

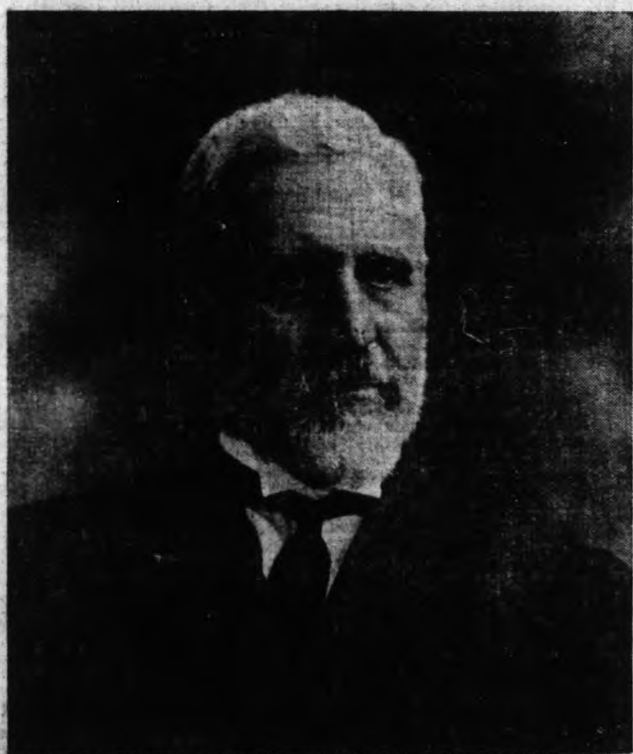
**J A N**

**1919**

# Victoria Daily Tin

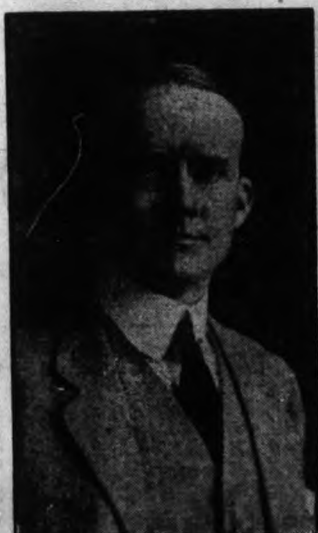
VICTORIA, B. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1919

Met the Legislature for Third Session of Fourteenth Parliament This Afternoon

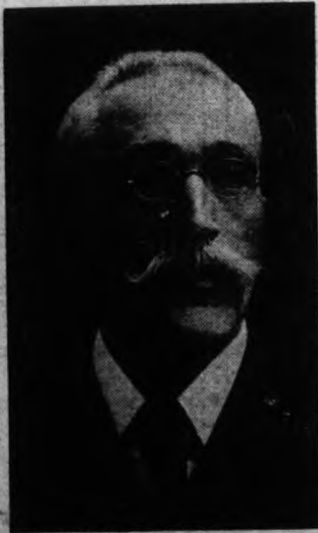


HON. JOHN OLIVER, PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MOVER AND SECONDER TO ADDRESS IN LEGISLATURE



FREDK. W. ANDERSON  
Mover of Address.



F. A. PAULINE  
Secunder of Address.

## LEGISLATURE OPENED THIS AFTERNOON WITH CEREMONIAL MISSING

*Court Mourning Debarred Pomp and Ceremony; Speech from Throne Foreshadows Useful Legislation; Two Soldier Members Introduced; House Adjourned Until Monday*

Legislative Press Gallery, January 30.

Shorn of all the usual time-honored ceremonial and lacking the presence of the numerous and distinguished visitors on the floor of the Legislative Chamber itself, the third session of the fourteenth Parliament of British Columbia was formally opened by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at three o'clock this afternoon. Out of respect for the memory of His Royal Highness Prince John, and in deference to the Imperial Court order for a period of national mourning, to-day's occasion was marked by the utmost simplicity and the opening formalities were disposed of with quiet promptitude. All invitations issued by the Honorable the Speaker were automatically

cancelled on receipt of the Royal decree, while in view of the prevalent epidemic and the desire for an avoidance of anything approaching a crowd, the public galleries were by no means typical of the animated scenes which have characterized the ceremony in former years.

**His Honor Arrives.**

Entering the Legislative Chamber at 3 o'clock, accompanied by his Private Secretary, His Honor proceeded to the dais and read the Speech from the Throne, the full text of which appears below.

Special reference is made in His Honor's speech to the conclusion of hostilities and suitable allusion to the part played by British Columbians duly recorded. Tribute is paid to the Government of this Province for its advocacy of the recent conference of Provincial Premiers, while the various subjects for legislative treatment are briefly set forth. Chief among the latter is the contemplated Bill authorizing the appointment of a Public Utilities Commission. Legislation is also to be submitted providing superannuation powers in respect of members of the Civil Service.

**Speech From the Throne.**

The speech of His Honor reads as follows:

"Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature:

"In greeting you at this, the opening of the third session of the Fourteenth Legislature of British Columbia, I give thanks to Almighty God that He hath granted victory to the arms of Great Britain and her Allies; that her enemies have been compelled to sue for peace, and that a conference of representatives of the Allied nations is now in session to determine the conditions of peace.

"My Government recognizes and rejoices in the strength displayed by the British forces, and appreciates the valiant part taken in this war by His Majesty's subjects in the Dominion of Canada, taking modest but just pride in the achievements of the brave men from this Province, many of whom have earned and received tokens of their distinguished conduct.

OFFICIALLY OPENED  
LEGISLATURE TO-DAY



SIR FRANK S. BARNARD, K. C. M. G.  
Lieutenant-Governor of B. C.



**To Those Who Fell.**

"My Government is not forgetful of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice in order that freedom and justice might be secured and the right of self-determination established for all the nations of the earth. Their memories will be cherished by our people and the principles for which they died, because of their sacrifice, shall be upheld by those who remain.

"To those who have been spared and will return soon from overseas, I voice not only my own sentiment but that of my Government and the people of British Columbia when I assure them of a hearty welcome, feeling confident that they will resume their vocations with the same fortitude and courage displayed on the field of battle uniting earnestly with those to whom they will be restored in efforts to re-establish the prosperity of the Province and develop its resources for the benefit of all.

**Conference of Premiers.**

"Last summer my Government urged upon the Prime Minister of Canada the importance of summoning a conference at which the several Provinces, as well as the Dominion, would be represented, for the discussion and co-ordination of plans for the re-establishment of returned and returning soldiers in civil life. As a result representatives of the Dominion and all the Provincial Governments met in Ottawa, following which certain plans were formulated in November last and assurances were given to the Federal Government that the hearty co-operation of the several Provinces would be accorded in carrying out the proposals agreed upon. Required legislation to implement this pledge on the part of my Government will be placed before you.

**Okanagan Lands.**

"A tract of land in the South Okanagan District has been purchased under the provisions of the 'Soldiers' Settlement Act' for the benefit of returned soldiers, and you will be asked for appropriations to carry out development work thereon.

"A large area of Crown lands has been surveyed and reserved for the purpose of soldier settlement.

"Provision also is being made to acquire homesteads within, or adjacent to, cities, and moneys advanced by the Federal Government for housing purposes will be utilized to erect dwellings thereon. Legislation necessary for these purposes will be placed before you.

(Concluded on page 7.)

**LEGISLATURE OPENED THIS AFTERNOON WITH CEREMONIAL MISSING**

(Continued from page 1.)

"A Bill designed to encourage stock breeding within the Province and providing for a comprehensive grazing policy will be laid before you for your consideration.

"A measure will be introduced granting relief in respect of timber license fees to those engaged in active naval or military service.

**Pleasing Retrospect.**

"It affords me pleasure to advise you that during the past year agricultural production has increased and new industries have been established within the Province. Early in the year my Government took effective steps to place the timber resources of the Province at the convenient disposal of the Imperial authorities for war purposes. Extensive contracts for the building of ships for both British and foreign Governments have been entered into by shipbuilding firms.

