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THE PACIFIC CANADIAN

Weekly News Digest and Journal of Observation and Comment.

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INTRODUCTORY.

That there are two sides to every question is a truism. That truth is many-sided, like the facets of a diamond or prism, is an elaboration of the same idea, perhaps beyond every-day, practical recognition. All will subscribe, however, to the duality of truth—in other words, to the proposition that for the elucidation of a well-balanced, approximately correct idea of any subject or question, it is necessary that the critical faculty be exercised to the extent at least of examining that subject or question from two view points—the affirmative and the negative.

Our courts of law recognize this principle. Our system of constitutional government is virtually based upon it. It is not for nothing that man himself, the thinking and the governing animal par excellence, has been given two eyes and two ears, to enlighten and to warn on both sides; that all nature is dual; that, under Divine ordination, two great cosmic forces, working in opposition, hold the worlds in equipoise and ordered movement, where else were confusion and chaos. In the moral, social and political spheres, indissolubly conjoined, this great law cannot be disregarded with impunity. Where there is no vision, says an inspired authority, the people perish. Paraphrased and applied to our argument, it may be asserted, where there is no vision or presentation of the full-rounded, well-balanced truth on all public questions and issues kept constantly before the public mind—in contradistinction to the one-sided and distorted view that must otherwise obtain—the people assuredly do perish—in the spoilation and ultimate deprivation of their most vital rights and interests.

For the "horrible example" in illustration and substantiation of these self-evident truths, we have not far to go—we have only to refer to our own Province of British Columbia. It will not be denied that we have had for years in this Province a scandalously and most detrimentally one-sided state of things, relatively speaking, journalistically and politically, which has been accurately mirrored and reproduced—legitimate and inevitably fruitage—in the grotesque and hideous travesty on representative institutions of a practically one-sided Provincial Legislature; which, after working untold injury to the vital and permanent interests of the country, is but now, with the autocratic and unscrupulous Administration which procured it, toppling over and falling to pieces before our eyes, from the inherent rottenness and top-heaviness of the combination and the shrewd blows administered through the by-elections by the long suffering but at last fairly aroused and alarmed electorate.

The work of political regeneration, so well begun, is yet to be finished, however, in the general elections, that cannot now be long deferred. And the deep-seated causes that have made possible such an anomaly and monstrosity as the Legislature and Government whose obsequies we (that is, the people) hope soon, with good reason, to celebrate, have to be cured, if we would avoid the recurrence of such abnormal excrescences in the body politic, and generally cleanse and clarify the fountains and currents of our political and civic life, in which all governments, good, bad and indifferent, take their rise and have their being.

It is with the hope and desire of assisting, however humbly, in this good and necessary work—to the extent at least of supplying a needed corrective to the one-sided discussion of public questions and issues that has been particularly apparent in this part of the Province for some years, through the lack of a journalistic champion for the other side—that The Pacific Canadian enters the lists, as an independent exponent and advocate of Liberal and reform principles and policies, at this fateful and destined to be widely reconstructive era in the development of British Columbia, as an integral part of the Canadian Dominion and the great world-wide Empire to which we belong.

THE WORLD WAR.

The war, we have always with us, at least since those fateful first days of August, 1914, which seem so far removed in point of time now. It is the one stupendous, overshadowing, all-absorbing fact and topic of our lives—that portentous, unprecedented world struggle that is convulsing Europe and drawing all nations into its vortex. We had all but convinced ourselves, that is, we of British birth and traditions, that great wars between civilized peoples were things of the past, matters of history, and, when we sang, "Britons never will be slaves," it was rather with a retrospective thrill of pride and vicarious heroism, thinking of the freedom purchased for us by our forefathers on many a well fought field. Little did we realize, although the signs were not altogether wanting, that this generation would be called upon to maintain those dearly-bought liberties in the most tremendous armed conflict of all history.

When the dreadful storm, which Britain's statesmen tried by every honorable means to avert, broke, however, the nation—the whole Empire—pulled itself together and speedily disappointed the hopes of those who fondly imagined that peace and peaceful aspirations had palsied Britannia's arm. Nerved by the consciousness that their cause is a righteous and a noble one and that they are fighting, not only for the maintenance of the British Empire, but for the cause of civilization and the liberties of the world, the people of Great and Greater Britain have risen to the occasion in a manner worthy the best traditions of a glorious past, and, with their splendid allies, are slowly but surely encompassing the complete overthrow of the enemy who has shattered the peace of Europe and made grim war for a time the principle concern of mankind.

And what a war! What a colossal theatre and scale of operations, beggaring description and bankrupting the imagination. Armies numbered by millions, instead of hundreds of thousands. Costs mounting by billions in place of millions monthly. Death-dealing flotillas under the sea, as well as floating fortresses on its surface. Scouts, skirmishers, and dragons of destruction flying in the air; while the earth trembles beneath the tread of unnumbered legions, horse, foot and artillery, whose detonations rend the heavens, while the "smoke of their torment" and the poisonous gasses of the Huns obscure the sun.

