

**D E C**

**1940**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1940

### A Lot of Beer

Sixty-three beer parlors in Vancouver Centre district served up 1,227,150 gallons of draught beer and the equivalent of 1,025,280 pints in bottle, during 1939, Attorney-General G. S. Wismer has replied to a question in the Legislature. Value of this beer, as paid by the licensees, was \$1,313,959. It works out roughly at 36 pints of beer for every man, woman and child in Greater Vancouver.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1940

## Members Protest Feed Grain Rates

Freight rates were a source of protest by farmer members of the Legislature sitting on the agricultural committee this morning. Main source of complaint was the rate on feed grains.

L. H. Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, said the railways had a stranglehold on the country and were using it.

"The stockmen do not want anything special in the way of treatment; they just want parity with eastern Canada," he said.

J. B. Munro, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, said he had hopes of some adjustment when he goes to Ottawa this month to confer with federal officials.

He cited such anomalies as a rate of 30 cents a hundred on feed grain from McLeod, Alta., and Edmonton to the coast, when the rate from Vanderhoof and Creston, 100 miles shorter, was 32½ cents.

Discussing Fraser Valley problems, Frank Putnam, Nelson Creston, committee chairman, suggested a revamping of their agricultural structure.

"You have too many eggs, too much milk, yet we import numerous agricultural products in the province," he said, urging they try new crops.

### APPLE MARKET

The loss of part of the British Columbia apple market by the British embargo was raised by J. A. Paton, Conservative, Point Grey.

Capt. C. R. Bull, Liberal, South Okanagan, a big apple grower himself, said he trusted the tree-fruit agency's marketing officials would discover means of selling the fruit.

Shipments to the U.S. had increased this year, so had the South American market, he said.

Mr. Paton suggested more processing of apples. He had heard of one process of reducing them to a paste which might form a good ration for the army.

## House Completes Estimates for Year

With the passage of a few outstanding items and the supplementaries, the B.C. Legislature last night completed passage of the provincial estimates in preparation for the formal submission of the annual supply bill.

Main estimates for fiscal 1941-42 are \$29,947,207.

Supplementaries for 1940-41 are \$814,941, which with the main estimates passed last year of \$29,268,790, brings the total estimated expenditure for the current year to \$30,083,731.

## Coquitlam Debt To Be Refunded

Debt of the District of Coquitlam will be refunded under a bill brought down in the Legislature last night by Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

The debt amounts to \$220,000, of which \$120,000 has already been repurchased for the sinking fund, leaving \$100,000 outstanding. An amount of \$30,000 in cash in the sinking fund will be paid out to bondholders next April 30 and the balance will be paid in semiannual installments of \$2,448 over a period of 20 years.

## LORD CROFT DENIES FASCIST CHARGE

Lord Croft, a member of the British House of Lords, and advocate of an Empire settlement plan, has hotly denied a charge in the Legislature that he had Fascist leanings.

The charge was made during the session by Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox.

Today Lord Croft cabled to George Murray, Liberal, member for Lillooet, who defended him in the House, thanking him for the intervention.

"Charge about my support of Fascism grotesque," said Lord Croft's cable. "Have opposed and detested all totalitarian forms of government from the start as enemies of democracy and leading inevitably to war."

"Have never been the agent of any foreign government and in Spanish war fought strenuously against intervention and opposed supplies to either side. Cameron's suggestion that I was in charge of purchases of any foreign country in Great Britain is as insulting as false."

"Thanks to the policy of the British government, Spain almost alone amongst the nations of Europe, has to date resisted Nazi tutelage. If these libels appear outside Legislature would be glad to be informed."

## Control Plan Called Totalitarian Law

Charges of a "trend to totalitarianism" and a "new despotism" were flung in the Legislature yesterday when the government put through committee a bill giving it wide powers over the grading, transporting, selling and purchasing of poultry products.

Conservative Leader R. L. Maitland, K.C., opened the onslaught when he said it would stop a man going into the country to buy a chicken.

While Agriculture Minister K. C. MacDonald and Attorney-General Wismer denied this and said the bill was intended only to control the trade, C.C.F. leader Harold Winch, declared:

"That's what you've said about the intent of other acts. But take the potato marketing law. You can't even give away a sack of potatoes to your relatives without the most complicated procedure.

### SELLING A CHICKEN

"In this province there's getting to be a feeling these acts are going too far. We know there must be some regulation and some regimentation, but here you have it down to the point where you can't sell a chicken."

Dr. MacDonald said the bill would correct the evil of selling ungraded eggs and graded eggs. It gave federal inspectors powers in B.C. and by establishing a uniform system with other provinces would assist B.C.'s egg export trade, he said.

Leslie Eyres, Conservative, Chilliwack, agreed that potato control had reached such a point a grower could not give a sack away.

"One poultryman asked me about this bill; 'How do we keep out of jail?'" he said.

J. A. Paton, Conservative, Point Grey, told of a producer on Lulu Island who was not permitted to send a sack of potatoes to a member of his family in Vancouver.

### STOPS BOOTLEGGING

"Those rules were to stop bootlegging of potatoes by Orientals who brought them in under the guise of using them themselves," said Dr. MacDonald. "You don't get stopped much now."

Mr. Winch insisted the act gave control over producers as well as the distribution trade.

"Here you have a trend—and you cannot deny it—that to meet the economic problems the government is taking ever-increasing power of regimentation," he said. "Willy, nilly, whether you like it or not it is a trend to totalitarian legislation."

H. G. Perry, Fort George, Liberal, noted that it only conformed to federal law, but Mr. Winch insisted it was still 100 per cent control.

Mr. Maitland protested strongly against a clause giving the government power to cancel a poultryman's license if he did not conform.

"That means you can take away his livelihood. There are other

penalties provided for infraction. Why take the additional power of this new despotism."

Dr. MacDonald said such powers had been upheld in other acts.

Herbert Anscorb, Victoria Conservative, and Mr. Eyres backed up their leader.

"While he's fighting to get his license back a man could starve," said Mr. Eyres.

Mr. Winch recalled that time and time he had been stopped in his car by inspectors searching for untagged potatoes.

"Now," he said, "you're going to stop me and look for a dozen eggs."

Dr. MacDonald insisted that the regulation was necessary.

"Without it," he said, "you'd force the white producer down to the living level of the Oriental. This whole plan is to cure a condition. Any individual can get a permit to get produce for his own use."

When two bills covering the grading of wool and the grading of hogs were put through committee Harold Winch protested that they were contrary to the spirit of British justice in that they put the onus on an accused man to prove his innocence.

## Hartnell Case Bobs Up Again

The Hartnell case came up again in the Legislature last night when Samuel Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, demanded better justice for people who happened to have a few pamphlets that were common reading a few years ago.

"I'm sure the state is in no danger from Jehovah's Witnesses," he said. "Yet they are being arrested while we have one of our chief Fascists at large, Peter Hartnell."

"Nothing's been done about that, while the bottom dogs are arrested," he added.

Attorney-General Wismer reminded Mr. Guthrie that Hartnell had served his three-month's sentence. Ottawa had not acted on the recommendation of the court and the Attorney-General's department that he be interned. He advised the member to take his complaint to Ottawa.

Mr. Guthrie wanted to know if possession of John Strachey's "Why You Should Be a Socialist" would render a person liable to arrest. The Webb's "Soviet Russia" had figured in a recent Victoria case, he said, and the magistrate admitted he owned the book himself.

Mr. Wismer said the list of banned publications was fixed by Ottawa. It was up to the magistrates to decide if they were subversive.

"The magistrates don't know," said Mr. Guthrie. "If the policeman says the books or pamphlets are subversive the magistrate convicts."

Conservative leader R. L. Maitland favored the Dominion government going all out in stopping distribution of any publication that would hinder the war effort.

"Yes," said Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, "but our objection is pamphlets seized by police are literature that should be read by every educated man. They deal with social and economic problems that have grown even more acute since the war started. Disaffection is caused by attempts to suppress discussion and learning of our problems."

## BURNABY AWAITS ELECTIVE RIGHTS

It will be two or three years yet before the municipality of Burnaby can go back to an elective council and school board despite the plan to resume paying interest on its debt through a refunding scheme.

Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Municipal Affairs, made this announcement in Legislature yesterday when Mrs. H. D. Smith, Liberal, Burrard, and E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, said they would like to see the elective system restored for the area, now governed by commission.

"The idea is to demonstrate that this scheme will operate properly before the people take over control of their own affairs again," the minister said.

Mr. Winch protested that when the municipality resumed paying interest it was no longer in default and was entitled to elective bodies.

He also claimed the refunding plan would increase the municipal tax rate from 47 to 57 mills.

Mr. Gray replied that sales of tax sale lands would take care of most of the interest payments, but the rate should not go up more than 3 mills.

## New Loss Leader Control Approved

The B.C. Legislature last night approved in principle amendments to the Commodities Minimum Loss Act which sets the selling price of retail goods at not less than 5 per cent over the wholesale price.

Main change in the bill, sponsored by Mrs. H. D. Smith, Liberal, Burrard, was to set out a formula for determining what should be regarded as the wholesale price. The bill sets out that the lowest price offered by the wholesalers to the trade generally on any particular article shall form the basis.

Mrs. Smith and Attorney-General Gordon Wismer explained that the previous formula was unworkable because it allowed certain retailers to evade the principle of the anti-loss leader plan.

Conservative leader R. L. Maitland, K.C., attacked the bill as more interference with business, although he recognized some control was necessary.

Mrs. D. G. Steeves, C.C.F., North Vancouver, said housewives were for the bill because they realized that under present conditions big chain stores would soon acquire a monopoly and would dictate prices as they liked.

### ADVERTISING CONTROL

Under the terms of the bill retailers will have to be more careful how they advertise special cut prices on goods.

A sign like "regular 79 cents, now 55 cents" will have to be modified.

It will have to state when the regular or former price was in effect. And a retailer cannot advertise such a price cut unless he actually sold it at the former price.

This is one of several trade practices the amending bill proposes to regulate.

Another provides that when various articles of different qualities are sold at a uniform price the retailer must specify how many articles were formerly in the higher price range.

This is designed to guard against the practice of attracting sales by throwing in a few higher priced articles among a cheaper lot at the same price.

Another new section deals with compilation of costs of meat. It also gives the government power to establish names for the various cuts of butcher meat sold by retailers.

### MEDICAL BILL

Twenty-seven changes in the Medical Act were offered in a bill by the Attorney-General. In the main they deal with the internal workings of the medical council. Among them are provisions for suspending from practice doctors whose mental condition is judged unsound by a proper psychiatrist.

Up to the present suspension covered only unprofessional conduct, infamous conduct or criminal cases.

It specifies that a psychiatrist who examines a physician or surgeon and finds his mental condition constitutes a danger to the public should report the matter to the executive committee. Suspension will be immediate, subject to a further examination, when it may be lifted or continued permanently. The committee is also given power to initiate such examinations.

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, introduced an amendment to the Health Act which would regulate standards for electric hearing aids.

### FISH ARBITRATION

Hon. George S. Pearson, Commissioner of Fisheries, presented an amendment to the Fisheries Act which advances from May 1 to April the date for arbitration of fish prices and brings blueback salmon trollers under arbitration rules.

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## Would Send Douks Back to Russia

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, has what he believes a simple solution to British Columbia's Doukhobor problem. He told the Legislature about it last night.

"Build a fleet of wooden ships," he said, "put the whole bag of tricks on them, with Russian captains, and let the blighters go back where they came from."

The matter came up when Attorney-General Wismer explained a new act which will enable the government to deal with persons who refused to comply with national registration rules.

"There is a section of our population that refuses to register, and if we proceed in the ordinary way we will have to put 2,000 or 3,000 people in jail," Mr. Wismer said. "If we have power to take away their licenses, which this bill will enable us to do, it may bring these people to their senses."

Mr. Anscomb said if the government took away their licenses, they would only go on relief.

Conservative leader Maitland, although sympathizing with the Attorney-General in this matter, said he did not like such legislation, when it gave the government power to cancel licenses.

"I don't like this—it is getting too high-handed," he said.

## Hold Down Expenses

Premier Pattullo assured Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, in the Legislature last night expenditures would be held down as tightly as possible during the next year, and all departments had been advised to this effect.

Later, Mr. Anscomb asked the Premier when drilling for oil would be stopped, if oil was not found.

"Is the government going to go on year after year spending money?" he asked.

"If oil isn't found, sooner or later we will have to stop," the Premier replied. "As the House knows, I am most anxious to keep on until we discover oil, and I'm perfectly satisfied we will."

## Aliens in Army Denied Vote in B.C.

Oriental and men of other nationalities will not be able to vote in British Columbia's next election, even though they wear the King's uniform.

This point was finally settled this morning by the special elections act committee of the Legislature which approved a draft of principles for taking an absentee vote of servicemen.

Those included in the service vote will be men, or women, who ordinarily would be entitled to vote in a civil way—with the exception that minors will be included.

C.C.F. members of the committee had argued that any person, alien or not, who was willing to fight for the Empire, should have a vote. The draft bill, ready for presentation to the House, leaves the aliens out, however.

The bill provides for a dual system of taking the service vote. Men stationed in the province will vote by the regular absentee methods, and must be registered on the voters' lists first. Those stationed in other parts of Canada or in Britain will vote under a system similar to that used in the last Dominion election.

## House O.K.'s Blood Tests for Women

The B.C. Legislature last night accepted a C.C.F. proposal that doctors should give routine blood tests to pregnant women coming to them for pre-natal care, but at the government's suggestion decided to make it permissive instead of mandatory.

The plan was offered by Mrs. Laura Jamieson, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre. It proposed "regulations providing for routine blood tests by practicing physicians of all pregnant women patients immediately upon the same coming under their care."

Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, said with 12,000 pregnancy cases each year such tests would run into many thousands of dollars, so suggested it be made only a permissive law. Mrs. Jamieson agreed.

E. E. Winch's bill to bring pre-marital health tests into effect next March 1 was withdrawn after Premier Pattullo explained the government had not the necessary laboratory facilities to carry them out.

"We were anxious to get the new laboratory at the university built this year, but what with the war and other heavy demands on the treasury it was not possible," he said.

## Wants Sweepstakes For Hospitals

Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, objected in the Legislature last night to government orders which stopped a hospital sweepstake in his constituency.

Two sessions ago, the Legislature passed a resolution, introduced by Mr. Uphill, favoring sweepstakes for hospitals.

"It is just hypocrisy to stop sweepstakes for hospitals, when everyone, all over the country, is taking chances," Mr. Uphill said.

"It's a matter of criminal law," Premier Pattullo said.

"Criminal law?" Mr. Uphill said. "Why, there's not a person here who wouldn't take a chance, if someone was to run around with a book of tickets. I know I would. Couldn't we ask the Attorney-General to use his horse sense about this?"

At this point Mr. Uphill said, when he was mayor of Fernie, the Premier said the mayor should be in jail. The Premier said this was news to him.

Getting back to sweepstakes for hospitals, the Attorney-General said the Criminal Code would have to be changed to allow them.

Mr. Uphill said: "Let's change the Criminal Code then." The Attorney-General said it was an Ottawa matter, and Mr. Uphill would have to persuade the federal government.

## REFORESTATION

Problems of slash burning, snag removal and replanting of logged-over forest lands were visibly demonstrated for members of the Legislature yesterday in color films shown by George Melrose of the B. C. forest branch. Scenes at the government forest nurseries, which in 1942 will turn out 12,000,000 2-year-old trees for replanting some 15,000 acres of coast forest land, were shown by Mr. Melrose.

## Says B.C. Act Pays Most Benefits

The Workmen's Compensation Act of British Columbia pays the greatest benefits, of any similar law in the world, Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, said in the Legislature last night when he rejected a bill sponsored by Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie. The measure would reduce from three years to one the period a miner must be exposed to silica dust in the province before being eligible for silicosis benefits.

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## House Closes Celona Case

When Attorney-General Wismer declared the only document he had on file was a confidential report from the prosecutor which he could not divulge, the Legislature last night turned down a motion of Conservative Leader R. L. Maitland for production of all documents leading up to the release on parole of Joe Celona, convicted white slaver.

"That is my full connection with the Celona case," the Attorney-General said in reference to the prosecutor's report. "I want my friend, and the people of the province, to know this. I have to take the responsibility of keeping it in confidence."

Mr. Maitland wanted to know why a resolution of James Sinclair, M.P., North Vancouver, on the Celona matter was withdrawn at Ottawa.

"Here is a man," he said, "whose activities were as low as a man could go, and whose ramifications were such as to merit a heavy sentence. To the amazement of everyone he was released on parole."

Mr. Wismer suggested, first, that Mr. Maitland had put the motion as an election dodge.

"No matter what I say, I suppose, remarks will be made about me," he continued.

"When Mr. Sinclair made the statement I was at Ottawa taking up matters highly important to this province. He had plenty of opportunity to ask me about it there."

"Instead he placed on the order paper a question that comes in the category of 'Have you stopped beating your wife?' Answer yes or no."

"My friend (referring to Mr. Maitland) knows the procedure in these cases. A friend of the convicted makes an application to the remissions branch. They get reports from the prison warden, the judge, parole commissioners and the prosecutors (two in this case named by a previous attorney-general).

"The opinion of one prosecutor was sent direct to Ottawa. The other was sent to me for transmission to Ottawa. That was the extent of our connection with the matter."

The Attorney-General noted that the Minister of Justice on July 3 had refused to divulge to the House of Commons the confidential reports he had received on the case.

"All I have got is one confidential report. I would have no objection to giving it out if it were not for the justice minister's statement," the Attorney-General said. "I ask my friend to accept my word I have only one letter, and that with the seal of confidence on it."

This closed the matter and the House voted down Mr. Maitland's resolution.

Rolf W. Bruhn, member of the Legislature for Salmon Arm, has returned to his home in Vancouver to rest from an illness suffered during the session of the House. The Conservative leader told the House yesterday Mr. Bruhn would not return before prorogation.

## Teacher Pensions Will Be Reduced

Pensions of about 100 retired teachers will be reduced somewhat under the new teachers' pension scheme brought down in bill form to the Legislature late last night.

No pensions less than \$50 a month will be cut. Those over \$50 will be sliced by taking one-third off the amount by which it exceeds \$40. Thus a pension of \$61 a month would be reduced by one-third of \$21, or \$7, leaving the new pension at \$54.

The bill sets up an entirely new financial scheme for pensions of present teachers.

Retiring ages are 60 for female teachers and 65 for males.

After 20 years' service a teacher will be entitled to a minimum pension of \$30 a month. For each year of service above 20 years the pension will be increased by \$1 a month. In addition he can build up extra pension through the size of his own contribution. The minimum contribution is 4 per cent of salary, the same as in the former scheme.

Employees of the B.C. Teachers' Federation, as well as the actual teachers are included in the scheme.

The pension fund will be made up of the teachers' contributions plus the levy on school boards, which begins on January 1, 1942, and amounts to 7 per cent of the teachers' payrolls.

The government also brought down in the House last night the bill authorizing its \$250,000 special grant for educational purposes. Division of the money among municipalities is left to the government.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA HEALTH SPA PLAN

Two resolutions by H. E. Winch, C.C.F. leader, were withdrawn in the Legislature last night after government spokesmen had given indications they were in sympathy with his motives in presenting them.

One resolution would have led to the establishment of a select committee of the House to inquire into the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Board. Mr. Winch argued, in presenting the resolution, that the three-man board was getting away from the spirit of the act in its interpretation. Hon. G. S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, argued that the issue of the Workmen's Compensation Act was very complicated and that the board, in its 23-year experience, had worked out its own formulas for dealing with situations.

Mr. Winch's other resolution dealt with the development of mineral springs in British Columbia as health spas. Several Liberal members who have such springs in their ridings supported him in his plea for their development.

## Purchases From Members Probed

Government purchases from firms in which members of the Legislature are interested were under review of the public accounts committee of the House this morning, at the instigation of R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader.

Mr. Maitland opened the discussion by explaining that a letter he had turned over unread to the chairman at a previous hearing—suggested to contain some "foul charges"—had no reference to the Fraser Lake Sawmills Ltd., with which Mark M. Connolly, Liberal, Omineca, is connected. He wished to correct a wrong impression that had gone about.

Purchases of gasoline from the Hamilton Garage of Golden, in which Thomas King, Liberal, Columbia, is interested, came under discussion, with Purchasing Agent F. H. Harrison explaining various accounts. The accounts indicated that purchases from the Hamilton Garage were not as large as from other firms in the area.

Mr. Maitland said he did not want to be unkind to members in bringing up the matters.

"I go through the country and people tell me members of parliament are grabbing everything for themselves, so it is my duty to bring them up," he said.

Purchases of lumber from the Big Bend Cedar Pole Company in Kaslo-Slocan district next came in the spotlight.

Mr. Harrison said while no tenders were called the prices came under strict supervision of the purchasing agent's office and usually ran about \$2 a thousand less than coast prices.

"Yes, but there's more than one mill in the district," said Mr. Maitland.

"I don't think so," said Mr. Harrison. "The Big Bend Company is the only one at that point cutting dimensional stuff that we want."

During the discussion Mr. King said if it was not right for firms with which members were connected to do business with the government, he was a culprit, for he had suggested to the liquor stores in his area that they stock as much wine as possible produced by the firm of which Herbert Anscamb, Conservative, Victoria, was manager.

"Ah, but that's different," said Mr. Maitland. "The only place you can sell wine is to the liquor board. It is a government monopoly."

## ASKS MORE AID TO VANCOUVER

Mayor Lyle Telford made a last-minute plea in the Legislature yesterday for special government aid to Vancouver on the ground that a reduction in assessment next year would cut the city's revenue by \$75,000, almost offsetting the new provincial school grant which at the most would amount to \$125,000.

He presented a special resolution of Vancouver council asking for further adjustment.

Herbert Anscamb, Victoria Conservative, told him to raise the tax rate by half a mill. This would produce the extra revenue and hurt no one, he said.

"We don't want to raise the tax rate unless we are forced to," the Vancouver mayor said. "It means confiscation of homes."

Premier Pattullo pointed out Vancouver was no worse off than before it got the special school grant but Conservative Leader R. L. Maitland insisted the government say what it was going to do for the cities.

"The government is thoroughly seized of the whole municipal situation and will make its announcements in due course," said the Premier.

"I take it the answer is no," said Mr. Maitland.

## Few Teachers Were Indiscreet

Ninety-nine per cent of British Columbia's teachers were loyal to the Crown and Empire, Hon. G. M. Weir, Minister of Education, told the B.C. Legislature last night in debating a motion by Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative Leader, demanding a return of all correspondence leading to the imposition by the government of the oath of allegiance upon teachers.

The House killed Mr. Maitland's motion after Dr. Weir had explained that 90 per cent of communications on the subject had been verbal and that the rest were, in his view, "strictly confidential."

Mr. Maitland, speaking to his motion, said it was unfair to the loyal teachers that full information should not be disclosed. If any teachers had committed subversive utterances or acts, the public was entitled to know.

Dr. Weir admitted some teachers had made "indiscreet remarks." Whereupon Premier Pattullo observed:

"There have even been indiscreet remarks by members of this House."

Dr. Weir went on to assert that it was consonant with the dignity of the teaching profession that they should take the oath. He added the only objections had come from ultra-patriotic teachers, who thought that their patriotism was being impugned by being required to take the oath. But when it had been explained that their dignity was involved, they had agreed, he said.

In addition to indiscreet remarks by some teachers, he went on, there had been some misunderstanding by the public of remarks made by the teachers. In one case a male teacher had told his pupils he had "a date with Hitler." The pupils had taken this remark home and it had horrified their parents. But the following day the teacher had enlisted to fulfil "his date with Hitler."

## Doctors Too Much

Granting governing profession was Legislature y Winch, C.C.F.

He called Medical Act tion in that powers in the tee of the Me of the d council.

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## Doctors Given Too Much Power

Granting of additional self-governing power to the medical profession was attacked in the Legislature yesterday by Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader.

He called amendments to the Medical Act totalitarian legislation in that they centralized powers in the executive committee of the Medical Council instead of the democratically-elected council.

"And don't forget," he said, "this organization is now so powerful that it challenged the government and the will of the people—and got away with it. We have been told the reason health insurance is not in effect is because of the attitude of medical men."

E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, said more and more people were losing faith in the medical profession and turning to other forms of healing. On the other hand Conservative Leader R. L. Maitland pointed out the long years of training a doctor must take. He said few had got rich ministering to the sick in B.C. and he knew of none refusing a plea for help.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, said he would like to see more teeth given the executive to "clean its own front door." He said some doctors were doing harm to their profession.

The amendments were approved by the House.

## Refuse Cities Power to Condemn

The Legislature yesterday threw out a request from the Union of B.C. Municipalities asking that municipalities be given the power to condemn buildings that are unclean or dilapidated.

The Leader of the Opposition pointed out the municipalities had that right now and were able to remove buildings if they were a danger to health, dangerous or a nuisance.

Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, C.C.F., Vancouver North, agreed with Mr. Maitland, as did Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria, who said some people objected to cabins in this city, yet these cabins were housing working men, were clean and filling a most important place. Attorney-General Wismer also was against granting such power to the municipalities.

Regarding all municipal employees taking the oath of allegiance there was some discussion. Mr. Anscomb felt all municipal employees should be British subjects.

Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Municipalities, said he knew no municipalities where aliens were employed. Attorney-General Wismer said it would be unfair to discharge an employee who was not an enemy alien.

E. C. Henniger, Liberal, Grand Forks-Greenwood, attacked the new act which would take licenses away from Doukhobors who do not register. He said the act had no teeth in it. Mr. Anscomb's suggestion that the Doukhobors be

sent back to Russia he termed nonsense. He favored an act forcing Doukhobors to comply with the Vital Statistics Act and register their children. Governments in the past had pussy-footed where the Doukhobors were concerned.

### Finding 5th Column

## Must Register Change of Name

Every person in British Columbia who has changed his or her name in the last 20 years must give notice within three months

to the director of vital statistics. This provision is contained in the Change of Name Bill given third reading in the Legislature yesterday.

Conservative Leader R. L. Maitland had protested this was unfair to people who would never hear about the new law. Provincial Secretary George M. Weir declared, however, that the R.C.M.P. and B.C. police felt it one of the most important sections of the bill since it gave them an opportunity to check up on aliens and others who might be enemy sympathizers now living under Canadian names they had assumed years ago.

No matter in what manner a person has changed his name he must give notice to the director, the bill provides.

The House proceeded rapidly to clear the order paper of legislation yesterday.

Despite C.C.F. and Conservative demands that the "small man" who wanted to sell his neighbor a dozen eggs should be protected in new regulation of the poultry trade, Attorney-General Wismer said no satisfactory formula could be discovered that would not provide a loophole for wholesale evasion of the law. It was given third reading.

The Attorney-General withdrew a plan for control through the Game Board of hunting and fishing lodges after members protested it would tend to too much commercialization. The Conservative leader pointed out any lodge that took in customers was subject to the ordinary regulation of inns and hotels.

A proposed clause in the Land Act was withdrawn by Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Lands. It would have provided that leases and land purchases be thrown "open to competition." The present act provides that the highest bid must be accepted.

## Government Raises Civic Aid \$200,000

The provincial government has now raised its financial assistance to municipalities by another \$200,000 a year, beginning in 1942.

In the bill providing for a special grant for education, foreshadowed in the budget, the following provision is made:

"As a measure of relief in taxation upon land for the purpose of education there shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1942, the sum of \$250,000, and annually thereafter a sum of not less than \$450,000. The said sums shall be distributed to municipalities and school districts upon an equitable basis

to be determined by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council."

The change in the government's plans is reported to have resulted from the insistence of Liberal members that further aid should be given the cities, who will in 1942 be saddled with a contribution to the new teachers' pension fund.

Premier Pattullo, who introduced the measure, had previously told the House that it was planned to examine the municipal financial position next year and grant further assistance at the 1942 session. In the form of the present bill an extra \$200,000 is guaranteed.

### Weighty Matters

NEARLY 50 TONS OF MATERIAL WILL have to be shipped to Britain to take the vote of British Columbia soldiers overseas at the next election. The committee discussing the Special Elections Act was so informed on Monday morning. Then up popped the subject of torpedo risks. What if the boat carrying the material were torpedoed? asked one member; what if the ballots were lost through torpedo attack on their way back? inquired another. Chief electoral officer Walker replied that he presumed if the election material were lost on the way over, there could be no poll of the troops. On the way back, however, it would not be so important, because the ballot returns would be counted in London, according to present plans, by acting-Agent-General W. A. McAdam. All this, of course, is very illuminating; but one important point evidently was not thought of sufficient importance to warrant attention: What if acting-Agent-General McAdam should be indisposed at the ballot-counting time, injured, perhaps, in a Nazi bombing raid, would the ballots then be tallied by an acting-agent-General?

## POLITICAL LEADERS APPROVE BUDGET

The federal government's new budget principle of restricting non-Empire imports had the approval of provincial political leaders yesterday.

Premier Pattullo's comment was brief:

"We must curtail foreign purchases, except for war purposes," he said. "At the same time we must preserve our internal economy as much as possible."

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, viewed the federal move as a necessity of war and added that "B.C. could have gone a considerable distance this session in helping the taxpayers with the burden, but apparently this is not the policy of the government."

## Guthrie Would Cut Pauline Allowance

A reduction in the government pension given to F. A. Pauline, former agent-general for British Columbia in London, is proposed by Samuel Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, in a bill slated for introduction in the Legislature.

Notice of the bill appeared on the order paper today.

It proposes to reduce Mr. Pauline's allowance to \$30 a month, or \$360 a year.

At present the former agent-general receives a special vote of \$4,200 a year, granted by the Conservative government when they retired him from the post.

Strange Division in House

# Special Cure Aid Produces Clash

In an unusual division the B.C. Legislature yesterday approved the government's plan of special school aid to municipalities—\$250,000 next year and \$450,000 a year thereafter.

The House split 39 to 2 when Premier Pattullo called for a division on second reading of the bill after a stormy debate. Only Leslie Eyres, Chilliwack, and Herbert Anscumb, Victoria, both Conservatives, voted against the measure which they called "taking away with one hand and giving with the other."

L. A. Shepherd, C.C.F., Delta, said the bill gave the municipalities nothing since they would be shouldered with \$430,000 in teachers' pension costs in 1942 and would get \$450,000 under the bill.

Conservatives attacked the measure as just a mockery of Liberal platform promises of aid to municipalities.

Mr. Eyres said it was the most outrageous "giving and taking away" he had ever seen.

The Premier explained, in sponsoring the bill, that no one knew what would be the situation after the Ottawa conferences on the Rowell-Sirois report.

### CHANGE SCHOOL BURDEN

"The purpose of the government," he said, "is to redistribute the burden of taxation for education. I would point out that in this bill we are not relieving the taxpayers, in the mass, of any burden, but simply redistributing the incidence of the taxes."

Mr. Anscumb's argument was that the bill gave no real relief to land taxation since the government, in the teachers' pension bill, was imposing a new levy that almost offset it.

The Conservative leader, R. L. Maitland, K.C., said the government was using a patchwork system to deal with the municipalities. Back in 1933 the Liberals had promised to remove the school tax burden from land, he said.

"Bit by bit you are throwing a bone to the municipalities," he said.

H. G. T. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, accepting responsibility for the Liberal pledge of 1933, told Mr. Maitland the bill was real implementation of the pledge.

### FULFILLING PLEDGE

"We have accomplished today," he said. "No longer is it necessary to advocate the establishment of the principle. It is here."

Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, bluntly informed Mr. Maitland that if the Tolmie government had had the courage to deal properly with the teachers' pension fund it would not have reached the mess it was in today. The government, he pointed out, was clearing up a mess that had been left on its doorstep by the former administration.

### SNARE AND DECEPTION

When the bill came up in committee in the evening Mr. Anscumb called it a fraud, a deception and a snare to municipalities.

The Premier protested that Mr. Anscumb's language was intemperate and the Victoria member insisted that the division called by the Premier in the afternoon was for political purposes.

"The Premier wants to say that I nailed those babies on the cross," he said.

Mr. Eyres called it the hallmark of hypocrisy and the Premier said the member should not impute motives to other members of the House.

"Then I'll use the word deception, and if that is out of order I shall say delusion," said Mr. Eyres.

The Chilliwack member attempted to raise the vote from \$250,000 to \$450,000 next year and to \$750,000 in following years but was ruled out of order.

## TERM LUNATIC BANNED IN BILL

The term lunatic will be banished from provincial jargon in dealing with mental cases under the new Mental Hospitals Act put through the Legislature last night.

Those who go to mental hospitals will be described as having mental illness.

Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, who sponsored the new measure, was praised by C.C.F. speakers, who claimed the bill would set a standard for the rest of the continent.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, disagreed with the procedure for giving mentally ill persons an appeal and suggested the measure be deferred and re-drafted. The bill was approved.