**Railway Construction.**

"My Government has been active in urging upon the Dominion Government the necessity of completing the contractual obligations of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company in respect of unfinished work in British Columbia. As a result of the representations made the construction of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway on Vancouver Island is progressing, and

**NEW SERGT.-AT-ARMS**



**JAMES CRONK**

Formerly of 7th Battalion.

It is confidently expected that further construction in other parts of the Province will be proceeded with during the year.

"Construction on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway is proceeding satis-

factorily, and it is the intention of my Government to prosecute vigorously further extension during the coming season.

"Notwithstanding the comparatively small appropriations for the purpose, the Department of Public Works has effected the necessary repairs to roads, trails and bridges.

**Emergency Appropriation.**

"You will be asked to consider the advisability of voting an emergency appropriation for the purpose of providing employment during the coming year in carrying on development work of a productive character.

"I am pleased to advise you that the value of mineral production for the year 1918 shows a substantial increase over that of the previous year. The prospects for the coming year are encouraging. There has been a decline in the production of placer gold, but the output of lode gold has increased. It is expected that the year 1919 will show a marked increase in this class of mining. The production of coal has been very materially increased during the year, and there is a prospect that new coal areas will be developed.

**Hopeful Mining Outlook.**

"Amendments to the 'Coal Mines Regulation Act' will be placed before you for consideration.

"Engineers appointed to investigate and encourage mining report a feeling of optimism and confidence among operators and prospectors throughout the Province.

"A report dealing with the practicability of the electro-smelting of British Columbia iron ores will be laid before you.

"It is proposed to submit for re-

enactment the 'Vancouver Island Settlers' Rights Act (1904)—Amendment Act (1917).

"My Government, through the Hon. the Minister of Education, has entered into an arrangement with other Western Provinces for the standardization of educational text books.

**Prohibition Act Amendments.**

"Necessary amendments to the 'Prohibition Act' will be laid before you.

"Legislation disfranchising military deserters and other persons exempted from military service will be submitted.

"A Bill to authorize the appointment of a Public Utilities Commission will be submitted for your consideration.

"A Bill for the establishment of a Public Library Commission will be submitted.

"Protection from tax sales and for the further relief of returned soldiers will be proposed in a Bill for the extension of time for payment of taxes by returned soldiers.

"A Bill to provide for the appointment of official school trustees for the better regulation of public schools in alien communities will be laid before you.

**Superannuation.**

"You will be asked to consider a Bill providing for the superannuation of Civil Servants, and amendments to the 'Civil Service Act' will be submitted.

"The Public Accounts for the past fiscal year will be laid before you at an early date.

"The Estimates of Expenditure for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

"Gentlemen, in leaving you to your deliberations I have confidence that the work you will undertake will be faithfully performed, and I pray the blessing of Providence upon your labors."

**Introduction of Members**

Immediately following the withdrawal of the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Speaker took his seat, the Legislature thus being ready for the business of the day.

The usual formalities in connection with new members completed, Frank Glolma, junior member for the City of Victoria, was duly escorted to the Speaker's chair, supported on the left by Premier Oliver and on his right by W. J. Bowser, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, and introduced. In turn Major R. J. Burde, M.C., member for Alberni, was similarly treated, both members being conducted to the seats allotted to them.

The Hon. E. D. Barrow, now ele-

til Monday next, a resolution was passed that the Speech from the Throne be taken into consideration on that day. Two bills were introduced before adjourning, and were given their first reading.

Late this afternoon the members of the Government will go into their first

**Will Lead the Opposition Forces in British Columbia Legislature for the Third Time**



**W. J. BOWSER, K. C., M. P. P., LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

vated from a private member to the position of a Minister of the Crown, was conducted by the Premier and one of his colleagues to the Speaker, the latter being duly acquainted of Mr. Barrow's translation to the portfolio of Agriculture.

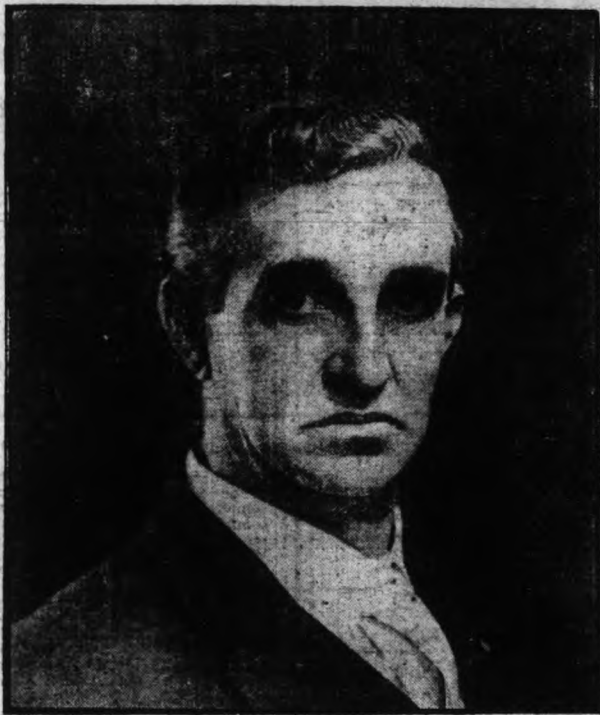
Prior to taking an adjournment un-

caucus under the chairmanship of Dr. W. H. Sutherland, member for Revelstoke.

**By-Elctions.**

Since the Legislature last met there have been three by-elections: The lamented death of the late Liberal Premier of British Columbia, Hon. H. C.

### Formally Introduced to the Legislature This Afternoon as a Minister of the Crown



THE HON. E. D. BARROW, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Brewster, occasioned a vacancy in the City of Victoria, as a result of which the election of June last gave to the returned soldiers of the province their first representative in the British Columbia Legislature. The contest in question was a three-cornered one, the choice of the Liberal party fell upon Major W. H. Langley, of the Conservatives upon R. W. Perry, while the combined Service organizations selected Frank Giolma, who was acclaimed as the official soldier candidate. A handsome majority over his two opponents sent Mr. Giolma to the Legislature.

#### Two More Soldiers.

The death of Richard P. Wallis, who successfully contested the seat in the constituency of Alberni, rendered vacant by the resignation of the late Premier Brewster, who was returned at the General Election of 1916 for both Victoria and Alberni, resulted in the election by acclamation of Major R. J. Burde, M.C. The Major offered himself to the electorate as an independent candidate endorsed by the returned soldier organizations, his platform disclaiming association of any kind whatsoever with either of the recognized parties of the province.

#### Cowichan.

When Major W. H. Hayward, independent candidate for the constituency for Cowichan since 1907, announced his

### ALBERNI'S NEW MEMBER



MAJOR R. J. BURDE, M. C.

resignation the issue there resulted in the nomination of two soldiers, both willing to appeal for support on an independent platform. The selection of Major F. B. Edwards was determined by the Great War Veterans' Association, and his candidature was afterwards endorsed by the Cowichan Conservative Association. His announced platform promised full service for the returned men untouched by party influence of any kind.

Private Kenneth Duncan owed his nomination to the enterprise of the Cowichan Unionist League, a body of representative citizens comprising

### FIRST SOLDIER MEMBER



EX-PRIVATE F. GIOLMA, M. P. P.

largely the farming community and numbering in it membership men and women of all political color. When the armistice was signed Private Duncan was in Mons, and he will not be back in British Columbia for several days yet. At the election on Saturday last Private Duncan's majority over Major Edwards was seventy.

#### New Minister.

Since the Legislature adjourned in April of last year the portfolio of Agriculture went to the Hon. E. D. Barrow, Premier Oliver retaining on his suc-

### HAYWARD'S SUCCESSOR



PRIVATE KENNETH DUNCAN

cession to the Premiership the portfolio of Minister of Railways. Mr. Barrow's re-election for Chilliwack was marked by a much larger majority than secured at the general election in 1916.



