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BUTTLES LAKE
PARK RESERVE

Approval Of Act Setting Aside
Land Is Voiced In Discussion
On Second Reading Of Bill
In Legislature

Acknowledging the receipt of a handsomely bound album of photographs of Buttle Lake and various points of especial beauty in British Columbia's new Strathcona Park in the heart of Vancouver Island Alps, His Excellency Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, says in a letter to Hon. Price Ellison bearing date of the 23rd ultimo:
"Please accept my very grateful thanks for the book of really beautiful photographs which you have been kind enough to send me. The photographs are lovely, and extremely well and artistically selected. They have increased the desire which past visits have already planted deep in my heart to make a closer and better acquaintance with your beautiful island."
The photographs referred to by His Excellency were taken by Mr. Frank Ward of the "Colonist" art staff, who accompanied the Buttle Lake expedition of last summer as official photographer, the album being forwarded to His Excellency by Hon. Mr. Ellison as a Christmas remembrance from the westernmost and most beautiful of the confederated provinces.

Interest in Thursday's legislative proceedings was focussed largely in the bill for the creation of the new Provincial Park in the heart of the Vancouver Island Alps, in moving the second reading of which (by courteous request of Land Minister Ross) Hon. Price Ellison gave the House graphic and interesting verbal pictures of this scenic wonderland, while urging that with the experience of Switzerland as an object lesson—the Government would be remiss in recognition of its responsibilities to the present and future generations of its citizens, did it not do everything possible to make this vast natural playground known to all the world, and easily accessible to tourists who in a very few years may be expected to come here in hundreds of thousands. The upper lakes and rivers of the Buttle Lake section, where 276 square miles had been set aside as Strathcona Park, were spoken of as certain to win recognition as the world's greatest trout fisherman's paradise; while it was mentioned as illustrating the number, that the several waterfalls pouring themselves into this lake "if harnessed, would develop sufficient energy to operate all the industries of British Columbia." Campbell River Falls themselves constituted an accessible attraction, within a few hours' drive from steam connection at Campbell River mouth, worthy of continental attention, the immense water power carried by Campbell River descending in one wild leap sheer 135 feet, crowned during sunshine days with a double rainbow, while veiled in mists rising far above the trestles.

It was the intention of the Government, the Finance Minister explained, the forthwith proceed to provide a second park with avenues of communication, the Works Minister having already despatched a competent engineer to lay out a motor road from the present connection with the Campbell River road at McIvor Lake. Interest in British Columbia's new park and its special attractions to Alpinists, had already been manifested in the large American centres, in Great Britain, in Italy—as manifested in correspondence that had come to him personally—and he was assured that so soon as communication was afforded, it was the intention of the Alpine Club of Canada to establish one of its summer camps at Buttle Lake, its members seeking the conquest of the adjacent peaks.

Premier McBride, Mr. M. Manson, Hon. Mr. McPhillips, Mr. Hawthornthwaite, Mr. Brewster and Mr. Williams debated the motion for second reading which prevailed unanimously. The secondary feature of the day was Mr. Hawthornthwaite's motion for second reading of his bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act—a motion distinctly contra to the constitution of the House, inasmuch as it involves material and direct inroads upon Provincial revenue, and therefore ought only emanate from a Minister who had been in favour of the measure. Mr. Hawthornthwaite was by courtesy permitted to enunciate the principles of his measure, which he did with marked vigour and eloquence, afterwards withdrawing his motion—its purpose having been accomplished.

In brief the proposal was to have increased compensations to workmen suffering injury in the course of employment, paid by the State out of public funds, the Government subsequently recouping the Treasury by collection from the employer should it appear that he had been in fault. Various disadvantages and incongruities under the present law were cited in support of "a forward movement," and it was also suggested that in the event of the Government being unable at present to accept the principal of the bill offered, it might be well to appoint a commission to investigate conditions and devise a remedy providing for equitable adjustment of compensation in the event of workmen sustaining injury.

The Premier, replying, commended Hawthornthwaite for his moderation and gave him the credit of the existing compensation for workmen

law. It was the intention of the Government, he said, to improve the present law if possible during the next session of Parliament, and meanwhile it might be found advisable to appoint such a commission as Mr. Hawthornthwaite suggested—in which event labor would find due representation thereupon.

