourges.

VOTES FOR ORIENTALS

The new Forest Act is controversial. If, however, it is designed to perpetuate our priceless but wasting forests—as Lands and Forests Minister Kenney says—it most certainly should be given a fair

trial for a year. In this regard, too, it is good to see the government move to protect rhododendrons, as dogwood is now protected in the woods.

The new Elections Act holds promise that some day B.C. will enfranchise all its citizens, no matter what the color of their skins. A forward step has been made in giving Canadians of Chinese and East Indian ancestry the vote; it is unfortunate and not a little shameful that a majority of our legislators had not the courage also to give the vote to Canadians of Japanese ancestry.

PROTECTION FOR AUTO VICTIMS

Move to give financial coverage to persons involved in automobile accidents—where the car owner has no insurance—should protect a lot of hitherto unfortunate victims of the mounting toll of highway mishaps, most of them caused by carelessness and too much liquor. The public will also be protected from unscrupulous people who take in the unwary on various types of death, sickness and accident benefits. Municipalities get a new lease of life under impetation of the Goldenberg report. Most teachers are happy because the legislature has given them a closed shop. Education Minister Weir says there is nothing to fear on this score.

If Ottawa co-operates, B.C.'s Supreme Court will have one more justice. Chief Justice Farris and Attorney-General Wismer have pointed out that in view of B.C.'s increasing population this has become a necessity.

It is too bad the private members were unable to pin down the government on the new provincial infirmity to take the place of the disgraceful Marpole institution. However, most people have enough confidence in Hon. George Pearson to know he will build it just as soon as possible.

There were many other new acts and amendments to old acts, all of them, however, of vital concern to various groups of people. Great weakness of the session was the way the government rushed in vital legislation at the last minute.



CRANBROOK'S MEMBER—This legislative camera study of Dr. Frank William Green, C.M., M.L.A., by Paul Charach, reveals a kind man of high intelligence. His hands—those of an outstanding surgeon—are as delicate as a child's.

House In Uproar Over C.C.F. Bid For Jap Vote

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA, April 3—Legislature Wednesday night broke into an uproar during discussion of a C.C.F. amendment to the Elections Act which would have allowed Japanese in B.C. the vote, as well as Chinese and East Indians.

Opposition Leader Harold Winch, moving the amendment, charged the Coalition side with "totalitarian principles" in barring a minority of citizens from the polls.

Argument became so heated at one point that Herbert Gargrave, C.C.F., shouted "shut up" at Coalition hecklers. John McInnis, C.C.F., Fort George, joined the fray to cry out: "You Liberals make me sick—you brought the Japs here in the first place."

STRAITH BACKS MOVE

Byron Johnson, Coalition, New Westminster, and Alex. Hope, Coalition, Delta, told of the fear of their constituents at Pearl Harbor time in view of the attitude of Japanese in those areas.

During all this there were cries from the Coalition of "Remember Pearl Harbor—Remember Singapore—Remember Hong Kong."

W. T. Straith, K.C., Coalition, Victoria, was the only Coalitionist to vote with the C.C.F. in support of the vote for Japanese.

The amendment was defeated.

House Session End Due Today

Special to The News-Herald

VICTORIA, April 3.—Prorogation of the second session of B.C.'s 21st Legislature is expected today, probably before noon.

After a sitting that lasted into the early morning hours of today, the order paper was practically cleared and the stage set for the formal prorogation ceremony by Lieut.-Governor Charles A. Banks.

It has been one of the heaviest sessions in recent years. More than 100 bills were chartered and made into statutes.

The session began Feb. 11.

Mr. Wismer and B.C.E.R.

To try to get the B.C. Electric Franchise Bill through the Legislature, Attorney-General Wismer has resorted to misrepresentations, in moving second reading of the B.C.E.R. 20-year Franchise Bill in the Legislature.

Misrepresentation No. 1 was the statement attributed to Mr. Wismer in the press that the Gilman Report was against public ownership of the system. Anybody who has even glanced through the Gilman Report, and certainly Mr. Wismer, knows that the whole feasible plan for achieving public ownership of our utility system without a cent's cost to the taxpayers. I was precisely on the basis of this authoritative report that we based our demand in our interview with the government that the whole power and transit system be taken over and publicly operated.

No. 2: Mr. Wismer, like every other government and civic representative to whom we have directed our demands, talks as if we were simply proposing municipal ownership of

transit. Mr. Wismer and all the others sat through and read our representations and knows as well as we do that we were proposing overall public ownership—a different thing entirely, and something which all these gentlemen say they favor. These are deliberate confusionist tactics.

