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1931

Province
April 1, 1931

TOLMIE TO BE GONE A MONTH

Leaves for East Today to Attend Provincial Conference.

VICTORIA, April 1.—Premier Tolmie left here for Ottawa this afternoon on one of the most important official missions that he has undertaken since assuming office.

While he will represent British Columbia at the interprovincial conference on constitutional matters with A. V. Pineo, legislative counsel to the government, the chief purpose of his trip is to confer with Premier Bennett on the future of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and Peace River transportation. He will also meet E. W. Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National Railways, and seek to secure their views on the British Columbia railway problem in the light of the joint P. G. E. surveys completed last year.

The Premier will urge the Federal Government to undertake a new definition of provincial and federal taxation boundaries, to end the present clash between them. It is not expected the interprovincial conference will be able to reach financial matters, but the Premier is hopeful of arranging another meeting later, which will deal with them fully.

Dr. Tolmie expects to be absent about a month, as he will spend a brief holiday with friends in the East before returning. Meanwhile Attorney-General Pooley will act as head of the government.

Colonist
March 11, 1931

LIBERAL LEADER IN RADIO TALK

T. D. Pattullo, M.P.P., Reviews Methods Used in Controlling Finances of B.C.

VANCOUVER, April 14 (CP).—The operation of governmental finance is all important and Governments should set an example to industry in that respect, said T. D. Pattullo, provincial Liberal leader, in a radio talk Monday evening.

If Governments are loose and careless, profligate and improvident in their methods, this breeds disrespect for government generally and has a bad effect upon industrial endeavor. Mr. Pattullo said, in concluding a review of the methods and the machinery used in controlling the finances of the province.

He deprecated the belief of many people that Governments can always raise money and that Government business is not subject to the same conditions and economic laws as ordinary business.

POSITION OF INDUSTRY

"All Government moneys in the end have to be raised by taxation. It is obvious that the smaller amount the Government must raise from citizens, consistent with efficient administration, the stronger will be the position of industry," he said.

"It is self-evident that to increase capital expenditure when business is falling, and consequently Government revenues likewise falling, means additional taxation," the Liberal leader said.

Observing that one of the reasons for the high standard of British Columbia credit was the sinking fund, instituted by the late Government to provide automatically for retirement of all borrowings at maturity, Mr. Pattullo recalled that some \$20,000,000 of short term notes had been issued recently with no sinking fund yet established. He explained the sinking fund system in detail.

TAX BEER, NOT WAGE-EARNERS

Excessive Prices Criticized By Conservatives of Ward Two.

EDUCATION "FRILLS"

Regret that the Provincial Government did not enquire into the "excessive" prices paid by the Liquor Control Board to the brewers for beer before imposing the 1 per cent. tax on wage-earners is expressed in a resolution adopted unanimously by Division Two of Vancouver Conservative Association at a meeting held Monday night.

Additional revenue might have come from this source without raising the cost of beer to licensed parlor operators, claimed Ralph Berteaux in moving the resolution. He declared that the Quebec Government gave brewers one-half the price paid by the B. C. administration for beer. In the eastern province the government sold to beer vendors at \$10.56 per twenty-four-gallon barrel, while in British Columbia the charge is double that amount.

The cost to beer vendors in the province would not have to be raised to acquire additional revenue, he added. Only the price paid by the Government Liquor Control Board to brewers need be lowered to shift some of the profits to the government coffers.

The division also warmly backed the resolution passed by Division Eight in calling for a convention of Provincial Conservatives at an early date to either endorse Premier Tolmie's leadership or choose another chieftain. This gives impetus to a widely-discussed proposal to call a province-wide meeting of the Conservative party.

ASK "RECOGNITION."

A false impression which had gone abroad about the resolution of the central executive asking for the resignation of Vancouver's six Conservative members during the last session, was corrected by speakers at the meeting.

It was pointed out that the report, framed by a committee of the executive, found no fault with the Vancouver representatives, but rather commended them for their work during the session just passed. The resignation procedure was merely a course of action designated to have the government "recognize" the central executive more than it has been doing. There was no intention that the members should resign, it was stated, and the submission of resignations as a formality had precedent in both Federal and Provincial administrations. Lack of government patronage to Vancouver Conservatives was censured in this way. Some sharp criticism was meted out to the "frills" in British Columbia's educational system which had added so greatly to the burden of taxpayers. Many fancy courses and instructors could be eliminated it was suggested.

COUNTRY VIEWPOINT.

The attitude was taken by one speaker that the government was "barking up the wrong tree" in thinking that the 1 per cent. tax would give a heavy vote to Conservatives in the country ridings due to the favorable attitude of farmers toward the levy. Many on the voters' lists as "farmers" are really wage-earners in mines, forests or roadworks, it was claimed.

Mr. G. A. Walkem, Conservative member of Vancouver, in touching briefly on the work of the session at Victoria, declared that the government intended to remove the universal tax on wages when times improve, "probably in one or two years."

Express Confidence In Mainland Members Of B.C. Legislature

VANCOUVER, April 15 (CP).—A resolution expressing confidence in the Vancouver Members of the Legislature, whom they had previously criticized most severely, was approved by the central executive of the Vancouver Conservative Association at its meeting last night.

The six Vancouver members were in attendance at the invitation of the executive and after discussion of problems which face the Conservative party the executive decided to bury the hatchet.

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April 23 1931

TOO MUCH SPEED IN LEGISLATING

Hon. R. H. Pooley Condemns Practice of Rushing Bills Through House

VANCOUVER, April 22. — The practice of rushing through important legislation during the last two or three days of the session of the Legislature was strongly condemned by Acting Premier R. H. Pooley in an address before the Board of Trade here today.

Mr. Pooley declared that this practice was not fair to the Legislature the Attorney-General or the people, as it gave no opportunity to put the bill in proper shape and get all views on the subject.

"It is an extraordinary fact," he said, "that during the two days before the House finishes, the corridors are filled with people wishing to offer suggestions for legislation."

GIVES EXAMPLES

Legislation passed for one or two interests is not fair to everybody, Mr. Pooley continued. He cited the Mechanics Lien Act, which he was importuned by the building trades and financial houses to introduce. He hesitated to act in the matter at the last moment, appreciating the fact that other groups would be interested in the legislation, and were entitled to be heard.

"I sent a letter to all parts of the province and found that 80 per cent

of the replies which I received were against the proposals," he said.

Proposals for a uniform Bill of Sales Act were laid over until the next session for further study, the acting Premier continued. A bill dealing with the central registration of automobiles was also delayed, pending further information.

After reviewing a number of other acts which affected the business interests of the province, Mr. Pooley spoke of the Special Revenue Tax Act.

DEMAND IS HEAVY

He reminded his hearers that out of every dollar collected by the Government, 84 cents was committed by statute for interest and sinking fund or pledged services.

The Government is being constantly besieged, he said, to provide special grants, and pointed out that the demands for new roads on Vancouver Island alone last year would have cost \$8,000,000 if the wishes of the residents had been met.

This same condition applies to all parts of the province, he continued. The people wanted many things and now must pay for them. He considered that the Minister of Finance had taken the only possible step in slightly extending the field of taxation.

"One good thing about this tax is that people may now think twice before they come to the Government with demands to spend money," he said.

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HAD LARGEST GRANTS

Mr. Hinchliffe said he had been accused of trying "to wreck" the university, but pointed out that in the years 1929 and 1930 the institution had had two of the largest grants for maintenance ever made to it by the Province. Two years ago he had suggested the selective method of entrance to the university, fearing the tendency on the part of some to strive for "the largest institution of its kind on the North American Continent."

In his ambition, however, he had wished to see the university productive of results that would be measured in quality, and not in size. (Applause.) He had found deserving students unable to attend by reason of financial circumstances, and had given support to a system of bursaries to remedy this defect.

The minister told of his recent meetings with the senate and board of the university and what had there transpired. The Government had been informed that the institution was "overcrowded"; was suffering by reason of lack of space from inefficiency in some regard, and that a very real danger existed from fire under these conditions. Without funds available to construct additional accommodation, which might have run to \$2,500,000, the Government had had no other alternative but to request limitation of registration, and the weeding out of those who sought to attend the institution for other than a clear desire to study.

WOULD GET BLAME

"I was told many classes were too crowded for effective teaching; that there was great danger of loss

of life if fire should occur. I had to take notice of that. Who would take the blame if there was a disaster? Would it be the board of governors, or the senate? You know it would not; it would be the Government," continued Mr. Hinchliffe.

There had also been notice paid to the fact that the University of British Columbia had not contributed many Rhodes scholars in recent years, and comment on this had been made in high places, Mr. Hinchliffe revealed. This year, he said, the committee had chosen a former graduate of the University of British Columbia, but he was now taking a course in medicine at Toronto.

He had also come in contact with parents who kept their boys and girls at the university because they wanted them to have something to do, and there was the usual percentage of those who went there without any real desire to perfect themselves for the business of life. Not, cautioned the minister, that he would dare to say so, but these were the statements of the press, and others.

"The biggest proportion of the freshman class each year was rubbish," one professor who had taught at the institution had told him, continued the minister, saying this had not been isolated comment.

It was his desire to see a university not noted for its size, but for its output of trained men and women, an institution where boys and girls with real brains would have university opportunities, whether they had money or not, said Mr. Hinchliffe, to applause.

Just what the real situation was in regard to the faculty of agriculture, he continued, he was not prepared to say, but there would be a definite inquiry into that situation at the first opportunity.

ADMINISTRATION COSTS ARE GREATLY REDUCED

Assurance that the Province was faced with a certain loss in connection with the University endowment lands scheme initiated by the former Government, was given to the Legislature yesterday by Hon. N. S. Lougheed, Minister of Lands.

Local improvement loans to expire in 1945 and 1948 would occasion considerable loss to the people, he said, explaining measures taken by the present Government to bring some return from the investment made by the former administration at the site.

LARGE SUM SPENT

A sum totaling \$2,342,961 had been spent by the Province on the area in the last six years, Mr. Lougheed stated. Administration costs alone had been \$179,413. Approximately ninety-four parcels of the units placed on the market had been sold in that period, and eighty-six parcels leased, of which sixty-four were in good standing. There were 209 lots left unsold in the first two units opened, with a list price of \$593,000.

The Government had opened a new unit at the block, and with the approval of the Vancouver Real Estate Exchange, had placed the sale of the lands in the hands of the London & Western Trust Company, Ltd., as agents for the property. Property to the value of \$68,000, and leases to the extent of \$41,000 had been effected since the London & Western Trust Company took charge, he said.

DEFENDS CONTRACT

Mr. Lougheed defended the terms of the contract given to the agency, which, he said, had the co-operation of the Vancouver Real Estate Exchange in every way. Administration of the property under the former regime had cost approximately \$30,000 a year, and this had been cut by the present Government to the \$5,000 paid to the agents, plus a reasonable commission on all property sold, and on moneys handled in rents, and collections. On a monthly basis the cost of operation was now \$481, as against \$1,192 under the former Government, Mr. Lougheed stated.

The Minister of Lands concluded his explanation, and filed a return of all documents asked for by the Opposition in connection with the matter.

CRITICIZES TERMS

A. M. Manson (Liberal), Omineca, at the opening of the debate, rose to criticize the terms of the contract awarded to the London & Western Trust Company, Limited. He said this was a five-year agreement, which placed the agents in position to handle all the insurance, and collect all the monies due from the properties on a commission basis. A commission on sales, he asserted, was allowed at the rate of 10 per cent on property up to \$1,300 or \$1,500 in value, and at 7.5 per cent on values in excess of that.

The Government, Mr. Manson continued, had permitted a breaking up of the lots into smaller areas than first put on the market, and this tended to destroy the value of the area for those who had already erected fine homes there. Prices had been lowered, and there was danger, in his opinion, of the area becoming "an eyesore" to the people of Vancouver for years to come. Recently, he asserted, the unemployed had been given work in the area, and had clashed every tree in sight until the whole place looked like a "bald head."

OBJECTS TO FIGURES

T. D. Pattullo, Leader of the Opposition, rose to object to Mr. Lougheed's figures. He could find no basis for the assertion that the cost of administration under the former regime had been \$1,192 a month. The Government, he charged, was attempting to magnify the loss, to make as poor a showing as possible of the project started by the former administration.

"The Government has made an excellent bargain with the London & Western Trust Company, and this had had the approval of the Vancouver Real Estate Exchange," Mr. Lougheed countered. "I believe that through a progressive policy of sales we are going to pick up some of the loss that would otherwise have had to be met."

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Manson also disputed the first report of the committee on agriculture, which recommended that the Oriental question, dairy importations and other matters be referred to the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa. The conference, said Mr. Manson, would be far too busy to engage itself with British Columbia troubles in this respect. Oriental penetration was a subject that should be discussed in the Provincial Legislature.

Dr. H. C. Wrinch (Liberal), Skeena, suggested the appointment of a special committee of the House to consider the question. Debate on the subject was adjourned by Mr. Lougheed.

Colonist April 2, 1931

Dairy Bill Passes Third Reading and House Is Prorogued

Hon. J. A. Macdonald, Administrator, Gives Assent to Many Measures—Speaker Closes Third Session of Seventeenth Parliament of Province

THIRD session of the seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia was prorogued by Chief Justice the Hon. J. A. Macdonald, Administrator, yesterday at 10:45 a.m., after assent had been given to some seventy bills passed at the session, and supply voted to His Majesty. The last formal act of the House was to sing the National Anthem, as His Honor, preceded by his aides, left the Chamber.

Then ensued the battle of papers, sessional documents, motion papers, prints of bills and everything that could be lifted, being volleyed into the air as members broke off the restraint of labors begun on February 11.

The supply of papers running out, the members joined in singing "Loch Lomond" and "Hail, Hail the Gang's All Here," the latter with discreet modifications in deference to the public galleries. The break-up followed immediately, Up-Country members leaving for their homes.

DAIRY ACT RENEWED

The last executive act of the members by motion was the passage of the Berry Milk Bill, being the completed amendments to the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act. The bill received third reading without a division, and unanimously, as far as any audible objection was concerned.

Mr. Speaker Davis and Premier Tolmie filed out of the House to receive His Honor shortly after 10:30, returning in rear of the King's representative, who was preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms carrying the mace. Chief Justice the Hon. J. A. Macdonald took his seat on the dais and gave assent to a list of acts approved by the House. Mr. Speaker expressed the loyal devotion of the Assembly to His Majesty, and the annual Supply Act was formally placed in the hands of His Honor. In the closing address from the Throne, His Honor stated:

HIS HONOR'S SPEECH

"Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly: "In closing the Third Session of the Seventeenth Parliament of the Province of British Columbia, I wish to express my appreciation of the attention which you have given to the many important questions submitted for your consideration."

"The Boiler Inspection Act has been consolidated with a view to the protection of the public and those in charge of such equipment, the efficient operation of which is so important to the public safety."

"The Jury Act has been amended in order to empower the presiding judge, in necessitous cases, to excuse a juror from attendance."

"The Mothers' Pensions Act has been amended and consolidated to meet the conditions of the present time."

"The bill entitled 'An Act Respecting the Removal of Disqualification on Account of Sex' is intended to remove certain doubts which have existed as to sex or marriage being a factor of disqualification for the holding of any civil or judicial post, or from entering any profession."

"Under the amendments to the Public Schools Act, further provision has been made in respect of public education."

"The subject of unemployment has been dealt with in a bill ratifying agreements with the Federal Government in that behalf."

"It is regrettable that the worldwide depression has not ignored British Columbia in its progress, and it has been necessary, in order to meet unemployment and other unavoidable demands, to seek further sources of revenue. However, it is hoped that this necessity is of a transitory nature only."

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

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

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

Province
April 16, 1933

Fancy Services Cause Of High Taxes, Jones Says

Provincial Finance Minister Speaks Plainly at Luncheon.

Declares One Per Cent. Super-Tax Is Fair To All.

"If we would simplify our wants and cease making demands on governing bodies, there would be fewer tax burdens today," declared Hon. J. W. Jones, provincial finance minister, in an address to the Kiwanis Club at noon.

The minister's subject was "Financial Conditions and the Special Revenue Tax." He was greeted by a large gathering, nearly every member of the club having several guests in attendance. It was Mr. Jones' first appearance in Vancouver since the new income tax became effective.

Instanting some of the requests the government received this year, he mentioned that from the Union of B. C. Municipalities in January to take over the hospitals and double grants towards teachers' salaries. Among other requests, he said, was one from Vancouver Island involving \$8,000,000 for new roads alone.

SELF-SUPPORTING LIABILITIES.

Going back to 1912, the minister showed increasing debt and increased taxation in the province since that time, declaring that when he was called into the cabinet in November last there was a net debt of \$102,000,000, with \$8,675,000 necessary during 1931-32 for interest and sinking funds. He explained that the province is bearing a non-producing debt burden of more than \$77,000,000 made up of so-called self-supporting liabilities. He detailed these as follows: University of British Columbia, \$5,728,081; Land Settlement Board, \$6,727,727; Oliver project, \$3,401,413; irrigation loans, \$2,263,561; industries, \$1,000,000; P. G. E. liability, \$34,641,800; 1914 deficits (borrowed), \$7,275,000; 1916 deficits, \$16,792,703. Annual charges on this huge non-producing debt amount to \$5,021,120, he said, adding, and they will continue for the next ten or twenty-five years.

TAXATION OR DEFICITS.

Among some other annual expenditures, he said, are hospitals and charities, \$2,063,190; mothers' pensions, \$850,000; old age pensions, \$850,000; unemployment costs, \$1,350,000, and indigent fund, \$150,000. Grants to education reach \$4,500,000, he added. The uncontrollable expenses of the province amount to \$25,000,000, he declared.

"Faced with a situation where expenditures and revenue would not balance," said Mr. Jones, "when I took office I insisted on a reduction in the estimates and made up my mind that there should be no further deficits. This, of course, meant increased taxation."

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4.)

tion so we could pay as we went, and hence the introduction of the new income tax." The minister then explained the Special Revenue Tax Act, clause by clause. In this connection he said that printed information on the new act is being prepared at Victoria to be sent to every employer in the province.

He asserted that under the new taxation every person will be doing something toward helping pay for necessary services, but that no person will pay more than his or her fair share. Answering the argument as to why he had not graduated the tax so that persons with large incomes would bear the brunt of the taxation, he argued that this was just what he had done.

"For instance," he continued, "a married man with two children is called on under the present provincial income tax, new income tax, and Dominion income tax to pay \$24 on a salary of \$2400. The only tax he pays is the \$24 raised by the Special Revenue Tax Act. On a salary of 3000 he will pay \$33 for all these taxes; on a \$4000 salary he will pay \$61."

WILL BALANCE BUDGET.

A man earning \$5000 pays total provincial and federal taxes of \$98; on a yearly salary of \$7500, 240; on \$10,000 salary, \$436; \$15000 salary, \$1003.50; and on a \$20,000 yearly income he will pay \$1616, or 13.56 per cent.

"If the income is derived from dividends or provincial companies, the tax payable by the individual will show no increase, but the company will have paid an increase of 12 1/2 per cent," he said. "The corporation will have paid altogether: provincial income tax, 7.2 per cent; special revenue tax, 1 per cent; and Dominion income tax, 8 per cent."

The finance minister said he expected to raise \$2,500,000 through the new tax, as a result of which school districts will receive an additional \$500,000 in grants, and revenues of the province will meet expenditures.

SAYS ONUS ON CITIZENS.

"Taxes are necessary; they ever were and ever will be," Mr. Jones said.

The great desire of governments and of the people is that taxes should be equitable, and that every member of the community should pay his just and fair portion of the sums desired. There are two different attitudes towards this matter of taxation: those of the tax imposers and those of the taxpayers. The former sometimes seem to regard taxation as a beautiful device designed to enable beneficent bodies to bring about a more equitable distribution of wealth and by constantly threatening their standards of comfort to compel taxpayers to make greater productive efforts. The taxpayers are inclined to regard taxation, even where it can be shown to be necessary as an encroachment upon individual rights, a discouragement of shift and a burden upon production. Both conclusions, of course are exaggerated. If we could only cease demanding all sorts of things from our governing bodies, there would be fewer taxes to pay."

LEGISLATION IS REVIEWED

School Grant Will Save Victoria City One Mill Additional This Year

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN AIDED IN CAREERS

Victoria City members in the Provincial Legislature received a right hearty reception at their appearance before a public meeting, held under the auspices of the Victoria Conservative Association last evening in the Campbell Building, with E. A. Wootton in the chair.

