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THE PACIFIC CANADIAN

Weekly News Digest and Journal of Observation and Comment.

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PROSTITUTING PROHIBITION.

While all the facts are still comparatively fresh in the public mind, it will not be unprofitable, but on the contrary will be instructive and edifying, to trace the tortuous and devious trail which the Bowser Government has followed from first to last on the great moral issue of Prohibition, as distinguished from the perfectly frank and straightforward course of the Liberal Opposition. We say Bowser Government advisedly, for Sir Richard McBride, before abdicating the leadership to Mr. Bowser, did, after considerable delay and with evident reluctance, promise the Prohibitionists, in response to their repeated requests for a pronouncement, that he would refer the question to the people in the form of a plebiscite, and legislation based on the result of the vote.

To quote at this point from the Vancouver World, recognized and official organ of the People's Prohibition Movement and with a strong Conservative bias, date of February 7th ult.: "The reply of Sir Richard McBride, while it promised a reference to the electorate and an understanding that the Government's action would be guided by that vote, was not satisfactory in other details, either announced or implied. His suggestion of a complicated ballott, especially, was viewed with much disfavor in Prohibition circles. On the advent of Mr. Bowser to power, he was asked, together with the Liberal leader, Mr. Brewster, and the present Opposition leader, Mr. Parker Williams, for his attitude to the policy of the August convention. Mr. Brewster alone has so far replied. He wrote as follows":

Mr. Brewster's letter, which was dated at Victoria, Jan. 12, 1916, and addressed to Jonathan Rogers, Esq., president of the People's Prohibition Movement, Vancouver, we also reproduce from the World of Feb. 7th ult.:

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 5th inst., enclosing resolution of your convention of last August and requesting my views as leader of the Liberal party, has been received.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the resolutions passed by the Liberal Provincial Executive, last September, in which the Liberals, having in mind the great issue of Prohibition now so prominently before the public, as well as other questions of moral and economic importance, which should be dealt with in an equally non-partisan manner, pledged themselves that, should the Liberals be elected to power, they will establish the principle of direct legislation.

Under this method, and I believe only under this method, can the wishes of the People's Prohibition Party for a test of public sentiment free from the entangling influence of politics be made.

I wish to point out also that under the practice of direct legislation it is not imperative to demand the production of the petition showing such sentiments to exist, when the Government has reason to feel that electoral opinion preponderates in favor of any issue or measure. The Government can initiate desirous legislation, pass it through the various stages of Parliament and have it come into effect when it has received the votes of a majority of the electorate.

This is a broad principle which can be employed to obtain a mandate from the electorate upon the great questions affecting the country, the only requisite being the assistance of a sufficient volume of electoral sentiment to put the legislative machinery in motion.

Thanking you for the opportunity of placing the views of the Liberal party before you, I am, yours truly,

H. C. BREWSTER.

"Hon. Mr. Bowser," to take up the tale from the World, "asked for an opportunity to consult his cabinet" (this, be it remembered, was early in January, and a cabinet meeting was afterwards held in Kamloops), "and," to take the story again from the World, "his illness, which almost immediately supervened, necessitated his visit to Kamloops. Hon. Mr. Ross, acting Premier, acknowledged the letter" (reciting the fact of Mr. Bowser's absence and promising that the matter would be placed before the Premier at the earliest opportunity). "The first meeting" (evidently meaning Cabinet meeting) "since then," continues the World of Feb. 7th ult., "as is well known, took place at Kamloops, last week. It is presumed that the subject was considered then and that an answer will be available before the House meets. The Prohibition people are seeking from Hon. Mr. Bowser an amplification of Sir Richard's undertaking, and a more specific reply on a number of vital details."

Evidently, President Rogers was on hand, hoping for something definite from the Cabinet meeting at Kamloops, but was disappointed; for the World of the same date as above significantly says: "At Saturday night's meeting, President Rogers reported a visit to the Premier at Kamloops, at which he had discussed in an informal way many phases of the Prohibition issue. These will be more fully discussed at the meeting with the Premier later in the month."

Discussing the situation editorially, a little later, the World explained that Mr. Bowser had definitely assumed the undertaking of his predecessor—namely, a reference to the people in the form of a plebiscite and legislation based on the result of the vote—but that the Prohibitionists were "seeking assurances which go much further. . . . They are asking for a referendum, not," the World hastened to explain, "because of any predilection for dirte legislation, but in order to settle finally and definitely that, if the vote of the people is favorable, the legislation giving effect to that vote will exactly express the Prohibitionist idea. No plebiscite which fails to make provision against any tampering with or qualification of the following legislation can be accepted by the Prohibition people." In other words, the very solution which the Liberal party, through their consistent "direct legislation," referendum policy had proposed and voluntarily offered for the settlement of the question, the Prohibition people, according to their official organ, were determined to force Premier Bowser to concede.

And, as the record shows, the Prohibition people had their work cut out landing their elusive and reluctant quarry. They chased him from Victoria to Kamloops, from Kamloops to Vancouver, from Vancouver to Victoria, and only harpooned him when they got him between the devil of the unprecedented Vancouver knock-down and the deep sea of another dreaded tidal wave at Victoria. Continuing the serial, the World of Feb. 21st recites that the executive of the People's Prohibition Movement had that day received a letter from Premier Bowser (at Kamloops, apparently), "in answer to their request for a definite reply from the Premier on or before Feb. 26. Mr. Bowser has replied that, owing to the fact that Feb. 26th is the date on which the two by-elections fall, he would be unable to fulfill the request on that date, and suggested leaving the matter over until after the opening of the session, the first week in March, when the members of the House could be consulted. The executive of the People's Prohibition Movement," continued the World, "have replied in the negative, and as a result Monday, Feb. 28th" (giving the Government the advantage of the results of the Vancouver and Rossland by-elections) "was fixed for a conference with Mr. Bowser, when it will be decided what future action will be taken in the matter."