No. 3: Mr. Wismer ignores the fact the new franchise is exactly a new franchise, and not simply a modification of the old franchise. It gives the B.C. Electric motor coach and trolley bus rights. The city has no authority to do this under the charter. Hence, his reported statement that the original franchises, which are perpetual in their nature, were in effect before the charter was passed in 1921 is a calculated misrepresentation designed solely to deceive the members of the House and the public.

John Turner,

Executive Secretary, Vancouver Labor Council.

Day in the House

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA, April 3.—There are three sure-fire topics that can turn the legislature into a near-frenzy—labor, liquor and Canadians of Japanese ancestry. Wednesday, the last business day of this session, we had all three. So it was quite a day indeed.

The controversial labor bill went through third reading before noon. Opposition leader Winch brought in a last minute amendment to delete the clause calling for government supervised strike votes of unions. This was the clause which started the rumpus in Coalition caucus and the clause on which Labor Minister Pearson said he did not agree with his colleagues. So, when Mr. Winch's amendment to delete it was put to division, there was a politically dramatic moment. The C.C.F. and Tom Uphill stood solidly to support it. All eyes promptly went to Mr. Pearson. The labor minister was writing busily, his head down, as if he didn't know the vote was being taken. When the solid Coalition ranks rose to beat down the Winch amendment, again all eyes went to Mr. Pearson. For a second he continued writing, then he half rose, before standing straight up with his colleagues, to vote for a clause which he doesn't approve. When the bill finally went through Coalitionists thumped their desks, in celebration of their victory over the opposition.

Liquor Act amendments came up in the afternoon. Opposition Leader Winch said the government, in its amendments, has evaded a problem that just has to be tackled. The government, he said, hasn't the intestinal fortitude to face this issue. This, of course, started a first class row. C.C.F. Mr. Gargrave moved an amendment to allow soft drinks, sandwiches and

music in beer parlors. Attorney-General Wismer said the liquor board could allow music and soft drinks in beer parlors now, if it thought that advisable. Mr. Wismer thought there should be care about singing and music in beer parlors—he didn't think it would be quite proper if a whole beer parlor, of a Saturday night stood up and gave out with Auld Lang Syne.

TOMATO JUICE AND SPONGE CAKE

C.C.F. Mr. Turner hoped to goodness juke boxes and "vile things" like that wouldn't be allowed in beer parlors. He said juke boxes should be thrown in the drink. "He means the briny deep," boomed out the A.G. Mr. Gargrave thought it would be nice if you could order up a tomato juice in a beer parlor. C.C.F. Mr. McInnis said people who will beer as quickly as they can have something wrong with them, and so have people who hide bottles under tables at night clubs. Mr. Turner thought it might be a good idea to serve sponge cake in beer parlors.

As to the vote for Canadian-born Japanese — that caused tempers to flare and the House had quite a time hanging onto itself. Opposition Leader Winch accused the government of Nazi tendencies in legally barring a minority from the polls. Disfranchising a minority, said Mr. Winch, is an absolute and utter disgrace to B.C. Japanese-Canadians, Mr. Winch said, are Canadian citizens under Canadian law. Mr. Winch chided Messrs. King and Brown on changing their minds about compulsory voting. He figured they had succumbed to political pressure.

This made Mr. King Cross. He said: "I can't hold a candle to the high priest of political expediency." He wouldn't name

the high priest, but it seemed he glared at Mr. Winch.

Mr. Gargrave said he would stand or fall on the C.C.F. policy that all citizens must have the vote. Mrs. Rolston asked Mr. Gargrave if he wanted the Japanese back on the coast, and would he give them fishing licences. Mr. Gargrave said he would answer if the speaker said that question had anything to do with the Elections Act. Mrs. Rolston pressed the point and the speaker told her the question was out of order. "Lucky for you," chipped in Mrs. Hodges, with a nod at Mr. Gargrave.

NARROW MINDED, SAID McINNIS

Mr. McInnis accused the government of narrow mindedness and reminded the house the United States doesn't penalize its Japanese minority.

Dr. Laird said he is utterly and absolutely opposed to the vote for Japanese—as yet. The bill went through and the Japanese minority is still barred from voting, though Chinese and East Indians are given the franchise.

It was a long, tiring day. Opposition Leader Winch struggled through the enormous bill ratifying the Dominion Provincial financial agreement made by Premier Hart. Mr. Winch finally threw up his hands, in complete hopelessness. He said he couldn't even find a lawyer or a cabinet minister who knows what its all about. He supposed he would just have to depend on the government. Finance Minister Anscomb wasn't of much help; he muttered a few words and seemed to give the impression he doesn't understand it either.

