A RECORD OF BUNGLING AND INEFFICIENCY

Mr. Oliver's Masterly Arraignment of the Administration Delivered on the Occasion of the Budget Debate.

ucid statement which he has laid before this House in refernce to the finake on account of the immense inrease in taxation accompanied by a eat reduction in the expenditure of blic money for roads, bridges and ther public works, it is a matter of atulation, I say, that these sacri-

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Further, sir, the minister of finance order that their surplus population has not claimed credit to the govern-ment for the expansion of the trade of Province. You will notice, sir, that one of the chief items of increased revenue is that of the return from our mber resources. It is within the reellection of this House that owning the change of the law referring to the issuing of timber licenses, a great many speculators were induced to take out timber licenses, and to hold them purposes of speculation. That, sir, ecounts in some measure for the inreased revenue from our timber reources. Whilst the revenue from this source has increased by over \$100,000 ince the production of the financial atement of a year ago, yet less than \$50,000 of this increase is due to the egitimate expansion of the timber inistry, and that increase is largely due to the far-seeing immigration policy of

We have another large increase of ause when we come to consider what

greater or less extent the public acor the financial years 1902-3-4-5, and nat do we find? We find, sir, that wing to the fact that the government slight increase in the amount of the ase is, no doubt, due to the inease in population, but-comparing ending 1903-I find the increase in the nount of revenue tax received to be ivalent to 10 1-2 per cent., and I find on on real property was increased 39 is increased 105 per cent., whilst the r cent. Further, we find that wheres the increase of taxation on wild land as, in proportion, larger than that gainst wild land by 20 per cent. So that whilst the amount of taxation reased by 39 per cent., the tax upon 20, and thus the amount of the burden increased taxation borne by wild nd is only about one-half of the has committed itself that nount of the increased taxation upon

son may be nproved land. Then, sir, in addition on private

as to enable the minister of finance us. I have not had an opportunof making a sufficiently searching dings could in detail, but I think, sir, that evidently for the purpose of bridging is little doubt but that the peo- the North Arm. t the province of British Column as these

they have had to pay a very high were inaudible in the press gallery. that the finance minister has been I find a large sum for that district set le for any owner that the finance minister has been le for any owner that the finance minister has been acquire licenses for immense areas vince should, at all events, be able to the to announce that he has a surplus. I find a large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates, and it is a fact we find this government which gives savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates, and it is a fact we find this government which gives savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates, and it is a fact we find this government which gives savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates, and it is a fact which gives savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates, and it is a fact which gives savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates are savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates are savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates are savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates are savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates are savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for that district set authorities could not get hold of him. In the estimates are savings bank, in fact they found the large sum for the which cannot be gainsaid that the dis-thoroughly agree with the honor-trict I represent, and the district my and equity, in fact so devoted to jus-

The speech made by John Oliver, M. able the finance minister as to his | friend from Chilliwack represents have P. P., of Delta, on the budget debate, statement as to the potential ties of the been and of which a condensed account has Province of British Columbia. The honalready appeared in the Times, was orable gentleman said that the potenacknowledged to be one of the ablest | tialities of this province were such that resentations of the opposition case it would necessitate an addition of milheard in the House this session. It ap- Hons to our present population in order to render possible the proper development of our natural resources. I Mr. Oliver, rising amidst enthusias think, sir, it is a very pertinent quesapplause, said Mr. Speaker, I tion to ask the honorable gentleman ish to compliment the honorable the what has he and his colleagues done mister of finance upon the plain and to induce such a population to come here—such a population as he admits to be desirable and necessary. What has the government ever done to inances of the province. It is a matter duce such a population to come to Britor congratulation, not only to the gov- ish Columbia? If the government rearnment but to the people of the prov- lized their responsibilities in this rence as a whole that the sacrifices gard, it is surely the natural inference that some steps had been taken to hich they have been called upon to make known to the outside world the possibilities of this province; it is sure-

would be reliable information distri-

buted throughout the countries from

Discriminated Against,

There is another matter in connec

ous policy. While it is proposed to in-

crease the expenditure

Mr. Ross: "Name, name."

cer. (Loud laughter and applause.) We

so had the procurator-general from the

city of Vancouver. The presence of

time, coupled with the fact of this

large increase in the expenditure of

public money throughout the province

Near Approach of a General Election,

again. (Cries of dissent from the gov-

ernment side of the House.) Well, sir,

we have been assured again and again

on the floor of this House by the sup-

porters of the government that there was no intention of bringing on a gen-

eral election. We have been assured of

that time and again, but these repeat-

ast record of the government of the

Dictator of the Policy

the province goes.