With war on such a scale and under such conditions, it is not surprising that most preconceptions and expectations, founded on past experience, have been disappointed or reversed. While the British navy has been doubtless the most potent factor in the war making for the ultimate victory of the Allies, we are still waiting for the opportunity for our Trafalgar. On land, the struggle seems interminable. Instead of a detached, well-defined and decisive Waterloo or Sedan, we have one great, more or less inconclusive, battle merging into another. It is as if two steel- and fire-scaled, serpentine monsters were stretched side by side from the western seaboard half across Europe and from the Baltic to the Danube, with their tails lashing in the Balkans and Mesopotamia, and these monsters were writhing and straining in a death struggle, which will only end when one—and we can now guess pretty shrewdly which—is overpowered and strangled. With the dramatic factors in military strategy of surprise, outflanking movements, and the destruction of communications almost precluded by the conditions and devices of up-to-date warfare, there seems nothing for it but a war of attrition and exhaustion.

Such a war, it will be hardly necessary to say, imposes the severest possible strain on the heroism, endurance, and other soldierly virtues of the troops engaged, and nobly have they sustained the ordeal, Frenchmen and Russians, Italians and Serbians, vieing with Britishers in prodigies of valor and the courageous facing of heavy odds in the earlier stages of the conflict. The stolid bravery of the Germanic foe, worthy of a better cause, has been marred by the perpetration of the most atrocious and fiendish barbarities, on land and sea. Overlooking for the moment the unspeakable calamity of the war to the nations involved and to the world, the great cataclysm has been the occasion of a most remarkable demonstration of the solidarity of the British Empire and the virility and chivalry of the British peoples. In a war not of their making, the young manhood of Canada and of the other overseas Dominions has, with that of the motherland, thrilled to the call of this latest and greatest Crusade, for the safeguarding and preserving to humanity of the living principles of practical Christianity in international relations against the determined attacks of a reincarnated brutal Paganism, and, for these high ideals and the preservation of the Empire which champions them, is freely making the supreme sacrifice on the blood-drenched historic fields of Europe and Asia Minor. This glorious legacy we shall have from this terrible war, when final victory, which is assured, shall have crowned the cause of our allies and ourselves.

THE BY-ELECTIONS.

The two chief centres of population in British Columbia, the political capital and the commercial capital, embracing between them not far from half the population and registered voters of the Province, have spoken, in response to Premier Bowser's appeal for endorsement of his technically and avowedly new "business" Government—and the answer of these two great representative urban constituencies, Island and Lower Mainland respectively, having an aggregate representation in the House of ten, is the most emphatic negative that could possibly be given. The verdict is even more significant and unmistakable of the attitude and temper of the electorate of the whole Province toward the Bowser Government and its immediate predecessor, of which Mr. Bowser was himself the deus ex machina, when we recall that the result in Rossland, a representative Interior constituency, was, in the circumstances, a virtual defeat of the Government, a former Government majority of 168 obtained by a private supporter of the Government being turned into a bare majority of nine for the same candidate seeking re-election as a Minister—and that by grace of a Socialist candidate run to split the Liberal vote!

The circumstances leading up to the calling of this for the Government disastrous trio of by-elections are too fresh in the public mind to require any labored review. About the middle of December last, former Premier Sir Richard McBride resigned both the Premiership and his seat in the House, after eight or nine months of the most painfully strained relations with his Attorney-General and partner in the dual dictatorship of British Columbia for the past decade and more. By strict constitutional usage, Attorney-General Bowser was then entrusted by the Lieutenant-Governor with the task of forming a technically new Administration. A few months prior to this, Finance Minister Price Ellison had been quietly retired to private life on account of having unfortunately got mixed up in a more or less compromising (for a Minister of the Crown—and of Agriculture) preferential live stock deal at the Provincial Government "Colony Farm" at Essondale. His place in the Cabinet was not filled at the time, Mr. Bowser "taking it on" as acting Minister. About the time Premier McBride resigned, Hon. Henry Esson Young, Provincial Secretary and Minister of Education, was also jettisoned by Mr. Bowser as being a little off color for his "new" Government on account of a stock deal of a slightly different nature—coal company stock to the tune of $105,000, which obliging promoters had put in the Hon. Minister's name, perhaps through no fault of his! Thus Premier Bowser began life in his new dignity as head of the Government with three square or round holes, to be filled by as many round or square pegs, in his happy family. Hence the three by-elections.

But it will be proper to premise here that no by-elections were necessary, or desirable in the public interest. Premier Bowser had the option of the more constitutional, expedient, and much more economical, alternative of submitting his new Government and avowedly renovated policy to the judgment of the electorate as a whole in a general election, which must be held in any event, owing to the expiry of the Legislature, in the course of two or three months. The valliant Mr. Bowser, however, preferred to throw economy to the winds, by indulging in a costly unnecessary session and by-elections on the eve of an inevitable general election, and incurring thereby the odium of the moral poltroon thus pictured by the poet:

He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
Who dare not put it to the touch
To win or lose it all.

