

Friday, 17th August, 1917.

QUARTER PAST THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *Wm. Stevenson*.

The House proceeded to the Orders of the Day.

Bill (No. S3) intituled "An Act to bring into Force the 'British Columbia Prohibition Act'" was again committed.

Reported without amendment.

Report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. S2) intituled "An Act to remove Doubts as to the Validity of certain Acts enacted by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia" was committed.

Reported without amendment.

Report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

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

1. What is the total amount of money paid to Price, Waterhouse & Company for services rendered between March 31st, 1917, and May 15th, 1917?

2. What further amount is it estimated will have to be paid to complete the work for which said firm was employed?

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

"1. The amount paid between March 31st, 1917, and June 30th, 1917, was \$6,202.90 for services rendered in Victoria, and \$337 for services rendered in London, England.

"2. \$954.85."

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

1. Was an audit lately made by Marwich, Mitchell, Peat & Co., on account of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Co., in the Parliament Buildings?

2. Was one Weaver, of Mud Bay, acting as watchman in connection with said audit?

3. What allowance was paid said Weaver?

4. Was said Weaver of military age?

5. Was this position offered to any returned soldier?

6. Is not said Weaver a nephew of the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture or his wife?

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

"1. An audit was made of the books of Mr. P. Welch, contractor for the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

"2. One Joseph Weaver, of Victoria, was appointed caretaker of the books and exhibits in custody of the Pacific Great Eastern Inquiry Committee, with instructions to see that no books or papers were removed or destroyed.

"3. \$4 per day; commencing at 8 a.m. and closing at 6 p.m., or two hours per day more than the ordinary office hours in the Parliament Buildings.

"4. No information in Department as to Weaver's age.

"5. No; it was considered advisable to employ some person known by the Minister to be trustworthy.

"6. The Department does not require its employees to furnish a list of their relations or the degree of relationship, and has no official information thereon."

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

1. What is the cost to date of the "plugging" Commission in Vancouver?
2. What further amounts are expected to be paid in this connection?

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

- "1. The accounts have not yet been received by the Department.  
 "2. Answered by No. 1."

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

1. What is the cost to date in connection with the public inquiry regarding the charge against M. A. Macdonald for having received the sum of \$15,000 alleged to be contributed by the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Co.?

2. Are there any amounts still to be paid in this connection?

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

- "1. \$150.  
 "2. No."

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

1. What amount of money has the Government borrowed from the Canadian Bank of Commerce or elsewhere since the present Government took office?

2. What amount is still owing and unpaid on this account?
3. What rate of interest is being paid by the Government on account of said loans?

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

- "1. \$2,000,000.  
 "2. \$2,000,000.  
 "3. Five per cent. per annum."

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

1. What amounts to date have been paid by the present Government on account of the guarantee of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway bonds?

2. To whom were these payments made and their respective amounts?

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

- "1. \$1,085,290.35.  
 "2. Payments were made to the P.G.E. Railway, on estimates approved by the Railway Department, as follows: 1917, January 12th, \$67,116.57; January 22nd, \$74,145.34; February 9th, \$64,558.14; March 7th, \$33,852.21. Payments were made on account of interest on guaranteed bonds as follows to stockholders: January 15th, 1917, \$422,443.08; July 15th, 1917, \$423,175.01."

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

1. What is the cost to date of the Select Committee of the House in connection with the Pacific Great Eastern Inquiry, including Auditors' fees?

2. What amount has been paid S. S. Taylor, K.C., in connection with this inquiry?
3. What amount is still due said S. S. Taylor in this connection?

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

"1. \$5,256.75. This amount does not cover Auditors' fees, which are included in Price, Waterhouse & Co.'s general account against the Government.

- "2. \$3,632.50.  
 "3. Nothing."

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

1. What amount has been paid on account of the services of Adam Shortt in connection with the "Civil Service Act" and his expenses?

2. Will any further amounts be paid in this connection?

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

- "1. Travelling expenses only, amounting to \$198.20.
- "2. No."

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

1. Was Wm. Allison, late Auditor-General, dismissed from the service?
2. If so, why?
3. How long had he been in the service?
4. Was he a married man?
5. Has A. N. Mouat been appointed Comptroller-General?
6. What salary is being paid him?
7. Where did he reside before being appointed?
8. On whose recommendation was he appointed?
9. Was any effort made by the Government to obtain a competent man in British Columbia?
10. If so, what names were considered?