The day had its brightest moments when the page boys delivered to each member a cheque for \$3,000—sessional indemnity, minus income tax.

HOUSE SURPRISED AS 2 IN CABINET VOTE WITH C.C.F.

Special to The News-Herald
VICTORIA, April 3.— The Legislature Wednesday night witnessed the unusual spectacle of two cabinet ministers voting with the C.C.F.

When an opposition amendment to the Election Act came up, which would have forbidden the prefix independent before, for instance, Liberal, Conservative or C.C.F. Finance Minister Anscomb and Attorney-General Wismer voted with the opposition in favor of it.

Government supporters, however, defeated the amendment.

Too

Caucus after members at business of the session ending hind-the-doors cive to building ernment.

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Now, how that Premie

Too Much Behind Closed Doors

Caucus after caucus of Coalition members at Victoria has retarded business of the House during the session ending today. Too much behind-the-doors business is not conducive to building up confidence in government.

A government, of course, must know how its supporters stand on legislation. The government back-bencher has a right to know what goes on before a bill lands on the floor of the House. But it should not be necessary to go to the extremes of this session. Oxford dictionary defines the word caucus as "local committee for political party organization—chiefly as a term of abuse suggesting machine politics and wire-pulling."

The Coalition government has worked successfully in B.C. for nearly six years. This session, however, there are definite signs of suspicion, one of the other, on the part of the Liberal and Conservative wings. Unless this growing tendency can be obviated, it would be much better for each party to go its separate way.

The Liberals—the majority, though not by much—are constantly threatened, where too progressive legislation is concerned, by a Tory revolt. That is no secret. Liberals and Conservatives, because they had no choice back in 1941, climbed into the same political bed and stayed snugly under the covers through the 1945 general election because they knew, if they didn't, they'd land on the cold, hard floor. Despite this expediency—and that is what it was—British Columbia chiefly, because of the leadership of Premier John Hart, has had good government in recent years.

Now, however, with expectations that Premier Hart may give up the

leadership this year, there is much behind-the-scenes jockeying for position. It is because of this that every bill has to be so thoroughly caucused. One back-bench Conservative, for instance—or Liberal—annoyed at the government, might be able to lead a disastrous revolt. Therefore, that dissenter has to be appeased. This sort of manoeuvring, of course, is always one of the weaknesses of any coalition government.

Coalition members have been dividing their time between two sessions day after day, and the House opened early in February—(a) the formal sittings of the House, which are open to public and press; (b) the secret party caucus behind guarded doors where the decisions are made and the real business of the House has been done. For four weeks the House was wrapped in speech-making. The government seemed paralyzed. Why its draft bills could not have been ready early in the session is a mystery. It is only in the last week—with one or two exceptions—that any of the important legislation has been brought in. The Opposition has justifiable complaints—and the public has, too. Dumping vital, embryo laws into the lap of a sleepy legislature in the midnight hours of the dying days of a session, and then rushing them through, may be politically clever, but it isn't fair to the taxpayers.

The public has every right to protest the caucus kind of legislation we have had at Victoria this year. Under it the government's supporters are said to be fiery orators and great idealists—behind the locked doors of the caucus room. But when it comes to the actual law-making in the public legislative chamber, they do indeed become dummies.

Saturday, April 5, 1947

Poor Example to the Voters

Members of the legislature during the session now ended deplored the fact that the general public is shockingly apathetic when it comes to a citizen's most priceless right—exercise of the franchise on election day.

Yet, the legislature itself—the senior law-making body of the province—in the last few days of a session, gave the public the impression that the public's business was no more important than a Sunday afternoon motor drive. There was the spectacle of a mound of legislation rushed through the House in indecent haste, certainly so hurriedly that many of the members of the legislature, let alone the general public, could have no possible idea of what it was all about.

The public, viewing what amounted almost to a three-ring circus in the legislature in the last hours, can hardly be blamed if it gets the idea the law-makers don't take their work seriously. It does seem our M.L.A.'s are only interested in collecting

their \$3000 indemnities each—half of it income tax free—and getting home as quickly as they can. Actually, this is not so, but it is the way the situation appears on the surface.

It is all very well for the private members to blame the government for this frantic, last-minute rush. It is quite true, the government did—deliberately, it would seem—plan this rush. But if private members ganged up on the government and insisted on another few days in order to finish the people's business in adequate manner, the government would have had to listen—and do what the back-benchers demanded.

Next time an M.L.A. is tempted to roast the public for its laziness in voting, let him remember that perhaps the public, observing the whirligig manner in which laws are made in the dying days of a session, puts it this way: "What's the use of voting—just look at the way they do business in the legislature; they don't take it seriously, why on earth should we?"