Fernie's partner-

I think, sir, portend the

of the opposition.

might be induced to come here, and to be congratulated inasmuch as he that their capitalists might be induced to turn their eyes westward when casting about for the investment of capital. In other words, that the government had taken needs of the province--population and capital. I venture to say to-day, nothing whatever to meet these requirements. The government instead of ince, and for the dissemination of the necessary information abroad to attract population and capital here, we find, sir, that when people come here in numbers seeking for knowledge of our timber lands and other resources, they are told that they cannot have any in formation. They are told "Go and find what you want, and then when you come back and tell us, we'll be able to let you know whether you can have it ne Liberal government at Ottawa, hich has resulted in the filling up of or not." What have they done to encourage the development of the coal lands which abound in this province? Have they made one single step to-

enue under the head of mineral taxwards providing the transportation nebut this again is not due to the legicessary for the development of this ate expansion of the mining indusmost valuable asset? Have they ever as it is largely occasioned by the tried in any way to encourage the caped market value of the copper d silver produced at our mines and our coal and oil fields? What inforelters. It is a matter of congratumation is available at the government sir, that these industries have offices of such a tendency as would inrived in the way they have done beduce people to settle on our agricultural lands? I have been in the departgovernment of the day has done ments and I find that there isn't a sinrds the development of the imtion which is of any practical benefit to intending settlers. it becomes necessary to analyze to pamphlets published by the government which contain a number of general statements, but there is nothing upon which a man seeking a home could rely as to where he would be only is there no information available to intending settlers and home-seekers e diligent in their duties, we have settlers come here and are desirous to ascertain what lands are open to preemption and settlement, these intend-

that during that same period the taxa- Told to Go and Deal with the Railway Company.

ing settlers are referred to the Cana-

dian Pacific Railway Company. Fur-

ther, when they apply for government

I say, sir, that realizing, as he does, the potentialities of the Province of axation on wild land was increased 42 British Columbia, the finance minister must have utterly failed to impress upon his colleagues the necessity of taking immediate and definite action to bring about this most desirable result. ment at the last session of this House He admits that the necessity exists, reducing the amount chargeable and that being so, it is to be hoped

> Turning for a moment to the estithe policy to which the government

action in the near future.

No Money Will Be Available

the increases I have mentioned, we for expenditure in municipal districts. nd the income tax increased by 150 Our trunk roads, those trunk roads er cent.; we find the mineral tax in- which have been built up at such an immense cost to the people are to be on on coal and coal licenses has pro- allowed to fall into a state of disreced a larger revenue by 25 per cent., pair. In my own district, the district d furthermore we have a new tax | which I have the honor to represent, crown granted mineral claims. I the trunk roads which have been built ink, sir, in view of the fact that there and kept up at an immense cost to the been an all-round increase in as- | people, have been allowed to fall into ssed taxation since the present gov- such a state as to be almost impassment took office of over 75 per cent., able. I find, sir, that Barriston Island, d that there has been a decrease of in Delta district, which has been payer 40 per cent. in the expenditure on ing taxes to the government for the productive public works, such as past 25 years, and which is not includds, streets, bridges and wharves, I ed in the municipality, I find, sir, that hink it is plain that the people of this not one single dollar of government ince have been called upon to money is to be spent upon that portion of the territory for the purpose of assisting the settlers. That is not because it is not needed; its needs are mounce that he has a substantial many and urgent, but because apparently all the money available was needed for the district of the president mination of the public accounts and of the council. I find, sir, that for his district there is a large appropriation

The president of the council was unwill agree with me when I say derstood to demur but his remarks entitled to under the letter of the law. we find this just and equitable government disregarding altogether the equity of the case, taking advantage of a technicality to

member for Fernie acquired his seat and has been holding it from that day to this. (Applause.)