## Coal Mines Must Have Washhouses

Washhouses must be provided for men working in coal mines under amendments to the Coal Mines Regulation Act brought down in the Legislature by Minister of Mines W. J. Asselstine.

The bill stipulates that any mine employing more than 20 men must put in a washhouse if the miners petition for it, but the Chief Inspector of Mines has the power to grant exemptions to mines that are near exhaustion of their coal.

Various safety rules for coal mines are provided in other sections of the bill. Trips are required on safety cars to prevent runaways. Hoisting cages must be closed to avoid men touching the sides of the shaft as they are lowered or raised.

## Croft Denial Read in House

After a debate on technicalities of House procedure the Legislature yesterday afternoon quelled debate on the question of Lord Page Croft and Fascism after George M. Murray, Liberal, Lillooet, had read a cablegram from the peer denying any association with the totalitarian theory.

Colin Cameron, C.C.F., Comox, who made the original charge that Lord Croft had Fascist leanings, sought to bolster his assertion with documentary evidence.

An argument between Premier Pattullo, Conservative Leader Maitland and C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch had almost reached the point of dividing the House on the question when it was agreed that if Mr. Cameron wanted to pursue the matter he could do it by motion. Debate on Mr. Murray's action was denied.

Mr. Cameron said that Lord Croft's reply appeared to cast as much an aspersion on his integrity as Mr. Murray thought was cast on Lord Croft in the first place.

(Lord Croft's cablegram said Mr. Cameron's assertion was grotesque and absolutely false.)

Mr. Speaker Whittaker ruled that since no reflection had been cast on a member of the House there was no cause for debate.

### BASED ON BOOK

At the evening sitting Mr. Cameron was granted the indulgence of the House to make clear his position.

He based it mainly on the book, "Tory M.P.," written by Simon Haxey, which stated Lord Croft (then Sir Henry Page Croft) had supported the pro-German "Anglo-German Review." Among those with him were A. H. Ramsay, now in a concentration camp.

The book also put Lord Croft among the "Friends of National Spain," and quoted him as saying Generalissimo Franco was a gallant Christian gentleman.

The book proved, said Mr. Cameron, that Lord Croft had continually intervened on behalf of Franco and the revolutionary junta.

Referring to Lord Croft's cablegram and his threat to sue for libel, if Mr. Cameron's statements were repeated outside the House, Mr. Cameron said:

"He will have plenty of opportunity to air his record in the courts, for if he is again allied with a settlement scheme in this province I will attack him on the platform as openly as I have done in this House."

Mr. Murray insisted that Lord Croft had every right to be heard before he was condemned.

There was no motion on the subject.

## Says Liberals Destroy Faith

A charge of doing "patchwork with no thought for the future" was thrown at the Liberal government by R. L. Maitland, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, in an address to the annual meeting of the Victoria Conservative Association last night in the Campbell Building.

"Any administration that has proved itself so utterly hopeless and incapable as that of the Liberal government in this province must be thrown out of office," he declared.

"Nothing definite, nothing planned, nothing hopeful," was how he characterized the administration during the past four years and added that under the present order people had no faith to invest money in the province.

Mr. Maitland charged the government with interfering with business. Every act of the Legislature caused lack of faith in a sound foundation of British Columbia, he said.

The Conservative leader attacked the provincial budget, saying that in time of war he had hoped the government would forget about the Liberal party and would dedicate itself to reducing the province's expenditures so it would be able to give greater aid to Britain.

Mr. Maitland spoke of the reducing of Victoria from a four-riding constituency to a three-man constituency, which he said had been brought about—not because the people of Victoria and Oak Bay wanted it—but in the hope of saving the seats of two of the Liberal members.

In this regard the speaker attacked W. T. Straith, M.P.P., who he said had sunk the dignity of the constituency for purely personal advantage.

Speaking of the C.C.F., Mr. Maitland said they had little claim to public life in British Columbia.

G. H. Bevan-Fritchard was elected president of the association and Captain W. C. Thompson was named first vice-president. Sinclair Elliott was chosen second vice-president; William Duck, secretary, and A. Lancaster, treasurer. Mr. Maitland was named honorary president.

A short address was given also by Russell R. Walker, provincial organizer of the Conservatives. He spoke of the work being done throughout British Columbia in preparation for the anticipated election next year.

## Appeal Mental

The right side doctors' party is to be British Columbia hospitals.

This is the side of the hospitals Act in the Legislature. Hon. G. S. Secretary.

An appeal advocated in Winch, C. Burnaby.

The form new bill to make an appeal has been three months.

The government panel of appeal as revised month two.

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## Buy B.C.

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## Appeals Granted Mental Patients

The right of an appeal to outside doctors to rule on their sanity is to be granted patients in British Columbia mental hospitals.

This is the main new feature of a revision of the Mental Hospitals Act brought down in the Legislature Tuesday night by Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary.

An appeal clause has long been advocated in the House by E. E. Winch, C.C.F. member for Burnaby.

The formula provided in the new bill allows any patient to make an appeal after he or she has been in an institution for three months.

The government will choose a panel of private medical men to act as reviewing doctors. Each month two will be chosen and

will sit on appeals made during the month.

Either a patient himself or an authorized personal representative may make an appeal on his behalf. Expenses of the appeal board will be paid by the government.

At the present time when a person goes to a mental hospital he must remain there until the hospital staff decides that he is sane enough to be released. He has no recourse to doctors or psychiatrists outside the institution.

In the other provisions the new Mental Hospitals Act brings its regulations up to date and removes various obsolete terms.

## Henniger Wins Doukhobor Rule

Ezra Henniger, Liberal member of the Legislature for Grand Forks-Greenwood wrote a strengthening clause yesterday in the government's bill to refuse business and other licenses to persons who don't obey the Vital Statistics Act.

The bill is aimed at the Doukhobor community in the Kootenays, against which Mr. Henniger has been a strong critic.

The original measure would bring penalties on parents who did not register births of their children.

Mr. Henniger insisted, however, that not only parents, but all persons who disobeyed the statistics law should come under the act. The government accepted his proposal and it was incorporated in the bill.

## HOUSE DECLINES TO CUT PAULINE

The B.C. Legislature killed without debate last night a bill brought up by Samuel Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, to reduce the pension of F. A. Pauline, former agent-general in London, from \$350 a month to \$30.

Mr. Guthrie had only asked leave to introduce the measure when the Premier objected.

Under rules of the House this permitted no debate, despite the strenuous protest of Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, that to block introduction of a bill was a very unusual procedure.

The Premier said Mr. Guthrie had followed improper procedure in giving the purport of the bill to the press before seeking to introduce it.

When C.C.F. members attempted to argue the point the Premier insisted that rules did not permit debate and he was upheld by Speaker Whittaker. There was no division.

## House Prorogues

Prorogation of the fifth session of the 19th B.C. Legislature is expected at 11 a.m. Friday.

Sitting until after midnight last night and with two sittings today the House has its order paper pretty well cleared. The sitting tomorrow will be for the formal assent to bills by the Lieutenant-Governor.

## Buy B.C. Campaign

The provincial purchasing agent will be asked to buy British Columbia goods wherever possible, if a recommendation of the public accounts committee is accepted by the Legislature.

Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, raised the point when he asked E. T. Kenney, committee chairman, to find out what percentage of government purchases were B.C. goods. Conservative Leader R. L. Maitland suggested the instruction to the purchasing agent.

Mr. Kenney noted it was often cheaper to buy imported articles, but agreed it was better to pay a bit more for B.C. products and keep the business at home.



'We Have a Highway Policy'—Leary

# \$50,000,000 Needed For Main Roads

"We have a highway policy and a highway program. Our engineers could put 5,000 men to work tomorrow on the road if we had the money," declared Hon. C. S. Leary, Minister of Public Works, when at its last business meeting yesterday afternoon the Legislature went into committee of the whole to debate road policy.

The works minister said estimates by departmental engineers were that it would require about \$50,000,000 to put all the main trunk roads of the province into first-class shape.

This figure included \$6,174,000 for the Trans-Canada Route, \$3,949,000 for the Cariboo Highway, \$7,297,000 for the southern trans-provincial, including construction of the Hope-Princeton link; \$1,185,000 for the Okanagan Highway, \$17,000,000 for the northern trans-provincial to give Prince Rupert a road, \$3,000,000 for the Vancouver Island Highway, \$5,000,000 for a Peace River outlet, and \$4,500,000 for the Tete Juan Cache Road.

### DEFENCE ROADS

The minister said he confidently expected the federal government would consider B.C. road needs in the defence plans. For instance, he said, it was a terrible lack that Vancouver had only one road connection to the interior.

"If bombers came to this coast there would be terrible congestion on that highway. We'd be climbing over the top of each other trying to get away from the coast," he said.

Mr. Leary said the idea that motorists pay more in gasoline and car taxes than was spent on the roads was a fallacy. In fiscal 1939-40 motorists paid \$6,120,000 in taxes. Actual expenditures of all kinds on roads, including \$2,193,000 for carrying the road debt, were \$7,972,362.

The road debate was started by Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, on a special resolution.

### WANTS COMMISSION

He said the present road administration system could be turned into a political patronage machine. In some cases it appeared it was used this way because with every change of government there was a big turnover of road foremen.

"There is every suspicion the roads are used for political purposes," he said. "For instance, just before election, survey parties rush out all over the province then disappear just as quickly after polling day. In a recent by-election a crew was sent out on a much-promised road job five days before voting and they worked just one day afterwards."

Mr. Winch proposed that the highway administration be placed in complete charge of a highway commissioner acting with the nine district engineers and responsible to the Legislature. They would be assisted by an advisory board consisting of representatives of the finance, agriculture, forest, mines and trade departments.

Conservative leader E. I. Maitland, K.C., spoke only briefly, say-

ing it was obvious the government had made up its mind there would be no highway commission. Mr. Winch's plan, he said, was not much different to his own proposal of an independent commission.

### ROADS BIG ASSET

Louis LeBourdais, Liberal, Cariboo, stressed the importance of a road improvement program for attracting tourists. Roads were the very lifeblood of the great interior, he said.

The House spent most of the afternoon on the road argument.

Several speakers from the Liberal side, including two cabinet ministers, Hon. K. C. MacDonald and Hon. George S. Pearson, attacked the proposal of a highway commission.

Mr. Pearson said it was an undemocratic way of administering the country's policies and a negation of responsible government. He thought Mr. Winch's plan much too unwieldy.

## Oil Drillers Hit Hard Rock

Contractors drilling the government's oil well at Commotion Creek in the Peace River district have run into harder rock than they anticipated, Hon. W. J. Asselstine, Minister of Mines, said in the Legislature yesterday.

But this was as far as the minister would go in divulging details of the drilling operation, demanded by Conservative leader R. L. Maitland, K.C., and the House voted down 28 to 12 Mr. Maitland's motion for production of all reports on the project.

The mines minister inferred that at least a second hole will be drilled, stating:

"One hole would not prove up the field, even if it does strike oil. We would need at least another hole."

Mr. Asselstine said that so far as the geological survey reports on the field were concerned, they were open to everyone. It was not in the public interest, however, to divulge details of the weekly progress reports.

"We have received good value in geological knowledge for every dollar spent so far," he said.

Mr. Maitland insisted that since \$500,000 of public funds had either been spent or appropriated for the work the public was entitled to know just how it was going along.

Premier Pattullo said the government was no different in relation to the project than private oil companies which did not publish their progress reports in full.

### What the House Did

# Special School Grant Highlight of Session

A record supply bill—\$29,947,207 for next year's appropriations—special financial aid to municipalities, a redrafted teachers' pension plan, and an absentee voting plan for men in the armed forces were features of the legislation assented to by Lieutenant-Governor Hamber when the 19th B.C. Legislature prorogued this morning after its fifth session.

Although the government did not admit it officially at any point, most members will leave the capital this week-end in the belief they will have to face the electors on the hustings before they return. The term of the present House does not legally expire until 1942, but the customary practice is to appeal to the country after four years. An election in the late spring is what most members expect.

Presentation of the record expenditure budget, which provoked a running Conservative attack and repeated demands for the government to economize in wartime, held the spotlight for most of the session. In the background, however, was the forthcoming Dominion-provincial conference which may profoundly change all budget plans.

### SPECIAL CIVIC GRANT

The major surprise of the session came with the introduction of the special educational grant to municipalities. In its original form this was to be \$250,000 a year, but Liberal members, under criticism in the country, forced the government at the last minute to add another \$200,000, beginning in 1942.

Tied up with this was the revamped teachers' pension scheme in which the government accepted responsibility for the pensions and decided to make school boards pay a contribution toward the fund, beginning in 1942. Teachers will have their pensions revised downward under the plan, but they had faced complete collapse of their former super-annuation fund.

A modernized Mental Hospitals Act ranked as another important measure. Its chief feature was to give inmates of mental hospitals the right of an appeal to independent doctors to determine their sanity.

Mental illness also entered into amendments to the Medical Act, among which was a clause providing for suspension of practitioners who are mentally ill.

### WAR LEGISLATION

Several pieces of legislation arose out of wartime conditions. Besides the formula for an absentee vote for the services at election time, a moratorium on mortgages and land sale agreements was applied to the homes of men on active service. Servicemen acting as trustees were authorized in another bill to name substitutes.

An act setting out regulations for changes in persons' names was aimed partly at uncovering fifth columnists, by requiring that all name changes in the last 20 years must be registered.

Because of the need for special guards the commissioner of

police was empowered to engage temporary constables for a period of six months instead of one.

A minor change in taxation was a reduction by half in the license fees for chauffeurs. Another tax change was an increase in timber royalties on the coast.

### DEBT REFUNDING

Municipal debt refunding was the subject of three acts, giving power to deal with the debts of Burnaby, Rossland and the district of Coquitlam.

Three measures dealt with the regulation of agricultural products, covering the grading of wool and hogs, and the grading and marketing of poultry and poultry products.

The House wrestled for the third time with the retail merchants' attempt to halt loss leader selling and passed a new formula for deciding how wholesale prices shall be determined for the purpose of the law.

Other acts were pretty well routine amendments to existing laws. A change in the Motor Vehicle Act brought in during the closing hours of the session will give motorists east of the Cascade Mountains special rebates on their license fees when they lay their cars up for the winter.

## One Resolution Left Untouched

One motion was left on the order paper of the B.C. Legislature last night when the members assembled for only 20 minutes to put the finishing touches to a few bills.

It was Premier Pattullo's resolution calling for morning, afternoon and evening sittings. For the first time in many years it was not necessary to pass the motion because the House got through its business without the need of morning sittings.

Pleasantries were exchanged between the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition as the session ended.

The Premier thanked both opposition groups for their co-operation.

Mr. Maitland, quite sure that it would be the last session of the present Parliament, "though the Premier hasn't taken me into his confidence yet about the election," wished long life to members who would not come back after the poll. Though many people criticized the actions of members he said he had found the men of all parties serious and hard-working representatives.

## Members End Session With Patriotic Songs

The 5th session of British Columbia's 19th Legislature was prorogued on a serious and patriotic note this morning by Lieutenant-Governor E. W. Hamber.

There was no battle of papers, which customarily covers the floor of the chamber with documents at the end of the session.

Led by Arthur Jackman, soloist, the members sang "There'll Always Be An England," and "Rule, Britannia."

The Lieutenant-Governor's speech struck the same tone when he said:

"It is the hope of all of us that before another year shall have passed the Empire and her Allies and all assisting shall have vanquished the enemy so that peace may again prevail."

The Throne Speech made reference to the balancing of the budget and the move toward relieving land of the school tax burden through the new education grant to cities.

The Lieutenant-Governor gave assent to 62 acts which were passed during the session.

The House sat only 15 minutes for the prorogation ceremony, having finished all its business last night.

(See page 10 for summary of legislation).

### Expected to Appeal

Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, told the Legislature yesterday there might be 200 or 300 patients in Essondale who will want to appeal for release under the formula provided in the new mental hospitals bill.

Once these have been dealt with it is not expected there will be a great number of appeals, he said.

The bill allows any patient, after three months in a mental hospital, to have his case reviewed by two independent doctors.

Dr. Weir said the medical staff of the mental hospital welcomed the new provision because it would remove from them any stigma that they were keeping people in the hospitals unnecessarily.

The new teachers' pension scheme was completed by the House yesterday afternoon. Dr. Weir inserted at the last minute a clause which makes it necessary to have an actuarial examination of the fund every three years. The object of this is to avoid having the fund get into arrears as happened with the original scheme.

### Advertising Clause Taken From Bill

Mrs. H. D. Smith, Liberal, Burrard, last night in the Legislature withdrew a clause of the Commodities Minimum Loss Act which would restrict advertising of products.

The proposal was to force merchants, in posting reduce prices, to say when and where the original prices were in force.

Mrs. Smith said advertising men had expressed concern about the clause and that they proposed to discuss a formula with merchants to correct the present situation.

Several members of the House said they were disappointed the clause had been withdrawn and H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, decried the whole bill and said it would not help retailers at all.

### Special Rebates On Car Licenses

In four minutes last night the Legislature passed a bill which makes special arrangements for rebates on motorists' license fees east of the Cascade Mountains.

The plan was promoted by Thomas Uphill, Labor, Fernie, and brought in by Attorney-General Gordon Wismer.

It permits motorists who lay their cars up when snow comes to get either one-third, one-quarter or one-sixth rebate on their fees, depending on whether they turn their plates in on November 1, December 1 or January 1.

At the present time they are allowed a one-third rebate and many motorists turn their plates in when the first snow comes, Mr. Uphill explained. In December the weather often clears and those who have turned their plates in cannot drive their cars.

By allowing the monthly reduction the government will enable people to keep their cars on the road for longer periods, he said.

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## SESSION IN FINAL WEEK

### Prorogation Probable by Thursday if Progress in House Maintained

Commencing on October 29, the fifth session of the Nineteenth Legislature of British Columbia will enter its last week tomorrow, with the order for three sittings a day expected shortly, and prorogation probable by Thursday. Committee work is nearing a close, routine bills have been pressed towards completion, the House has voted all save its own sessional indemnities in the book of estimates.

The main bill of the session, the Teachers' Pension Act, has not yet been presented, together with whatever other legislation the administration has to offer. Motions placed on the order paper as talking points have still to be dealt with, including one asking the Dominion to take over care and upkeep of the Trans-Canada Highway within the province.

#### DISSOLUTION PROBABLE

Though official confirmation has been withheld, there are many members who believe that dissolution of the Nineteenth Assembly will come before a sixth session would be called. Most British Columbia Legislatures have gone to four sessions, a few to five, and none in modern times to six.

After dissolution, changes in the Constitutional Act rearranging provincial ridings will come into play, Victoria dropping to a three-seat constituency, and The Islands riding disappearing as a separate entity. Oak Bay, then, will take on a separate seat, and throughout the province riding borders will be varied in some fifteen instances.

Apart from the budget for 1941-42, the session has been featureless to date, and remarkable mainly for the length of two chief debates, that on the main address and on the budget speech, which together continued for a month. Rossland and Burnaby refunding bills have been the chief additions to the statutes, most other bills being variations of existing laws.

The House will resume at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

## Note and Comment

By SANDHAM GRAVES

Many people have asked how it feels to sit in the Place That Is Never Mentioned, in the seats that do not exist. All British parliaments have a place that is never mentioned, and a variety of seats that do not exist. The British Columbia Legislature is no exception, or so this column has been told. There follows an honest attempt to describe the feelings of one who would sit in the Place That Is Never Mentioned, if there ever were such a place, that is.

It is cold, that is clear. A man has need of a thick head of hair to begin with, without any fatal weakness like a bald spot. The air, damp and chill, strikes downward from above and to the rear, carrying with it odors reminiscent of James Bay at low tide. It is stuffy, too. The cold air seems to bring with it nothing of life and energy, only air from a mammoth remnant counter, where the public may be considered to have turned it over innumerable times, searching for something fresh.

It is cramped, is the Place That Is Never Mentioned. The feet have nowhere to be at rest. Legs hang straight up and down from the knees to the heels, unless they are of the detachable variety, which is not often the case. After a while, numbness gradually eases the discomfort, so that it seems natural for a man to support himself on twisted stumps. Cases have been known where men had to be carried—but no, there is horror enough in the world as it is!

To get into the Place that does not exist one goes through a doorway in Mr. Speaker's Corridor, behind a swing door. There is an entrance well, one yard square, from which scaling ladders mount precipitately to the right and left. The scaling ladders are well muffled, so that bodies falling down them into the well below will make no noise in the process. Nor will there be an outcry, for the fall is considered fatal. The fall is not always fatal, however, for as many as ten people have been known to occupy the Place simultaneously, and to return alive to tell of it.

It is bright in the Place that has no map reference. It is within earshot of some of the keenest voices of the day. Wit, repartee, humor, irony, sarcasm and sometimes elephantine buffoonery drift within earshot. Borne on the same stale air are sometimes even brighter sounds, telling of sincerity, purpose, honesty, application, a desire to help humanity without hope of recompense or reward. There is anger, pride, fear, loneliness, despair, jealousy, ambition, greed and every human motive that the human ear may detect abroad on the same sibilant currents.

It is dull in the Place that is without official existence; dead, monotonously, maddeningly dull at times. Waves of sound sweep in leaden streams over the ears, battering the senses, hammering at the nerves, shrieking like an inferno of disembodied spirits from the caverns of some re-echoing netherland. There are times when even the fatal plunges to the well below would be welcomed with relief, if the frozen legs would support a man's weight. Trapped, the mind sleeps. Waves, seas and oceans of sound sweep over the head, heard dimly like the roar of surf upon some distant beach.

It is changeless in the Place that nobody knows. There are explanations from the right and protests from the left, which do not vary by one syllable in a dozen years. Mr. "X" becomes Mr. "Y"; Mr. "Z" moves over, and speaks like Mr. "A" was wont to speak; and that is all. Well, perhaps that is not all. The marble clock, hanging directly opposite, beyond the golden lights and below the agitated knitting needles, moves on; eating up new seconds, advancing into fresh hours, ticking off small eternities of time, to lay beside the long eternity of the past. And who can change the past?

It is cold and cramped and stuffy in the Place That Is Never Mentioned. It is bright and dull and changeless. It has driven some good men to drink, in the past, and will do so again in the future. But it is educative, too. Why, one term in the Place that is nowhere and one becomes an undergraduate in the University of Human Relations, a veritable freshman among mankind. Two terms and one is a sophomore, and properly cynical. Three terms and one has advanced to a dim belief in the dignity of one's fellow men. Twelve terms and one is satisfied if the mind will go to sleep at will, and a trained mind does, you know. Or so this column has been told. But there, as the Place That Is Never Mentioned cannot in fact exist, perhaps it does not really matter. After all, who cares?

**Members Convalescing—Proceeding on double sittings for two weeks, with committee work in the "free" morning periods, the Legislature unseated several members last week through ill-health and indispositions. Hon. C. S. Leary, advised to take a rest for the sake of his heart, was reported making satisfactory progress yesterday; Ernest Winch, who suffered a relapse earlier in the week, was back in his seat, and several private members were said to be recovering from influenza and minor ailments.**

# REFUND BILL IS DEBATED

## B.C. Legislature Proceeds With Legislation in Afternoon Sitting

Burnaby's refunding scheme was objected to in the Provincial Legislature yesterday from the Conservative and C.C.F. benches. Ernest W. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby), declared the scheme would imply a ten mill increase in Burnaby taxes and that default under its terms would leave the municipality liable for a debt of some \$4,000,000. Herbert Anscomb (Conservative, Victoria), declared ministerial explanations had been vague, and that the chief sacrifices were being made by others than the Province or the bank.

The bill received second reading at the afternoon sitting.

Explaining the Burnaby Bill, Hon. A. W. Gray said that a minority of the bondholders had agreed to forego \$1,039,000 in accumulated interest sums unpaid, for an exchange of security at par and payments amortized over a number of years. Interest on the new issue would start at 2½ per cent and increase to 4 per cent. Trustees would handle the new sinking funds and further borrowings by the municipality would be limited. For two or three years the area would remain under commission control, with restoration of an elective council then.

### BURNABY MEMBER

Mr. Winch contended that the plan, if ratified, would increase Burnaby's taxes by \$122,320 annually, and put a further drain on property holders. The financing schemes appeared to be based on continuation of sales of reverted lands which, though brisk in the past, might not continue so. If within six months default occurred, the municipality would become liable for its whole debt, with accumulated interest as well.

Mr. Anscomb concurred, in part. The bill was being presented before an agreement had been made with a majority of the bondholders. In so far as he could see, neither the Province nor the bank, which acted as the fiscal agent for the municipality, were making any sacrifices whatever in the matter. Discussion lapsed and second reading followed.

### BILLS ADVANCED

Spending the afternoon on legislation, the House gave third readings to the Trades Licence, Land Registry, Fire Marshal, Police and Prisons Regulation, Village Municipalities, Wool Grading, Hog Grading and Endowment Employees' Superannuation Acts; second readings to the Municipal Elections, Municipal Public Utilities, Apprenticeship, Fraser River (N.W.) Bridge and Burnaby Bills, and completed in committee, with amendments, the Nanaimo Civic Arena, Mortgagees' and Purchasers' Relief, and Tulk Estate measures.

Several other measures were opened, but without final action taken. Objection was taken to extensive powers in the new poultry control measure, explained as necessary to enact Federal regulations. These powers, including licensing, would not affect producers unless they were engaged in trade, Hon. K. C. MacDonald said.

Amendments to the Game Act, said Attorney-General Wismer, will leave farmers the right to kill game animals or birds found destroying

their crops by day or by night, but will require permits where such game is required for the purposes of food. Stockmen will be permitted to spread poison on their own lands, against wolves or other predatory beasts. Fishery inspectors may be made game wardens under the measure. "Regulation" of game and fish lodges that take in paying guests came under some fire, Mr. Wismer stating the authority would be used prudently.

### TAX NON-RESIDENTS

Under the Public Schools Act, leave is being taken to assess non-resident property owners in rural districts for minimum school rates, in the neighborhood of \$5. The measure also provides for swearing in trustees.

Under the Apprenticeship Act, the Crown is taking authority to waive apprenticeship agreements in respect of minors engaged in war-time industries, Hon. G. S. Pearson said.

The Fraser Bridge measure is to enable the Provincial Comptroller to set up proper accounts showing the liability of bridge tolls to the consolidated revenue fund of the Province, Hon. John Hart explained.

Minor amendments were offered by the administration to six bills in varying stages before the House.

Two new bills were introduced by message, and read a first time. Hon. G. S. Wismer introduced amendments to the Medical Act, dealing with self-regulation under the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Hon. G. S. Pearson brought in amendments to the Fisheries Act, the scope of which was not immediately clear.

Suggested amendments were introduced by C.C.F. members to the Health and Dentistry Acts, receiving first readings. Mrs. Paul Smith (Lib., Burrard) offered for first reading amendments to the Commodities Minimum Loss Act, which would redefine "costs" on grocery products, and fix spreads in connection with retail meat trades.

The House recessed at 5:30 p.m., until 8:30 p.m.

### ACCEPT OPPOSITION BILL

Resuming at night, the House continued on legislation. The administration accepted C.C.F. amendments to the Health Act offered by Mrs. Jamieson, and requiring blood tests in pre-natal care, on the understanding that such examination would be discretionary and not compulsory. The administration expressed sympathy with other C.C.F. measures, but asked that they be withdrawn.

Second readings followed Nicola Claims Reinstatement, Parents' Maintenance, Poll Tax, Securities Custody, Motor Vehicle, Licence Restriction, Fisheries, Health, and Commodities Minimum Loss Bills.

Three new bills were introduced and read a first time, including a Coquitlam refunding measure introduced by message from the Crown. Amendments to the Vancouver Joint Drainage Act and to the Greater Vancouver Water District Act were the other measures handled.

### COQUITLAM REFUNDING

Hon. A. W. Gray explained the Coquitlam measure provided for the refunding of \$220,000 in outstanding debentures of the District of Coquitlam jointly with the Municipality of Coquitlam; of which debt \$120,000 was on hand, and \$100,000 remained to be provided for a retirement in April, 1941. By refunding this could be done, he said.

Mr. Maitland attacked the licence revocation measure, explained as a curb to avoidance of the law in Doukhobor areas, on the ground

that it was high-handed and unsound law. Mr. Anscomb said his solution would be to return the colony settlers to Russia, if they did not comply with the laws of the land. The measure, however, proceeded.

### MINIMUM LOSS BILL

Discussion turned for a time on the minimum loss measure, being amendments to the Commodities Minimum Loss Act, of 1937, introduced by Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith explained that the Retail Merchants' Association desired the amendments to make the statute workable in the retail meat trade; and to substitute a new basis for cost price; accepting the lowest wholesale price in place of the previous invoice price, as that basis. The bill would also stop loss-leader advertising, she declared.

Mr. Maitland objected, on the ground that the bill, in private hands, would instruct the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council; and also perpetuated an unsound law. Consumers were more in need of protection, he added. Attorney-General Wismer supported the measure, which went through second reading unchanged.

For a time the House argued artificial dentures, and the importance of dental mechanics in effecting repairs to artificial teeth. Colin Cameron spoke to bill in his name, which would vary the existing Dentistry Act, so that dental mechanics could initiate repairs to dentures. Ernest Winch demonstrated, with an exhibit of false teeth. The House, however, ruled that dentists should still be consulted on such work, and the bill was killed before second reading.

The House rose at 10:44 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. today, with prorogation expected before the end of this week.

# DISCUSS VOTE FOR SOLDIERS

## Special Committee of House Demands More Time for Consideration

On the grounds that there was no precedent for such a procedure, and because the committee would automatically be discontinued at the conclusion of the House sittings, W. T. Straith, M.P.P. for Victoria, chairman of the special committee, Provincial Elections Act, at the Legislature yesterday said that he had been advised by Premier Pattullo that no arrangements could be made for the continuation of the committee following the closing of the House.

A motion that the committee be permitted to continue in session after the closing of the House to consider the regulations pertaining to the soldiers' vote had been made at the last meeting of the committee.

P. Walker, deputy elections returns officer, said that it would take over five tons of materials, shipped to England, to take care of the voting there.

During yesterday's meeting, discussion centred for some time on whether or not every man in uniform was to be considered a British subject.

# Government Puts Pledge of City Aid In Special Measure

Budget Promise of \$250,000 in Special Grant Towards Education Next Year, Extended to \$450,000 in 1942—Teachers' Bill In

"As a measure of relief in taxation upon land for the purposes of education, there shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund during the fiscal year ending the thirty-first day of March, 1942, the sum of \$250,000, and annually thereafter a sum of not less than \$450,000. The said sums shall be distributed to municipalities and school districts upon an equitable basis to be determined by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council," read the operating clause of a special municipal assistance measure introduced by Premier Pattullo in the Legislature last evening.

The bill, designed to cover municipal costs with the future 7 per cent levy for teachers' pensions, was introduced by message and read a first time. It was entitled the Special Assistance in the Cost of Education Act. The \$250,000 mentioned was the budget provision announced for next year. The \$450,000 item would apply in the year after, when municipal employers under the teachers' pensions scheme must start contributions to that scheme.

#### TEACHERS' PENSIONS BILL

The Teachers' Pensions Bill was introduced immediately afterwards by Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir. Contained in forty-six sections on thirty-one pages, the bill will come into operation at the first of January, 1941, repealing then the existing Teachers' Pensions Act. It provides for a Teachers' Pension Commissioner and a Board of Trustees to administer the scheme, under the supervision of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. While official explanations were deferred, the bill itself set out many of the features of the proposed new scheme.

#### PENSION PROVISIONS

Retiring ages would be sixty-five years for men, and sixty years for women. The plan embraces a single-life service pension of \$360 a year for twenty years of service, and proportionate service pensions for lesser service; an additional service pension on the single life plan of \$12 weekly for each year of service beyond twenty years mentioned. These would be the basic service pension rates, exclusive of other provisions in the bill. A choice of single life, single life or annuity guaranteed, joint life and last survivor, or combination of these would be offered, with disability benefits.

The bill will apply to teachers to whom the former act applied, to all teachers under school boards, and to members of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation who are permanently employed. Existing pensions now being paid will be transferred under the new scheme, with adjustments for pensions in excess of \$50 a month, after which reductions may apply.

#### OTHER PROVISIONS

A teachers' pensions fund is to be re-established, with contributions from teachers under the former act, from school boards, from teachers to come under the new measure, from funds of the Teachers' Pension Federation, from interest accruing on sums invested, and other contributions made under the new plan. Teachers employed will contribute a minimum of 4 per cent of their salaries, and may elect to increase that. In addition, teachers will con-

tribute 1 per cent to the service pension fund, until actuarial survey determines the addition to be unnecessary.

Commencing at January 1, 1942, Provincial, municipal and other employers would pay monthly to the Teachers' Pensions Commissioner a sum equal to 7 per cent of the teaching payroll under their charge. It is to match this payment that the Special Assistance Act was introduced last evening.