Day in the House

By J. K. NESBITT

They Were Groggy But Happy

VICTORIA, April 5.—Lieut.-Governor Charles A. Banks Thursday at 11:15 a.m. prorogued a tired and sleepy legislature.

M.L.A.'s had sat in the legislative chamber until 5:30 a.m. They left the parliament buildings in a brilliant dawn, had a few hours sleep and then returned groggy but happy for the prorogation ceremony.

The all-night sitting, a 40-year record, saw the C.C.F. bitterly fighting the government to the last ditch. Opposition Leader Harold Winch and his chief lieutenant, Herbert Gargrave did most of the opposition battling. Tempers were raised almost to the bursting point during discussion of the clause in the new Elections Act forbidding Japanese to vote. Premier Hart, calmly and deliberately went through the order paper, as the long hours wore on. And it must be admitted he looked fresher than anyone else when he went out in the dawn.

Five hours later he met the Lieut.-Governor at the top of the main stone steps, and escorted him into the legislative chamber. His Honor was attended by his navy, army and air force aides, Lieut.-Cmdr. Hew Paterson, Lieut.-Col. Brooke Stephenson and Wing Commander Don Campbell and attended by his private secretary, Capt. J. G. Cromack. Again there was ancient ritual. Clerk of the House Stuart Yates read the long list of all the new laws—more than 100. Mr. Speaker Whittaker said "May it please your honor;—we, his majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the legislative assembly of British Columbia, approach your honor at the close of our labors with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to his majesty's person and government and humbly beg to present for your honor's acceptance Bill 73, intitled 'An Act for Granting Certain Sums of Money for the Public Service of British Columbia.'"

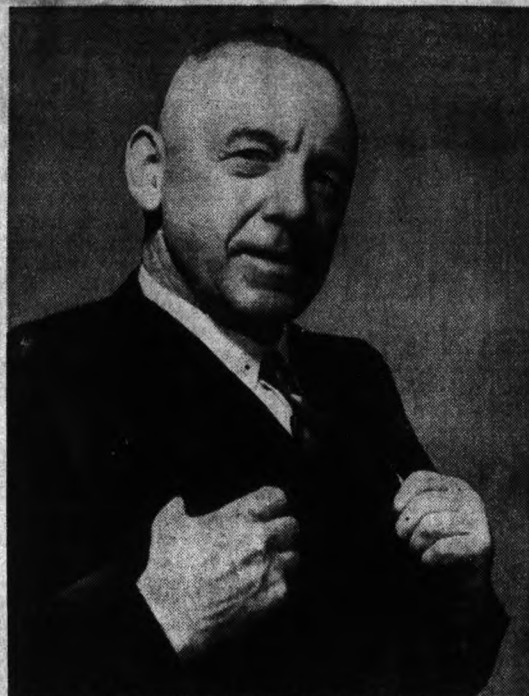
The Loyal Subjects Are Thanked

The Clerk of the House then said: "In his majesty's name, his honor the Lieut.-Governor doth thank his majesty's loyal subjects, accept their benevolence and assent to this bill. The prorogation speech of honor came next, after which Provincial Secretary George Pearson said: "It is his honor the Lieut.-Governor's will and pleasure that the legislative assembly be prorogued until it shall please his honor to summon the same for dispatch of business, and this provincial legislative assembly is hereby prorogued accordingly."

Time was, when the minute the Lieut.-Governor left the chamber, the members hurled their order papers, votes and proceedings and bills into the air with great whoops of joy. This custom, however, has died in British Columbia, as has the custom of singing while awaiting the arrival the Lieut.-Governor and singing God Save the King at the close.

In His Honor's prorogation speech, prepared by the government, of course, was a polite but strong hint that the government thinks U.B.C. governors should do something about the medical faculty. His Honor noted "provision of adequate funds for the establishment of a medical faculty at the University of British Columbia should give great encouragement to the board of governors to begin immediately with the institution of so important and so urgently needed a faculty."

M.L.A.'s left for their homes with the great questions of the session still unanswered—will Premier Hart be in charge of the government this time next year, and if not, who will be in his place? This is a topic that is going to keep political buzzing going until the Liberal executive meeting next September.



SALMON ARM'S MEMBER—Legislative camera study of Arthur Brown Ritchie, M.L.A., by Paul Charach. Successor of the famed Rolph Bruhn, Mr. Ritchie with determination upheld the cause of Salmon Arm during the session.

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1947



KASLO-SLOCAN'S MEMBER—Legislative camera study of Randolph Harding, M.L.A., of Silverton, by Paul Charach. During the session Mr. Harding showed himself as a young man who was in there pitching every minute of the time.