Passing on from these things, let us

a moment consider the legislation

passed by the present government. One of the most important bills passed by this government was the Assessment Act. 1903-4. You will no doubt recolect, sir, the determined opposition which this measure was subjected to at the hands of the Liberal members on the floor of this House. We pointed out that the financial condition of this province was not in such a state as to require legislation of this drastic nature. What did the government do then ? They more than doubled the tax on personal property and income and they almost doubled the tax on real estate. But, sir, what did they do in the case of the workingman who had a few dollars saved and deposited in the savings and there is no other reason for this discrimination so far as I have been the support of the self-styled labor able to ascertain, other than that these champion of the province, this government enacted a statute which confiscated 33 1-3 of the income which the workingman derived from his hardly tion with these estimates which I deem earned deposit in the banks. Out of every \$3 of income which he was drawpholinces a departure from its previing for each \$100 of his small savings government enacted legislation which transferred \$1 to the revenues of streets and bridges by \$236,000 more the province. But not only did they do than the appropriation for that purthat, sir, the government not only made pose last year, it is announced that the this excessive demand. They went furgovernment has abandoned its policy of ther. They proposed not only to tax a keeping its expenditure within the limhad got but they proposed to levy taxthe government purpose to increase the ation on what he might never get-on vote for roads, streets and bridges by what other people owed him. Sir, when \$236,000, they propose to do it by creatwe advanced our objections to strining a deficit of \$265,000 at the end of the financial year. What does this porthe premier do? He arose on the tend? I think, sir, in view of the fact floor of this House and delivered an that we have had the provincial organizer of the Conservative party determination to bankrupt the provdancing attendance upon the ministers ince; he declared that the Liberal and interviewing the supporters of the government day after day in the lobwith the sole object of causing the government to become defaulters in the Mr. Oliver: I am not addressing the 15th December, and, sooner than rest honorable member for Fernie nor his under the stigma of such a charge, the

have had the collector of votes from and

for its enactment in its entirety with the members of the government. Sir, at that time the premier made one important statement which after events showed was not warranted by the sit-He claimed that the banks demanded the passage of this legislation before they were prepared to advance the moneys to the government neces-sary for the discharge of the liabilities probably before this House meets of the province. What happened when this legislation was duly enacted and the banks were brought face to face with their position, depositors were withdrawing their moneys from the banks and transferring them to the south of the boundary line or to the Eastern provinces. Realizing what ed confident assertions only tend to this would mean to the business interconfirm me in the opinion I have formest of the province, what did the bankers do? Why, sir, they came here to ment can see their way clear to take a snap verdict of the electors, as they my honorable friend the finance minister and prevailed upon him to allow that legislation to rest inoperative, and that if the government can see their although the law says that these monway clear to take another snap vote of eys in the savings banks shall be taxthe electors, they will have no hesitation in bringing on a general election ed, it has never been enforced. I say, at a moment's notice. In view of these sir, that the mere fact that representafacts, I think it advisable to review the tives of the banks waited upon the govrying out of this law is sufficient justification for saying that the banks did not demand this legislation as stated of the first acts of the present adminby the premier in this House. Further istration, the House having being dissolved and a date fixed by the Lieuten- we have the finance minister assuring ant-Governor-in-Council for the general election, after the country had been notified of that date, without any just or reasonable cause being advanced, the present government hurthe province, and then to cap the cliried on the date of the election and held it four weeks earlier than the date max, at the very next session of this the shape of improvement. After all House we find the government bringdiscussion of public matters on which legislation of 83 sections—83 sections to the public was entitled to and were desirous to be informed. By that means they claimed to have given the most the present government secured a snap careful consideration, but one short was absolutely necessary for the gov-

