

JOURNALS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OF THE PROVINCE OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SESSION 1917

Thursday, 1st March, 1917.

THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

This being the first day of the first meeting of the Fourteenth Parliament or Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, for the dispatch of business, pursuant to a Proclamation of the Honourable J. A. MACDONALD, Administrator of the Province, dated the 14th day of February, 1917, the Members having been sworn took their seats.

HIS HONOUR FRANK STILLMAN BARNARD, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, having entered the House, took his seat on the Throne.

The Honourable Dr. *MacLean*, Provincial Secretary, said:—

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to announce that His Honour does not see fit to declare the causes of his summoning you at this time, and will not do so until you have chosen a Speaker to preside over your Honourable Body. His Honour hopes to be enabled to declare, during the afternoon, his reasons for calling you together.

His Honour was then pleased to retire.

The Hon. the Premier, the first Member for Victoria City Electoral District, moved, seconded by *William John Bowser*, Esquire, the fifth Member for Vancouver City Electoral District, That *John Walter Weart*, Esquire, Member for South Vancouver Electoral District, do take the Speaker's Chair, and preside over the meeting of this Assembly, and it was so *Resolved*.

Thornton Fell, Esquire, K.C., the Clerk of the House, having declared *John Walter Weart*, Esquire, duly elected, he was taken out of his place by the mover and seconder, and conducted to the Chair, where, standing on the upper step, he expressed his grateful thanks to the House for the great honour they had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be their Speaker.

And thereupon he sat down in the Chair, and the Mace was laid upon the table.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor again entered the House, and taking his seat on the Throne, the Speaker-elect then spoke to the following effect:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The House of Assembly have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Assembly, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their King and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Honour's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Honour the most favourable interpretation.

The Honourable Dr. *MacLean* then said:—

MR. SPEAKER:

I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Assembly to His Majesty's person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper, and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to His Honour upon all reasonable occasions, and their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was then pleased to open the Session by the following gracious Speech:—

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

In welcoming you to this the Fourteenth Parliament of British Columbia, I do so with a deep-felt consciousness of the heavy responsibilities devolving upon you.

Since the last Session of this House, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught completed his term of office as Governor-General of Canada and left for England, bearing with him sincere expressions of appreciation for his services to the people of Canada and their best wishes for the future welfare of himself, his gracious Consort and family.

We since have received another distinguished representative of Our Gracious King in the person of His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, who, with Her Excellency, the daughter of a former distinguished Governor-General of Canada, is heartily welcomed.

During the past year many momentous events have transpired and the economic fabric of the entire world is undergoing changes with kaleidoscopic swiftness and variation. The titanic struggle which began in Europe nearly three years ago now involves practically all nations, but it is a matter for much gratification that, though the end is not yet determinable, victory for the cause of Freedom, Righteousness, and Justice nevertheless is assured.

You will regret with me the loss, irreparable to this Province, of the brave men who have given their lives a willing sacrifice to the cause of Liberty, and I commend to your consideration the advisability of providing some fitting memorial as a tribute to these heroes. In this regard a Bill will be submitted authorizing a conditional conveyance of the Old Court-house site in the City of Vancouver for the use of the people as an open space and upon which to erect a suitable memorial to the gallant men of British Columbia who have fallen or shall fall in the present conflict.

I express without hesitation the confidence that you share with me a sense of sorrow at the loss sustained by the Province in the death of the late Honourable Ralph Smith, a citizen whose irreproachable character and long experience in public life eminently fitted him for useful public service.

My Government, represented by its Premier, took part in a conference recently held in Ottawa, convened by the Dominion authorities to devise ways and means to aid in the settlement and employment of returned soldiers. Willing co-operation in all practicable proposals was

undertaken, so that returned Canadian soldiers who have volunteered their services freely in defence of the Empire may find adequate provision for taking their honoured place in the citizenship of their country on their return to civil life.

It gives me pleasure to state that there has been a marked improvement in business conditions during the past year. The depression always following an era of speculation reached its lowest point, and a recovery based upon actual productive values confidently may be expected. As a prudent, precautionary measure my Government is taking an inventory of the entire situation and is ascertaining, in authoritative form, the actual financial position of the Province. For this purpose a firm of chartered accountants of international reputation has been engaged upon a thorough audit of the finances, and their report will be submitted in due course.

I regret that the agricultural production within the Province still is in a very unsatisfactory condition. The continued necessity for the importation of these products constitutes a heavy drain upon our financial resources. My Government will present for your consideration a measure designed to open up and assist in the settlement of many of the fertile areas of the now unproductive parts of the Province, and to provide homes and employment for returned soldiers and other desirable immigrants who may elect to engage in agricultural pursuits. By this means it is hoped, also, to relieve the unfortunate situation brought about by the system of scattered settlements which now obtains.

The benefits obtained from the administration of the "Agricultural Act" have not been as great as had been hoped, and a measure intended to strengthen this Act and widen the scope of its operation will be placed before you.

The problems in connection with the irrigation of lands in the Interior of the Province, increasing in their gravity, call for immediate attention, and legislation dealing with this question will be introduced.

The increase in the demand for metals caused by the war has given new impetus to mining operations, and legislation will be introduced providing assistance for systematic prospecting of the mineral-bearing districts.

To meet the growing demand of the mining industry you will be asked to consider the advisability of providing additional smelting facilities.

You will be pleased to learn that there has been a marked increase in the demand for timber in the various branches of manufacture, including wood-pulp. This industry now may be regarded as upon a permanent producing basis.

Under an Act of last Session the building of wooden ships within the Province has been undertaken. How far the finances of the Province will permit the continuance of the policy inaugurated will be one for your serious consideration. The report of the Shipping Commission will be laid before you.

I regret that the policy of aiding the construction of railways by means of Provincial guarantees of bonds has resulted in the Province having had to provide for the payment of large sums of money on interest account. The report of the Minister of Railways will be laid before you.

My Government considers it advisable that a thorough inquiry should be made into all matters relating to the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

The Estimates will contain provision for continuing the work of development of the former Songhees Indian Reserve, and also for assisting in the construction of a bridge across Victoria Harbour as a necessary part of such development-work.

A measure will be submitted providing for the disposal of those portions of the reserve not required for public purposes, and for a grant of a parcel of land to the City of Victoria for park purposes.

Careful study will be made of the fishing industry, and steps will be taken to conserve the industry and to extend its scope.

A Civil Service Bill will be brought down which it is believed will place the Government Service on a more satisfactory basis, remedying many of the evils heretofore complained of.

Additional facilities for technical education will be provided and vocational training encouraged as much as possible.