The scene then shifts to Victoria, Feb. 29th (the Government, apparently, had not recovered by the 28th from the knock-out received at Vancouver on the evening of the 26th), the World again loquitur: "A strong representative deputation from the Prohibition forces of the Province waited on the Government at noon today and presented a demand for an immediate and decisive answer as to their attitude on Prohibition. Different speakers presented the case to the Government for two hours, and at the conclusion Premier Bowser asked all the delegates to remain over until 4 o'clock, when he would be prepared to make a decisive statement. Mr. Bowser said he would hold a hurried meeting of the Cabinet in the meantime and he would be prepared to give a definite answer at that hour. The Premier said that he not only considered he was bound by the statement made previously by Sir Richard McBride, but his idea was that the former Premier had not gone far enough. He excused himself for not answering the demand of the Prohibitionists before, on the plea of ill health." (A few days before, it will be recalled, the plea was the by-elections!) Premier Bowser added, according to the World (very significantly, especially as to the proviso): "Your cause is stronger now than when you first met me, provided the liquor men cannot combat your representations!"

And now for the grand climax—the successful gaffing of the gamey Government fish by the triumphant Prohibitionists, after having been given such a hard run for their money. Let one of the enthusiastic Prohibitionist delegates, Mr. Malkin, of Vancouver, who happens to have summarized it very aptly, give us the grand finale: "The Government's reply was very satisfactory," he declared. "Everything we asked for was granted. The policy as laid down by Hon. W. J. Bowser is so satisfactory indeed that everything we asked for has been promised. Mr. Bowser was very frank in his statements to us. He said that it was his ambition to draft the very best legislation possible. He would take the best features out of the Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta laws, and with legislation of his own endeavor to make the Bowser Act—that is what he called it—the best prohibition law in existence. The prohibition people realize now that Mr. Bowser is in line with the policy of the party, but he did not wish to make an announcement until he was ready to make up his mind as to the nature of the legislation to be submitted to the people. It is now up to the people to say whether or not they want prohibition."

Is it necessary to add anything to this simple recital, from the official chronicles of the People's Prohibition Movement, of how Premier Bowser was run down and bagged in the Prohibition net and compelled to concede, at the point of the harpoon, so to speak, the very solution which the Liberal party had proposed and freely offered, six months before, for the settlement of this great non-partisan, moral question? Well, only this: That, no sooner was Premier Bowser safely landed and hung up by the gills in the Prohibition wigwam than he had the impudence and political viciousness—the essential traitorousness to the best interests of the cause he had under duress pretended to espouse—to suggest, to actually charge, and through himself and his echoes to offensively reiterate at every opportunity, that the Liberal party, which had provided the solution which he had been literally forced to accept, was in league with the liquor interests to defeat Prohibition!—thus gratuitously dragging the question, to its hurt and prejudice, back into the arena of partisan politics, out of which it had been lifted and out of which every patriotic citizen wished it to be kept.

SONGHEES RESERVE SCANDAL

The Songhees Reserve affair, out of which, it will be recalled, Mr. J. S. Matson, owner of the Colonist, News-Advertiser, and several other Government newspapers, received from the public treasury $75,000 (besides $30,000 to the late Harry Helmcken) as a sort of expert in assisting to persuade the Indians to accept $300,000 from the Government and get off the reserve, has been the subject of an exhaustive—and incidentally exhausting—inquiry for weeks past by a select committee, the lion's share of the work of which falls upon the Opposition and especially upon the two Liberal members. The investigation, of course, has confirmed all the main features of the case pointed out by the Opposition in their educative campaigns throughout the Province, and has brought out many interesting details besides. Mr. Matson, for instance, acknowledges receipt of the amount, but can't furnish very accurate particulars as to its disbursement—never kept books in his life, and beyond $30,000 to his paper the News-Advertiser, $5,000 to his paper the Colonist, something less than $25,000 which was his personal share, and $250 paid by cheque to Rev. Mr. Hicks for services with the Indians, everything else was "thrown around promiscuous," so to speak, in cash, paid to the Indians from time to time to keep them in the right frame of mind. Where Mr. Matson's recollection is that he paid money in this way by the $100 or $200, the Indians, who have been on the stand lately, can only recall getting amounts like $1 or $2 instead, but what's the odds?—the money was lost to the treasury in any event. In justice to Mr. Matson, it should be said that, in answer to a friendly prompting from a Government member of the committee, he generously (to himself) declared that he wouldn't go through the agony again for twice $75,000!—so that we may congratulate the Province on getting off very lightly, indeed!

HERE AND THERE.

Germany having "taken on" little Portugal, some weeks ago, as an enemy, because the latter commandeered German ships interned in Portuguese ports, Portugal will now take a hand in putting Germany off the map—of Africa at least.

Ontario is away ahead yet of Premier Bowser on the Prohibition question. The Government there propose passing a measure of immediate prohibition for the period of the war at least, and submit it to the people as a referendum after the war. Buck up, Bowser!

Mr. Pooley has withdrawn his motion in the House the aim of which was to unseat Messrs. Brewster and Macdonald on account of alleged technical irregularities by the returning officers. Mr. Pooley's explanation was that of the small boy who rings a door-bell and then runs—that he "was only foolin'." For Mr. Bowser's "mock parliament," we suppose that sort of thing is all right.

The Nelson News (we can't imagine where it got the idea) says: "George Kennedy, who has founded more newspapers in British Columbia than any other man, with the possible exception of Col. Lowry, is to the front with a new Liberal weekly at New Westminster." Until we know just what the gallant Colonel's record is, we cannot say on whom the cold water refreshments are.