## THE LEGISLATURE OPENS.

The Speech from the Throne promises a generous legislative bill-of-fare for the session which opened yesterday. Such deliverances, however, only outline the set courses and never are regarded as safe bases of estimates of the duration or even the general character of the proceedings. They can take no note of the impromptu dishes because Governments cannot know what these are going to be. Some of the longest and liveliest sessions of Parliaments and Legislatures have been heralded by the shortest and most stereotyped Speeches from His Majesty's representative. The programme forecasted in the Speech read by His Honor yesterday, however, is not only generous in scope but contains many numbers of exceptional importance. The enactment of measures concerning the re-establishment of our soldiers and other aspects of demobilization and reconstruction in pursuance of the understanding reached at the Ottawa conference of Premiers, initiated by Mr. Oliver, will have a national bearing. The Dominion Parliament will make similar provision at its forthcoming Session and it is anticipated that these processes by the Provincial Legislatures will eliminate the danger of overlapping and conflict of jurisdiction and responsibility between the two authorities in dealing with this most pressing problem.

It will be noted that the Government proposes to ask the House for an emergency appropriation for the purpose of providing employment during the year on development work of a productive nature. In a country like British Columbia the opportunity of undertaking public improvements of permanent value is always at hand, but, nevertheless, care will have to be exercised in the selection of the works to be carried out. The expenditure of money for the purpose of providing employment which at the same time does not add to the productive wealth of the country is poor business and in the end does more harm than good.

Other important measures to be submitted will be those authorizing the appointment of a Public Utilities Commission similar to the Commissions operating in some of the other provinces; the standardization of educational text books to which the Minister of Education has been giving a great amount of attention; the amendment of the Prohibition Act to ensure its more effective enforcement in the light of recent disclosures; a bill for the establishment of a Public Library Commission, which will be an important step towards making the public library the factor in the enlightenment and mental training of the general public it ought to be, but which it has not been owing to the absence of a proper organization. A measure also will be introduced affording protection to returned soldiers from tax sales and providing further relief to them in the form of an extension of time for the payment of taxes.

Apart from the special character of these measures the Session will be of unusual importance from the fact that it is the first gathering of the Legislature since the termination of hostilities. Every member, we are sure, appreciates the difficult character of the times through which the world is passing and the necessity for clear thinking and foresight in the preparation, consideration and adoption of the country's laws. The political fortunes of individuals never counted so little as they do now and the public necessity never required so much. And never before has it been so necessary for Parliament or Legislature to give strong, courageous and wise leadership to the people.

**J A N**

**1919**



# Daily World

VANCOUVER, B. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1919.

## LEGISLATURE HAS OPENED WITHOUT USUAL CEREMONIES

(Continued from Page 1.)

lumbia, I give thanks to Almighty God that he hath granted victory to the arms of Great Britain and her allies; that her enemies have been compelled to sue for peace, and that a conference of representatives of the Allied nations is now in session to determine the conditions of peace.

My government recognizes and rejoices in the strength displayed by the British forces, and appreciates the valiant part taken in this war by His Majesty's subjects in the Dominion of Canada, taking modest but just pride in the achievements of the brave men from this province, many of whom have earned and received tokens of their distinguished conduct.

My government is not forgetful of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice in order that freedom and justice might be secured and the right of self-determination established for all the nations of the earth. Their memories will be cherished by our people and the principles for which they died, because of their sacrifice, shall be upheld by those who remain. To those who have been spared and will return soon from overseas, I voice not only my own sentiment but that of my government and the people of British Columbia when I assure them of a hearty welcome, feeling confident that they will resume their vocations with the same fortitude and courage displayed on the field of battle, uniting earnestly with those to whom they will be restored in efforts for the benefit of all.

### To Assist Soldiers.

Last summer my government urged upon the prime minister of Canada the importance of summoning a conference at which representatives of the several provinces, as well as of the Dominion, would be present, for the discussion and co-ordination of plans for the re-establishment of returned and returning soldiers in civil life. As a result representatives of the Dominion and all the provincial governments met in Ottawa, following which certain plans were formulated in November last and assurances given to the federal government that the hearty co-operation of the several provinces would be accorded in carrying out the proposals agreed upon. Required legislation to implement this on the part of my government will be placed before you.

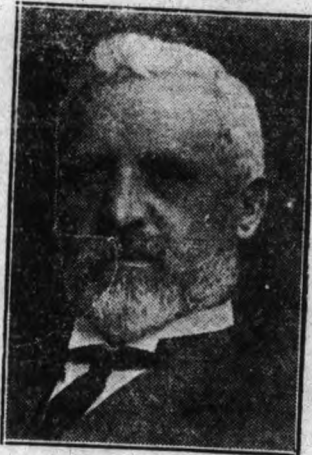
### The Okanagan Purchase.

Attractive land in the South Okanagan district has been purchased under the provisions of the Soldiers' Settlement Act, for the benefit of returned soldiers, and you will be asked for an appropriation to carry out development work thereon.

A large area of crown lands has

## Legislature Was Opened Without Usual Ceremonies

LEADER OF HOUSE



PREMIER JOHN OLIVER

who begins today his second session as premier.

Large Amount of New Legislation Will be Brought Down for Consideration.

SPEECH FROM THRONE  
IS LONGER THAN USUAL

Members Are Already Discussing  
Personnel of Public Utilities  
Commission.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, Jan. 30.—The third session of the fourteenth parliament of British Columbia was opened this afternoon. Owing to the court mourning for the late Prince John, the opening ceremonies were of the simplest character. All formal invitations to the opening were cancelled.

There was a big influx of members yesterday and this morning's boat brought a large number of additional representatives from the mainland. Two new faces will greet the Speaker when the House opens, Pte. Frank Gielma, fourth member for Victoria, and Major R. J. Burde, D.S.O., the member-elect for Alberni. Pte. Duncan, the newly elected representative for Cowichan, will not make his appearance for about two weeks.

### A Fighting Session.

It is believed that the session will be a fighting one. The opposition is said to have considerable ammunition stored away for use when the occasion arises, and the growing soldiers' contingent in the House is likely to be heard from early and often in pressing the demands of the war veterans.

In entering the legislative chamber at 3 o'clock, accompanied by his private secretary, there being no guard of honor posted, his honor proceeded to the dais and read the speech from the throne.

Immediately following the withdrawal of the lieutenant-governor Mr. Speaker took his seat, the legislature thus being ready for the business of the day. The usual formalities in connection with new members completed, they were escorted to their places.

Late this afternoon the members of the government will go into their first caucus under the chairmanship of Dr. W. H. Sutherland, member for Revelstoke.

Prior to taking an adjournment until Monday next, a resolution was passed that the speech from the throne be taken into consideration on that day. Two bills were introduced in accordance with custom before adjourning and were given their first reading.

### Speech From the Throne.

The Speech from the Throne, as presented by his honor, was as follows:

Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature—In greeting you at this, the opening of the third session of the fourteenth legislature of British Columbia.

(Continued on Page 2.)

THE DISCERN PAN-AMERICAN



VANCOUVER, B. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1919.

## NEW MOVEMENT IS OPEN TO ALL

### Major McIntosh Discusses Aims and Objects of Third Party in the House.

Major McIntosh, who on Thursday became head of the soldier group in the legislature, has been in the city for the last two or three days, and will go down tomorrow to resume his duties at Victoria. Speaking to The World with respect to the aims and objects of the new organization, Major McIntosh said:

"This is not a soldiers' but an independent movement. That is to say, it is not a class movement, but is open to any member of the house, civilian or soldier. Naturally the soldiers came together first, having experienced new and wider horizons overseas.

"Neither is this a manufactured article. It is a seed thrown into the soil; and, by the way, the soil and conditions are apparently favorable.

"There was nothing premeditated in its formation. New members, elected irrespective of party, wished to show, even in the introduction to the speaker, that they dissociated themselves from old party affiliations.