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, Minister of Education; Reginald Hayward, M.P.P.; James H. Beatty, M.P.P., and H. D. Twigg, M.P.P., Deputy Speaker, addressed the gathering.

Dealing with the actual work of the last session, the Victoria members gave a clear-cut picture of legislation introduced and passed then, and the reason for the action taken in each case. Mr. Hinchliffe, in an eloquent address, gave a long-range view of the progress of education in the province and told of his desire to see an extension of equal opportunities to all boys and girls in British Columbia who showed promise in their studies.

Mr. Beatty dealt with finances, giving a sharp contrasting outline with the actual expenditures under this and the former administration.

Mr. Hayward touched on the actual work of members of the House. When he came into power, he stated there had been found an accumulation of problems left unmet by the former regime. One problem had been the burden of debt, for which no provision had been made and which had grown from \$25,521,000 to \$116,633,000 from March 21, 1917, to the end of the fiscal year, 1928-29. Included in this, he stated, was \$8,041,000 of deficits, not counting \$4,251,000 of commitments in capital expenditures.

Another problem had been the growing proportion of educational costs borne by the province in school districts. No less than 600 schools were being totally carried by the province when the Tolmie Government took office, without a cent of contribution from these areas. Mr. Hinchliffe explained the policy followed by the present Government to relieve this situation. He showed how the \$500,000 added to the grants this year will be fairly applied to all areas in respect to their actual needs.

HAD FACED FACTS

As Minister of Education, he had faced squarely the problems confronting one in that position, and had endeavored to find equitable solutions for issues that had been left to accumulate and become snarled by the former regime.

Consolidation of the administration of welfare work, criticized though it had been by the Opposition, had nevertheless applied business principles to the complicated variety of social service to which the Province was committed, he continued. A material saving in administration expenses for investigation and other purposes would result, and much duplication would be eliminated.

Mr. Hinchliffe explained the operation of the textbook bureau, which will go into effect in respect to the school year to commence in September next. By this means, parents will be assured of getting the books required by school curricula at fair and reasonable prices. The plan had been drafted by the assistant of the stationer, and the committee in placing

textbook sales on a basis that would permit of the lowest possible prices to those who had to pay for the books.

PRACTICAL HELP GIVEN

Educational allowances for soldiers' dependent children were explained, following the successful operation of the plan last year. Under this policy, introduced by the Tolmie Government, a total of eighty-six grants had been made of allowances sufficient to permit soldiers' children continuing studies in which they had shown merit, and which otherwise they would have had to abandon.

The allowances, he stated, were administered by a board comprising representatives of the department and of leading returned soldier organizations. Last year \$12,000 had been distributed under the scheme, after careful investigation of the fitness of each case. This had been divided into grants of \$150 each in sixty-eight instances; grants of \$100 each in ten cases, and grants of \$75 each in eight other cases. The money was paid monthly, after progress reports by the teachers actually in contact with the pupils aided.

Administration costs had been confined to \$52.25, practically the entire fund going directly in aid of the children of men who served Canada in the Great War. The sum of \$15,000 is provided for continuation of the plan this year.

TO ARRANGE BURSARIES

Mr. Hinchliffe outlined similar provision intended for the assistance of promising pupils through the Tolmie and Normal School, for which purpose \$25,000 has been included in the estimates of the year, for scholarships and bursaries. It was the intention of the department to see that these scholarships and bursaries would be awarded in cases where capacity and willingness to learn were present in students who, without this aid, would not be able to continue their studies. The scheme is not confined to soldiers' children, but will be administered for the general good of all children in the schools.

The minister touched on other matters coming under his department in the course of a concise and instructive review.

REGINALD HAYWARD, M.P.P.

Fighting defence of the policies of the Tolmie Government and a plea for fair-minded study of public problems facing all administrations was entered by Reginald Hayward, M.P.P., in the course of a spirited address. Of the seven sessions of the Legislature he had attended, the last had been productive of the closest attention to public business, without unnecessary delays, he averred.

During the session seventy-eight bills had been passed, including new legislation required to meet changing conditions and to bring relief where existing laws had become unjust. Mr. Hayward touched on the bills presented and described the purpose and effect of each. Standing committees of the House, in addition, had put in a vast amount of hard work on their duties and had gone painstakingly into many public matters presented to them.

CRITICISM INSINCERE

The work of the Government had been impeded needlessly by the Opposition, which had been noticeably inconsistent in its criticism alike of retrenchment in the face of hard times and lack of expenditure on account of unemployment. No Government, he said, could both spend more and less money at the same time, and reasons cited by the Opposition on both arguments had upset the logic behind either proposed complaint.

"Quite a cry went up from some sources when the Government found it necessary to impose a special 1 per cent income tax, but let me assure you that if the public demands of the people's representatives generally had been complied with, the Government would have required to have put on more like a 5 per cent than a 1 per cent tax," Mr. Hayward declared.

As chairman of the municipal committee of the Legislature he had been brought in contact with municipal demands at the last session.

The people's municipal representatives had asked that municipalities be relieved of costs that would have run into millions of dollars in extended services by the province, he said. Through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities requests had been put forward on forty-five separate matters.

EXTENSIVE DEMANDS

One request was that the Government should relieve the municipalities of the cost of maintaining hospitals. Another demand was that the Government give more money to the municipalities out of the liquor profits, disregarding also the fact that these profits had suffered the common fate of times of depression. The Government, the committee was told, should pay the maintenance of municipal prisoners in provincial jails; that it should rebate gasoline taxes paid on municipal vehicles used for road making.

The Government, Mr. Hayward continued, was also asked to relieve municipalities of the entire cost of caring for the poor and needy, if resident less than a year in such centres. There had been a demand for a reduction in the age at which old age pensions would apply, from seventy to sixty-five years.

The Government was requested to reimburse municipalities for money spent on unemployment relief that had not been provided for in municipal budgets, regardless of what the province was doing both with the municipalities and with the Federal Government already on that score. Finally, he said, the Government has been besought to increase the grants in aid of teachers' salaries to double their present figure.

NOT GROWN ON TREES

Demands had been made on the administration by provincial representatives for millions of dollars of expenditures for suggested new roads and public works. With falling revenues due to a depression experienced the world around, how could any Government meet increased demands at lesser cost? Added services could not be demanded without some willingness to pay the bill. Services were not to be plucked ready grown from a tree like ripe fruit, he declared. It was a large province, with a small population, and growing pains were inevitable under such conditions.

Of the 600,000 people in the province only 44,000 heretofore had been paying income taxes, yet all the population shared in the benefits of provincial public services. It was not likely that anyone would volunteer to pay towards these services; and a more even distribution of taxation had not only been fair, but had become necessary to relieve those who had been left to pay the bill unaided through many years.

EACH PAY SHARE

"I do not think that the average man or woman wants services for nothing. I think they are willing to contribute their little share towards the upkeep of their country, which is protecting them and affording them a living," Mr. Hayward declared.

Taxes in British Columbia compared favorably with those in most British countries, he continued. Many had objected to the five-cent tax on gasoline, but in Britain recently this tax had been increased to twelve cents a gallon, with a scale of motor licences much above that in effect in British Columbia. Economic conditions had changed so rapidly about the world in recent times that no Government had been entirely able to keep pace with this alteration and a period of readjustment had set in.

PUT TAXES UP

Liberal speakers, Mr. Hayward continued, had been loud in protest against increased taxation, but this criticism did not fit in well with the record of the former regime. There had been a drastic revision in taxes upward when the former Liberal Government took office. In 1917 real property taxes had been increased by half of one per cent. A like increase had been made in the personal property tax. The tax on wild land had gone up one per cent, and that on coal lands two per cent. The timber tax had been increased one per cent, and a one per cent surtax had been placed on the then existing income tax.

During the twelve years the Liberals were in power over 100 items of taxation had been either added to or placed freshly on the books of the province, Mr. Hayward continued. He closed with a concise review of the special revenue tax, adopted as an emergent measure at the last session of the Legislature.

JAMES H. BEATTY, M.P.P.

Defending the 1 per cent income tax as a fair and just attempt on the part of the Government to re-

lieve the burdens borne by land, and to lighten the load on all by a more even distribution of those costs necessitated in demands for public service, James H. Beatty, M.P.P., spoke briefly, giving a sharp contrast between the actual results of the former Liberal regime, and that of the Tolmie Government since it took office.

In the year 1916-17, the Liberal Government entered on its administration with the net debt of the province at \$20,373,899. The first budget for the fiscal year 1916-17 had estimated revenue at \$5,944,015. The actual collection of revenue in that year had been \$6,906,783, and the actual expenditures \$9,079,312, of which \$1,939,000 had been expended on roads, wharves, bridges, etc.

At the end of the period of twelve years, the actual expenditure in 1928 had been in excess of \$25,000,000, and the debt had increased by five times in the whole of the period.

In the first three years of the Liberal rule yearly expenditures had increased from \$9,000,000 to \$19,000,000. Taxation increases had then set in, and in addition to those increases already enumerated, there had been a heavy increase in the income tax; the corporation tax had doubled; the tax on railway assessed lands had doubled; a fresh tax had been introduced on amusements; and many other new taxes had been applied in the years 1918, 1919 and 1920.

In 1920-21, when there was a period of depression corresponding to that pertaining today, the Liberals had "loaned" \$146,000 to the municipalities on account of unemployment; contrasted to the expenditure of over \$2,000,000 for this purpose in the province this year and last.

The present Government had, by voting \$500,000 additional in educational grants, relieved land taxation all over the province, and this by means of a tax that bore fairly and justly on all who earned an income capable of supporting them.

PAYING FOR SERVICES

The cost of public services had risen sharply in the province, he continued, education, old age pensions and many other forms of expenditure, adding a third or more to their totals in the last four years. It had been unreasonable to expect the landowners and 44,000 who paid the original income tax to continue paying for the increased cost of public services to be given free to others, Mr. Beatty declared.

Where it could, the present Government had reduced the cost of administration, and in this connection the cost of the civil service had been cut from \$7,500,000 to \$6,000,000, a reduction of \$1,500,000. In times of present depression it was difficult to gauge the result of an administration, but he was convinced that at the end of two years' time the people of British Columbia would understand and value at its true worth the courage, integrity and purpose displayed by the Tolmie administration, Mr. Beatty concluded.

H. D. TWIGG, M.P.P.

In a short speech, H. D. Twigg met the charges which were being broadcast about the country by the Leader of the Opposition to the effect that this Government was wasteful and incompetent. The statements of Mr. Pattullo, said Mr. Twigg, did little credit to his idea of common sense.

"Mr. Pattullo must know that a lot of the things he is saying are not true," said Mr. Twigg. He went on to say that he had repeatedly challenged the Leader of the Opposition in the House to show wherein the present Government was incompetent or dishonest. Mr. Pattullo was not able to do so.

Mr. Twigg proceeded to show that the 1 per cent tax that had been imposed by the present Government was due to the late Government. Mr. Pattullo, he said, had tried to make it appear that this tax was necessary because of the partisan appointments made by the present administration.

FAIR APPOINTMENTS

"This Government has been unqualifiedly fair in its appointments," said Mr. Twigg.

When Mr. Pattullo complained of the waste shown in the estimates, he seemed to forget that these had been cut down by two millions, and the man who complained the most about these reductions was the Opposition Leader.

Recently, Mr. Pattullo was shifting somewhat from his former charges. He was saying, however, that the 1 per cent tax was not due to anything left as a legacy by the old Government.

Mr. Pattullo seemed to forget that debts created by the old Government had to be met. The Leader of the Opposition was asking the electorate to forget the money borrowed by the old Government, of which he was a member. It was to pay this that the 1 per cent tax had been created. It was debts contracted such as the Sumas scheme, the Oliver proposition and the waste in connection with the P.G.E. which made the 1 per cent tax necessary.

But the Leader of the Opposition tried to put the blame for these upon the returned men. What did the returned men get out of these mismanagements? asked the speaker.

POLICY OF VITUPERATION

The Leader of the Opposition was following up a policy of vituperation, which had been repeated so insistently against the McBride Government that it was finally believed, and the Liberal party was elected to power. That attack was against the policy of the former Conservative Government with regard to the taking up of land in the province.

When the Liberals came into power, 2,000,000 acres of the land came back into the hands of the Government and became nontax paying. This was one of the reasons why the 1 per cent tax had had to be placed.

"The Liberals had a whale of a time while it lasted," added Mr. Twigg. "Now the debts had to be paid and the 1 per cent tax had to be placed upon the people."

In the State of Washington there was a 2-cent tax on a 5-cent candy bar, a tax on radio and a tax on silk stockings. These were classified as luxuries and so taxed. The Government there was not quite as honest as in British Columbia. Here the Government put the 1 per cent tax on. In Washington the Government went to the store and collected and the people paid the tax on the silk stockings without knowing it.

SOCIAL LEGISLATION

The Liberals, he said, were doing a lot of talking to create the impression that they were the only

people who had anything to do with social legislation. The Conservatives, however, had more to their credit in this line on the broad basis of social legislation. He instanced the fact that discrimination of sex had been removed by the Conservatives. Now there was absolute equality between the sexes.

In the matter of the superannuation of civil servants, the Liberal Government had never had the courage to make this effective. The four Victoria members had promised, when seeking election, to see that this was carried into effect. He could promise that the civil servants were going to get a square deal.

Having lived in Victoria for thirty-two years, he had a knowledge of what this city had obtained in the past. He only knew of one thing being given Victoria by past Governments, and that was a grant of \$30,000 by the Oliver Government to the Johnson Street Bridge on construction according to plans which were not favored by the engineer.

AIM TO VICTORIA

This Government has assisted in the erection at the willows of as fine exhibition buildings as could be found in the country. The Salt Spring ferry had been provided, giving the city connection with a rich territory. There was the Mill Bay ferry also provided, and now \$100,000 was set aside as a start on the new courthouse for the city, which had been recommended by grand juries for years as a means of safeguarding valuable documents. There was the West Coast road, with its possibilities for the city. The present Government had a good record as far as Victoria was concerned, he added.

The improved condition of the roads on Vancouver Island was alluded to also as an asset to this city in serving to attract tourists to the Island. This was also a direct benefit from the policy of the present Government.

In conclusion, Mr. Twigg said that what British Columbia needed was honest government, and this it was getting today. There was honest expenditure of the public money, and the province was getting a dollar's value for every dollar spent.

Colonist
April 26, 1931

INDUSTRIES BRANCH WILL CLOSE SOON

Closing of Department Will
Save Province \$12,000
Annually

LOSS THROUGH PROJECT
NOT YET DETERMINED

Services of Col. D. B. Mar-
tyn to Terminate at
End of Month

Implementing its announced intention of abolishing the Department of Industries as a separate branch of the administration, the Government yesterday set in motion machinery required for the winding up of the industrial loan scheme, originated by the former Government as a post-war expedient.

The announcement was made by Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, under whose department the Industries branch has functioned. A saving of \$12,000 annually will follow the move, Mr. Jones stated.

Orders in council providing for the cessation of the Department of Industries under separate control, and abolition, effective April 30, of the position of deputy minister of industries, save for the purpose of winding up the plan, were ratified by Acting-Premier Pooley and the Cabinet this week.

The services of Colonel D. B. Martyn, D.S.O., will terminate at the end of this month, with the closing of the branch as a separate entity. Victor Rollins, provincial purchasing agent, will wind up the affairs of the department as a temporary deputy minister.

LARGE SUM ADVANCED

Mr. Jones stated it was too early yet to be able to give an accurate analysis of what the loss due to the operation of the postwar scheme will be to the Province. A number of industries were partly financed in the last twelve years, and while a few of these have progressed to a basis of permanent operation, many

have fallen back or gone out of business. Considerable money, in the aggregate, was loaned by the former administration under the plan.

Since the Toimie Government took office, few loans were authorized by the department, and these for small amounts. One of the last industrial loans announced was that in 1930 to secure a stabilization of the seed-growing industry on Vancouver Island, through assistance to Salt Spring Island seedsmen who were helped to extend their business in a new location near Duncan, after demonstrating practical knowledge of the business, and the achievement of a solid measure of success on their own efforts.

AIDED BERRY GROWERS

Processing of British Columbia strawberries in 1929 was also financed under the plan, the entire sum so advanced being repaid after the successful completion of the voluntary pool set up with the assistance of the Government. Aid given at the time helped strawberry growers over the hump of a difficult period, and brought a new product to the Canadian market which bids fair to remain in steady demand.

In a report made by the department in September, 1930, thirty-seven concerns were listed on the books of the department, for principal amounts aggregating \$678,044, and overdue interest at approximately \$80,000, or a commitment of \$757,483.

While in certain instances capital loans made under the plan are regarded as entirely recoverable, when due, there will be a considerable sum advanced under the scheme in respect of which the hope of ultimate recovery is believed to be slight.

WIDOWS OF LEGISLATORS PENSIONED

B. C. Government Makes Al-
lowance of \$2500 for
Lady McBride.

MARY ELLEN SMITH
GETS \$1500 YEAR

In Recognition of Services of
Former Premier and
Minister.

VICTORIA, April 25.—In recognition of public service for B. C. the Provincial Government has reached a decision to make an annual allowance of \$2500 to Lady McBride, widow of Sir Richard McBride, former premier of B. C., and an allowance of \$1500 a year to Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, widow of Ralph Smith, former member of the Federal House and minister of finance in the B. C. cabinet at the time of his death.

TO DATE FROM
APRIL FIRST.

Both allowances will date from April 1, the beginning of the present fiscal year. The allowance made to Lady McBride is in recognition of the services of Sir Richard McBride to the Province of British Columbia as agent-general for B. C. in London. Sir Richard, who was head of the Conservative government in this province from 1903 to 1915 was agent-general for B. C. in London up to 1917, in which year he died.

LONG SERVICE
IN B. C.

The allowance to Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith follows long service in public life in B. C. both of Mrs. Smith and the late Ralph Smith. Both served long terms in the Provincial Legislature and Ralph Smith, who was an outstanding figure in B. C. politics, was minister of finance at the time of his death.

Colonist
April 22, 1931

PUBLIC DEMAND OUTRUNS PURSE

Road Construction Worth
\$15,000,000 Asked of
Province to March

COURTENAY, April 27.—Received by an enthusiastic audience here tonight, Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, gave a clear-cut account of the finances of the province, and the policy being pursued by the Tolmie Administration. He reminded his hearers that taxation was a bill for services rendered, and that demands for \$15,000,000 worth of new roads in this year from various public bodies showed that public demand was not always entirely reasonable.

Mr. Jones was introduced by Dr. G. K. MacNaughton, member for Comox, at a well-attended meeting, held in St. George's Church hall. William Rickson, president of the A.O.T.S., a church organization, was in the chair.

Defining taxation as the payment for services rendered, Mr. Jones told of variety of services given in return for provincial levies. These included, he said, social services, forestry protection, assistance in aid of schools and hospitals, policing and many other forms of service in the complex order of present day civilization.

If people would simplify the demands on governments there would be fewer taxes, he stated. Public bodies, however sincere in their purpose, made excessive demands on administrations, asking in the case of British Columbia millions for roads, and further millions for educational and other purposes.

MUCH IS ASKED

A total of \$15,000,000 would have been required to grant all the road construction asked of the Province in the first quarter of this year, Mr. Jones continued, and similar demands had been made in respect to other services.

To meet the needs of the day the Government had attempted to cut down expenses wherever possible, he continued. In the Department of Finance, one of those branches of the Government with highly responsible duties, it had been found possible to effect a small reduction in staff, and this had been done under his direction.

Tremendous strain was thrown on the heads of departments under present day conditions, but the men in these positions had risen to meet the situation ably and well.

Referring to British Columbia's

finances since 1912 and to date, Mr. Jones showed that deficits had been recorded in almost every year of the former regime. Such a condition could not be allowed to continue, and as long as he was in the portfolio of finance the province would

have to pay its way, and meet its liabilities, he affirmed.

A cordial reception was tendered to Mr. Jones at the close of an instructive address.

Vancouver
Province
May 1, 1931

TOLMIE RAPS DOLE; NOT ASKING FAVORS

Constructive Programme of
Work More Healthy,
Says Premier.

MONTREAL, May 1.—(CP).—"Given markets for her goods, her lumber, her salmon and minerals, British Columbia would not have to ask favors from anybody," Premier S. F. Tolmie of the Pacific Coast province stated during an interview here. He added that hard times faced the province this year and some sort of government assistance would be needed to look after the people.