A measure providing for the equal guardianship of children will be introduced.

I rejoice that the electors of British Columbia, by so large majority, decided in favour of extending the right of the franchise to women. A new "Provincial Elections Act" embodying provisions for this and other reforms will be laid before you.

A Bill providing for the payment of wages fortnightly in certain industries will be laid before you.

In view of the large amount of money which will require to be raised to meet Sinking Fund and interest liabilities it will be necessary to increase the revenue. In this connection the most competent expert advice available will be secured with a view to equalization of assessments and the adoption of the most modern and scientific methods of taxation.

The Public Accounts for the past year and the Estimates for the coming year will be laid before you.

While it would be unwise to minimize the task of rehabilitating the financial position of the Province, the natural resources capable of conversion into wealth, by their judicious, courageous, and capable administration, afford the best and most rational assurance that we may look to the future with reasonable confidence.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of this Assembly,—You are called upon to conduct the affairs of this Province at a time when both the moral tenets and the material economy of the whole world are in process of rapid evolution. In the face of seeming contradictions, emerging from the world-embracing conflict of established convictions and practices, the all-surviving principle of human brotherhood revives and takes on new form and fresh vitality. That you will approach your duties at this critical juncture of affairs with a keen appreciation of your responsibilities I have no doubt.

I leave you with an expression of confidence and the fervent prayer that Almighty God may inspire and guide your deliberations.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was then pleased to retire.

Prayers by the Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker reported that, to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy of His Honour's Speech.

On the motion of the Hon. the Premier, seconded by Mr. Bowser, it was *Resolved*,—

That this House place on record its sense of its loss sustained in the death of a Minister of this Government, a Member of this House, a representative of the people of Vancouver City, and a citizen of the Province and Dominion, and a man worthy of the confidence reposed in him by all who knew him; and that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mrs. Smith and the members of the bereaved family.

Ordered, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof, and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

Ordered, That the Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:—

1. On Standing Orders and Private Bills;
2. On Public Accounts;
3. On Printing;
4. On Railways;
5. On Mining;
6. On Agriculture;
7. On Municipal Matters;

which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as shall be referred to them by the House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for papers, persons, and records.

Resolved, That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a Member of this House, or endeavoured so to be, by bribery or other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Macdonald*, Bill (No. 1) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Electrical Energy Inspection Act'" was introduced and read a first time.

To be read a second time at the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Oliver*, Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act to amend the 'British Columbia Railway Act'" was introduced and read a first time.

To be read a second time at the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Brewster*, seconded by the Hon. Dr. *MacLean*,—

Resolved, That the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be taken into consideration on Friday, 2nd instant.

The Hon. the Premier and Minister of Finance presented the Public Accounts of the Province for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1916.

The Hon. the Provincial Secretary presented the Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Public Schools of the Province, 1915-1916.

The Hon. the Minister of Public Works presented the Report of his Department for the fiscal year 1915-1916.

The Hon. the Minister of Mines presented Bulletin No. 1, 1917, being a Preliminary Review and Estimate of Mineral Production, 1916.

The Hon. the Minister of Railways presented a Report covering a period from 1911 to the 31st December, 1916, dealing with the activities of the Department of Railways since its establishment under the provisions of chapter 45, as passed by the Legislature of British Columbia in 1911, and with the consideration and operation of railways coming under its jurisdiction as laid down in section 3 thereof.

The Hon. the Minister of Agriculture presented a Return required by subsection (2) of section 13 of the "Agriculture Act, 1915."

The Hon. the Attorney-General presented the Third Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Provincial Home for Girls.

The Hon. the Attorney-General presented the Twelfth Annual Report of the Provincial Game Warden.

The Hon. the Attorney-General presented the Twelfth Annual Report of the Industrial School for Boys.

The Certificates of the Deputy Provincial Secretary of the result of the election of Members to represent the respective Electoral Districts of the Province in the Legislative Assembly at the general election, and of the by-elections for Vancouver City, Cranbrook, Prince Rupert, Nanaimo, Greenwood, Victoria City, and Dewdney Electoral Districts, following the acceptance of office of the Members for said Electoral Districts, were read and *Ordered* to be placed on the Journals of the House, as follows:—

"PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"VICTORIA, 26th February, 1917.

"Whereas His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, by Proclamation dated the thirty-first day of May, 1916, was pleased to dissolve the Legislative Assembly of the Province:

"And whereas it was necessary to hold elections to fill the vacancies caused by such dissolution:

"I have now to report that under the provisions of the 'Provincial Elections Act' and the 'Military Forces Voting Act' elections were held in the several Electoral Districts, at certain points in Canada and in the United Kingdom and France:

"And I hereby certify that from the returns received, it appears that Members were elected to represent the Province in the Legislative Assembly thereof for the respective Electoral Districts as is hereinafter set forth, namely, for—

ALBERNI	Harlan Carey Brewster.
ATLIN	Frank Harry Mobley.
CARIBOO	John Mackay Yorston.
CHILLIWACK	Edward Dodsley Barrow.
COLUMBIA	John Andrew Buckham.
COMOX	Hugh Stewart.
COWICHAN	William Henry Hayward.
CRANBROOK	James Horace King.
DELTA	Francis James Anderson Mackenzie.
DEWDNEY	John Oliver.
ESQUIMALT	Robert Henry Pooley.
FERNIE	Alexander Ingram Fisher.
FORT GEORGE	William Roderick Ross.
GRAND FORKS	James Edwin Wallace Thompson.
GREENWOOD	John Duncan MacLean.
THE ISLANDS	Malcolm Bruce Jackson.
KAMLOOPS	Frederick William Anderson.
KASLO	John Keen.
LILLOOET	Archibald McDonald.
NANALMO	William Sloan.
NELSON	William Oliver Rose.
NEWCASTLE	Parker Williams.
NEW WESTMINSTER	David Whiteside.
NORTH OKANAGAN	Kenneth Cattnach Macdonald.
NORTH VANCOUVER	George Samuel Hanes.
OMINECA	Alexander Malcolm Manson.
PRINCE RUPERT	Thomas Dufferin Pattullo.
REVELSTOKE	William Henry Sutherland.
RICHMOND	Gerald Grattan McGeer.
ROSSLAND	William David Willson.
SAANICH	Frederick Arthur Pauline.
SIMILKAMEEN	Lytton Wilmot Shatford.
SLOCAN	Charles Franklin Nelson.
SOUTH OKANAGAN	James William Jones.
SOUTH VANCOUVER	John Walter Weart.
TRAIL	James Hargrave Schofield.
VANCOUVER CITY	Malcolm Archibald Macdonald.
	Ralph Smith.
	John William McIntosh.
	John Wallace de Beque Farris.
	William John Bowser.
	John Sedgwick Cowper.
	Harlan Carey Brewster.
	George Bell.
	John Hart.
	Henry Charles Hall.
VICTORIA CITY	
YALE	Joseph Walters.