"Having some common interests, it would seem essential to join together to secure better recognition on the floor of the House. They therefore held a meeting of organization and elected me as leader—a position which I accepted pro tem. Our first caucus will be held on Monday.

"There is no set policy, but this will develop during the debate on the address. Mr. Bowser has offered to give us priority over himself in that debate."

been surveyed and reserved for the purpose of soldiers' settlement.

Provision also is being made to acquire homesteads within, or adjacent to, cities, and monies advanced by the federal government for housing purposes will be utilized to erect dwellings thereon. Legislation necessary for these purposes will be placed before you.

#### To Encourage Stock Breeding.

A bill designed to encourage stock-breeding within the province and providing for a comprehensive grazing policy will be laid before you for your consideration.

A measure will be introduced granting relief in respect of timber licence fees to those engaged in active naval or military service.

It affords me pleasure to advise you that during the past year agricultural production has increased and new industries have been established within the province. Early in the year my government took effective steps to place the timber resources of the province at the convenient disposal of the Imperial authorities for war purposes. Extensive contracts for the building of ships for both British and foreign governments have entered into by shipbuilding firms.

#### Canadian Northern Extension.

My government has been in urging upon the dominion government the necessity of completing the contractual obligations of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company in respect of unfinished work in British Columbia. As a result of the representations made the construction of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway on Vancouver Island is progressing, and it is confidently expected that further construction in other parts of the province will be proceeded with during the year.

Construction on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway is proceeding satisfactorily, and it is the intention of my government to prosecute vigorously further extension during the coming season.

Notwithstanding the comparatively small appropriations for the purpose the department of public works has effected the necessary repairs for roads, trails and bridges.

#### To Provide Employment.

You will be asked to consider the advisability of voting an emergency appropriation for the purpose of providing employment during the coming year in carrying on development work of a productive character.

I am pleased to advise you that the value of mineral production for the year 1918 shows a substantial increase over that of the previous year. The prospects for the coming year are encouraging. There has been a decline in the production of placer gold, but the output of lode gold has increased. It is expected that the year 1919 will show a marked increase in this class of mining. The production of coal has been very materially increased and there is a prospect that new coal areas will be developed.

Amendments to the Coal Mines Regulations Act will be placed before you for consideration.

Engineers appointed to investigate and encourage mining report a feeling of optimism and confidence among operators and prospectors throughout the province.

A report dealing with the practicability of electro-smelting of British Columbia iron ores will be laid before you.

It is proposed to submit for re-enactment the "Vancouver Island Settlers' Rights Act (1904) Amendment Act (1917)."

#### To Standardize Text Books.

My government, through the minister of education, has entered into an agreement with other western provinces for the standardization of educational text books.

Necessary amendments to the Prohibition Act will be laid before you.

#### To Punish Draft Evaders.

Legislation disenfranchising deserters and draft evaders will be submitted.

A bill to authorize the appointment of a Public Utilities Commission will be submitted for your consideration.

A bill for the establishment of a public libraries commission will be submitted.

Protection from tax sales and for the further relief of returned soldiers will be proposed in the bill for the extension of time for payment of taxes by returned soldiers.

A bill to provide for the appointment of official school trustees for the better regulation of public schools in alien communities will be laid before you.

#### Amend Civil Service Act.

You will be asked to consider a bill providing for the superannuation of civil servants, and amendments to the Civil Service Act will be submitted.

The public accounts for the past fiscal year will be laid before you at an early date. The estimates of expenditures for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

## SOLDIERS' PARTY NOW CERTAINTY

### Major J. W. McIntosh Will Head Third Party on the Floor of the House.

### SOLDIERS TO BE GIVEN QUARTERS OF THEIR OWN

### Better Housing Act is Introduced and is Given First Reading.

VICTORIA, Jan. 31.—The formal opening of the British Columbia legislature on Thursday, while an event of an unusually quiet nature, marked what will probably develop into the most important and epoch-marking session of the law-makers of the Pacific province, and perhaps one of the stormiest—if one may judge by the good-natured gossip heard in the halls of the legislature.

Conspicuous in the august assembly were Major J. W. McIntosh and Lieut. Hanes. The two officers were in uniform and their presence gave a military air to a ceremony quite unmarked by the customary naval and military display. Several members were not present at the formal opening of parliament. Of these Pte. Kenneth Duncan, newly-elected member for Cowichan, is en route home from England and will be present before the session is far advanced. Others absent were: Messrs. M. A. Macdonald, W. R. Ross, K. C. McDonald, George Bell, J. E. W. Thompson, Lieut. Frank MacKenzie, Dr. W. O. Rose, A. Manson and J. W. Weart.

After the delivery of the speech from the throne, parliament was declared in session and the introduction of new members took place. Premier Oliver introduced Hon. E. D. Barrow, minister of agriculture, to the speaker, while the premier and Major McIntosh introduced Major Richard Burde, of Alberni, and Pte. Gloima, of Victoria.

VANCOUVER, B. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1919.

#### Soldiers Third Party.

Major McIntosh's participation in the formal introductions was, perhaps, unexpected and points to the conclusion that there will be a third, and distinctive, party on the floor of the house—the Returned Soldiers' Party. Major McIntosh's announcement that he would attend the present session of the legislature as a soldier member bears this out and his sharing with the premier the duty of introducing the two soldier members designated him as the acknowledged leader of the new party.

Little time was lost by the legislators in commencing their duties. The first bill for the session was an Act to amend the "Equal Guardianship of Infants Act." It was given its first reading and will have its second reading on Monday. This bill was introduced by Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, attorney-general.

#### Better Housing Bill.

Bill No. 2 was an Act to provide for better housing—introduced by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands. In brief the "Better Housing Act" provides:

Provincial government may enter into agreement with the Dominion government, pursuant to Dominion government order-in-council, in respect of a general housing scheme.

Provincial government may enter into agreement with municipalities for the purpose of building homes and providing for better housing.

Provincial government may advance municipalities for these purposes.

In the event of the provincial government not entering into agreement with municipalities, may itself undertake the construction of houses.

Provision is made for conveying sites to soldiers either free or partially free.

Authority is given to the municipalities to borrow money from the government for the purposes of the Act.

General authority is given to the lieutenant-governor-in-council to make rules and regulations for the better carrying out of the provisions of the Act.

#### Timber Licences.

The minister of lands submitted a report dealing with timber licences, showing that out of the 330 permits to cut timber—chiefly timber for government purposes—it had only been necessary to take compulsory steps in 18 cases. A full report in some respects could not be given, as there were still in the woods and water some 100,000,000 feet of logs.



**JAN**

**1919**

# DAILY PROVINCE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1919.

## THE PROVINCIAL SESSION.

On general principles we should expect this session of the Provincial Legislature to be more fruitful in public measures, and more interesting in discussion than that of last year. The Premier has had opportunity to mature his programme. This is the third session of the legislative term. Ministers and members are thinking of the voters and of the next election. The government must submit its vindications, explanations or apologies, and be prepared for both candid and aggressive criticism. The returned soldiers will be fairly represented by members elected since the last session and those who have returned from the front during the last year. We may expect the claims of their class to be strongly presented, and the provincial dealings with the soldiers to be sharply reviewed from the point of view of those chiefly concerned. In view of recent events in this city the attorney-general will naturally be called to account on his administration of the prohibition law, and there are some features of the P. G. E. Railway settlement which the Premier will be required to explain. The financial statement to be laid before the House has already been presented to the public in outline. It shows that the severe regimen of direct taxes which the government has felt obliged to impose has produced even more revenue than was estimated, and that the balance between income and expenditure is much more favorable than last year. These statements will be exposed to scrutiny, but as they stand they reassure those despondent persons who have predicted financial disaster to the province.

## EMERGENT FUND FOR WORK IN PROVINCE

Legislation Foreshadowed in Speech from Throne by Sir F. Barnard.

Necessary Amendments to Prohibition Act to Be Brought Up.

Fitting Reference to Men Who Have Paid Supreme Sacrifice.