Railway Projects
Of the routine work of the day, a bare abstract will suffice. The petition of Victoria City preliminary to the introduction of a bill to validate certain bylaws was presented by Mr. Davey. The petitions of the City of Prince Rupert for charter amendments and of the West Kootenay Light & Power Co. for amendments of its corporate act were duly received. The bills to amend the Oak Bay Act of 1909, respecting the Columbia Valley Irrigated Fruit Lands Limited, to incorporate the Naas & Skeena Rivers Railway Co., and to enlarge the powers of the Portland Canal Short Line Company, and reorganize that railway project under the name of the Canadian & Northwestern Railway, received first readings and passed automatically to the special standing committee empowered to deal with them primarily. The University Endowment Act Amendment bill passed third reading—the first legislation of the session to be thus disposed of—report adopted; and the bill respecting taxation in lumber and construction camps passed through committee complete without amendment.

Following up this subject in 1908 and 1909—urging investigation by the Federal Government—and also the remarks thereat in the addresses of Messrs. Tisdall and Watson in debating His Honor's Speech at the opening of the session, Dr. McGuire on Tuesday next will move in the following terms for the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the question of the allegedly excessive cost of coal to the consumer in this coal-producing Province:

"Whereas it would appear that the cost of coal to the consumer in the Province of British Columbia is out of all proportion to the cost of production; and

"Whereas, owing to the abundance of the coal deposits in this Province, and the proximity of the sources of supply to the market, the cost of coal to the consumer in British Columbia should be much less than at present is the case; and

"Whereas the excessive price of coal in British Columbia has the effect of retarding and preventing the establishment in this Province of industries depending upon a fuel supply; and

"Whereas much of the product of the coal mines of the Province is being exported to foreign markets and sold at a price that enables it to compete with coal from other countries in such foreign markets; and

"Whereas a belief exists that there is an understanding between the persons or corporations controlling or owning such coal mines to maintain the high prices now charged to consumers in this Province:

"Therefore, be it Resolved, That an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor by this House, praying him to consider the advisability of appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into the following questions:

"1. Whether or not a combine or understanding exists among the coal producers, or any of them, of this Province to establish and maintain prices charged upon a fuel supply;

"2. Whether or not coal is being sold by producers, or any of them, for consumption outside British Columbia for a less price than that sold for consumption in this Province;

"3. Whether or not the prices charged by the producers, or any of them, for coal consumed in British Columbia is excessive;

"4. Whether or not the prices charged by the producers, or any of them, for coal in British Columbia bears a reasonable proportion to the cost of production."

Workmen's Compensation
In moving the second reading of Bill No. 2—providing compensation to workmen for accidental injuries received in the course of their employment—Mr. Hawthornthwaite said that he was aware Mr. Speaker had ruled, or intimated tentatively, that this measure, by reason of the fact that it involved a charge against the consolidated revenue of the Province, was by the rules of the House beyond the competency of a private member to bring forward. He had, however, understood the Premier to indicate that the Government had no objection to his presenting the measure as a motion for second reading in order that the principle involved might be debated and arguments advanced thereon to him cogent be adduced. The Bill was in effect in the nature of progressive evolution out of the existing Workmen's Compensation Act, which had been found to work well, though capable of improvement. The statute in question had been founded upon the British act, which—since it had been taken as a model for present legislation—had been materially altered to keep pace with present day progress and meet changing conditions. The bill as he proposed to amend it, limited liability for workmen's injuries to reasonable amounts in compensation, and also limited the conditions of circumstances under which such compensation might be paid. Under the conditions prevailing precedent to the enactment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, workmen suffering injury were very frequently prevented from securing legitimate compensation through common law proceedings in consequence of a theory enunciated by one of the old judges as to a workman's acceptance of the hazards of his common occupation. The act as passed and now in operation was an improvement unquestionably, but there were defects in and objections to be taken to the law as it now stood. For example, a carpenter was required to fall at least forty feet before he could claim compensation for injuries received which was a farcical provision in its face. And there were other equally ridiculous. Various ex-