He deliberately—it took him from the middle of December until nearly the end of February to make up his mind—invoked the arbitrament of the three admittedly most representative by-elections, and, had he won, would undoubtedly have triumphantly claimed and proclaimed the result as a vindication and endorsement of himself and his Administration by the Province as a whole.

As every one knows, the result, instead of being a vindication and endorsement, constituted in all the circumstances a most exemplary and overwhelming condemnation and repudiation of the Administration and all its works past and present; for the late Administration, technically speaking, of which the present is only a patched up continuance, is not dissociated for a moment in the public mind from the one which owns Premier Bowser as titular head. Having appealed to the by-elections, and by the by-elections having been emphatically condemned, it might be supposed that Premier Bowser, Attorney-General Bowser, Mr. Bowser the man—experienced politician, statesman if you will, jurist of more or less standing, ordinarily good (if not cheap) sport—would manfully, constitutionally, decently accept the verdict, abide by the result of his own invocation. But what do we find, instead? The crowning insult and effrontery, added to all the injury which this Government and its immediate predecessor have inflicted upon the vital interests of the country, of lightly, flippantly, and contemptuously referring to and treating this most deliberate and crushing verdict of condemnation by the electorate as of no moment or significance at all—merely a puerile desire on the part of the people, as the Premier and his political and journalistic echoes assert, to give this precious Government the benefit of "some opposition" in the Legislature! What sort of a hint would these seasoned saurians take that the country is sick unto death of the whole unsavory lot, and only wants them as quickly and decently as they can, to "crawl into their holes and pull their holes in after them?"

Dropping figurative and indirect language altogether—which such people evidently could not understand any more apparently than they can a slap in the face—the Bowser Government and its apologists are very much mistaken if they are seriously hugging the delusion that the people are going to stand for that discredited and thrice condemned combination putting through the present moribund, fag-end Legislature anything but absolutely necessary and routine measures, including such estimates as are necessary for carrying on the public service, and reserving all vitally important financial and similar proposals to be dealt with by a Legislature fresh from and truly representative of the people, under the guidance of an Administration which has the confidence and support, instead of the contempt and reprobation, of the electorate.

ABOUT OURSELVES.

Do not judge this paper by its size at the start. No normal, healthy infant makes its advent full grown. It would be viewed with suspicion and apprehension if it did. We have come to stay. Watch us grow. We have also come to "fill a long-felt want." They always do. In this particular instance there is no doubt about it. In fact, nothing so soft as felt would fittingly typify that want. It might more appropriately be described as a long hard-boiled or reinforced-concrete want—the want of a public journal in this "neck of the woods" politically speaking to correct the natural tendency to a grotesque lop-sidedness in the discussion of public issues when one side has it all its own way and the other side is not voiced at all, or only intermittently.

The Pacific Canadian will be on the job all the time, not necessarily only or always on strictly political questions, but all questions that affect the public welfare. It has no axe to grind, no hobby to ride, no grouch to ventilate. It also has no strings on it, and will endeavor to so conduct itself that the flies will not find it a congenial or comfortable roosting place, either. In short, its purpose is to be as free and breezy (while not "too fresh"), and salubrious withal, as the great western ocean whose vitalizing currents sweep the incomparable coast line of British Columbia, from which this paper takes its name.

The Pacific Canadian (it will not be a peace-at-any-price Canadian) proposes to have a say from time to time in most things that interest the community, broadly speaking, keeping New Westminster City and District matters and interests paramount, but narrow in nothing, in intention at least. All measures for the material and moral betterment of the community and the country will have its support.

Advertisers will have the benefit of a large guaranteed circulation from the start throughout New Westminster City and District particularly, which will be maintained while our subscription list is levelling up. Readers who get The Pacific Canadian earlier issues free, by mail or delivery, are invited thereby to become subscribers, at the moderate price of $1.00 per year, 50 cents for six months, 25 cents for three months, or 10 cents per month, and thus help materially in developing the paper rapidly into a larger and more effective and influential public journal.

THE PACIFIC CANADIAN

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SNAP SHOTS.

Something dropped.

It was time for a change.

It is a long lane that has no turn.

B. C. to Bowser: "Nevermore be officer of mine!"

Bowser's "Business Government" has been given notice to quit.

The hour has struck for the political regeneration of British Columbia.

There was a "Crisis in B. C."—and the Bowser Government know it now!

The People to the Government: "Stand not upon the order of your going, but get!"

The Octopus has got it in the neck. Now watch the tentacles shrivel and relax.

No action of the short-lived Bowser Government, residuary legatee of the McBride-Bowser Government, will so become it as taking leave of life.

Found guilty by its peers. Capital sentence passed and confirmed. Exit, by the gallows route, at general election.

The people of British Columbia have said emphatically that they don't want and will not have a government of "shreds and patches."

That other "Heavenly Twin," the Roblin (Manitoba) Government, crumpled up and faded away, some months back, rather than face a general election. Will Bowser do likewise, or will he brazen it out?

The anxious organs, watching Bowser Government turning thrillers in fall from dizzy sky-scraper, reassure each other and victim by shouting: "All right so far," as successive downward stages are passed. It's all right—until the dull thud!