The woman suffrage bill introduced in the Provincial Legislature by Mr. J. H. Place (Nanaimo) is going to seriously embarrass the "solid" thirty-eight, or a good many of them. The bill, if passed, would make woman suffrage effective June 1st next, which would practically insure the carrying of the Prohibition referendum. As Mr. Bowser controls his "solid" following whenever he really wants to, it won't do to allow them to become "liquid" on this question.

Very transparent is Premier Bowser's bluff about sitting to the first of June, if necessary, to give the Opposition unlimited opportunity to use the probe, taken in connection with his assertion that the Estimates must first be rushed through (because the Government had allowed the fiscal year to nearly run its course before calling the House together). The bluff is also evidently intended as a screen for Premier Bowser's manifest design to postpone the general election as long as possible—to what he thinks may prove a more convenient season.

Reports have been varying and conflicting about the fortunes of the American punitive expedition in pursuit of Villa, but by latest accounts at time of writing the wily bandit appeared to have a safe lead and to be making good his escape into the mountain fastnesses. His pursuers, who have penetrated over two hundred miles into Mexican territory, were hampered greatly by the transport problem, in the absence of permission so far from the Carranza Government to use the railways. The disquieting rumors of the possibility of the American force being cut off and surrounded by a combination of Mexican hostiles have had no verification thus far, and precautions have doubtless been taken against such an eventuality.

Yuan Shi Kai knew when it was wise to bow to popular opinion, sagely remarks the Vancouver Province—referring to the interesting news announcement, a few days ago, that the Chinese statesman above named had reverted to the status of President of a republic, to which he was originally elected, after trying a six months' term as Emperor by grace of himself and the Council of State. Popular opinion, not only throughout China, but among the Chinese people everywhere, speedily gave evidence of being decidedly against the usurpation and the storms of revolution were gathering. Like a wise man, as the Province says, Yuan Shi Kai decided to bow rather than be broken. The Province might pass on the hint to Premier Bowser.

Hon. Lorne Campbell, Minister of Mines, and Finance Minister pro tem., delivered his first budget speech in the House, Monday evening. The outstanding features, including a long preamble of explanation, extenuation, and justification, are: A public debt of $18,589,718, an estimated revenue of $6,000,000, and an estimated expenditure of $11,300,000, leaving an estimated deficit of $4,643,985. One silver, or rather copper lining to the cloud, due largely to the war, is a large increase in mineral production. The Minister urges the familiar but unfounded Government excuse of the war as the cause of the prevailing depression, and cheerfully assures us that we have assets and credit yet left, and "we must use that credit and go to the money markets and borrow until conditions become normal again."

It is no sinecure to be an active member, a live wire, in a numerically small Opposition that is endeavoring to do its duty by the people in a Provincial Legislature like that at Victoria, where the Government, with its huge subservient majority, has to be constantly watched during the sessions, and there are investigations by select committees such as the Songhees and Kitsilano Indian Reserve inquiries, to be carried on concurrently, and voluminous evidence taken. Now, the Government are making it harder for the four Oppositionists by bringing on night sessions immediately, so that it is hardly humanly possible to cover all the ground effectively. At the same time, Premier Bowser sardonically chuckles and, with a great show of bravado, invites the Opposition to do their worst in ferreting out the details of the numerous scandals against the Government.

The mysterious wireless has spoken from the far southern frozen seas and conveyed to civilization the announcement of what may prove to be another of those heroic polar tragedies in which science pays toll to the practically inaccessible regions of the earth for the secrets which she wrests from their jealous

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FALSIFIED ACCOUNTS

Mr. Brewster, on Budget, Charges Public Accounts Have Been Faked, Padded, and Falsified—No Answer From Government, and Debate Immediately Closed.

The most remarkable spectacle was witnessed in the Legislature Tuesday evening, the question before the House being the budget, introduced by the Finance Minister, the day before. Mr. H. C. Brewster, Liberal leader, had just concluded a scathing criticism, in which he charged the Government with having faked, padded and falsified the Provincial Public Accounts and generally maladministered the affairs of the Province. Mr. Brewster sat down. The House waited. Mr. Speaker called the "question" three times. Neither the Premier nor any member on the Government side rose to reply, and the most important vote of the session, moving the House into Committee of Supply, was mechanically passed, without a word from the Government in explanation, or defence against the damning charges made, save the formal introductory speech read by the Minister of Finance.

Budget Purposely Rushed.

Mr. Brewster, in opening, reminded the Government that this had been the first year of his experience when the budget speech had been made on the same day in which the estimates had been brought down. This gave the Opposition no opportunity to peruse the estimates before having to discuss the budget. The members were under the additional handicap of having to consider the budget speech with nothing whatever before them in the nature of a legislative programme.

The Liberal leader accused the Premier of autocracy. All the power of the Legislature was being, and was to be, according to the budget address and the legislation so far introduced, centralized in the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. He thought that sessional indemnities of members might be saved if the Premier were given the title "Administrator Royal" and the "recording machine" eliminated. The principle that was now being created by the new Administration and now being put into effect took from the hands of the Legislature its power. The practice of making votes out of consolidated revenue was one to be deplored.

Mr. Brewster charged that the Public Accounts were "faked" and "padded" with votes and appropriations which never had been passed by the Legislature. They had had a case very recently of the payment of $300,000 by special warrant which had not been reported to the Legislature.

The Speaker ruled the member out of order in discussing this question (Kitsilano Reserve purchase) since it was being investigated by a special committee.

Accounts Falsified.