#### OTHER BILLS

Message bills to amend the Succession Duty Act, Provincial Elections Act, Mental Hospital Act (Consolidated), and Coal Mines Regulation Act were introduced and read once, before the House rose at 11:02 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. today. Amendments to the Succession Duty Act were explained as clarifying existing sections of that law, without change in the rate of taxation.

## WARM DENIAL CABLED HERE

Lord Croft Replies to Criticism in Provincial House On Land Plan

From London, England, where as a member of the House of Lords he is undergoing the hazards of aerial siege, Lord Croft replied yesterday to assertions made from the C.C.F. side of the Provincial Legislature in a recent debate on land settlement in British Columbia. In a cable to George M. Murray, Liberal member for Lillooet, Lord Croft stated, in part:

"Grateful for your intervention. Charge about my support of Fascism grotesque. Have opposed and detested all totalitarian forms of government from the start, as enemies of democracy and leading inevitably to war. Have never been the agent of any foreign Government, and in Spanish war fought strenuously against intervention and opposed supplies to either side.

"Suggestions that I was in charge of purchases of any foreign country in Great Britain is insulting as false. Thanks to the policy of the British Government, Spain, almost alone

among the nations of Europe, has to date resisted Nazi tutelage. If these libels repeated outside Legislature, would be glad to be informed."

Mr. Murray released the cable, with the explanation that he had drawn Lord Croft's attention to a discussion in the Provincial Legislature.

As Sir Henry Page Croft, Lord Croft was in British Columbia a few years ago in connection with overtures to Federal and Provincial Governments looking to a land settlement policy under British sponsorship. Though no action resulted, the Provincial Government offered free land to assist the scheme at the time.

## B.C. ESTIMATES ARE COMPLETED

Legislature Passes Balance Of Votes to Finish Expenditures

Approving of statutory and voted appropriations totaling \$30,991,425 in all, the Provincial Legislature completed estimates' review on Monday evening. Final votes to pass included \$814,941 for additional expenditures in the current year, \$229,277 to close accounts on last year, a vote of \$23,750 in the Department of Municipal Affairs, and the Legislature's own indemnities, at \$2,000 per member.

The supplementary estimates included under the Premier's office, \$3,500; Agriculture, \$21,800; Attorney-General, \$124,515, of which \$95,000 was for police salaries and expenses; Education, \$56,000; Finance, \$6,010; Labor, \$1,200; Mines, \$51,000, including \$50,000 for oil exploration in the Peace River; Provincial Secretary, \$64,804; Public Works, \$477,600, which included \$337,500 for refunds on farmers' tax accounts worked out on the roads, \$84,000 for flood damage at Squamish, Zeballos, and elsewhere, and \$56,000 for bridges; and \$8,500 for the Department of Trade and Industries.

#### SESSIONAL COSTS

The House voted \$131,810 for legislation, unchanged from last year. This included forty-eight sessional indemnities at \$2,000 each; \$6,500 for members' mileage to and from the session, and the balance in sessional staff and other costs.

Discussion was light. R. L. Maitland, K.C., objected to what he said was an increase in the vote of the Department of Municipal Affairs in a few years. Hon. A. W. Gray, responding, said the department was doing more work.

Thomas Uphill again raised the plea of sweepstakes for hospitals, but was told only the Dominion had control over the Criminal Code, in which sweeps are prohibited. Samuel Guthrie revived the seizure of literature for trials under Defence Regulations, the Government responding that the R.C.M.P. were chiefly in control of such prosecutions.

Completing the balance of its votes, the House prepared for the introduction of the Consolidated Supply Bill later in the week, before passing on to other matters.

## QUERY FREIGHT HAUL CHARGES

Agricultural Committee Discusses Variations in Wheat Shipping Rates

L. H. Eyres, M.P.P. for Chilliwack, objected to the railway rate for the transportation of wheat from inland points to Vancouver on the grounds that it was definitely unfair to the farmers, during the meeting of the Legislative agricultural committee yesterday.

Stating that the rate for Grades 1, 2 and 3 of wheat for export was 20 cents per 100, he said that the rate for local consumption was exactly double that.

In addition, it was brought out during the meeting that, peculiarly enough, the railways charged 32½ cents for wheat freightage from Creston and only 30 cents from Edmonton to Vancouver.

The committee meeting, which was attended by members of the agricultural products control committee, under J. B. Munro, deputy minister of agriculture, heard letters from British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces read by E. O. MacGinnis, of the Department of Agriculture. They were inquiring concerning the animal hide-tanning scheme for war purposes.

#### APPLE MARKETS

Some discussion during the session centred round the apple situation in the province, now that the English market had been cut off due to the recent budget. Captain C. R. Bull, South Okanagan, intimated that the growers of that district had their own officials working on the matters of markets and marketing.

In a resolution concerning the possible governmental subsidizing of gasoline for farmers for the purpose of clearing land, L. A. Shepherd, M.P.P. for Delta, claimed that such a procedure would result in growing of additional crops the people would be unable to dispose of.

Other resolutions forwarded included a motion that the freight charges on eggs be investigated, and that school taxes should be raised by means other than by tax on land. The last motion was referred to the Department of Education.

Yesterday was the final sitting of the agricultural committee at the Legislature. It was under the chairmanship of Frank Putnam, M.P.P. for Nelson-Creston.

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# Describes Teachers' Pension Fund Levy As Class Legislation

## Saanich Council Strongly Opposed to Government Amendment to Superannuation Act—"Diabolical Legislation," Says Councillor Warren

"CLASS legislation . . . the most diabolical piece of legislation any government has had the audacity to bring in," was the way Councillor E. C. Warren, at a meeting of the Saanich Council last night, described the Provincial Government's amendment to the Superannuation Act to secure the teachers' pension fund by means of a 7 per cent levy on the gross teachers' payroll in any municipality.

By an unanimous vote, the council placed on record the following resolution, moved by Councillor Warren and seconded by Councillor L. H. Passmore:

"We strongly protest the action of the Provincial Government in further burdening the municipalities with a 7 per cent tax to be placed in aid of the teachers' superannuation fund. We feel that this is class legislation and forces those in insecure positions and receiving small salaries to contribute to the superannuation fund of those in secure positions and receiving far better salaries than themselves."

### TEACHERS OPPOSED

The mover of the resolution stated that the teachers of Saanich themselves were opposed to the Government measure.

The discussion followed the reading of a letter from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities reporting that a delegation of the union had met Premier Pattullo and the Cabinet with a request that the plan should be shelved for one year to enable it to be discussed at the union's convention. The letter stated that the Premier's reply was that, in the opinion of the actuary, immediate action was necessary to maintain the fund, but the statutory levy of 7 per cent would not take effect until 1942.

Opposition to payment of any part of the deficit in the fund was expressed in a letter from the Saanich School Board, which stated that the levy would impose an additional burden of approximately \$6,000 a year on the municipality.

"This is a direct taxation on people who have no control over it," exclaimed Councillor Warren. "It is class legislation for the direct benefit of individuals who have steady jobs and better salaries than those of many of the people who will have to pay for it." He declared that, since the levy was to be on the gross payroll, it would increase the burden on Saanich by 12½ per cent of the payroll.

### DEMANDS REASONS

"They speak of a deficit in the superannuation fund—what occasioned it? The fund hasn't been on an actuarial basis—why?" demanded Councillor J. R. Sooby.

Reeve A. G. Lambrick remarked that those were questions for the Government to answer.

Before the resolution was passed, Councillor Warren and others commented upon the fact that, so far as could be ascertained, no one outside Government circles had been given any opportunity to study the proposed legislation.

## Note and Comment

By SANDHAM GRAVES

In praise of the country Member. It will not be fashionable to say so, but the saving grace of your present-day parliaments is the country Member. His sincerity is patent, his attitude humble, and his knowledge of human relations has been gained at first hand. Often it is the real voice of Canada that speaks from a rural riding, where men fish, or plough, or chop wood for a living.

There is something infinitely attractive in the real voice of Canada. There is to it a basic optimism, borne of many conquests on the edge of the wilderness. It is friendly; human beings themselves being among the scarcest evidences in a great, empty land. It is a voice that speaks from a real and timeless set of values. Man is judged by what he does, the surest test of all.

After a month of debates, after all the glittering pageantry of an age-old performance, it is what the country Member says that sticks in the mind. Often it is said haltingly, sometimes even ungrammatically; but always sparsely, and with a fine condensation of thought in a minimum of words. It is the country Member who has had time for reflection; almost a lost art in urban communities these days.

What is it that the country Member is saying? Why, a great variety of things, to be sure. The country Member favors the class-less society of Canada. A man should work, or he doesn't count. A man should have faith, and have hope, else he has no reason to live. A man should seek an honest return for honest effort; but not more than that, and nothing at expense of any one else. A man should be helpful, friendly, and kindly in all dealings with his neighbors; whether they live 100 miles away, or right next door. A man should be prudent, thrifty, and industrious; both on his own account, and on account of the community in which he lives.

The country Member has an in-born distrust of artificiality and frills. He is afraid of words and of statutes and has learned to his cost that they often are meaningless. He has a deep and bitter scorn for idle people; seeing so much work that is waiting to be done in the world. His conception of wealth is a sufficiency; and his estimate of poverty the loss of a man's independence, the right to speak, and think, and do of his own accord. The country Member knows why the sun shines, and what would happen if it failed for a week to do so.

This year, the country Member was caught in the bewildering maze of changing days, and driven back in upon himself, thinking. He came forward, here and there, with a soft, but considered warning. If you cut down 75,000 acres of trees yearly, and replace them with 10,000 acres of seedlings, you will one day want for trees, he said. If you exhaust your known ores, and neglect to find new deposits, you will one day whistle for a mining industry. If you gamble with tax money, you may not win in the lottery. Fish may be over-caught, and game slowly extinguished. Writing letters does not till soil, or fertilize it. In the end, human wants can be filled only by human effort.

This column declares a bias in favor of the country Member. It likes him; and it notices that partisanship has comparatively little to do with his processes of thought. There are, it would seem, almost no Liberal cows, Conservative salmon, or Socialist fir trees in the Eden we call British Columbia. Cows are cows to a country Member; salmon are salmon; and fir trees take 100 years to grow. If the sun shines, the solar system will continue to function; and the solar system will have the final word, in any event. So here is to the country Member. Whole cities are the better for his brief visit in their midst!

## DENY VOTE TO SOME SOLDIERS

### Legislative Committee Says Orientals and Indians Have No Franchise

During the sitting of the special committee dealing with the Elections Act at the Legislature yesterday morning, it was definitely established that Indians and Orientals serving with the British Forces either in Canada or Overseas are not entitled to vote.

Colin Cameron, M.P.P. for Co-mox, intimated that if Indians and Orientals were willing to give their lives for the country, they should be entitled to the vote.

P. Walker, deputy provincial secretary, said that Indians were wards of the Government, and that their status would not be changed by their enlistment. As such, he stated that they could not have the franchise. The same applied to the Orientals, he said.

Mr. Walker admitted that during the last war a number of Japanese received the right to vote, following their return from overseas. He said, however, that there was no Dominion provision for such a case now.

Other points discussed during the committee session included questions as to whether a soldier could be penalized for committing offences against the voting regulations. Mr. Walker was of the opinion no such action could be taken.

In addition, it was recommended that civilians be made deputy returning officers for the handling of soldiers' votes in Canada. While it might be necessary to have the officers hold such posts overseas, civilians were recommended for the places in Canada.

# Sharp Clash in B.C. Assembly on Special Assistance Measure

Redrafted Teachers' Pension Plan Unopposed on Second Reading, but Promise of Future Civic Grants Stirs Debate as Legislation Advances

**I**N the shortest and sharpest debate of the session, the Special Assistance in the Cost of Education Act was approved yesterday by the Provincial Legislature, passing second reading on a division called by the Administration and resulting in a ballot of 39-2. The Teachers' Pension Act went through second reading unopposed, its terms being explained by Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir as already outlined. The division on the \$450,000 municipal aid bill split the Conservative Opposition, three members voting for the bill, and two against it. The C.C.F. supported the Administration on both measures.

It was brought out in discussion that one year hence the employers of teachers, including the municipalities, will be obliged to pay 7 per cent of the teaching payrolls into the new teachers' pension fund. One year hence, the Provincial Treasury will commence to distribute not less than \$450,000, the approximate cost of the 7 per cent levy, among municipal and district school areas in special aid of the cost of education. In 1941, the Province will distribute \$250,000 in municipal and school areas, towards a reduction in taxation on land.

## ASSISTANCE DEBATED

The debate turned on whether or not the Province was giving any additional assistance to the municipalities. Mrs. Paul Smith (Liberal, Burrard) described the first \$250,000 grant as "pure velvet" for the municipalities. The Conservative Opposition argued that the Government was giving a grant with one hand, and taking it back with the other. The Administration defended the action as the start of a progressive plan under which the Province would assume more of the costs of education.

The House reached the Teachers' Pension bill first, during the afternoon sitting. Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir explained that the original scheme, started in 1929 and assisted by the Province for ten years with an annual grant of \$25,000, had gone bankrupt. Non-provision for employers' contributions and a fictitious doubling of return payments had run up an overdraft of some \$300,000, and left the scheme actuarially behind to the extent of almost \$2,000,000.

The Province would cover the immediate shortage, but it would require 7 per cent from the employers; and 1 per cent from the teachers in addition to their regular 4 per cent deductions, to balance the funds on the new basis. After twenty years, or in less time than that, the back service part of the pensions would be made up, and the new scheme would rest on an entirely sound basis, Dr. Weir said.

## CONTRIBUTIONS OUTLINED

At present there were 210 teachers on superannuation, entailing future commitments in the neighborhood of \$1,550,000 for pensions already issued. Under the new plan, active teachers would contribute the regular 4 per cent of their salaries, 1 per cent towards the actuarial deficits outstanding, and in a voluntary capacity as much more of their salaries as they wished. The employers, Provincial and municipal, would be assessed 7 per cent, covering all necessary

missioner would be named, and a board of trustees placed in charge of the funds, with periodic reviews of the whole scheme.

Dr. Weir suggested at one point that average pensions payable under the new plan might be in the neighborhood of \$50; being at the rate of \$360 a year after twenty years' service, with \$12 a year for each additional year's service, with retirement at sixty-five for men, and at sixty years for women. Pensions already payable under the old plan amount to some \$151,567 per annum, he said.

Responding, R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, said he was not opposing the pensions scheme. He believed, however, that assurance of actuarial soundness was not always justified; and would prefer to see Dominion group annuities substituted in their place. Second reading followed, unopposed.

## SPECIAL AID BILL

Rising to move second reading of the Special Assistance Act, Premier Pattullo said it had nothing to do with the Teachers' Pension Act, though introduced at the same time. The employers of teachers would be obliged to pay their 7 per cent of the payrolls in due course. The Administration had already announced the intended \$250,000 grant and now enlarged that for the years to follow to not less than \$450,000. This sum, however, was to be considered as a measure towards the reduction of the burden of taxation upon land. "It is the intention of the Government to go further, when that can be accomplished," Premier Pattullo declared.

Herbert Ansonb, stating the \$250,000 grant was being stepped up to \$450,000 next year, said that no relief would be afforded to the municipalities, which would be met with the new 7 per cent payroll levy at the same time. The grant might match the levy, but would not do more. Such a bill would not bind future Governments, and meanwhile the 7 per cent levy would have become law. It took the Province eleven years to discover that the former pension scheme was unsound; for seven years of which time the present Administration had been in office, without proposing a remedy. "I can see no relief in this bill," Mr. Ansonb declared.

## SEES LITTLE HELP

Mr. Maitland said he could not congratulate the Government on another piece of patchwork legislation. His recollection of Liberal policy was that the Province was going to assume all the costs of education and had secured election on that promise. Under the bill no municipality could set budget with-

out knowing what proportion of the special grant it would receive. Bit by bit, he asserted, a bone was being thrown to the municipalities, but no attempt was being made to put their finances on a sound basis. With the highest revenues in history, the Province had simply retained the money. Only very little assistance of any kind was implied in the present legislation.

H. G. Perry (Liberal, Fort George), declared the measure was implementing Liberal policy, that of taking over the cost of education gradually. That was the principle of the bill and a first step in the right direction. To have the Province assume all of the cost would require an additional \$4,500,000 as at present, and perhaps \$6,000,000 yearly as time went on.

L. H. Eyres (Conservative, Chilliwack), said flatly that the special assistance was merely covering up the fact that the 7 per cent was being taken away from the municipalities. It was giving with one hand and taking away with the other, he said.

## "PURE VELVET"

Mrs. Paul Smith (Liberal, Burrard), declared that school trustees' organizations for ten years had been asking the Province to take over the cost of education. It was Liberal policy to do so progressively, as the means could be found. The 7 per cent levy would not start immediately, so that the first \$250,000 grant would be "pure velvet," assisting the landowners concerned. "This is a very happy day in the Legislature," Mrs. Smith declared.

Hon. G. S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, asserted that the previous regime had been responsible for the imposition of an unsound scheme on the Legislature. "The previous Government, wilfully or otherwise, neglected to place a burden on the municipalities which they knew belonged there," Mr. Pearson said.

## CLASH IN HOUSE

Mr. Maitland—You have had seven years in which to do it.

Mr. Pearson—If you had been right in 1929, we would not have to do it now.

Mr. Maitland—You were elected on the promise of restoring municipal grants.

Mr. Pearson—This Government has been going through hard times and a difficult period of financing.

Mr. Maitland laughed and the exchange lapsed.

Leonard A. Shepherd (C.C.F., Delta) intervened. "We are giving the municipalities just exactly nothing," he declared.

Dr. Weir closed the debate. He said that the Administration had given back \$2,000,000 in assistance to the municipalities, of which \$1,000,000 had been in grants towards education. The teachers favored the pension scheme, which had been endorsed by the president of the British Columbia School Trustees' Association, and by many others. It was the school trustees who would have to provide the money, and the people would pay it, rather than a matter for negotiation with municipal councils.

## DIVISION CALLED

Premier Pattullo called for division on second reading of the Special Assistance Bill. Second reading followed, by 39 to 2. Herbert Ansonb and Leslie H. Eyres (Conservatives) stood by their colors, standing alone in opposition to the measure in its present form. Messrs. Maitland, Finland and Paton voted for the measure, as did Thomas Uphill (Labor) and all ranks of the C.C.F. party in the House. Twenty-eight Liberals polled in support of the bill, two pairs being announced.

## BILLS ENACTED

Telescoping other debate, the House gave third readings to the Poultry Products, Land, Game, Public Schools, Water, Municipal, Apprenticeship, Municipal Elections, Burnaby Refunding, Forest, Vancouver Joint Drainage, and Coquitlam Refunding Acts; second readings to the Succession Duty, Coal Mines Regulation, Provincial Elections, Teachers' Pensions, and Special Assistance Acts, and took a few other measures one stage in committee.

The coal mines regulation measure, it was explained, will provide for wash-houses in coal mines, and new safety regulations, urged in the House by Samuel Guthrie and others during this session. Amendments to the Provincial Home for the Aged and Trustee Acts were introduced and read once before the House recessed at 4:55 p.m., until 8:30 p.m.

## DENIAL REPEATED

Speaking by indulgence at the opening of the sitting, George M. Murray read the cabled denial of Lord Page-Croft to assertions made in the House during debate at this session. Debate was offered, but ruled out of order. The House applauded the explanation offered in the cable, already made public by Mr. Murray.

Speaking to the Burnaby refunding measure, Hon. A. W. Gray announced that the Government held \$680,000 of Burnaby securities, which it is proposed to exchange for new debentures under the terms of the bill. The measure was again opposed by opposition benches, but went through third reading, without a recorded test.

## ASSISTANCE BILL ENACTED

At the evening sitting, the Administration drove its legislative programme to virtual completion, except for new measures still making their way into the House. The Special Assistance Act passed through third reading, after a last stand by Herbert Ansonb and Leslie Eyres. Mr. Ansonb declared the bill was a fraud, and Mr. Eyres invited the Government to raise the assistance to \$750,000. The measure passed as presented to the House on Tuesday evening.

The twenty-four-hour-old Teachers' Pension Bill was virtually completed in committee, with Section 17, dealing with provincial liability, stood over for further review. Several important points were brought out in discussion. Government benches explained that no pensions subject to downward revision under the plan would be reduced below \$50 monthly; that the 7 per cent levy on employers would apply on gross teaching payrolls, before deduction of ordinary provincial grants; and periodic revision by an actuary will be changed to apply every three years, in place of five years stated in the measure as presented.

## ACTUARIAL REVIEW

Mr. Ansonb remarked that the 7 per cent levy would turn into a 10 per cent one in many instances, if the deduction came from gross teaching payrolls. The clause was ratified, unchanged. The Government accepted a suggestion by Mr. Maitland for more frequent actuarial revision, and will amend the bill to provide for such review after the first three years' operation of the scheme. The committee rose to report progress on the bill for the day.

Bitterly contested, the Commodities Minimum Loss Act was completed in committee, after the deletion of Section 4, the clause which would have required extended declarations in advertising dealing



with cut prices in special sales. Several members of the House attacked the measure as impracticable. Others defended it.

A bill to amend the Mental Hospitals Act proved to be a major measure, modernizing the care and treatment of persons of unsound mind, and setting up a panel of reviewing physicians to inquire into releases from mental institutions on appeal. Ernest Winch, who had campaigned through several sessions for some of the changes, complimented the Government on the bill, which went to second reading.

Third readings followed for the Licence Revocation, Greater Vancouver Water, Coal Mines Regulations and Special Assistance Acts; second readings for the Mental Hospitals, Trustees, and Provincial Home for the Aged Acts; while Succession Duty, Provincial Elections, Health, and Commodities Minimum Loss Acts were completed in committee with amendments. Extended debate greeted amendments to the Medical Act, progress being reported on the bill.

Bills to amend the Summary Convictions Act and the Municipal Superannuation Act (a second measure) were introduced by message and read once, before the House rose at 12:04 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. today.

# Pattullo Government Hopelessly Incapable R. L. Maitland Claims

Conservative Leader, Addressing Victoria Association, Attacks Budget and Redistribution Act—G. H. Bevan-Pritchard Named President

ANY administration that has proved itself so "utterly hopeless and incapable" as that of the Liberal Government in this province must be thrown out of office, R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative Leader of the Opposition, told the Victoria Conservative Association at its annual meeting last night.

"Nothing definite, nothing planned, nothing hopeful," was how Mr. Maitland characterized the Administration during the last four years. He charged the Government with doing "patchwork, with no thought for the future," and declared that under the present order people had no faith to invest money in the province. On every hand there was governmental interference with business, and every act of the Legislature caused lack of faith in a sound foundation of British Columbia, he said.

### ATTACKS BUDGET

Of the budget, the Conservative leader said he had been hopeful that in time of war the Government would forget the Liberal party, that it would dedicate itself to reduce the Province's own expenditures so as to be able to give greater aid to Britain.

"I'm more concerned in my conscience than I am in votes, in times like these. I'm more concerned in what is the right thing to do than what is going to win a seat here and there," Mr. Maitland declared. Every million saved in provincial expenditure would lighten the burden on the taxpayer and make it so much easier for the Dominion to collect the money urgently needed for war purposes.

Mr. Maitland said he had been disappointed to find that the Liberal Government had failed to realize the sacrifices that should be made to carry on Canada's part in the war to save the Empire and the liberty of future generations.

Speaking of the Victoria constituency and of the reorganization of the Victoria Conservative Association necessitated by what he termed the "gerrymandering" of the boundaries of the riding, Mr. Maitland said that Victoria had held a place of dignity in Canada as one of the few four-riding constituencies. Now it would be reduced to a three-man constituency—not because the people of Oak Bay or Victoria had asked for it, but in the hope of saving the seats of two of the Liberal members.

### LOSS OF DIGNITY

"You may think Mr. Strath (W. T. Strath, M.P.P.) is not very active in the Legislature," remarked Mr. Maitland, "but when it came to gerrymandering this riding for what he thought would be his own political advantage, he was about the most active man in the House." He asserted that Mr. Strath had sunk the dignity of the constituency for purely personal advantage.

The Conservative leader dismissed the C.C.F. with a single remark: "They have very little claim to public life in British Columbia today."

The meeting, adjourned from last May, unanimously elected G. H. Bevan-Pritchard as president, with Mr. Maitland as honorary president. Other officers elected were: First vice-president, Captain W. C. Thompson; second vice-president, Sinclair Elliott; secretary, William Duck, and treasurer, A. Lancaster.

### B.C. ORGANIZATION

The meeting also heard an informal address by Russell R. Walker, provincial organizer, on the organization under way throughout British Columbia in preparation for the election anticipated next Summer. Urging the members of the association to the fullest effort to bring out strong candidates and build up the organization that would assure their election, Mr. Walker said that, while the present Government "is on the skids," the fact that the Liberal party was well organized could not be ignored. It had built up an enormously powerful machine, whose strength could not be discounted, he declared.

A preliminary survey showed increasing Conservative enthusiasm in all parts of the province, Mr. Walker said. It was regarded as inevitable that an election would be held next June, and it would be the first test of the strength of the two parties since the general election last March. He anticipated that Premier Pattullo would be given something in the way of bait by Prime Minister Mackenzie King following the conference of Premiers in Ottawa next month, and it was possible that Premier Pattullo might spring an election even before June.

## B.C. SUPPLY IS GRANTED

Provincial Legislature Enacts Chief Fiscal Measure In Busy Day

Enacting the Supply Bill, which is the only measure of the session which does not require Royal assent, the British Columbia Legislature Tuesday afternoon granted supply to the needs of the Crown in the sum of \$30,991,926. Piloting the measure, Hon. John Hart explained that \$29,947,926 of the sum was for 1941-42; \$814,941 for 1940-41, and \$229,277 to close accounts in 1939-40. Voted appropriations in the estimates were completed on the evening previously.

At the afternoon sitting, the House gave third readings to the Nanaimo Civic Arena, Mortgagees' and Purchasers' Relief, Change of Name, Public Utilities, Fraser River

Bridge, Nicola Claims Reinstatement, Parents Maintenance, Poll Tax, Securities Custody, Motor Vehicle, Fisheries, Tulk Estate, Vancouver Incorporation and Supply Acts.

Completed in committee with minor amendments were the Poultry Products, Land, Game, Public Schools, Water, Municipal and Apprenticeship Acts. Second readings followed for the Forest, Medical, Vancouver Joint Drainage, Greater Vancouver Water and Coquitlam Refunding Acts. Progress without final action was reported on the Municipal Elections and Licence Revocation Acts.

### MUNICIPAL AID ISSUE

Discussions were voluntarily curtailed, as the House voted its way through a considerable press of minor legislation. Mayor Lyle Telford again raised the question of municipal aid. He said Vancouver City assessments were being reduced by \$1,523,384 next year, with a loss of \$50,000 in revenue from the same mill rate. Responding, Premier Pattullo said that Vancouver's position was understood, and that of the \$250,000 additional aid to municipalities already voted Vancouver would receive the greater share. Further municipal assistance was not possible at present.

The Poultry Products Act was again attacked on the ground it was too embrasive, and once more defended on the plea that it was necessary in connection with uniform Federal law. The Change of Name Act, it was brought out, may prevent women changing their names after separation without official process, though intended as a curb against aliases. The Administration withdrew regulation of hunting and fishing lodges, contemplated in the Game Act. An arbitration clause was added to the Water Act.

The Administration accepted an amendment proposed by Mayor Telford to the Municipal Elections Act, and will insert in that bill provision whereby citizens at civic balloting will be asked to present their national registration cards as a check on identity and compliance with national regulations. Changes in the Municipal Act will require all employees of civic corporations to take the oath of allegiance.

### PRICE ARBITRATION

Changes in the Fisheries Act, it was explained, will make it possible for blue back salmon fishermen to ask for arbitration on salmon prices, and also advance the date of arbitration before the fishing season opens.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., objected to special powers in the Forest Act, which he declared used wartime emergency as a reason for extensive new ministerial prerogatives, including powers of suspension of ordinary rules and regulations, to dispense with advertising now statutory, and to take timber from mineral claims without compensation. The bill was put through second reading, without a reply.

Amendments to the Medical Act led to the only debate of the sitting. Harold Winch complained of increasing power of self-regulation to be given to the executive of the Medical Council, asking assurance that naturopaths, chiropractors and others would not be adversely affected by the change. Through Hon. G. S. Wismer and Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir, the Administration gave that assurance, after an extended debate, in which it developed that the measure had been presented at short notice and amended at the request of the Government.

Hon. A. W. Gray explained terms in the Coquitlam refunding measure, as already outlined.

## BUYING HABITS ARE DISCUSSED

Public Accounts Committee At Legislature Probes Costs of Purchases

Concluding the sessions of the public accounts committee at the Legislature yesterday, E. G. Rowebottom supplied figures of the costs of sending local representatives to the British Columbia Pavilion at the San Francisco Fair, on the request of R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader.

Mr. Rowebottom said that there had been 1,275,850 persons visit the pavilion during the fair.

The committee also continued investigation into the manner of letting governmental contracts. Mr. Maitland questioned H. Harrison, purchasing agent, with regard to the buying of supplies from various sources. The purchasing agent explained that when buying from retailers, the Government insisted on a 10 per cent discount on all purchases.

Regarding discussion of a letter supplied the chairman of the committee last Saturday concerning the buying of materials from members, M. M. Connelly, Omlneca, said that in his opinion it was unfair to bring the members' names into the matter. "I'm afraid I do not agree," said Mr. Maitland.

Harold E. Winch, C.C.F., Vancouver East, said in connection with governmental buying for provincial institutions, the materials produced in British Columbia compared favorably with those from any other place. He made particular reference to fruit juices that are at present imported, suggesting local juices might be substituted for them.

The Conservative leader said that an effort should be made at all times to buy British Columbia products of all sorts.

## COMPENSATION IS QUESTIONED

### Move for Inquiry Into Industrial Pensions Made In House

Inquiry into operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act by an all-party committee of the Legislature, with a view to removing present anomalies and bringing about a more liberal interpretation of the statute was urged in the House Tuesday evening by Harold E. Winch and other members.

For twenty-three years the board had been administering the statute, and had been getting further away from the spirit of the legislation, Mr. Winch declared. An unbiased investigation by a committee of the House would suggest a number of directions in which the law was not being applied, or in which interpretations restrictive of its use had been built up in the intervening years.

#### COMPLAINTS MADE

Citing specific instances, Mr. Winch declared that the burden of proof that an accident had occurred had been placed on the worker; that there was no appeal from the discretionary decisions of the board; that, while artificial limbs and other aids were furnished initially, there was no provision for their renewal; that "light duty" classifications had been used as an excuse to reduce compensations during convalescence; that in permanent partial-disability cases the full statutory provision had been whittled down; and that skilled men hurt outside their own protected industries, could secure no compensation at all.

The intention of the Legislature had been very different, Mr. Winch submitted, moving a resolution that the House set up a committee to inquire into whatever action was needed to bring the operation of the scheme and the statute into line with present-day conditions. Ernest E. Winch seconded the motion, citing further instances in specific cases, and reviewing similar laws in other countries.

#### STUDY PLEDGED

Harold Winch withdrew his motion, on the representation by Hon. G. S. Pearson that the points raised would be considered, and that some way might be found to overcome the legal and other difficulties now rendering a more liberal interpretation of the statutes not immediately possible.

#### CELONA PAROLE

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, asked the administration for a return of all correspondence between the Dominion and Provincial Governments in the Joe Celona parole incident. Moving a resolution to that effect, Mr. Maitland said:

"Here was a case dealing with a man about as low as any man can get. The court imposed an extremely heavy sentence. To the amazement of everyone it was found that the man was granted a parole. The question was raised by Mr. James Sinclair on the floor of the House in Ottawa, and as suddenly dropped. We want to know why I am asking for a return of all correspondence on the subject between the two Governments."

Attorney-General Wismer responded, saying, in part:

"This is the kind of a motion that one might expect on the eve of an election. When Mr. Sinclair asked

his question, I was at Ottawa, where I had gone to discuss matters of internal security in this province. Mr. Sinclair could have asked me. The responsibility for a parole does not rest with the Attorney-General. After prosecution, the case is up to the remission branch, at Ottawa.

#### REPORT CONFIDENTIAL

"At the time Celona was prosecuted, I was not Attorney-General. Mr. Justice Sloan was in office then. In July, the Minister of Justice said that reports on the case had been asked from the trial judge, from the jailer, and from one or two other persons. These were all confidential reports. All that I have in my possession is a copy of a confidential report—a letter from one man who was connected with the prosecution. Mr. Sinclair withdrew his question on Mr. Lapointe's explanation. I feel that I cannot produce that letter, it is still confidential; and that, what I have just said, is my full connection with the Celona case," Attorney-General Wismer said.