ports had been made by legislators to solve the question of legitimate compensation for workmen's injuries and how it should be paid. It was questionable if a satisfactory solution could be found under the present social system, but conditions had to be taken as they are and the best available legislation placed on the statute book. The present act, too, was objectionable in that it worked injustice to employees who might have previously been the victims of accident, of workmen approaching the accepted age limit of forty years, after which they were regarded as less agile and therefore less likely to escape accident by their own quickness of movement. The practical working out of the Workmen's Compensation Act thus operated prejudicially against once injured or aging employees, while at the same time there were employees who would penalize efforts to obtain deserved compensation under the act by the dismissal not only of the injured employees but also of any relatives who might be in the firm or company's service. The companies, too, used every means possible to evade responsibilities to their workers under the law, and it was therefore proposed as a principle in the bill he had now brought before the House, to vary the procedure in the interest of justice to the workman, providing for compensation to be paid by the Government to the injured worker, instead of by the employers, the government having a claim against the employer for the amount involved should it appear that responsibility for the disabling accident rested upon the employer. This bill also proposed to increase the amount of compensation recoverable, the increased amount being named with a view to discouraging actions at common law for compensation. It was his calm conviction that the bill if fully studied would appeal to the House as meritorious from the standpoint of the employee as well as that of the employer. It embodied new principles which in time he predicted would be adopted by every civilized country in the world. The House had before it when the present Workmen's Compensation Act was under discussion the investment of capital and check industrial progress throughout the province. Yet this result had been experienced. Instead, the country was advancing by leaps and bounds, and the predictions of the prophets of misfortune had all been contradicted. Why not, then, take another step forward now? There could be no danger in this class of legislation so long as it was confined to the protection of life and limb. He realized that by the rules, it was beyond the power of himself as a private member to initiate legislation of this character, and he thanked the Premier, Mr. Speaker and the House for the courtesy extended to him, by which he had been enabled to discuss the principle and intent of the bill. He hoped that the Government, if it could not see its way to the adoption of the measure this session, would appoint a competent commission to thoroughly investigate the facts and conditions bearing upon the questions involved and the most desirable elements to be provided in legislative remedy.

Premier Explains Conditions
Premier McBride also asked the indulgence of the Chair and House—debate being as Mr. Speaker had rightly ruled and as the member for Nanaimo had himself admitted, somewhat peculiar, the introduction of such a bill being unquestionably an interference with the constitution of parliament—to briefly reply. All were aware that the original Workmen's Compensation Act was a measure for which the member for Nanaimo was entitled to very considerable credit. Fears had been expressed when that measure was before the House that it might work damage to and handicap the natural development of Provincial industries, by prejudicing the financial status of manufacturers with their bankers and unduly limiting the credit required of the banks for the carrying forward of their enterprises. After some years' experience of the law in operation, it might be said that no instance of such hardship to any industry in the Province; while on the other hand, the merits of the English method—adopted in the existing act—had again and again been demonstrated. The factories were better constructed, better equipped, and workmen labored under improved conditions generally. At the same time the worker, if injured was in a position to recover damages, which he might otherwise have been prevented from securing. Last session when this subject was before the House, he had intimated that the Government would endeavor to see what advance upon the old act could be made, and during the recess fair investigation had been made at various points to see what improvements could be made upon the existing law. The Government did not, however, find itself in a position during the present session to bring forward a bill to improve the existing law, although he hoped that the Attorney-General would be able to present such a bill next session. It might be well, as the member for Nanaimo had suggested, to leave it with a Royal Commission to obtain additional information on the subject—to have a commission on this special subject, and to obtain information which might not be secured or assembled under other circumstances. He felt that he was entitled to compliment the member for Nanaimo upon the moderation of his remarks on this subject; his every sentence had, indeed, been punctuated with moderation and fairness, which came as a refreshing surprise from that section of the House.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite received the announcement of the Premier's appointment, he said, he hoped that Labor would be given due representation in its composition. "It might even suggest," he added,

"that the Government allow of one member of the Commission, being nominated by the representatives of Labor in this House."
"As in every such Commission which the Government may find it desirable in the public interest to appoint," responded the Premier, "if this Commission is appointed we shall take care to see that the very best and most capable men for the work are selected. As for this Government alone," he added, "it is certainly not the interests of Labor as well as all other interests of the country, my friend from Nanaimo may rest assured that every consideration to Labor is a special interest in this connection will be shown."

Strathcona Park.
The motion for second reading was then withdrawn, by request of mover and seconder.

Hon. Price Ellison, upon rising to move the second reading of the bill respecting Strathcona Park, was received with most cordial applause.

"At the request of the honorable Minister for Lands, and with your consent," Mr. Speaker said, "I wish to move the second reading of the bill respecting Strathcona Park. I think that this province of British Columbia is to be most heartily congratulated to have the possession of such a provincial park but also upon the name that has been bestowed upon it, with the consent of his lordship. It has been said that a good name is everything. The name of Strathcona assuredly stands for all that is good and great. It is, too, one of the greatest names, financially, known in Canada, and I both hope and trust that the Strathcona Park will in the years to come prove as great a success financially, for the advantage of the people of British Columbia, as has been Lord Strathcona in his career as a citizen of Canada. Mr. Speaker, as you and all members of this house are aware, the pleasure of paying an exploratory visit to that park during the past summer. It was a pleasure that I may tell you, sir, that while I have always lived an active and out-of-door life, I will say, sir, that all the work I have ever done in my life was play in comparison with the work in connection with our exploratory trip into the heart of Vancouver Island.