The general election will now be pretty much a matter of form; but bring it on, and let us bury the remains of Bowserism out of sight and smell.

Quit folling now, Mr. Bowser, and play ball! You're "out," and the people will be very impatient of any excuses or pretexts for you "hanging on" a moment longer than is decently necessary.

This is the last session of the thirteenth parliament of British Columbia and the thirteenth year of the McBride-Bowser Government. Unlucky Napoleon Bowser! His Waterloo seems to be due.

Just three little—or rather big—by-elections, "but, oh! what a difference in the morning!" They have changed the whole face of things politically in the Province and opened up an horizon bright with promise of assured and immediate betterment in political and economic conditions.

A caustic speaker in the late Vancouver by-election campaign, we think it was Sir Charles Tupper, said aptly that the Bowser Government was coming before the people on crutches and would go back on stretchers. Vancouver certainly kicked one of the artificial supports away with a vengeance, and Victoria sent the other spinning. What's left of the political wreckage is hardly worth calling up the ambulance for, the scavanger wagon will do just as well.

"Mr. Cowper's frivolities about the Dominion Trust," is a quotation from the News-Advertiser, recently, concerning Mr. Cowper's very serious charges against Mr. Bowser and the Bowser Government in connection with the tragically serious matter to thousands of victimized depositors of the late Dominion Trust. Wonder what the N.-A.'s idea of something too serious to be "frivolous" really is. Perhaps the avenging Nemesis now closing in remorselessly on the N.-A.'s pet, but ill-fated Government?

Congratulations to Harlan Carey Brewster, Liberal leader and heir apparent to the Premiership of British Columbia. He did yeoman service in the Legislature (1907-1912) as member for Alberni, till driven out by the "big stick" and big money of a Government whose deeds and intents were so sinister that they could brook no criticism or opposition in the Legislature. Now, appropriately returned as a representative of the Capital City by an unprecedented majority over his Ministerial opponent, he will be able to resume his interrupted work, backed by a doughty colleague and by the two Socialist representatives, and presently take the reins of government.

If the Bowser Government had a few more by-elections to bring on, its own grandmother—which we may suppose is the Victoria Colonist—wouldn't recognize either the Government or its platform. As it was going down the toboggan slide—Rossland-Vancouver-Victoria—it was busy desperately throwing out rotten timber of its own and grabbing one after the other sound planks from the Liberal platform. After the frantic readjustment in Victoria, the other day, the Bowser derelict was sloshing around in the Prohibition fresh-water pond, hanging on with bulging eyes to a raft made up almost entirely of planks cribbed bodily from the Liberal platform. An ass in the lion's skin wasn't in it!

Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, writing of the war, in which he has so greatly distinguished himself, says: "Surely Almighty God does not intend this war to be just a hideous fracas. There must be a purpose in it; improvement must come out of it. In what direction? France has already shown us the way, and has risen out of her ruined cities with a revival of religion that is wonderful. Russia has been welded into a whole, and religion plays a great part. Britain still remains to be taken out of the stupor of self-satisfaction and complacency into which her flourishing condition has steeped her. Until she can be stirred out of this condition, until a religious revival takes place, just so long will the war continue. When she can look on the future with humbler eyes and a prayer on her lips, then we can begin to count the days towards the end."

HERE AND THERE.

The Russians continue to force the German-Turks to "move on" on the Caucasus front, while the frantic Teutonic drive at Verdun against the Franco-British stone wall is netting the Huns so far only frightful losses.

The Vancouver election, thinks the Toronto Globe, "indicates that the Bowser Government is not going to live long in the land so thoroughly exploited under the McBride-Bowser regime." The Globe has correctly diagnosed the situation.

One of the "late" Government papers referred to Mr. M. A. Macdonald, M.P.P., the other day, as the "junior" member for Vancouver. The appellation in question does not refer in that connection to the number of years to a man's credit, but to the relative number of votes polled by the respective members representing a constituency which has a plural representation. As Mr. Macdonald holds the record vote in either Vancouver or British Columbia, he is "senior" member "by a large majority."

Sir Thomas Mackenzie, addressing the Associated Chambers of Commerce in London, England, recently, said that the time has now arrived for the Overseas Dominions to have a voice in the affairs of the Empire. If Canada, New Zealand, Australia and India were prepared to take a share in the responsibility, they should be heard at the deliberations of the Empire. Lord Desborough stated that at the Imperial conference on trade to be held at Toronto in September, Australia, New Zealand and India as well as Great Britain would be fully represented.

Premier Bowser actually descended to the triviality, in his Vancouver political arguments, of suggesting that Mr. M. A. Macdonald, in contesting the return of the "late" Hon. C. E. Tisdall, was actuated by a desire to grab the $1,500 consolation prize hung up, with remarkable foresight, by Mr. Bowser's Government, last session, as a salary for the leader of His Majesty's loyal Opposition! Passing over the insinuation that Mr. Macdonald would be disloyal to his leader, Mr. Brewster, the joke is altogether on Mr. Bowser, who evidently had a shrewd premonition of coming events when he provided this little solatium for the leader of the Opposition at Victoria. Mr. Bowser's late senior partner, Sir Richard, fell back in good order on a somewhat more sumptuous solatium, Lucky Dick! He dug out before the storm broke and when the walking was good.