The Maitland motion was voted down on a verbal test, and the issue dropped.

#### TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

Dealing with a motion by R. W. Bruhn, absent through indisposition, Premier Pattullo said he would renew at Ottawa in January his former request that the Dominion take over construction of main roads in British Columbia, including completion and upkeep of the Trans-Canada Highway. Mr. Maitland withdrew the Bruhn motion, on the explanation given.

The House proceeded on other business dealing with other motions on the order paper.

Harold Winch urged the House to consider medicinal springs in Skeena, Prince George and other ridings. These springs, he said, were undeveloped, but could be made excellent tourist attractions.

From Northern members, the House heard of a series of hot springs, with water temperatures of 110 degrees and ascertained curative properties. Lake Else, Cultus Lake and other resorts were mentioned.

H. G. Perry suggested a Provincial reserve on such lands.

By adjournment, the House had about cleared its order paper of incidental motions.

# B.C. Legislature to Be Prorogued Today by Hon. E. W. Hamber

Sessional Programme Completed in Two Sittings Yesterday, With Prorogation Set for This Morning—Sixty Acts Await Assent

**P**ROROGATION of the fifth session of the Nineteenth Legislature of British Columbia will take place at 11 a.m. today, when Hon. E. W. Hamber, Lieutenant-Governor, will assent to some sixty Acts of the session and thank legislators for supply granted to the Crown and for their labors. Sitting in two periods yesterday, the House cleared its order paper.

At the afternoon sitting the House enacted the Health, Commodities Minimum Loss, Succession Duty, Provincial Elections, Aged Men's Home, and Summary Convictions measures; and completed in committee with announced changes the Teachers' Pensions, Mental Hospitals, Medical, and Trustee (powers of attorney) Acts.

The Administration withdrew proposed amendments to the Municipal Superannuation Act which would have made an exception for two men in retiring ages in Vancouver City, and the Opposition withdrew amendments privately offered to the Workmen's Compensation Act. The First Narrows Bridge Bill was withdrawn in committee, and private bill fees on the measure will be refunded.

Bills discussion was brief. The Mental Hospitals Bill will go into effect on February 1, 1941, but one section, providing for re-examinations on appeal, will not become law until proclaimed. Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir estimated that between 200 and 300 appeals might be expected under the measure from provincial institutions.

In the Trustee Act, Attorney-General Wismer withdrew a clause which would have removed the statutory 5 per cent fee for administration of certain classes of estates, the Administration disclaiming responsibility for that measure.

The Teachers' Pensions Bill was completed, unopposed, with provision for actuarial review of the plan every three years.

With time on its hands, the House cleaned its order paper of incidental motions. Oil exploration and a highway commission were re-argued, the latter at some length.

#### OIL EXPLORATION

The House rejected on a division of 28-12 a motion by R. L. Maitland, K.C., for a return of all correspondence and progress reports on oil drilling at Commotion Creek. Mr. Maitland said \$250,000 had been appropriated in the first year of that effort, and no detailed report had been given to the House on the result.

Hon. W. J. Asselstine countered by stating that much of the information was confidential, and not in the public interest to disclose. Members, he said, could examine the drill cores now in the hands of the Mines Department. It was not likely, the Minister of Mines asserted, that the Government would find oil in the first hole, or, even should that be so, would it prove the value of a new field. The C.C.F. voted with Conservatives on the division.

#### GIVES ROAD COSTS

Responding to a motion by Harold

Winch, the House went into committee of the whole "to discuss the entire situation relative to British Columbia roads." Mr. Winch urged creation of a highway commissioner, a highway commission composed of nine district road engineers, and an advisory board formed by that commission with civil servants from other departments, the whole responsible to the Legislature. Government benches rejected the proposal, on the ground that it would duplicate what in practice existed now.

In a two-hour debate that followed, the House repeated its district road vote debate. Hon. C. S. Leary gave the House a review of what it would cost to complete main trunk highways in the province.

Captain Leary said it would require \$50,000,000 to finish and complete the trunk highways in a first-class condition, suitable for modern traffic. Of that sum, the Trans-Canada Highway would require \$5,174,000; the North-and-South Provincial Highway, \$3,949,000; the Southern Trans-Provincial Highway, \$7,297,000, via the Hope-Princeton link; the Okanagan Highway, \$1,185,000; Kamloops to Tete Jaune Cache, \$4,000,000; Peace River routes, \$5,000,000; Vancouver Island Highway, \$3,000,000, and the Northern Highway, from Prince Rupert to Alberta, \$17,000,000.

British Columbia roads were as good as they could be made with the money available, the Minister of Public Works declared, in conclusion.

The House recessed at 5:47 p.m., until 8:30 p.m., for its last working sitting.

#### GIFT FOR TROOPS

Outside of the Legislature, Hon. John Hart announced that the Provincial Government had made provision for the gift of 150,000 cigarettes to British Columbia men serving with the colors in Great Britain on Christmas Day. The distribution will be effected through W. A. McAdam, Acting Agent-General in London for the Province.

Resuming after the supper recess, the House gave third readings, and enactment, subject to assent, to four bills in four minutes. These were the Teachers' Pensions Act, Mental Hospitals Act, Medical Act, and Trustees Act.

With consent, the Administration reopened the Motor Vehicle Act by a second bill, taking it through all five stages in one minute. The measure provides that east of the Cascade range, where early snow blocks highways, motorists may turn in their car licence plates and receive refunds of from one-sixth to one-third of the amount of the fee.

With its order paper clear of legislation, the House passed on to motions. A motion by Leslie Fries,

calling for committee review of feed grain rates was withdrawn, because the committees had finished work for the session. That left the order paper blank.

#### FRIENDLY EXCHANGE

Premier Pattullo thanked the House for co-operation in final stages of the session, and announced prorogation had been arranged for 11:00 o'clock today. Mr. Maitland, as official leader of the Opposition, responded.

"I realize this is the end of the session, and probably the end of this Parliament. We hear criticism of this and of every other Parliament on occasion; but I want to say that this is my ninth session, and it is not always easy. I will leave this session only to carry with me memories of men who have measured up to the highest standards of which men in public life are capable," Mr. Maitland declared. The House applauded.

Premier Pattullo called the last motion to adjourn, the House rising at 8:59 p.m., until 10:45 a.m. today, when prorogation will follow.

**OFFICIAL GAMBLING**

In the session of the British Columbia Legislature just ended, the Government refused to give the House a progress report on the oil-boring experiments in which it is engaged at Commotion Creek. For the first year's work, a sum of \$250,000 was appropriated, and probably most of this sum has already been spent. The Minister of Mines says it is not likely that the Government will find oil in the first hole bored, or even if it should find oil if that will prove the value of a new field. From this admission, the query arises as to what likelihood there is of oil being found in a second, a third or a fourth hole, or if, were it eventually found, the value of any new field will be demonstrated.

The fact is that the Government has embarked on a gambling venture. It may find oil, and again it may not. If it does not, then money of the taxpayers, in progressively increasing amounts, will have been lost. The Government has not the faintest idea what are the odds against or for its striking oil. It has given the Legislature no assurance of any limit to this uncertain venture. What it has done is to inaugurate hole-boring activities as an industry to which it has committed the Province, and that means the Province's taxpayers, without any limitations that have yet been set.

It would be an excellent thing to discover oil, but only if it is found in commercial quantities, which will repay the money expended and assure a steady income for the Provincial Treasury. Optimism is an inherent ingredient of gambling, and that is exactly the quality that the Government has infused into its activities at Commotion Creek. It is quite another matter if speculation on possibilities forms any part of true government. Authorities, if they are to justify the confidence reposed in them, should deal with facts, figures and certainties. They are handling money that is not their own, money that is a public trust. Where they are spending it in gambling on the possibility that oil may be discovered in this, that or the other district of their jurisdiction, they are speculating, just as much as if indulging in the game of margins on the stock exchange or placing a bet on a horse race. In the latter two cases the custom is for those gambling to do so with their own money.

**Note and Comment**

By SANDHAM GRAVES

There, then, it is over. The uncrowded corridors have made way for Mr. Speaker for the last time this year. The bell-push on the dais, which set up a clamor in every lobby and every committee room, has signalled its tardy summons for the last time. Prayers, each day reaching to new lengths as the hopelessness of saving recalcitrant Members became more apparent, have been uttered for the last time. For the last time the House has risen to its feet for Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Speaker has bowed in a sober and dignified fashion, from the waist up, for the last time in reply. The fifth session of the Nineteenth Parliament of British Columbia has passed into whatever niche history may have warmed for it.

Of course, the session is over, and yet, it is to be questioned if a session ever ends. Honorable Members on the right of Mr. Speaker, no less honorable Members in front of Mr. Speaker, and equally honorable Members on the left of Mr. Speaker, are going home with an experience shared in common in most difficult days. That most illusive, but penetrating, quality of any human assembly, its corporate entity, flared for a moment into life, became real and energizing, dimmed and went out. While its flame was alive, forty-eight men and women saw things in common, and saw them whole. There, for a moment, lived the real mind of British Columbia, and it is a healthy, clean mind. But you could not tell that from the public prints, unless you knew where and how to look.

For instance, where was it said that young Mr. Winch captured the imagination and the full attention of the House for a clear-cut, objective analysis of the pressure points in the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act? Point, if you can, to a just estimate of the incision made in the hearts of the House by the elder Mr. Winch's annual review of mental institutions, of nurses in training, of bears in captivity; or, most of all, the House's alarm when the eldest Member by years paused in his speech, mopped the swelling beads of perspiration from his forehead, and was lead out in what to him was the crowning disappointment of twelve months. In forty-seven places the House mentally mopped its forehead and suffered; until it was known that the oldest Member was out of danger.

Picture, if you can, the delight of the House when its newest Member, "Manny" McGeer, turned out to have borrowed the exact voice of an illustrious kinsman, "Gerry" McGeer, one of the few natural orators that the august Assembly has ever known. The words and the music are there, and the oratory will come later, the House told itself, smiling. Sense, if you may, the pride of the House in the second speech of young Mr. McGrath; as clipped, as fresh, as business-like, and as genuine as anything the younger generation has to offer. The House was listening to the voice of tomorrow.

Regard Lieut.-Col. Macintosh, of the P.P.C.L.I., in uniform for his second war; charging all benches single-handed, without a partisan word in his vocabulary, and with considerable fire behind his half-

uttered, bitten-off remarks. Wistfully and poignantly the House thought of a fine baritone voice raised in the lilted "Road to the Isles." Behold Captain J. D. Hunter, in uniform, charging on Ottawa in swift and raging defence of the Liberal Administration's tuberculosis prevention programme; with fine words of praise for its originator, the House's scholar, Hon. Dr. G. M. Weir.

Look yet a little closer, the House has lost itself. It is following Sam Guthrie down into the coal mines of British Columbia, along the sloping tunnels, up again, grimy and tired, into the wash houses; forty-eight miners in a double row. Watch the hour-long, angry battle between two men with weak hearts. Don't you think the House suffered there? It did. See a distinguished and likeable personage nod, and droop, and bow ever so slightly to Morpheus, even while that which he was most proud to hear was being uttered. The House smiled at that, chuckling in understanding affection and sympathy. This was a body whole, with human feeling.

Watch the Leader of the Opposition draft a clause for the Government's bill in the temporary absence, for the most romantic of all reasons, of the chief law officer of the Crown. The House chuckled at that. It even forgave the Leader of the Opposition for compliments in the House and brickbats on the hustings. Strange that so large a body, and so widely separated in its parts, should attain to a common mind at all. And yet time and again it did. It is ridiculous, unlikely, preposterous, and not for one moment to be credited; and yet forty-eight Members did have it a common mind, and they reached it—of all improbable avenues—through their hearts. In such moments, rare enough if the truth be told, the House lived and breathed as a corporate entity. There, if you will examine it closely, is democracy's brightest flower. Let history record the Acts; I shall treasure the flower!

**PROV FOR S**

**Fifth Asses  
Legislat  
Hon.**

In a warlike session of the legislative Assembly, the bill was introduced by Hon. Lieutenant-General. Bills passed of supply to the value of \$30,991,000 for the House of Commons. The national Anthem commenced.

In the first session of the legislative Assembly, the bill was introduced by Hon. Lieutenant-General. Bills passed of supply to the value of \$30,991,000 for the House of Commons. The national Anthem commenced.

**SPEECH**

Reading of the Throne, His Majesty King George VI. "In closing of the Nineteenth session, I desire to express my appreciation for the attention which you have given to the numerous bills introduced. The province has and that the year is coming to a close. I shall treasure the flower!

"The Teacher's Association has expressed its appreciation for the assistance rendered by the Government in the Act will be of benefit to the municipalities and is of relief of educational other measures.

"I thank you for your generous service. It is that before a passed, the all assisting the enemy so prevail. In labors, I trust Divine Providence will be with you to your Honor said.

Brigadier Lieut.-Col. H. A. M. D. Fairbairn, attending the meeting of the Legislative Assembly. Formal acts, save the House initiated amendments. Holiday, Landing Adjustments, Municipal Affairs, Apprenticeship, Professions, Libraries, Free Schools, Municipal Game, Provincial

# PROROGATION FOR SESSION

Fifth Assembly of Nineteenth  
Legislature Dismissed by  
Hon. E. W. Hamber

In a wartime setting, the fifth session of the Nineteenth Legislative Assembly of British Columbia was prorogued at 11:10 a.m. yesterday by Hon. Eric W. Hamber, the Lieutenant-Governor. Fifty-nine bills passed into law, and the grant of supply to the Crown in the sum of \$30,991,000 was acknowledged before the House rose to sing the National Anthem, ending the session commenced on October 29.

In the final sitting, the administration opened the Coquitlam Refunding Bill, to insert minor changes in wording which became law two minutes later. War and other decorations on the coats of Members, and bouquets of roses for three lady Members in the House, marked the closing. Waiting for His Honor, the House sang "There'll Always Be an England" in concert tempo with the assistance of Arthur Jackman, soloist.

## SPEECH FROM THRONE

Reading the Speech from the Throne, His Honor said:

"In closing this, the fifth session of the Nineteenth Parliament, I desire to express appreciation of the attention which you have given to the numerous matters submitted for your consideration. It is gratifying that the financial position of the province has continued to improve, and that the budget for the current year is completely balanced, including the cost of unemployment relief and sinking funds.

"The Teachers' Pensions Act will be appreciated by the teaching profession and will place the fund under the act in an actuarially sound position. The Special Assistance to the Cost of Education Act will be welcomed by the municipalities and various school districts, and is a step in the direction of relief of taxation upon land for educational purposes. These and other measures should be of public benefit.

"I thank you for the supplies so generously granted for the public service. It is the hope of all of us that before another year shall have passed, the Empire and Allies and all assisting shall have vanquished the enemy so that peace may again prevail. In relieving you of your labors, I trust that the blessing of Divine Providence may accompany you to your respective homes," His Honor said.

Brigadier J. Sutherland Brown, Lieut.-Col. Hugh Allan, aides, and A. M. D. Fairbairn, the private secretary, attended Lieutenant-Governor Hamber in the House.

## LEGISLATION RATIFIED

Formal assent was given to all acts, save the Supply Act, which the House initiates. The list included amendments to the Weekly Half-Holiday, Land, Fraser Bridge, Dyking Adjustment, Sumas Drainage, Municipal Affairs, Trade Licences, Apprenticeship, Evidence, Legal Professions, Public Utilities, Public Libraries, Fruit and Honey, Public Schools, Municipal Superannuation, Game, Provincial Coat of Arms,

Mortgagors and Purchasers Relief, Vancouver Enabling, Land Registry, Fire Marshal, Water, Police and Prison Regulation, Village Municipalities, Municipal Elections, Municipal, Forest, Health, Commodities Minimum Loss, Coal Mines Regulation, Vancouver Incorporation, Motor Vehicle, Greater Vancouver Water, Parents' Maintenance, Poll Tax, Medical, Vancouver Joint Drainage, Fisheries, Provincial Elections, Succession Duty, Trustee, Home for Aged, Summary Convictions, and Motor Vehicle (second bill) Acts.

New measures initiated included the Nanaimo Civic Arena, Poultry Products, Change of Name, Endowment Lands, Superannuation, Wool Grading, Hog Grading, Nicola Claims Reinstatement, Burnaby Refunding, Tulk Estate, Licence Revocation, Securities' Custody, Coquitlam Refunding, Mental Hospitals, Teachers' Pensions, and Special Assistance in the Cost of Education Acts.

At 11:15 a.m. the proceedings were over, the battle of sessional papers being omitted out of deference to wartime days.

**DEC**

**1940**

## What Price Tourist Trade?

Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—The Department of Trade and Industry has never attempted to place a "dollars and cents" value on the tourist trade to British Columbia, Hon. W. J. Asselstine, Minister, told the B.C. Legislature, Friday, when his departmental estimates were being considered.

"We do not know, anyway, just how much money the tourists do bring in; all we can say is that, as a result of a greater flow of tourists, there is greater business activity," he added.

He was answering digs made by Mayor Telford regarding the value of his department as a getter of trade and tourists.

The Mayor had suggested that his work duplicated that of the Federal Department of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. Asselstine disagreed.

On the contrary, he said, the provincial department, by co-operating with the federal Department and its trade commissioners and tourist bureau, had in view the bringing here of a greater share of the general Canadian trade and tourist travel.

Harold E. Winch, CCF leader, discussing the B.C. Travel Bureau vote of \$146,595, did his best to have the House cut \$25,000 of the advertising appropriation. He failed.

# CCF Raps 'Undue' Prosecutions Under Defense Legislation

## Lively Debate in House Over 'Subversive' Tracts

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—A hot CCF attack on prosecutions for possession of allegedly subversive literature, and an equally hot demand by Conservative leader Hon. R. L. Maitland, for more stringent measures against such literature, featured the Monday night sitting of the British Columbia legislature.

Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, started the fight when he rose to query a supplementary vote in the estimates of \$95,000 for special constables.

"Are these specials to be used to raid people's homes to see if they have literature?" he demanded. "During the last election the C.C.F. used John Strachey's 'Why You Should Be a Socialist' as a pamphlet. Will this render us liable to penalties if they are in our homes?"

### SPECIALS NOT USED

Attorney-General Wismer said specials are not used for such work. In any case, he said, search for subversive literature is directed by the RCMP and the only literature banned is that designated under Defense of Canada Regulations.

H. G. T. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, said that a 32-page booklet had recently appeared on every doorstep in Prince George. "This booklet had nothing to do with the establishment of Socialism," he said. "But it was anti-Canadian and against the war. I believe the government should stop it."

Mr. Maitland jumped into the fray at this point.

"I don't like any law which permits arrest without warrant, or denies habeas corpus," he confessed. "But we are at war, and it is the government's responsibility to keep up the morale of the people."

### "GO THE LIMIT"

"I have no sympathy with these people who are caught peddling this sort of stuff. I would like to see the Dominion Government go the limit to stop its distribution."

"The objection we are making," put in Collin Cameron, CCF, Comox, "is that the pamphlets which are being stopped are those which every educated person should have read."

Mr. Guthrie added that he did not think the state is in any danger from Jehovah's Witnesses (a banned organization).

"We are supposed to be fighting for democracy," he went on. "Yet the biggest Fascist in B. C., Peter Hartnell, is allowed to go free."

"Make your complaint to Ottawa," Mr. Wismer said wearily. "I know all about Hartnell. He served his three months' sentence, and Ottawa has not acted as yet on my recommendation and that of the county court that he be interned."

## Soldier Vote Plans Hit Snag

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 3. — Misgivings over many matters struck the Special Elections Act Committee of the British Columbia Legislature Tuesday. It learned with dismay that the government will not permit it to sit next January to approve regulations for taking the soldier vote in provincial elections.

The committee was told by its chairman, W. T. Straith (Lib., Victoria) that Mr. Pattullo insists that it get its work done before the Legislature prorogues at the end of the week. The committee thinks it will not have sufficient time.

Straith pointed out that the committee dies as soon as the House is prorogued and will have no power to sit again.

## Home Rule for Burnaby Soon

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—It will be two or three years yet before the municipality of Burnaby can go back to an elective council and school board despite the plan to resume paying interest on its debt through a refunding scheme.

Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Municipal Affairs, made this announcement in the Legislature Monday when Mrs. H. D. Smith, Liberal, Burrard, and E. E. Winch, C.C.F., Burnaby, said they would like to see the elective system restored for the area, now governed by commission.

### LANDS 'ARBITRATOR'

VICTORIA.—Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, succeeded in the B. C. Legislature, Monday, in getting the government to withhold for redrafting, legislation which would have given power to the Minister of Lands to decide arbitrarily which of two rival bidders for forest lands was entitled to purchase or lease.

## No Votes for Orientals, Whether in Army or Not

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Orientals in uniform will not get a vote at the next provincial election. Neither will any other aliens, despite the fact they may be wearing the King's colors.

The special elections committee of the Legislature decided the point today in approving a draft bill for the absentee service vote for presentation to the House.

It provides that those in the service entitled to vote will be any man, or woman, who could vote in an ordinary civil way—with the exception that minors in uniform will have the franchise.

The draft bill now provides a dual system for the service vote. Those stationed within the province will cast ballots under the regular absentee system, and will have to register on the voters' lists first.

Men stationed in other parts of Canada and in Britain will vote under a system similar to that used in the Dominion general election in March.

The bill leaves it up to the government to make the detailed regulations to fit circumstances at the time of the election.

## Lord Croft Denies Charge Of Fascism

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—From far-off London, today, Lord Croft, Britain's under-secretary for war, heatedly denied charges made in the British Columbia Legislature, a few days ago, that he is a supporter of Fascism.

His lordship, the former Sir Henry Page-Croft, whose schemes for assisted British settlement made news in British Columbia two years ago, has sent a telegram to G. M. Murray (Lib., Lillooet), who defended him in the Legislature against an attack delivered by Colin Cameron (CCF, Comox).

Lord Croft's telegram, handed to the press by Mr. Murray, follows:

"Grateful your intervention. Charge about my support of Fascism grotesque. Have opposed and detested all totalitarian forms of government from start as enemies of democracy and leading inevitably to war. Have never been the agent of any foreign government, and in Spanish war fought strenuously against intervention and opposed supplies to either side. Cameron's suggestions that I was in charge of purchases of any foreign country in Great Britain as insulting as false. Thanks to policy of British Government, Spain almost alone amongst the nations of Europe has to date resisted Nazi tutelage. If these libels repeated outside Legislature would be glad to be informed. Grateful if denial can be conveyed to press."

## 'Permissive' Blood Tests for Mothers

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Blood tests for pregnant women, to guard their unborn children against possible infection from venereal disease, were accepted by the B.C. Legislature, Monday night, but only as a permissive law.

Thus the Legislature accepted a proposal of Mrs. Laura E. Jamieson, C.C.F., Vancouver Centre.

Mrs. Jamieson had wished to make the tests mandatory, but it was explained by Hon. G. M. Weir that with 12,000 pregnancy cases each year, the tests would run into many thousands of dollars. Mrs. Jamieson agreed to make the tests permissive only.



## House Acts to Curb Use Of Retail 'Loss-Leaders'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Further amendments to the Commodities Minimum Loss Act, to circumvent "loss-leaders" in retailing, were introduced into the B.C. Legislature Monday night by Mrs. H. D. Smith, Lib., Burrard. The bill received second reading, with the House approving it in principle; it was indicated, however, it will be debated more critically in committee stage, probably today.

The main change proposed in the bill is the establishment of a formula to determine what shall be known as the wholesale price for any article. The original act, passed in 1937, stated that the selling price of retail goods shall be not less than five per cent above the wholesale price. Mrs. Smith, supported by Attorney-General Wismer, explained that this formula was unworkable, as certain retailers were able to evade it. In future, if the bill passes, the lowest price offered by wholesalers to the trade generally shall form the basis for computation of the retail price.

### SUPPORTED BY HOUSEWIVES

Conservative leader R. L. Maitland, though he agreed some form of control is necessary in retailing, attacked the bill as another instance of excessive interference with business. Mrs. D. G. Steeves, CCF, North Vancouver, supported the bill, however. She stated that housewives supported it generally.

One section will compel a retailer, whenever he advertises a reduction in the price of an article, to specify at what particular time the former price prevailed. Another gives power to the government to establish names to designate the different cuts of butcher meat and prohibits butchers from using any other names for such cuts.

Amendments to the Fisheries Act, introduced by Hon. G. S. Pearson, minister of labor, will fulfill the desires of independent fishermen on the coast, who last week asked the fisheries committee of the Legislature to include trollers under arbitration sections of this act. Mr. Pearson's bill will include only blueback trollers, but it meets the fishermen's desires in another direction by advancing from May 1 to April 1 the time for commencing arbitration proceedings between fishermen and canners regarding prices and conditions.

E. E. Winch, CCF, Burnaby, has introduced an amendment to the Health Act, defining the minimum requirements "for acceptable electric hearing aids."

### MEDICAL ACT CHANGES

Colin Cameron, CCF, Comox, offered a minor amendment to the Dentistry Act, striking out from the definition of a dentist such persons as make repairs to dentures. It was thrown out on second reading.

Attorney-General Wismer brought in a bill making 27 amendments to the Medical Act. Most of them relate to the internal workings of the medical council.

One of the amendments makes it possible for the council to suspend a medical man whom a psychiatrist has certified as of unsound mind. Hitherto, suspension only could follow unprofessional or infamous conduct.

Hon. A. Wells Gray brought in two bills affecting Vancouver. One was to make the position of E. A. Cleveland, chairman of the Greater Vancouver Water Board and chief commissioner of the Vancouver and Districts Joint Sewerage Board, dependent on the pleasure of both boards rather than subject to retirement age. The intent of the legislation is to secure Mr. Cleveland's services for some time to come.

The other bill is to enable the Sewerage Board to refund its debt.

### COQUITLAM TO REFUND

Debt of the district of Coquitlam will be refunded under another bill brought down in the House by Mr. Gray as minister of municipal affairs. The debt amounts to \$220,000, of which \$120,000 already has been repurchased for the sinking fund, leaving \$100,000 outstanding. An amount of \$30,000 in the sinking fund will be paid out to bondholders April 30 next, and the balance in semi-annual instalments of \$2448 over a period of 20 years.

### Victoria Votes \$29,907,207 'Supply'

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Final passage was achieved, Monday night, by Hon. John Hart of a supply vote for 1941-42 totalling \$29,947,207.

Consideration of estimates has dragged on since early last week. The annual supply bill, covering these sums, is expected to be brought down in the House, Tuesday, by the Minister.

In addition to the 1941-42 supply, the House gave the Treasury its approval for \$814,941 in supplementary estimates for the fiscal year 1940-41.

This, added to the \$29,268,790 voted in the 1939 session, brings estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year to \$30,083,732.

## Feed Freight Protested by Farm MLA's

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Farmer members of the British Columbia Legislature today expressed helpless anger today over the unfairness of a freight rate structure which compels them to pay high rates for feed grains for their stock.

"The railways have a stranglehold on this country and they are using it," complained L. H. Eyres (Cons., Chilliwack), as the agricultural committee of the House discussed their problems with J. B. Munro, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and other officials of that department.

Certain amount of hope was handed to the committee by Munro. He said the railways have opposed putting grades one, two and three of wheat under the feed rate, but that it is possible that when he goes to Ottawa later this month to confer with Dominion Department of Agriculture officials, the matter may be taken up again.

As an example of the anomalies in the rate structure, Mr. Munro cited the fact that the rate on feed shipped from McLeod, Alberta, to the coast is 30 cents a hundred, the same rate applies from Edmonton. But from Creston and Vanderhoof the rate is 32½ cents although the distance is 100 miles shorter.

### U.K. MART LOST

Capt. C. R. Bull (Lib., South Okanagan) said it costs 45 cents a hundred to ship Okanagan apples to the domestic market, but only 35 cents for shipments destined for export.

J. A. Paton (Cons., Point Grey) wanted to know what the Okanagan is going to do now that the United Kingdom market has been closed to fresh apples.

"We have increased shipments to the United States tremendously," Capt. Bull said. "Egypt and some other markets have been cut off, but the South American market is growing. I don't really know how we are going to replace United Kingdom, but I leave that to our marketing agency. They know their business."

Mr. Paton insisted that the apple growers must pay more attention to processing. He said he understood that a process has been developed in the Okanagan to render apples into paste, and this, he thought, should be studied thoroughly.

### URGES DUMPING

"But if you process too much you hurt your market for next year," objected Frank Putnam. "Personally I believe in dumping. For instance, every year, just before the McIntosh apples come on the market, Wealthies go down in price and ruin the market for the McIntosh. The remainder of the Wealthies should be dumped. It is the only way the price can be kept up."

Mr. Eyres insisted that some form of advertising local products "for our own use" must be

developed. He advocated that the producers, the department of agriculture and the department of trade and industry must work as a unit to attain this end.

## New B.C. 'Control' Act Blitzkrieged

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Powers to control fishing and hunting lodges in the province are sought by the government in amendments to the Game Act which were steered half-way through committee stage in the B. C. Legislature, Monday, by Attorney-General Wismer.

Mr. Wismer said the powers are necessary particularly in the case of fishing lodges as it is possible that there might be too many lodges in a single area, with consequent "fishing out" of lakes and streams.

Private members, Liberal as well as opposition, attacked the amendment.

H. G. T. Perry, Lib., Fort George, called "dangerous" the power to refuse or cancel licenses given to the government.

Mr. Wismer then promised he would make the cancellation "subject to the Lieutenant Governor in Council."

This did not satisfy Hon. R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader.

The amendments will be considered again later.

### 'Idiotic to Me'

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—The charge that there is "hypocrisy" in the prosecutions against hospital sweepstakes was uttered in the B. C. Legislature, Monday, by Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie.

"Who is responsible for stopping the hospital sweep we had at Fernie?" he challenged.

Premier Pattullo asserted it is a matter of criminal law.

"That looks idiotic to me," Mr. Uphill replied. "Couldn't we tell the Attorney-General to ask his police to have some horse sense?"

(EDITORIAL)

## Our Gestapo for the Aged

It takes a reform, even the smallest, to bring out some ghastly truth of everyday life of which we should be ashamed—and would be if it were generally realized. When you strip away the glamor and tinsel from this thing we call civilization, you find cheap and shameful things beneath the veneer.

Thus, the learned Legislature has just made a change in the regulations for administering the Old Age Pension. You are asked to think of the full implications of the two sentences which immediately follow.

Before the amendment, parents over 70 claiming old age pension had too often to go into court and sue their own children if the authorities believed those children could support them.

Since the amendment, the Workmen's Compensation will do the suing if the simpler procedure of securing affidavits does not suffice.

Think of that, in this year of our Lord, 1940! Up until now, aged fathers and mothers who wished to go on living, had not simply to prove that they were 70 and qualified by citizenship for the privileges of citizens. They had, in many cases, to drag their family affairs through the courts in order to prove they should have the \$20 a month which masquerades under the name of Old Age Pension.

It was a legalized blackmail which many people could not and would not face. The result often was that men and women raising their own families, made their own children do without the education or other necessities their parents had dreamed of for them so that those parents could in turn support an older generation. All this rather than face the public humiliation of appearing to refuse such help.

This callous, brutal and hypocritical approach to what is really a social and economic obligation has been an accepted phase of our democracy. Even where families mutually agreed to undergo such humiliation for what they believed to be their rights, the resulting wounds left scars that were never to be erased.

Now the Workmen's Compensation Board can take the initiative. The form is changed; the principle remains the same.

The principle is this: Old people at the age of 70 are suspect in the eyes of the law, if they claim the privileges which the law affords. It is not enough to prove that they are 70, that they have lived in Canada a certain number of years and should therefore be automatically entitled to collect the annuities which their service to the country earned for them. They must prove to a supercilious democracy that they are in desperate straits.

They are, in fact, forced to show cause why they should not be officially allowed to starve to death. It is as callous as that, this pension set-up in Canada.

They are more kindly in Britain, and yet you do not hear of the system being abused. And as for parents suing children, that monstrous machinery is not needed as a prelude to getting the pension. It is paid when applied for and proof of age submitted by the old people.

At the very least, you would expect this enlightened country to pay them the pension similarly when they reach the age of 70 and apply for it, to withdraw it later if legally proved that the pension is not needed.

But we have not reached even that stage of trust yet. Suspicion is still the keynote of our social laws. Well, we have got to change all that. We have got to realize that suspicion begets suspicion, that honor begets honor, that the rights of a man and woman do not dissolve and vanish when they are no longer able to work.

Once that truth is understood, we shall as a nation go ahead to remove the shame and stigma from our treatment of the aged. We shall call off the gestapo from their enforced and ignominious spying and probing into the lives of old men and women.