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

- "1. No. Office of Auditor-General abolished by Statute, August 1st, 1917.
- "2. Answered by No. 1.
- "3. Since 1909.
- "4. No information.
- "5. Yes.
- "6. \$4,200 per annum.
- "7. Scotland, and various parts of Western Canada, including British Columbia.
- "8. That of the Minister of Finance.
- "9. The Government considered the names of men in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada, and selected Mr. Mouat as being best qualified to put into effect such a system of complete control over expenditure as has been recommended by Price, Waterhouse & Company in their report to the Government.
- "10. Answered by No. 9."

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

1. What amounts have been paid to date on account of the public inquiry being held by Adam Shortt in connection with the B.C. Electric matters?
2. What further amounts are expected to be paid by the Government in this matter?

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

- "1. No payments have been made.
- "2. It is not possible to say, as Commission is still sitting."

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

1. Is there a clerk named J. A. McBrady employed in the Lands Department?
2. If so, when did he commence work?
3. What salary is he being paid?
4. Is he of military age?
5. Was the position now occupied by the said McBrady offered to a returned soldier?
6. If not, why not?
7. Is the said McBrady a nephew of the Hon. the Minister of Finance?

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

- "1. Yes.
- "2. July 9th, 1917.
- "3. \$40 per month.
- "4. Eighteen on August 7th, 1917.
- "5. No.
- "6. Boy wanted.
- "7. Yes."

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

1. Upon what date did Frederick E. Hammond secure a pre-emption entry on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Lot 7709, Cariboo?
2. Upon what date did he secure his certificate of improvements for the same?
3. Upon what date was the Crown grant for said land issued to him?
4. What investigation (if any) was made to ascertain the timber quantities on said pre-emption?
5. If no such investigation was made, why not?
6. Have any investigations of timber quantities been made on other pre-emptions in the near vicinity of said S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Lot 7709, Cariboo?
7. If so, to whom did the same belong and what were their lot designations?
8. If any such investigations were so made, why was the said lot not included?
9. Was the said pre-emptor, Fredk. E. Hammond, the same man as Frederick E. Hammond who was called as a Crown witness in the recent Fort George Election Royal Commission?

The Hon. Mr. Pattullo replied as follows:—

- "1. January 21st, 1914.
- "2. February 6th, 1917.
- "3. February 27th, 1917.
- "4. No special instructions given; examination made under old order of things.
- "5. Answered by No. 4.
- "6. Yes.
- "7. S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Lot 7711, Cariboo, McNeill Stearns; N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Lot 7706, Cariboo, Harry Faulkner; Lot 7699, Cariboo, John M. Olson.
- "8. Answered by No. 4.
- "9. Do not know."

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

1. Did Wm. Bridge and Wm. Duncan perform their duties satisfactorily as Agricultural Credit Commissioners?
2. Why were they not appointed as members of the Land Settlement Board?
3. Who has been appointed Chairman and members of the Land Settlement Board?
4. What salaries are paid to each?
5. What are their respective ages?
6. Were the names of any Conservatives considered in these appointments?
7. If so, who were they?

The Hon. Mr. Oliver replied as follows:—

- "1. Wm. Bridge and Wm. Duncan, as Agricultural Credit Commissioners, were not under the control of the Agricultural Department, and this office has no information as to how the above-named Commissioners performed their duties.
- "2. Their services were not required.
- "3 and 4. W. Maxwell Smith, Chairman, \$275 per month; John A. Macdonald, Duncan Munro, M. H. Nelems, and Chas. R. Ward, Directors, each \$175 per month.
- "5. Not recorded in Department.
- "6. No information in Department as to who are Conservatives.
- "7. Answered by No. 6."

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

What was the total amount of money paid to Price, Waterhouse & Co. for services rendered as special Auditors from the commencement of their services to date of completion of the same?

The Hon. Mr. Oliver replied as follows:—

"Information asked for is not in the Department of Agriculture."

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

1. Has any effort been made to borrow money for the purposes of the Land Settlement Board?

2. How many applications are now before said Board for loans?
3. What is the aggregate amount of said loans applied for?
4. How much money have applicants paid in on account of appraisal fees and which is still held by said Board?