He would take another payment then, continued Mr. Brewster. He would take the payment of $316,000—money paid out under special warrant without legislative sanction for interest paid out in interest defaulted by the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. They could find nothing about that in the Public Accounts. The Public Accounts were not correct accounts, he declared. In other words, they had been falsified.

In August of 1914, special warrant No. 8 for $1,150,000 had been issued, but no mention of this had been made in public accounts. Also in 1914, a warrant for $218,000 had been made out, of which only $196,000 had been reported as expended.

The Audit Act providing that reports of special warrants should be made to the Legislature was apparently ignored by the Auditor-General. He did not blame that official, because he was close under the Minister of Finance and near the supreme head of the Government.

Under the "new practice," Mr. Brewster declared, members of this House had a lower moral sense than they should have. They suffered from a moral stigmatism.

Referring to the Premier's criticism of his own previous remark that the imports of food products last year aggregated $30,000,000 the speaker stated that he was not willing to accept the Premier's statement that the imports were only $16,000,000. The Government had yet to prove that this was the case. Although some $3,000 had apparently been spent during the year for securing agricultural statistics, no official figures had been received.

Could Not Be Relied Upon.

There were cases in which statements of members of the Government could not be relied upon, continued Mr. Brewster. Speaking in the Orpheum theatre on July 29th, 1915, the Premier had stated that the taxes on the Columbia and Western Railway lands were being assessed and collected at the rate of 50 cents an acre, although the land had been purchased for only 40 cents an acre. The speaker had placed questions on the order paper to verify this statement and had discovered that the lands had been assessed but that not one cent had been collected by the Provincial Government either on the lands owned by the railway or the property owned by F. A. Heinze in connection with the railway project.

Mr. Brewster described as "deliberaatly false" the editorial statement of the News-Advertiser that Messrs. Macdonald and Brewster were attempting to keep the farmers back from developing their farms, merely for the sake of getting a few jobs under the Agricultural Aids Act. The statement showed the depths to which a newspaper could go in supporting the government. The man who penned the statement, according to the speaker, should ave known that the Liberals could not have opposed the enforcement of this Act, since it did not have to receive the sanction of the Legislature at all. All that was necessary was the Lieutenant-Governor's signature.

Not Opposed to Prohibition.

The Liberal leader denied that his party had opposed the prohibition measure. They were still of the same mind in regard to such questions as they had been at the last Liberal convention. The Premier, it would appear, still had an open mind on the matter ,since he had so stated to a delegation which had interviewed the Executive the other day. Mr. Brewster was not quite sure, and had stated that certain prominent lawyers were not quite sure, that the members of the House were now sitting as a Legislature or merely as a body of citizens discussing public affairs. He anticipated that it would be necessary, in view of the possibility that the life of Parliament had expired on March 14, for the next Legislature (which would be a Liberal one) to validate the legislation that had been passed this year.

Unpaid for Lands Should Revert.

The Government, instead of continuing to permit speculation in lands, so that there would not be any left when the soldiers returned from the front, should, he believed, make an adjustment so that those now in possession of large areas should hold only such lands as they had paid for. He did not mean to confiscate their lands; but to take back, on behalf of the Crown and the returning soldiers, the land which had not been paid for. After references to the increasing deficits of the Province, which he said had aggregated some $21,110,000 net during the last six years, Mr. Brewster deplored the fact that Mr. F. L. Carter-Cotton had not been permitted to take over the Portfolio of Finance. The member for Richmond had sung his swan song and he might say with Wolsey: Had I but served my God as I had served my King He would not have deserted me in my old age." Mr. Brewster attacked the members of the Government for giving the people the impression in the House that the guaranteeing of bonds was not costing the Province anything, when a payment of over $300,000 had to be made for interest last January and other payments would soon be due.

When Mr. Brewster sat down the other members of the Opposition were apparently daiting for some member of the Government side to proceed with the discussion, but no one rose, and the Speaker called for a vote after waiting for some moments and calling the "question" three times.

Going into Committee of the Whole, the House passed the estimated expenditure on account of the public debt, this item totalling $1,422,254.

ANOTHER BOWSER CAPITULATION!

The small but powerful Liberal party of two in the House—with half the population and registered voters of the Province behind them—bid fair to dictate the policy of the Government in many very vital particulars, even before they assume the reins of power in a few months and relegate the present thoroughly cowed and panic-stricken rump of an Administration to the political junk heap. Up to a day or two ago, as a result of Liberal criticisms—plus the by-elections—the Bowser Government had been compelled to adopt bodily from the Liberal platform, three main planks: Cheap Money for Farmers; Workmen's Compensation Act; and the Referendum solution of the Prohibition question. Yesterday, the news despatches from Victoria informed us that the greatest capitulation of all had just been made, by the Bowser Government, in the bill brought down by the Minister of Lands, the day before, in the exact terms of the Liberal policy, urged early and late upon the Government, but stoutly resisted up to the present, which will restore to the Crown from two to three million acres of agricultural lands alienated, much of it fraudulently, and mostly unpaid for, and make those disgorged holdings available for returned soldiers, and other actual settlers. Let the good work go on until there is nothing left, lock, stock or barrel, of the policy or personnel of a discredited and rapidly disintegrating Administration.