## More Powers In Poultry Act Meet Protest

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Liberal members joined with Conservative and CCF members, Monday, in the B. C. Legislature, in shocked protests against new powers the government seeks in the Poultry and Poultry Products Act and in amendments to the Game Act.

"A trend to totalitarian legislation" was the term H. E. Winch, CCF leader, used to characterize provisions of the Poultry Act which, in effect, require vendors, shippers and processors of poultry products to be severely regulated by the government. Hon. K. C. MacDonald, minister of agriculture, explained the act is to make B. C. legislation conform with that of the Dominion; many members, however, felt the legislation weighed too heavily "on the small man" and prevents a farmer from selling one of his own chickens to a friend. "It is only for the trade," insisted Dr. MacDonald.

"The fact remains that under other acts passed so far you can't even give away a sack of potatoes. There is getting to be a feeling the enforcement of these acts goes too far," Mr. Winch said.

Figures issued by Frank Jones, city comptroller, which aldermen had before them at today's special meeting, indicated a drop in civic revenues of \$75,600 as the result of the Assessment Commission action in cutting assessments.

### 'SERIOUS POSITION'

Earlier figures had indicated that the revenue loss would be as high as \$104,000, but this did not take into consideration the fact that \$1,007,550 worth of property from the 1937-38 tax sales were removed from the taxable rolls. This year only \$223,480 worth of tax-sale property was included.

"The recent drop in assessment brings to our attention very forcibly the seriousness of our present financial position," the Mayor's written statement announced to aldermen.

He pointed out that the city charter is controlled by the legislature, which restricts the civic powers and controls civic grant. At the same time, he said, the province is taking from Vancouver citizens large amounts in provincial taxation.

"As you know, our assessments are beyond our control. The assessment commissioners have complete power and authority to fix the value of property for assessment purposes," said the mayor. He pointed out that the major burden of civic taxation must fall on property.

### 'ECONOMIC BURDEN'

"On the other hand," he said, "we have our citizens pressing for relief from a severity of taxation that is proving to be, in many instances, confiscatory, while in others it is a serious economic burden."

The mayor added that the city has certain fixed charges that are statutory, and that other costs, such as educational, police and fire, have to be met, though the city has very limited control over them.

"We have services that have already been reduced to a minimum; in fact, serious complaints have been made because of inefficient or inadequate service being rendered," he said.

Aldermen were wholeheartedly behind the Mayor in their determination to press for return of grants.

## Mayor Carries Civic 'S.O.S.' To Victoria

The plight of the city of Vancouver, which has just had the assessed value of taxable property dropped by \$1,522,234, was to be brought before the provincial legislature this afternoon by Mayor Telford, M.L.A.

The Mayor flew to the capital immediately following a special meeting of City Council this morning, taking with him instructions from the council to press for restoration of some or all of the grants which the city formerly enjoyed but which have been cut off or reduced in the past few years.

These grants include revenues from the pari-mutuels, liquor licenses and amusement tax.

### COMPENSATORY MEASURE

In a written statement from the mayor, read at the opening of the council, he pointed out that if the government refuses to help, by restoration of grants, "we must be prepared to readjust our mill-rate to compensate for the assessment drop."

"This need not necessarily result in an increase in the total amount of taxation," the mayor added, "but it will mean lifting the mill-rate to the last notch, a thing we have been fighting to avoid."

## Want Credit Unions

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—There is work in the province for several credit union organizers, if only the Legislature would vote the money, Attorney-General G. S. Wismer told the B. C. Legislature, Monday night, discussing a supplementary estimate of \$3965 for administration of the "Credit Unions Act."

# B.C.'s 19th Legislature Likely to Prorogue Friday

## Still Many Matters for Members to Decide

By JAMES DYER  
Vancouver Sun Staff Writer

VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—Prorogation Friday—probably Friday morning—seems to be in order for the fifth session of British Columbia's 19th Legislature. It is believed that it will be the Legislature's last prorogation, and that the next time a Parliament sits in these halls it will be the 20th, with a general election behind it.

### BUDGET DONE WITH

The House actually might get done much sooner if the government wished to be tough and rush things through. The budget is done with and although there are lots of legislation on the order paper and not a few resolutions of contentious nature, the order paper could be cleared in two days.

But the government is not anxious to go to drastic measures. It is being sweetly reasonable with the Opposition and with its own private members, who still have a lot of things to talk about. Debate on various bills is free and debate will be freer still when the road issue is debated as it will be today, in all probability—with Mr. Pattullo's kind permission.

How sweetly reasonable the government is just now is evidenced by the fact that ministers withdrew contentious sections from two bills during Tuesday afternoon.

### SECTIONS WITHDRAWN

In the bill covering amendments to the Land Act, for example, two sections which would have given power to the Minister of Lands to settle claims between rival applicants for the same tract of forest land, were withdrawn by Hon. A. Wells Gray because Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, had objected to them.

The effect of the withdrawal is to leave the settlement of rival claims on the basis of the highest tender. In the Game Act, the most contentious section was one giving power to the Government to control and regulate hunting and fishing lodges.

Both Conservative and Liberal members had objected to this section as being discriminatory against such lodges and liable to harm a growing industry. Mr. Wismer assured members there was no other intention than merely to prevent overfishing or overshooting, but, when members implored him to give the section a 12-months' hoist, he finally gave way.

Behind this sweet reasonableness, it is generally assumed, lies the shadow of the coming provincial election.

The government, however, remained adamant on the Poultry and Poultry Products Act, which puts a tight control, similar to that attempted in the various marketing acts, upon the sale and shipment of poultry prod-

ucts. Conservative and CCF members have hammered away for days at certain of its provisions, claiming that in effect they would hurt the "small man," preventing a farmer from selling a chicken to his neighbor. The bill, despite a new fusillade today from Messrs. Maitland and H. E. Winch, survived committee intact and received third reading.

Another bill which received third reading, Tuesday, was the "Vancouver bill," incorporating the 1940 charter amendments, with the exception of the amendment seeking to give the city much greater licensing powers. This was deleted in private bills committee.

A very important bill was rushed through the House with great eclat by the Finance Minister. This was the 1941-42 supply bill, providing moneys for His Majesty to the tune of approximately \$30,000,000 for the next fiscal year. With it went supplementary estimates for the current fiscal year of more than \$800,000.

## 'Buy B.C.' Move In Legislature

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—A "Buy British Columbia" campaign was started in public accounts committee of the British Columbia Legislature, today, when H. E. Winch, C.C.F. leader, asked E. T. Kenney, chairman, to find out for him what percentage of Provincial Government purchases are of B. C. products.

Hon. R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, backed the drive by suggesting that the committee make a recommendation to the Legislature that the Government Purchasing Agent "Buy British Columbia" whenever possible.

Mr. Kenney said that in some cases it is cheaper to buy imported articles, but he agreed with Mr. Winch that it is "better to pay a bit more for B.C. products."

## Mayor Puts City's Case Before House

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—Vancouver's financial position has changed for the worse owing to the new assessment roll, which has lopped \$75,600 off its ordinary revenue for 1941, Mayor Telford told the B. C. Legislature, Tuesday afternoon, as he made a vigorous plea for provincial assistance for the city.

He got no promises, merely Mr. Pattullo's assurance that "the government is fully seized with Vancouver's position, as with that of the other municipalities, and a statement will be made in due course as to the government's intentions."

It is assumed that Mr. Pattullo referred to the proposed survey of municipal affairs and the government's announced intention to bring measures of municipal relief before the next sitting of the Legislature.

### RAISE MILL RATE

Mayor Telford did get some advice from Herbert Anscomb, Conservative financial critic, however. Informed by the mayor that one mill brings in \$200,000 in taxes in Vancouver, Mr. Anscomb suggested the city increase the mill rate by half a mill and gain another \$100,000 in taxes. This, he said, would more than cover the threatened \$75,600 gap in revenue.

"Yes, we could do that," agreed the mayor. "But it all falls on the homes to the extent of confiscation. If we are forced to it, there is nothing for it but to increase the mill rate."

Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, pressed for a definite statement of government policy on Vancouver's plight, but Mr. Pattullo would go no further than he did.

"In other words, the answer is no," Mr. Maitland said.

### SCHOOL GRANT

The mayor, who spoke at the commencement of the afternoon sitting, after receiving the permission of the House to do so, said he assumed that the most Vancouver will get from the \$250,000 the government is granting for school purposes next year is \$125,000.

"So that, with the \$75,000 cut in revenues, we will be only \$50,000 better off next year at most," he said.

Mrs. Pattullo said he thought Vancouver will get between \$70,000 and \$75,000 out of the special school grant.

## Patients May Now Demand Sanity Ruling

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—Patients in mental hospitals in British Columbia are to have the right of appeal to outside doctors to rule on their sanity.

This new feature of administering the mental problem is contained in a re-drafted Mental Hospitals Act brought down late last night in the Legislature.

The right of appeal is given to every patient who has been three months in a mental institution.

The government will choose a panel of private medical men and each month will select two of them as the board of appeal. When a patient makes an appeal his case will go to the two doctors selected for that month.

Expenses of the appeal board will be paid by the government.

Either the patient or an authorized personal representative may make the appeal.

At the present time a patient in a mental hospital has to wait until the hospital staff decides he may be released and has no way of forcing the issue.

The right of appeal has long been urged in the Legislature by E. E. Winch, C.C.F. member for Burnaby.

Outside of this new feature the new Mental Hospitals Act brings the regulations for these institutions up to date, removing obsolete terms and generally modernizing its provisions.

## 'Cleared' in Celona Case

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—Attorney-General G. S. Wismer cleared himself to the satisfaction of the B.C. Legislature, Tuesday night, of any connection but a technical one with the abortive parole, last July, of Joe Celona, Vancouver's convicted white slaver.

Rising to reply to a motion of R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, demanding a return of correspondence with Ottawa with the Celona case, Mr. Wismer said the only document he had on file in connection with the incident was a confidential report from one of the two prosecutors in the case.

"I want my Hon. friend and the people of the province to know this: that this is my full connection with the Celona case," Mr. Wismer said vehemently.

Mr. Maitland recalled to the House that James Sinclair, M.P. for North Vancouver, had drawn the Celona case to the attention of the Ottawa House in a resolution. He wanted to know why this resolution was subsequently withdrawn.

# Pension Provided for Every B.C. Teacher

## \$50 Minimum for All Grants Now Existing

By Canadian Press  
 VICTORIA, Dec. 4. — The Teachers' Pension Bill introduced in the British Columbia Legislature last night applies to every school board and all teachers as well as the B.C. Teachers' Federation and its permanent employees.

It also is applicable to teachers receiving pensions under the old act.

Where such a pension is more than \$50 a month, it will be reduced one-third in excess of \$40 a month, but in no case would any subsisting teacher's pension be reduced to less than \$50 per month.

Pension age for male teachers is set at 65 and for female teachers, 60.

The Act calls for a single life service pension of \$360 annually for 20 years of service and pro-

portionate service pensions for lesser service.

An additional service pension on the single life plan of \$12 yearly for each year of service over 20 years is also provided.

School boards would contribute seven per cent of the teaching payroll under their charge to the Teachers' Pension Fund, and the teachers would contribute a minimum of four per cent.

In addition they would contribute one per cent to the service pension fund until actuarial survey determines the additional to be unnecessary.

The Act would come into operation next January 1.

### 'Gov't Missed Chance To Ease Tax Burden'

VICTORIA, Dec. 4. — British Columbia could have gone a long distance in this session of the Legislature to ease some of the burdens which will fall on the taxpayers as a result of the new federal budget, Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, commented Tuesday.

"But apparently this is not to be so," he added. "Next year is an election year and obviously that is the most important thing to the Victoria government."

# Bill Goes Back 20 Years

## Aliens Must Tell Change Of Names

By Sun Staff Reporter  
 VICTORIA, Dec. 4. — The British Columbia Legislature Tuesday approved a law, proposed by Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, which in effect will compel all foreign born persons who have changed their names within the last 20 years to notify the director of vital statistics of the change.

Hot attack was directed against the bill by Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, who said he thought that it was going too far to reach back 20 years.

"All this has been done after consultation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police," said Dr. Weir.

"But how are you going to go about this?" asked Mr. Maitland. "Are you going to wait until you catch some poor fellow who has never heard of the act?"

"The provision will be duly advertised," Dr. Weir replied.

G. M. Murray, Lib., Lillooet, asked if the bill would "stop Chinese from taking good Scottish names?"

When the House laughed uproariously, Mr. Murray declared the matter a serious one.

"There is a Chinese in the province calling himself Joe Martin," he said. "I understand he took a house formerly occupied by the late Hon. Joseph Martin, a premier of this province. And because the telephone was in Mr. Martin's name and he didn't want to change it, he simply took the name himself."

## 99 Per Cent Loyalty Among B.C. Teachers, Says Weir

By Sun Staff Reporter  
 VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—Ninety-nine per cent of British Columbia's teachers are loyal to the crown and empire, Hon. G. M. Weir, minister of education, told the British Columbia legislature in debating a motion by Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, demanding a return of all correspondence leading to the imposition by the government of the oath of allegiance upon teachers.

The House killed the Maitland motion after Dr. Weir had explained that 99 per cent of communications on the subject had been verbal, and that the rest were, in his view, "strictly confidential."

Mr. Maitland, speaking to his own motion, said it was unfair to the loyal teachers that full information should not be disclosed. If any teachers have committed subversive utter-

ances or acts the public is entitled to know, he said.

Dr. Weir admitted that some teachers had made "indiscreet remarks." Whereupon Premier Pattullo observed.

"There have even been indiscreet remarks by members of this House."

Dr. Weir asserted that "it is consonant with the dignity of the teaching profession that they should take the oath."

In addition to indiscreet remarks by some teachers, he went on, there had been some misunderstanding by the public of remarks made by the teachers. In one case a male teacher had told his pupils he had "a date with Hitler." The pupils had taken this remark home and it had horrified their parents. But the following day the teacher in question had enlisted to fulfill, as Dr. Weir put it, "his date with Hitler."

### 'Good Budget' Says Premier Pattullo

VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—Premier Pattullo had little comment today on the new federal budget.

"I think it is a good budget," he said. "It is on the principle that we must curtail our foreign purchases, with which I agree. At the same time, we must preserve our internal economy."

## M.L.A. Charges Some Doctors In B.C. 'Should Be Exposed'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—Frank declaration that "some of the men in the medical profession should be exposed" was made in the British Columbia Legislature Tuesday by Dr. J. J. A. Gillis, Lib., Yale, himself a medical man, during hectic debate on a bill introduced by Attorney General Wismer to amend the Medical Act.

The bill, which was read a second time despite objections, had been under attack by H. E. Winch, CCF leader, and his father, E. E. Winch, who insisted that certain provisions contained in it gave too much power to the executive of the Medical Council.

"It is totalitarian legislation," H. E. Winch had declared. "Year by year there is growing up a complete centralization of power in the medical profession."

He charged that the medical organization is already so powerful that "they can challenge this government and the will of the people—and they have done it.

"The Health Insurance Act is not in effect now and it is because of the attitude of the medical men," he added.

Mr. Wismer and Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, both defended the bill. Mr. Maitland assuring the House that the medical profession has a sufficiently high standard of ethics to safeguard the public. Then Dr. Gillis stepped into the fray.

"The medical profession is trying to build up its standards all the time," he said. "But I would like to see a few more teeth in this act, to force the hands of the executive and council to clean up their own front door.

"I believe that some of the men in the profession should be exposed. They are doing harm to the profession in this province." He did not explain further, but went on to say that he did not favor some of the new powers given to the executive.

## 'Foul Charge' Misunderstood

By Sun Staff Reporter.

VICTORIA, Dec. 4. — Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature, in response to a demand by Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, today delved into accounts of government purchase and travelling expenses of government officials in connection with the San Francisco Fair.

M. M. Connelley, Lib., Omnica, took occasion to chide Mr. Maitland for mentioning his name in committee last week in connection with a bridge contract given to his firm, the Fraser Lake Mill.

"There might be political capital in it," Mr. Connelly said, "but I don't think it fair that members have to keep under cover because they are connected with firms which might get government contracts."

"I don't agree," Mr. Maitland replied.

At the same time, however, he took occasion to clear Mr. Connelly of a misunderstanding which had arisen last week in which the Liberal member's name had been incorrectly linked with a letter the Conservative leader had handed to Chairman Kenney. Mr. Kenney, after reading the letter, stated that it contained "foul charges."

"That letter had no connection whatever with Mr. Connelly," Mr. Maitland said. "It referred to other matters entirely."

# House Approves School Grants in Fiery Session

By JAMES DYER  
Vancouver Sun Staff Writer

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—Amid a storm of debate and a welter of dramatic surprises, Premier Pattullo's bill to give special educational grants to the municipalities—\$250,000 next year and at least \$450,000 a year thereafter—was formally approved by the B. C. Legislature, Wednesday.

Mr. Pattullo, stemming a tide of Conservative criticism, called the first surprise when he demanded a division on second reading. Obviously he was seeking to place the Tory members on the spot. The second surprise was called by the Tories themselves, splitting on the issue, with Hon. R. L. Maitland, their leader, standing up with Liberals, C.C.F. members and Messrs. Finland and Paton of his own group, and only two Tories—Herbert Anscorb, Victoria, and L. H. Eyres, Chilliwack—opposing.

The denouement of the Tories splitting on the issue, particularly after Mr. Maitland's attack, was so astonishing to the Liberals that they rocked back on their heels and then broke into raucous laughter.

The bill was approved 39 to two.

The Tories attacked the bill chiefly on the ground that it is a shallow mockery of Liberal platform promises to take over the entire cost of education.

L. A. Shepherd, the only CCF critic, damned it because it "gives the municipalities exactly nothing," handing out \$450,000 to them while at the same time requiring them to meet \$430,000 in levies for the teachers' superannuation fund.

Mr. Pattullo, presenting the bill for second reading, said the government will go farther even

than this, but its course will have to be guided by circumstances.

"No one knows what the situation may be a year hence," he said. "No one knows what changes the Rowell-Sirois report may make. The purpose of the government is to redistribute the burden of taxation for education, but I would ask members to remember that we are not really relieving the taxpayer of any burden, but merely redistributing the incidence of taxation.

## 'A Bone to Municipalities'

Mr. Anscorb led the attack on the bill. He was in a satirical mood. The bill, he said, was by way of implementing one plank of the Liberal platform.

"But," he added, "in the same day that you hand this money to the municipalities, you place another seven per cent on the land in respect of teachers' pensions."

The government, he said, pretends that it is relieving the burden of land taxes, but, he added, "how much reduction on the land is there in that kind of accounting?"

Mr. Maitland castigated the government for using "a patchwork system" in dealing with the municipalities. He recalled Liberal promises of 1933 to take away all the burden of education from the land, all at once.

This statement brought a chorus of denial from Liberal members, who shouted that their promise was to make the withdrawal "progressive."

"Bit by bit," Mr. Maitland charged, nevertheless, "you are throwing a bone to the municipalities."

H. G. T. Perry, Lib., Fort George, threw Mr. Maitland's challenge back in his teeth, declaring proudly that he personally was responsible for the resolution adopted at the Kelowna Liberal convention demanding government assumption of education costs.

"For the first time," he said, "the government has brought in

a bill implementing this pledge. "I need not talk long here," he said, "because we have accomplishment today; no longer is it necessary to advocate the establishment of this principle; it is here."

L. H. Eyres, Cons., Chilliwack, opposed the bill because, he said, it does not accomplish what it sets out to do—relief of municipalities.

"It is the most outrageous way of giving and taking I have ever heard of," he said.

Mrs. H. D. Smith, Lib., Burrard, recalled that "ten successive school trustees' conventions have passed resolutions for the progressive assumption by government of education costs."

Hon. G. S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, supported the government in a slashing attack upon Mr. Maitland, who, he pointed out, was minister in a former government "which had not the courage to assess the municipalities for contributions to the teachers' superannuation fund."

Had it not been for this lack of courage, the teachers' fund would not be in the state it is today," he said. "We are now trying to correct a mess left on our doorsteps by the government of which the Leader of the Opposition was a minister."

"You have had seven years to do that," Mr. Maitland, taunted.

"You say that now; what did you do in 1929?" Mr. Pearson taunted back.

## 'Fraud, Deception and Snare'

When the bill reached committee stage, late in the evening session, the Tory dissidents, Anscorb and Eyres, took the occasion to justify their opposition to it.

"It is a fraud, a deception and a snare to the municipalities," Mr. Anscorb said.

Mr. Pattullo: It is most in-temperate language in a member, Mr. Speaker, to use the word fraud. There is an implication, there I don't think my friend should use. This is a perfectly open matter.

Mr. Anscorb: The dictionary says that fraud means "deception with the object of gaining another's loss."

The division called by the premier, he asserted, was for no other purpose than "political kudos."

"The Premier wants to be able to say in the election campaign that 'it nailed these babies to the cross,'" Mr. Anscorb hooted.

Mr. Eyres went farther than Mr. Anscorb and said the government's bill had "the hall mark of hypocrisy."

"The member should not impute all motives to other members of the House," Mr. Pattullo reprimanded.

"Then I'll use the word deception, and if that is out of order, I shall say 'delusion,'" Mr. Eyres said.

At this point the member for Chilliwack tried to bring in an alteration in the bill, to make the grant \$450,000 in the first year and not less than \$750,000 each year after.

After a brisk debate he was ruled out of order by R. H. Carson, chairman of the committee of the whole, on the ground that a private member may not sponsor any measure relating to public expenditures without government consent.

The bill thereupon was read a third time.

## Act Amended To Keep Acting Chief McKay

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—Special legislation to maintain Acting Chief Constable Donald McKay of Vancouver as chief for an additional five years was introduced in the B. C. Legislature, Wednesday night, by Hon. G. M. Weir, provincial secretary, by way of an amendment to the Municipal Superannuation Act.



Acting Chief Donald McKay

General retire. ment age on police forces of the province is 60 years, but the amendment says that this shall be so "except that in the case of the chief constable and the acting chief constable of the City of Vancouver the maximum age (of service) shall be 65 years.

The House was sitting after midnight when this bill was introduced. It was the first time this session the House has actually sat after midnight, government driving hard to complete business by Thursday night so that prorogation can take place Friday.

Judge A. M. Harper, chairman of the Vancouver Police Commission, stated this morning that the enabling legislation will not affect Chief Constable Foster, now on leave of absence.

"Chief Foster resigned and under his reappointment does not receive the benefit of the Superannuation Act," he said.

## Loss-Leaders Bill Changed

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—Provisions in the amending bill to the Commodities Minimum Loss Act which would have restricted newspaper advertising by merchants, were withdrawn in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday night by Mrs. H. D. Smith, Liberal, Burrard, sponsor of the bill.

The provisions in question would have prohibited merchants from advertising articles at a reduced price unless they stipulated in their advertisements the previous regular price and the period at which it prevailed.

Other sections of the bill were given third reading after passing through committee stage.

Mrs. Smith, Mrs. D. G. Steeves, CCF, Vancouver North, and Herbert Anscorb, Cons., Victoria, expressed disappointment because of the withdrawal.

The entire bill was attacked by H. G. T. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, former speaker of the House, who said none of the so-called "loss leader legislation" has ever helped retailers or ever will. The bill, he insisted, is bad in principle and should be defeated.

## 'Gov't Killing Faith in B.C.'

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—R. L. Maitland, K.C., provincial Conservative leader, charged at the annual meeting of the Victoria Conservative Association Wednesday night that the Liberal government is doing "patchwork, with no thought of the future" and declared that under the present order people have not enough faith to invest money in the province.

He declared that any administration which had proved itself so "utterly hopeless and incapable" as the present government should be put out of office, and asserted that on every hand, there was governmental interference with business.

## Hospital Act Changes Lauded

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 5. — Amendments to the Mental Hospitals Act, modernizing terminology and procedure with respect to insane persons in British Columbia, were given second reading in the B. C. Legislature, Wednesday night, with acclamations from the CCF and deprecations from Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader.

Hon. G. M. Weir, Provincial Secretary, in presenting the bill for second reading, said that the Government was implementing its pledge, given in several sessions, to revise the Act. One of the more important of the new provisions is that setting up appeal boards for insane persons after they have been in a mental hospital three months or more. The word "lunatic" is banished from the provincial lexicon.

Mr. Maitland congratulated Dr. Weir on the spirit of the bill, but he felt that it was bad that no room was left for consultation, on release of insane persons, with psychiatrists connected with the mental hospitals.

The bill provides that any two competent physicians may constitute an appeal board. He suggested that the bill be hoisted until the next session of the Legislature.

## Budget Debate

(From Victoria Colonist)

Dr. Weir was careful to utter some impressive words about toleration and co-operation at the approaching Conference (on the Rowell report) but his chief preoccupation seems to be that the Conference must endorse the free spending policy of the Provincial Administration, and so vindicate its record. He thus furnished an excellent illustration of the true and authentic politics of the parish pump.

The Minister is entitled to the thanks of the taxpayers of the province for his clear statement on these matters. He made no promises about economy or continuous expenditures in these difficult times. There are to be no illusions on that score. It is to be full steam ahead. Dr. Weir is emphatic in his determination that his department will not submit to any downward revision of its spending program. Throughout his speech there was no hint of any intention on the part of the Provincial Government to reduce expenditure in any direction whatever. It is well to know what to expect.

On one occasion, in the time of the Stuarts, a certain politician contended that by voting thanks for a Speech from the Throne the House has precluded itself from making any complaints about the Speech. The reply to this, however, was that the Members of the House are always thankful whenever the Sovereign deigns to speak to them, and "especially thankful when, as on the present occasion, he speaks out and gives us fair warning of what we are to expect." From Dr. Weir and his spendthrift colleagues the taxpayers have nothing to expect save a continuation of this policy of reckless spending.

## Cameron Again Attacks Croft

VICTORIA, Dec. 5. — Lord Croft's telegram to G. M. Murray, the Lillooet Liberal, denying CCF charges that he is a friend of Fascism, was debated on the floor of the B.C. Legislature, Wednesday night.

Colin Cameron, CCF, Comox, who, early in the session made the original charge against Croft (the former Sir Henry Page-Croft, sponsor of a British land settlement scheme for B.C.), rose to quote extensively from a book, "Tory M.P.," written by Simon Haxey, in which Croft is allegedly linked with several pro-Fascist or pro-Nazi organizations in England.

Mr. Murray said he did not think any man had ever worked on "a more worthy crusade" than "this distinguished British gentleman."

"I demand," he went on, "that he be heard in his own defense before being condemned on hearsay evidence."

# \$50 Million Needed to Improve B.C. Roads

## 'Ottawa's Duty to Act At Once in This Matter

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—To put British Columbia main highways into first class, surfaced condition, will cost nearly \$50,000,000, Hon. C. S. Leary, Minister of Public Works told the B. C. Legislature Thursday during a general debate on government road policy.

Harold E. Winch started the debate by putting before the government a proposal to set up a board of engineers and departmental officials to act in advisory capacity to a highway commission. When he had finished, and Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, had declared that a highway commission is

still part of the Conservative policy, Capt. Leary rose.

### 'DESPERATE CONDITION'

"Something must be done about our roads," he confessed. "The question is one of finance."

"We have the condition where there is only one road out of Vancouver to the great inland empire of this province. If war were to strike this coast the result would be tremendous congestion upon that one highway, and a desperate condition both as regards evacuation and defense," Capt. Leary went on.

"I feel it is Ottawa's duty to act at once in this matter, and not wait until the time the bombers might be overhead."

Challenging critics who chide the Government for having no highway policy, Capt. Leary said:

"We have a highway policy. We have a wonderful highway policy. We could start it tomorrow and our engineers could hire 5000 men—if we had the money."

### PROBABLE COSTS

Giving figures of the probable cost of road construction faced by the province, Mr. Leary said that No. 1 Trans-Canada Highway alone would cost \$4,174,000 to reconstruct, another \$2,000,000 to surface.

"No. 2 Cariboo Highway would cost \$3,949,000 to surface," he went on; "the Southern Trans-Provincial Highway will take \$7,297,000 to complete and the Okanagan No. 5, \$1,185,000 for surfacing."

To construct the long-mooted Northern Trans-provincial road from Prince Rupert to the Alberta boundary by way of Prince George, would require \$17,000,000, the minister continued. And to put the Vancouver Island Trans-Canada road into first class shape would require \$3,000,000.

Dealing with the Peace River outlet, he declared that a road by way of Peace River Pass would need \$5,000,000; by way of Tete Jaune Pass, \$4,500,000.

These figures, he said, included construction or reconstruction of bridges.

### 'GREATEST CONTRIBUTION'

Capt. Leary dealt, too, with critics who demand that the government set aside two or three millions out of gasoline and auto revenues. The total such revenues are \$6,120,000, he pointed out. Total expenditures of his department, he said, including interest and sinking fund charges on existing roads, are \$7,972,362.

"The greatest contribution British Columbia could make toward a major war effort," he went on, "would be the construction, in conjunction with the Ottawa government, of standard highways suitable for the rapid movement of mechanized military equipment, heavy artillery and munition trucks."

Mr. Winch's highway commissioner proposal would have the commissioner in complete charge of road administration, acting with the nine district engineers and responsible to the Legislature. They would be assisted by an advisory board comprising representatives of the departments of finance, forestry, agriculture, mines and trade and industry.

### STILL OPPOSED

The present road administration, he contended, can easily be turned into a "political patronage machine."

Mr. Maitland spoke only briefly, declaring that it is obvious that the Government has made up its mind there will be no highway commission.

Louis LeBourdais, Lib., Cariboo, stressed the importance of roads for attracting tourists.

Hon. G. S. Pearson, Minister of Labor, said he was as much opposed to a highway commission today as he was years ago before he entered the Liberal party.

Harry Johnson, Lib., Revelstoke, said that the Winch plan already is in being to some extent, the district road engineers coming to Victoria at least once a year to consult as a body with the minister on general road policy.

### Auto Fee 'New Deal'

VICTORIA. — British Columbians living east of the Cascade Mountains will have a new deal in auto license fees from now on.

A bill was put through three readings in the dying moments of the B. C. Legislature, Thursday night, permitting auto owners in this area to surrender their license plates as late as Dec. 31 in any year with the privilege of obtaining a rebate of one-sixth of the license fee.

At present, the surrender must be made in November, when they are entitled to a one-third rebate.

### British Columbia is Obdurate

What is expected to be the final session of the current Legislature prorogued at Victoria today. Taxpayers who may have cherished expectations of reductions failed to achieve any notable redress.

You may recall, especially those who pay taxes—and in some form or other we all of us do—that protests have been made on various occasions against the practice of the provincial authorities to charge the regular rate against that part of the taxpayer's income which he is paying out by way of federal tax to the Dominion government. In fact, each government charges a tax against payments to the other—money which the taxpayer never has the use of.

Contrast the practice in Ontario, where Mr. Hepburn's government allows a deduction for that part of the income on which the citizen has paid the federal authorities. But then, the government of the province of Ontario effects a substantial saving by having the federal income-tax people collect for the province, too.

Now it is announced that Ontario and Manitoba have made another timely and generous gesture in the interests of fair play to the taxpayer. Deductions are extended to the parents of Canadian families who have taken in British children for the duration of the war.

The federal government also makes a comparable allowance in respect to 6000 children from England arriving under government auspices. Ontario has about 1000 children from the Old Country, Manitoba 200.

In British Columbia, 211 have been absorbed, but the Legislature adjourned today without announcing any deduction in the income tax against people who have thus opened their homes to the blitzkrieg refugees.

Tax exemption in this connection would be an evidence of official hospitality extended by the government of any province. Apart from the monetary aspect of the plan, it brings to the guests of Ontario and Manitoba assurance that they are not altogether a burden, however welcome, on Canadians who have befriended them in time of danger. In British Columbia, however, it is a case of pay up!



# House Prorogues; 'Back Benchers' Forced Municipal Aid

## Note of Foreboding; New Budget May Not Stand

By JAMES DYER  
Vancouver Sun Staff Writer

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—The fifth session of the 19th Legislature of British Columbia, overshadowed as it has been by greater events, prorogued today with nevertheless more than one significant accomplishment behind it.

First and foremost was the passage of Hon. John Hart's record-smashing supply bill for the next fiscal year, \$29,947,207.

### NOT SO MUCH HILARITY

Linked with this are two measures of great importance to British Columbia's municipalities, the special act granting assistance to the municipalities for education, and the revamped Teachers' Superannuation Act.

Also of first importance is the amendments to the Elections Act granting the absentee vote to the armed forces, both overseas and in other parts of Canada.

Members, breaking into their customary sing-song and "paper battle" after the Lieutenant-Governor had left the Chamber, were nevertheless a little graver and more thoughtful than they

have been at the close of the previous four sessions of this House.

### ELECTION IN OFFING

For, although the government has been careful to steer clear from the subject, there is a firm belief on all sides that this was the last session of the 19th Legislature and that "some who walked out of the House today may not come back.