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

- "1. Yes.
- "2. Number of applications before Board for loans: Received previous to July 16th, 1917, 442; received subsequent to July 16th, 1917, 34; total, 476.
- "3. Aggregate amount of said loans applied for: Received previous to July 16th, 1917, \$748,111; received subsequent to July 16th, 1917, \$49,350; total, \$797,461.
- "4. Appraisal fees: Received previous to July 16th, 1917, \$1,867.50; received subsequent to July 16th, 1917, \$180; total, \$2,047.50."

Mr. *Bowser* asked the Hon. the Minister of Public Works the following questions:—

1. Has one H. McLellan been acting as Chief Janitor in the Vancouver Court-house?
2. Has he been dismissed?
3. If so, why?
4. Who has been appointed in his place?
5. Was this position offered to any returned soldier?
6. What notice did said McLellan receive of his dismissal and were any reasons given for so doing?

The Hon. Dr. *King* replied as follows:—

- "1. Yes.
- "2. Yes.
- "3. For betterment of the Service.
- "4. C. J. Wilkes.
- "5. No; no applicant.
- "6. Statutory two weeks; answered by No. 3."

Mr. *Bowser* asked the Hon. the Minister of Public Works the following questions:—

1. Was C. R. Gordon, Inspector of Factories, dismissed from office? ✓
2. If so, why?
3. Who was appointed in his place?
4. What experience has his successor for such a position?

The Hon. Dr. *King* replied as follows:—

- "1. Yes.
- "2. Inattention to duties.
- "3. R. J. Stewart.
- "4. Graduate, School of Science; superintendent and operator of manufacturing plants."

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

1. Did one A. F. Connor, K.C., acting for the Federal Government, ask the consent of the late Attorney-General or the present Attorney-General to prosecute the B.C. Sugar Refinery of Vancouver?

2. Was such consent given?
3. If not, why was it not given?

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

- "1. Yes.
- "2. Yes.
- "3. Answered by No. 2."

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

1. Has one Mrs. Patterson been appointed as assistant to the Censor of Moving Pictures?
2. If so, on whose recommendation was this appointment made?
3. What salary is being paid said Mrs. Patterson?

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

- "1. Yes.
- "2. The Hon. the Attorney-General.
- "3. \$100 per month."

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

1. Is it the intention of the Government to appoint a Deputy Minister of Labour?
2. If so, who is to receive the appointment?
3. When will the appointment be made?

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

- "1. The matter is under consideration by the Government.
- "2. Answered by No. 1.
- "3. Answered by No. 1."

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

1. Was W. E. Fisher, of Prince Rupert, formerly acting as solicitor for the Official Administrator at Prince Rupert?
2. Has this work been taken away from said Fisher?
3. If so, why was this done?
4. Who is now doing the legal work for said Official Administrator?
5. On whose recommendation was the change made?

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

- "1. W. E. Fisher, as well as other solicitors in Prince Rupert, acted in the administration of intestate estates in which the Official Administrator was appointed.
- "2. Yes.
- "3. On the recommendation of the Hon. the Minister of Lands.
- "4. L. W. Patmore and other solicitors in Prince Rupert.
- "5. Answered by No. 3."

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

1. Was Wm. Avery, Game Warden of Golden, dismissed?
2. If so, for what reason?
3. What notice was he given of his dismissal?
4. How long had he been in the service?
5. What was his age?
6. Is he a married man?
7. Who was appointed in his place?
8. Is his successor a married man?
9. What is his age?
10. Is he a returned soldier?

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

- "1. Yes.
- "2. Incompetency in the performance of his duties, and offensive partizanship.
- "3. Telegraphic notice.
- "4. From May 15th, 1909, to July 5th, 1917.
- "5. No definite information; believe about fifty years.
- "6. Yes.
- "7. Frank Butwell.
- "8. No.
- "9. No definite information; believe about forty years.
- "10. Butwell enlisted in September, 1916, with the 223rd, C.E.F., and after serving until February, 1917, was discharged as being physically unfit. Butwell did not serve abroad.

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

1. Has one Mrs. J. H. McGill, of Vancouver, been appointed Assistant Juvenile Court Judge at Vancouver?
2. If so, on what authority has she been appointed?
3. On whose recommendation was she appointed?
4. What salary is she in receipt of?
5. Who is paying said salary?