Hon. Mr. Tolmie made a short visit to Montreal, leaving this evening for Ottawa.

Asked if he thought the Dominion Government should make another grant for unemployment relief work, the Premier replied: "We must take care of the people, and a constructive programme is certainly a more healthy one than a dole."

The Premier was looking forward to great results from another interprovincial conference. A conference was the logical way to get things done, he said.

Province
May 6, 1931

MAKES APPEAL FOR INTERIOR HIGHWAYS

A. M. Manson Tells Royal
City Kiwanians Good Roads
Attract Tourists.

NEW WESTMINSTER, May 6.—"It is all very well to construct paved highways throughout the Fraser Valley but the more distant places of the province can not be neglected," said A. M. Manson, K.C., former attorney general, in addressing Kiwanis Club members Tuesday on "Central British Columbia."

British Columbia has much to attract tourists but if it is to make the most of this traffic good highways must be provided, according to the speaker. A highway is only as good as the worst mile of it, and a few poor sections do much to send tourists away with a bad impression of the province, he added.

Mr. Manson declared the time was not ripe for the projected Alaskan highway, adding that this scheme is "nonsense when there are miles of the Cariboo Highway even without a gravel surface."

The speaker decried any suggestion of a parochial spirit in cities of the province. Such is regrettable, he observed, for these cities can not grow without development of other parts of the province.

One feature of the Omineca country is the development of agriculture, said Mr. Manson, dealing with his own constituency. Within the past few years farms are looking more prosperous, better buildings are to be seen and the district generally was becoming more thickly settled, he observed.

Rev. C. G. McKenzie, vice-president, was chairman. He read a telegram from Mr. Gowen Macgowan, president, who is at Miami, where the international convention, with 4000 delegates in attendance, is in progress.

Colonist
April 24, 1931

SUGGEST SITE OF COURTHOUSE

Delegation Interviews Gov-
ernment in Support of
Blanshard Location

Representations asking selection of the old cathedral site, Burdett and Blanshard Streets, and early construction of a new courthouse there, were made to the Provincial Government yesterday by a delegation of Victorians, headed by three of the four city members in the Legislature.

The delegation was received by Hon. R. W. Eyh, who said the matter of a Victoria courthouse was receiving the consideration of the Government, and that an announcement might be expected shortly in that regard.

DELEGATION HEARD

The delegation was introduced by H. D. Twigg, M.P.P., and included Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, Reginald Hayward, M.P.P., David Leeming, M. B. Jackson, K.C., B. O. Nicholas, A. E. Haines, F. E. Winslow, R. A. Wootton, Harold Wilson and Rev. Montague Bruce. James H. Beatty, M.P.P., was out of the city, but members of the delegation said he favored the site mentioned. Similar support was cited on the part of others who were unable to attend.

The Minister of Works thanked the delegation for its representations, and intimated an early answer might be expected from the Government in regard to the proposed Victoria institution.

At the last session of the Legislature a sum of \$100,000 was placed in the estimates, as part of a \$500,000 loan bill, for acquisition of a site and a start on actual construction this year.

PLANS SKETCHED

Rough sketch plans, prepared by the Department of Public Works, have recently been shown to members of the Victoria Bar Association and the judiciary. Alternative plans were prepared, one to fit a building such as would be possible at the old cathedral site, and another set of a different type of building, which would require more ground than available at the Burdett location.

While members of the Government declared yesterday no decision had yet been reached as to the site to be selected, it is understood alternative sites under consideration may involve the old cathedral property, and the Government Street property acquired by the Government last year, when considerable frontages on Government and Superior Streets were acquired for future development in connection with Parliament Square.

Vancouver
Province
May 6, 1931

BEER BY PHONE PROPOSAL IS OPPOSED

Presbytery Goes on Record
As Condemning Scheme to
Fill Orders.

SENDS RESOLUTION TO LIQUOR BOARD

Report Reveals Staff of Home
Missions Board Takes
Salary Cut.

Vigorous opposition to proposal of the Provincial Government Liquor Control Board to deliver beer to residences on telephone orders was voiced at Tuesday's meeting of Vancouver Presbytery of the United Church of Canada. A resolution placing the meeting on record as unanimously opposed to the suggestion was passed.

Following is the text of the resolution: "Whereas it is reported that the Liquor Board is contemplating plans for delivery of beer to Vancouver householders, instead of forcing purchasers to carry the beer home; that the present arrangement by which all purchases must be made in liquor stores is highly inconvenient and that the board is endeavoring to have the system changed so that delivery might be made at the home on telephone order,

Therefore be it resolved that the attention of the Liquor Board, Provincial Government and the public be called to the following:

STATISTICS RECORDED.

"1. That beer saloons were introduced in 1925 on the plea that people were drinking too much hard liquor, and beer by the glass would remedy this; results have been not only an enormous increase in beer drinking, but increases in consumption of hard liquor each year as follows: \$577,728; \$653,376; \$687,310; \$692,926; increases in convictions for drunkenness also followed, for example, in Vancouver from 704 to 1310, 1359, 1666 and 1966.

"2. Statistics in other parts of the world show that an increase in beer consumption never seriously reduces consumption of spirits, but even if this were true, it is not desirable to encourage beer as a substitute for spirits, because beer, it is shown, is responsible for a great part of alcoholism from which European nations suffer.

"3. We would protest in the most vigorous manner against the proposal of the board, in that it will make liquor more readily accessible to homes of the people, increase drinking, drunkenness and waste, be a bad influence on lives of the young and seriously assist in disruption of family life."

HOME MISSIONS REPORT.

Rev. E. D. Braden, recently returned from Toronto, presented a report of the meeting of the Board of Home Missions. Officials of the board, he stated, had voluntarily offered to take a 5 per cent. reduction in salaries in order to assist the work throughout Canada. The office staff, on hearing of this offer, made the same proposal regarding their own salaries, and superintendents of missions also expressed willingness to return the 5 per cent. to headquarters. Other adjustments were made in order that the full mission work of the church might be carried out. The report was received with gratification.

W. Murray Cameron, B.A., and Adam Orisp, recent graduates of Union Theological College, were licensed by the Presbytery to preach and recommended for ordination by the forthcoming annual conference.

Rev. R. B. Y. Scott, Ph.D., professor of Union College, who has received a call to Montreal, asked for his transfer to the Eastern Conference. This was recommended with regret and a suitable resolution will be spread upon the minutes. Call to Rev. W. Deane, B.A., to South Arm-Steverson field was sus-

A P R

1931

Wednesday, April 1, 1931.

Vancouver Officials Refused Seats in House

MAYOR L. D. TAYLOR AND SOLICITOR SAY CITIZENS INSULTED

Ancient Privilege Accorded Representatives of Mainland
Centre Suspended by Mr. Speaker Davie—Refused
Admittance at Chamber Door—Indignant
Protest Made by Chief Magistrate

Claims Action Is Resented as Direct Affront to Vancouver

THAT the privilege of seats on the floor of the Legislature for him and the city solicitor of Vancouver was canceled yesterday by Mr. Speaker Davie, was the declaration of Mayor Louis D. Taylor, of Vancouver, following an altercation on the subject between him and Hon. C. F. Davie.

The incident created intense excitement in the corridors of the Parliament Building and among members when it became known that the privilege extended for many years to the official representatives of British Columbia's largest city had been temporarily suspended.

MAYOR'S STORY

The story of the affair as told last night by Mayor Taylor was that he went to enter the House as had been his usual custom, but was told by the door attendant that there was no ticket for him. On asking the reason he was referred to the secretary to Mr. Speaker.

The secretary told him that all the seats were occupied and referred him to Mr. Speaker. By this time the mayor was indignant, and he expressed himself to Mr. Davie in strong terms against what he considered to be an insult, not to himself personally, but to the office that he occupied.

The Speaker thereupon stated the mayor, said that he would not issue tickets, and His Worship retorted that the citizens of Vancouver would be told of the insult that had been given to their mayor.

His Worship declared he would never again enter the privileged gallery as long as Mr. Davie was Speaker.

SOLICITOR REFUSED

In the meantime Mr. Williams, knowing nothing of what had happened to the mayor, sought to go into the Chamber to watch proceedings in connection with the Milk Control Bill. He, too, was stopped at the door and was referred to Mr. Speaker's secretary, who told him that he only knew that there was no place on the floor for Vancouver's official representatives.

Mr. Williams went in search of the Speaker, and encountered him in the corridor.

He was advised, it is stated, that Mr. Speaker had canceled the privilege for the mayor and city solicitor and had given the seats to personal friends of his own.

"What!" exclaimed Mr. Williams. "And you knew that we were directly interested in the milk bill!"

"They are gone and I can't help it now," Mr. Speaker replied.

INSULT TO CITY

"I take it as an insult, not to myself, but to the mayor and city solicitor of Vancouver in their official capacities, and as a direct insult to every citizen of Vancouver. This is the accumulative event of many setbacks that we have had ever since we have been down here," replied Mr. Williams as Mr. Speaker walked away.

Later an effort was made by members to get the mayor and city solicitor to confer with Mr. Speaker Davie in his rooms, but they indignantly refused, declaring that they did not intend to ask favors for that which, ever since Vancouver was given a special charter, had been a recognized privilege for the city's official representatives.

"I have been accustomed to personal rebuffs," commented Mayor Taylor later. "I can take an insult to myself as well as any man, but I do object to such an insult being directed against the offices that, on behalf of the citizens of Vancouver, Mr. Williams and I occupy. As mayor and as city solicitor we were here on behalf of the people of Vancouver—not in our private capacities—and the numerous demeaning incidents and slights that we have endured during this session are insults to the citizenry of Vancouver as a whole. L. D. Taylor, as a private citizen, is entitled to no more consideration than is any other citizen of British Columbia, but the mayor of the city of Vancouver, and the city solicitor for Vancouver, are entitled to respect as representing nearly one-half of the population of this province.

"I cannot but feel that if we had refused to do what was our duty, and carry out the expressed wish of the City Council in opposing the milk control, that we might have been accorded greater courtesy. We have consistently refused, however, to abate our opposition to what we believe to be an imposition upon the rights of the citizens of Vancouver."

Report not Ready—No report will be presented by the state health commission at this session, it was stated yesterday by its chairman, Mr. Speaker Davie. The death of the late Charles H. Gibbons had taken place at a time when the work of the commission was not entirely finished, and much remained to be done before the report to be presented could be finally drafted. The report would be made in the course of a few months to the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Davie stated.

Changes in Milk Bill Effect Compromise; Final Reading Today

House Is Assured Committee of Direction Will Test
Amended Measure in Courts—Attorney-General
Says Alterations Are Not Ultra Vires

COMPROMISE settled the much-disputed Dairy Control Bill before the Legislature last evening, the final draft of the Berry bill to amend the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act being completed in committee after a half-hour discussion, in which opponents and proponents of the measure agreed to last-minute changes in the bill.

Two assurances were given to the House during the course of the discussion. The first, by J. W. Berry (Conservative), Delta, was to the effect that it was the intention of the committee of direction to seek early opportunity to test the dairy products legislation in the highest court of the land, for which reference the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association stood ready to pay.

NOT ULTRA VIRES

The second assurance was one given formally by Attorney-General Pooley, who said that the Berry bill as now before the House contained nothing that was ultra vires of the powers of the province. The original draft of the bill had contained two sections which would have been ultra vires, but these, he said, had been removed. Mr. Pooley did not extend his remarks to include the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act, which now stands on the statute books.

Effectuated as the result of a compromise during the supper recess, final changes in the Berry dairy bill included elimination of that portion which would have made distributors responsible for the deduction from producers' accounts and levy payable to the committee of direction. On this provision H. D. Twigg declared himself as being adamant, and said he would fight it to the end.

NO EXTENSION OF CONTROL

Another change was the insertion of additional words in a section dealing with the right of the committee to inspect the books and accounts of dairy farmers and distributors, limiting that power to inspection of documents "within the district within which the committee operates." This and other changes, it was stated, assured that there would be no extension of the control exercised by the committee of direction beyond the confines of what is known as the T.B. free area of the Fraser Valley, unless new control districts are set up by the vote of dairy farmers of other areas.

Worn out by discussion of the subject that raged during the last three weeks before the committee on agriculture, and since Thursday last in the House itself, the Legislature agreed to the compromise without argument, passing the sections of the amended draft in committee. Third reading and final approval of the Berry bill is expected to follow this morning.

STRENGTH SHOWN EARLY

Committee consideration of the new bill presented by J. W. Berry (Conservative), Delta, to amend the Dairy Sales Adjustment Act, early showed the strength of the House on the measure, when Section 3 in the bill, one of the most bitterly protested clauses, carried 22 to 9 on a show of hands, without division.

For two hours in the morning the Legislature debated the bill, Messrs. Shelly, Twigg, Cornett, Loutet, Dick, Kirk, and Rutledge fighting stage by stage against the measure, and Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, Minister of Education, and Mr. Berry defending the bill.

The protested part of Section 3 was a definition in the following terms: "The standard price of milk means the average price paid from time to time by retail purchasers for standard milk containing 3.25 per cent butterfat, less a spread covering distributors' costs of distribution and a reasonable profit to distributors, which spread shall be determined by the committee."

A hard drive was set up against this section on three grounds, opponents of the measure saying any attempt at fixing a standard, or mention of a standard price was dangerous for the public, while the choice of what was to be a reasonable profit and the determination of the "spread" were very wide powers to leave in the hands of the committee of control.

Hon. W. C. Shelly declared the clause was a very dangerous one. The Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association held six shares out of twenty-five in the milk merger, and could at best obtain only one-third of the voting control of that organization, the Associated Dairies, Ltd. The act had been put forward as one to help farmers in the Fraser Valley, but, unless he were mistaken, the farmers would live to regret this form of protection, he averred.

ALTERED WORDING ONLY

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe defended the clause. The original act, he said, had the same provision, and the amendment merely altered the wording to deal with the question of a price standard on which producers would settle as between themselves. There was no suggestion, said the Minister of Education, that the clause would ever lead to a setting of the price the consumer was to pay.

It was a plausible explanation, J. A. Loutet (Conservative), North Vancouver, commented, but a minor change, as this was represented to be, did not change an entire law, which was a bad law, and should not have been passed in the first place.

W. R. Rutledge (Conservative), Burnaby, called attention to the fact that the term "reasonable profit" was a matter that no two men would would ever agree upon.

It was easy to compute a reasonable profit in Vancouver, commented Mr. Berry, the father of the bill. The standard price to dairies, he said, was 73 cents a pound butterfat, and the prevailing price to consumers was nine quarts for a dollar. With distribution costs counted, what was a reasonable profit could be ascertained, he said.

Would reasonable profit be that sum which was required to pay 7 per cent on the preferred stock of the Associated Dairies, and other shares up to some \$2,000,000, Mr. Loutet inquired.

The committee of direction had nothing whatever to do with the setting of prices or the selling of milk, Mr. Berry asserted, but was concerned only with the settlement between producer and distributor.

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bill would give the committee of direction power to determine the profit and the spread, Mr. Twigg retorted. There appeared to be every concrete provision in the bill so that a large corporation could assume economic control of the entire milk situation in the district covered by the act, he declared. He would not say this was the intent of such a corporation, or of the sponsors of the bill, but the authority would be there, nevertheless.

The standard price was not the price at which milk would be sold, but the value that distributors would set on the milk as a fair and reasonable figure on which to base an agreement to divide their own profits and losses, Mr. Hinchliffe explained at another point.

It was worth noting that in the bill no provision was made to have the actual producers take part in the determination of this standard price, Mr. Rutledge commented. The bill, he said, left it expressly to the committee of direction to determine the profit and the spread.

If the distributors fixed a price for themselves, a price could also be fixed for the public, Mr. Twigg declared.

Mr. Dick—What about the man who does not want to sell his milk this way. Does he get away from the imposition of a levy?

Mr. Berry—Certainly not.

Mr. Dick—Well, I submit that would be an intolerable situation. We would have the little man swallowed up. The whole thing is not understandable, and in my opinion it will create a situation that will wreck the Government.

WOULD RUE THE DAY

A definite attempt was being made to push the dairy bill through at the close of the session, without proper opportunity to members of the House to study either what was proposed or what the effect of the passage of such a law would be. Mr. Shelly stated. He had had, he said, a very wide experience in the distribution of bread, and was of the opinion that powers asked of the Legislature, and by a private member, were so wide that the very people they were designed to benefit, the farmers, would live to rue the day such a bill became law, he declared.

Mr. Kirk—This type of legislation should not come before us in this way, and the sooner the Government of the day wakes up to that fact the better it will be for everyone. It is the bounden duty of the Legislature and the Government to protect the interests of the public, and not one small section only.

Mr. Dick—I will ask the member for Delta if he has any personal interests in the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association?

Mr. Berry—I am a member of the Fraser Valley Association, one of three thousand others, with an ordinary contract, and that amount of stock which is based on production contributed to the association, in the same manner as anyone else.

Mr. Dick—Well, I will suggest that anyone with a personal interest should not vote on this question.

Mr. Twigg and Mr. Cornett rose to defend Mr. Berry in that, they said, it was not asserted that he had any personal interest in the matter by way of direct return.

Mr. Shelly returned to the attack by asserting that Vancouver was not satisfied with the milk it was getting, and that there was a great deal too few consumption in the city, at the rate of 9 ounces per capita. The milk was a manufactured product, homogenized, separated, and children would not drink it, he declared. Farmers in the Fraser Valley would one day regret the sale of their business in a deal which deprived them of the money end of the industry, which lay in distribution, he predicted.

Mr. Cornett, taking advantage of a lull in the debate, moved the committee rise without report. The motion was voted down without a division. Section 3 in the amending bill passed shortly afterwards, with 22 to 9 in favor of its terms.

SHOULD BE THROWN OUT

Mr. Kirk again called on the Government to exercise its prerogative and take a stand on the issue. The bill should be thrown out, he averred. There was no reply from the treasury benches.

Premier Tolmie, Hon. J. W. Jones, Hon. S. L. Howe, Hon. William Atkinson and Hon. N. S. Loughheed were present during the discussion, but did not speak. Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe and Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., had spoken in favor of the passage of the amending bill.

Mr. Hinchliffe said he based his support on the fact that the amendments would make the existing act "easier" and less severe. Mr. Maitland took the ground that the act had been passed by the same Legislature, and, if this type of law would not work, it would demonstrate that fact if left to do so.

There was no possibility of any combine controlling the milk supply of Vancouver Island, Mr. Hinchliffe said, in conclusion. The facts were, he said, that under the existing law Vancouver Island milk could be made to pay tribute on entering the Vancouver market. If the amending bill passed, it could not, he asserted.

Mr. Berry agreed this was the case. Only the T.B. free area of the Fraser Valley would be under the committee of control, the member for Delta declared.

After some further discussion, which broke no new ground, the committee adjourned, reporting progress on the bill.

A compromise move was suggested at the afternoon sitting, when it became apparent proponents and opponents of the Dairy Bill would be long in reaching any form of agreement as to what the actual wording of the bill implied.

Hon. W. C. Shelly, T. H. Kirk and J. A. Loutet, Vancouver and district members, renewed their objections to the passage of the amending bill. Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, Hon. R. L. Maitland, K.C., and J. W. Berry, the member for Delta,

who sponsored the bill, renewed their support of the measure. Nine of the eleven sections of the bill were approved in committee, but Section 7, dealing with the powers and rights of the control committee, remained the bone of contention.

After an hour's discussion, the debate was adjourned in committee, to be resumed at the evening sitting.

SURVIVORS OF WAR TO VOTE

Franchise Extended to B.C. Japanese Who Served With Canadians

Seventy survivors of a band of 250 Japanese who served in Canadian forces overseas in the Great War will be given, for life, the right to vote at provincial elections in British Columbia. The Legislature decided this yesterday on a division of 19 to 18.

Messrs. Loutet, Uphill, Pearson, Gillis, Dick, Wrinch, Sutherland, Pattullo, A. M. Manson, Heggie, Spencer, Walkem, Twigg, Macintosh, MacNaughton, M. Manson, Schofield, Beatty and Bruhn voted in favor of granting the ballot, as a gift in recognition of unusual bravery shown overseas, to survivors of the party who lost fifty-four killed and had over seventy wounded during their period on service.