There will, in other words, they think, be a provincial election next year, with June the favored month. Some even go so far in their speculations as to name the date—June 3.

Through all the debates in this fifth session, and particularly from the treasury benches, there has run a note of foreboding that all that has been done here may count for nothing within a twelve-month, that all these accomplishments may not stand.

## May Upset Budget Plans

There is the war, whose course might affect all things, and there is the Dominion-Provincial conference to be attended in January.

This last alone may upset all budget plans.

The big news of the session was not, however, the budget.

It was the Municipal Assistance Bill, which Mr. Pattullo himself introduced.

There had been foreshadowing of it in Mr. Hart's budget presentation; of a grant for \$250,000 for education, and a promise that before next session the position of the municipalities would be studied and something more done.

## Caucus Forced Action

The truth of the matter was, of course, that the Liberal back-benchers had forced the government, in caucus, to put up that extra \$200,000.

One man, at least, was not entirely happy about it. He was Mr. Hart, who has to find all the money.

The war intruded into the House in several ways.

The soldiers' absentee vote privilege was an example. Then it was found necessary to grant a moratorium on mortgages and agreements for sale on the homes of men on active service.

In another bill, men acting as trustees were permitted, on going overseas, to grant power of attorney to substitutes.

Fifth Columnists were aimed at in the legislation regarding change of name.

All name changes made in the last 20 years must be registered within three months of today.

The commissioner of B. C. police was empowered in another bill to engage temporary constables for six months instead of for one. This is to fill the need for special wartime guards.

Dealing with the health of the people, the House approved with only minor amendments, Hon. G. M. Weir's modernized Mental Hospitals Act.

One of its chief features is to give inmates at mental hospitals the right of appeal to panels of independent physicians to determine whether they are insane after being confined for a certain period.

The Medical Act was amended in several respects. One of the amendments provides for the suspension of medical practitioners who become insane.

Timber royalties on the coast were increased; chauffeurs secured a reduction in their license fees. These were all the taxation changes. Three municipalities, Burnaby, Rossland and Coquitlam, were empowered to refund their debts.

Contentious bills included the Poultry and Poultry Products Act, regulating stringently the grading and marketing of poultry and poultry products and the Commodities Minimum Loss Act, seeking to control retail prices.

## Too Much Shaving?

VICTORIA.—Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, withdrew in the B.C. Legislature, Thursday, his bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act in favor of miners suffering from silicosis.

He did so after Mr. Pattullo promised that he will see that the whole question of workmen's compensation is looked into before next session.

J. A. Paton, Cons., Point Grey, suggested that the Premier look into the question of whether the habit of smooth shaving is not responsible for the rise in silicosis incidence.

## 'Ridiculous That Parents Had to Sue Children'

Prof. Charles Hill-Tout, leading spirit of the Happier Old Age Club, on Thursday expressed his appreciation of the campaign The Vancouver Sun is waging for amendment to the Old Age Pension Act in order to give more favorable treatment to aged persons.

"The Sun is deserving of praise from all of us who want the act changed," he said. "It is ridiculous that under the act aged persons should have been compelled at times to bring suit against their children in order to obtain recognition. Everyone realizes that the amount of the present pension is too small. The minimum should be at least a \$1 a day. And everyone is pretty generally agreed that some attempt should be made to lower the age limit to bring deserving people within its benefits.

"I am sure any person who has given careful consideration to the need for changes in the act will endorse the policy The Vancouver Sun is pursuing in relation to it," Prof. Hill-Tout said.

## Gov't 'Well' No Gusher; New Hole Likely

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Dec. 6. — An attempt by Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, to force the government to give M.L.A.'s a return of all reports on the Peace River oil development, was crushed under an avalanche of Liberal votes Thursday when the B.C. Legislature divided on the issue.

The result of the division was 28 to 12, C.C.F. members and Conservatives alone supporting Mr. Maitland's demand. Tom Uphill, Labor, Fernie, voted with the government.

Mr. Pattullo urged the Opposition Leader to withdraw the motion, pointing out that commercial oil drillers to not make public reports of developments and declaring that the government should not be expected to do so at least at present.

Hon. W. J. Asselstine, Minister of Mines, said weekly progress reports from engineers in charge of the drilling contain matters that it would not be in the public interest to publicize.

The drilling has been harder than expected latterly and it may be necessary to start another hole.

Mr. Maitland, however, insisted that in view of the fact that nearly \$500,000 has been voted for the work, members are entitled to know just what is going on.

## Statistics Act Change Aimed at Doukhobors

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—E. G. Henniger, Lib., Grand Forks, scored a notable triumph for private members of the B. C. Legislature, Wednesday, when he succeeded in incorporating a strengthening clause into a government bill to refuse business and other licenses to persons who fail to obey the Vital Statistics Act.

The bill is aimed primarily at the Doukhobor community and threatens penalties upon parents who do not register their children. Mr. Henniger, who represents a riding in which Doukhobors are numerous, insisted that it is not sufficient to name "parents"; it should apply, he said, to all persons "who disobey the Vital Statistics Act." His suggestion was incorporated in the bill which passed third reading.

## Pension Attack Fails

VICTORIA. — Sam Guthrie's bill to reduce the pension of F. A. Pauline, former B. C. Agent-General in London from \$4200 to \$360 a year was killed before it reached the floor of the B. C. Legislature, Wednesday night, amid a great gnashing of C.C.F. teeth.

Premier Pattullo did the killing by the simple expedient of objecting.

Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, declared it was unheard of to refuse permission to a private member to at least bring his bill as far as first reading, but Mr. Speaker Whittaker said the very fact that a member is required "to beg leave" to introduce a bill is proof that leave may be refused by the House.

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## WINCH ASKS IF GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO GIVE VANCOUVER FINANCIAL AID

### Declares City In Bad Shape

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 3.—(BUP)—If Vancouver had two days fall of snow instead of one it might not have the finances to pay the cost of clearance, Harold Winch (C.C.F. - Vancouver East) told the legislature he had been informed, when he asked on Monday night if the government intended any financial aid for the city.

Rising to ask Hon. A. Wells Gray if the government intended to do something, Winch declared that Vancouver's finances were in very bad shape. He asked if the government had given consideration to some form of assistance.

#### NO COMMENT

The minister pointed out that it was a matter for the finance department but Hon. John Hart made no comment and the House went on with other business.

All estimates, including supplementary for the year totalling \$814,941, were passed.

During discussions of these latter, Tom Uphill (Independent Fernie) suddenly rose and asked who was responsible for stopping the hospital sweepstake at Fernie. Assured that it was a federal, not a provincial matter, Uphill criticised what he termed "hypocacy" that stopped sweepstakes which hurt no one and aided hospitals to a large extent.

"It is a matter of criminal law," said Premier Pattullo.

#### IT LOOKS IDIOTIC

"That looks idiotic to me," Uphill replied.

Sam Guthrie (C.C.F. Cowichan Newcastle) and Colin Cameron (C.C.F. Comox) both questioned the law on subversive literature, claiming that books distributed by the C.C.F. before the war were now illegal but still in the possession of many people.

H. G. Perry (Lib. St. George) said he had just learned that every home in Prince George had received a copy of a subversive booklet, delivered during the night. The object of the distributors had been lost, he said, because the book was so scurrilous.

#### NO SYMPATHY

Conservative leader R. L. Maitland said he had no sympathy for the type of man who wanted to break down Canadian morale. He would like to see the government go the limit in stopping the distribution, smuggling in or publication of such literature, he said.

Power to refund outstanding debentures was given Vancouver and District Joint Sewerage Board in a bill introduced by Hon. Wells Gray.

### Burnaby To Have Reeve, Council

## Municipal Government May Return If Refunding Scheme Successful

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 3.—(BUP)—Burnaby may regain reeve, council, and school and police boards within two or three years, Hon. A. Wells Gray, minister of lands and municipalities, told the house on Monday afternoon when second reading was given to the refunding act for that municipality.

It would remain under control of a commissioner as at present until it was proven that the refunding scheme was workable, he said, in reply to a question by Mrs. Paul Smith. He added that it should not take long.

E. E. Winch questioned whether the scheme was workable and whether the land-owners could stand the burden of taxation necessary. He claimed they would have to raise \$123,080 in five years above the ordinary requirements, to meet payments under the refunding act.

This would mean a 10-mill increase above the present 47-mill rate, he said.

### Overlooks Large Sales Of Lands

Gray said that Winch had overlooked large land sales in Burnaby in recent years, with an increase in tax revenue as the result.

Herbert Ansonb doubted whether the plan was the desire of the majority of bondholders.

Nearly cleaning up the order paper, the House gave third readings to eight bills, second readings to five and reported progress in committee stage on five more. Those given third reading included the Trades License, Land Registry, Fire Marshal, Police and Prisons, Village Municipalities, Grading of Wool, Grading of Hogs, Superannuation of Employees in the University and the Lands Administration acts.

### C.C.F. Withdraws Act Amendment

Amendment to the Parents' Maintenance Act was withdrawn by the C.C.F. when it incorporated amendments by Hon. George M. Weir. Second reading was given the Apprenticeship Act to permit minors to work in certain industries by permit from the labor minister without regard to apprenticeship contract.

An amendment to the Game Act on which the attorney-general reported progress would not affect dude ranches, Hon. Gordon Wismer told George Murray.

It was designed to regulate hunting and fishing lodges which at present were under no provincial control and would pre-

vent tourists from getting a bad impression of accommodation, the government believed.

An amendment to the Commodities Minimum Loss Act, which controls the prices of groceries and meat, was introduced by Premier T. D. Pattullo.

### Would Ban Retail Price Comparison

One section says no retailer shall make any comparison of the price of any commodity with regular or former prices so as to indicate that he is now selling at a lower price.

Another section deals with the definition of the cost of the price of meats, declaring "where there is variation among wholesalers in the price at which carcasses are offered to retail meat dealers, the lowest price so offered shall be deemed to be the purchase price to any retail meat dealer regardless of the price in fact paid by him."

An amendment to the Medical Act introduced by the attorney-general, deals with the election of representatives on the B. C. Medical Council.

An amendment to the Fisheries Act by Hon. G. S. Pearson covers arbitration of fishermen's disputes.

## Capital Accounts

By A. H. WILLIAMSON  
Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Representatives of the First Narrows Bridge Co.—D. N. Hosie, K.C., Maj. P. A. Curry, H. J. Clerihue—were back in the lobbies Monday trying to iron out difficulties over the mutually-agreed-upon bill which Premier Pattullo turned thumbs-down on. But by nightfall, after conferences with the premier, Attorney-General Wismer and J. Howard Forester, Liberal whip, no progress had been made and they abandoned the bridge taxation problem to its fate

for the time being. Vancouver and West Vancouver will have to make the best arrangements they can to collect taxation on the approaches in their respective municipalities.

Harold Winch found himself in hot water after C.C.F. groups in various parts of the province read in this column he would be better employed in, say the labor department, than as House leader of the party. He received enquiries and accusations from all sides. They suspected Mr. Winch might be deserting the party. In justice to Mr. Winch it should be said that he has not had any offer from the government, nor is he of the quitting type. But it is still the opinion of many who have watched his career that he could be better employed than in the second line of opposition.

Premier Pattullo seems to have killed the plan of the special committee on Elections Act amendments to sit after the House has prorogued. The committee has been told to finish its deliberations before prorogation — only three or four days away. So it faces several long and tiresome meetings, it is faced, for instance, with delving into 15 closely-written pages on suggested voting regulations.

For members of the active forces outside the province, based on the Federal system, this would give soldiers the vote wherever they may be. Indicative of the work involved in preparing for that is the statement by P. D. Walker, deputy provincial secretary, that five tons of material — papers, maps, notices, ballot boxes — will have to be sent to England alone.

Then there are the hazards of war to consider; the danger of all five tons of material going to the bottom of the ocean, while in transit; or the danger of losing the ballots on the way back. There is the problem of how to handle the vote in distant lands; the question of the Oriental soldier's right to vote.

R. L. Maitland, K.C., Opposition leader, said he was being quite frank when he discussed this latter — he was definitely opposed to the Oriental being allowed to vote, in the army or out.

Harold Winch and Colin Cameron were equally outspoken on the other side. If any man was willing to give his life for this country, he was certainly good enough to vote for it, they believed.

## Mr. Winch's Part

Our Victoria correspondent the other day speculated on the possibility of Mr. Winch receiving an offer to join the Provincial Government's social service staff and leaving his seat in the House. Some of Mr. Winch's enemies have seized upon this as proof of his intention to desert his party.

Manifestly this is unfair. Mr. Winch has proved an able and faithful member of his party, an astute Legislative leader. He has a gift for enquiry and a talent for politics. He would be a loss to the House.

On the other hand, he might be a very useful representative of the minority viewpoint upon the permanent provincial staff. Some of British Columbia's ablest civil servants have come from labor's ranks. The name of Jim McVety, able head of employment service, instantly springs to mind.

If an offer is made the choice is up to Mr. Winch alone. It is not fair to accuse him of desertion or of having surrendered his principles before he has even faced his personal problem.

## Death In The Woods

Figures quoted in the B. C. Legislature indicate that 176 fatal industrial accidents took place in the province last year and that a large percentage of these occurred in the logging and lumbering industry.

By its very nature work in the woods carries a degree of hazard. And there is a sharp difference of opinion as to the major cause of the accident rate. But, whatever the cause, the death toll is still far too high.

Public, industry operators and workers are all affected here. Compensation payments cost all three a large amount of money every year.

Efforts have already been made to combat the accident toll. But have they gone far enough?

## Maitland Protests Minimum Loss Act In Legislature

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—(BUP)—Second reading to the Minimum Loss Act was given in the B. C. Legislature Monday over a protest by R. L. Maitland, Opposition leader.

"This act in 1937 went pretty far in interfering with business," Mr. Maitland said. "In 1939 the amendments went still farther. Now, this new act sets up synthetic prices. It's amazing that we can go that far."

"This is also censorship of advertising," he added. "I thought the criminal code covered that pretty well. It is still more interference with business. Surely there is a limit. This is simply passed for the benefit of a certain organization."

Attorney-General Wismer said there was no new principle involved. The bill was a new formula for finding out the actual price to the seller.

Explaining the bill Mrs. Paul Smith said that the advertising clause in it must show how many of 100 pairs of shoes advertised as "regularly \$6 now \$1" actually were regularly \$6.

## Bacardi Rum, Oriental Liquor To Be Dropped

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 3.—(BUP)—Stocks of high-priced Bacardi rum and Oriental liquors of various sorts will not be replenished in British Columbia liquor stores as a result of new budget regulations, a check with the Liquor Control Board revealed last night.

These are the only liquors not imported from Empire countries, Bacardi coming from both Japan and China. Other spirits—whisky from the British Isles, wines from Australia and South Africa will be unaffected.

# Medical Act Amendment Centre Of House Storm

By A. H. WILLIAMSON  
British United Press Correspondent

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 4.—(BUP)—The medical profession was the centre of a storm in the House on Tuesday when a 12-page bill to amend the Medical Act was given second reading.

"It is time we halted bills of this type," declared Harold Winch (C.C.F., Vancouver East), as he resumed debates on the measure. "This is what I call totalitarian legislation. It is complete centralization of power and authority and complete regulation of the lives of people. "The greatest closed corporation in the world is the medical profession. This body of men is so powerful it can challenge the will of this government and the people of British Columbia. They did, and got away with it. Now they are coming to this Legislature for still more power."

## MUST BE CONTROLLED

The bill, while dealing almost entirely with the internal regulation of the medical profession, has some sections dealing with treatment by other than registered medical practitioners, and use of the title "doctor" or "physician."

E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby), supported his son in the attack on the legislation.

"Individually I have the greatest respect for medical men," he said, "but collectively they are a menace to the well being of mankind. They must be controlled."

## UNAWARE OF BILL

Surprise came, however, when Dr. J. J. Gillis (Lib., Yale), the only medical man in the house at the time, was called upon by Winch to express his views and said he had been unaware of the bill until Monday.

Hon. George M. Weir rose to explain that he had only received the bill a few days before and that the health officer had been ill at the time. Actually he would have liked to have had the bill on hand a month earlier, he said. He had already deleted several sections to which he objected, he told the House.

## EXPLAINS STAND

Explaining the stand of the medical profession, Dr. Gillis said they were trying to build up their standards of service all the time.

"Personally I'd like to see more teeth put in this act to make the medical council clean its own front door," he said. "I say front door, because there are some men in the medical profession who should be exposed. They are doing great harm to the profession."

On motion of Attorney-General Gordon Wismer the bill finally obtained second reading and advanced to committee stage.

## Capital Accounts

By A. H. WILLIAMSON  
Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—One of the best mayoralty campaign speeches by Dr. Telford was probably the one he gave in the Legislature yesterday. Vancouver's financial position as a result of the assessment cuts set the stage just right for the white-haired doctor. He obtained the "indulgence of the House," had the floor to himself and made an impassioned plea for the great city which he represents in the dual capacity of mayor and member of the Legislature. It was one occasion where his opponent in the mayoral race had no comeback.

The whole House learned with the greatest regret yesterday that Rolf W. Bruhn, the able, Swedish-born Conservative member from Salmon Arm, would be unable to return to his seat this session owing to illness. The tall, kindly former minister of public works was taken ill last week, missed a day, returned, but found the strain too much. Since his last appearance daily enquiries had been made by everyone, from the Premier down. It was the Premier who elicited the information from Mr. Maitland yesterday that Mr. Bruhn would not be back this session. There are now two vacancies in the Conservative benches, Lt.-Col. MacGregor MacIntosh being away with the army.

The government looked with some favor on a suggestion by Dr. Telford that voters in civic and municipal elections be called upon to produce their national registration cards before being given a ballot. Attorney-General Wismer said it was a good idea. The Premier nodded his head in approval. The idea was presented during discussion of amendments to the Municipal Elections Act and it is possible it will be incorporated in the act before it has passed the final stages this session.

## Wismer Outlines Celona Parole Case; House Approves

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 4.—(BUP)—"I make the statement to this House and to the people of this country—that is my full connection with the Celona case, what I have said tonight."

Thus Hon. Gordon Wismer, attorney general, concluded a dispassionate discussion of the Joe Celona parole before an intent legislature on Tuesday night.

He spoke to a resolution by R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, asking for return by the attorney general of all correspondence between the dominion and provincial governments in connection with the Celona case.

When Wismer had finished speaking, the Speaker called for a vote and the resolution was lost without a count being necessary.

## Resolution Urges Flat License Rate For Farmers' Cars

VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—(BUP)—A flat license rate of \$10 annually for farmers' cars was urged Tuesday in a resolution by the agriculture committee asking the attorney general's department to investigate.

The resolution followed a request from the Farmers' Institutes for such legislation. It was proposed by L. H. Eyres (Cons. Chilliwack), who also suggested that the difference in provincial revenue be made up by an increase in the gasoline tax. This latter suggestion was not immediately acted upon but may be considered later, members of the committee indicated.

## Why This Rush?

Our Legislature is once more in the rush of winding up business so the boys can all be out of the trenches by Christmas. With their evident desire to get back home we have no quarrel.

We do quarrel, however, with the way in which a number of important private bills and other new legislation is railroaded through the legislative mill at the tail end of every session.

The members never seem to lack time to expound their own ideas about everything under the sun. Yet they blithely vote into existence statutes concerning which the public has heard little and knows even less until it finds them the law of the province.

A little more time devoted to examining new bills and less to replying to the speech from the throne might be poor politics but better legislative practice.

Almost any well-organized minority with the right amount of lobbying and political friends can frame a private bill that has better than a fifty-fifty chance of acceptance.

It would do no harm at all if certain types of legislation were automatically given a six-month hoist upon introduction. Chances are if some of it were laid upon the table, it would never reach the statute books.

# The Odd Angle

By P. W. LUCE

## The Beer We've Drunk

Government statistics are reliable, sometimes, but they fell down badly on details. When



Attorney-General Wismer told the Legislature that Vancouver citizens consumed \$1,313,969.75 worth of beer sitting down in beer parlors in a year, he left too much to our imagination. Many men, too, are derelict in their duty. If all were like me, scores of prize pigeons might have to be turned into pie to save the brewery workers from starvation, but fortunately there are others who make up for my niggardliness. Vancouver's champion drinker is said to have downed twenty-three glasses at one sitting, and he would have done even better if he hadn't fallen asleep on the job. He will try again, after his innards dry up.

## Unofficial Statistics

Timing from entrance to exit, the quickest one consumed this year was gulped in exactly fifty-three seconds.

The longest dallying over a single glass occupied two hours, forty-five minutes and thirteen seconds. The time would have been better except that the customer had to leave in a hurry, by request of the management.

Patrons estimate that about two pints of the official thirty-six were spilled by the "salesman," over four pints left unconsumed by men who had had more than enough already, one gill blown off in froth, and a couple of quarts drunk by tough guys who mistook another fellow's drink for their own.

Licencees report that the bee was put on them far too often for free drinks, and that of the thousands of cheques they obligingly cashed, 666 bounced back within twenty-four hours. In spite of that, the licencees keep on taking chances.

## Lubricated Loquacity

It is difficult to estimate the good feeling generated by 1,355,310 gallons of beer, because there is no adequate yardstick for friendliness, but experts agree that 216,432 strangers engaged in conversation in beer parlors who would never have said "Hello" to each other anywhere else. The loss or gain is strictly their own.

Under the stimulating influ-

ence of 57,630 barrels of amber fluid, approximately 100,000 plans for winning the war have been worked out to a satisfactory conclusion, over a million jibes have been hurled at Hitler, and nearly a dozen worth-while ideas on strategy have emerged, though nine of these still need a bit of polishing up over a few more bottles.

The government has been set right 77,777 times, the civic administration has been put in its place 348 times a day, and the waiter has been properly ticked off dozens of times on a busy evening whenever the service was a bit on the slow side.

Every bottle of beer served off the ice has decreased the activity of the sweat glands by 3.152 per cent, saving this perspiration for exudation in essential industries . . . maybe.

## Would Reduce Teachers' Pensions Under New Act

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 4.—(BUP)—Reduction of all teachers' pensions in excess of \$50 a month by one-third and assumption by the government and municipalities of payment of pensions are main features of the Teachers' Pension Act introduced in the legislature late Tuesday night by Hon. George M. Weir.

The act was introduced in the closing moments of a late sitting along with five other bills dealing with varied subjects.

Taking over the original scheme founded by teachers, the act says that the fund for superannuation shall be established and maintained by contributions by teachers, school trustees, Teachers' Federation and "any other contributions under the provisions of this act."

The levy against teachers' salaries will amount to four per cent, starting on Jan. 1, 1942; employers will also collect one per cent. from the salaries and forward it to the fund.

# SUPERANNUATION ACT CHANGE EXTENDS TERM OF VANCOUVER POLICE CHIEF

## House Deletes Advertising Clause In Commodities Minimum Loss Act

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 5.—Enabling acting-Chief Constable Donald McKay to continue in office in Vancouver until he is sixty-five, an amendment to the Municipal Superannuation Act was introduced into the Legislature shortly after midnight Wednesday by Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, K.C., attorney-general.

The bill provided that the section limiting the age limit to sixty shall be amended by adding "except that in the case of the chief constable and acting chief constable of the city of Vancouver the maximum shall be sixty-five years.

Brought up in the committee stage shortly before midnight Wednesday as the House struggled to clear the order paper on what is probably the eve of prorogation, the retail merchant-sponsored bill to amend the Commodities Minimum Loss Act emerged shorn of one main section.

### Asks Deletion Of Clause Four

This was the clause that demanded particularization of regular or former prices of goods advertised at reduced prices.

Despite the lateness of the hour, H. G. Perry, Liberal, Fort George, demanded every section be read aloud by Chairman R. H. Carson. When contentious section four came up, Mrs. Paul Smith, sponsor of the bill, said representations had been made to her that it would cause a hardship on advertisers and she wished to delete it from the bill.

Mr. Perry said that, opposed to this type of legislation in general, he had told retail merchants when the original act was drafted they would have to come back this year amending it. He didn't believe, he added, that the bill would help retail merchants one iota.

"It is inflicting a nuisance on the ordinary, honest small retailer. It wouldn't worry the big man at all," he said.

### Rigorous Scrutiny Of Advertising

Mrs. Smith assured the House that advertising men intended conferring with the retail merchants to work out a formula and correct any doubt in the minds of the public as to the veracity of all advertising. All newspapers were rigorous in their scrutiny of advertising, she said.

The government purchasing department is instructed in a report filed by the public accounts committee Wednesday night to use British Columbia products wherever possible.

Reporting for the committee, E. T. Kenney, chairman, said his group commended the purchasing department, after conducting investigations at four sittings during the present session.

## Capital Accounts

By A. H. WILLIAMSON  
Staff Correspondent

Liberal members of the Legislature, harassed by the spectre of retribution at the up-coming general election, awoke Wednesday to find, there really was a Santa Claus. At first they didn't realize why Premier Pattullo was sitting in his chair like a smiling Buddha. Then the significance of the "Act to Provide for Special Assistance in the Cost of Education" began to sink in.

They found—to their amazement and gratification—that the government was giving the municipalities not only \$250,000 in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1942, but "annually thereafter a sum of not less than \$450,000."

"Hooray," shouted one Liberal member. "We're saved."

And, as the holder of a somewhat shaky seat, he had reason to "hooray." It meant that cost of the seven per cent. levy against municipalities for teachers' pensions would be more than covered by the government. Total cost of this levy in the province will be \$430,000, leaving \$20,000 for distribution free, gratis and for nothing.

It meant that Vancouver's financial crisis had been met and successfully passed. It meant that the government had answered the angry outcries of municipal reeves and councillors from here to Pouce Coupe. It meant that Hon. T. D. Pattullo, a veteran public administrator, had met another difficult situation with success to himself and satisfaction to the Liberal party.

Hon. R. L. Maitland, who has been probing many things in his capacity as leader of the opposition, worked the public accounts committee up to fever pitch, and then left everyone gaping. Mr. Maitland's early enquiries indicated he was going to expose a number of interesting things in connection with government tenders, expenditures, connections of government members with various firms doing business with the government. But when the committee met on Wednesday Mr. Maitland

simply asked a number of questions which really disclosed nothing and then sat back and said nothing.

It is presumed that Mr. Maitland, who is a very capable leader of the opposition, will use his information politically during the expected campaign next year. But he might have given the newspapers some headlines to take the readers' minds off the war at a time like this.

Henniger, genial, quiet, elderly member for Grand Forks-Greenwood, became Mr. Justice Henniger—in name only—in the House on Wednesday. Attorney-general Wismer said that "Mr. Justice Henniger," as he called him, had convinced him to amend the Act covering Doukhobors' refusal to comply with national registration or vital statistics. After a great tussle, Mr. Henniger persuaded the attorney-general to change one word in the Act. Instead of "parent," it is now "person who fails to comply with, etc."

## Common Sense Needed

Hot words have been exchanged in the B. C. Legislature on the subject of allegedly subversive literature and the Defense of Canada Regulations. Some members contend that the effect of these regulations goes too far. Others say it should go farther than it does.

Canada is at war and there can be no condoning material that will undermine or endanger the war effort. On the other hand Canada is at war for democracy. Any undue interference with individual freedom on the home front is more dangerous in its effect upon national morale than is the average unorthodox pamphlet.

It is surely no service to the truth and worth of our war aims if we suggest that these are so weak as to be endangered by the reading of minority leaflets. If that is our stand then we are disloyal alike to the traditions of our past and to the aims of our future.

It might be well to remember that the Defense of Canada Regulations were made for man and that man was not made for the Defense of Canada Regulations.

## C.C.F. Continues Croft Controversy

VICTORIA, B.C., Dec. 5.—Cameron produced various books, newspapers and pamphlets of pre-war date attributing to Croft connections with the Anglo-German Fellowship and association with a number of pro-Nazis now interned.

"God forbid that I should ever defend a Tory M.P.," said Murray, quoting the title (Tory M.P. by Simon Haxey) of one of the books from which Cameron read, "but no man ever engaged in a worthier mission. I demand that the man be heard before being condemned on hearsay evidence."

Earlier in the day George Murray (Lib. Lillooet) had read a cable from Croft (formerly Sir Henry Page-Croft) denying Fascist leanings.



**B.C. Legislature****Bill To Aid Municipalities Gets All But Unanimous House Support**

VICTORIA, B.C., Dec. 5.—(BUP)—The government's bill to aid municipalities passed second reading in the house on Wednesday after one of the strangest divisions of recent years.

Attacked by several Opposition speakers and lauded by government members, the bill was being dragged from one side of the House to the other when the premier suddenly halted the battle by demanding a division.

**Division Vote 39 to 2**

When the count was completed it was disclosed that Liberals, Conservatives and C.C.F. to a total of 39 had voted for it against the opposition of only two Conservative stalwarts, Herbert Anscomb, Victoria, and L. H. Eyers, Chilliwack.

The bill, which will distribute \$250,000 to municipalities next year and not less than \$450,000 thereafter to relieve the burden of education on land, was termed "another bit of patchwork system of government" by Opposition leader Maitland. He voted for the measure, however when the division was called.

The bill is based on a Liberal convention resolution two years ago asking the government progressively to assume the cost of education. The premier explained that it was the intention of the government to go still further. He said no position would be better after the conference on the Rowell-Sirois report.

**Perry Praises Govt. Action**

H.G. Perry (Lib. Fort George) who sponsored the resolution at the Kelowna convention, congratulated the government on following the recommendation so closely.

"The same day that you bring in this bill you bring in one placing a seven per cent burden on municipalities for teachers' pensions," said Anscomb.

"It is a most outrageous way of giving and taking," Eyers commented.

There nearly had been a division earlier when Harold Winch (C.C.F. Vancouver East) was refused the right to debate a cable from Lord Croft read to the house by George Murray (Lib. Lillooet).

**Lord Croft Denies Charge**

The cable from the sponsor of land settlement scheme here some years ago was in reply to charges by Colin Cameron (C.C.F. Comox) that the English peer was a "paid agent of Fascists." Croft denied the charge absolutely.

Cameron said he considered Croft's reply an aspersion on his character and asked the right to speak to it. Murray had read the cable "by indulgence of the house," however, and Mr. Speaker Whittaker ruled that the matter was ended.

Winch appealed the ruling and

asked for a division. The premier and Perry intervened and Winch finally agreed to place it on the order paper for discussion later in the session.

**Demands Member Retract Words**

"I voted against the act to aid municipalities because it is a fraud, deception and snare," said Herbert Anscomb (Cons., Victoria) just before the bill was given third reading.

The premier sprang to his feet to ask the member to temper his language and retract the statement, and Anscomb did so, declaring the premier had called the division during the afternoon for "nothing other than political kudos."

Eyers declared he had voted against it because while fully in support of the principle of aid to municipalities, he felt this bill was the "hall mark of hypocrisy." When the premier asked him to use other words, he chose "deception", and then "delusion".

**Rule Amendment Out of Order**

He then moved an amendment increasing the \$250,000 to \$450,000 and the ultimate \$450,000 to \$750,000. This was immediately ruled out of order on the grounds that a private member is unable to move an increase in expenditure.

A lengthy debate on the subject was carried on privately by the premier, who crossed the floor, and with Maitland went into a huddle over the rules book. The House appeared amused.

Explaining the lengthy Teachers' Superannuation bill, Hon. George M. Weir said that 287 teachers had already been retired and 300 more were expected to be during the next 10 years. There was an overdraft of \$275,000 against the fund which would reach \$300,000 by next December, he said. In addition, \$1,550,000 would be necessary to pay future pensions to those already in retirement. Retirement would be automatic for male teachers at 65 and for women at 60.

The act would be effective on January 1, 1941.

Maitland said he considered it strange that teachers should be aided by the government while other municipal employees were "left in the lurch."

# Government Withdraws Act To Retain Chief After Superannuation

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—(BUP)—An act to amend the Superannuation Act extending the period in office of Vancouver's police chief and acting chief was withdrawn in the Legislature on Thursday afternoon.

Explaining the move after the bill had been given first reading, Hon. George M. Weir said that when the bill was drawn up, the government understood that all parties were in agreement. It had since been discovered, he said, that this was not the case.

As soon as The News-Herald story was read Thursday morning, relating the midnight introduction of the bill in Victoria to enable Police Chief Donald MacKay to continue in office until aged 65, wires to Victoria began to buzz with protests from organized civic employment here.

## OPPOSE TAMPERING

All branches of the service are opposed to any tampering with the Superannuation Act. The Police Federal Association and Firemen's Union took the active lead in the matter, on grounds it was class legislation.

Notwithstanding withdrawal of the bill a delegation of four went over to the capital Thursday night to make sure the bill would remain withdrawn.

## CHIEF PRAISED

"But this is not in any way a move against the present chief," a Police Association official exclaimed. "A better chief constable than Donald MacKay we have never had—and I should know for I've worked under every chief since Chamberlain's time." If any other way can be found to keep Chief MacKay in office for an extra five years—other than by tampering with the act—it would have their unqualified support.