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

- “1. Yes.
- “2. By Statute.
- “3. The Hon. the Attorney-General.
- “4. \$600 per year.
- “5. The City of Vancouver.

Mr. *Schofield* asked the Hon. the Premier the following questions:—

1. Is the present Attorney-General still a member of the law firm of Farris & Emerson?
2. If not, when was said firm dissolved?
3. What public notice was given of said dissolution?

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

- “1. No, and has not been since July 1st, 1917.
- “2. Answered by No. 1.
- “3. The question of giving notice of dissolution of a legal partnership is a private concern of the members of the partnership.”

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

1. Who has been appointed to collect poll-tax and other taxes?
2. What salaries or allowances are paid each?
3. Are any of them paid by commission only?
4. If so, who are they?
5. Are any of these appointees returned soldiers?
6. Has the appointment of these tax-collectors been gazetted?
7. If so, what is the authority for said gazettement?

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

“1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. By Order in Council, approved 6th June, 1917, the following officers were appointed Collectors of the Poll-tax: All Gold Commissioners, Government Agents, Mining Recorders and Deputy Mining Recorders, and all Assessors and Collectors who are in receipt of a salary payable out of the Consolidated Revenue of the Province, without any additional remuneration therefor, and all Provincial police officers in their respective police districts; and they are allowed a commission at the rate of 5 per centum on the amount of the poll-tax collected by them, and all Deputy Mining Recorders and Collectors of Revenue, who are not in receipt of a regular salary out of the Consolidated Revenue, are to receive as remuneration for collecting the poll-tax a commission on the amount of the tax collected by them, at the rate of 10 per cent. In addition to these Collectors of Poll-tax, the following persons have been appointed by Order in Council as Special Collectors of Poll-tax and of arrears of all other taxes, on salary, at the rate of \$125 per month, without any further allowance or commission, namely: Thomas H. Leeming, David Lewis, and W. W. Moore, Victoria; Geo. H. Hill and W. H. Kelly, Vancouver; and Alexander Forrester, Nanaimo. Neither of the Special Collectors are returned soldiers. Mr. T. Allardyce, Vancouver, who had been for years acting as a Special Collector in Vancouver, being paid partly by salary and partly by commission, is now retained temporarily as a Special Collector of Poll-tax and other taxes, at a monthly salary of \$125, without commission.

“6. Yes.

“7. Long-established departmental practice for the purposes of record.”

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

1. Has A. M. Verchere, of Mission City, been relieved of his duties as a Magistrate under the "Small Debts Act"?
2. If so, why has he been so relieved?
3. On whose recommendation was this done?
4. How long has said Verchere acted as Small Debts Magistrate?
5. Has the Attorney-General's Department received any complaints as to the performance of his duties?
6. If so, from whom?
7. Did the Attorney-General or any other member of the Government receive a petition from certain people in Mission City, asking the Government not to make any changes in the Government officials at Mission?
8. If so, by whom was it signed?
9. Will the Government table a copy of such petition?

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

- "1. Yes.
- "2. On account of complaints received.
- "3. The Hon. the Minister of Agriculture.
- "4. Appointed October 4th, 1916.
- "5. Yes.
- "6. Do not deem it expedient to disclose the names of complainants.
- "7. Yes.
- "8. By about twenty persons.
- "9. Not considered necessary."

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

1. Has one Frederick Hunter, of Mission City, been appointed as J.P.?
2. Has he been clothed with small-debts powers?
3. Did the Hon. the Attorney-General make any inquiries as to the qualifications of said Hunter before appointing him?
4. On whose recommendation was said Hunter appointed?

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

- "1. Yes.
- "2. Yes.
- "3. Yes.
- "4. The Hon. the Minister of Agriculture."

Mr. *Pooley* asked the Hon. the Premier the following question:—

Has the Government finally decided to abandon the "British Columbia Shipping Aid Act"?

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

"Matter is still under consideration."

Mr. *Bowser* asked the Hon. the Premier the following questions:—

1. Is it the intention of the Government to shift the Government Offices from Old Hazelton?
2. If so, to what point?
3. When will such change take place?

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

- "1. Yes.
- "2. Smithers.
- "3. As soon as practicable."