AN UNFORESEEN EFFECT

Of a piece with allowing the Legislature to be used by "false alarms" like R. H. Pooley, Government member for Esquimalt, with his resolution (afterwards withdrawn) attacking the validity of the elections of Messrs. Brewster and Macdonald, is the even worse prostitution of the people's deliberative assembly (supposed to be devoted to public affairs) to the wretched, petty business of trying to manufacture partisan political capital by raking up and spreading before the House and the world purely personal correspondence, four years old, concerning an issue just as long dead—to wit, the appointment of President of the B. C. University. The meddlesome and petty person who moved for the correspondence in question—between Rev. Dr. Mackay, principal of Westminster Hall College, Vancouver, and members of the McBride Government, relating to the then proposed appointment of Dr. Mackay to the presidency of the B. C. University—was Henry Thomson, one of the Government's "solid" from Victoria. The object was to discredit Dr. Mackay's recent and weighty activities against the Bowser Go vernment, on public platform and in connection with the publication, "The Crisis in B. C." The only effect, publicly speaking, of the publication of this personal correspondence is to convict the late, which is the same as the present, Government of British Columbia of the most outrageous and gratuitous discourtesy and caddishness, and bad faith, toward Dr. Mackay—just as between man and man.

HERE AND THERE.

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keeping. The world was expecting news momentarily of the safe emergence from the Antarctic zone of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his party, who left in the fall of 1914 on an expedition across the southern polar tract which, with delays subsequently encountered, was expected to reach Ross Sea, at a point nearly a thousand miles beyond the South Pole, some time this month. The news which has come instead, by wireless, is that the steamer Aurora, wich was to have met the party at this base and conveyed them to the environs of civilization, was broken from her moorings by the fierce storms and moving ice packs and, when heard from, was proceeding in a crippled condition to New Zealand, leaving Shackleton and his companions, assuming they reached their appointed rendezvous on time, to wait twelve months longer on those inhospitable ice shores before rescue would be possible, unless by some providential chance. To most men such a fate would have but one ending, but Sir Ernest Shackleton, the veteran and hero of Antarctic exploration, will have resources beyond the common, and the world will not write finis to his career till compelled to by undeniable evidence.

The definite failure of the Germans, after their supreme, protracted, and most costly effort at Verdun, is generally looked upon as marking the practical end of the Germanic offensive, though there are indications of another great spasm being about to be launched on the eastern front against the Russians, who are prepared for it, before Germany submits to the inevitable and resigns herself to standing savagely at bay, while the remorseless avenging forces of the Allies close in slowly but surely about her. Meanwhile, the turn of the tide is signalized by a most remarkable and significant Allied council or congress of war, held at Paris this week, at which no less than seven Allied nations—Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan, Belgium and Serbia—are represented by Premiers, Foreign Ministers, Ministers of War, and Commanders-in-Chief, and in a few cases by ambassadors or envoys. The council or congress is appropriately presided over by Premier Briand of France, and its aim and purpose is to bring about absolute solidarity and unity of action of all the Allied forces in the great final offensive that it is expected will shortly begin, as well as to reach a complete understanding on the many difficult problems that will present themselves for settlement after the war shall have been brought to its inevitable conclusion. In the words of the Paris Matin, "The congress will lay the foundations of a new Europe. . . . It will even lay the foundation of a new epoch."

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LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Easter will come unusually late this year, falling on April 23.

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An enjoyable whist drive, dance, and supper was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, last night, under the auspices of the Canton Lodge.

Your friends can buy any thing you can give them—except your photograph. Hurndall does fine work at 624 Columbia St. Phone 125R.

Local Conservatives will hold a rally in the Columbian building, this evening, and you are invited to come and bring your friends. Cheer up, brethren, the worst is yet to come

Send in or bring your subscriptions to The Pacific Canadian, and keep posted politically and generally. $1 per year, 50c for 6 mos., 25c for 3 mos., 10c per month (in advance).

Mr. R. J. Flowers has been appointed secretary of the local branch of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, in succession to Mr. W. L. Darling, who has joined the Seaforth Highlanders in Vancouver for active service.

The lease, stock and furnishiugs of the Fraser Hotel, Front and Begbie sts., was sold at auction, Wednesday afternoon, the price realized being $1,000, which was bid by Mr. Jos. Dorgan, a local broker, for a client.

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. *

The death occurred at the family residence at Aldergrove, Tuesday afternoon, of Mrs. Robert Shortreed, aged 83 years. The deceased, with the late Mr. Robt. Shortreed, whose death occurred about five years ago, came to Aldergrove from Milton, Halton County, Ontario, some 27 years ago.

Preparations to log thirty million feet of timber this summer are being made by Abernethy & Lougheed, Ltd., Port Haney, whose mill at that point will be opened next month. The price of logs, it is stated, has advanced, good fir having gone up about $2 per thousand.

The Board of Works is preparing to resume construction of the Sapperton sewer, which has been shut down during the past few months. It is planned to start on Monday morning, when Supt. Furness intends to put on a gang of about twenty men.

For over forty years a resident of the city, John Budge, aged 70, died at his home, 1013 Royal avenue, Tuesday. He was a native of Scotland, where he was engaged in the cannery business. Two daughters survive him, Miss Mabel J. Budge of this city and Miss Chrissie Budge, a nurse at Victoria.

Monday next, April 3rd, at 5 p. m., the Provincial voters' lists will close for the May revision. If you are not registered, and wish to have a vote at the forthcoming general election, next summer or fall, see to it at once. Call at or telephone the Liberal Club rooms, Clarkson street, Westminster Trust building, phone 12.

A wire received from the Adjutant-General at Ottawa, Wednesday morning, by Ald. H. A. Eastman, states that his son-in-law, Thomas Dillon Curtis, received a slight gunshot wound on the face, on March 16. He is now back again on duty. Corporal Curtis is a member of the 29th Battalion and resided at 711 Eight street in this city.

At a meeting of the May Day standing committee, this week, the general sentiment was that the children's annual festival should be carried out as usual, economies being introduced where possible. Committees were appointed to seek grants from the City Council and the B.C.E.R., and a meeting of the general committee was called for next Tuesday evening.