Messrs. Carson, Rutledge, Fitzsimmons, Hanna, Kingston, Berry, Kirk, Hayward, Maitland, Howe, Jones, Premier Tolmie, Pooley, Hinchliffe, Michell, Cornett, Atkinson and Loughheed voted against the issue.

The Provincial Elections Act, in which the provision was made, received final reading. It debars Doukhobors from voting in British Columbia, irrespective of naturalization, and extends by thirty days the time of registration in years when an election is to be held.

PARTY GOVERNMENT

Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. Guppy, in today's issue, puts up such an amazingly logical defence of the party system, that it is perhaps very presumptuous to dispute his reasoning. However, as the cap he alluringly holds out undoubtedly fits, what he certainly must think, my very fat head, I feel that it is up to me to point out one or two things which even he, in his vastly superior discernment, has apparently missed.

Firstly, he claims that the Conservatives have, in bringing down the super-tax, faced the facts. May I be permitted to ask, what facts? It is of course obvious even to a person of my limited intelligence, that they, as a government, needed the money, and having milked every other cow dry, they had perforce to fall back on the working variety of that long-suffering animal. Where, I venture (very timidly) to take issue with your emphatic correspondent, is why they need the money, and for what purposes will it be used.

And I (even more timidly) venture to state that the component answers to these two questions are the real reasons for the astonishing lack of faith in the party system. I suggest (in all humility) that such extravagances as the payment of \$25,000 to Mr. Davidson, \$4,300 per year to Fred Mr. Fauline, \$3,000 traveling expenses to energetic Mr. Borden, and other items like these, too numerous to crowd your valuable space, are the actual reasons which govern the necessity (from the party point of view) of obtaining the money to carry on. I suggest, also, that the payment of these large sums, and the other numerous and equally large salaries (a portion of which, I understand, has to be refunded to the party treasure chest), is the ultimate destination of the moneys collected in taxes. In other words, taxation nowadays is entirely in the interests of the governors and not in that of the governed.

Although Mr. Guppy stated in the beginning of his letter that it was in defence of the party system as a whole, he seems very critical of any other party but his own. Personally, I fail to see any vast difference between any of them, although I do contend that the actions of our present Government have considerably strengthened that contention. Also I think, in view of the Milk Control Act just passed, Mr. Guppy will have to resort to his labels, for one has not even to go outside the House to find people who stamp that act with the stigma of Sovietism. With all his great knowledge, Mr. Guppy has evidently not much of Communism. If he had he would realize that in trying to abolish the party system I am engaged in a battle to prevent a victory for this terrible disease; how terrible, no one (not even Mr. Guppy, who has not lived under its domination) can realize. Any system which puts a stranglehold on private enterprise is a cancer on the body of humanity. And it is a matter of unimportance whether the label of that system is red, green or yellow. The only colors that matter to me are the red, white and blue, and the only label I care a fig about is the Union Jack. Both the label and the colors are endangered by the growth of the party cancer.

Mr. Guppy's faith is so amazingly simple, his argument so definite, that I am almost inclined to think he has set a trap for me. If that is so, I will walk right into it. No confinement could be worse than imprisonment of conscience, which is the corollary of a party mind.

T. GUY SHEPPARD.

1130 Summit Avenue, Victoria, B.C., March 31, 1931.

WOBBLING CONSCIENCES

Sir,—You are disappointed, sir, and so are thousands of others, who, like myself, are not so well qualified to comment on the sorry spectacle the Legislature generally has disclosed during the session now nearing its close. For six weeks, or thereabouts, we have been treated to more or less puerile and childish squabbling, and to what end? That more laws and amendments to existing legislation be placed on record, not for the welfare of the general inhabitants of the province, but apparently to occupy the time and attention of men who are in the pay of the taxpayer and are supposed to conduct the business of the province with some intelligence and discretion. Instead, what do we find in these so-called times of depression and economy? That \$3,150 is paid for a carpet; that a pension of \$12 per diem is granted to one who has had a good salary for years and should have made (and no doubt has made), provision for comfort in age; that \$25,000 is ready to be handed to a former-

employee; that \$15,000 to one and \$7,500 each to two others who constitute the Liquor Board is paid; that various other appointments have been made and offices created, thus adding extra weight to the already overburdened province. All these things and many others may not have violated the legislative conscience, as such, but they have utterly disgusted a good many who expected better things, and have shown that party government has outlived its usefulness, if it ever had any.

You talk of ethics and principles, sir. Are there any left in the Legislative Assembly? Could not both be summed up in the creed of "What is there in it for me," a native expression, by the way. I have been in this province over twenty years and during the whole time there has been but one principle guiding or subverting the Legislative Assembly, that of "expediency." The various officials have increased beyond all reason, and the expense of maintaining such an army has caused borrowing upon borrowing, loan after loan, until the taxpayer cannot tell if he can call his soul his own without a permit.

I would suggest, sir, that if, and when, a chair of home economics be instituted in the University of British Columbia that the Cabinet of ministers be the first class to sit at the feet of the two professors to be appointed, so that the meaning of the more homely word, "economy," be thoroughly inculcated into their minds. In conclusion, the powers that be should take warning. The writing on the wall is as applicable now as of old—particularly to party government for party benefit.

H. H. GRIST.

3010 Dysart Road, Saanich, B.C., March 30, 1931.

Legislators Will End Labors at Morning Session

THE third session of the seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia, which started on February 11 last, will be prorogued by His Honor the Administrator, Chief Justice J. A. Macdonald, this morning. The Legislature will convene for the final sitting of this session at 10 o'clock, to consider final reading of the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act amendments. Chief Justice Macdonald will arrive at the Legislative Chamber at 10:30 o'clock, to give his assent to the passage of public and private bills approved by the Legislature during its session. Prorogation will follow.

SUPPLY ACT FOR YEAR IS PASSED

Ten Bills Approved in Two
Sessions—Others Are
Withdrawn

Voting supply to His Majesty, the Legislature cleaned up all but two bills on its order paper at the afternoon sitting yesterday, leaving for its third sitting of the day closing argument in the dairy bill issue and minor amendments to the Stock Brands Act. Hon. J. W. Jones, Minister of Finance, came in for hearty applause, as the Supply Act, 1931, passed its third reading, approving his first budget, which provides \$28,000,000, in round figures, for the next fiscal year.

Supplementary estimates, occasioned by unforeseen expense in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1931, were ratified at \$892,360; including \$350,000 as the Government's share of a deficit in the forest protection fund special levy; \$20,000 overspent by the Provincial Police, chiefly in meeting the heavy cost of Doukhobor uprisings last year; \$100,000 for unemployment relief prior to the operation of the Federal scheme and smaller votes not otherwise provided for in estimates of a year ago.

P.G.E. DEFICITS

In connection with the accounts of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Premier Tolmie showed that the deficits on the Government road had been cut from between \$132,000 and \$200,000 a year under the former administration to \$55,000 in the first year of the Government's rule. The operating deficit would have been wiped out last year but for a drop in revenues approximating \$81,000, and which was fully absorbed in an operating deficit that was \$27 smaller than the year before, due to savings effected in operating costs.

Ten bills became acts waiting royal assent as a result of morning and afternoon sittings of the Legislature. In addition to the Supply Act, 1931, final reading was given to a number of amending measures.

OTHER BILLS APPROVED

These included bills respecting the Mothers' Pension Act, the University Act, an indemnity measure in connection with the winding up of the Produce Marketing Act, the Vancouver Incorporation Act, the Motor Vehicles Act, the Public Schools Act, the Government Liquor

Control Act, validation of the Dominion - Provincial unemployment agreements of 1930-1931, and the Hairdressers' Act.

With the exception of the dairy bill, in which the House divided along nonparty lines, the Opposition throughout the day displayed a willingness to speed the close of the session. Favoring motions by Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Minister of Mines, to place representations before the Dominion authorities as to the effect in British Columbia of the importation of fuel oil, and the low price of silver, the Legislature agreed to the withdrawal of other motions on the order paper.

MILK LEGISLATION

The monopoly put into the hands of the Milk Adjustment Committee of the Fraser Valley has been strengthened and consolidated by the amendment to the Dairy Sales Adjustment Act, which was passed by the Legislature. The extent to which this monopoly is operating as a combine is to be investigated by Ottawa. It is conceivable also that the Governor-General-in-Council will disallow the legislation passed in this respect by the Provincial Legislature on the ground that it contains provisions that are ultra vires of the province. In the meantime no legislation which came before the session now concluding aroused more public interest and more popular hostility. There is hardly a shadow of a doubt that one or more test cases will come before the court to determine the competency of the legislation, which in its implication is in restraint of trade and commerce.

The Bill amending the Dairy Sales Adjustment Act was drawn up within a few hours of a ruling by the Speaker that, as originally drafted, it was an infringement on the prerogative of the Crown. Some provisions were eliminated. The principle that was sought to be applied, namely, that of compulsion, remains, and that is the principle which is objected to by the people. It is the keynote of this legislation, the right of a bureaucracy to control matters which are essentially the concern of the Government itself acting as trustee for the people's rights. Speakers on the Government side of the House, who made the passage of this legislation possible, failed to show why the administration should delegate to a bureaucracy powers which are inherent in the constitution. Only one member of the Government, Mr. W. C. Shelly, voted against the measure.

The members of the Legislature who could not see their way to support the amendment to the Dairy Sales Adjustment Act were: Messrs. Shelly, Loutet, Rutledge, Hanna, Dick, Kirk, Kergin, Alward, Heggie, Walkem, Twigg, Hayward, Macintosh, Michell and Cornett. They suffered defeat in the House, but a moral victory is theirs because they have public opinion on their side. In truth, the fight against this and similar legislation has only commenced. It is a case where not the first but the last battle decides the victory.

CHAMPION OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

Mayor L. D. Taylor, of Vancouver, has been a frequent visitor to Victoria during the course of the session of the Provincial Legislature. Many Victorians who previously only knew him by reputation have met him in person and have learned to admire his qualities, his energy and his fighting characteristics. Mayor Taylor is altogether likable. He is a clear thinker, an able advocate and possesses courage that is always admirable in any public official. He knows his own mind and the mind of the people of Vancouver, as he showed in the course of his opposition to the milk legislation, which unhappily was approved during the session. His presence here so often has been for the purpose of putting on record Vancouver's official hostility to the Milk Act which was passed, supposedly for the benefit of the Fraser Valley dairymen, and which has been translated for the purpose of imposing bureaucratic control for the benefit of restricted interests.

Mayor Taylor has nothing to regret in the fight he carried on, save the fact that it was unsuccessful, and he can console himself with the knowledge that only the first round has been decided. He is on safe ground. Vancouver's City Council opposes the principle of the legislation as being subversive of public rights. That is exactly the tenor of the Speaker's ruling on the subject. Some objectionable features were withdrawn from the Bill on the basis of that ruling, but the gravamen of the charge against the principle remains, and supports to the full the original claim of Mr. Speaker Davie that it is not within the competence of the Legislature to delegate the powers of government. Mayor Taylor can continue his fight with the knowledge that nothing has happened to cause him or the Vancouver City Council to recede from the original stand. He deserves the heartiest congratulation of the public, whose rights are affected by the legislation in question, for the admirable manner in which he has championed the popular cause. Mayor Taylor is a personal asset of whom any city might be proud. He has enhanced his reputation during the course of the past few weeks.

Wednesday, April 1, 1931.

MUNICIPAL TAX RATE

Victoria has secured from the Legislature the authority to issue refunding serial bonds to the extent of \$200,000 per annum for a certain period, this policy having been determined upon to prevent any excessive increase in municipal taxation. There has been a prolonged controversy on civic financing for several weeks past and the outcome is a happy one. It would have been an unfortunate thing if at this time there had been an increase of seven or eight mills in the municipal tax rate as originally planned. Public opinion among the property owners was dead against such a proposal from the time it was broached. Public meetings were organized. Representatives of the property owners took the matter in hand and approached the City Council. The latter body finally agreed to the refunding plan, and the tax increase will now be only one or two mills.

The greatest credit for the solution that has been found belongs to Alderman W. T. Williams, who was the first member of the City Council to protest against the heavy tax increase proposed. His stand received immediate public endorsement. He persisted unvaryingly against the proposals made. He faced what appeared to be overwhelming hostility from the bulk of the

members of the City Council, being supported only by Alderman John Worthington. Then, after public meetings of property owners had been held, the members of the Real Estate Exchange and other property owners, after a good deal of consultation, in which Mr. David Leeming and Mr. James Forman were prominent, put forward the refunding plan which has now been approved by the City Council and sanctioned by the Legislature. It is a desirable outcome, for which those mainly responsible deserve praise.

AN ABLE ADVOCATE

In the exceptionally able manner in which Mayor Taylor, of Vancouver, supported the rights of the public against the interests of a small farmer group before the agricultural committee of the Legislature he was given every assistance by Mr. J. B. Williams, the city solicitor of Vancouver. The manner in which Mr. Williams had prepared the case for his City Council is deserving of commendation. The arguments he deduced showed a powerful grip of the situation. They were unanswerable in the realm of common sense.

Mr. Williams as well as Mayor Taylor knew that they were facing a wall of prejudice from the beginning, but they carried on their struggle in the face of the most insidious type of propaganda. Mr. Williams always maintained an equable temper and marshalled his arguments with the utmost skill. Both he and Mayor Taylor were outstanding figures among those giving evidence before the agricultural committee of the Legislature. They had every right to believe that their cause would triumph. Though it did not succeed for the moment it most certainly is not because Mr. Williams failed in bringing forward every possible argument on behalf of the rights of the public. The Vancouver City Council is deserving of warm congratulations on having so able a servant.

Dairy Bill Passes Third Reading and House Is Prorogued

Hon. J. A. Macdonald, Administrator, Gives Assent to Many Measures—Speaker Closes Third Session of Seventeenth Parliament of Province

THIRD session of the seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia was prorogued by Chief Justice the Hon. J. A. Macdonald, Administrator, yesterday at 10:45 a.m., after assent had been given to some seventy bills passed at the session, and supply voted to His Majesty. The last formal act of the House was to sing the National Anthem, as His Honor, preceded by his aides, left the Chamber.

Then ensued the battle of papers, sessional documents, motion papers, prints of bills and everything that could be lifted, being volleyed into the air as members broke off the restraint of labors begun on February 11.

The supply of papers running out, the members joined in singing "Loch Lomond" and "Hail, Hail the Gang's All Here," the latter with discreet modifications in deference to the public galleries. The break-up followed immediately, Up-Country members leaving for their homes.

DAIRY ACT RENEWED

The last executive act of the members by motion was the passage of the Berry Milk Bill, being the completed amendments to the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act. The bill received third reading without a division, and unanimously, as far as any audible objection was concerned.

Mr. Speaker Davie and Premier Tolmie filed out of the House to receive His Honor shortly after 10:30, returning in rear of the King's representative, who was preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms carrying the mace. Chief Justice the Hon. J. A. Macdonald took his seat in the dais and gave assent to a list of acts approved by the House. Mr. Speaker expressed the loyal devotion of the Assembly to His Majesty, and the annual Supply Act was formally placed in the hands of His Honor. In the closing

Address from the Throne, His Honor stated:

HIS HONOR'S SPEECH

"Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly:

"In closing the Third Session of the Seventeenth Parliament of the Province of British Columbia, I wish to express my appreciation of the attention which you have given to the many important questions submitted for your consideration.

"The Boiler Inspection Act has been consolidated with a view to the protection of the public and those in charge of such equipment, the efficient operation of which is so important to the public safety.

"The Jury Act has been amended in order to empower the presiding judge, in necessitous cases, to excuse a juror from attendance.

"The Mothers' Pensions Act has been amended and consolidated to meet the conditions of the present time.

"The bill intitled 'An Act Respecting the Removal of Disqualification on Account of Sex' is intended to remove certain doubts which have existed as to sex or marriage being a factor of disqualification for the holding of any civil or judicial post, or from entering any profession.

"Under the amendments to the Public Schools Act, further provision has been made in respect of public education.

"The subject of unemployment has been dealt with in a bill ratifying agreements with the Federal Government in that behalf.

"It is regretted that the world-wide depression has not ignored British Columbia in its progress, and it has been necessary, in order to meet unemployment and other unavoidable demands, to seek further sources of revenue. However, it is hoped that this necessity is of a transitory nature only.

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

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

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

DISCOURTESY FIRMLY DENIED

Mr. Speaker Davie Resents Action of Vancouver's Chief Magistrate

Straight denial that Mayor L. D. Taylor and J. B. Williams, city solicitor, Vancouver, had been refused any courtesies in connection with accommodation to witness any sittings of the Legislative Assembly, was made on the floor of the Legislature yesterday by Mr. Speaker Davie. Mr. Speaker read the following statement to the House:

"A statement has appeared in the press to the effect that Mayor L. D. Taylor and Mr. Williams, city solicitor of Vancouver, were refused seats on the floor of the House yesterday afternoon, and this House has a right to know what transpired in this connection and to what extent the statement is correct.

"The statement that His Worship or the city solicitor were refused seats in the sense that any privilege had been withdrawn from them can only be characterized as a deliberate untruth.

"There are a certain number of seats allocated on the floor of the House for visitors, and the whole complement of these seats was exhausted before the House resumed its afternoon sitting. I was in my office shortly after the House convened, when His Worship applied to my clerk for seats on the floor, and was told by him that all seats were taken. His Worship then, without giving me an opportunity to make an explanation or to make inquiry whether a seat could be found for him, rudely appeared at the threshold of my office door and demanded an admission card for himself, making no reference to a card for the city solicitor.

"He gave me no opportunity whatever to placate him, but, in a very excited manner, threatened to publish the matter in the Vancouver papers, and he thereupon left the office.

"I immediately dispatched my clerk to find Mr. Williams for the purpose of explaining to him that there was no intention of slighting or in any way discriminating against the Mayor or himself, and that steps would be taken as soon as possible to provide seats.

"My clerk found Mr. Williams, but for his own reasons he declined to come to my office. By this time His Worship had circulated the report in the corridors that he had been refused admission, and several members approached me about the matter. I advised them of what had transpired, and suggested to one member that he get Mr. Williams to come to my office, and to another to ask the Mayor to do likewise.

"There were no further results. I am desirous of pointing out that I have tried on all occasions to distribute seating accommodation for visitors in the fairest possible way, but that when cards for seats have been issued it is not reasonable to expect me to cancel them in order to issue them to those who may apply later.

"I have, on more than one occasion, had an extra seat placed upon the floor of the House for Mr. Williams as representing Vancouver's interests, and this without his asking for it but of my own mere motion. No doubt it would have been possible to do the same thing yesterday afternoon, but honorable members can readily appreciate that the excited conduct of His Worship did not assist him and, in fact, made it impossible to help him," the statement concluded.

When questioned yesterday afternoon regarding the statement made in the Legislature by Mr. Speaker Davie concerning the incident of the previous day, J. B. Williams, city solicitor for Vancouver, said:

"As The Colonist pointed out yesterday morning, I was not present

when Mayor Taylor and Mr. Speaker Davie discussed the matter, but in so far as I personally was concerned, the report given by The Colonist was correct."

A P R

1931

—the bills passed through final readings, the long arguments on road building, the resolutions withdrawn and all the other loose ends of a dying session nearly dead. Besides, what we are interested in almost exclusively, since they had produced the only worth while human contest of the session were fruit and milk. And what happened to fruit and milk was plenty.

TO BEGIN at the beginning, if there is any beginning to this curious story, we met on Monday with the distinct understanding that the fruit and milk bills would be reintroduced, after being heaved overboard Saturday on points of order. They would be reintroduced, if not with the government's blessing, with its consent, and decided on their merits. This seemed a fair arrangement. But no sooner had the fruit bill been reintroduced in the afternoon than we realized that something had gone wrong somewhere. Mr. Speaker, as he was bound to do, renewed his objection that the fruit bill was beyond the right of a private member to introduce. The Premier promptly said the government had no objection to it. This, we thought, would be enough. Instead, Mr. Speaker said the government could not say merely that it had no objection; it must say it consented to the bill if it was to proceed. The government said nothing. Mr. Speaker went to lunch to ponder the matter further.

THIS THREW us into wild excitement. The lobbies stirred and heaved exactly like an ants' nest which you have kicked with your foot. Men who wanted the fruit bill met in odd corners to lament and threaten. Men who didn't want the fruit bill howled with delight. The victors sent telegrams of congratulation to their constituents. The vanquished prepared to tell their constituents all about the victors.