"Although so close to our doors, the new provincial park lies practically in an unknown and unfamiliar country. The people of British Columbia know very little about it. Even those who may be said to live next door know little or nothing as to the characteristics and the matchless beauties of interior Vancouver Island. The Indians have never penetrated to the coast to penetrate the interior of the island, and parts of the island that we visited had never before been penetrated by white man or native. What we saw of it, therefore, is to me at least, matter of amazement. I was absolutely astonished with the variety and the great beauties of nature there in the midst of Vancouver Island, and I may tell you, sir, that everyone who was in the party in the course of our strenuous trip was equally impressed with the fact that in the matter of scenery and natural grandeur, the park which lies in the Rocky Mountains to surpass inland Vancouver Island."

"This is saying a great deal, I know, but it is not saying too much. Vancouver Island is a country to a large extent unexplored, and the debate being as Mr. Speaker has covered, and the marvel of it is that these wonders exist, as one might say, almost within gunshot of the coast. From Campbell River it is only thirty miles to Buttle Lake, unquestionably one of the most beautiful mountain-set sheets of water in all the world. I myself have seen many beautiful lakes in the interior of our province, and I speak with knowledge of them, and full appreciation of them, too. In 1888, when the Marquis of Lorne did us the honor of paying a visit to the interior, he saw Long Lake for the first time, and he paid us high compliments by saying that Long Lake was more beautiful than any lake in Switzerland or in Italy. I know Long Lake well, and I can say, Mr. Speaker and gentlemen, that Buttle Lake surpasses Long Lake in its beauty. It is approximately eighteen miles in length by about a mile and a half in width, its waters of crystal, and when I tell you, sir, that the falls which on every side come tumbling into it in clouds of spray would, if harnessed, be sufficient to develop sufficient power to meet all the requirements of British Columbia, and to give some idea of their number and of the water they carry."

"It is true that a very large portion of the water borne over these falls afterwards passes through the great falls of Campbell River—one of the most beautiful falls that I have ever seen or ever wish to see. I am not stretching the fact or drawing upon my imagination in describing it as truly magnificent in its primitive surroundings. The fall itself is 135 feet in height, the water falling directly over the face of a sheer precipice. As you approach the fall you see it crowned by two rainbows, some-what unusual phenomena, while the mist from the falls themselves rises many feet above the trestles. As surely it is a well worth the while of anyone who is capable of appreciating the beauty of nature to make a visit to these falls—even if they may be able to go no further toward Strathcona Park than these Campbell River falls. It is not a difficult matter to get that far—but a few hours' drive from Campbell River, where the steamers call every week.

To Build Road.
"It is the intention of the government to open up a road so that motor cars may run through to Buttle Lake. Buttle Lake, I may say, should be approached by a continuation of the road now in use to McIvor Lake, by way of Campbell River and Campbell Lake. It is true that other routes are feasible, but to adopt any of them would be to miss the majestic scenery along this route, and also the great beauty of the Selkirk River and Lake. Talk about fishing,

sir! I know something about fishing, for I have been a fisherman all my life. But I never had any real fishing until I went into that country this summer. I cannot tell you all there is to tell about it, for we never tried to see how many fish we could catch, only taking such fish as we could make use of. If the Campbell River is known as a salmon fishing resort throughout the world, the interior of the island lying just beyond it is certain to become equally world-famous for its trout fishing.

"The government intends to open up this park in a way that will mean in time to come a very large revenue to the province. Other countries have made money out of the asset of great scenic advantages and beauties, and for us to follow in their footsteps is the natural and the business thing to do. What do we find with regard to Switzerland? In 1876, Dr. S. Stoppel reckons that the total receipts from tourists from foreign visitors—tourists—amounted to \$24,000,000 annually. To give you an idea of how this amount has increased: In 1880 there were about 1,002 built and opened for the accommodation of visitors, containing 68,137 beds and of an estimated value of \$64,000,000. In 1894 the number had risen to 1,693, with \$8,834 beds, and a capital of \$108,800,000. In 1899 the number of inns had increased to 1,896, with 104,876 beds, and a capital value of \$110,000,000. Almost every mountain village now calls itself a 'health resort' or 'open air cure.' Not to mention that, large tracts of country which were in days past isolated by reason of inadequate or bad communication facilities, have been opened up by the construction of railways and splendid roads, which would, except for the tourist—have never been feasible and certainly never built, on account of the great cost. The influx of foreign tourist visitors into Switzerland has become such an important factor in the country's progress and maintenance that in 1903 the government took over four of the five main lines of railway within the confederation, paying for the maintenance of \$200,000,000 in order the better to regulate the summer and winter traffic created by the influx of tourists on these lines, and at the same time to standardize and make complete the system of rebates on fares and of advertising employed by the railways. Now, all over Europe, in every post office and every railway station, you find large placards pointing out the beauties and the advantages of Switzerland as a health resort and beauty spot.