"A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,

Deputy Provincial Secretary.

"To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia."

"PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
"18th December, 1916.

"Whereas a vacancy occurred in the Legislative Assembly by reason of the acceptance of office by the Honourable *William Sloan*, a Member thereof for the Nanaimo Electoral District; and

"Whereas on the 5th day of December, 1916, a Writ for the election of a Member to represent such Electoral District was duly issued to the Returning Officer of the Electoral District:

"Now I do hereby certify that on the 18th day of December, 1916, the said Writ was returned to me by the Returning Officer, with his certificate endorsed thereon, whereby it appears that the electors of the said District have chosen the Honourable *William Sloan* to represent the Nanaimo Electoral District in the Legislative Assembly.

"A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
"Deputy Provincial Secretary.

"To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia."

"PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
"20th December, 1916.

"Whereas a vacancy occurred in the Legislative Assembly by reason of the acceptance of office by the Honourable *John Duncan MacLean*, a Member thereof for the Greenwood Electoral District; and

"Whereas on the 5th day of December, 1916, a Writ for the election of a Member to represent such Electoral District was duly issued to the Returning Officer of the Electoral District:

"Now I do hereby certify that on the 20th day of December, 1916, the said Writ was returned to me by the Returning Officer, with his certificate endorsed thereon, whereby it appears that the electors of the said District have chosen the Honourable *John Duncan MacLean* to represent the Greenwood Electoral District in the Legislative Assembly.

"A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
"Deputy Provincial Secretary.

"To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia."

"PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
"21st December, 1916.

"Whereas a vacancy occurred in the Legislative Assembly by reason of the acceptance of office by the Honourable *Harlan Carey Brewster*, a Member thereof for the Victoria City Electoral District; and

"Whereas on the 5th day of December, 1916, a Writ for the election of a Member to represent such Electoral District was duly issued to the Returning Officer of the Electoral District:

"Now I do hereby certify that on the 21st day of December, 1916, the said Writ was returned to me by the Returning Officer, with his certificate endorsed thereon, whereby it appears that the electors of the said District have chosen the Honourable *Harlan Carey Brewster* to represent the Victoria City Electoral District in the Legislative Assembly.

"A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
"Deputy Provincial Secretary.

"To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia."

"PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
"21st December, 1916.

"Whereas a vacancy occurred in the Legislative Assembly by reason of the acceptance of office by the Honourable *John Oliver*, a Member thereof for the Dewdney Electoral District; and

"Whereas on the 5th day of December, 1916, a Writ for the election of a Member to represent such Electoral District was duly issued to the Returning Officer of the Electoral District:

"Now I do hereby certify that on the 21st day of December, 1916, the said Writ was returned to me by the Returning Officer, with his certificate endorsed thereon, whereby it appears that the electors of the said District have chosen the Honourable *John Oliver* to represent the Dewdney Electoral District in the Legislative Assembly.

"A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,

"Deputy Provincial Secretary.

"To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia."

"PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"26th December, 1916.

"Whereas a vacancy occurred in the Legislative Assembly by reason of the acceptance of office by the Honourable *James Horace King*, a Member thereof for the Cranbrook Electoral District; and

"Whereas on the 5th day of December, 1916, a Writ for the election of a Member to represent such Electoral District was duly issued to the Returning Officer of the Electoral District:

"Now I do hereby certify that on the 26th day of December, 1916, the said Writ was returned to me by the Returning Officer, with his certificate endorsed thereon, whereby it appears that the electors of the said District have chosen the Honourable *James Horace King* to represent the Cranbrook Electoral District in the Legislative Assembly.

"A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,

"Deputy Provincial Secretary.

"To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia."

"PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"26th December, 1916.

"Whereas a vacancy occurred in the Legislative Assembly by reason of the acceptance of office by the Honourable *Thomas Dufferin Pattullo*, a Member thereof for the Prince Rupert Electoral District; and

"Whereas on the 5th day of December, 1916, a Writ for the election of a Member to represent such Electoral District was duly issued to the Returning Officer of the Electoral District:

"Now I do hereby certify that on the 26th day of December, 1916, the said Writ was returned to me by the Returning Officer, with his certificate endorsed thereon, whereby it appears that the electors of the said District have chosen the Honourable *Thomas Dufferin Pattullo* to represent the Prince Rupert Electoral District in the Legislative Assembly.

"A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,

"Deputy Provincial Secretary.

"To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia."

"PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"5th January, 1917.

"Whereas vacancies occurred in the Legislative Assembly by reason of the acceptance of office by the Honourables *Malcolm Archibald Macdonald* and *Ralph Smith*, Members thereof for the Vancouver City Electoral District; and

"Whereas on the 5th day of December, 1916, a Writ for the election of two Members to represent such Electoral District was duly issued to the Returning Officer of the Electoral District:

"Now I do hereby certify that on the 5th day of January, 1917, the said Writ was returned to me by the Returning Officer, with his certificate endorsed thereon, whereby it appears that the electors of the said District have chosen the Honourables *Malcolm Archibald Macdonald* and *Ralph Smith* to represent the Vancouver City Electoral District in the Legislative Assembly.

"A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,

"Deputy Provincial Secretary.

"To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia."

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 3.55 p.m.

Friday, 2nd March, 1917.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. Dr. W. L. Clay.

Pursuant to Order, the House proceeded to take into consideration the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

Mr. *Hall* (Victoria City) moved, seconded by Mr. *Keen* (Kaslo),—

That an humble Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, thanking His Honour for his gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session.

We note the departure from Canada of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and assure His Honour that they have the best wishes of the people of British Columbia for their future welfare.

We are pleased to welcome as the representative of our Gracious King His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, and to again welcome to Canada Her Excellency, the daughter of a former distinguished Governor-General of Canada.

We realize the momentous events which daily are transpiring throughout the entire world, and that the struggle for Freedom, which began nearly three years ago, will require our utmost energies. We assure His Honour that the people of British Columbia will not shrink from any sacrifice which may be necessary to secure victory for the cause of Freedom, Righteousness, and Justice.

In common with His Honour we regret the irreparable loss to the Province of the brave men whose lives have been sacrificed in the cause of Liberty, and we are pleased that His Honour will recommend a measure which will result in the erection of a memorial to the fallen heroes.