Agriculture and Mineral Production Give Much Satisfaction.

VICTORIA, Jan. 30.—The third session of the fourteenth provincial Parliament was opened this afternoon without special incident and with an entire absence of the usual pomp and formality.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor read the formal speech from the throne at 3 o'clock. Hon. M. D. Barrow was duly introduced as a new minister. Major Burde of Alberni and Pte. Frank Gielma of Victoria were also introduced, two small bills made their appearance and arrangements were then concluded for an adjournment until Monday.

At that time the reply to the address will be moved and seconded by Messrs. F. W. Anderson of Kamloops and F. A. Pauline of Saanich.

His Honor's speech was as follows: Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature:

In greeting you at this, the opening of the third session of the Fourteenth Legislature of British Columbia, I give thanks to Almighty God that He hath granted victory to the arms of Great Britain and her allies; that her enemies have been compelled to sue for peace, and that a conference of representatives of the Allied nations is now in session to determine the conditions of peace.

My government recognizes and rejoices in the strength displayed by the British forces, and appreciates the valiant part taken in this war by His Majesty's subjects in the Dominion of Canada, taking modest but just pride in the achievement of the brave men from this province, many of whom have earned and received tokens of their distinguished conduct.

My government is not forgetful of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice in order that freedom and justice might be secured, and the right of self-determination established for all the nations of the earth. Their memories will be cherished by our people, and the principles for which they died, because of their sacrifice, shall be upheld by those who remain.

To those who have been spared and will return soon from overseas, I voice not only my own sentiment but that of my government and the people of British Columbia, when I assure them of a hearty welcome, feeling confident that they will resume their vocations with the same fortitude and courage displayed on the field of battle, uniting earnestly with those to whom they will be restored in efforts to re-establish the prosperity of the province, and develop its resources for the benefit of all.

### LANDS FOR SOLDIERS.

Last summer my government urged upon the Prime Minister of Canada the importance of summoning a conference at which the several provinces, as well as the Dominion would be represented, for the discussion and co-ordination of plans for the re-establishment of returned and returning soldiers in civil life. As a result representatives of the Dominion and all the provincial governments met in Ottawa, following which certain plans were formulated in November last and assurances were given to the Federal Government that the hearty co-operation of the several provinces would be accorded in carrying out the proposals agreed upon. Required legislation to implement this pledge on the part of my government will be placed before you.

A tract of land in the South Okanagan district has been purchased under the provisions of the "Soldiers' Settlement Act" for the benefit of returned soldiers, and you will be asked for appropriations to carry out development work thereon.

A large area of crown lands has been surveyed and reserved for the purpose of soldier settlement.

Provision also is being made to acquire homesteads within, or adjacent to, cities, and monies advanced by the Federal Government for housing purposes will be utilized to erect dwellings thereon. Legislation necessary for these purposes will be placed before you.

A bill designed to encourage stock-breeding within the province and providing for a comprehensive grazing policy will be laid before you for your consideration.

A measure will be introduced granting relief in respect of timber license fees to those engaged in active naval or military service.

### NEW INDUSTRIES.

It affords me pleasure to advise you that during the past year agricultural production has increased and new industries have been established within the province. Early in the year my government took effective steps to place the timber resources of the province at the convenient disposal of the imperial authorities for war purposes. Extensive contracts for the building of ships for both British and foreign governments have been entered into by shipbuilding firms.

My government has been active in urging upon the Dominion Government the necessity of completing the contractual obligation of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company in respect of unfinished work in British Columbia. As a result of the representations made the construction of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway on Vancouver Island is progressing, and it is confidently expected that further construction in other parts of the province will be proceeded with during the year.

Construction on the Pacific Great Eastern is proceeding satisfactorily, and it is the intention of my government to prosecute vigorously further extension during the coming season.

Notwithstanding the comparatively small appropriations for the purpose, the Department of Public Works has effected the necessary repairs to roads, trails and bridges.

### EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION.

You will be asked to consider the advisability of voting on emergency appropriation for the purpose of providing employment during the coming year in carrying on development work of a productive nature.

I am pleased to advise you that the value of mineral production for the year 1918 shows a substantial increase over that of the previous year. The prospects for the coming year are encouraging. There has been a decline in the production of placer gold, but the output of lode gold has increased. It is expected that the year 1919 will show a marked increase in this class of mining. The production of coal has been very materially increased during

the year and there is a prospect that new coal areas will be developed.

Amendments to the Coal Mines Regulation Act will be placed before you for consideration.

Engineers appointed to investigate and encourage mining report a feeling of optimism and confidence among operators and prospectors throughout the province.

A report dealing with the practicability of the electro-smelting of British Columbia iron ores will be laid before you.

It is proposed to submit for re-enactment the Vancouver Island Settlers' Rights Act (1904)—Amendment Act (1917).

My government, through the hon. the minister of education, has entered into an arrangement with other western provinces for the standardization of educational text books.

### AMEND PROHIBITION ACT.

Necessary amendments to the Prohibition Act will be laid before you.

Legislation disfranchising military deserters and other persons exempted from military service will be submitted.

A bill to authorize the appointment of a Public Utilities Commission will be submitted for your consideration.

A bill for the establishment of a Public Library Commission will be submitted.

Protection from tax sales and for the further relief of returned soldiers will be proposed in a bill for the extension of time for payment of taxes by returned soldiers.

A bill to provide for the appointment of official school trustees for the better regulation of public schools in alien communities will be laid before you.

You will be asked to consider a bill providing for the superannuation of civil servants and amendments to the Civil Service Act will be submitted.

The public accounts for the past fiscal year will be laid before you at an early date.

The estimates of expenditure for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

Gentlemen, in leaving you to your deliberations I have confidence that the work you will undertake will be faithfully performed, and I pray the blessing of Providence upon your labors.



## SECURE HOMES FOR SOLDIERS

Hon. T. D. Pattullo Introduces Bill for \$5,000,000 Loan from Ottawa.

Province May Advance the Money to Cities for Better Housing.

VICTORIA, Jan. 31.—Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, yesterday introduced better housing legislation in the House. The bill is designed to assist in securing living accommodation for returned soldiers.

It provides that the Provincial Government may enter into an agreement with the Dominion Government under the Dominion order-in-council in regard to a general housing scheme. The Provincial Government may also make an agreement with municipalities for the purpose of building homes and providing better housing. The Provincial Government may advance municipalities monies for these purposes. In the event of the provincial administration not entering into an agreement with municipalities, the province may itself undertake the construction of soldiers' houses. Provision is made for conveying sites to soldiers, either free or partially free.

Authority is given to the municipalities to borrow money from the government for the purposes of the act. General authority is given to the Lieutenant-governor-in-council to make rules and regulations for the better carrying out of the provisions of the proposed measure. The sum named in the bill which the province may borrow from Ottawa at 5 per cent. is five million dollars.

## SEVERAL MEMBERS ABSENT FROM HOUSE

New Soldier Representatives Are Officially Introduced to Legislature.

VICTORIA, Jan. 31.—A new minister and two members made their official appearance in the Legislature at the opening session Thursday afternoon, and were formally introduced to Mr. Speaker Keen.

Hon. Mr. Barrow, whose appointment to the head of the agricultural department was made since the last session of the House, was led to the dais by Premier Oliver and Hon. Dr. McLean. Members of the House heartily applauded the popular Chilliwack representative.

Major R. J. Burde of Alberni was conducted to the front by the Premier and Major J. W. McIntosh, who is now generally regarded as leader of the "soldiers' party." Premier Oliver and Major McIntosh also took Pte. Frank Gilma of Victoria.

The ceremony yesterday was brief and simple. The customary trappings of the occasion were entirely missing, and the only note of color in the scene was lent by the two oil paintings which have been placed on the chamber wall opposite Mr. Speaker. They are pictures of the King and Queen, by Long.