Chief MacKay declined to comment.

Judge A. M. Harper of the commission said that Dr. Weir was correct in assuming "all parties were in agreement" in the sense that the "governing bodies" were. Opposition of both Police Federal Association and the Firemen's Union had been voiced before on the question, he said.

## JUDGMENT NEEDED

"Brains and ripening judgment are more important at this point than beat-pounding ability. Under the present age limit a chief hasn't the same ambition and initiative when he knows he has to retire in a year or two," he declared.

Mayor Telford said the withdrawal was satisfactory to him since he had never been in accord with the plan. He had been opposed to it in the House but had not fought against it.

He said it was with sincere regret he could not endorse the plan since it would have meant keeping in office Chief MacKay for whom he had a very high regard. It would mean the city would lose the services of the chief in less than two years, but

in justice to the younger men coming up, and since police and fire work is essentially for the younger men, he could not support the proposal.

## Car License Bill Made Law, Record In Five Minutes

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 6.—(BUP)—In what was probably record time for the B. C. legislature, a new bill was introduced, put through committee stage, given three readings and made law in less than five minutes shortly before the legislature finished its final sitting on Thursday night.

The bill is an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act, to allow motorists residing east of the Cascade mountains to turn in license plates on January 1, and receive a quarter refund, and if turned in on November 1, a third refund.

## Government Wins Division

# Maitland Asks Government Table All Reports On Oil Development

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 6.—(BUP)—Government and Opposition parties were divided during the closing minutes of the session on Thursday afternoon on the subject of the government's Peace River oil drilling program.

The government was victorious by a wide margin, gaining the vote of the lone Independent member of the house, Tom Uphill as added support. The vote was 28 to 12 against a resolution by R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, requesting the government to table return of all reports on the oil development.

## ASKS WITHDRAWAL

The C. C. F. voted with the five Conservatives in the house on a division demanded by Maitland.

Premier Pattullo had asked Maitland to withdraw the resolution on the grounds that not even commercial drillers made public reports of developments.

Hon. W. J. Asselstine, minister of mines, said the weekly drilling reports contained matters that would not be in the public interest to make public.

"We are getting good results for the money spent," he said. "Lately drilling has been harder and it may be necessary to start another hole. But I can tell the house that the offer made by the Esquimalt member (E. V. Finland) for the private interests to take over would look cheap beside some of the offers we have received."

## B. C. House Ends Business; Session To Prorogue Today

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 6.—(BUP)—The fifth session of the nineteenth legislature came to an end of business sittings on Thursday night after six weeks deliberations.

This morning at 10:45 members will reconvene and fifteen minutes later the lieutenant governor will arrive and give assent to the bills passed and prorogue the legislature.

The legislative sittings closed on a cordial note early Thursday evening. Only four bills, given thorough going over earlier in the session, remained on the order paper. They were all given third readings within a matter of moments.

## Capital Accounts

By A. H. WILLIAMSON  
Staff Correspondent

Six weeks ago, 39 private members of the B. C. Legislature were fretting to reach Victoria and plunge into the merry-go-round of law-making and high finance and legislative debate.

This morning they are all fretting to get back to their offices, their stores, their farms, their homes.

And at 11 o'clock this morning, His Honor, E. W. Hamber, will arrive to give Royal assent to approximately 70 bills and acts, the members will all sing the National Anthem, perhaps have a little horse-play by throwing about all the bills and acts, the votes and proceedings, the orders of the day, and then they will be free to return from whence they came. Back they will go to the Peace River, to Omineca, to Skeena, to the Cariboo, the Kootenays, to all parts of the province.

During six weeks of activity the Legislature handled 82 bills, sat 38 times, held numerous committee meetings, discussed almost everything under the sun, accomplished more than one might think possible in that length of time.

It is, in all likelihood, the last session of the nineteenth Parliament. Unless international affairs intervene, there will be an election next year—between March 1 and June 15.

Unless something very unexpected develops at the Rowell Report Conference in Ottawa on Jan. 14, there will not be another session. It will be the twentieth Parliament that next convenes in the Legislative Assembly Chamber here.

The dying moments of the fifth session were not without interest. Young Harold Winch, who has gained more for his C.C.F. party this session than ever before, gave a brilliant display of both party leadership and good public service when he threw aside party politics in a thoughtful discussion of the province's highway problems.

Alex Paton, who is always in the thick of things, but who sometimes seems overlooked in the rush of affairs, got in a final parting suggestion for the welfare of mankind. He had noted, he said, that the mustachioed miners of early days didn't seem to suffer from silicosis as modern miners did.

But E. E. Winch had to knock the props from beneath that idea. Silicosis, he said, was one of the earliest-known occupational diseases. It went back way beyond B. C.—and he didn't mean British Columbia.

"And in those days they all wore beards."

## WINCH INTRODUCES RESOLUTION FOR RADICAL CHANGE IN B.C. ROAD POLICY

### Wants District Road Engineers On Provincial Road Commission

By A. H. WILLIAMSON  
News-Herald Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 6.—Radical change in road policy with establishment of a new type of highway board was proposed in a resolution presented to the House on Thursday by Harold Winch, C.C.F. House leader.

Winch proposed:

1. Appointment by the legislature of a competent engineer as road commissioner.
2. A commission to consist of the commissioner and all nine district engineers of the province.
3. An advisory board consisting of representatives of the department of finance, lands, agriculture, forestry, mines, trade and industry.

#### GET AWAY FROM PARTIES

"Year after year," said Winch, "the question of roads is brought up in this House. It makes one think the ability of some members is judged by what they can get for roads in their districts.

"We should get away from our parties as far as possible and try to work out a good basis for road development. The present and past system is not good enough and doesn't give efficiency."

"The real issue, however, is not of parties but one of methods. We and the people of British Columbia want a dollar of road for every dollar spent."

#### NOT C.C.F. POLICY

"The plan I offer is not C.C.F. policy, it is just a basis of discussion," Winch continued.

Outlining the proposed commission, Winch said it should meet before the legislature session in order to be able to outline the year's needs. It should then meet after the session to consider the best distribution of the money voted, and should be the sole arbiters of highway policy.

R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, said he could see little

difference between this plan and one suggested by Rolf Bruhn which would have formed the public works engineers into a road board and was presented to the House earlier in the session.

Louis Lebourdais (Lib. Cariboo) urged a ten year program expending \$5,000,000 annually.

Erza Henniger (Lib. Grand Forks) said the greatest need was interest-free money for highways.

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**1940**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1940

## B. C. SESSION MAY END THIS WEEK

VICTORIA, Dec. 2.—(CP)—When it adjourned for the week-end the B. C. Legislature was ready to press on for prorogation about next Thursday or Friday.

Consideration of the estimates was completed, paving the way for formal introduction of the supply bill at the beginning of the week. Notice was given that three sittings a day will commence, but few morning sessions may be necessary because the order paper is comparatively clear.

Major issue next week is expected to be the new Teachers' Pension Bill, yet to be introduced. Municipal delegations are planning visits to the government to protest against the imposition of a 7 per cent. levy on teachers' payroll lists to establish the pension fund.

Most of the committees have finished their work, with the notable exception of the public accounts, where Conservative leader R. L. Maitland, K.C., seeks to probe various government contracts.

## Hog, Wool Grading To Be Established

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Nov. 28.—Bills intended to establish hog grading and wool grading in British Columbia were introduced into the Legislature on Wednesday by Hon. K. C. MacDonald, minister of agriculture.

Similar in character, they provide for appointment of inspectors; give authority to such officials to enter upon premises, stop conveyances and examine books, papers and documents relative to sales of wool or hog carcasses.

It is provided that Dominion Government officials may be appointed as inspectors. Dr. MacDonald says that the legislation is made necessary in order that there shall be a conformity in this province with federal laws.

Penalties range from \$10 to \$50 for the first offense, and from \$50 to \$100 upon conviction for subsequent offenses.

Burden of proof is placed on the accused.

# Indians and Orientals With Canadian Army Not Entitled to Vote

## C.C.F. Argument Is Rejected By Committee on Elections

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
 VICTORIA, Dec. 3. — Indians and Orientals serving with the British forces either in Canada or overseas are not entitled to vote.

That point was established today by the special committee of the Legislature meeting today to discuss the Provincial Elections Act.

Colin Cameron (Comox) reopened the C.C.F. argument that Indians and Orientals who are willing to give their lives for Canada should be entitled to the vote.

"The only basis for excluding Indians from the vote is that they are wards of the government, technically minors," Mr. Cameron said. "But it is difficult to see how an Indian can remain a ward of the government if he enlists."

### STATUS UNALTERED.

P. D. Walker, deputy provincial secretary, replied that an Indian's status was unaltered by enlistment and he was not entitled to vote under any circumstances. The same applied to Orientals.

"I still doubt if he would be regarded as a ward of the government while serving overseas," averred Mr. Cameron.

Mr. Walker admitted that a certain number of Japanese received the franchise after they returned from service overseas in the last war. But in the present Dominion Regulations there was no provision for giving the vote to Orientals.

### BREACH OF RULES.

The committee also discussed whether soldiers could be penalized for committing offenses against the voting regulations. Mr. Walker declared there was no jurisdiction for dealing with such offenses.

"We might send you overseas to take the matter up with the authorities," suggested R. L. Maitland.

"That would suit me very well," replied Mr. Walker smiling.

The committee recommended that, wherever possible, civilians should be appointed deputy returning officers for the handling of soldier votes in Canada. Overseas, the committee thought it likely that army officers would be entrusted with this work.

### PRINCIPLE WRONG.

R. L. Maitland said he was opposed to Orientals having the vote even if they were registered as British subjects.

"But you are willing to let them fight for you," Harold Winch, C. C. F. leader, said.

"That is all very well," Mr. Maitland replied. "But the principle of allowing Orientals to vote is wrong. They do not understand Canadian government sufficiently to take part in our legislation."

"They understand it sufficiently to want to fight for it," retorted Mr. Winch.

Discussion on the right to vote raised the question of whether a man becomes a British subject on taking the oath of allegiance.

Cameron said Americans were permitted to join the Canadian forces without losing their citizenship, providing they signed a declaration to this effect.

"Which means they do not become British subjects," declared Mr. Maitland.

## WAR MINISTER CABLES DENIAL

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
 VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Emphatic contradiction to statements made in the Legislature by Colin Cameron, C. C. F. member for Comox, to the effect that Lord Croft, under-secretary for war, was a Fascist and had acted as a supply agent for the Franco government during the Spanish Civil War, came today in a cable from Lord Croft.

His lordship asks to be informed if any such libels are repeated outside of the protection of the Legislature.

Lord Croft cabled to George Murray, Liberal member for Lillooet, who denied the allegations of Mr. Cameron when made in the House. In his cable Lord Croft stated:

"Grateful for your intervention. The charge about my support of Fascism is grotesque. I have opposed and detested all totalitarian forms of government from the start as enemies of democracy, and leading, inevitably, to war."

"I have never been the agent of any foreign government and in the Spanish war fought strenuously against intervention and opposed furnishing supplies to either side.

"Cameron's suggestion that I was in charge of purchases of any foreign country in Britain is as insulting as it is false.

"Thanks to the policy of the British Government, Spain, almost alone among the nations of Europe, has to date resisted Nazi tutelage.

"If these libels are repeated outside of the Legislature, I would be glad to be informed.

"I would be grateful if denial can be conveyed to the press."

Mr. Murray stated, upon receipt of the cable this morning, that he would seek to bring the matter to the attention of the Legislature, probably on a question of privilege.

MR. GEORGE MURRAY, M.L.A. for Lillooet, in the course of a rather vague speech defending the B. C. Government against something or other,

made a striking statement. He said: "Those boys of ours overseas are not fighting with any idea that the responsible government set up in Canada shall be destroyed or wiped away during their absence. They look to us to preserve our democratic institutions and rights."

Which is a noble thought. That is how the thing apparently started; we went out on a democratic orgie and we preached democracy as opposed to dictators and we got ourselves all worked up about it.

In this country and in the States we still play our themes on this fetish. But in England, where they are fighting, I think it is very likely that an angry people has quite given up bothering about democracy as such. They are not now fighting for an ideal; they are fighting and fighting desperately and with a phenomenal courage to down a little inhuman beast and his friends—and his people too. For no longer do we hear that stupid cry that we are not fighting the German people. We have discovered that we are fighting the German people, a people that has become blood-drunk with its local successes. We can renew the bit about democracy when we have won.

## CHARGES "RAKE-OFF"

### Flashes False Teeth in House

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 3. — Colin Cameron's attempt to have the Dentistry Act amended to permit mechanical dentists to repair false teeth, was defeated on second reading of his bill, late Monday night. It was voted down despite the dramatic production on the part of E. E. Winch, Burnaby, of a huge false plate which he declared a professional dentist had not been able to fix.

"It's a big rakeoff that professional dentists get that keeps many poor people without teeth," the C.C.F. member declared. "They can't afford \$30 for a plate that costs not more than \$10; they can not stand the racketeering."

Mr. Cameron, moving second

reading of his bill, said that requirement in the Dentistry Act that members of the public could not take plates to mechanical dentists for repairs, added greatly to the cost of the work, as the order had to be placed through a professional dentist. His amendment would do away with this.

Attorney-General Wismer declared that there was danger in permitting the return to the practice contemplated by the amending bill. It was necessary that plates should be properly fitted, and this could only be done by a qualified dentist. "Doctors will tell you that all kinds of trouble—even cancer—can come from ill-fitting plates," he declared.

The Legislature, like any spinning top, shows signs of running down.

# Re-funding Plan Increases Burnaby Tax Rate

## BOOST WILL BE 3 MILLS: GRAY

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Burnaby's tax rate will go up as a result of the refunding scheme included in a bill which passed second reading in the Legislature Monday afternoon.

By just how much it will be increased was a matter of argument between E. E. Winch, C.C.F. member for Burnaby, and Hon. A. Wells Gray, minister of municipal affairs. Mr. Winch said that the rate would be raised by 10 mills—from 47 to 57 mills; while Mr. Gray maintained it should not be more than 3 mills.

Mrs. H. D. Smith, Liberal, Burrard, asked if the passage of the bill would result in a return to the taxpayers of management of their own affairs.

### COMMISSION CONTINUES.

The minister said that he thought that the commissioner-ship should be continued for two or three years, until it was demonstrated that a council would be able to handle the affairs of the community.

"I am not a legal man, but I maintain that as soon as Burnaby comes to an arrangement with the bondholders, then she is entitled to have an elected council and school board," declared Mr. Winch.

The minister had said that the bondholders were consulted; the bank had been consulted—but had the taxpayers been consulted to see if they could bear additional burdens entailed by the scheme? The Burnaby member asked. There were two boards of trade in the municipality; had they been consulted?

## AMENDMENT AIMED AT 'LOSS LEADERS'

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Declaring that "there must be a limit to which the Legislature should be asked to go in passing legislation for a Vancouver organization," R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, strongly opposed amendments to the Commodities Minimum Loss Act, which was introduced by Mrs. H. D. Smith, Vancouver-Burrard, on Monday afternoon. The bill was given second reading at the night sitting.

The retail merchants' organization had obtained an act in 1937. It was amended in 1938, and now, said Mr. Maitland, "They come back with a synthetic price-fixing basis, whereby you reach out into the air pick a price."

Hon. Gordon Wismer stated that the principle was established when the parent act was passed that there must be orderly marketing. A formula could not be worked out satisfactorily; evasions of the act were practiced by some merchants. It was proposed to tighten the measure so that loss leaders could not be continued.

## AT THE CAPITAL

# Government Acts to Prevent Depletion of B.C. Game Stock

(By Vancouver Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Hunting and fishing lodges may be controlled under the Game Act to prevent overfishing of lakes and streams and excessive hunting of game in depleted areas, Attorney-General Gordon Wismer told the Legislature Monday.

Conservatives, led by R. L. Maitland, protested these provisions in the act as giving the government too much power to interfere in business.

"This is yet another instance of interfering with the little man about whom we hear so much from the other side of the House whenever economy is mentioned," Mr. Maitland said.

### TO AID TOURISTS.

The attorney-general declared the act was aimed at providing improved accommodation for tourists and restricting the number of lodges in certain areas according to the amount of game available.

He mentioned one or two small lakes in the province that were being over-fished at the present time.

Amendments to the Game Act giving farmers the right to shoot game which destroy their crops were approved.

"A farmer can kill game to protect his crops any time," the attorney-general said. "There is nothing to stop him from eating it but he must notify the game warden and satisfy him the game has been killed for a lawful purpose."

## Says Agricultural Laws Go Too Far

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Legislation governing agriculture has been carried so far in British Columbia that "you can not give away a sack of potatoes without permission."

So said Harold Winch (C. C. F. leader) in the Legislature, Monday, when the "Poultry and Poultry Products Act" came before the committee of supply and was returned, after discussion, for amendment.

Dr. K. C. MacDonald, minister of agriculture, stressed the need for proper regulation to protect the interests of the merchant as well as the consumer.

## Uphill Pleads For Sweepstake

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 3. — "What hypocrites are responsible for

stopping hospital sweepstakes in this province?" Tom Uphill, Labor member for Fernie, asked the Legislature last night.

"Sweepstakes don't hurt anyone," he added. "Everyone enjoys taking a chance on something or other. Why not let them take a chance for the benefit of our hospitals?"

"It is a matter of criminal law," pointed out Premier Pattullo.

## Inefficiency Denied

# WINCH CHARGES REFUTED HERE

Charges of inefficiency in Vancouver shipyards made by Harold E. Winch (C.C.F.) in the Provincial Legislature merely reveal his ignorance of the industry, L. C. Campbell, business agent of Local No. 1, Boilermakers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Union of Canada, declares in a statement given to The Vancouver Daily Province today.

"The local yards here have probably turned out more work this year than any other plants in Canada of the same capacity could have done with the same number of men," Mr. Campbell says.

"The foremen and men employed in the local yards are certainly as efficient as will be found anywhere on this continent, and each one turns out a good day's work, otherwise they are soon out of a job."

"There are times when certain work is held up for want of material, which is quite natural to happen in these times, but even then there are various other jobs that the workmen can be employed at."

"Mr. Winch had better stay with his own line of business and let competent shipbuilders look after the construction of warships required by the government."

## Arbitration Date On Fish Prices Is Advanced

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—An amendment to the Fisheries Act given second reading in the Legislature on Monday night will permit "blue back salmon trollers" to come within the arbitration clauses of the act. Arbitration date was also advanced from May 1 to April 1.

Hon. G. S. Pearson, commissioner of fisheries, explained that under the main act arbitration proceedings had to start in respect to matters of prices paid to fishermen by May 1. This was late, and often negotiations were delayed until the salmon run was well on, and the fish were lost. It was now proposed to advance the date by a month. This meant that negotiations would be conducted in plenty of time to permit an agreement to be reached without losing any work.

"The canners object to it, but I think that it is fair," he explained.

Formerly arbitration proceedings did not include trollers. Now they are placed in the same category with other salmon fishermen.

# City in Last-Ditch Fight for Better Terms

## MAYOR MAKES PLEA IN HOUSE

A last-ditch fight for larger grants for Vancouver was made by Mayor Telford on the floor of the Legislature this afternoon. Aldermen unanimously authorized his worship's intercession before the House at a special City Council meeting this morning at which the mayor, in a written statement, pointed out that if the government would not give the city more aid it would mean lifting the tax rate to "the last notch, a thing we have been fighting to avoid."

The city has legal authority to raise the mill rate approximately 1 1/4 mills.

It was pointed out by the mayor, however, that any increase in the rate would not necessarily mean an increase in taxes, but that it would be a "readjustment" to compensate for an annual loss of \$75,600 in revenue caused by a drop of \$1,523,384 in taxable assessment in the 1941 assessment roll.

The emergency session of the council was called by the mayor to discuss the severe assessment drop and consequent loss in revenue. The mayor flew to Victoria immediately after the council meeting.

The formal resolution authorizing the mayor to emphasize the dropped assessments before the House asked him to press for restoration of some or all the grants which the city formerly enjoyed but which have since been cut off or reduced.

His worship's statement declared the city is practically helpless to control revenues and expenditures and that aid must be forthcoming from the government.

Figures issued on Saturday by Chester Green, acting assessment commissioner, indicated the city would lose about \$104,000 because of assessment reductions.

Revised figures announced today show that the small amount of tax sale property cut from taxable assessment in the 1941 roll as compared with the \$1,007,550 in tax sales holdings dropped from the 1940 roll had not been taken into consideration. When the adjustment was made it revealed the city will lose only \$75,600.

## Apprenticeship Act Amendment Accepted

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Second reading was given to an amendment to the Apprenticeship Act, introduced by Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, which will permit persons under the age of 21 to be temporarily employed in trades requiring apprentices.

It was found that in the rush of war work that some plants could use young men, but could not apprentice them, as there would be no guarantee of continuance of employment for them at the close of hostilities.

## Pattullo's Comment On Tariff Changes

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—It is imperative that Canada should curtail her foreign purchases except for war purposes, said Premier Pattullo today when asked to comment on the federal budget.

"At this time it is important that we preserve our internal economy as far as possible," the Premier said. "Therefore we must curtail our foreign purchases except for war purchases."

The Premier declined to make any direct reference to the federal budget except to say that it was very much as he expected.

## ARREST FOR READING 'OUTLAW' BOOKS HIT

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—People are being arrested in B. C. for reading literature which "every educated person should have read," complained Colin Cameron (C.C.F., Comox) in the Legislature last night.

Sam Guthrie (C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle) and E. E. Winch (C. C. F., Burnaby) joined him in attacking the attorney-general's department for what they called "indiscriminate" arrest of persons found in possession of so-called subversive literature.

Mr. Guthrie cited the case of a man sent to jail because of having common Socialist literature in his possession. One of the books, he said, was Webb's treatise on Soviet Russia.

## Tenders for Painting City Motor Building

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—Tenders for the painting of the interior of the motor vehicle building in Vancouver were opened by Hon. C. S. Leary, minister of public works, Monday. They were F. B. Downing, \$2305; F. J. Morley Ltd., \$2922.25; Chicken & Tipping, \$2500; Charles H. Brawn & Son, \$2746.35; Jos. Boshard \$3052; John Webber, \$3447.20; General Decorators Ltd., \$2990.

## Raps Oil Estimate

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 3.—An estimate of \$50,000 for oil exploitation in the Peace River area brought forth critical questions from Herbert Anscumb, independent member for Victoria, in the Legislature last night.



# Attorney-General Wismer Denies Any Connection With Celona Release

## SAYS OTTAWA HANDLED CASE

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—Attorney-General Gordon Wismer denied that he had any connection with the release of Joe Celona when R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, raised the question in the Legislature Tuesday night.

Celona was sentenced to 11 years in the penitentiary several years ago on a charge of white slavery. He was released early this year but the parole was cancelled later and he is now serving his sentence.

Mr. Maitland, asking for a return of all correspondence in the Celona case, said he realized administration of justice was in the hands of the province, while a parole was a matter for the Dominion authorities.

### ASKS INVESTIGATION.

"The matter of the parole was brought up in the Federal House by the member for North Vancouver (James Sinclair) who demanded to know why the department of justice freed Celona.

"The public has a right to know what representations were made to Ottawa for his release," Mr. Maitland said. "Then, for no apparent reason, Mr. Sinclair withdrew the motion. Why, nobody seems to know."

Mr. Wismer, in response, said: "At the time Mr. Sinclair brought the matter up at Ottawa I was in that city on matters of great importance to the public of British Columbia. Sinclair saw me for several days, but never said a word about this case and the first I knew of it was when it was brought up on the floor of the Federal Parliament.

### NO RESPONSIBILITY.

"Responsibility for parole," he said, "is not that of the attorney-general. I have no authority at all. Paroles are a regular routine of the remissions branch which makes enquiries of men who prosecuted the case."

At the time of the Celona case, Mr. Wismer declared, he was not attorney-general. The attorney-general at that time was Mr. Sloan, now a justice of the Court of Appeal.

"Two men I know were asked about the Celona case by Ottawa. One of them sent his reply direct to Ottawa; the other sent his to my office and it was forwarded to Ottawa."

The attorney-general said the correspondence was not produced because Hon. Mr. Lapointe could not give names of people contacted because of the highly-confidential nature of the correspondence.

"Why should I produce that correspondence for the perusal of my honorable friend (Mr. Maitland)?" he asked.

"The member for North Vancouver withdrew his motion at Ottawa because of the highly-confidential nature of the correspondence," Mr. Wismer said.

"That is the full extent of my connection with the Celona case."

IN a terrific spasm of attachment to the things that count, the government at Victoria has introduced an amendment to the Provincial Coat of Arms Act with the object of offering greater safeguards. It is perhaps news to many that we had a Provincial Coat of Arms Act. I didn't know it. I always thought these things were controlled by the College of Heraldry, occupying that dignified little building in Queen Victoria street near the Times office. But perhaps the Germans have bombed it and it thus becomes us to carry on the good work.

I wonder who our local expert is? Who is there among our more removed officials who could sit down and describe a coat of arms in such terms as: "Three Mulletts argent on a field azure surmounting two balls sable on a field gules dexter opposing a bend or on a field vert"?

It's rather a garish pattern, if you see what I mean. But it illustrates the idea. All you gallant lads from the Old Country had better get out the old shield and make sure you are within your rights in carrying such armorial bearings.

## "FIGHTING JOE" RECALLED

### Chinese Took Premier's Name

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 4. — Hon. Joseph Martin, K.C., was a premier of British Columbia. He was an outstanding figure in public life of the province in the early years of the present century.

"Joe" Martin's name re-echoed through the Legislative Chamber on Tuesday.

It was George M. Murray, Lillooet member, who recalled the old warrior of B. C. politics. The matter before the Legislature at the moment was the "Change of Name Act." The act, which was approved, will compel all foreign-born persons who have changed their names in the past 20 years, to notify the director of vital statistics of the change.

Mr. Murray—Will this measure prevent a Chinaman from taking the name of a Scotsman?

Attorney-General Wismer said that it might protect the ancient Scottish clans to that extent.

"Well," on Mr. Murray, "I am not joking. Now there was a Chinaman in Vancouver who went by the name of Joe Martin. He called himself after 'Fighting Joe.'"

"After Mr. Martin died, a Chinaman took the house where he had been living. The telephone was registered in the name of Joseph Martin, so instead of having it changed to Long Fuey—or whatever his name happened to be—the Chinaman changed his name to conform with the telephone registration, and thereafter was known as Joe Martin."

## SPECIAL PENSION RULING

### Cleveland Will Be Retained

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—Dr. E. A. Cleveland, chairman of Greater Vancouver Joint Sewerage and Drainage Board, will not have to retire when he reaches the age of superannuation. A special bill was given second reading in the Legislature on Tuesday in order to retain his services.

In presenting the measure Hon.

A. Wells Gray paid tribute to the services of Dr. Cleveland, and said that the board did not want to lose him through superannuation.

## HOUSE HEARS MAYOR'S PLEA

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 4. — Premier Pattullo declined to make a definite statement with regard to the possibility of additional grants for the City of Vancouver in reply to a plea from Mayor Telford on the floor of the Provincial Legislature Tuesday.

Mayor Telford pointed out Vancouver is facing a serious situation as a result of the reduction in assessment values by \$1,523,384.

Premier Pattullo said that the Provincial Government was "seized of the importance of the situation in Vancouver, as it is in respect of municipalities generally."

### ANSWER IS NO?

When R. L. Maitland, K.C., Conservative leader, asked for a definite statement on the part of the government to the representations made by Mayor Telford, the Premier intimated that the government would make a statement in due course.

Mr. Maitland—Then the answer is "no."

The mayor explained that the assessment commission over which the City Council had no power, had reduced the assessment, thereby cutting the revenue anticipated from taxation by \$75,600. He had been instructed by the council to ask for some measure of relief, in the form of increased grants or participation in the gasoline tax, liquor profits or other forms of assistance which were formerly extended to municipalities.

Herbert Anscomb, Conservative, Victoria — What revenue would result from an increase of one mill in the tax rate?

Mayor Telford—About \$200,000. Mr. Anscomb—Then you only require to increase the rate by one-half mill. Property which has been relieved by the amount of the assessment drop would again pay the revenue required.

## Fighting Teacher's 'Date With Hitler' Misunderstood

VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—Hon. G. M. Weir, minister of education, told the Legislature last night that 99 per cent of its 420 teachers of British Columbia are loyal to the British flag.

Certain misunderstandings had arisen. One teacher said he had "a date with Hitler." That teacher enlisted next day, with a view to keeping his date with Hitler.

Some of his pupils thought he meant that he was friendly to Hitler.

# Reduction in Teachers' Pensions Provided in New British Columbia Statute

## MINIMUM RATE OF \$50 FIXED

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
**VICTORIA, Dec. 4.**—Teachers' pensions now in force will be cut by one-third of the amount by which they exceed \$40 a month, but in no case shall be reduced below \$50 monthly. This is one of the features of the new Teachers' Pension Act now before the Legislature.

Inspectors and others who come under both the Teachers' Pensions Act and the Superannuation Act will lose one-third of their teacher pension where the combined pensions exceed \$50 monthly.

Employees of the Teachers' Federation are included in the provisions of this measure.

### CONTRIBUTE MORE.

As announced in the budget address of Hon. John Hart, teachers will contribute an additional 1 per cent. of their salaries for the next 20 years. This makes the contributions on the part of teachers 5 per cent. of their earnings. School boards, as employers, must contribute 7 per cent. of the teachers' salaries to the fund.

Special provisions are included by which employees of the department of education may participate in both the teachers' pension plan and the Superannuation Act which covers the civil service.

Teachers who join the military, naval or air services "shall be deemed to be in service to an employer to whom this act applies." Further school boards may make contributions equal to the 4 per cent. payment made by teachers for those who enlist with the armed forces.

## RAPS CHANGES IN MEDICO ACT

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
**VICTORIA, Dec. 4.**—"Totalitarian legislation," tending to place greater power in the hands of fewer people, was how Harold Winch, C. C. F. leader, referred to an act to amend the "Medical Act," which came before the Legislature for second reading Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Winch complained that authority previously invested in the medical council was passing into the hands of the council executive, so that the executive would have "absolute authority" over the council.

### CARRIED TO LIMIT.

"Government supporters say they object to centralization of power, yet in this amended bill we see that principle carried to the limit, with centralization of authority placed in the hands of a small body."

Mr. Winch declared health insurance was not in effect today, because of the attitude of medical men, who had failed to reach any agreement with the government.

He claimed certain sections of the act gave wider powers to members of the medical profession to treat cases that were handled hitherto by practitioners in certain specialized fields.

### LOSING CONFIDENCE.

"If this bill is not camouflaged for something else, then it can be clarified very easily," he said.

E. E. Winch (C.C.F., Burnaby), said while he had a great admiration for doctors as individuals, collectively he felt they were "a menace to the well-being of the community."

"An increasing number of people are losing faith in the orthodox medical profession and are placing more confidence in other practitioners," he declared.

## AT THE CAPITAL

# Workmen's Compensation Act Enquiry Pledged by Pearson

(By Vancouver Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

**VICTORIA, Dec. 4.**—There will be some manner of enquiry into the interpretations of the Workmen's Compensation Board within the coming year. Definite assurance to this effect was given to Harold E. Winch, C.C.F. leader, by Hon. George S. Pearson, minister of labor, in the Legislature Tuesday night after a lengthy discussion of the board.

Mr. Winch, in speaking to a resolution asking for a committee of the Legislature to conduct an enquiry, made it clear that he was not attacking the members of the Workmen's Compensation Board. He believed them to be men of strictest probity and integrity.

### CHANGES NEEDED.

It was nearly 20 years since the act had been brought into force. Conditions had changed in that time, and certain interpretations given were working actual hardships. It was time that the whole situation was reviewed. There were six major points that such a review should consider:

1. Is it necessary for workmen in British Columbia to prove that an accident has occurred, or is such the duty of the board?
2. Was it the intention of the Legislature in passing the act that the board was to determine whether the condition of an injured person was caused by an accident; and was it the intention that a person who felt aggrieved under a negative decision of the board should be put to the expense of employing private physicians to prove his contention?
3. Was it the intention when the act was passed to penalize workmen permanently injured by making them bear the cost of materials made necessary by such injuries? In this respect he referred to artificial limbs. Why should repairs and replacements be at the cost of the injured worker?
4. By what legislative authority does the board classify a man as being able to do light work following an injury and cut his pension by as much as 50 per cent.?
5. Where does the board get authority to assess disability and pay compensation by actuarial standards as used by insurance companies and not by the formula as set out in the parent legislation?
6. Was it the intention that a worker following his usual employment, but employed temporarily by an employer not covered by compensation, should be denied compensation if injured?