We regret the loss to Canada, and especially to the Province of British Columbia, caused by the death of the late Honourable Ralph Smith, and we assure His Honour that the late honourable gentleman's bereaved family have our sincerest sympathies.

We are pleased to learn that His Honour's Government was represented by its Premier at a Federal conference for the purpose of devising ways and means for providing for the Canadian soldiers who so freely have given their services in defence of the Empire, and we shall be pleased to assist in making provision that they may resume their proper places in the citizenship of the country on their return to civil life.

It gives us pleasure to know that there has been an improvement in business conditions.

We approve of the action of His Honour's Government in securing an official audit of the financial conditions of the Province.

We regret the unsatisfactory conditions in relation to agricultural production, and sincerely hope that the legislation to be placed upon the Statutes during the present Session will result in material improvement of existing conditions.

We recognize the pressing necessity for legislative action in dealing with the irrigation problems of the Province.

Legislation providing ways for systematic prospecting for minerals will have our careful attention.

We are pleased to learn of the increased demand for timber products, and that there has been considerable activity in respect of the manufacture of wood-pulp.

We regret the financial burden placed upon the Province in connection with the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

We are in accord with the proposal for a continuance of the policy of developing the late Songhees Indian Reserve along the lines of preparing terminal facilities and industrial sites.

We also note that it is the intention of His Honour's Government to make careful study of the fishing industry, and that steps will be taken to conserve the same.

We welcome the proposal of the introduction of a Civil Service Bill.

We are pleased to be informed that there will be additional facilities for technical education and vocational training, and also that a measure will be submitted providing for the equal guardianship of children.

We rejoice with His Honour that the electors of British Columbia have pronounced so strongly in favour of the enfranchisement of women, and to note that an "Elections Act" will be introduced, designed to remedy many of the evils of the present Act.

We regret that in order to enable the Province to meet its liabilities an increase in taxation will be necessary. We shall use our best endeavours to secure, as far as possible, an equalization of the burden.

The Public Accounts will receive careful scrutiny, and when the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing fiscal year have been reviewed they will be found to have been framed with regard to economy, consistent with the efficiency of the Public Service.

We assure His Honour that all measures brought before us shall receive our careful consideration.

A debate arose, which was, on the motion of Mr. *Whiteside*, adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

Bill (No. 1) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Electrical Energy Inspection Act'" was read a second time.

To be committed at the next sitting.

On the second reading of Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act to amend the 'British Columbia Railway Act'" a debate arose, which was adjourned until the next sitting.

The Hon. Mr. *Sloan* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:—

F. S. BARNARD,

Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Allied Forces Exemption Act, 1915,'" and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,

March 2nd, 1917.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

(IN THE COMMITTEE.)

Resolved, That the Committee rise and report to the House, recommending the introduction of a Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Allied Forces Exemption Act, 1915,'" a draft of which is annexed to this Resolution.

Resolution and Bill reported.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Second reading at the next sitting.

The Hon. the Minister of Agriculture presented the First Annual Report of the Agricultural Credit Commission.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2.30 o'clock on Monday next.

And then the House adjourned at 4 p.m.

Monday, 5th March, 1917.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. H. S. Osborne.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

On the motion of Mr. *Anderson*, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. the Attorney-General, Bill (No. 7) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Pharmacy Act'" was introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

Mr. *Bowser* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following questions:—

1. Has the Hon. the Attorney-General received any information, verbal or otherwise, as to the present whereabouts of John T. Scott?

2. From whom was such information received and the date of the same?

3. What proceedings, if any, has the Hon. the Attorney-General taken to verify such information?

4. What steps, if any, has the Hon. the Attorney-General taken to proceed with the prosecution against said Scott for an infraction of the "Provincial Elections Act" in connection with the by-election in the City of Vancouver in February, 1916?

5. Does the Hon. the Attorney-General intend to carry on said prosecution against John T. Scott?

6. What proceedings has the Hon. the Attorney-General taken to find who was responsible for the escape of John T. Scott from Vancouver while out on bail?

7. Does the Hon. the Attorney-General propose to prosecute the party or parties responsible for the escape of the said Scott?

The Hon. Mr. *Macdonald* replied as follows:—

"1. Yes.

"2. A judicial Commission of investigation has been named and will shortly be appointed. In the meantime, while the Government invite information from all quarters, it is not considered in the public interest to give detailed information in respect to this matter or disclose the names of possible parties giving information. To give information asked for or contemplated action in matters which may lead to prosecutions might lead to interference with the Government's activities in first investigating and afterwards taking whatever action the facts disclosed may warrant.

"3. Answered by No. 2.

"4. Answered by No. 2. Might add, however, that in the meantime no prosecutions which might hamper the Commission in obtaining evidence will be undertaken. Would also refer questioner to a perusal of the 'Extradition Act.'

"5. Answered by Nos. 2 and 4.

"6. This will be inquired into by the Commission. As to who was responsible for the escape of John T. Scott, may say that the then Attorney-General who had him in the custody of the Crown and allowed him his liberty on bail, and upon bail so low that no one would be seriously hurt if the full programme was carried out and Scott taken back to Seattle, is responsible for his escape, but the Criminal Code does not cover breaches of duty of this character. The Government has also general information that the parties who were engaged to bring Scott to Vancouver as soon as bail was arranged as aforesaid brought him back to Seattle, their engagement obviously not being completed until he was returned to foreign soil.

"7. Answered by No. 6."

Bill (No. 1) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Electrical Energy Inspection Act'" was committed.

Reported without amendment.
Report adopted.
Third reading at the next sitting.

The debate on the second reading of Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act to amend the 'British Columbia Railway Act'" was further adjourned until the next sitting.

Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Allied Forces Exemption Act, 1915'" was read a second time and committed.

Reported without amendment.
Report adopted.
Bill read a third time and passed.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Brewster*, seconded by Mr. *Bowser*, it was *Resolved*,—
That *John Keen*, Esquire, Member for Kaslo, be appointed Deputy Speaker of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Brewster*, seconded by Mr. *Bowser*, it was *Resolved*,—
That *J. W. de B. Farris*, Esquire, fourth Member for Vancouver City, be appointed Deputy Chairman (Chairman of Ways and Means).

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2.30 o'clock to-morrow.

The following papers were presented:—

By the Hon. the Premier—The Fifth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Insurance for the Province for 1916.

By the Hon. the Minister of Mines—Bulletin No. 2, 1917: Bureau of Mines Report on Hazelton-Telkwa District, a portion of Omineca Mining Division.

And then the House adjourned at 4.15 p.m.

Tuesday, 6th March, 1917.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *William Stevenson*.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor having entered the House, and being seated in the Chair,

Thornton Fell, K.C., the Clerk of the House, read the title to the following Bill:—

(No. 4) An Act to amend the "Allied Forces Exemption Act, 1915."