It is understood that the Hearst Government of Ontario will at the present session prepare a prohibition measure for submission to the electors of the province. As the Opposition is already pledged to a prohibition policy it may be placed before the people during the summer. The Nova Scotia Legislature is discussing a prohibition bill introduced by Mr. Corning, of Yarmouth, an Opposition member. Manitoba electors will vote on the prohibition referendum a week from tomorrow.—News-Advertiser. It might be worth while to remark that British Columbia is making pretty good progress in the same noble procession. Even the Bowser Government hitched its waning star to the water wagon, the other day. Whether it will stay hitched remains to be seen, in face of the pressure that it is said is being brought to bear.

The strong Conservative Government of Ontario had a similar experience a week ago or so, on a small scale as to political significance and effects, to what the Bowser Government ran up against in this Province. There was a by-election in Peel, and the Government insisted on putting up an objectionable candidate, Fallis, implicated in war horse deal "rake-off," although the Liberal Opposition had offered to allow the election to go by acclamation if some other candidate were put forward. Result: Conservative candidate turned down so hard it made his teeth rattle, although the Government had carried the general election by a large majority. The verdict is hailed not as a party triumph, but as a healthy sign that the public conscience of the country is awakening. Here too!

Saskatchewan is having its political troubles. They have a Liberal Government there, Walter Scott at its head. They also have a measure of prohibition, after some years of agitation and legislation. The trouble arose over this question. According to disclosures or charges now being made, the liquor interests, as far back as 1913 systematically and secretly bribed some twelve of the Liberal majority members to vote against the "Banish the Bar" measure. It is also charged that in 1915, Hon. Robert Rogers, of Manitoba notoriety, now Minister of Public Works in the Borden Government, conspired with the liquor interests of Saskatchewan to bring about by the use of a large corruption fund the downfall of the Scott Government. At least two Royal Commissions are on the tapis to get at the bottom of things, and it is a wholesame sign of the times that Liberals are just as anxious to have the mess cleaned up as their opponents. The Government, individually or collectively, so far, does not appear to be implicated.

The latest suggested use for the submarine is as an efficient vehicle for arctic exploration, its advantages in this connection being set forth in a recent article in International Marine Engineering, New York, by Simon Lake, a well-known American inventor and builder of craft of that type. The idea is to run the submarine under the polar ice, of course, instead of over or through it, as other polar conveyances have to go, very slowly and painfully, it has been found. It is proposed to fit such a submarine with bearing wheels to run along smoothly just under the ice, and also with means of boring and, if necessary, blasting openings through the ice from beneath. It is obvious that the exeremely low temperature encountered in polar expeditions ordinarily would be avoided by this mode of travel, and the usual two-year itinerary would be reduced to about ten days for the round trip, not including stop-over privileges, the inventor estimating that the under-ice glide would be made at the rate of about a hundred miles a day. In the course of his interesting exposition, Mr. Lake incidentally makes the startling announcement that "an under-ice submarine for mail transportation in Vancouver Harbor has actually been in contemplation by the Canadian authorities." Our sister city on that ice-locked inlet has our sincerest sympathies—actually makes us shiver to think of it. Dr. Cooke ought to be wired to, perhaps he could help.

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LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Kodak time has commenced, and the best place for your supplies is Hurndall's, 648 Columbia street, New Westminster. *

The funeral of the late Mrs. Eleanor Murray, wife of Councillor John Murray, of McKay, Burnaby, whose death occurred on Monday afternoon, in her 56th year, was held yesterday afternoon from Armstrong and Hotson's parlors in Vancouver to the Mountain View cemetery.

One of the Royal City's gallant and adventurous young men, Stanley V. Trapp, is now a fully fledged subflight lieutenant, training in England for aviation work at the front. In a recent letter to his father, Mr. T. J. Trapp, he gives a thrilling account of his first 5000-feet ascent in his own aeroplane, alone.

British Columbia troops will probably go into camp again this year at Vernon, according to late dispatches from Ottawa. It had previously been announced that summer camps for corps west of Winnipeg would be at Sewell, Manitoba. It is also announced that the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders will furnish another Overseas' battalion.

A resolution calling on the Government to enact a bill at the present sitting of the Legislature admitting the women of British Columbia to the franchise on equal terms with men was unanimously carried at a mass-meeting held at the Labor Temple, Vancouver, Thursday night of last week, under the auspices of the B. C. Suffrage League. Mrs. Ralph Smith, Miss Eileen Tutty and Mr. J. S. Cowper were the speakers, and all agreed that the present was an opportune time to renew their demands on the Government.

Premier Bowser, it is said, has agreed to meet a delegation of the Licensed Victuallers' Association within the next few days. The delegation will produce figures to show the amount of money locked up in the business in British Columbia in an endeavor to induce the Government to provide in some measure at least a way by which the people may have a vote on the compensation feature of the question.