THE POINT at issue seemed simple yet curiously complicated. We were told that if the Premier "consented" to the fruit bill it could go ahead, whereas he had only agreed not to object to it. To laymen the phrases seemed similar, but to authorities on rules there was an ocean of difference between them. We expected, however, the Premier would consent at last and all would be well. But, alas for our poor mortal figuring, the gods of politics had decided otherwise. Just as we were going to dinner, Mr. Speaker announced that no matter what the Premier said, whether he consented or agreed not to object, the fruit bill was out of order anyway.

THE HOUSE was stunned into silence for a moment and then Colonel Lister, father of the doomed legislation, appealed the Speaker's ruling. Once again, as we had done Saturday, we voted to uphold the Speaker, but by a different division, for a number of members had switched over in the interim. Colonel Lister said in his blunt soldier fashion that he was only sorry that his measure hadn't even received decent burial from the Speaker. Those were strong words to a Speaker and were promptly questioned. Colonel Lister stuck to his guns and repeated his regret that the fruit bill had not been allowed to come to a vote on its merits. But all the regret in the world couldn't breathe new life into the bill and it expired, while the Milk Act, purged of all blame, sailed back triumphantly into the House. And as one irreverent statesman said, we had swallowed ourselves so often it was a wonder we hadn't all died of acute indigestion. But then, we're getting toughened to these morsels by now.

BUT THIS was only the beginning. There was more masterly swallowing to follow. For no sooner had the milk bill got nicely under way in the evening than Mr. Twigg, of Victoria, threw us into confusion once more. He found, he said, that the milk bill contained some of the very evils which had caused the unhappy fruit bill to perish. The Speaker thought there might be something in Mr. Twigg's suggestion which he had overlooked and he agreed to take it under profound consideration, to do which he retired to his chambers.

WHILE THIS complicated drama was gradually working its way in great misery to a conclusion, we did many things. We even paused for an hour in the very throes of our labor to discuss the Alaska Highway. It was Mr. Maitland who got us in for this by an indiscreet remark. When Mr. Kergin suddenly advocated the Alaska Road, Mr. Maitland said it would be a good idea if Mr. Pattullo called at least one caucus this session to see if his party couldn't agree on something. Mr. Pattullo said his party saw things with such clarity that they always arrived in the end at the same place.

THIS, OF course, was enough to launch us into a full hour's talk on the Alaska Road, which no one wanted to hear about. It gave the Premier a chance to tell us all about the pet project, and Mines Minister McKenzie a chance to recount his experiences with the Alaska Highway caravan. But the most sapient observation came from Mr. Uphill, the sole and lonely labor member, who announced that his party had held a caucus and agreed unanimously to support the road, provided the government in return built a road to the Flathead Valley in his country. We became so verbose after a while that Mr. Manson announced that we would be here for several weeks. Mr. Kirk, who was presiding, grew so alarmed that he finally concluded that we had been out of order in discussing these things for the last forty minutes or so. The only trouble was that he hadn't reached this conclusion forty minutes earlier.

MEANWHILE, MR. SPEAKER was pondering, while we waited in an agony of suspense. He returned presently and ruled that Mr. Twigg was entirely wrong in every particular. Thereupon the milk bill debate was launched in real earnest. Speaker after speaker rose to defend the bill or attack it, and for three hours we could not be

sure what would happen. It was interesting, though, to see so many members urging the Milk Act amendments to strengthen a principle which they roundly condemned. On and on went the debate into the night. Even a spirited address by Mr. Kirk (with the declaration that liberty meant more to him than dollars) could not rouse us from the exhaustion of such a day. Even Mr. Uphill's breezy closing speech (in which he somehow dragged potatoes into the milk discussion and asked the Speaker to make him a present of the sacred mace which he called "that there potato masher") could alter the final verdict by one vote. All the debate could do was to put us on record for future generations.

PRECISELY AT midnight the division, one of the most vital of the session, was called and our suspense was at an end. The milk bill amendments carried twenty-one votes to fifteen and that was that. But it was by no means the end of our working day. As this was written at 1 a.m. we were ploughing through legislation at such a rate that we believed the whole order paper would be clear before morning, so that we could go home before another nightfall. Having settled milk and fruit no one had any heart for anything else and bills went through three stages at a leap, for by this time the House was determined to wind up. Once having determined that nothing, not even Mr. Pattullo or the ordinary consideration of humanity, would stop it.

MILK BILL AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE MILK legislation enacted in the session of 1929 in the interests of the dairy farmers of the Fraser Valley are now resting peacefully, for a time in any case, among the statutes of this province. They have had a dizzy ride for a month or more, and during their progress they gave to the meek and lowly, but very necessary, commodity they dealt with, a prominence in the public mind which even beer in its palmiest days never was able to achieve, although beer as a subject of controversy probably has greater staying powers. Nor has beer had a more energetic and persistent lobby from advocates and opponents than milk as it is represented by the amendments which yesterday evening were passed by the House.

The amendments which finally emerged into the daylight did not wear the same bright raiment they wore when they entered the dark and forbidding passage of legislative consideration. Here and there they have been shorn of some buttons; here and there may be seen a hole or two and a patch or two. They ran into a formidable obstacle several days ago when the Speaker rejected them on the ground that they were in conflict with the rules and practice of the House, and their supporters hastily had them altered in such a way as to remove the Speaker's objections. With these repairs they passed through the barrage raised by their opponents, who included Hon. W. C. Shelly, William Dick and Thos. Kirk—all Vancouver members—and under the frowning eye of Mayor L. D. Taylor they received the endorsement of the Legislature by a comfortable majority.

The advocates of these amendments claim that they are designed to give the milk legislation of other sessions a better chance of proving its usefulness. Opponents declare that legislation of this kind violates fundamental economic and natural laws and therefore can not be improved by any amendment. We shall not have to wait long for a decision on this conflict of view which will not lend itself to camouflage by either side. One proof will be the price and quality of milk sold by the Fraser Valley combine in Greater Vancouver. Another will be the economic condition of the producers themselves. No smoke screen will be dense enough to obscure the evidence in either case.

As a rule legislation of this kind multiplies itself. The original measure makes cracks in the economic structure which calls for fresh legislative cement, and the edifice in the long run becomes undermined by so much patching and collapses. The present milk legislation may prove an exception from this rule. We hope it will, and that it will be an effective factor in bringing prosperity to the fertile Fraser Valley and the important industry whose interests its supporters claim it will promote, without, however, penalizing the large body of consumers in Vancouver. All this will become manifest before very long, assuming the constitutionality of the measure is upheld by the courts, to which it is bound to be taken by those who oppose it.

The legislation at this stage does not directly involve producers of any other district than the Fraser Valley, and is of no immediate concern to Victoria. Other districts must vote themselves under the measure before it can be made applicable to them. Whether they will do so or not will depend upon the outcome of this striking experiment instituted by the producers of the Fraser Valley under the patronage of the provincial Legislature.

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ORIENTAL EXCLUSION

ORIENTAL IMMIGRATION IS A subject which concerns British Columbia more than any other province in the Dominion. Because of this obvious fact, coupled with other by no means unimportant considerations, it is a matter which is not easy to discuss in general terms. Hon. N. S. Loughheed urges action by the government at Ottawa to exclude all who would come to these shores from China and Japan. He is alarmed at the growth of the Oriental population in British Columbia.

Whatever may be the merits of Mr. Loughheed's argument, there is an aspect of the problem which should not be overlooked by those who advocate steps more drastic than those which already have been taken. Only recently a large delegation of Canadian businessmen, under the auspices of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, visited Japan and China in the interest of greater trade between Canada and the Orient. Their mission was enthusiastically approved in this province. The delegates came back some time ago, pleased with the receptions they had everywhere received—and hopeful of very considerable trade expansion between this country and the two countries visited. Mr. John Imrie, who was chairman of the delegation, issued an important statement which, to all intents and purposes, was a call to Canadian producers to follow up the work of the delegation by establishing their own personal contacts, so that they might quickly obtain the business that awaits them. Subsequently Mr. Bennett sent Mr. Marler to China to endeavor to induce that country to buy Canadian wheat.

Now, Mr. Loughheed should ask himself how the merchants of China and Japan would be able to reconcile those overtures with the drastic exclusion action he wants pursued. Canada is suffering from falling sales to foreign countries. The government at Ottawa is facing a trade decline for the last twelve months of approximately \$600,000,000, something like twenty-five per cent of the Dominion's total trade for 1929.

The delegation from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce went to the Orient in the hope that its message of goodwill to the Chinese and Japanese peoples would help to promote more business, that Asia might be persuaded to take some of the goods Canada produces that, for the time being, at any rate, are not being sold in such large quantities to Occidental countries as was the case a year or so ago. If there is any disposition, therefore, to raise the Oriental exclusion cry now, it will be wise of those who raise it to bear in mind the important considerations to which we have referred, to remember that the unemployment problem—in fact our economic recovery—depends largely upon more commerce between this Dominion and the Orient.

Across The Bay

The dying session comes to life—on a diet of milk—so potent that we wonder if it is going to die at all—and ponder also on the curious adventure of a gentleman with a red tie.

By H. B. W.

THE THIRD session of the Seventeenth Parliament of British Columbia was a-dying all Tuesday, and the manner of its death, like everything else about it, was passing strange. For in death it came suddenly to life as it has never come before, not even in the first days of its youth. Never was a death so lively, so stubborn and so uncertain. The third session of the Seventeenth Parliament clung so desperately to life, indeed, that no one could be sure for a time that it would die soon enough to get us home for Easter. As this was written, however, it seemed to be breathing its last, still full of contradictions, still obsessed with points of order, still utterly oblivious to the comfort of political parties. So it appears, after all, that we shall wind up the whole thing and crown our efforts of the last two months on April 1, which seems appropriate enough.

IT WAS milk, of course, that brought about this amazing resurrection, just as everything seemed over. Primed with milk, the House seemed ready to stay here until midsummer. It was the opponents of the milk bill, of course, who developed this death-bed rejuvenation. Battered on the general principle of the bill; balked in their attempt to make the milk bill follow the fruit bill into Mr. Speaker Davie's dungeon of legislative monstrosities—outvoted from the start, this gallant little band fought on a hopeless, but magnificent fight.

IT WAS a Conservative fight entirely. The opposition had never a word to say about it. The opposition sat back and beamed at the sudden battle not only between private Conservative members, but even between Conservative cabinet ministers. As a matter of fact, the last-minute milk debate was the best thing this House has done. Up to that point not ten members knew what the milk bill was all about, and to have passed it out of hand, simply to get us home before Friday, would have been such a confession of weakness as even a dying session cannot stomach.

IT WAS too bad that it had to happen so late in the session, when everything gets lost in the rush, for the milk debate developed some of the best debating we have heard this year. On a diet of milk, the opponents of the milk bill showed themselves capable of amazing prodigies of eloquence and endurance. Mr. Shelly fearlessly broke with the whole cabinet to show that he knew more about milk than anyone suspected. Mr. Dick kept up a running fire like a machine gun. Mr. Twigg argued like an old-time parliamentarian. Mr. Rutledge defended the rights of the common people. Mr. Kirk, with flashing eye and words pouring out in a Niagara of sound, told the government hotly that it was time it took a stand on the most important issue of the session.

IT WAS easy to see, however, why the government could do nothing of the sort. Just at that moment, to be exact, Mr. Maitland was vigorously resenting the statement of his colleague, Mr. Shelly, that the House didn't know what the Milk Act meant. And while Mr. Shelly was denouncing the act Mr. Hinchliffe, sitting with Mr. Berry, was piloting it through.

THE SUPPORTERS of the Milk Act had said their say before, and knowing they had a majority of private members and cabinet ministers behind them, sat quiet, which was probably good strategy. Mr. Berry, as usual, handled the situation in able style. How he could be so gentle with so much provocation we could not understand, but it was refreshing, amid all this bitterness, to hear even his enemies pay him a warm personal tribute for his courage and good intent.

AND SO all day long the tide of battle rolled down the government benches and at lunch time we had passed but two clauses in the milk bill. We came back from lunch hungry for more milk, but there was something new, something really human and spectacular to distract our attention. The details of this event we do not know, and probably never will know, but the House had scarcely started to work again when Mayor Taylor of Vancouver hurried into the corridors, his face as red as his tie, and with him the city solicitor, Mr. Williams.

WHAT THESE gentlemen had to say was soon said and resaid in every corner of the buildings. Their story, in a word, was that Mr. Speaker Davie had refused to allow them to occupy the seats on the floor of the House which they have occupied most of the session, and these seats remained empty most of the afternoon. The Mayor (with many picturesque adjectives not within the rules of parliament) said it was an outrage, an insult to Vancouver and what-not, and with Mr. Williams and his red tie and fawn overcoat, he marched out of the buildings and over to the Empress Hotel.

IN VAIN Vancouver members sought to adjust matters. His worship and his associate said they wouldn't take all the seats on the floor of the House if they were offered on a silver platter. And the Vancouver members gnashed their teeth. No one seemed to understand the real facts of the matter. As we are bound to do, like good parliamentarians, we paid no attention whatever to the Mayor's own view that his ejection had followed his public statement condemning the handling of the milk bill and the proceedings of the House in general. Of course not. We could only assume that the Mayor, like the fruit bill and many other things, was out of order.

MEANWHILE AN indistinguishable mass of legislation had gone through final readings without a word. The opposition had long since stopped arguing, since argument was useless, and gladly helped the government whenever help was needed. Mr. Pattullo's only serious interruption was a rather stinging protest against too many points of order. If this went on much longer, he said, the House wouldn't be able to do anything, and Mr. Manson, to dramatize this protest, said he would not dare to speak on a certain bill lest he should violate the rules.

WHEN THE evening came, the unexpected happened, as we expected. The great milk battle of the morning suddenly collapsed like a pricked balloon. Apparently the opponents of the milk bill had some private reason for ceasing fire, and they certainly made the best of a hopeless case. First of all Mr. Kirk extracted from Mr. Pooley the opinion that the Milk Act amendments were legal but that the Milk Act itself was legally doubtful. Then Mr. Dick extracted from Mr.

Berry the assurance that the whole Milk Act would be tested in the highest courts this year. Confident that the Milk Act thus would be thrown out, Mr. Dick agreed that it was useless with the House against him, to go any further. And as suddenly as it started the milk fight stopped and the milk bill passed.

THUS AT half-past nine, after half an hour's work, we found ourselves with all the work of the third session of the Seventeenth Parliament finished. After hearing from the Speaker the horrible news that somebody—not honorable members, of course, but probably their friends—had been committing acts of vandalism in the library and tearing pages out of the sacred records of Parliament—we went home to bed early, for the first time in many days, so that we should be ready for the closing exercises, mental and physical, of the morrow.

HEALTH REPORT NOT READY YET

House Told Royal Commission Will Present Report to Lieutenant-Governor

The Legislature was yesterday informed by Mr. Speaker Davie that no report from the Royal Commission on Health Insurance and Maternity Benefits would be presented to the Legislature this year, the report being incomplete because of the sudden death of the late secretary, Charles H. Gibbons. When completed and fully documented the report would be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor, probably in the course of the next few months.

EVENTFUL SESSION OF B.C. LEGISLATURE ENDS

Administrator Assents To Seventy-seven Bills; House Prorogues To-day

Largest Budget in History of Province Approved; One Per Cent Tax on Wages Starting To-day, Drastic Changes in Education Policy and Bill Amending Dairy Sales Products Adjustment Act Outstanding in Business Before Legislature.

After passing seventy-seven bills with the most outstanding memory for the majority of citizens, the one which imposes a one per cent levy on wages to start to-day, April Fools Day, prorogation of one of the most eventful sessions of the British Columbia Legislature took place this morning at 10.30.

Passed through the committee stage yesterday evening, the Dairy Sales Products Adjustment Bill, the mere mention of which for days was the signal for battle, was given final reading.

There was a short recess. Then the Administrator, Chief Justice Macdonald arrived to give assent to the bills passed during the seven weeks' session and the House prorogued.

BLOODLESS BATTLE

Even before the singing of God Save the King was completed Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, in spite of his military training, was noticed preparing for the exuberant outburst that marks the closing of the Legislature.

The wad of ammunition he had prepared as the last strains of the anthem were being sung registered a direct hit on T. D. Pattullo, leader of the opposition, and then order papers, memorandums of speeches, amendments to bills and anything that could be thrown was used in a bloodless battle. A couple of wastepaper baskets were hurled in the fray and as the battle of paper waged Mr. Pattullo crossed the floor to exchange greetings with Premier Tolmie.

An old tradition was pleasantly restored when Mr. Speaker Davie with Mrs. Davie entertained in the Speaker's office and party politics were shelved as members of the government and members on both sides of the House were guests of the Speaker.

The largest budget in the history of the province, totalling more than \$29,000,000 was approved.

NEW TAXATION

New taxation estimated to yield \$2,500,000 and affecting every citizen of the province was imposed.

Drastic changes in educational policy, centralizing in the hands of Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, Minister of Education, control over every branch of education from university to common school were approved.

Reduction of thirty-five per cent in the grant for maintenance of the university means restriction of the privilege of university education for the youth of the province.

Teachers' salaries are to be fixed by those interested in the cost of education rather than in the quality of the product, under the Public Schools Act amendments.

Efforts of the fruit growers of the Okanagan to obtain a hearing by the Legislature for their central selling bill to regulate the orderly market of the province's big apple crop were tragically frustrated on technicalities by the government majority in the House.

BITTER FIGHT

Greatly abbreviated amendments to the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act backed by the co-operative milk producers of the Fraser Valley were permitted to pass after a bitterly fought struggle in which technicalities and obstruction tactics played a big part. Administration of Mothers' Pensions, always hitherto left in the hands of a board free from political influence, was transferred to the direct control of the cabinet.

ADMINISTRATOR'S ADDRESS

The address of the Administrator follows:

"In closing this third session of the seventeenth Parliament of the Province of British Columbia, I wish to express my appreciation of the attention which you have given to the many important questions submitted for your consideration.

"The 'Boiler Inspection Act' has been consolidated with a view to the protection of the public and those in charge of such equipment, the efficient operation of which is so important to the public safety.

"The 'Jury Act' has been amended in order to empower the presiding Judge, in necessitous cases, to excuse a juror from attendance.

"The 'Mothers' Pensions Act' has been amended and consolidated to meet the conditions of the present time.

"The bill intitled 'An Act respecting the Removal of Disqualifications on Account of Sex' is intended to remove certain doubts which have existed as to sex or marriage being a factor of disqualification for the holding of any civil or judicial post, or from entering any profession.

"Under the amendments to the 'Public Schools Act,' further provision has been made in respect of public education.

"The subject of unemployment has been dealt with in a bill ratifying agreements with the federal government in that behalf.

"It is regretted that the world-wide depression has not ignored British Columbia in its progress, and it has been necessary, in order to meet unemployment and other unavoidable demands, to seek further sources of revenue. However, it is hoped that this necessity is of a temporary nature only.

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES ARE FOR \$892,000

Both Party Leaders Pay Tribute to Directors of P.G.E.

Supplementary estimates of \$892,000 for various departments were voted speedily by the Legislature yesterday afternoon. T. D. Pattullo predicted this large sum of supplementaries would be nothing compared with the sum that would be required next year.

When voting railway department estimates Mr. Pattullo and Premier Tolmie disagreed as to whether the operating situation of the P.G.E. was any better than before the government changed. Mr. Pattullo said the apparent deficit was reduced now because expenses formerly shown as deficit and voted by the Legislature each year was now thrown into capital account and was not voted. Premier Tolmie denied there had been any change in book-keeping.

Both party leaders paid tribute to the voluntary work of three non-governmental directors who constitute a majority of the board.

The motion standing on the order papers in the name of A. M. Manson, K.C., calling for blueprints and further particulars of University land subdivisions was withdrawn from the Legislature by Mr. Manson yesterday after very brief discussion.

Hon. S. L. Howe said he had been accused by Mr. Manson of doing an injustice to a prominent citizen during previous reference by Mr. Manson on development of the lands. He was prepared to pass over to the member for Omineca the reasons which caused the dismissal. Mr. Manson was prepared to withdraw if he found himself in error.

Col. George Walkem remarked it had been said in debate the lots were to be cut to a forty-eight-foot frontage.

"It would be a crime to do that. They should be not less than sixty-six feet and preferably seventy-five feet," he claimed.

Mr. Manson remarked he had seen the Minister of Lands on the same point and it had not been settled. The minister had said he would hear representations.