Following the formal reading of the speech from the throne by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Barnard, prayers were offered by Bishop Schofield, and the House proceeded to transact a little business before adjourning until Monday. Provision was made for the usual standing committee, and the 1918 preliminary mining report and the public accounts for the year ending March 31, 1918, were introduced.

Hon. Mr. Pattullo presented returns with regard to spruce log scaling. Incidentally he remarked that the returns were incomplete, for the reason that there was now 60,000,000 feet of logs in the water and 40,000,000 feet cut in the woods. The Provincial Government is at present negotiating with the Imperial authorities with regard to the disposition and use of this spruce. The minister told the House that 330 spruce-cutting permits had been issued, and of these only twenty had been compulsory permits, where private owners had refused to reach an agreement with the government.

The better housing bill appeared in the House yesterday, as also an amendment to the Equal Guardianship of Children Act.

Members who were not in evidence at the opening session were M. A. Macdonald, Vancouver; J. W. Warr, South Vancouver; W. R. Ross, Port George; A. Manson, Omineca; K. Duncan, Cowichan; J. E. W. Thompson, Grand Forks; K. C. MacDonald, North Okanagan; Lieut. Frank MacKenzie, Delta; Dr. W. O. Ross, Nelson; George Bell, Victoria.

The attendance, both in the visitors' gallery and in the members' seats, was comparatively poor.

JANUARY 31, 1919.

## MAJOR M'INTOSH BREAKS WITH LIBERALS

Is Now Looked Upon as Possible Leader of a "Soldier Party."

Lieut. Hanes Likely to Be Heard From in Debate on Throne Speech.

M. A. Macdonald Is Expected to Pursue Quite an Independent Course.

Lieut. MacKenzie Will Not Return from Overseas for Three Weeks.

VICTORIA, Jan. 31.—The Provincial Legislature gives promise of producing almost as many parties as the new German constituent assembly. There is the official government majority party and the official opposition. Then there are several other elements which show signs of obtaining a special entity without "lining up" with either government or opposition. Major J. W. McIntosh of Vancouver appears to have definitely broken off relations with the government section and is looked upon as the possible leader of the "soldier party." How far the soldier faction will go is by no means clear, but a significant feature of the grouping of the desks for the sessional work is that with Major McIntosh at the left-hand lower end of the House, are J. S. Cowper of Vancouver, Lieut. Hanes of North Vancouver, Major R. J. Burde of Alberni and Pte. Gilma of Victoria. The proposed soldier party is by no means in actual existence as yet, but gives every sign of formation.

**WHERE THEY STAND.** Major Burde was formerly president of Alberni Conservative Association, but is not expected to join the opposition caucus. Most of the members think he will take a more or less independent stand with a slight Conservative flavor. Pte. Duncan, the newly elected soldier member for Cowichan, is not yet here to take his seat. He might be described as providing the Liberal-independent element in any soldier faction of the House. Pte. Gilma is looked upon as more or less Socialist. He does not belong to the Hawthornthwaite Socialist wing, however, being apparently allied with the other military members of the House.

Lieut. Hanes, of North Vancouver, has not by any way means broken with the government, but he shows signs. The Lieutenant is intent upon airing the Pacific Great Eastern issues and is reported to have been very specific and decided in saying that he intends to "go through" with the question, no matter who may be hurt. He will doubtless be one of the speakers on the debate on the King's speech. Lt. Hanes has registered vigorous denials to the rumor which gained circulation in some quarters to the effect that his seat in connection with the P. G. E. enquiry of last session became decidedly less noticeable when he obtained a commission in the railway corps commanded by Gen. J. W. Stewart. Lieut. Hanes explained today that he served overseas with the engineers, not with the railway corps, having become transferred from the latter. Whether he will be found with the McIntosh party or operating a near-opposition of his own remains to be seen.

**DISTRICT ELEMENTS.** Lieut. Frank MacKenzie, another soldier member of the House is still in England, but has cabled that he will be here in about three weeks' time. He will be in the straight Conservative camp.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith represents the Woman's party in the Legislature, being its only woman member. So far she has not disclosed her policy for this session although in the last session she was about as regular as any of the government members.

J. S. Cowper of Vancouver, at his first session showed signs of "insurgency," but with the ending of the Macdonald incidents has gradually drawn closer to the government and his friends expect to see him in the Liberal caucus before long. M. A. Macdonald, according to rumor will pursue quite an independent course in the House this session.

Corridor gossip has not yet placed Lieut. MacKenzie in the Liberal wing. Last element of Liberalism also reached the point of voting against the government, but the border line was never actually crossed.

Present indications show that there will be at least four or five distinct elements in the government party this session besides the straight opposition, the Hawthornthwaite opposition and two or three individual sections of soldier opposition. The government majority is, numerically speaking, apparently quite safe however, and all the opposition or near-opposition members combined are not likely to assume sufficient strength seriously to challenge the success of any government bill.

FEBRUARY 3, 1919.

## B. C. LIBRARIES BILL

The intimation by Alderman Kirk, at a recent meeting of the City Council, that opposition to the proposed B. C. Libraries Act might be looked for on the part of that body, is not altogether surprising. As the persistent apostle of economy, Alderman Kirk occupies a useful position. But the small amount of additional taxation proposed by the act, when compared with the general benefits it bestows, does not seem to be worth fighting about. It is considered by everybody that public libraries are of great use to the community. They form a feature of all progressive cities. The City Council allots a considerable sum every year for the upkeep of the Carnegie Library. Neither the equipment of that library nor the sums devoted to it compare favorably with those of other places. But the Vancouver public library has demonstrated its worth, and is used by a very large number of readers and students.

It is proposed to extend the advantages thus exemplified, all over British Columbia to towns, villages and rural districts. There can be no reasonable opposition to that. But in order to do this satisfactorily, it is planned that a fractional percentage of taxation shall be earmarked for the purpose. It is the gravamen of Alderman Kirk's dissent that this will interfere with the power of the City Council to say, each year, how much the library appropriation shall be, or whether it shall have anything at all.

In other provinces and states it has been determined that the principle of "cutting according to the cloth" shall not apply to these emporiums of literature. It has been found better to have a permanent fraction of a mill on the dollar of assessment, devoted to library purposes, than to determine the amount each year. The 134 libraries in Ontario have been conducted on this principle for many years, and the plan is found to work well. It is plain that on no other basis could an extensive scheme of having standardized libraries all over the country be conducted. The proposed new act has been under consideration by representatives of social and intellectual progress for a lengthened period, and it seems to be framed with a view to the public interest.

## COMPANIES GAIN LITTLE BY APPEAL

Public Utilities Bill Will Be Introduced Almost in Original Form.

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—The new public utilities bill is to go before the caucus this week.

In government circles it is understood that the application of the companies for a change in the method of appeal from the commission in order to appeal on facts to a court instead of the Lieutenant-governor-in-council, will not be altered. There is no specific provision for an appeal on evidence of fact, but as the bill now stands the governor-in-council may interfere on its own account. This will remain unchanged.

The commission will likely stay at three and not be altered to one, as desired by the companies. It is not the intention to insert any clause providing for action by the commission to safeguard the companies against insufficient rates. This point will probably be covered by a definition of the reference to "unjust and unreasonable" rates as being either insufficient or excessive.

The commission will have full power therefore to go into all questions of rates and any claim on the part of the public utilities corporations of insufficiency of rates will likely have to be based upon service, not investment.

**J A N**

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# The Daily Colonist

(ESTABLISHED 1858)

JANUARY 31, 1919

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1919.

## SOLDIER CANDIDATES FORM PARTY IN HOUSE

Major McIntosh, Former Liberal But Now Independent, Is Nominal Head of Party—Plan Active Programme.

A soldiers' party is now an important, even though as yet not numerically a large element in the Provincial Legislature. Evidence of the addition to the membership of the House of a body which will maintain a strictly independent attitude and hold aloof from anything in the nature of party affiliation was given to the public at yesterday's opening of the Provincial House when the two soldier members, Major Richard J. Burde, M.C., member for Alberni, and Mr. Frank Giolma, member for Victoria, both pledged to an independent stand and to further the welfare of the soldier, were introduced to the House.