for Nanaimo were they enabled to re- ernment to amend nearly every clause

tain their place as a government. In lation when it was only one year old. naimo and his friends they formulated (Applause.) This method of procedure, the taxing of a man on everyan alliance as a result of which the thing he had and on what he had not. A Storm of Indignant Protest and legislation of the government of throughout the province that the govthat the government will take definite the day. In conjunction with their al- ernment sought to find some means of lies the members of the government aliaying public opinion. At the very have thus been enabled to hold down same session they passed a vote of \$5,mates, it is not my intention at this their positions to the present day. Sir, 1000 for the purpose of holding a royal time to criticize them in detail. It is I say that the conduct of the govern- commission to tell them what to do. a matter of regret that it is a part of ment in this respect is worthy of the They did that, sir, despite the fact severest censure. Immediately after that the country was paying the hontaking office we find the premier and orable the finance minister \$4,000 per the attorney-general making an elec- amount to co that very thing, and furtion tour all through the northern por- ther the province supplied the honor tion of the province, and we find the able genden an with a deputy minisexpenses of these gentlemen while thus ter of finance-a skilled accountant engaged, charged up against the rev- and a provincial surveyor of taxes, enue of the country. In other words whose sole business it is to understand the public had to pay the election ex- and point out the proper system of penses of these gentlemen, at all events | taxation that should be followed. (Apn so far as the northern portion of plause.) Notwithstanding that, sir, the government was compelled to appoint a commission composed of prac-Taking events in their order we now come to the Fernie election. It might | tical business men to tell them what be well, in this connection to refer to to do. As to the personnel of this comthe fact that more ballots were reject- mission, the government appointed two ed in this place than in any other respectable business men, but, evident place in the province. Taking the Fer- fearful of the practical common sense of these gentlemen, they also appointnie election, we find the business parted two of the ministers of the crown per of the government candidate appointed returning officer, and we find for the purpose of watching them. And that gentleman sending the ballot box- what do we find as a result of this es to Victoria the very night of the commission, notwithstanding the preelection. The returning officer knew cautions of the government? We find, that the Liberal candidate purposed sir, the report of the commission pracdemanding a recount and yet he took tically declaring that the Assessment steps to get the ballot boxes out of his act was bad in its conception and possession within the least possible needed mending to the extent of \$3 space of time. We find the member for sections at the very next session of the House; we find the commission declar-Mr. Ross: "I'd like to know where ing that the government was wrong ity of title for a period of 20 or 21 Mr. Oliver: We find his business ouce in addition to his land and perparner-like a certain lady at a more | sonal property; wrong in assessing the recent date-travelling outside the workingman 33 1-3 per cent. of the proposed legislation, and they Vancouver already has. I maintain,

in their own carefully considered legis-

tice is it that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company must be dealt with the government did in the new Assessitious knowledge, the public accounts sion, sir, I called the attention of this show that the revenue from timber lialthough we have no positive informacause of their oppression of the workingman-it allows these companies, axes on their wild land. (Applause.) Let us pass from the Assessment act with its many amendments, to consider the legislation passed by this government under the head of Land Act smendments. It is within the recol-

lection of this House that when the government introduced this legislation deputation after deputation oon the government. The hotels of this city were full with men from all portions of the province, groups upon very street corner discussed adversely the government proposals, and the corridors of this building were crowded with men Protesting Against This Legislation.

he value of the timber upon crowngranted lands. We find that the government turned a deaf ear to the petition of these men and positively refused to grant any concession whatgent legislation of this sort, what did ever. They insisted on confiscating the value of this timber. The protest against this legislation was not conoration charging the opposition with a fined to the large speculator class, so the appeal was in vain. Take it in my own district. What was the efmembers were opposing this legislation | feet of this proposed legislation? We have a large area of lands within the 20-mile C. P. R. belt. We find the repayment of interest due on the next gulations of the Dominion government as they should be, where the difficulty opposition took up this position: We of clearing land is so great. They will wash our hands of this measure

We found that the effect of the proposed legislation would be to impose a very heavy tax upon the logs cut upon these homesteads, and there was a proposition made that if these logs steads just the same as that of the these deputations had been down here. make a canvass of the members of this amend an act of their own to which House. There was no trouble whattion. They, to a man, were unaltera-New Westminster he told the government-the much vaunted first Conservative government of the province of British Columbia-that while he was prepared to support the party, he and termined stand of the opposition, asgovernment supporters, that the gov-ernment were compelled to recede from this tax of 50 cents per thousand feet bolts, then he maintained it should be 35 cents, and then 25 cents, and finally, when it was argued that shingle bolts should be treated as ordinary lumber, he reluctantly consented, and the taxation, as I said before, is now 1 cent per cord and 1 cent per thousand feet. of the Liberal members of this House. We next come to the timber license question. One of the greatest objections to the timber license system was that licenses were issued from year to year, and there was no security of