Mr. Manson then withdrew his motion and the matter dropped.

The motion in the name of Hon. W. A. McKenzie calling upon the federal government to arrange an international conference on silver stabilization was passed without discussion.

JAPANESE WAR VETERANS VOTE

Later Decision Gives Privilege to Those Who Fought in Great War

Eighty Japanese citizens of Canada who fought in the Canadian army during the war are to be entitled to vote at provincial elections henceforth. It was decided in the Legislature yesterday.

Monday night's tie vote in committee was reversed when the amendment asked for by the Canadian Legion was introduced on third reading of the Elections Act amendments yesterday afternoon.

Justice to men who had fought for this country and a gesture of goodwill to the nation with which Canada is destined to have expanding trade relations were the arguments for the amendment. The argument against it was that it was the "thin end of the wedge."

The vote was nineteen to eighteen, the House dividing as follows:

For the amendment—Twinn, Walkem, Spencer, Heggie, Macintosh, MacNaughton, M. Manson, Schofield, Beatty, Bruhn, A. M. Manson, Pattullo, Sutherland, Winch, Dick, Gillis, Pearson, Uphill, Loutet.

Against—Tolmie, Pooley, Hinchliffe, Jones, Howe, Maitland, Lougheed, Atkinson, Cornett, Michell, Hayward, Kirk, Berry, Kingston, Carson, Rutledge, Fitzsimmons, Hanna.

This was the first time in which practically the solid cabinet has stood in the minority on a division.

\$29,158,614 SUPPLY BILL BEFORE HOUSE

Legislature Prorogues, Leaving \$41,458,000 For Government to Spend

Total amount of expenditures authorized in the supply bill which was finally introduced and passed by the Legislature yesterday, thus completing the passage of Hon. J. W. Jones's first budget, was \$29,158,614.46.

This is approximately \$1,000,000 greater than the revenue estimated by the minister.

Supplementaries of \$1,078,000 wiped out the \$8,000 surplus predicted in the budget speech.

As the last of the budget resolutions was put and adopted and the supply bill was given its third reading, T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader, drew attention to the fact that the usual government applause on such occasions was lacking.

The Legislature prorogues leaving in the possession of the government the authority to spend \$29,158,000 in the supply act; \$5,000,000 in the loan act; \$7,300,000 in unexpired balances of former loan acts, or \$41,458,000 altogether, of which \$34,158,000 is specifically earmarked for the coming twelve months.

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Dairy Bill Passes With Early Test In Courts Agreed Upon

Doubts on Legality of Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act Voiced by Attorney-General Pooley as Amending Bill Sails Smoothly Into Port When Warring Faction Compromise in View of Legal Action Promised.

With many of the contentious amendments modified in conferences with warring factions, but hostility to the bill as great as ever, the bill amending the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act passed the committee stage in the Legislature yesterday evening with little discussion, to await final reading this morning.

A repetition of the assurance of J. W. Berry, sponsor of the bill, for an early test of the act in the courts was secured by William Dick.

"If the member for Delta will assure this House the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association will take this act to the courts to see if this is good law or bad law I suggest we pass the amendments as they are," said Mr. Dick.

"I am prepared," remarked Mr. Berry, "to repeat the statement I made that the chairman of the committee of control has promised to test the act in the courts, and the Fraser Valley Milk Producers are ready to stand the cost."

"This year or next," asked Mr. Dick. "As soon as possible," replied Mr. Berry.

"Then I can't see the use of proceeding with these amendments," remarked Mr. Dick. "If the act goes out they all go out."

SOME DOUBT

Answering questions of T. A. Kirk at the evening session Mr. Pooley said there possibly was some doubt as to the validity of the original act, but he had examined the amendments in the bill before the House, and there appeared to be nothing objectionable in them. As introduced he thought the bill was ultra vires, but sections which made it so had been changed.

Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Pooley clashed when the leader of the opposition inquired why the Attorney-General had left it to such a late hour to examine the bill for its validity.

"It is the duty of the Attorney-General to examine the bills as soon as possible," Mr. Pattullo remarked.

"I don't propose my friend shall get away with that. This bill was only presented late last week. True, there have been discussions in committee, but is it the Attorney-General's duty to go around committees to see what they are discussing. I never heard such a preposterous proposal," said Mr. Pooley.

Mr. Pattullo claimed it had been before the House for weeks, and the Attorney-General was not fulfilling his duty in not considering it sooner. He claimed Mr. Pooley was merely technical when he said it had not been before the House until Wednesday last.

PROVISIONS SET UP

The dairy bill as reintroduced by Mr. Berry this week, defines milk, dairy farm and farmer, distributor, producer, vendor, skim milk, and sets up a number of provisions that were not in the original Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act. The operating part of one clause reads:

"Milk" shall mean milk or cream sold or disposed of in the form of fluid milk or cream for consumption in that form, but shall not include certified milk or preferred raw milk as defined in the standards and classifications of milk as set out in the regulations under the Milk Act."

"The standard price of milk means

the average price paid from time to time by retail purchasers of standard milk containing 3.25 per cent butter-fat, less a spread covering distributors' costs of distribution and a reasonable profit to distributors, which spread shall be determined by the committee," another clause reads.

A third section eliminates the definition of dairy-farmer in the act, and proposes new definitions of farms and farmers dealing in milk, as well as defining distributors, producer-vendors, skim milk and the standard price of skim milk, for the purposes of the committee of control.

Provision, in another clause, is made for audited returns by the committee

of direction to the Minister of Agriculture. The "spread" is defined at another point, and provision made for a continuance of the principle of levies on producers tributary to the committee of direction. The committee would have power to "ascertain by any lawful means which the committee may consider necessary or expedient, the standard price of milk, the standard price of manufactured products, and the quantity or weight of each sold or disposed of."

Any dairy farmer who feels aggrieved may appeal to the county court, another section provides. Punitive sections are also appended, providing for an offence against the act.

WANTS WAGE RATE UPHELD

George S. Pearson Warns Minister of Labor on Minimum Wage

Responding to an appeal from George S. Pearson, Liberal member for Nanaimo, Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Minister of Labor, informed the Legislature yesterday that he did not intend to allow

employers, suffering losses during the present depression, to take it out of the workers when things get better.

Mr. Pearson said the Minimum Wage Act for Men was cumbersome and did not give unorganized workers a fair chance to bring complaints. Wages were being driven down now by the depression and he urged the department to be on its guard to see that they were not kept down when business revives.

Mr. Pearson also urged that in present conditions the employment service should be out doing constructive work to distribute employment so as to give the greatest possible number the greatest possible chance to work. The offices under the present system were too passive, he believed.

Mayor Was Rude Says Speaker In Report To House

Seat Would Have Been Found for Vancouver's Chief Magistrate and City Solicitor, Says Mr. Speaker Davie; Statement That Privilege Had Been Withdrawn Described as Deliberate Untruth?

The charge made by Mayor L. D. Taylor of Vancouver that discourtesy had been shown to him and City Solicitor J. B. Williams of Vancouver by refusing them a seat in the Legislature yesterday was characterized as a deliberate untruth by Mr. Speaker Davie in presenting a statement to the Legislature on the matter this morning.

Mr. Speaker's statement indicated there had been no refusal of seats. Seats had not been reserved by the mayor and the city solicitor, and the excitable manner of the mayor as he stormed the Speaker's office demanding a card, claiming he had been insulted and threatening to publish the incident in all Vancouver newspapers prevented the Speaker from securing a seat for him. Any intention to insult the mayor of Vancouver was denied by the Speaker. On the other hand, he charged Mayor Taylor with rudely appearing on the threshold of the Speaker's office and demanding a card for himself with no reference to the city solicitor. Neither the Mayor nor the City Solicitor answered the request to visit his office, to see if seats could be secured, the Speaker said.

Mr. Speaker Davie's statement reads: "A statement has appeared in the press to the effect that Mayor L. D. Taylor and Mr. Williams, city solicitor of Vancouver, were refused seats upon the floor of the House yesterday afternoon, and this House has a right to know what transpired in this connection and to what extent this statement is correct."

"The statement that His Worship or city solicitor were refused seats, in the sense that any privilege had been withdrawn from them, can only be characterized as a deliberate untruth. (Concluded on Page 2)

NOT ENCOURAGING MORE CANNERIES

It Is Felt There Are Enough in B.C., Says Hon. S. L. Howe

It was felt by the government there were sufficient cannery licenses in British Columbia, and they would not be increased until conditions warranted, Hon. S. L. Howe stated in the Legislature yesterday. He doubted if applications for renewal of all the existing licenses would be received, and in that event it would not be desirable to grant new licenses.

The fishery policy of the department adopted last year had worked satisfactorily, he said, and the licenses were generally considered fair. There had, of course, been some objections, but he thought a sound policy had been shaped. In answer to T. D. Pattullo, leader of the opposition, he said he had received an application for a loan from the co-operative fishermen of Prince Rupert but no decision had been reached. He promised not to refuse the loan until he had consulted with Mr. Pattullo. Answering A. M. Manson, K.C., what would be done in the event of applications for renewals not being received for all of about twenty cannery licenses at the mouth of the Skeena, Mr. Howe said it was felt there were enough cannery licenses and new applications would not be encouraged.

A P R

1931

Lougheed Favors Seattle Bid For Skagit Property

By Sun Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, March 31.—The City of Seattle is negotiating with the Government to purchase the area in the Upper Skagit Valley, which would be flooded under the Seattle water-works development scheme. Hon. N. S. Lougheed, Minister of Lands, announced this morning.

"B.C. interests will not be injured by the scheme," he said.

"They will buy the land and pay taxes in the ordinary way."

"If there is any dispute about the extent of the area to be flooded, the question will go to the International Joint Waterways Commission in the ordinary way."

Speaker Again Rules Against Clauses in Produce Act

By C. NORMAN SENIOR
(Sun Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, March 31.—Once more—and this time to all appearances finally—the Tolmie Government and the Conservative members of the Legislature have decided that the principle of central selling as a means of marketing the Okanagan fruit crop shall not be discussed in the B. C. Legislature. The vote was 23 to 16.

Mr. Speaker Davis again ruled Monday afternoon that the Bill could not be presented.

Once more Col. Fred Lister appealed.

Again the Government majority sustained the Speaker's ruling.

This time the majority was slightly diminished, but Premier Tolmie and a sufficient number of his followers to settle the issue, voted against the Bill's introduction.

DECENT BURIAL REGRETTED

There was a tense moment as Col. Lister arose and said:

"I am only sorry, Mr. Speaker, that you did not give the Bill a decent burial."

"What is that?" thundered the Speaker.

Col. Lister repeated his remark.

"What do you mean, sir?" demanded the Speaker.

"I mean that it never had a chance."

"Well, that is not my fault, the House has decided," concluded the Speaker.

Bitter recriminations in the corridors were the only outlet left to the fruit men and there were plenty of them.

A. M. Manson made one little effort to save the situation.

"The Premier could still put the Bill in order by moving to suspend the rules," he suggested.

Mr. Speaker ruled the remark out of order and Premier Tolmie was on his feet in an instant moving the adjournment.

Only six Conservative members voted with Col. Lister and the opposition to give the bill a hearing.

They were Col. F. Lister, chairman of the Agricultural Committee, which labored day and night for weeks hearing the representations of the fruit industry on this question; Dr. C. H. Kingston, Grand Forks-Green-

wood, a fruit constituency; Hon. W. A. McKenzie, Hon. R. W. Bruhn and Hon. J. W. Jones, all Okanagan members; and Hon. R. L. Maitland, who has lent his assistance to the Fraser Valley Dairy industry in getting the amendments to the Dairy Sales Adjustment Act before the House.

Following is the division:

To keep the bill out of the House: Tolmie, Hinchliffe, Lougheed, Atkinson, Howe, Shelly, Cornett, Twigg, Hayward, Schofield, Walkem, Spencer, MacNaughton, Heggie, Michell, Alward, Macintosh, Kirk, Dick, Loutet, Carson, Rutledge—23.

To give the bill a hearing—Lister, Pattullo, Kingston, W. A. McKenzie, Jones, Bruhn, Maitland, A. M. Manson, Sutherland, Kern, Winch, Uplish, Hanna, Pearson, Gillis, Gray—16.

Absentees—Berry, Fitzsimmons, R. Mackenzie, MacPherson, Borden, Buckham, M. Manson, Beatty—8.

The division was the closest that Premier Tolmie has had since taking office in maintaining the official attitude of the Government.

A notable feature was the fact that after the week-end discussion making clear the power of the House to waive its own rules by over-ruling the Speaker, Messrs. Jones, Bruhn and Maitland, who voted with the Premier on the earlier division to keep the bill out, switched this time to the side of the co-operatives.

Following is the text of the Speaker's decision:

SPEAKER'S RULING

"The honorable and gallant member for Creston has asked leave to introduce an Act entitled 'An Act Respecting Fruit and Vegetable Industry and the Central Sale of Fruits and Vegetables.'"

"I have had the opportunity of perusing this bill and I find that it is, in all respects as concerns the irregularities for which I ruled out the previous Bill No. 77, the same Bill, and the question arises as to whether a Bill ruled out of order by the Speaker can be again introduced without the elimination of the objectionable matter."

"It is a well-established rule of parliamentary practice that no question or motion can regularly be offered upon which the judgment of the House has been expressed during the current session (Bourinot, 4th Ed., p. 545). Had there been no appeal to the House from my decision on Bill No. 77, it is possible that the honorable member might be entitled to ask leave to introduce his Bill, as, under these circumstances, no decision of the House would have been made."

"The circumstances are, however, that the House has upheld the decision of the Speaker that the matters ruled out of order prevent the bill from being proceeded with. It would be, therefore, in my view, an unprecedented reversal of the determination of the House should the House now permit the introduction of a bill which the House has decided is out of order."

THE MILK ACT

"In the case of Bill No. 79, 'An Act to Amend the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act,' this bill was ruled out of order on the grounds stated in my previous decision. In that case, also, the honorable member for Delta re-introduced his bill under the same title, but in his new bill there was expunged therefrom in every particular all the objectionable matter for which his original bill was ruled out of order. I think, therefore, he was entitled to bring in his new bill."

"I am unable, however, in the light of any consistency, to allow the new bill proposed by the honorable and gallant member for Creston to be introduced."

"The Crown, through the Prime Minister, has expressed its consent that the bill be introduced, reserving to itself, however, the right to object to any measures for which it might be held responsible."

AFFRONT TO HOUSE

"I am of the opinion, however, that this consent cannot now overcome the rule that a question upon which the House has expressed an opinion cannot be revived during this session. To attempt to introduce the bill with all its previous irregularities would, in my opinion, be at once an affront to the Legislature and an abuse of the rules and customs of the House."

"I therefore, must advise the House that the objection of the honorable member for Lillooet is well taken and that the bill cannot be proceeded with."

B. C. BUDGET IS FOR 29 MILLION

Supplementary Estimates Add \$1,078,000

By Sun Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, April 1.—Total amount of expenditures authorized in the Supply Bill which was finally introduced and passed by the Legislature late Tuesday, thus completing the passage of Hon. J. W. Jones' first budget, was \$29,158,614.46.

This is approximately \$1,000,000 greater than the revenue estimated by the minister, so that the budget goes through with a deficit of that amount to be made up somewhere some how.

Supplementaries of \$1,078,000 wiped out the \$8,000 surplus predicted in the budget speech.

As the last of the budget resolutions was put and adopted and the largest supply bill in the history of the Province was given its third reading, T. D. Pattullo, Opposition leader, drew attention to the fact that the usual Government applause on such occasion was lacking.

SPENDING POWERS

The Legislature prorogues leaving in the possession of the Government the authority to spend

\$29,158,000 in the Supply Act.

\$5,000,000 in the Loan Act.

\$7,300,000 in unexpended balance of former loan Acts.

Or \$41,458,000 altogether, of which \$34,158,000 is specifically earmarked for the coming 12 months.

The million dollar supplementary estimates for various departments were voted speedily. T. D. Pattullo predicted this large sum of supplementaries would be nothing compared with the sum that would be required next year.

JUGGLING CHARGED

When voting railway department estimates, Mr. Pattullo and Premier Tolmie disagreed as to whether the operating situation of the P. G. E. was any better than before the Government changed. Mr. Pattullo said the apparent deficit was reduced now because expenses formerly shown as deficit and voted by the Legislature each year were now thrown into capital account and were not voted. Premier Tolmie denied there had been any change in bookkeeping.

Both party leaders paid tribute to the voluntary work of the three non-governmental directors who constitute a majority of the Board.

WORKERS' WAGES WILL BE GUARDED

(By Sun Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 1.—Responding to an appeal from George S. Pearson, Liberal member for Nanaimo, Hon. A. W. McKenzie, Minister of Labor informed the Legislature, Tuesday, that he did not intend to allow employers, suffering losses during the present depression, to take it out of the workers' hides when things got better.

Mr. Pearson said the Minimum Wage Act for men was cumbersome and did not give unorganized workers a fair chance to bring complaints. Wages were being driven down now by the depression and he urged the department to be on its guard to see that they were not kept down when business revives.

VICTORIA, April 1.—Hon. W. A. McKenzie's motion calling upon the Federal Government to arrange an international conference on silver stabilisation was passed without discussion in the House last night.

Notable Features Of 1931 Session Of Legislature

Sun Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, April 1.—Some of the notable events of the session just ended were these:

The largest budget in the history of the province, totalling more than \$29,000,000, was approved.

New taxation estimated to yield \$2,500,000 and affecting every citizen of the province was imposed.

Drastic changes in educational policy, centralizing in the hands of Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe, Minister of Education, control over every branch of education from university to common school, were approved.

Reduction of 35 per cent in the grant for maintenance of the University, meaning restriction of the privilege of university education for the youth of the province.

Teachers' salaries are to be fixed by those interested in the cost of education rather than in the quality of the product, under the Public Schools' Act amendments.

Efforts of the fruit growers of the Okanagan to obtain a hearing by the Legislature for their Central Selling Bill to regulate the orderly marketing of the province's big apple crop were tragically frustrated on technicalities by the Government majority in the House.

Greatly abbreviated amendments to the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act, backed by the Co-operative Milk Producers of the Fraser Valley, were permitted to pass after a bitterly fought struggle in which technicalities and obstruction tactics played a big part.

Administration of mothers' pensions, always hitherto left in the hands of a board free from political influence, was transferred to the direct control of the cabinet.

It was made unlawful to damage dogwood trees.

Party Disruption in Offing, Mayor Believes

Forebodings of an early downfall for the Provincial Conservative Government were brought back from Victoria by Mayor L. D. Taylor today.

"The Government," he stated, "has done about all the damage it can do. I don't think it will be able to hold its members together much longer. The heads of the party know they can't do it."

"If the Government went to the people tomorrow, not a dozen of them would be re-elected. The only members from Vancouver who could hope for return are those who voted against the Milk Act, and even they would have trouble because of other things they have done."

His Worship, who fought a losing fight against the Milk Act and for civic taxation powers on crown lands, declared that he "is not down yet."

APPEALING TO OTTAWA

"Everything that can possibly be done to break the milk combine created by the formation of the Associated Dairies Limited will be accomplished as soon as possible," he said.

"We are sending to the Department of Labor at Ottawa a copy of the combine's registration papers to be used for an investigation under the Combines Investigation Act. The Federal Act cannot touch the Milk Act, but the Associated Dairies is the keystone of the combination."

The mayor suggested that the City of Vancouver may take powers to regulate the butter-fat content of milk sold locally.

NEW POWERS POSSIBLE

"We might even have the right to say who shall sell milk here," he said.

"In any case, we could require all milk sold to have a four per cent butter-fat content, instead of 3.25 per cent as is now required. The price might go up, but it would be better to pay more money and get good milk than continue with the milk that everybody is complaining about."

With regard to crown land taxation, Mayor Taylor announced that the Hon. R. L. Maitland has promised to take action at Ottawa when he arrives there near the end of the month. He hinted that Ottawa may reach an agreement with the city before the year is over.

TAYLOR, CLASH WITH DAVIE, PREDICTS MAY FALL

L. D.'s Complaint About Seat Called 'Untruth'

(By Sun Staff Correspondent)
VICTORIA, April 1.—Speaking from the chair of the Legislature this morning just before prorogation, Mr. Speaker Davie accused Mayor L. D. Taylor of Vancouver of uttering a deliberate untruth.

His statement was in answer to the mayor's statement that he had applied for tickets to sit on the floor of the house and Mr. Speaker Davie told him there were no more seats left.