His Honour was pleased, in His Majesty's name, to give assent to the said Bill.

The said assent was announced by the Clerk of the House in the following words:—

"In His Majesty's name, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor doth assent to this Bill."

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

On the motion of Mr. *Hayward*, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2.30 o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5.45 p.m.

Wednesday, 7th March, 1917.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *Anselm Wood*.

The Hon. Mr. *Pattullo* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:—

F. S. BARNARD,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Coal and Petroleum Act,'" and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 5th, 1917.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

(IN THE COMMITTEE.)

Resolved, That the Committee rise and report to the House, recommending the introduction of a Bill (No. 6) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Coal and Petroleum Act,'" a draft of which is annexed to this Resolution.

Resolution and Bill reported and adopted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Second reading at the next sitting.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

On the motion of Mr. *Pauline*, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Macdonald*, Bill (No. 9) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Supreme Court Act'" was introduced, read a first time, and *Ordered* to be read a second time to-morrow.

Mr. *Hanes* asked the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture the following questions:—

1. What date was the Agricultural Credit Commission appointed?
2. Who is the Superintendent?
3. Has he been appointed for ten years?
4. At what salary or other remuneration?
5. Who are the Directors?
6. For what periods have they been appointed?
7. And at what salaries or other remuneration?
8. What officials of the Agricultural Credit Commission have been appointed?
9. And at what salaries?

The Hon. Mr. *Oliver* replied as follows:—

"1. April 26th, 1916.

"2. William Manson.

"3. He was appointed under section 5, 'Agricultural Act, 1915.'

"4. The Superintendent was at the time of his appointment a member of the Legislature and of the Executive Council, and was appointed without salary. Since he ceased to be a member of the Executive Council he has continued to perform the duties of Superintendent, and the question of salary to be paid to him since that time is now the subject of negotiation.

"5. William Bridge, William Duncan, William Manson, and the Deputy Minister of Finance and Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

"6. They were appointed under sections 5, 6, and 7 of the 'Agricultural Act, 1915.'

"7. Commissioners William Bridge and William Duncan at \$150 per month each and expenses.

"8. Accountant, solicitor, three stenographers, one stenographer and clerk, one chief appraiser, and one appraiser; three other appraisers were engaged last fall temporarily, but are not now employed.

"9. Accountant, \$125 per month; solicitor, \$150 per month; three stenographers at \$60 per month each; one stenographer and clerk at \$60 per month; chief appraiser, \$150 per month; appraiser, \$100 per month; appraiser engaged temporarily, \$100 per month; two appraisers engaged temporarily at \$25 per month each (being Pre-emption Inspectors)."

These answers are compiled by the Agricultural Credit Commission.

Mr. Hanes asked the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture the following questions:—

1. Has the Agricultural Credit Commission granted any loans to persons in Pemberton Meadows?

2. If so, to whom?

3. What was amount of said loan to each?

4. How much has each person received in cash from the Commission?

5. What date was each loan applied for?

6. What date was each loan granted?

7. For what period is each loan granted?

The Hon. Mr. Oliver replied as follows:—

"1. Yes.

"2. It is considered inadvisable to publish borrowers' names. The applications are numbered 24, 52, and 73.

"3. No. 24, \$2,500; No. 52, \$3,000; No. 73, \$3,000.

"4. No. 24, \$2,329.40; No. 52, \$2,194.15; No. 73, \$3,000.

"5. All on June 12th, 1916.

"6. No. 24, December 8th, 1916; No. 52, November 24th, 1916; No. 73, October 14th, 1916.

"7. No. 24, 36½ years; No. 52, 36½ years; No. 73, 20 years."

These answers are compiled by the Agricultural Credit Commission.

Mr. Hanes asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:—

1. Who is the Superintendent of the Shipping Credit Commission?

2. Who are the Directors?

3. For what term are said appointments?

4. What salary does each receive?

5. Has a Deputy Superintendent been appointed? If so, at what salary?

6. What officers and clerks have been appointed, and at what salaries?

7. What loans have been applied for to the Commission?

8. What loans have been granted, and (a) to whom, and (b) for what amount, and (c) how has been paid on each?

9. What applications have been received for subsidies, and (a) from whom, and (b) to whom have same been granted?

The Hon. Mr. Brewster replied as follows:—

"1. Henry B. Thomson, of Victoria, B.C.

"2. Frederick Buscombe, of Vancouver, B.C.; Henry B. Thomson ex officio; and Deputy Minister of Finance ex officio.

"3. No term stated.

"4. No salary.

"5. No.

"6. M. L. Quinn, stenographer, at a salary of \$60 per month.

"7. Several, but none dealt with.

"8. None.

"9. The answer to this question is embodied in the report to be presented at an early date to the House."

Bill (No. 1) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Electrical Energy Inspection Act'" was read a third time and passed.

The debate on the second reading of Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act to amend the 'British Columbia Railway Act'" was resumed.

The debate was further adjourned until the next sitting.

The Hon. the Premier presented the Report of the Auditor-General of British Columbia, 1916-17.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2.30 o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5.59 p.m.

Thursday, 8th March, 1917.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. F. A. P. Chadwick.

Mr. *Farris* presented a petition from the City of Vancouver, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to amend its Corporate Act. (No. 1.)

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

On the motion of Mr. *Nelson*, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of Mr. *Couper*, seconded by Mr. *McIntosh*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of all correspondence passing between the Honourable the Minister of Railways and the Honourable the Attorney-General, having reference to, or arising out of, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co.'s inquiry into the Pacific Great Eastern accounts.

Mr. *Ross* asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:—

1. How many auditors are now in the employment of the Government doing special audit-work?
2. What are their respective names?
3. Where has each person so employed resided in the period of six months prior to the date of commencement of audit?
4. What are the salaries (and allowances, if any) being paid to each?
5. If salaries being paid per day, how much per day in each case?
6. What amounts have already been paid on account of such work?
7. What does the Minister anticipate the cost of such audit will be?
8. Give details of the work said audit is intended to cover.

The Hon. Mr. *Brewster* replied as follows:—

"1. Price, Waterhouse & Co., of London and other centres, at present employing seven accountants on this work.

"2. The accountants engaged on this work by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., of Vancouver, are E. W. Dudley, D. E. Townsend, M. D. Irvine, C. G. Keys, L. A. Roberts, F. B. Griffen, and J. E. D. Anstruther-Morton.

"3. The first five of these at various places in Canada and United States as their duties require, the sixth in Canada, and the last in Canada and England.