One of the oldest and most respected pioneers of the Fraser Valley, Thomas Haney, who gave his name to the thriving farming and industrial settlement of Port Haney, where he had lived with his family since 1876, has passed away. He is survived by his widow, two daughters, Mrs. Alex. Morrison and Miss Elizabeth Haney, and two sons, Frank, train dispatcher at Revelstoke, and Daniel, of Port Haney.

The death occurred at Nanaimo on Thursday of Dr. Frank Stuart Reynolds, former publisher of the Vancouver Daily Ledger, Nanaimo Herald, Ladysmith Ledger and Ashcroft Journal, and one of the best known citizens of the province. Dr. Reynolds for some time was engaged in mining in Alaska and was collector of customs at Juneau for several years.

The city is preparing to proceed with its litigation with the Canadian Northern Railway Company to collect taxes on the company's property in this city not in use for railway purposes. Having failed in the first rounds, the company is now commencing proceedings to have its property in question declared exempt from taxation. On the suggestion of Mr. W. G. McQuarrie, the city will enter a counter claim to this action for taxes alleged to be due, and, if the railway does not press its claim, the city will press the counterclaim Mr. Joseph Martin, K.C., has endorsed the opinion of the city solicitor that the city has a good case.

The weather man seems to be trying for new records this season. The snowfall of January and February, for depth and length of time covered, had "the oldest inhabitant" guessing to recall a parallel, and the unceasing heavy rainfall for nearly a week now is another "corker." The South Westminster flats look something like the description of the earth's surface in the old geographies —land and water, with the accent on the water—and the roads through low-lying sections generally resemble the Venetian highways. In this city, besides the flooding of cellars and other damage, the residence of Mr J. W. Harvey, in the Glen, was actually invaded as to the lower storey, to the inconvenience of the occupants and the damage of furniture, etc.

The exigencies of assembling and "building" a newspaper, in a limited time, must be responsible for omissions and defects of which the publishers are perhaps more keenly cognizant than the public. Some projected features and special articles, like little Ikey, got "killed in the rush," and in more ways than one there is room for improvement. It will take a little time, as in most incipient enterprises, to get things "licked into shape."

John Oliver, member to be for Dewdney, was in the city this week, having returned from an effective campaigning tour of Rossland and Victoria. He returned to Victoria, Tuesday, to assist in the good work of the Opposition in the Legislature.

Mr. Hector Ferguson, assessor for Maple Ridge municipality, was in the city yesterday, on a business visit.

Mr. E. W. Port, well known in New Westminster twenty years ago, spent a day in town this week. Mr. Port, who has lived in the North for many years, is now a member of the 62nd Battalion (Vancouver), which is on the eve of its departure for the Old Country, there to finish training before going to the front. en attention to. Phone 55.

Read our advertisements—all of them—in this issue They are as interesting as the reading matter, which is saying a good deal, if we do say it ourselves.

If any one is missed in the distribution of The Pacific Canadian, and wants a copy of the paper, he or she can obtain same by calling at the office, 761 Carnarvon street.

We are still doing business at the old stand. If there is anything we can do for you in the plumbing, heating or sheet metal line, 'phone 586. Mannering & MacKenzie will give your needs their immediate attention. *

Mr. David Whiteside, Liberal candidate, will give an address to the Young Liberal Association, at the club rooms, Westminster Trust Building, Wednesday evening next, 15th inst., on "The Ideals of Liberalism." All, irrespective of political complexion, are cordially invited to be present.

Sangster & Macdonell solicit your next order for Job Printing. 761 Carnarvon St. Phone 55. *

Floods Interrupt Traffic.

On account of the overflow of Glen Creek, caused by the heavy rains, undermining Columbia street at that point, traffic on the B. C. E. R., C. P. R., and G. N. R. was temporarily interrupted in that direction, the B. C. E. R., however, maintaining a transfer service, through the foresight of getting a number of cars across before the tracks were completely "washed out." It was expected that the regular service of the B. C. E. R., at least, would be resumed about noon today (Friday).

Liberal Smoker.

A well attended, enthusiastic and enjoyable smoker was held Wednesday night in the Liberal Club rooms, Westminster Trust block, Clarkson street, under the auspices of the Young Men's Liberal Association. Addresses were delivered by Mr. R. Carter Higgins, president; Mr. D. Whiteside, Liberal candidate for the city; and Mr. J. W. deB. Farris, one of the Liberal candidates for Vancouver. Variety was lent by a much appreciated programme of vocal and instrumental music and monologues, by Messrs. Kelly, Ellis, Welsh and Morris.

Passing of Pat Smyth.

The familiar figure of Pat Smyth, as he was known to his many friends and associates, will be seen no more on the streets, death having claimed him, after a long illness, at his home in this city, early yesterday morning. Mr. Patrick Smyth was born in County Louth, Ireland, nearly eighty years ago, but spent the years of his manhood in this Province, for the greater part in this city, where he gave thirty-three years' faithful and absolutely blameless public service as a guard in the B. C. Penitentiary, in recognition of which he was presented on his retirement, some three years ago, with the Imperial long-service medal, a rare and prized decoration. The late Mr. Smyth leaves a widow, but no family. The funeral will take place from the residence, 422 Third avenue, Saturday morning at 9 o'clock, to the Roman Catholic cemetery.