## To Study Health Restorative Resources

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

**VICTORIA, Dec. 4.**—Development of natural health restorative resources of B. C. was urged in the Legislature last night by Harold Winch, C. C. F. leader, who declared some of the greatest facilities of the province are as yet undeveloped and unused.

Mr. Winch withdrew his resolution that a select committee be appointed to investigate the possibilities of the province on assurance from the government that this investigation would be made.

## Re-funding Plan For Coquitlam

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

**VICTORIA, Dec. 4.**—When the city of Port Coquitlam was taken from Coquitlam district in the year 1911 the district owed \$220,000. It was agreed that the two authorities should jointly carry this burden of bonded debt. The bonds are due next year, and legislative sanction is being asked to a scheme of refunding the indebtedness.

In speaking to the bill for refunding in the House on Tuesday, Hon. W. Wells Gray, minister of municipal affairs, said that there were \$120,000 in the joint sinking funds. The bondholders had agreed to a refunding scheme—at least 80 per cent. of them had done so.

The old issue bore interest at 5 per cent. The debentureholders had agreed to a new issue bearing interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. The Royal Bank of Canada would act as trustee, and payments on account of both principal and interest would be made in annual instalments.

## May Demand Voters' Registration Cards

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

**VICTORIA, Dec. 4.**—A suggestion by Mayor Telford of Vancouver that national registration cards be a requisite of voting at municipal elections was considered to have such merit that Hon. A. Wells Gray, minister of lands, moved that amendments to the Municipal Elections Act be continued in the committee stage while the idea was studied.

Attorney-General G. S. Wismer said that he thought the suggestion was a good one.

**Might Be Irksome****Game Act  
Amendment  
Is Withdrawn**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—In deference to members on both sides of the Legislature who objected to the proposal in the bill to amend the Game Act to establish government control and supervision over hunting and fishing lodges, Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer agreed to withdraw the clause.

It was R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, who suggested that the clause be deleted for this year. It would be irksome to a number of "little people — of whom the government is always talking—who were trying to eke out a living by catering to tourists."

Mrs. H. D. Smith, Vancouver-Burrard, Liberal, was in favor of the provision. She said that it would establish minimum standards and would be attractive to tourists. It would set up standards of sanitation and service.

Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal, Yale, was just as strong in opposition to the measure. He did not think that it was warranted. The attorney-general said that it was approved by game associations. Well, went on the doctor, "I'm a member of as fine a game organization as there is in this province, and we don't ask for it."

**PLAN APPEAL BODY  
FOR MENTAL CASES**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 4.—Establishment of a panel of medical practitioners, apart from those engaged on the staff of a mental hospital, to act as a court of appeal to hear applications of persons committed to mental hospitals is included in a new Mental Hospitals Bill now before the Legislature.

The new provision is in line with the recommendations made to the Legislature for several years by E. E. Winch, C. C. F., Burnaby.

The entire act has been withdrawn in the new measure, which covers 37 pages.

Another feature that has been urged on the House by Mr. Winch has been adopted. It is the elimination of the word insane to describe persons committed to hospitals. They are described as being "mentally ill."

**HOW IT BECAME BANKRUPT****Teacher Payments Towards  
Pensions Were Not Matched**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—The manner in which the original teachers' pension scheme became bankrupt, necessitating a new plan, was explained to the Legislature by Hon. G. M. Weir, minister of education, upon second reading of the bill in the Legislature on Wednesday.

In the 1929 act, provision was made for contributions from teachers, but no contributions were required from employers. Annuities, however, were based upon matching the amounts contributed by the teachers. This matching was purely fictitious, as there was no other source of funds than the personal contributions of the teachers themselves, except a donation of \$25,000 annually from the treasury for ten years.

This meant that when teachers retired the money with which to double their personal funds was taken from current contributions. At present, there are 287 teachers in receipt of pensions, drawing \$151,508 annually. It is estimated that another 300 will retire in the next decade.

There was a deficit of between \$275,000 and \$300,000 in the fund. In addition, \$1,550,000 was required to put the scheme on an actuarially-sound basis. This sum the treasury would advance in the form of debentures.

**EMPLOYERS SHOULD AID.**

The principle that an employer should contribute to the pensions of his employees was recognized generally in public services. British Columbia school trustees would be called upon to pay 7 per cent. of the teachers' salaries. The teachers themselves would contribute an additional 1 per cent. until the fund was on a sound basis.

Had the government of the day seen to it that a proper act was placed before the Legislature, contributions from employers would be only 4 per cent.

Hon. G. S. Pearson spoke in a similar vein.

**SERIOUS SITUATION.**

R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, said the bill drew attention to a serious situation, especially in Vancouver, where the teachers were being rescued in respect of their fund, but "the civic employees are left on the

ricks" in connection with their Superannuation Act.

He thought it would have been better if the teachers had arranged to purchase group annuities under the Dominion Government scheme in the first place.

"I am tired of being told that things are actuarially sound, and then we find that they are not," he exclaimed.

**WOULD PAY 20 PER CENT.**

Herbert Anscomb (Independent, Victoria) said instead of the city taxpayer paying 7 per cent. on his land towards teachers' superannuation, in some cases he would pay 20 per cent.

Mr. Anscomb quoted facts in support of his statement, then asked Hon. G. M. Weir, minister of education, if he was right.

"Do you mean morally right or correct?" asked Dr. Weir.

"I would say at all times that you are morally right, while I am correct," replied Mr. Anscomb, amid laughter.

**ASKS BURNABY  
INDEPENDENCE**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—Burnaby should be entitled to an elective council as soon as its debts are refunded next June, declared Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, when an act authorizing the refunding of the municipality passed third reading in the Legislature, Wednesday.

The bill was approved in principle in spite of objections raised from different sides of the House.

"The day this bill goes into effect," Mr. Winch said, "Burnaby is no longer in default and automatically she is entitled to an elective council without any authority from this Legislature."

**GRAY DIFFERS.**

Hon. Wells Gray, minister of lands, took a different view. From experience he had found that once a municipality had been administered by a commissioner, as Burnaby had, the citizens were reluctant to return to an elective council.

"For instance," he said, "Prince Rupert had a commissioner for a number of years. Now they want a town manager."

Herbert Anscomb (Independent, Victoria), said he was opposed to an elective council being restored to Burnaby. He declared the bill was premature.

Argument between Hon. Wells Gray and Conservative and C. C. F. members of the House as to whether Burnaby would be entitled to an elective council next June failed to reach any definite conclusion.

**Retiring Age Limit  
Has Been Increased**

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—Vancouver's police chief and acting police chief will not be required to retire on superannuation at the age of sixty years, according to an amendment to the Municipal Superannuation Act introduced by provincial secretary.

Under existing legislation firemen and policemen must retire at the age of sixty. The limit has been increased, only in respect of Vancouver, by five years.

**Shipbuilding Industry**

Sir: In your paper of December 3 there is a statement headed "Winch Charges Are Refuted Here." The tenor of the remarks in your paper conclusively proves that there is some misunderstanding as to statements made by myself relative to the shipbuilding industry in the Province of British Columbia.

In order to clarify the situation, I have written to Mr. L. C. Campbell who was your informant. I feel it is essential that this matter should also be clarified to your readers and would, therefore, request the kindness of your column for the publication of my letter sent to Mr. Campbell.

Sincerely yours,  
HAROLD E. WINCH, M.L.A.

Mr. L. C. Campbell,  
Business Agent Local No. 1  
Boilermakers & Iron Shipbuilders' Union of Canada:

Sir: My attention has been brought to an item in the December 3 issue of The Vancouver Province, in which you are quoted as refuting alleged charges by myself of inefficiency in Vancouver Shipyards. The tenor of your remarks implies that I questioned the efficiency of the workers employed in the shipbuilding industry. I am not aware where you could have obtained the impression that I, in speech, statement or writing, ever questioned the ability of the shipyard workers.

For the information of yourself and your members, this is to inform you that the only time I have ever discussed shipyard work was in a speech on the floor of the Legislature made relative to Canada's war effort. At that time I pointed out that our daily papers were stressing the need of additions to the Canadian Navy and of replacements to fill the need occasioned by the sinking of merchantmen by enemy action.

I declared that there was cause for a charge of inefficiency if this need was not being met by the full utilization of British Columbia's shipbuilding yards, and further stated that, in my opinion, British Columbia could produce three times the ships at present being turned out; and therefore, as we have this productive power, it was gross inefficiency to be carrying on as we are.

I feel certain that you will agree with my contention. I take strong exception to the last paragraph of the press report in which you are quoted as saying: "Mr. Winch had better stay with his own line of business and let competent shipbuilders look after the construction of warships required by the government," for the reason that I do not make it a practice to speak on those matters of which I have no knowledge.

The very basis of the only remarks that I have ever made relative to shipbuilding has been supplied to me by men in the employ of the shipyards; and of the many who have spoken to me, practically all of them are employed in North Vancouver and are iron workers, and I therefore take it for granted they are members of your own local union.

Trusting that this clarifies the situation and that you will see that this communication is read at the next business meeting of the local union, I am,

Sincerely yours,  
HAROLD E. WINCH, M.L.A.

**Government Grant**

**TELFORD SEEKS CITY'S SHARE**

Mayor Telford is in Victoria today conferring with government officials in an effort to find out what proportion of the \$250,000 provincial grant in aid of education will be given to Vancouver. Premier Pattullo said he expected the \$250,000 would be raised to \$450,000 next year.

Under a recent Victoria act, Vancouver is obliged to contribute an estimated \$175,000 to the teachers' pension fund and city officials are hoping that the new grant to the city will approximate this sum. If the \$250,000 appropriation is to be distributed amongst rural school boards as well as municipalities, the city's share will be sharply below the expected amount.

Premier Pattullo remarked casually in debate several days ago that Vancouver would receive about \$75,000, although he did not give the amount as a positive allocation.

Vancouver school teachers are, with few exceptions, viewing the new Teachers' Pension Act with optimism. Most agree that the proposals are an improvement on the old act, but that it will be several years before any accurate estimation of its value can be made.

"Most teachers will be willing to pay an additional 1 per cent. of their salaries for the next 20 years if they are assured of adequate pensions," stated W. H. W. Hardwick, executive member of the Principals' Association.

**PAULINE PENSION CUT DEFEATED**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—Introduction of a bill to reduce the government pension given to F. A. Pauline, former agent-general for British Columbia in London, was rejected by members of the Legislature last night.

Proposed by Sam Guthrie (C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle), the bill proposed reduction of Mr. Pauline's allowance to \$30 a month or \$360 a year.

At present, he receives a special vote of \$4200 a year, granted by the Conservative government when they retired him from the post.

Premier Pattullo complained that information on the bill had been given to the press before it was given to the Legislature.

"Its purport," said Mr. Guthrie, "is simply to carry out the expressed intention of this government to economize."

"Nevertheless, I object to the introduction of this bill," said the Premier.

His motion to reject it was upheld by the House.

**B.C. Taking Stronger Action Against Doukhobors**

VICTORIA, Dec. 5. — (CP) — Ezra Henniger (Lib., Grand Forks - Greenwood) consistent critic of the government in what he terms its "leniency" in the treatment of the province's Doukhobors, prevailed on Attorney-General Gordon Wismer in the Legislature Wednesday to put more teeth in the so-called Doukhobor Act.

The act would provide for cancellation or refusal of licenses to anyone failing to register under the National Registration Act, or refusing to comply with the Vital Statistics or Public Schools Act.

Section two of the act was aimed at "any person" who failed to report the birth of a child. Mr. Henniger succeeded in having the act amended to read "any person" who failed or refused to comply with the provision of the Vital Statistics Act.

**Guthrie Wins Plea For Mine Wash-house**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 4. — Sam Guthrie, C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle, is happy today. The government accepted suggestions he has been making over a period of years in respect of amendments to the Coal Mines Regulations Act.

Last year he was ruled out of order when he presented a bill for the establishment of wash-houses at coal mines. The government has included the provision of wash-houses in its bill submitted to the Legislature late Tuesday night.

**Maitland Says B. C. Policy "Patchwork"**

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—(CP)—R. L. Maitland, K.C., provincial Conservative leader, charged at the annual meeting of Victoria Conservative Association here last night that the Liberal government was doing "patchwork, with no thought of the future," and declared that under the present order people had no faith to invest money in the province.

He said any administration which had proved itself so "utterly hopeless and incapable" as the present government should be put out of office, and asserted that on every hand there was governmental interference with business.

**RENEWS BLAST AGAINST CROFT**

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Dec. 5. — Colin Cameron (C.C.F., Comox) renewed his charge of Fascism against Lord Croft in the Legislature last night by quoting from British publications, which, he said, showed that Lord Croft had been "a consistent Fascist sympathiser."

After George Murray (Liberal, Lillooet) had read a telegram from Lord Croft indignantly denying charges of Fascism, Mr. Cameron asked indulgence of the House to make reply.

Quoting from a book published in Britain last year called "Tory M.P.," Mr. Cameron alleged that Lord Croft was one of a number of British politicians who subscribed to a pro-Nazi organ entitled "The Anglo-German Review."

He declared Lord Croft had charge of a campaign in Great Britain for receiving funds for General Franco, and quoted reports of a meeting organized in London by the Friends of National Spain at which Lord Croft spoke.

**PRaised FRANCO.**

"One occasion," Mr. Cameron said, "it appears that Lord Croft referred to General Franco in public as a gallant Christian gentleman."

He declared Conservative circles in Great Britain before the war had aided and abetted Franco by raising funds for armaments and supplies.

"We are asked to believe," Mr. Cameron went on, "that because Lord Croft is associated with the land settlement scheme recommended in this House it must be above criticism."

"I can not regard the association with any equanimity having regard to his previous record."

Mr. Cameron referred to a passage in Lord Croft's telegram, which said: "If these libels are repeated outside of the Legislature I would be glad to be informed."

**WILL CONTINUE.**

"The gentleman will have ample opportunity of proceeding against me for libel if that is his intention," Mr. Cameron said. "For if he is mentioned in connection with any immigration scheme outside this House, I intend to attack his record on the public platform as forcibly as I have done in this Legislature."

Mr. Murray again refuted Mr. Cameron's charge, stating that Lord Croft was manifestly a loyal citizen of the crown.

He recalled meeting Lord Croft when he came to B. C. in 1938 in connection with his proposed land settlement scheme.

"I recognized him then, as I do now, as a distinguished British statesman embarked on a very worthy mission," he said.

Premier Pattullo deplored any tendency in the House to condemn persons who were not present to defend themselves, and at his request the debate closed.

### Places to Prune

REPEATEDLY, during the past fortnight, members of the government and supporters of the government have stood up on the floor of the Legislature and assured one another and members of the opposition that the budget presented by Mr. Hart was a minimum budget and could not be cut without hurting the "little man," that is, without reducing the sum allotted to social services.

It remained for Mr. Hart himself, at the prompting of Mr. Maitland, to indicate where a good round sum could be saved. Mr. Maitland had been enquiring about the salaries paid to members of the Public Utilities Commission and the Coal and Petroleum Commission and the staffs of the two boards. On Monday, Mr. Hart brought down the figures and they were astonishingly large.

The three members of the Public Utilities Commission receive salaries amounting to \$2183.33 a month and the salaries paid the staff bring the salary cost up to \$8566.90 per month. The employees of the Coal and Petroleum Commission receive \$775 per month; so monthly the total for the two boards reaches well over \$9000.

The government would have the public believe that the cost is something less than this figure since part of the Public Utilities staff is engaged in appraisal work and the cost of appraisal is paid by the company appraised. As the company is permitted, however, to recoup itself by boosting its power and light rates a little, the same public that pays the taxes will, in the end, pay the appraisal bill.

So, the two commissions are costing British Columbia \$9000 a month for salaries and another unnamed sum for office rent, supplies and light—transportation, too, no doubt.

And what is the province getting in return?

It is well known that the Public Utilities Commission is a shadow commission without power or independence and that its every decision must please the cabinet or it will have no effect. As for the Coal and Petroleum Commission, the new federal budget, which undertakes to regulate all petroleum products, hardly leaves it with any reason for continuing.

Twelve months at \$9000 a month plus there is a sum well over \$100,000 a year that Mr. Hart could save. And, assuredly, if he looked about, he could find others—and without touching the social services either.

### Clause Withdrawn

## "Ad" Men To Confer On Loss Leaders

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—The section of the Commodities Minimum Loss Act amending bill controlling bargain sale advertising was withdrawn in committee stage by Mrs. H. D. Smith, Burrard, sponsor of the measure, on Wednesday night.

Mrs. Smith explained that it had been arranged that advertising representatives from daily newspapers and officials of the Retail Merchants' Association should confer upon a method of attaining the effect desired without necessity of including it in the act at this time.

The newspaper advertising managers were anxious to avoid any misleading advertising, she said. In view of the attempt to reach a proper formula she asked that the section be dropped.

The section required that in offering bargain lots of merchandise at a common price, the former selling price, and the time at which it was offered at such price had to be included in any advertisement of the sale.

### ANSCOMB IS CRITICAL

Herbert Anscob, Conservative, objected to the section being dropped. "What is this great trust that can change the mind of the member?" he questioned.

"Where does the power of the press start? I thought that this amendment was going to serve the great mass of humanity. We were told that the great Liberal party was going to protect the price of women's shoes—and now it is to be dropped."

Attorney-General Wismer declared that the section might not prove satisfactory. It might be dangerous.

Conservative leader R. L. Maitland: "In election year."

H. G. T. Perry: "Has not a woman the right to change her mind?"

Mrs. Dorothy Steeces, North Vancouver: "Here is one that has not changed. I voted for this on second reading, and I am still in favor of it."

Mr. Perry contended that the section would not be of any value to either the retailers or the public. He demonstrated how an advertisement could be worded to evade the intention of the law.

Mr. Maitland took exception to other clauses of the measure, saying that the establishment of a price as provided by the bill was faulty.

### Federal Aid for B.C. Highways Possible

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—The Dominion Government is studying the possibilities of taking a more active interest in the highways of British Columbia. Premier Pattullo told the House Tuesday night.

He was announcing to the House that a resolution standing in the name of R. W. Bruhn, Salmon Arm, asking that in view of the military character of many B. C. highways the Dominion should be asked to share in the cost of maintaining them. Mr. Bruhn was ill, but had discussed the resolution with him, and upon being told that the Dominion was already studying the situation had consented to the bill being withdrawn, the Premier stated.

### Bruhn to Be Absent

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—Rolf W. Bruhn, Conservative member for Salmon Arm, will not return to the Legislature this session, Conservative Whip E. V. Finland announced. He stated that Mr. Bruhn, who has been suffering for several days with a severe cold, will absent himself for the rest of the session upon the advice of his physician.

AT PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

# Legislature Passes Bill Giving Aid Funds to Municipalities

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, Dec. 5.—With two Conservative members, Herbert Anscorb, Victoria, and L. H. Eyres, Chilliwack, opposing, the bill to give special grants to municipalities and district school boards in aid of education was passed Wednesday.

The two opponents stated that they were doing so because the whole thing was a sham on the part of the government, which was giving additional educational aid to municipalities, just sufficient to pay the added burden of 7 per cent. of teachers' salaries put upon school boards. It was no real help to overburdened taxpayers.

The Premier in moving the second reading, stated that while the bill to give special aid amounting to \$250,000 next year and "not less than \$450,000" in succeeding years, was coincident with the Teachers' Pensions Bill, it had nothing to do with it.

**LIBERAL PLANK.**

Mr. Pattullo went on to say that there was a plank in the Liberal platform that aid should be given to municipalities and that progressively the government should take over a larger share of educational costs. Responsible bodies had been urging the same thing for a number of years.

While he denied any connection between the bill and the Pensions Act the Premier then proceeded to briefly discuss the pensions measure. "I doubt if it is possible to make any superannuation fund actually sound," he declared.

Returning to the subject before the House he said that the government would like to go even further in sharing the costs of education, but the future was uncertain. "It is the intention of the government to go as far as we reasonably can in the matter of educational costs," he said, adding that it should not be forgotten that the taxpayers still had to pay for the cost. It was a matter of redistribution of the incidence of taxation.

**ANSCOMB SARCASTIC.**

"I am glad that the Premier is going to implement a plank in the Liberal platform," sarcastically commenced Herbert Anscorb.

"What you are doing is to put some money into the municipal treasury with this bill and take it all out again with the Teachers' Pensions Bill—and taking credit for being a good fellow," he exclaimed.

"Where is the relief to landowners?" he demanded.

R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, said that he could not congratulate the government on its patchwork. Municipalities had been promised aid ever since the government took office. "Bit by bit a bone is being thrown to the municipalities, but there is no indication in the bill how much each is going to get."

H. G. T. Perry, Prince George,

took credit for fathering the resolution at the Kelowna Liberal convention whereby it was resolved that the duty of education was with the state, and that progressively the municipalities should be relieved of the charge.

This was the first evidence since the convention of an earnest effort to implement that policy. He admitted that the amount was small, but it was a start and that was the big thing when changes were made in policies. Rural districts would be benefited as well as municipalities.

Mr. Eyres—The relief that you propose is not to the landowners but to the Liberal party's platform. It is a sham. Land is bearing such a burden of taxation that the producer can not carry on. This is to cover up something the government is taking away at the same time.

# Fifth Session of 19th Legislature Prorogues Today

## PASS 62 BILLS IN FOUR WEEKS

(By Canadian Press.)  
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—The fifth session of British Columbia's nineteenth Legislature was prorogued this morning after Lieutenant-Governor Eric W. Hamber was called to the Chamber to give assent to the 62 bills and acts pushed through in the 28-day sitting of the House since October 29.

Among the measures approved was a new Teachers' Pension Act to replace the act of 1929 and give all retired teachers in the province a pension of not less than \$50 per month, a bill to aid the municipalities financially, and several measures designed to fit in with Dominion wartime legislation.

Lieut.-Gov. Hamber, who read a speech from the throne expressing hope "that before another year shall have passed, the Empire and Allies and all assisting shall have vanquished the enemy so that peace may again prevail."

The speech also noted with gratification that the financial position of the province had continued to improve and that the budget for the current year was completely balanced.

### ELECTION IS POSSIBLE

Although there has been no official indication, most members believe another session will be held following the Dominion-Provincial conference at Ottawa in January, with the possibility of a provincial election late in the spring.

In his only reference to an election, however, Premier Pattullo said during the session that the life of the government does not expire until "a year from next September and a situation may arise which no one can possibly foresee at the moment and we will have to be guided by the course of events."

The session saw six divisions and the government was called upon to meet criticism for not taking a definite stand on the Royal Commission report on Dominion-provincial relations and to defend its highway policy amid opposition cries for establishment of a highway commission.

### CAPITAL IS SPATLESS

## Victoria Becomes Canadian

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.  
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Victoria is facing a serious situation. For years the tourist appeal of the capital has been based upon its English atmosphere. Today, the terrible truth was revealed—the city is almost "spatless!"

Officials in the Government Buildings are worried, as a result of an endeavor on the part of one department to obtain a set of the ankle protectors.

A highly-respected civil servant received a new appointment in the interior. His colleagues thought that it would be fitting to present him with a cane and a pair of spats. Stores that formerly did a large trade in spats were spatless.

"No call for them now, Victorians don't wear them any more—they're going Canadian," said one merchant sadly.

At last a pair—from old stock—was located but not until a departmental store, four gents' furnishing establishments and six shoe stores had been visited.

## Registration Dates Will Be Advertised

Daily Province Staff Correspondent.  
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Dates of closing provincial registration lists for voters will be advertised throughout British Columbia well in advance of the closing day as a result of an amendment to the Elections Act added in committee.

Premier Pattullo, in presenting the section, said that it had been approved by the committee that had considered amendments to the act, but had been inadvertently omitted from the bill.

W. T. Straith, chairman of the special committee, told the House that the proposal had been brought forward by R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, and had been unanimously accepted by the committee. The amended bill passed without discussion.

## Prospects of Linen Industry Studied

VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—In one of the most comprehensive standing committee reports submitted to the Legislature for many years, Frank Putnam, chairman of the agricultural committee, called attention to several major developments in agriculture:

1. The co-operative arrangement the U.B.C. by which the elite foundation seeds of cereals and legumes and seed potatoes were being grown. These seeds were being tried out in different districts.

2. The necessity, in view of the European conflict, of producing seed in Canada. The province was already embarked upon a wide range of certified and registered seeds.

3. Investigations are being carried on by the agricultural production committee into possibilities of developing a linen industry in British Columbia as a result of production of fibre flax; and also of encouraging the production of medicinal herbs.

The committee report stated that the swine population had increased by more than 70 per cent. in the past year.

## M.L.A.'S EXCHANGE FINAL PLEASANTRIES

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—Expressions of goodwill were exchanged between Liberal and opposition members of the Legislature at its final night session Thursday.

Premier Pattullo, moving adjournment of the House till Friday morning conveyed the thanks to members of the opposition "for the manner in which they have co-operated with us to expedite the business of this session."

R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, returning thanks, said he did not know how soon the Premier would take the opposition into his confidence regarding a provincial election.

"If that takes place," he said, "there will be some who will not be with us at the next session of the House. I don't want to name them. (Laughter)."

"But I shall leave this House with the memory of having worked with men and women who measure up in every way to the highest requirements of public life in British Columbia. "That does not mean to say I always agree with them," he added with laugh.

Apple growers who have fed apples to members of the Legislature throughout the session were warmly thanked by Ezra Henniger (Liberal, Grand Forks-Greenwood).

"When I came here five weeks ago," he said, "I was physically an old man. Now after eating an apple a day throughout the session I am a young man again, renewed in mind and body."

## Commission Salary Totals Reported

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—The chairman of the Public Utilities Commission has a salary of \$833 monthly and the other two commissioners draw \$625 each, Hon. John Hart, minister of finance, told R. L. Maitland, Conservative leader, in reply to questions.

The entire salary list for the commission aggregates \$8566 monthly, of which \$1915 is refunded by the B. C. Electric Railway Co. which is the company's share of this cost for appraisal work being done by the commission.

The total salaries for the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board aggregates \$775.

## HOUSE BALKS PLEA FOR REPORT ON OIL

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
VICTORIA, Dec. 6.—By a majority of 29 to 12 members of the Legislature voted confidence in the Provincial Government's oil-drilling operations in the Peace River country, Thursday, defeating a motion by Conservative Leader R. L. Maitland that a return be made of all reports showing progress, developments and findings.

A division was called after Hon. W. J. Asselstine, minister of mines, and Premier Pattullo expressed satisfaction with the progress of operations to date.

"Admittedly," said Mr. Asselstine, "drilling has been harder than we anticipated. But our work so far has been in accordance with geological determination and we are making satisfactory progress along those lines."

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**HIGHWAYS NEED \$60,000,000 WORK**

**HINTS DEFENSE ROADS MAY BE CONSTRUCTED**

**Leary Tells House Opposition That B. C. Commission Isn't Necessary**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
**VICTORIA, Dec. 6.**—It will require \$50,000,000 to put the main highways of British Columbia into first class shape, including reconstruction and hard-surfacing. This statement was given to the Legislature Thursday by Hon. C. S. Leary, minister of public works, when the whole question of roads was thrown open for discussion.

Mr. Leary's address was highlighted by guarded references to the possibility of activity being commenced upon heavy traffic roads for defense purposes.

He stated that the situation of Vancouver was one to which particular study was being given. "There is only one main road out of Vancouver—one artery. That is something that Ottawa should consider."

**DEFINITE POLICY.**

He wished it distinctly understood that the department of public works had a definite policy, despite uninformed criticism to the contrary. The engineering staffs were ready to start a program that would employ 3000, 4000 or 5000 men as soon as they were assured that money was available. Some work would be done next year.

People did not have any idea as to the cost of highway construction, or the amount that had been planned, Mr. Leary said. He gave the individual cost of putting just the main highways in proper shape.

**TAX SIX MILLION.**

The minister declared that the revenue derived from gasoline taxes and motor vehicles last year was \$6,120,000, while the total expenditures on the road system inclusive of federal expenditures and interest and sinking funds on road loans, aggregated \$7,972,362.

This, he thought, answered the suggestion that imposes on motorists that was not being used for roads.

The minister said that, in his opinion, the best possible highway commission was the Legislature itself.

Harold E. Winch deplored the manner in which roads had been used for political purposes ever since Confederation. It was impossible to build up public confidence under such a system; nor was it in the interests of departmental efficiency.

"In the recent by-election work was started on a road that had been promised for 20 years. Two men were sent out five days before election day with two cases of powder. The work stopped the day after the election."

**URGES COMMISSION.**

He was mentioning these things to emphasize the need for removing the whole public roads system from politics.

Mr. Winch's plan was that the highways "be brought closer to the people, so they would understand and feel that the highways

were theirs." In order to do this, he proposed:

1. A commission similar to that advocated by R. W. Bruhn, Conservative member, earlier in the session. A highway engineer be appointed as chairman of the commission, and devote his whole time to the work. His fellow commissioners to be the nine district engineers of the public works department.
2. An advisory board consisting of representatives from the departments of finance, agriculture, forestry, mines and industry be formed to present the needs of those services to the commission.
3. The commission to study modern highway engineering practice and mechanical methods, and to have sole charge of activities in connection with highway construction.

R. L. Maitland said there did not seem much use in discussing the situation. There had been definite opposition throughout the session to any idea of a highway commission. He had been definitely committed to the creation of a highway commission, and had advocated it in all parts of the province since his election as leader.

The debate was brought to an abrupt close when Sam Guthrie (C.C.F., Cowichan-Newcastle) accused the public works department of "patronage" and recommended appointment of a highway commission as the only means of "allaying public suspicion."

"If we are going to debate along those lines," said Premier Pattullo, "I am going to move that the committee rise."

**ATTACKS LEARY.**

Mr. Winch, saying he was bitterly disappointed with the debate, agreed with the Premier. He then attacked Mr. Leary's address as "the swiftest example of dancing around the mulberry bush and getting away from the facts I have ever heard."

Premier Pattullo, moving the closing of the debate, expressed "deep regret" regarding Mr. Winch's references to the minister of public works.

**Cheques Are Held Up Till Douks Register**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
**VICTORIA, Dec. 6.**—Some 150 Doukhobors who battled for two weeks with a forest fire in the Nelson district will not receive any payment until they fill in national registration forms.

Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader, who brought the matter up in the Legislature recently, today received a letter from Hon. Wells Gray, minister of lands, enclosing a report from the district forester at Nelson.

The report states that 149 cheques totalling \$2726 are being held for the firefighters but can not be paid until the Doukhobors fill in national registration forms.

**Many Millions for Few Roads**

Following is the cost of putting the main highways of British Columbia into "proper shape," according to figures given by Hon. C. S. L. Leary, minister of public works in the Legislature:

Route No. 1 — Trans-Canada highway on mainland .....	\$ 6,475,000
Cariboo road .....	3,449,000
Route 3—Southern Trans-Provincial, including Hope-Princeton road .....	7,297,000
Route 5—Okanagan highway .....	7,185,000
Northern Trans-Provincial, including extension to Prince Rupert .....	17,000,000
Route 1—Vancouver Island section .....	3,000,000
Peace River outlet .....	5,000,000
Tete Jaune route .....	4,500,000

**BEARDS MAY PREVENT SILICOSIS: M. L. A.**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
**VICTORIA, Dec. 6.**—Did silicosis come in when beards and moustaches went out? Did our whiskered forbears enjoy immunity from such diseases.

Those were questions posed by the Legislature Thursday by J. A. Paton (Conservative, Point Grey) during discussion of an amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act dealing with the prevalence of silicosis among industrial workers.

Mr. Paton suggested the government should consider making beards and moustaches a compulsory public health measure.

"In the army," he said, "we were forced to wear moustaches. There wasn't much talk of silicosis then. And look at those grand old-timers of B. C. whose pictures hang on the walls of this building. They all wore beards."

"I am seriously wondering if this silicosis did not become more prevalent after these fashions ceased. I suggest the government study this question."

E. E. Winch (C. C. F., Burnaby) argued the point. He said that silicosis under various other names had been known longer in human history than any other occupational disease.

**AUTO TAX REBATE IF CAR SNOWED UP**

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent  
**VICTORIA, Dec. 6.** — B.C. motorists residing east of the Cascade Mountains, who surrender license and number plate before January 1, 1941, will receive a rebate of one-sixth of the annual license fee.

A bill to this effect, introduced by the attorney-general and sponsored by Tom Uphill (Ferne) as an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act, was rushed to third reading and approved by the Legislature in precisely six minutes, late last night just before the House adjourned.

In one of the briefest speeches heard this session, Mr. Uphill said:

"This bill will bring in revenue. It will hurt no one, but it will benefit many."

The act also provides that if the motorist's license is surrendered before December 1 or November 1, next year, a refund on the annual license fee of one-quarter or one-third will be paid.

The House approved its adoption without dissent.