The Hon. the Premier presented the report of the Hon. Mr. Justice Gallihier, the Hon. Mr. Justice Murphy, and the Hon. Mr. Justice Macdonald, the Commissioners appointed to inquire into any and all irregularities and illegal practices, etc., at the by-election in Vancouver City Electoral District on February 26th, 1916.



Mr. *Pooley* moved, seconded by Mr. *Schofield*, That the following motion be now considered:—

That, in the opinion of this House, the whole resources of the Dominion, man-power and wealth, be pledged to the prosecution of the war, and gives its unqualified support of the principle of selective conscription to ensure the country's maximum effort, and earnestly desires that legislation to this end should be enacted at the earliest date possible; and that an humble petition be presented by the Members of this Legislature to the Government of Canada, embodying a copy of this Resolution.

Mr. Speaker *Weart* ruled the motion out of order as the House was not under the Order of Business permitting the motion to be ruled.

The Report of the Provincial Librarian for the year 1916 was laid on the table.

QUARTER PAST FOUR O'CLOCK P.M.

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 titles to the following Bills:—

(No. 82) An Act to remove Doubts as to the Validity of certain Acts enacted by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

(No. 83) An Act to bring into Force the "British Columbia Prohibition Act."

His Honour was pleased, in His Majesty's name, to give assent to these Bills.

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 these Bills."

Then His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to deliver the following gracious Speech:—

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—*

It affords me pleasure, in relieving you from your legislative duties, to give expression to my appreciation of the zeal and care you have displayed in dealing with the various matters that have engaged your attention during the present Session.

It is with deep regret that I learnt of the recent death of Sir Richard McBride, K.C.M.G., our former Premier, and I am pleased to note that your Body has passed an appropriate resolution of sympathy with Lady McBride, her family and relatives.

I am pleased to note the increased production in the mining industry of the Province, with particular reference to the output of copper, lead, and zinc, so essentially necessary to the Allies in the prosecution of the World's War.

The Act making provision for mineral surveys of the Province and for development of its mineral resources is calculated to bring the Province into more prominence as one of the greatest mineral areas on the Continent, and will necessarily induce the investment of further capital. The safeguard protecting wage-earners and investors will fulfil a long-standing requirement.

An outstanding measure you have dealt with is the "British Columbia Prohibition Act." This enactment is pursuant to the report of the Commission appointed to investigate the result of the overseas vote of the soldiers on the referendum as to prohibition.

Among other important measures with which you have dealt is the Act to promote increased agricultural production, which will materially assist in land settlement and increase the supply of foodstuffs throughout the Province, at a time when the need for such production is Empire-wide.

The Act provides for encouragement and assistance to returned soldiers who may elect to enter upon agricultural pursuits.

The provisions of the "Elections Act" whereby the electoral franchise is granted to women is in keeping with modern legislation on the subject, and will enable the influence of women to be more widely felt in the conduct of Provincial affairs, accepting as they will a large measure of responsibility.

The Act providing for the audit of the Public Accounts of the Province furnishes a method of dealing with public moneys and safeguards all public expenditures, and places the most important branch of the public service on a sound business basis.

The measures adopted with a view to ameliorating financial conditions of the Province will, I feel confident, have the desired effect.

While it has been deemed expedient to curtail public expenditures, a careful administration of the various departments will, I trust, ensure an efficient service.

The "Civil Service Act," modelled on Dominion legislation, provides adequate means for raising the Civil Service to a standing of high efficiency, giving employees security and permanency on the basis of merit in the Service.

The Act providing for the creation of a permanent Board of Taxation empowered to investigate methods, equalize assessments, and adopt the most modern scientific taxation will modify existing schemes and distribute the burden of taxation equitably.

I thank you for the adequate provision you have made for the necessary expenditures in assisting the general needs of the Province, and sincerely trust that the efforts you have put forth during the Session now closed will result in the continued progress and prosperity of the Province at large.

The Hon. Dr. MacLean, Provincial Secretary, then said:—

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—*

It is His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's will and pleasure that the Legislative Assembly be prorogued until it shall please His Honour to summon the same for dispatch of business, and this Provincial Legislative Assembly is hereby prorogued accordingly.

J. W. WEART, *Speaker.*

VICTORIA, B.C.:

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1917.