Death of Mrs. (Dr.) White.

Mrs. J. H. White, wife of Rev. Dr. White, superintendent of missions of the Methodist church in British Columbia, died in St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, Sunday afternoon, in her 59th year, after an illness extending over several years. Mrs. White was widely known in Methodist circles in this province, and particularly in New Westminster, where she and her husband lived at intervals during the past thirty years. She was born at St. John's, Welland county, Ontario, and was married to Dr. White and came to this city in 1887, on his appointment to the old Mary street church, residing here until 1890.

The late Mrs. White is survived by her husband, one daughter, Mrs. J. C McDonald, and four sons, Edward W. White of the horticultural department, Victoria, George B. White, principal of Strathcona school, Chilliwack; Arthur H. White, at Guelph College, and Harold M. White, of the Sixth Field Company, Canadian Engineers.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon, from Queen's Avenue Methodist church to the Fraser cemetery, Rev. W. W. Abbott, pastor, conducting the services. The pallbearers were Rev. Dr. A. M Sanford, Rev. E. Manuel, Rev A. E. Roberts, Mr. D. S. Curtis, Mr. Chas. Cliff and Mr. C. J. Robson.

City Market.

The condition of the roads, wagon and rail, pretty well demoralized the weekly market to-day, hardly anything having arrived by noon, the B.C.E.R. market car [due at 9 a.m.] not having yet arrived.

It was anticipated that prices would rule about the same as last week, with eggs probably droppidg to 22c to 23c wholesale and 25c retail.

The Pacific Canadian proposes in future issues making a feature of the weekly market reports.

TRY THE TEA ROOMS

There are days, no doubt, when you cannot spare the time to go home to lunch.

On such days my Tea Rooms offer ample variety for an enjoyable repast.

My counters are plentifully supplied and the service (cafeteria system) saves unnecessary loss of time.

Many ladies find this feature a pleasant ending to a shopping trip down town.

The sandwiches, tea, coffee, cocoa, etc.. are the best and always correct in the details.

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Express deliveries of the new in Blouses arrive every few days. You are assured of styles that are correct and our values cannot be beaten.

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Silk Blouses **$2.50 to $10.00**

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LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Fourth and Last Session Opened and in Full Swing—Bowser Government Has Benefit of "Some Opposition"—Deficit of Four Million.

The fourth and last session of the Thirteenth Parliament of British Columbia, as will have been learned from the daily press, was formally opened with the usual ceremony and "brilliancy" by Lieut.-Governor Barnard, on Thursday, March 2nd. Although it is not news, we reproduce the "speech from the throne," as an important matter of record at this time and to emphasize the formidable programme of legislation which a virtually defeated Government seriously proposes to force through a moribund Legislature in a fag-end session.

Speech From the Throne.

"Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

"I welcome you to the final session of the thirteenth parliament of British Columbia.

"The war in which the Empire has been engaged since August 4, 1914, still continues, and without any definite hopes of an early termination. The Dominion of Canada, along with British possessions, has been contributing to the utmost of its ability in support of Great Britain and her allies, and I am very pleased that British Columbia has taken so prominent a part, both in men and money, in furthering the common cause. I am sure I express a sentiment unanimous among its people that they will continue determinedly to the end in cordial co-operation with all other portions of the Empire to bring about ultimate and decisive victory.

"Since you last met, a reconstruction of the Government has taken place owing to the resignation of Sir Richard McBride, who has accepted the important post of Agent-General for British Columbia in London, England. It is fitting here to express appreciation of the long and invaluable services rendered to the Province by that gentleman as First Minister. A measure will be submitted making suitable allowance for Mr. Turner, late Agent-General, in his retirement, in recognition of faithful and efficient work for fourteen years.

"It is a pleasure to state that, while the province has not fully recovered from the conditions brought on by the war, the great natural industries of the country are prosperous and that production has remained normal. The timber industry, which was in a depressed state owing to lack of facilities for being marketed, gives promise of coming speedily to the front again; and in this connection the members of my government have been giving careful consideration to the best means of supplying transportation by water, and will provide guarantees to assist in the matter of supplying ships for the purpose.

"It is the intention of the government to bring into operation as speedily as possible the provisions of the 'Agricultural Act,' passed at your last session, and arrangements are now about completed for the necessary loan.

"A measure will be submitted amending the 'Constitution Act,' providing for the appointment of a minister of agriculture apart from the portfolio of minister of finance.

"It is the intention also to make provision for the establishment of public markets.

"The estimates will contain provision for the development of the Songhees reserve as a railway terminus and for assisting in the construction of Johnson street bridge as a necessary part of the plans.