"It is an outrage when the Mayor of Vancouver and the city solicitor who have been permitted seats on the floor all through the session should be denied the privilege on the last day when the milk bill is up," Mr. Taylor had added.

"A statement has appeared in the press," Speaker Davie replied today "to the effect that Mayor L. D. Taylor and Mr. Williams, city solicitor of Vancouver, were refused seats on the floor of the House yesterday afternoon, and this House has a right to know what transpired.

"The statement that His Worship or the city solicitor were refused seats in the sense that any privilege had been withdrawn from them can only be characterized as a deliberate untruth.

"There are a certain number of seats allocated on the floor of the House for visitors, and the whole complement of these seats was exhausted before the House resumed its afternoon sitting. After the House had convened, His Worship then, without giving me an opportunity to make enquiry whether a seat could be found for him, rudely appeared at the threshold of my office door and demanded an admission card for himself, making no reference to a card for the city solicitor.

MANNER EXCITED

"He gave me no opportunity whatever to placate him, but in a very excited manner threatened to publish the matter in the Vancouver papers, and he thereupon left the office.

"I immediately despatched my clerk to find Mr. Williams for the purpose of explaining to him that there was no intention of slighting or in any way discriminating against the Mayor or himself and that steps would be taken as soon as possible to provide seats.

"Mr. Williams declined to come to my office. Several members approached me and I suggested to one member that he get Mr. Williams to come to my office and to another to ask the Mayor to do likewise. There were no further results.

CHAIR PROVIDED

"I have on more than one occasion had an extra seat placed upon the floor of the House for Mr. Williams, as representing Vancouver's interests, and this without his asking for it, but of my own motion.

"No doubt it would have been possible to do the same thing yesterday afternoon, but honorable members can readily appreciate that the excited conduct of His Worship did not assist him and, in fact, made it impossible to help him."

B.C. Legislature Prorogues; Battle of Tories Features Final Passage of Milk Bill

Speaker's Reception Follows End of Assembly

By C. NORMAN SENIOR
Sun Staff Correspondent

VICTORIA, April 1.—Prorogation of one of the most remarkable sessions the B. C. Legislature has ever witnessed occurred at 10:30 a.m. today.

Chief Justice Macdonald, Administrator of the Province, visited the Assembly Chamber and read the formal address, thanking the members for their labors.

Singing of "God Save the King," "Auld Lang Syne" and the traditional jollification followed immediately upon His Honor's departure. In transports of delight at having concluded one of the most arduous sessions old-timers could recall, the members hurried their now useless sessional papers in the air for the traditional "snow storm."

Only two brief motions stood on the order paper. Adoption of the committee's report on the amended Dairy Sales Adjustment Bill and third reading of the same measure were moved by J. W. Berry, member for Delta.

ADMINISTRATOR'S ADDRESS

The address with which His Honor thanked the legislators for their labors began with reference to the importance of the "Boiler Inspection Act" and concluded with thanks for the supply so generously granted for the public service.

He reviewed briefly some of the legislation passed during the session and concluded in hoping that the blessing of Providence would accompany the members to their respective homes.

The administrator gave his assent to 77 acts passed by the house during the seven weeks of the session.

Following prorogation, Mr. Speaker and Mrs. C. F. Davie entertained the members and their wives at a reception in the Speaker's Chambers, the revival of an old custom which has gone into disrepute in the B. C. Legislature for many years.

There were many allusions to the fact that the Legislature adjourned on April Fool's Day. It was suggested that the joke was on the public of the Province who suffered a cut of one per cent in their wages on the very day that the House ended.

One cent of every dollar, one dollar of every hundred earned by the people of British Columbia today and for all the ensuing days until the Jones' Special Super-Tax is repealed, goes into the coffers of the Tolmie Government, under the terms of the new tax proposals put through by the budget of Hon. J. W. Jones.

Civil War in Gov't Ranks Before Feud Dropped

(By Sun Staff Correspondent)

VICTORIA, April 1.—Extraordinary scenes were witnessed in the Legislature Tuesday before somebody cracked the whip and called the milk fight off.

One cabinet minister leading a wing of government supporters spent hours doing everything possible to obstruct and block the passage of a bill championed by two other cabinet ministers.

Opposition members kept out of the fight and the two Tory wings fought and scrambled to their hearts' content.

Finally pressure was brought to bear behind the scenes and the feud was dropped. The amended amendments to the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act were still further amended and allowed to emerge from committee. The last bill of the session was ready for the King's printer and its final reading.

INTERNECINE WAR

J. W. Berry of Delta, champion of the co-operative dairy men of the Fraser Valley, managed to drag a badly mangled and mutilated bill through an unruly House in the face of bitter opposition from his own side. Liberal members fought solidly for the democratic right of the sponsors of the bill to have their measure considered, but they took little part in the Conservatives' internecine war.

This war reached such a point that Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe antagonized T. H. Kirk by calling him and his group of opponents of the bill "obstructionists."

"We are here doing our duty and fulfilling the trust we have from the people," declared Mr. Kirk heatedly. "DON'T GET FRESH"

Hon. R. L. Maitland told Jack Louet not to get "fresh" and Hon. W. C. Shelly said if there were any more such taunts to be thrown across the House he would utter a few himself.

Members took much amusement out of Mr. Shelly referring in denunciatory terms to the "milk trust" and

Hon. R. L. Maitland suggested there might be more than a coincidence in certain features of the bread business.

What had all the appearance at noon of being an all-day and all-night filibuster against the Dairy bill was smoothed over by conferences in the lobbies.

The Government, prepared for the worst, rammed all its own business through the house in the early part of the afternoon and left the arena to the milk combatants.

For an hour in the late afternoon they wrangled over technical points, opponents of the act repeating the old charges about the "combine."

TO PRIVY COUNCIL

During dinner recess there were further conferences and in the evening it was announced that a number of clarifying amendments had been agreed to. These were inserted and the fight was over. Jack Louet

said no amendments could make a bad bill a good act.

William Dick obtained from J. W. Berry an assurance that the Committee of Adjustment would test the whole act in the courts and take it to the Privy Council as soon as possible.

Attorney General Pooley assured T. H. Kirk that the actual amendments before the House were intra vires, but stated the original act in the light of the Lawson judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada was bad law. Mr. Berry said the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association was willing to pay the expense of the appeal to the Privy Council.

Mr. Louet moved a last amendment making the whole act inoperative on anybody who belonged to an association making price agreements, but like all the other direct opposition amendments it was lost.

DEFENDS STANDARD PRICE

Hon. Joshua Hinchliffe defended the definition of the standard price of milk, denying that it was a price at which milk should be sold. It was only a theoretical basis agreed upon among producers for the purposes of dividing their profits and losses on an equitable basis.

"The minister of education is very

plausible," commented Hon. W. C. Shelly, opposing the clause. "This assists in making a monopoly. I'd like to have the same privilege in the bread business. I'd sell bread cheaper until I got other people into my business, then you would certainly pay for your bread."

An extraordinary situation arose on the debate on the produce vendor clause.

T. H. Kirk and others insisted the bill was to prevent these men from carrying on their ordinary business.

"I can't say any more definitely than the words in the bill itself that this clause is here for the specific purpose of removing these people from the Act," said Mr. Berry. "If we do not pass it then these produce vendors will have to pay the levy."

"You can't get away with it," shouted Jack Louet.

"That is a threat that the law will not be obeyed," reproved Mr. Berry. "It comes in bad taste from a law-maker."

Supporters of the bill found it necessary to state over and over again that Victoria and outside areas were not being brought under the Act and could not be brought under.

H. D. Twigg said the "Octopus" could compel Victoria to come in by economic pressure.

Superannuation For Mrs. McGill Fails to Pass

VICTORIA, April 1.—Hon. R. L. Maitland successfully resisted an effort by A. M. Manson to amend the Superannuation Act to allow Mrs. Helen McGill, former juvenile court judge in Vancouver, to receive superannuation.

Owing to the manner in which her appointment terminated she was held to be technically ineligible for superannuation, although she had paid into the fund.

A retroactive amendment to wipe out this disability was defeated by the Government.



RESULTS OF THE 'SITTING'



Replies to 'L.D.'



C. F. DAVIE
Speaker of B. C. Legislature, & object
of Vancouver mayor's wrath.

NO NEW LICENSES FOR B. C. CANNERIES

By Sun Staff Correspondent
VICTORIA, April 1.—It was felt by the Government that there were sufficient cannery licenses in British Columbia and they would not be increased until conditions warranted. Hon. S. L. Howe, stated in the Legislature yesterday. He doubted if applications for renewal of all the existing licenses would be received and in that event it would not be desirable to grant new licenses.
In answer to T. D. Pattullo, leader of the opposition, he said he had received an application for a loan from the co-operative fishermen of Prince Rupert, but no decision had been reached.

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1931

MILK ACT TO BE TESTED BY PRIVY COUNCIL

Producers to Pay Cost of Expert Examination.

MEASURE GETS THIRD READING

Pooley Expresses Doubt as to Legality of Bill.

VICTORIA, April 1.—The Milk Adjustment Act will go to the Privy Council as soon as possible at the expense of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association. After a long and bitter battle, carrying the debate right to the last hours of the session, this fact came out clear when J. W. Berry, Conservative of Delta, assured the House that the act would go to the highest court.

Mr. Berry's statement followed a challenge by William Dick, Conservative of Vancouver. Mr. Dick declared that the real question at stake was not the amendments to the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act but whether it was "good law or bad law."

A last-minute compromise resulted in the amending act, patched and altered many times during the stormy weeks it has been before the members of the Legislature, reaching third reading stage. The bill had final reading this morning.

In the afternoon it looked for a time like a filibuster. A solid body of four, William Dick, T. H. Kirk, Jack Loutet and W. C. Shelly, all Conservatives of Vancouver, fought every inch of the way.

MINOR CHANGES ARE ACCEPTED.
Between the afternoon and evening sessions the opposing members came to an agreement and agreed on some minor changes.

A feature of the milk battle in its last stages was a challenge by T. D. Pattullo to Hon. R. H. Pooley, attorney-general.

The opposition leader asked why Mr. Pooley had not taken up the matter from a legal standpoint, as it was his duty.

The attorney-general declared that the whole procedure had been wrong. The act had not come before the House until last Wednesday. The same applied to the Fruit Bill.

"This procedure of having bills considered by committee before coming before the House will never be followed again while I am attorney-general," he said.

He added that the objectionable features had been taken from the amending dairy act, but there was doubt as to the legality of the act as it stood on the statutes.

As the Milk Act now stands there are few changes to its original form. A dairy farmer who feels that he has been treated unfairly in any respect is given the right to appeal to the County Court, with further appeals if necessary. Formerly the only right to appeal was on cancellation of licenses.

RESPONSIBILITY ON FARMERS.

An amendment putting the onus on the distributor to pay to the adjustment committee the amount due from a dairy farmer whose milk he handles was deleted. The responsibility for this rests with the farmer.

The committee has the right to deduct any undue monetary advantage which a producer vendor obtains by holding his skim milk and selling butter and manufactured products direct to the buyer.

Every distributor is required to make a return to the committee of all milk or manufactured products purchased from dairy farmers during the preceding month.

The committee has the right to inspect the books, accounts, records of all dairy farmers and distributors, and to require any dairy farmer who claims that he sells certified or preferred raw milk to furnish the committee with the necessary proofs.

PROROGATION BRINGS SIGH OF RELIEF

Members Shout, Sing and Shower Chamber With Papers.

TOTAL OF 77 ACTS PASSED

Many Members Expect Milk Act to Be Thrown Out By Courts.

VICTORIA, April 1.—The Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia ended the labors of its third session today with a loud sigh of relief.

As the administrator, Chief Justice Macdonald, formally closed the House, the pent-up feelings of the last seven weeks suddenly welled up in such pandemonium as the legislative chambers sees only on prorogation days. A blizzard of papers was thrown in the air. Members shouted and sang and wrung one another's hands. The Prime Minister and Opposition Leader Pattullo beamed on one another. On all sides, whatever the opinion of the session's value, there was only joy that it had ended at last, precisely seven weeks after it opened.

HOPES NEW TAX MAY BE TRANSITORY.

Hope that the extra taxation found necessary during the present session of the Legislature was of a "transitory nature only" was expressed by Chief Justice Macdonald, administrator, at the closing today.

"It is regretted that the world-wide depression has not ignored British Columbia in its progress," he said, "and it has been necessary, in order to meet unemployment and other unavoidable demands, to seek further sources of revenue. However, it is hoped that this necessity is of a transitory nature only."

The closing session today was brief and purely formal. No business remained to be done but the final passage of a few minor bills and this required only a few minutes. The administrator arrived at 10:30 and, according to the ancient custom, Major W. H. Langley, clerk of the House, read the list of bills passed during the session. To these the administrator gave formal assent and then Mr. Speaker Davie, with the customary words of loyalty and devotion to the King, presented him with the copy of the supply bill, which, technically, is the most important of the session.

ADMINISTRATOR HAS GUARD OF HONOR.

The clerk then announced that His Honor had been pleased to thank his loyal subjects, to accept their benevolence and consent to the supply bill. After the speech from the throne had been read, His Honor left with his guard of honor and the third session of the seventeenth Parliament became history.

While one of the shortest in recent years, the session was still one of the most notable.

It reshaped the taxation structure of British Columbia with a new universal income tax, various small tax increases, and a new grant of \$500,000 a year to relieve land owners.

It finally scrapped all legislation to control fruit sale in the interior of the province.

It stood by the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act in the Fraser Valley and strengthened it, but only in the expectation of many members and of the cabinet, that it would be thrown out shortly by the courts.

It passed important amendments to the Liquor Act, including a provision whereby the government may operate a brewery if this extreme measure becomes necessary to discipline the beer interests.

ROAD EXPENDITURES CUT TO \$2,000,000.

It cut down capital road expenditures to something under \$2,000,000 for the next fiscal year.

It authorized drastic decreases in expenditures in some departments, but approved a budget still the largest in the history of the province.

It inaugurated an entirely new policy of University administration with a limitation of the student body under the direction of the board of governors.

It provided for a new registration of voters in advance of any provincial election.

It reduced timber royalties to assist the lumber industry.

It revised the whole system of distributing government grants towards teachers' salaries.

It put the administration of mothers' pensions under a departmental official in place of an independent board.

It approved various bridge and tunnel plans for Vancouver and its environs, and passed important amendments to the Vancouver charter.

It provided for royal commissions to consider the future of chiropractors and drugless physicians.

It passed altogether seventy-seven acts.

IN THE LEGISLATURE

VICTORIA, April 1.—It would be a "crime" to sub-divide University endowment lands into lots of forty-eight feet frontage, stated G. A. Walkem, Conservative of Vancouver, in the Legislature Tuesday. He claimed this would destroy the possibilities of the area as a first-class residential section of the city.

A. M. Manson, K.C., Liberal of Omineca, reminded him that Hon. N. S. Loughheed, minister of lands, had given him the assurance that plans for subdivision would not be concluded without hearing full representations from parties interested.

A resolution requesting the Federal Government to consider practical measures for helping the B. C. coal industry against fuel oil importations, brought a break in Liberal ranks in the Legislature Tuesday.

On tariff grounds, both T. D. Pattullo, opposition leader, and A. M. Manson, K.C., Liberal of Omineca, objected to the resolution originally moved by G. S. Pearson, Liberal of Nanaimo, calling for a higher duty on fuel oil imports into Canada.

Protests are being made by labor men about importation of beer into British Columbia, Tom Uphill, Labor member from Fernie told the Legislature Tuesday.

They objected on the grounds that beer consumed in B. C. should be manufactured in the province to give more employment. He made a strong plea for the right of the Cold Creek Club, near Fernie, to sell beer by the glass. This right, he claimed, had been given to other clubs who needed it far less.

The government netted \$230,000 during 1930 from licenses to salmon canneries in the province. Hon. S. L. Howe, provincial secretary, declared in the Legislature Tuesday.

He explained that while the catch during the past year was unusually large, the markets had been poor. Of ninety-two canneries in the province eighty-five had taken out licenses.

Where licenses had been abandoned they would be available for other canneries, he explained. There would be no increase in the number of licenses until it was warranted.

Both Workmen's Compensation Board and Minimum Wage Act were criticized by G. S. Pearson, Liberal of Nanaimo, in the Legislature Tuesday. The wage act was "almost useless," he claimed. Aggressiveness was needed. The Compensation Board was termed too cumbersome. It was difficult, he declared, for workmen to get over their complaints effectively.

"Now is the time for the labor department to form a definite policy," he said. "Otherwise when the depression is over and we return to prosperity employers will try to keep wages down as far as possible to the level they have reached at the present time."

WILL SPEEDILY KNOW REAL MILK POSITION

Editorial Comment of Victoria Newspaper on Marketing Problem.

VICTORIA, April 1.—The Times contains the following comment on the milk legislation:

"The advocates of these amendments claim that they are designed to give the milk legislation of other sessions a better chance of proving its usefulness. Opponents declare that legislation of this kind violates fundamental economic and natural laws and therefore can not be improved by any amendment. We shall not have to wait long for a decision on this conflict of view which will not lend itself to camouflage by either side. One proof will be the price and quality of milk sold by the Fraser Valley combine in Greater Vancouver. Another will be the economic condition of the producers themselves. No smoke screen will be dense enough to obscure the evidence in either case.

"As a rule legislation of this kind multiplies itself. The original measure makes cracks in the economic structure which call for fresh legislative cement, and the edifice in the long run becomes undermined by so much patching and collapses. The present milk legislation may prove an exception from this rule. We hope it will, and that it will be an effective factor in bringing prosperity to the fertile Fraser Valley and the important industry whose interests its supporters claim it will promote, without, however, penalizing the large body of consumers in Vancouver. All this will become manifest before very long, assuming the constitutionality of the measure is upheld by the courts, to which it is bound to be taken."

B. C.'S JAPANESE VETERANS TO VOTE

Opponents Fear Demand for Further Concession to Asiatics.

VICTORIA, April 1.—Those Japanese veterans in British Columbia who fought in the Great War will be allowed to vote in provincial elections.

By a close vote of nineteen to eighteen in the Legislature Tuesday afternoon this right was granted. Up to the present B. C. has been the only province where Japanese war veterans could not vote in the provincial ballot. They have the federal franchise.

Ex-soldiers in the House all strongly backed up enfranchising the Japanese, with H. D. Twigg, Conservative of Victoria, a vigorous champion in their favor. Captain Macintosh, Col. Nelson Spencer and others all recalled their splendid war record, and pointed out that the right to vote would not apply to their descendants. They would regard it as an honor, which they richly deserved, Mr. Twigg declared.

Opponents to granting the franchise, among them most of the cabinet ministers, contended that this would only lead to a request by Orientals for further concessions, and in view of the problem in the province today it would not be wise to aggravate it by such a measure.

Others, among them Tom Uphill, Labor member of Fernie, pleaded on economic grounds as well as from a standpoint of justice that the franchise should be given.

The Log of the Capital

The Dying Session Comes to Life—On a Diet of Milk—So Potent That We Wonder if It Is Going To Die at All—And Ponder Also On the Curious Adventure of a Gentleman With a Red Tie.

By BRUCE HUTCHISON.

VICTORIA, April 1.—The third session of the Seventeenth Parliament of British Columbia was a-dying all Tuesday, and the manner of its death, like everything else about it, was passing strange. For in death it came suddenly to life as it had never come before, not even in the first days of its youth. Never was a death so lively, so stubborn and so uncertain. The third session of the Seventeenth Parliament clung so desperately to life, indeed, that no one could be sure for a time that it would die soon enough to get home for Easter. As this was written, however, it seemed to be breathing its last, still full of contradictions, still obsessed with points of order, still utterly oblivious to the comfort of political parties. So it appears, after all, that we shall wind up the whole thing and crown our efforts of the last two months on April 1, which seems appropriate enough.

It was milk, of course, that brought about this amazing resurrection, just as everything seemed over. The only thing which has ever approached milk in stimulative powers in this assembly is beer. Even beer didn't seem to breed the stamina and staying powers produced by Fraser Valley milk. Primed with milk, the House seemed ready to stay here until midsummer.

It was the opponents of the Milk Bill, of course, who developed this death-bed rejuvenation. Beaten on the general principle of the bill, balked in their attempt to make the Milk Bill follow the Fruit Bill into Mr. Speaker Davies' dungeon of legislative monotony, outwitted from the start, this gallant little band fought on—a hopeless but magnificent fight.