"4. The firm of Price, Waterhouse & Co. charges the Government for the services of these auditors as follows: One at \$25 per diem; six at \$15 per diem; and an allowance each of \$4 per day for expenses in Victoria, B.C.

"5. Answered by No. 4.

"6. \$3,769.

"7. Cannot say definitely.

"8. Examination into the accounts and financial position of the Province and report thereon and special investigations into all such matters as the Executive Council consider necessary. Also recommendations for the placing of the Provincial accounting system on a sound and modern basis."

The debate on the second reading of Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act to amend the 'British Columbia Railway Act'" was resumed.

The debate was further adjourned until the next sitting.

The Standing Committees for the Session were appointed as follows:—

Private Bills and Standing Orders—Messrs. *Jackson, Whiteside, Pauline, Hart, Farris, Ross,* and *Rose.*

Mining—Messrs. *Thompson, Manson, Nelson, Buckham, Fisher, Mobley, Sutherland, Walters, Pauline, Keen, Yorston, Shatford, Ross, Schofield, Rose, A. McDonald,* and *Jones.*

Railways—Messrs. *Anderson, Hall, Cowper, Sutherland, McGeer, Hanes, McIntosh, Ross, Shatford,* and *Pauline.*

Public Accounts—Messrs. *Pauline, Thompson, K. C. Macdonald, Cowper, Mobley, Pooley, Jones,* and *Bowser.*

Municipal Matters—Messrs. *Bell, Whiteside, McIntosh, Hanes, Willson, Schofield, Pooley,* and *Rose.*

Agriculture—Messrs. *Barrow, Anderson, Stewart, Yorston, K. C. Macdonald, Jones,* and *A. McDonald.*

Printing—Messrs. *Manson, Nelson, Yorston,* and *A. McDonald.*

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2.30 o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 6.05 p.m.

Friday, 9th March, 1917.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *Walter G. Letham.*

The petition presented by Mr. *Farris* from the City of Vancouver for leave to introduce a Private Bill to amend its Corporate Act was received. (No. 1.)

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

On the motion of Mr. *Bowser*, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

The Hon. Mr. *Oliver* moved, seconded by the Hon. Dr. *King*,—

That a Select Committee consisting of eight Members of this House—namely, Messrs. *Farris, Hall, Hanes, Anderson, Yorston, Ross, Shatford,* and *Pooley*—be appointed to inquire into all matters directly or indirectly relating to the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway

Company, including the relations existing between the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company and the firm of Foley, Welch & Stewart, and between the said railway company and Mr. P. Welch, contractor, and between Mr. P. Welch, contractor, and any sub-contractors or stationmen performing work or supplying materials under the contract existing between P. Welch and the railway company; and also between any sub-contractors and stationmen working for or under such sub-contractors; and also into the relations existing between the railway company and any other person, firm, or corporation; and also into the relations existing between Mr. P. Welch, contractor, and any other person, firm, or corporation in connection with the supply of labour or materials in connection with the construction of the railway; and that the said Committee shall have power to call for and compel the attendance of persons, and the production of books, papers, cross-sections, profiles, bills of quantities, accounts, and, generally, all things that may be necessary in carrying out the most searching inquiry into the affairs of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company; and the Committee shall have power to administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses, to take evidence under oath, and to report the findings of the Committee, and the evidence adduced, to this House.

Mr. *Hayward* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Pooley*,—

To strike out of the Resolution after the word "That," in the first line of the Resolution, the words "a Select Committee consisting of eight Members of this House—namely, Messrs. *Farris, Hall, Hanes, Anderson, Yorston, Ross, Shatford, and Pooley*," and substitute therefor the following words: "an humble Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him that a Royal Commission consisting of one of His Majesty's Judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and two railway engineers of national reputation."

Question proposed: "Shall the words proposed to be struck out stand part of the question?"

A debate arose, which was, on the motion of Mr. *Ross*, adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

Mr. *Pooley* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following question:—

Does the Workmen's Compensation Board intend to locate its permanent office in Victoria or Vancouver?

The Hon. Mr. *Macdonald* replied as follows:—

"The Board has rented offices in the Union Bank Building, Victoria, which are very suitable for its purposes. It has not been definitely decided whether the permanent office will be in Victoria or Vancouver, as there are claims in favour of both places, but for the present Victoria will be the headquarters."

Mr. *Jones* asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:—

1. What amounts has the present Government paid on account of the guarantee of the bonds of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway?

2. When were these payments made?

3. To whom were the payments made?

The Hon. Mr. *Brewster* replied as follows:—

"1. January 15th, 1916, \$316,016.80; July 15th, 1916, \$315,366.39; January 15th, 1917, \$422,443.08; total, \$1,053,826.27. This amount does not include the sum of \$1,021,647.60 interest paid by the company out of moneys released on Construction Estimates 1 to 41 by the Government from time to time out of the proceeds of guaranteed bonds.

"2. Answered by No. 1.

"3. To Messrs. Brown, Shipley & Co., London, England, account stock registered there, \$899,979.18; to Union Bank of Canada, Vancouver, account stock registered Victoria, \$153,847.09; total, \$1,053,826.27."

Mr. *Bowser* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following questions:—

1. Is F. J. Harding an employee of the Workmen's Compensation Board?

2. In what capacity is he employed?

3. What salary is he in receipt of?

4. When was he appointed?
5. Is he an American citizen, British subject by birth, or a naturalized British subject?
6. If the latter, when did he make application to be naturalized?
7. When were such naturalization papers issued?

The Hon. Mr. *Macdonald* replied as follows:—

- "1. Yes.
- "2. Accountant and office manager.
- "3. \$150 per month.
- "4. 21st February, 1917.
- "5. He was an American citizen, but on the 12th February, 1917, made application to be naturalized as a British subject, and he has been examined by His Honour John Andrew Forin, County Court Judge of West Kootenay, and his application has been approved and granted. The only American citizens on the Board, two in number, were appointed by the late Government. All the other employees of the Board are British or Canadian subjects.
- "6. Answered by No. 5.
- "7. In due course."

The debate on the second reading of Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act to amend the 'British Columbia Railway Act'" was resumed.

The Bill was read a second time on the following division:—

YEAS—32.