The introduction of members had hitherto been the pleasing duty of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, and had the new members yesterday been straight party men they would have been introduced by Premier Oliver and Mr. W. J. Bowser, K.C. In the case of Hon. Mr. Barrow, who was introduced as the new Minister of Agriculture, appointed since the last session, the Premier and another of the Minister's colleagues performed the ceremony according to practice.

### Maintain Independence

But with respect to Major Burde and Mr. Giolma, both requested, in order that their strict independence of party should be indicated, that the practice hitherto in vogue be altered to the extent that while the Premier, as leader of the Government in power, should participate in the ceremony of introduction, one of their own soldier colleagues in the person of Major McIntosh should take the place of the leader of the Conservative Opposition.

Major McIntosh now occupies the position of leader of the soldier element of the House membership, not in the accepted sense of Government or Opposition leadership, but as the soldier section now comprises four members, Major Burde, Capt. McIntosh, Mr. Giolma, and Mr. Hanes, and as, shortly Pte. Kenneth Duncan, member-elect for Cowichan, will be back to join their ranks, and as their programme for the benefit of the returned men will see them acting in harmony, it has been felt that a nominal leader for their element is desirable. To Major McIntosh has fallen that honor, for the time being at least. Major McIntosh, who was elected at the 1916 general elections as a Liberal, has since then withdrawn his party support. Now he is occupying a place in the independent ranks as a member of the soldier representation, and will preside at any caucus sessions they may deem necessary in the carrying out of their platform in behalf of the service men.

### Debate on Address

The debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne will commence on Monday afternoon, when the House again assembles. To Mr. Frederick W. Anderson, Liberal member for Kamloops, has fallen the honor of moving it, and to Mr. F. A. Pauline, Liberal member for Saanich, of seconding it. Usually after the two Government speakers have spoken an Opposition member continues the debate. Mr. Bowser has suggested that a member of the soldiers' party take the place of the Opposition, if such course be desired by the soldier members, his idea being to give the returned members the place of honor in the debate.

The debate promises to be an interesting one. From the wide latitude it gives to the Opposition to criticize the administration and its conduct of affairs, there is ample opportunity for the critics to air their views, and the Leader of the Opposition may be counted upon to "rap" the Government in his customary energetic fashion.

The soldier members, too, while holding aloof from party politics, are determined to see that the Government shall take more energetic measures for the benefit of the returning men. They will not be backward in expressing their opinion of what they consider are the shortcomings of the administration in this respect, the while they hope to present something in a constructive way that will assist the Government in solving the problems it will encounter.

At yesterday's opening ceremonies the full membership of the House was not present. On the Government side there were missing Mr. M. A. Macdonald, K.C. (Vancouver), Mr. K. C. Macdonald (North Okanagan), Mr. J. W. Weart (South Vancouver), Mr. George Bell (Victoria), and Mr. J. W. E. Thompson (Grand Forks). Of the Conservative Opposition, Dr. Rose (Nelson) and Mr. W. R. Ross (Prince George) were absent. Lieut. Frank MacKenzie, Conservative member for Delta, will leave England almost immediately on his return from overseas duty, according to a cable Mr. Bowser has just received from him. The other absent member is Private Duncan, the newly-elected soldier-member for Cowichan, who is now en route back from active service in France.

The first caucus of the Liberals was held yesterday afternoon after the House adjourned.

Mr. Frank Mobley, Liberal member for Atlin, will succeed Mr. F. W. Anderson (Kamloops) as chief party whip of the Government forces. He is popular with all members of the Legislature.

JANUARY 31, 1919

## MEASURE PROVIDES FOR BETTER HOUSING

Bill Brought down in Legislature Dominion Makes Scheme to Provide Improved Facilities Applicable to B. C.

To provide for the co-operation of the Province with the Dominion in the making effective the housing plan which has been adopted by the latter Government is the object of a bill brought down in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands.

The measure, intitled "An act to provide for better housing," is designed to carry into effect the provisions of the plan as outlined in a Dominion Order-in-Council passed on December 3 last under the authority of the War Measures Act, by which an appropriation of \$25,000,000 was set aside for providing better housing facilities throughout Canada. This amount is to be apportioned among the various Provinces on a basis of population, and British Columbia's share will amount to approximately \$1,200,000. Under the Federal plan the money is to be loaned to the Provinces and by them in turn either loaned to the municipalities where the latter desire it or expended by the Province where such a course is desirable. The plan was fully discussed at the recent conference of Provincial Premiers at Ottawa, and it was then understood that the Provinces would at the earliest possible time bring down legislation to implement the Federal plan and make it possible to take advantage of the Dominion's offer.

### Empowered to Act

The bill brought down yesterday gives the Province power to enter into an agreement with the Dominion pursuant to the Dominion Order-in-Council in respect of a general housing scheme; also power for the Province to enter into the necessary agreements with the municipalities for the purpose of building homes and providing better housing and to advance to the municipalities moneys therefor from the amount advanced by the Dominion. In the event of the Provincial Government not entering into an agreement with one or more municipalities, it will be empowered to itself undertake the construction of homes. The bill gives the municipalities power to borrow from the Province for the purposes of the Act, and general authority is given to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to make rules and regulations for the better carrying out of the Act.

Power is taken to borrow from the Dominion any amount not exceeding \$5,000,000 in the aggregate at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent, and for a maximum term of twenty years. All moneys borrowed will be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the credit of a special account. The money will be loaned to the municipalities at 5 per cent, for not more than twenty years, but no advance shall be made until a general scheme of housing has been agreed upon between the Government and municipality. It is also provided that the Government may reserve from sale or other disposition, except for the purposes of the Act, any area of Crown Lands and may from time to time cancel such reserve. Out of such lands so held on reserve either under the act or under the Soldiers' Land Act passed at the last session of the Legislature, the Government is empowered to convey free of cost, or on such terms as may be deemed advisable, to any soldier such land as may be deemed suitable for a home-site, or to any municipality such lands as may be required for the purpose of homesites. Power is given to the Government to improve lands purchased under the provisions of the Act, erect buildings, etc.

### For Municipalities

Recently a statement was published showing what approximate amount would be available to each municipality in the Province on the basis of population when the \$1,200,000 proportion coming to British Columbia was available. It may be, however, that some municipalities, especially the distinctly rural ones, may not take advantage of the plan, in which event more money will be available for those which do. The Act establishes a maximum amount that may be borrowed at \$5,000,000. As yet only the \$1,200,000 is to be forthcoming, but it is probable that the Dominion will largely increase the \$25,000,000 fund now set aside under its Order-in-Council, and in that event the amount available for British Columbia will be larger. It is to provide for any such contingency that the five million limit is fixed. If there is more than \$1,200,000 available and it is required, there is ample scope under the Act to take such further amounts as may be deemed advisable.

The bill received its first reading yesterday.



# HOUSE OPENING LACKS CEREMONY

Third Session of Fourteenth  
Parliament of B. C. Formally  
Opened Yesterday—Court  
Mourning.

There was an entire absence of the pomp and circumstance which customarily surrounded formal openings of the Legislature when the inaugural ceremonies for the third session of the Fourteenth Parliament of British Columbia were performed yesterday afternoon. Owing to the official Court mourning consequent upon the recent death of Prince John, the proceedings lacked those features which in previous years made the House opening a brilliant social affair and gave chief recognition, for once at least during the annual sittings of the Legislature, to the public. True, the general populace were there, but confined to the galleries, the usual throng on the floor of the chamber, comprising the leading representatives of bench and bar, clergy, consular corps and chief citizens being conspicuous by its absence.

Yesterday's ceremonies were simple. His Honor Sir Frank Barnard, K. C. M. G., unaccompanied by the usual naval and military escort, appeared at 3:10 o'clock in the chamber wherein the members were seated at their desks, coming through the entrance opening upon the members' corridor. Preceded by the sergeant-at-arms and accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. H. J. Muskett, His Honor proceeded straight to the dais and read the Speech from the Throne. This done, he retired and the session was opened.