It was a Conservative fight entirely. The opposition had never a word to say about it. The opposition sat back and beamed at the sudden battle not only between private Conservative members, but even between Conservative cabinet ministers. Mr. Manson indicated clearly, in fact, that he was disgusted with all this delay and all this speechmaking, which, to anyone who has listened to him this session, was exquisite.

As a matter of fact, the last-minute milk debate was the best thing this House has done. Up to that point not ten members knew what the Milk Bill was all about, and to have passed it out of hand, simply to get us home before Friday, would have been such a confession of weakness as even a dying session can not stomach.

A CURIOUS LINEUP OCCURS.

It was too bad that it had to happen so late in the session, when everything gets lost in the rush, for the milk debate developed some of the best debating we have heard this year. On a diet of milk, the opponents of the Milk Bill showed themselves capable of amazing prodigies of eloquence and endurance. Mr. Shelly fearlessly broke with the whole cabinet to show that he knew more about milk than anyone suspected. Mr. Dick kept up a running fire like a machine-gun. Mr. Twigg of Victoria argued like an old-time parliamentarian. Mr. Rutledge defended the rights of the common people. Mr. Louet moved cogent amendments. Mr. Kirk, with flashing eye and words pouring out in a Niagara of sound, told the government hotly that it was time it took a stand on the most important issue of the session.

It was easy to see, however, why the government could do nothing of the sort. Just at that moment, to be exact, Mr. Maitland was vigorously resenting the statement of his colleague, Mr. Shelly, that the House didn't know what the Milk Act meant. And while Mr. Shelly was denouncing the act, Mr. Hinchliffe was sitting with Mr. Berry and piloting it through.

The supporters of the Milk Act had said their say before and, knowing they had a majority of private members and cabinet ministers behind them, sat quiet, which was probably good strategy. Mr. Berry, as usual, handled the situation in able and most moderate style. Now he could be so gentle with so much provocation we could not understand, but it was refreshing, amid all this bitterness, to hear even his enemies pay him a warm personal tribute for his courage and good intent.

A GENTLEMAN LEAVES THE HOUSE.

And so all morning long the tide of battle rolled down the government benches, and at lunch time we had passed but two clauses in the Milk Bill. We came back from lunch hungry for more milk, but there was something new, something really human and spectacular to distract our attention. The details of this event we do not know, and probably never will know, but the House had scarcely started to work again when Mayor Taylor hurried into the corridors, his face as red as his tie, and with him the city solicitor, Barney Williams, the friend of everyone.

What these gentlemen had to say was soon said and resaid in every corner of the buildings. Their story, in a word, was that Mr. Speaker Davis had refused to allow them to occupy the seats on the floor of the House which they have occupied most of the session, and these seats remained empty most of the afternoon. The mayor (with many picturesque adjectives not within the rules of Parliament) said it was an outrage, an insult to Vancouver and what-not, and with Mr. Williams, and his red tie and fawn overcoat, he marched out of the buildings and over to the Empress Hotel. In vain Vancouver members sought to adjust matters. His worship and his associate said they wouldn't take all the seats on the floor of the House if they were offered on a silver platter. And remembering the trouble that Mr. Manson ran into when he removed a distinguished visitor from the House on a historic occasion years ago, Vancouver members gnashed their teeth.

No one seemed to understand the real facts of the matter. As we are bound to do, like good parliamentarians, we paid no attention whatever to the mayor's own view that his ejection had followed his public statement condemning the handling of the Milk Bill and the proceedings of the House in general. Of course not. We could only assume that the mayor, like the Fruit Bill and many other things, was out of order.

Meanwhile an indistinguishable mass of legislation had gone through final readings without a word. The opposition had long since stopped arguing, since argument was useless, and gladly helped the government whenever help was needed. Mr. Pattullo's only serious interruption was a rather stinging protest against too many points of order. If this went on much longer, he said, the House wouldn't be able to do anything; and Mr. Manson, to dramatize this protest, said he would not dare to speak on a certain bill lest he should violate the rules.

When the evening came, the unexpected happened, as we expected. The

great milk battle of the morning suddenly collapsed like a pricked balloon. Apparently the opponents of the Milk Bill had some private reason for ceasing fire, and they certainly made the best of a hopeless case. First of all, Mr. Kirk extracted from Mr. Pooley the opinion that the Milk Act amendments were legal but that the Milk Act itself was legally doubtful. Then Mr. Dick extracted from Mr. Berry the assurance that the whole Milk Act would be tested in the highest courts this year. Confident that the Milk Act thus would be thrown out, Mr. Dick agreed that it was useless, with the House against him, to go any further. And as suddenly as it started the milk fight stopped, and the Milk Bill passed.

Thus at half past nine, after half an hour's sitting, we found ourselves with all the work of the third session of the Seventeenth Parliament finished. After hearing from Mr. Speaker the horrible news that somebody—not honorable members of course, but probably their friends—had been committing acts of vandalism in the library and tearing pages out of the sacred records of Parliament, we went home to bed early, for the first time in many days. And so, rather lamely and without the excitement we had expected, closes the Log of this session.

MAYOR STILL FULL OF FIGHT

City to Take Right to Say Who Will Ship Milk to Vancouver.

Mayor Louis D. Taylor steamed back from Victoria this morning, and, after looking through a six-foot stack of mail, he took a few minutes off to hurl brickbats at the Provincial Government, the Vancouver Harbor Commission and the milk people.

"The government," quoted the mayor, "has done just about all the damage it can do, and I don't think it will be able to hold its members together much longer. In fact it knows darn well it can't," he said with emphasis. Discussing the Harbor Board, the mayor referred first to the action of commissioners in giving dismissal notice to a number of the waterfront police; and he asserted unequivocally that he has no intention of increasing the city force to take care of the duties formerly performed by the harbor men. "The Harbor Board makes no contribution toward the city's revenues," he said. "We will give them just the ordinary police protection they have always received."

"We've tried to co-operate with this board and its predecessor, but can't get anywhere with them. They think they are a power in themselves. They are on the water—but that's all."

The mayor also declared with vehemence that his campaign waged against the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act for weeks will be continued, despite the Legislature's defeat of the proposal to scrap the statute.

His worship has several plans to fight the legislation. First, he suggests that the city should increase the butterfat content standard for milk supplied to citizens of Vancouver.

"We have the right to control food shipped into the city," he said, "and I believe we should demand a minimum of 4 per cent. butterfat instead of the existing 3.25. Of course, the milk dealers might counter by increasing the price, but I think the public would prefer even a raise if they were assured of a better product."

His worship also proposes that the city assume power to state who shall be allowed to ship milk into Vancouver. He declares that one of the amendments before the House Tuesday provided for an area surrounding and including Vancouver to be fixed as the "Fraser Valley District," for sale purposes. This principle, he argues, should operate conversely to allow the city to say who shall ship milk to Vancouver.

Early action toward obtaining an investigation, under the Combines Investigation Act, into the Associated Dairies is also planned by Mayor Taylor. He has documents which he will send to Ottawa in support of his request.

"We can get after the Associated Dairies, which, after all, is the keystone of the whole business."

If all other methods should fail, the mayor says, the city will resume its fight against the Milk Act at the next session of the Legislature.

"This fight has only started," he declared.

DAVIE DENIES MAYOR'S STORY

Speaker Says Untrue to State He was Refused Seat in House.

QUITS IN HUFF

VICTORIA, April 7.—Statements by Mayor Taylor that he and City Solicitor J. B. Williams had been denied the privilege of seats in the House Tuesday afternoon were declared "deliberate untruths" by Speaker C. H. Davis in the Legislature today.

He explained the circumstances. A certain number of guest seats on the floor of the House were allocated each day. On Tuesday afternoon the whole number was taken up when the sitting opened.

When Mayor Taylor came into the House the clerk informed him that all the seats were taken. "His worship came to my office and demanded an admission card for himself, not Mr. Williams. In a very excited manner he threatened to publish the fact in Vancouver newspapers."

"I want it to be understood that there was no intention of alighting or discriminating against his worship or Mr. Williams. I stated that steps would be taken to provide seats as soon as possible, but Mr. Williams declined to come to my office."

The mayor circulated about the corridors the report that he had been refused a seat in the House. He was asked to come to my office with Mr. Williams.

"I have tried at all times to arrange the seating in the best possible way, but it is not reasonable to cancel cards already given. On more than one occasion I have reserved a seat for Mr. Williams on my own instigation."

"In order that there should be no mistake, as far as I am concerned, I have stated the facts. The statement that they were refused seats in the House, or that their privilege was withdrawn, is a deliberate untruth. The excited conduct of his worship made it impossible for me to help him."

Mayor Taylor created a sensation when he announced in the corridors that the Speaker had refused him seats on the floor of the House. He said the Speaker told him the seats he and City Solicitor Williams had occupied during the session were reserved for the Speaker's friends. He considered this an outrage, and refused all efforts of Vancouver members to mediate. He declared that he and the City of Vancouver had been insulted, and together with Mr. Williams left the Legislative Buildings in disgust and did not return. Meanwhile the seats usually occupied by the mayor and Mr. Williams remained vacant.



Wednesday, April 1, 1931.

B.C. 3RD.

DOWN, BUT NOT OUT

The Common Round

By J. BUTTERFIELD.

IT seems a little unusual to a casual observer that a man in the office of mayor of Vancouver should be placed in a position where he is compelled to consider himself—and the people he represents—slighted by a great public body like the Legislature of British Columbia.

Actually, as a matter of comparison, it is probable that the Legislature of British Columbia is not quite so important to quite so many people as the mayor and council of the city of Vancouver are. I am not long on statistics, but I believe that at least half of the people of this province are living in Vancouver. At any rate, very nearly half.

It does not seem to matter much who the mayor of Vancouver may be in his private capacity, but publicly he is the mayor of Vancouver, elected by the people, and by refusing him the seats he had been led to expect on the floor of the House—led to expect because he has enjoyed them for several sittings of the House—the Honorable the Speaker of that House has done nothing to enhance the dignity of the House nor has he contributed anything to the good work of keeping the political parties represented in anything like brotherly accord.

As far as I am concerned, one mayor is as good as another. And so is one parliament as good as another. But there are the amenities of life—especially of official life—to be considered. And they have not been considered.



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legislation would not work, that fact would demonstrate itself after a little further trial, he averred. The legislature had passed the original by the machinery it had set up, he declared.

Compromise measures were adopted after the House found itself still somewhat deadlocked on the issue during a half-hour's discussion given in the afternoon sitting. Six out of the remaining eight clauses were ratified, two being tabled to see if Vancouver city members and the proponents of the bill could not get together at the supper recess.

The same line-up was disclosed at the debate, Shelly, Loutet, Kirk, Dick, Cornett, Dick and Rutledge fighting the advancement of the bill in committee, and Hinchliffe, Berry and Maitland defending its terms.

Validity Claimed

Premier Tolmie and Attorney-General Pooley were not in the House, at the discussion this afternoon, and request by the Vancouver members as to whether or not the bill had been declared as valid within the powers of the province or not, was answered by the minister without portfolio, Mr. Maitland, who said it was.

Mr. Berry made the assertion that the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association had voted at a bumper meeting at Chilliwack in favor of asking the committee of direction to take action under the new bill once it became law, and to prosecute such action as far as the privy council to determine its validity. Who was to pay for such litigation, Mr. Loutet inquired. The Fraser Valley Association would, Mr. Berry was understood to reply.

HOLDERS OF PERMITS FOR MALT LIQUOR MAY BUY B.C. WINE

VICTORIA, March 31.—Hon. R. H. Pooley this morning in committee secured amendment of the Liquor Act to permit holders of the dollar annual malt liquor licenses to purchase thereon cider and wines made from fruit grown in the province.

T. D. Pattullo desired abandonment of a clause giving the liquor board the right to manufacture beer, but the section passed upon Mr. Pooley's insistence. The right of the province to police court fines collected within municipalities as a result of prosecutions instituted by provincial police was affirmed.

Third reading was given an amendment to the British Columbia University Act, which transfers control of admission from the senate to the board of governors. Mr. Manson first recommended the change be dropped, but the minister of education insisted.

WHEN the House assembled six weeks ago rumor had already prepared the members for the sorry revelations that were to be made as to the unfortunate financial position of the province. When the truth, at least in part, had at last to be told, efforts were made from the ministerial benches to put the blame on the late administration.

The memory of the public is short, but it is probably long enough to recall that the preceding government had reduced taxation annually during a series of years, and even had this been accomplished, as charged by the new ministry, by accumulating deficits and commitments without making provision for them, a large loan had been authorized at the beginning of the present regime for the special purpose of squaring the account.

It will not do, therefore, at this time of day to tell the province that the Liberals brought about a state of affairs that compelled the Tolmie government to levy in its third session the most drastic taxation ever known in the history of the province.

Rather will the public find the cause in the recklessness with which that government has spent money and accumulated debts, confirmed in this by the fact that, in face of its own admissions as to the need of exercising the utmost economy, the estimates for 1931-2 are the largest ever submitted to a British Columbia legislature.

* * *

THE picture of the third session includes some useful routine legislation, but little else on which the government may pride itself.

Assuredly no worse exhibition of ineptitude has ever been afforded the House than its abnegation of its functions and responsibilities in connection with the fruit marketing and milk bills.

Leaving aside all question as to the merits of these measures, respectively, they were of such importance, and affected the interests of so many people, that, if the government consented to them at all, it should have accepted responsibility, not only for what was embodied in them, but also for seeing that their provisions were carried into effect with absolute impartiality.

The government, however, while waiving certain technical rights of the crown, declined to have anything whatever to do with either bill. As a consequence the fruit marketing bill, after engaging the attention of a standing committee for six weeks and after heavy expenses had been incurred by both its proponents and its opponents, was snuffed out by a ruling of the Speaker.

The milk bill escaped the guillotine, but, Dr. Tolmie having ordained a "free for all," the debate presented the unedifying spectacle of ministers wrangling with each other on the floor of the House. To this has the failure of the Premier to insist on leading, one way or the other, brought his colleagues.

After what has happened in this third session, indeed, it may well be asked whether British Columbia has a government or merely an aggregation of ministers swirling about in a political current that carries them whither it will.

The Legislature Prorogues

LONG before it began it was generally recognized that the third session of the Seventeenth Legislature of British Columbia would be a critical one for the government—critical, not in the sense that the government would be in any danger of defeat, but that it would decide with some degree of finality the popular verdict on the Tolmie administration.

During the first session judgment was suspended. It had become obvious even then that there were elements of weakness in the cabinet, but it was widely expected that the Premier would make the adjustments needed before the House again assembled.

It was, therefore, no little disappointment to those who wished the government well that, when the second session began, the same gentlemen were found in charge of the same departments.

It is said that Dr. Tolmie declined to take action at that time because he might appear to be doing so under certain external pressure. If that were the case the difficulties in which the administration is now involved may be traced back to his untimely stubbornness then.

It is safe to say that, had the Premier two years ago made the changes that he was ultimately compelled to make, the present finance minister would not have had to submit to the House this session desperate remedies for the desperate conditions he found at the Treasury when he took over the portfolio.

* * *

THE complaint of the country during the first two sessions was that the government was doing little or nothing to carry out the pledges on which it was returned to office.

Expenditures were not being cut down, taxation was not being reduced, and none of the promised measures that were to increase prosperity and "bring the boys and girls home from the United States" had been brought forward.

Instead, as a matter of fact, governmental extravagance reached hitherto unheard of proportions, more money was demanded from certain classes of taxpayers, and unemployment became a very serious problem.

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Mayor Returns To Attack On House Speaker

Japanese and Doukhobors

BY A curious coincidence the British Columbia legislature in the closing period of the session just terminated was called upon to deal with the provincial franchisees of naturalized citizens of two foreign races, the Japanese and the Doukhobors.

It was decided to give the vote to the surviving eighty Japanese veterans of the Great War resident in the province and to disfranchise the Doukhobors similarly resident here.

The legislature has been a long time arriving at these two decisions. Both were much overdue. Now that they have been made simultaneously the one points the moral of the other. The Japanese were granted the vote in recognition of the fact that they went voluntarily overseas, and in so doing recognized the principle that a man should be prepared in an emergency to fight for his country, or the country of his adoption.

The Doukhobors are, on the contrary, pacifists on principle. It is against their tenets to fight for any country, whatever the emergency. Yet this is one of the principles of citizenship. The Dominion government admitted them, fully aware of their determination in this respect.

It is because of this determination of the Doukhobors that the legislature at Victoria has deprived them of the vote, though, no doubt, the recurring destruction of school-houses was hardly calculated to make for sympathetic consideration.

The fact that the Japanese should have been enfranchised at the same time that the Doukhobors have been disfranchised is a lesson in citizenship and its responsibilities.

LEGISLATURE IS PROROGUED

Special to the Vancouver Star
VICTORIA, B. C., April 1.—Chief Justice J. A. MacDonald, the administrator, prorogued the third session of the 17th legislature of British Columbia at 10:45 a.m. today, after giving assent to the list of acts passed by the House, and delivering a brief formal address from the throne. The customary ceremonies were observed.

The last official act of the members was to give passage to the Berry Dairy Bill, in its finally amended form. The bill received third reading without division being asked.

Freed from restraint, the members cleared their legislative desks in a swirl that sent a thousand documents spinning into the air at once, and joined for a while in singing "Loch Lomond" and "Hail! Hail! the Gang's All Here!"

The retirement of His Honor, and the singing of the National Anthem, preceded the customary hullabaloo which signaled the end of the session which began Feb. 11.

Davie Kept Seats for Own Friends, His Worship Charges

IS 'ALL WET'

Chairs Stand Empty While Mayor Waits in Corridor

"He's all wet, and you can say I said so," was Mayor Louis D. Taylor's reply Wednesday afternoon to the denial uttered on the floor of the legislature Wednesday morning by Mr. Speaker Davie that Mayor Taylor and City Solicitor J. B. Williams had been refused the privilege of occupying spectators' seats in the House.

Mr. Speaker intimated that Mayor Taylor had on Tuesday applied too late to be given his customary seat on the floor of the chamber, and that before he (the speaker) had heard the facts, the mayor had rushed to his office and created a scene without availing himself of further opportunity of entering the chamber as a guest.

Seats Protected

"They had been in the habit of having the tickets for our seats ready for Mr. Williams and me every day for six weeks," Mayor Taylor asserted when he learned of Speaker Davie's denial. And, as a matter of fact, he had had a seasonal ticket, the mayor declared.

"Every day these two particular seats were given to us by the doorkeeper of the House," the mayor continued, "and during recesses they were protected for us by 'reserved' notices."

When he learned that on Tuesday the seats were unavailable, His Worship went on, he at once called at the Speaker's office and was told by Mr. Davie that the seats were "reserved for two friends of mine."

"I watched the seats from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.," the mayor said, and no one sat in them. Then I asked the press boys to keep their eyes on them, and I learned afterward that only one seat was ever occupied, and that toward the end of the day."

Rule Established

Mr. Speaker might not have thought he was being discourteous, the mayor continued, but it was an established rule that when the mayor of Vancouver went over to Victoria a seat was always reserved for him.

"I might add," His Worship finished, "that the doorkeeper told me he had reserved the seats for me as usual Tuesday afternoon, but got called down for it, as well as for reserving them at all during the session."

His Worship intimated that despite the loss of his battles against the Dairy Products Sales Adjustment Act, and for the city's right to tax crown waterfront lands, he was still full of fight on both projects.

Hits Harbor Board

Referring to the action of the Harbor Board in dismissing its police force, he said definitely that it need not expect the city would increase its own force to take care of the waterfront. The Harbor Board made no contribution whatever to the city's revenues, and the city would give them just the ordinary police protection they have always received.

"We have tried to co-operate with this board," he said, "but we can't get anywhere with them."

His campaign against the Milk Bill would go on, His Worship declared. Early action for an investigation under the Combines Act would be sought from Ottawa, he said, and if all other methods failed, the battle would be reopened at the next session of the legislature.

HEALTH INSURANCE REPORT HELD OVER

Special to the Vancouver Star

VICTORIA, March 31.—There will be no report by the Royal Commission on state health insurance at this session, Mr. Speaker Davie, chairman of the commission, informed the legislature this morning. Death of the late C. H. Gibbins, secretary to the body, had retarded the work of preparing the final report, he said. The report is to be made to the lieutenant-governor in three months time.