Equals Switzerland.
"It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that by reason of the asset we have in our marvellous scenery here in British Columbia, we should follow much in the lines of Switzerland in developing the value of this great asset. Switzerland has nothing to offer the lover of beauty in nature that we are not possessed of here. The reason on of Switzerland's position as one of the countries of the world best known and most favored of tourists is that Switzerland has advertised. Its present position is the result of a certain position which it has just beginning, but if we fully realize what this park alone means to us we have in it a very valuable asset and one that in years to come will exceed any industry of British Columbia to-day in value to the general community. Surely if Switzerland can pay out the enormous sum of \$200,000,000 in the acquisition of railways in order to promote the development of its tourist trade, it teaches us what this trade may be made to mean to a country so situated as to successfully enter for it. And surely it must show us that it is our duty to begin, if only in a small way comparatively, to open up our country so that the world may enjoy its charm."

"Why shouldn't we do so—as a simple business proposition? True, there may be no direct revenue to the Government from the stimulation of tourist traffic hither, but it means everything to the prosperity of the people of the province to have these well-to-do visitors come here and visit our beautiful natural park. The large amounts of money which these visitors will spend during their visits—the money that these beauty-loving tourists leave in the country, is clean money and money that will be distributed among all classes of our community to their immense stimulus. It will mean a great thing to British Columbia thus to get thousands and hundreds of thousands to visit us. It will mean, in addition to the money they directly disburse during their visits, the making of the world better acquainted with this province of ours, its resources, its opportunities. It will mean world-wide advertising of our climate. It will mean that our population will receive large additions, and that investment in our industries will be given an impetus that will not be merely temporary. It is therefore a duty of government to do all that it is possible to do in the direction of furthering the necessary facilities for handling this tourist traffic, and I hope the Government is alive to its responsibilities in this matter and will do everything that is possible, first of all, in providing means by which people may conveniently get into the Park and in touch with its many beauties and attractions."

A Great Panorama.
"I understand that the honorable Minister for Works has now in hand certain matters in connection with this, and it seems a thoroughly competent engineer to lay out a road affording ingress to the Park in the very near future. With such a means of communication I know from my own experience that many people will come to Vancouver Island to see for themselves just what it is that we have in our Strathcona Park, with its wonderful scenery, in the midst of Vancouver Island. I was myself astonished with all I saw—it seemed to me quite the most rugged country in all the world. And I had people with me—people of extensive travels and intimate acquaintance with both the Rocky and the Selkirk ranges, and they all agreed that there is nothing grander than the scenery of the Buttle Lake district in either the Rocky Mountains or the Selkirk Mountains. When I stood on the top of Crown Mountain, it seemed to me as if the whole world was spread out before me in one great panorama of all the most magnificent things to be seen in nature. When you take into consideration how near at hand it really is, and our splendid climate, and the fact that we have in this new Provincial Park we are setting aside one of the greatest people's playgrounds in all the known world, I may tell you that in our entire trip we had only two or three hours' rain during six weeks, and for a considerable part of the time we were able to travel in our shirt-sleeves and were not in the least inconvenienced."

"When we reflect what Nature has done for us here, and what this Park may be made to mean to the country, we surely have done our duty in setting this tract of alpine land aside under reserve for national park purposes. Even the acreage set aside is only about eighty miles from the sea itself, and the actual climb of any of these peaks is therefore quite as extended later if the interests of the country justify the step. At present

the reserve includes an area of 276 square miles. "I only hope that more people of our own British Columbia in the near future will have opportunity of visiting this park and viewing its grand and imposing scenery. They will agree that any time and money they may spend in doing so will be time and money well spent. It is true there are difficulties in conquering the mountains—but the mountain-loving tourist is looking for just such difficulties. Standing on the summit of Crown mountain the peaks are scattered in all directions. And the more these peaks are to scale the greater will be the enthusiasm of the mountaineer visitor in conquering them. It is true these mountains are not so high as some in the interior of British Columbia. The peak in the neighborhood of Crown mountain rise to heights of from six thousand to seven thousand feet, or perhaps eight thousand feet, but it must be taken into consideration that Buttle Lake is only about eighty miles from the sea itself, and the actual climb of any of these peaks is therefore quite as extended later if the interests of the country justify the step. At present

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