The concert given last night, in the Russell Hotel, by the Musical Club of this city, was a very much appreciated and enthusiastic affair. A choice and varied programme of songs, recitations, and violin and piano solos, was rendered by talented Vancouver performers, including Miss Eileen Maguire, Miss Elsie Alexander, Miss Jean Patterson, and Mr. Holroyd Paull.

The labor situation in New Westminster is reported by Mr. Thos. Turnbull, in charge of the civic labor bureau, as much better than at this time last year. There are not nearly so many idle men in the city, and, if low railway fares are obtained to the prairies for agricultural laborers, Mr. Turnbull believes the unemployed problem here will be practically settled.

Plans are under way, it is reported, by the Alhambra Theatre & Hotel Company, of London, Eng., to begin the construction this fall of a big theatre in this city, to cost from $150,000 to $175,000, with seating capacity for 1,000 people and having a ball room on the third floor, with a roof garden overlooking the Fraser. Two sites are under consideration, both on Columbia street, near the B.C.E.R. depot. The building, it is stated, will be a handsome three-story structure of steel and concrete, with brick veneer and terra cotta facings.

The Market Question.

The question of the future location of the City Market—the Northern Pacific Railway wishing to take possession of their lease, last year, of the present site—is agitating the City Fathers, and indeed the public generally. There are two schemes: Building back on Lytton Square, with entrance on Columbia street level; or the erection of the market buildings on the commodious water front site at foot of Tenth street. There will be a meeting of the Council with the Board of Trade, probably Wednesday next, to consider the question and fix a date for a public meeting for general discussion.

Valuator Money to Loan Farms for Sale

H. A. EASTMAN

Notary Public

Guichon Block, Columbia and McKenzie Sts., **NEW WESTMINSTER**

Death of Mrs. T. D. Pearson.

The death took place, Tuesday, of Mrs. T. D. Pearson, widow of the late Rev. T. D. Pearson and sister of the late Dr. Robson, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George H. Grant, Vancouver. She was 78 years old, and leaves two sons and three daughters, Mr. T. R. Pearson and Mr. Frank Pearson of this city, Mrs. George H. Grant, Vancouver; Mrs. Harvey Johnson of Nicomen, and Mrs. McKenzie, Tokyo, Japan. The late Mrs. Pearson resided in New Westminster for 20 years prior to going to her daughter's home in Vancouver, a year ago.

The funeral was held yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Queen's Ave. Methodist church to the Fraser cemetery, Rev. W. W. Abbott conducting the services.

Serious Situation at Ottawa.

A very serious situation has developed at Ottawa out of the Opposition probe into the doings of the Shell Committee, the boasted pet offspring of Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia. The Liberal party has been reproached for lack of pstriotism in insisting on these investigations, but would appear to have been more than justified by the sensational disclosures of the last few days, showing the letting of fuse contracts up in the millions to dummy American companies and the pocketixg of huge "rakes-off" by people in the know at Ottawa. Sir Sam Hughes and his side-kicker, Col. Allison, are both badly wanted for examination by the investigating committee of the House, but both are conveniently absent and out of call—Col. Allison in the United States, while Sir Sam, when the probe began to get too deep, found an excuse for making a hurried trip across the Atlantic, to give pointers to Kitchener, Joffre, and the Grand Duke Nicihoas on how to run the war.

The Bordon Government have had at last to sit up and take notice and Premier Borden himself feels the situation so keenly that he has cancelled his trip to New York, where he was to have been the guest of honor, to-night, of the New York Bar Assoctation, and is also reported to have cabled Sir Sam Hughes for an explanation of the charges made by Mr. George Kyte, member for Richmond; in regard to the letting of those fuse contracts in the United States. Sir Sam, by the present look of things, stands to loose his political head at least.

The news from Ottawa this morning was to the effect that Premier Borden will grant a restricted Royal Commission to enquire into the fuse contracts only; that Sir Sam Hughes, summoned by cable, is coming back, but denies personal complicity in deals.

City Market.

There was an exceptionally good market to-day, both in point of attendance and in produce for sale.

The meat section was probably the big feature, principally pork, of which there was a large supply, which all sold at quoted prices. Beef showed a medium supply, which all sold, and there was a fair supply of veal, which was all called for.

Poultry and eggs were in good supply and all sold, eggs showing an upward tendency, going 25c to 26c wholesale and 30c retail.

Potatoes were in usual large supply, but demand not very strong except for carloads for shipment, at quoted prices.

POULTRY.

Hens	19c to 22c
Springs	20c to 23c
Poultry, dressed, young	24c to 25c
Poultry, dressed, hens	22c to 24c
Ducks, live weight	25c to 27c
Poultry, live weight lb	21c to 22c
Geese, each	$1.50 to $2

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes, per ton	$16 to $20
Potatoes, per sack	90c to $1
Onions, per sack	$1.50
Carrots, per sack	75c
Turnips, per sack	75c
Cabbage, per lb	3½c
Beets, per sack	75c
Parsnips, per sack	75c

FRUIT.

Apples, per box	$1 to $1.25

EGGS AND BUTTER.

Eggs, retail	30c
Eggs, wholesale	25c to 26c
Butter, dairy, retail	37½c to 40c

WHOLESALE MEAT

Beef, carcass	10½c to 11½c
Beef, hindquarters	13c
Beef, forequarters	11c
Pork, per lb	12c to 14c
Pork, heavy, per lb	8c to 11c
Veal, No. 1, per lb.	14c to 16c
Veal, No. 2, per lb	12c to 13c
Live pigs, young	$3 to $4.50

TRAVELLERS' DIRECTORY.