Messieurs

<i>Anderson,</i>	<i>Willson,</i>	<i>Farris,</i>	<i>Whiteside,</i>
<i>Bell,</i>	<i>Nelson,</i>	<i>Hart,</i>	<i>Walters,</i>
<i>Yorston,</i>	<i>Cowper,</i>	<i>Sutherland,</i>	<i>McGeer,</i>
<i>Buckham,</i>	<i>Macdonald, M. A.,</i>	<i>Manson,</i>	<i>Barrow,</i>
<i>Fisher,</i>	<i>Brewster,</i>	<i>Thompson,</i>	<i>Stewart,</i>
<i>Hanes,</i>	<i>Oliver,</i>	<i>MacLean,</i>	<i>Pauline,</i>
<i>Macdonald, K. C.,</i>	<i>King,</i>	<i>Pattullo,</i>	<i>McIntosh,</i>
<i>Mobley,</i>	<i>Keen,</i>	<i>Sloan,</i>	<i>Hall.</i>

NAYS—6.

Messieurs

<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>Ross,</i>	<i>Shatford,</i>	<i>Rose.</i>
<i>Schofield,</i>	<i>Bowser,</i>		

To be committed at the next sitting.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2.30 o'clock on Monday next.

And then the House adjourned at 6 p.m.

Monday, 12th March, 1917.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *John Robson.*

Mr. *Anderson* presented a petition from Rev. Henry S. Akenhurst and others, *re* amending the "Municipal Act" to exempt church-sites from taxation.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

On the motion of the Hon. the Premier, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Oliver*, moved on 9th March, as follows:—

That a Select Committee consisting of eight Members of this House—namely, Messrs. *Farris, Hall, Hanes, Anderson, Yorston, Ross, Shatford*, and *Pooley*—be appointed to inquire into all matters directly or indirectly relating to the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company, including the relations existing between the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company and the firm of *Foley, Welch & Stewart*, and between the said railway company and Mr. P. Welch, contractor, and between Mr. P. Welch, contractor, and any sub-contractors or stationmen performing work or supplying materials under the contract existing between P. Welch and the railway company; and also between any sub-contractors and stationmen working for or under such sub-contractors; and also into the relations existing between the railway company and any other person, firm, or corporation; and also into the relations existing between Mr. P. Welch, contractor, and any other person, firm, or corporation in connection with the supply of labour or materials in connection with the construction of the railway; and that the said Committee shall have power to call for and compel the attendance of persons, and the production of books, papers, cross-sections, profiles, bills of quantities, accounts, and, generally, all things that may be necessary in carrying out the most searching inquiry into the affairs of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company; and the Committee shall have power to administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses, to take evidence under oath, and to report the findings of the Committee, and the evidence adduced, to this House.

And the amendment thereto moved by Mr. *Hayward*, as follows:—

To strike out of the Resolution after the word “That,” in the first line of the Resolution, the words “a Select Committee consisting of eight Members of this House—namely, Messrs. *Farris, Hall, Hanes, Anderson, Yorston, Ross, Shatford*, and *Pooley*,” and substitute therefor the following words: “an humble Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him that a Royal Commission consisting of one of His Majesty’s Judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and two railway engineers of national reputation.”

On the motion of Mr. *Bowser*, the debate was adjourned until to-morrow.

Mr. *Cowper* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following questions:—

1. What are the names of the male deputy official Court stenographers employed at the Vancouver Court-house?
2. What are their respective nationalities?
3. Has an opportunity to enlist for military service been offered to them and to other civil servants?
4. Have any of the aforesaid deputy official stenographers refused to enlist? If so, upon what grounds?
5. Have any members of the Provincial police force at Vancouver applied for leave of absence to enlist for service overseas?
6. What are their names?
7. Has leave of absence been granted or refused?
8. If leave has been refused, what alternative (if any) has been suggested to them by the Honourable Minister?

The Hon. Mr. *Macdonald* replied as follows:—

“1. P. J. Mackay, engaged February, 1909; W. E. G. Johnson, engaged October, 1911; W. R. Hill, engaged September, 1912; W. L. Fenstermacher, engaged November, 1914.

“2. Mackay and Johnson (Canadian); Hill (Scotsman); Fenstermacher (American).

“3. They have had the same opportunity as has been offered to every male resident of this Province. Might add that a census of civil servants is being taken.

“4. No.

“5. Yes.

“6. Constables A. D. McNeely and F. D. Markland.

“7. They were notified that the Department would accept their resignations without prejudice to their right to apply for reinstatement on their return.

“8. Answered by No. 7.”

Dr. Rose asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following questions:—

1. Why does the Government not fill the position of Sheriff for Kootenay?
2. When does the Government propose to make this appointment?

The Hon. Mr. Macdonald replied as follows:—

- "1. The Government intend to fill this position.
- "2. At an early date."

Bill (No. 7) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Pharmacy Act'" was read a second time.
To be committed to-morrow.

On the second reading of Bill (No. 6) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Coal and Petroleum Act'" a debate arose, which was, on the motion of Mr. Ross, adjourned until to-morrow.

The following papers were presented by the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture and Railways:—

Return under section 13, subsection (2), of the "Agricultural Act."

Report on investigation into the financial relations of the Government with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company up to the date when the proceeds of the Company's debenture stock was exhausted.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2.30 o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5.25 p.m.

Tuesday, 13th March, 1917.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. M. Theo. Habershon.

Mr. Farris presented a petition from Robert T. Ward, of Bullion, and the Cariboo Gold Mining Company (Foreign), praying for an inquiry into the facts in connection with certain mining claims on the South Fork of the Quesnel River, Cariboo District.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

On the motion of Mr. Manson, the debate was adjourned until to-morrow.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion moved by the Hon. Mr. Oliver on 9th March, and the amendment thereto moved by Mr. Hayward on the same date.

On the motion of the Hon. the Attorney-General, the debate was adjourned until to-morrow.

Mr. Schofield asked the Hon. the Minister of Mines the following questions:—

1. What amounts have already been paid to assist in the construction of mineral roads, trails, and bridges under the "Mines Development Act" of 1916?
2. Will the Hon. the Minister of Mines give details of each payment?
3. What promises have been made as to assistance which has not yet been paid or which is not wholly paid?
4. What amount still remains of the sum of \$200,000 authorized by said Act?
5. What amounts were authorized by the late Minister of Mines?
6. What amounts have been authorized or promised by the present Minister of Mines?

The Hon. Mr. *Sloan* replied as follows:—

"1. \$48,754.98.

"2. The amounts expended on each road or trail will be furnished.

"3. (a.) In the case of Quadra Island Road the Department set aside a sum of money not to exceed \$3,000, being half the estimated cost of construction. (b.) No promises have been made. (c.) Money in certain cases allocated for certain works has not been expended.

"4. \$151,245.02.

"5. \$52,150.96.

"6. Answered by No. 3 (a)."