"A measure for workmen's compensation, which was submitted tentatively to the legislature of 1915, has in the meantime been under consideration by a commission appointed for the purpose, and will be placed before you in a fully revised form for the purpose of becoming law this session.

"You will have laid before you a measure for the prohibition of the sale of liquor in the province, which will become operative on Jan. 1, 1917, subject to approval by popular vote. To meet conditions created by the war, amendments to the 'Liquor Act' will be submitted, further restricting and regulating the sale of liquor until peace has been declared.

"Authority will be taken for the purpose of rendering assistance by way of loan, looking towards speedily completing the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern railway, which has been delayed owing to financial conditions.

"Careful consideration has been given to the requirements of the mining industry, looking to further and higher development; and also to the necessities of the returned soldiers on a basis of land settlement in suitable localities and under favorable conditions, and both these matters will have your attention.

"The public accounts for the fiscal year 1914-1915 will be laid before you.

"I now leave you to your deliberations with confidence that in all your acts and discussions you will be governed by a high sense of duty in respect of provincial interests."

After his honor had retired the usual formal motions in regard to the appointment of committees, the printing of the proceedings of the house, and other matters were passed.

Malcolm A. Macdonald, member-elect for Vancouver city, was introduced between Parker Williams and Premier Bowser, and was given an ovation by the members, who were evidently pleased and interested to see a live Liberal in the House again after the deadly dullness of an almost solid Conservative chamber.

Stirs Them Up at Once.

Mr. Macdonald did not disappoint the House, for he lost no time in laying the ground work of a sufficiently engrossing investigation by giving notice of a request for the appointment of a select committee of the House to inquire into the purchase of the Kitsilano reserve by the Government and the allegation of Joseph Cole that the firm of Bowser, Reid & Wallbridge got $39,000 of the $80,000 commission paid by the Government. After reciting the charges, Mr. Macdonald's resolution says:

"Therefore, be it resolved, that a select committee, consisting of five members of this House, namely, Messrs. Williams, Gifford, Shatford, Miller and the mover, be appointed to inquire whether or no the expenditure of this $300,000 was authorized by the Legislature.

"Whether or no the public accounts have been falsified in connection therewith;

"Whether or no the province has acquired a good and sufficient title to the lands comprising the Kitsilano Indian reserve;

"What sum of money was paid to the Indians in connection with the alleged purchase of their lands;

"What sum of money, if any, was received by Mr. H. O. Alexander, directly or indirectly, over and above that paid to the Indians in connection with this transaction;

"What sum of money, if any, was received by Mr. Hamilton Read, directly or indirectly, in connection with this transaction;

"What sum of money, if any, was received by Mr. Joseph Cole, directly or indirectly, in connection with this transaction;

"What was the final disposition of the moneys paid out in this connection over and above the amount paid to the Indians

"And the said committee shall have power to call persons, papers, documents, telegraph and telephone messages and to examine witnesses and take evidence under oath, and shall report (either interim or final) the evidence and their findings to this House, and shall prosecute such inquiry with diligence."

Four Million Deficit.

The public accounts for the financial year 1914-1915 laid before the House on opening day showed a falling off in revenue for the year of over two and a half million dollars, and a deficit for the year—excess of expenditure over revenue—of four million dollars.

Debate on Address.

The first matter usually taken up in the Legislature, following ordinary parliamentary proceedure, after the opening preliminaries, is the consideration of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. The address, of course, is always moved and seconded by Government supporters, in all the complimentary and dutiful terms that they can command. This pleasing function was performed on Friday, March 3, the second day of the session, by Messrs. H. B. Thomson (Victoria) and J. A. Fraser (Cariboo).

The debate on the address in reply, as it is called for short, thus opened, is a sort of free for all, and, where there is a live Opposition—and, thank heaven! we have a pretty good nucleus of one now—is likely to last for a week or more and give opportunity for trenchant criticisms of the Government's policy and record all along the line.

The first gun in the Opposition fight against the Government, says the Victoria Times, was fired in this debate by Parker Williams, in the session of Monday last, March 6. He did not speak long, but confined himself to brief statements on each point he touched, except in the case of mining. Every word told, and the speech as a whole, says the Times, was an indictment of the Government that cannot be answered.

Mr. Brewster's Seat.

The Times says further: "There was a significant vacant seat in the House all the time Mr. Williams was speaking, immediately to his left, that of the leader of the Opposition, which had been prepared for Mr. Brewster's occupancy. Everything was ready in the office of the Provincial Secretary to transmit to the clerk of the House the certificate of Mr. Brewster's election as soon as the writ was returned by the returning officer, so that he could take his seat at once, but the recounting of the ballots prevented this."

Bowser May Resign.

A rumor emanating from political circles at the capital this week was to the effect that Premier Bowser contemplated resigning, on account of ill health, etc., and handing over the reins to Speaker Eberts, an old and rather obsolete political hand, who would go to the country as leader. No such shift, or any imaginable shift, can save the dislocated Provincial Conservative machine from going to pieces at this time, however. The party is doomed, and that startlingly soon, to go into drydock for a protracted spell to clear off the accumulated barnacles and foulness of years.

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