For the busy business man and the travelling public, the following concise summary of the railway time tables, giving times of departure, etc., of passenger trains or trams from this city, will be convenient for reference:

B. C. ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

Westminster Branch (Central Park Line)—For Vancouver: 5.00 and 5.40 a.m., daily except Sunday; 6.00 a.m., daily; 6.20, 6.40 and 6.50 a.m., daily except Sunday; 7.00 a.m., daily, and every twenty minutes until 11.20 p.m. Last car, daily, 12.00 midnight.

Fraser Valley Branch—For Chilliwack and way points: 7.20 a.m., daily except Friday (for Jardine only); 6.20 a.m., Friday only, for Mt. Lehman; 9.20 a.m., daily, for Chilliwack; 1.40 and 5.05 p.m., daily, for Chilliwack.

Lulu Island Branch—For Vancouver and Steveston: 7.00 a.m., daily except Sunday; 9.00 and 11.00 a.m., and 1.00, 3.00 and 5.00 p.m., daily; 6.00 p.m., daily except Sunday; 7.00, 9.00 and 11.00 p.m., daily; 12.30 midnight, daily.

Burnaby Lake Branch—For Vancouver: 5.30 and 6.30 a.m., daily except Sunday; 7.30 a.m., daily; 8.30 a.m., daily except Sunday; 9.30 and 11.30 a.m., daily; 12.30 p.m., Saturday only; 1.30 and 3.30 p.m., daily; 4.30 p.m., daily except Sunday; 5.30 p.m., daily; 6.00 p.m., Sunday only; 6.30 p.m., daily except Sunday; 8.30 and 10.30 p.m., daily.

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Cinnamon Buns

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Sapperton branch - 373
West End branch - 650

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Smoky City Laundry Flakes, per pkg.....10c

Smoky City Cleaner, for cleaning wall paper, calsomine, etc., per tin.....25c

Powdered Bon Ami, per tin.....15c

LENT

Let us supply your fish for Lent.

Smoked Salmon, per lb...15c
Smoked Halibut, per lb...15c
Salt Cod, 2 lb. blocks, each..30 and 35c
Salt Cod [boneless strips] per lb 20c
Kippers, 3 lbs. for.....25c
Finnan Haddie, per lb.....20c

CHEESE

McLaren's Cream, each...10c 35c, 65c
McLaren's Pimento, each..10c
Roquefort, Edam, Cream Brick. etc.

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LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Minority Minister's Maiden Speech Significant for no Reference to Ottawa Trip --- Carter Cotton Sings Swan Song.

The review of the proceeings of the Provincial Legislature in these columns, last week, took note of the debate on the address up to Monday, the 20 th. inst., with a reference to Premier Bowser's contribution to the discussion, which was more remarkable for attacks and accusations against the Opposition in the House than for any attempt, as might have been expected, to elucidate the Goverment policy. He even made the very remarkable negative statement in this connection, that he was not in a position to state what the legislative programme for the season would be, but he would shortly make a statement on this. Supply would, however, need to be voted, he added, and the estimates would probably be brought down next week, upon which the Opposition would be allowed to make all the objection desired except that it was necessary that supply should be voted early in April in order to keep things running.

"Because of getting supply we are not going to bring this session to an early conclusion," continued Mr. Bowser. "We have been hearing a lot of charges, especially from my colleague from the city of Vancouver, who says this is one of the most corrupt governments in Canada, and I want to give them an opportunity to make good. After supply is passed, if we stay here untill the first of June, we will stay here till they make good. No obstacle will be placed in the way of their making investigations. We court investigation and have nothing to hide. If anything corrupt is found on the part of my self or my Ministers or the deputies or anyone else, I am the man who wants to know it. If any is shown, I will be the first man, with strong arm, to remove from office any such man."

Following Mr. Bowser, the same day, came a trusty supporter, L. W. Shatford, the member for Similkameen, who was in a very opmistic mood, and declared that there was an abundance of capital awaiting investment in mining in this Province. He thought that in the annual report of the Mines Department there should be more definite information given regarding the different properties visited. Government loans to prospectors and government-owned assay offices were proposed by Mr. Shatford. He suggested that every miner's certificate should bear coupons for, say, twenty free assays and twenty more at moderate fees. The year had been a good one throughout the Similkameen and Okanagon districts, and good prices had been realized for agricultural and orchard products. The increased duty on apples would help in the development of the apple orchards of the Province, but there was also required a systematic campaign for the use of home products. Before sitting down, Mr. Shatford recited his politcal profession of faith by giving the House the reason why he had supported the Government for twelve or thurteen years ---because of its honesty, its courage and foresight in opening up the Province for settlement and development, its building of roads, trails, schools and hospitals, and its being responsible largely for the building of two lines of railway through his constituency.

An Ominous Silence.

When the House opened Tuesday afternoon, 22nd inst., Hon. Lorne Campbell (Rossland) Minister of Mines (also of Finance, since the Victoria by-election) had the floor, having moved the adjournment of the debate at the previous sitting. It was naturally expected that he would have a good deal to say about his recent subsidy hunting Ottawa trip, which prospectively speaking was used as a bait in the by-elections, but "nary a word!" Mr. Campbell did not even mention that he had gone to Ottawa or had any negotiations with the Federal Government abont shipbuilding, mining, or any other matter of Provincial Government policy.

The Minister of Mines, at the opening of his maiden speech, regretted that he was called upon to criticize the Opposition in an apparent attempt, he said, to injure the financial credit of the Province, and particularly to statements made in the Interior that there was an over-supply of labor. In mining, logging and saw-milling there was great activity, and the demand from the prairies due to bountiful crops was such that transportation companies could not supply the cars required to take care of the lumber. This spring there would be a scarcity of labor, not only in the Interior, but all over British Columbia.