## New Members Introduced

Following the Speech from the Throne and prayers by Bishop Schofield, the customary resolutions calling for the appointment of the Standing Committees of the House, that promising "the utmost severity" against any member whose election, should it so appear, was due to bribery or corruption, and that to the effect that the Speech from the Throne be taken into consideration at the next session of the House, were approved.

Much interest was taken in the introduction to the House of Hon. E. D. Barrow, appointed Minister of Agriculture since the last session, an office in which he was confirmed at the by-election, in his riding of Chilliwack last Summer, and of Major Richard J. Burde, M.C., and Mr. Francis Gjolma,

members-elect for Alberni and Victoria, respectively, who took their seats for the first time. A flattering reception was tendered to the three, especially to the soldier members.

Hon. Mr. Barrow was escorted to the Speaker's dais by Premier Oliver and Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education, and introduced to Mr. Speaker, with whom he shook hands. Major Burde and Mr. Gjolma were introduced by Premier Oliver and Major W. J. McIntosh, C.A.M.C. The gallant major, who in his distinguished military career overseas many a time went "over the top," almost duplicated the performance here, but in a political sense, when Premier Oliver introduced the "Honorable" Major Burde. Almost at one bound the soldier member for Alberni achieved Cabinet distinction, but the Premier saw his mistake, and corrected it. Both soldier candidates were warmly welcomed by Mr. Speaker, whose hearty hand clasp gave token to the pleasure with which their presence in the House is greeted by their fellow members.

## New Bills

Two bills were tabled, one introduced by Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, to provide for the Province co-operating with the Federal Government in the proposed housing scheme; the other, introduced by Attorney-General Farris, to amend the Equal Guardianship of Infants Act. Both bills were read a first time and laid over.

Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance, presented the Public Accounts for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1918; Hon. William Sloan, Minister of Mines, submitted the preliminary report of the Department of Mines, and Hon. T. D. Pattullo presented a return setting forth particulars of the 330 permits issued for spruce cutting under the Act passed last session to facilitate the output of spruce for war purposes. The aggregate total of the output cannot yet be given, Hon. Mr. Pattullo explained, as the figures are not yet in and there are some 60,000,000 feet of logs in the water and 40,000,000 feet more in the bush which must be tabulated. He explained, however, that of the 33 permits issued but eighteen were compulsory, indicating the readiness with which holders of licences consented to permitting their holdings to be entered upon by the representatives of the Munitions Board.

The House adjourned to reassemble on Monday afternoon next.

The Speech from the Throne was as follows:

## Speech From the Throne

"Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature:

"In greeting you at this, the opening of the third session of the Fourteenth Legislature of British Columbia, I give thanks to Almighty God that He hath granted victory to the arms of Great Britain and her Allies; that her enemies have been compelled to sue for peace, and that a conference of representatives of the Allied nations is now in session to determine the conditions of peace.

"My Government recognizes and rejoices in the strength displayed by the British forces and appreciates the valiant part taken in this war by His Majesty's subjects in the Dominion of Canada, taking modest but just pride in the achievements of the brave men from this Province, many of whom have earned and received tokens of their distinguished conduct.

## Tribute to Fallen

"My Government is not forgetful of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice in order that freedom and justice might be secured and the right of self-determination established for all the nations of the earth. Their memories will be cherished by our people and the principles for which they died, because of their sacrifice, shall be upheld by those who remain.

"To those who have been spared and will return soon from overseas, I voice not only my own sentiment, but that of my Government and the people of British Columbia when I assure them of a hearty welcome, feeling confident that they will resume their vocations with the same fortitude and courage displayed on the field of battle, uniting earnestly with those to whom they will be restored in efforts to re-establish the prosperity of the Province and develop its resources for the benefit of all.

## Ottawa Conference

"Last Summer my Government urged upon the Prime Minister of Canada the importance of summoning a conference at which the several Provinces, as well as the Dominion, would be represented, for the discussion and co-ordination of plans for the re-establishment of returned and returning soldiers in civil life. As a result, representatives of the Dominion and all the Provincial Governments met in Ottawa, following which certain plans were formulated in November last and assurances were given to the Federal Government that the hearty co-operation of the several Provinces would be accorded in carrying out the proposals agreed upon. Required legislation to implement this pledge on the part of my Government will be placed before you.

## Lands for Soldiers

"A tract of land in the South Okanagan district has been purchased under the provisions of the Soldiers' Settlement Act for the benefit of returned soldiers, and you will be asked for appropriations to carry out development work thereon.

"A large area of Crown lands has been surveyed and reserved for the purpose of soldier settlement.

"Provision also is being made to acquire homesteads within, or adjacent to, cities, and moneys advanced by the Federal Government for housing purposes will be utilized to erect dwellings thereon. Legislation necessary for these purposes will be placed before you.

"A bill designed to encourage stock breeding within the Province and pro-

viding for a comprehensive grazing policy will be laid before you for your consideration.

"A measure will be introduced granting relief in respect of timber licence fees to those engaged in active naval or military service.

## Increased Production

"It affords me pleasure to advise you that during the past year agricultural production has increased and new industries have been established within the Province. Early in the year my Government took effective steps to place the timber resources of the Province at the convenient disposal of the Imperial authorities for war purposes. Extensive contracts for the building of ships for both British and foreign Governments have been entered into by shipbuilding firms.

"My Government has been active in urging upon the Dominion Government the necessity of completing the contractual obligations of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company in respect of unfinished work in British Columbia. As a result of the representations made the construction of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway on Vancouver Island is progressing, and it is confidently expected that further construction in other parts of the Province will be proceeded with during the year.

"Construction on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway is proceeding satisfactorily, and it is the intention of my Government to prosecute vigorously further extension during the coming season.

"Notwithstanding the comparatively small appropriations for the purpose, the Department of Public Works has effected the necessary repairs to roads, trails and bridges.

## Development

"You will be asked to consider the advisability of voting an emergency appropriation for the purpose of providing employment during the coming year in carrying on development work of a productive character.

"I am pleased to advise you that the value of mineral production for the year 1918 shows a substantial increase over that of the previous year. The prospects for the coming year are encouraging. There has been a decline in the production of placer gold, but the output of lode gold has increased. It is expected that the year 1919 will show a marked increase in this class of mining. The production of coal has been very materially increased during the year, and there is a prospect that new coal areas will be developed.

"Amendments to the 'Coal Mines Regulation Act' will be placed before you for consideration.

"Engineers appointed to investigate and encourage mining report a feeling of optimism and confidence among operators and prospectors throughout the Province.

"A report dealing with the practicability of the electro-smelting of British Columbia iron ores will be laid before you.

## Re-enactment

"It is proposed to submit for re-enactment the 'Vancouver Island Settlers' Rights Act (1904)—Amendment Act (1917).'

"My Government, through the Hon. the Minister of Education, has entered into an arrangement with other Western Provinces for the standardization of educational text books.

"Necessary amendments to the 'Prohibition Act' will be laid before you.

"Legislation disfranchising military deserters and other persons exempted from military service will be submitted.

"A bill to authorize the appointment of a Public Utilities Commission will be submitted for your consideration.

"A bill for the establishment of a Public Library Commission will be submitted.

"Protection from tax sales and for the further relief of returned soldiers will be proposed in a bill for the extension of time for payment of taxes by returned soldiers.

"A bill to provide for the appoint-

ment of official school trustees for the better regulation of public schools in alien communities will be laid before you.

"You will be asked to consider a bill providing for the superannuation of civil servants, and amendments to the 'Civil Service Act' will be submitted.

"The Public Accounts for the past fiscal year will be laid before you at an early date.

"The Estimates of Expenditure for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

"Gentlemen, in leaving you to your deliberations I have confidence that the work you will undertake will be faithfully performed, and I pray the blessing of Providence upon your labors."