Mr. *Ross* asked the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture the following questions:—

1. Is the Government this season supplying seed-grain to the settlers in any part of the Province?

2. If so, in what part or parts, and for what reason or reasons?

3. Have any applications for seed-grain reached the Department from any part or parts of Fort George Electoral District?

4. If so, have any or all of the same been favourably considered?

5. If not, why not?

The Hon. Mr. *Oliver* replied as follows:—

"1. Yes.

"2. Seed-grain is being supplied to settlers in the area lying between Tete Jaune Cache and Hazelton, the distribution being made necessary by the lack of seed in the said area due to a bad harvest.

"3. Yes.

"4. The agents of the Department will distribute a sufficient quantity of seed to enable those persons to seed their land who are financially unable to purchase seed and are actually engaged in agriculture.

"5. Answered by No. 4."

Mr. *Hayward* asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:—

1. Has the Ship-building Commission made a report?

2. If so, when will it be presented to the House?

The Hon. Mr. *Brewster* replied as follows:—

"1. Yes.

"2. Now in the hands of the King's Printer."

Mr. *Ross* asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:—

1. In what country or countries have each of the following employees of Price, Waterhouse & Co., respectively resided for the period of six months immediately prior to the date of the commencement of the present audit, namely: E. W. Dudley, D. E. Townsend, M. D. Irvine, C. G. Keys, L. A. Roberts?

2. To what country do such employees owe allegiance respectively?

3. In addition to the sum of \$143 per day now being paid to the clerical staff of Price, Waterhouse & Co., what further charges (if any) has the Government undertaken to pay in respect to the said audit, either to Price, Waterhouse & Co., or any other person or persons?

The Hon. Mr. *Brewster* replied as follows:—

"1. E. W. Dudley, Philadelphia, Pa.; D. E. Townsend, New York City; M. D. Irvine, Seattle, Wash.; C. G. Keys, Neah Bay, Wash.; L. A. Roberts, Seattle, Wash. Owing to the nature of their employment it is impossible that these accountants have permanent places of residence. They must reside where their work requires.

"2. Great Britain. Mr. D. E. Townsend, Mr. Anstruther-Morton, and Mr. Griffin are returned soldiers, having served with the British forces during the present war.

"3. In addition to charges for services as auditors and their individual allowance of \$4 per diem in lieu of hotel expenses, the Government is liable for travelling expenses of officials between Victoria and Vancouver, and also a charge of \$35 per diem for the services of any principal of the firm when required for consultation."

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2.30 o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 4.25 p.m.

Wednesday, 14th March, 1917.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *Charles Goucher*.

The petition from Robert T. Ward, of Bullion, and the Cariboo Gold Mining Company (Foreign), praying for an inquiry into the facts in connection with certain mining claims on the South Fork of the Quesnel River, Cariboo District, was received and referred to the Mining Committee.

Mr. *Jackson* presented the First Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

REPORT NO. 1.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,

March 14th, 1917.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

That the Standing Orders in connection with the undermentioned petition have not been complied with, inasmuch as the copy of the petition, Bill, and notice were not deposited with the Clerk of the House eight days before the opening of the Session.

Your Committee would recommend that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the petitioner to proceed with the Bill.

No. 1—City of Vancouver.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. B. JACKSON, *Chairman*.

The report was received.

The Standing Rules and Orders were suspended, and the report adopted.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session.

On the motion of Mr. *Jones*, the debate was adjourned until to-morrow.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Oliver*, moved on 9th March, as follows:—

That a Select Committee consisting of eight Members of this House—namely, Messrs. *Farris*, *Hall*, *Hanes*, *Anderson*, *Yorston*, *Ross*, *Shatford*, and *Pooley*—be appointed to inquire into all matters directly or indirectly relating to the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company, including the relations existing between the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company and the firm of Foley, Welch & Stewart, and between the said railway company and Mr. P. Welch, contractor, and between Mr. P. Welch, contractor, and any sub-contractors or stationmen performing work or supplying materials under the contract existing between P. Welch and the

railway company; and also between any sub-contractors and stationmen working for or under such sub-contractors; and also into the relations existing between the railway company and any other person, firm, or corporation; and also into the relations existing between Mr. P. Welch, contractor, and any other person, firm, or corporation in connection with the supply of labour or materials in connection with the construction of the railway; and that the said Committee shall have power to call for and compel the attendance of persons, and the production of books, papers, cross-sections, profiles, bills of quantities, accounts, and, generally, all things that may be necessary in carrying out the most searching inquiry into the affairs of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company; and the Committee shall have power to administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses, to take evidence under oath, and to report the findings of the Committee, and the evidence adduced, to this House.

And the amendment thereto moved by Mr. *Hayward*, as follows:—

To strike out of the Resolution after the word "That," in the first line of the Resolution, the words "a Select Committee consisting of eight Members of this House—namely, Messrs. *Farris, Hall, Hanes, Anderson, Yorston, Ross, Shatford, and Pooley,*" and substitute therefor the following words: "an humble Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him that a Royal Commission consisting of one of His Majesty's Judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and two railway engineers of national reputation."

Question proposed—"Shall the words proposed to be struck out stand part of the question?" and *Resolved* in the affirmative on the following division:—

YEAS—29.

Messieurs

<i>Anderson,</i>	<i>Jackson,</i>	<i>Farris,</i>	<i>Sloan,</i>
<i>Bell,</i>	<i>Wilson,</i>	<i>Hart,</i>	<i>Whiteside,</i>
<i>Yorston,</i>	<i>Nelson,</i>	<i>Sutherland,</i>	<i>Walters,</i>
<i>Buckham,</i>	<i>Macdonald, M. A.,</i>	<i>Manson,</i>	<i>Barrow,</i>
<i>Fisher,</i>	<i>Brewster,</i>	<i>Thompson,</i>	<i>Stewart,</i>
<i>Hanes,</i>	<i>King,</i>	<i>MacLean,</i>	<i>Pauline,</i>
<i>Macdonald, K. C.,</i>	<i>Keen,</i>	<i>Pattullo,</i>	<i>Hall.</i>
<i>Mobley,</i>			

NAYS—10.

Messieurs

<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>McDonald, A.,</i>	<i>Shatford,</i>	<i>Cowper,</i>
<i>Schofield,</i>	<i>Ross,</i>	<i>Rose,</i>	<i>McIntosh.</i>
<i>Jones,</i>	<i>Bowser,</i>		

Debate resumed on the main question.

Mr. *Farris* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Keen*.—

That the words "from time to time" be inserted between the words "report" and "the" in the seventeenth line of the Resolution.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Original question as amended agreed to.

The Hon. the Premier presented the First Report of the Shipping Credit Commission for the year ending 31st December, 1916.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2.30 o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5.45 p.m.