If the Opposition insisted on endeavoring to interfere with the credit of the Province, it would affect the supply of metal for munitions of war, as the reduction companies might experience difficulties in getting capital for extensions of plants. Lead and zinc production were receiving such an impetus that, after the war, the Province would control the output of both. In nickel, also, this Province would be able to assume control of the output. At present, German capital controlled the nickel deposits around Sudbury, Ontario. In the Slocan district new methods of treatment of ore gave promise of renewed life to that once prosperous district. British Columbia to-day was producing thirty per cent. of the lead used in munition manufacturing. It was the desire of the old country that British Columbia should increase its gold and copper production, and, if capital could be interested, the treatment of these metals on this side of the line would be brought about.

Mr. Campbell defended the railway policy of the Government, on the ground that it helped to relieve the grain congestion in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Only 50 p. c. of last fall's crop had yet been moved. To relieve the condition. the Dominion Government should have further elevator capacity at Vancouver and extend it to such an extent that it would take care of at least part of the prairie crop in case of such another bumper crop. The P.G.E. line should also be brought into Vancouver and extended on to the Peace River conntry.

Money to Burn, Thinks Caven.

Thomas D. Caven(Cranbrook), as a man who follows railroaing as a daily bussiness, saw nothing to find fault with in the tying-up of the C. N. Pacific by storms this winter. He had been over the line and thought it a first-class road, with easy grades and good ones. Lumbering and mining were dormant, but showed signs of picking up. The proposed aid to agriculture would benefit the farmers and the Government would be well repaid for the assistance rendered. The hon. gentleman also urged that further experiments be undertaken in the matter of dry farming. There were splendid agricultural areas in the Boundary districts, and with transportation to the markets these would flourish greatly.

"Why should we not spend our money?" asked Mr. Caven. "We have lots more resources to draw upon, so why should we not spend our money for good roads and to assist settlers coming into this country?"

J. T. W. Place (Nanaimo) introduced and secured a first reading for his bill to extend the franchise to women.

R. H. Pooley (Esquimalt) again allowed his resolution questioning the validity of the election of the members for Victoria and Vancouver, because of some alleged errors of the returning officers, to pass. In bringing this matter before the House Mr. Pooley does not seem to have the sympathy of his fellow-members.

Hon. Thos. Taylor Speaks.

The debate was resumed at the opening of the sitting on Wednesday, 22nd inst., by Hon. Thos. Taylor, Minister of Education, and of Public Works and Railways. Mr. Taylor took up the matter of expenditures, and gave a mass of figures as to where the money has gone, particularly as regards the Public Works Department. In six years, he said, there had been spent on public works an aggregate of $32,500,000, and for this he considered that the Province had got good value and that his department was to be praised rather than blamed for what it had done. Mr. Taylor hinted that many of the works he had mentioned were of a permanent character but were not included among the assets of the Province. We had not been accustomed to that system of bookkeeping here, but he thought that roads, steel bridges and anything with the aspect of permance might be considered as an asset and be so shown.

Mr. Taylor stoutly claimed that there had been no alienation of natural resources, and that, if it had not been for the money obtained from this source, the large expenditures on public works and other services would have been impossible. He dealt briefly with finances, claiming that the provincial credit was sound and that the net debt now was only $18,300,000, as compared with $12,500,000 in 1903.

Carter Cotton's Swan Song.

F. L. Carter Cotton (Richmond) said that, having decided not to accept a nomination, he might regard this as his retirement, perhaps ouly temporarily, from political life. He was thus speaking, as it were, in articulo mortis, and he hoped that fact would have a sobering and solemnizing influence upon the members of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker and he were the only ones left of those who had entered the Legislature in 1890, and with one exception both had been successful in every election in which they had entered the contest. They could look back thankfully upon the men who had guided the destinies of British Columbia during that time, and they were the only men now in the House who could look upon such a lengthy career of public service.

Mr. Cotton said it was an extraordinary session, in that the House had nothing less than the demand of two men that the other forty should turn over the reins of office to them. They certainly had a good conceit of themselves. Those gentlemen did not treat the result of the two by-elections in Victoria and Vancouver on their true merits. If Conservatives had ever done anything deserving of remembering with pride it was the result of those two elections.

"That is only the beginning," said Mr. Brewster.

Mr. Cotton explained that Conservatives, seeing the need for an Opposition in the Legislature, resolved to sacrifice themselves, their party and their standard-bearers in order that the king and people might have an Opposition. These were plain facts and not to be disputed. "In view of the great ambition developed in my honorable friends from Victoria and Vancouver within the last few days," said Mr. Cotton, after some references to the Government's legislative programme, "I think the words which Milton puts into the mouth of Satan is exemplified in their case: 'Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven.'"

"There is a double application for those words," Mr. Macdonald observed.

"As I have said, I am retiring, at least for the present," said Mr. Cotton in closing. "I have been offered the nomination in two constituencies, but I have decided not to be a candidate. Still, like an old war-horse, I shall sniff the battle from afar, and watch with intense interest the success which I am convinced the Conservatives will achieve if they are only true to their principles and party."

Mr. Parker Williams (Newcastle) in an able and vigorous review, closed the debate on the address, after which the address was formally adopted, the Opposition amendment thereto being defeated on a straight party vote, the "independent" member for Columbia, Mr. Forster, saving his face by being conveniently absent.

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Christie's Fruit Cakes, packed in sealed tins; just the thing to send to the "boys" at the front, 1-lb. tin.....35c
2-lb. tin.....65c
Italian Imported Peas, reg. 2 for 25c. Special, 3 tins.....25c
Laundry Starch, 2 lbs.....15c
Ginger Snaps, 3 lbs.....25c
Old Dutch Cleanser, 3 tins for.....25c
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B. & K. Wheat Flakes, per pkg.....25c

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