> means, the government secured in one year moneys which should properly belong to the revenue of following years. Then last year we have the proposition for an entirely new system of licensing. But what do we find when the government proposed to give continu-

title. The government in 1903-4 enact-

of licenses for 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 years. The

equitably even to the granting of 800,000 acres of land which they were not
equitably even to the granting of 800,tax on wild land by 20 per cent. They
censes and royalty was considerably
over \$100,000. We know, as a matter
over \$100,000. We know, as a matter
over \$100,000 we know, as a matter
of fact, that the increased arount of assessed as wild land into a different of fact, that the increased amount of overdraft of over \$300,000, at the same class as timber lands. So that, sir, instead of paying 5 per cent. assessment statement of the minister of finance, was only yielding 3 per cent. In other as wild lands, they now pay but 2 per cent. as timber lands. In addition this produced a revenue of not more foresight the government were throwwe find a large area now assessed as than \$50,000. But we find that the reving away 2 per cent. on \$300,000, coal land and paying but 2 per cent. enue jumped to an amount consider- amounting to \$6,000 per annum. I am of the ballots, and thus, through the action of his business partner, the member for Fernie acquired his seat adjoining coal mines? We find that the government looked after the coal public lands and thus to take full adceeded to act upon it, and he has since vantage of their knowledge of the propaid off that overdraft. If the honorevery coal company which had coal posed legislation. Now, sir, what was able gentleman will pay more atten lands adjoining their mine. For every that proposed legislation? Licenses tion 25 cents paid in royalty the government exempted one acre of their lands and were subject to any increase in House, if it should be his good forwere to be issued from year to year, which he receives from this side of the from being classed as wild lands. Sir, royalties which the legislature saw fit tune to make another annual financial to impose. Then there was another statement, I make no doubt but that tion, nor reliable information, such as clause under which holders of timber he will be in a better position than the public accounts on this head. I licenses issued before the passing of he is to-day. (Applause.) We find, have not the slightest hesitation in the act were to be given the right to sir, that the debentures authorized unsaying that the result of that change renew their licenses for an additional der this Loan Act were issued somewill be to enable the coal companies—
which seem to be such an object of ha
period of sixteen years, and fixing the where about March 1st, 1904; we find, according to the public accounts, that making their millions, I say, sir, it chables them to evade the payment of the purpose of augmenting the revenue of 75 cents or \$1, or even more, find that on the 15th February, 1905. the inside knowledge obtained by the done. (Applause.) holders. When this matter was being We were told the other day by the threshed out on the floor of this House, premier, with his usual truthfulness. Legislation, sir, which confiscated

frages of the electors. But I do think sir, that we did not oppose the inure to the benefit of the whole peo- cally against the ple rather than this speculator.

of the timber on the land. It was ab- censes-where the royalty may be ad- gent government, would so have drawn solutely necessary to enable the set- vanced to any sum this legislature up their legislation as tler to clear his land that he should be sees fit to impose. I do not think it is in a position to sell the timber and to the best interests of the province upon all the companies. But who was have the proceeds to clear his home- that this state of affairs should exist. it, sir, who drew the attention of the eral government at Ottawa with that ernment to take was to give all the iglation? Who are the attention of the of the Conservative government at Victoria. The government at Ottawa lis- their licenses under the same condi- sity of making the railway companies tened to the prayer of the actual settiers on the land and gave them the possessed by those taking out new li- the province? Did that suggestion timber for nothing, and scarcely was censes. That would have been a sound come, sir, from the government side of the ink dry on their grants when this policy, a good business policy, and the House? If you will turn to the government introduced legislation to there is a good deal of talk about journals of the House, sir, for 1903, at confiscate the whole value of the tim- graft these days. There should be no page 56, you will find that it was Mr ber. Deputation after deputation graft, nor should opportunities be Smith Curtis, at that time and able waited upon the government and laid given for graft. I maintain, sir, that Liberal member of this House, a man these facts before them, and what was it would have been a much better and who is known and respected through the result? The government said that more business like policy had the gov- out the length and breadth of the prothey were in a tight place and that ernment first taken some steps to as- vince, you will find, sir, that it was they had to do it. That was the certain the extent and nature of our that gentleman who pointed out to the answer these gentlemen received from timber resources, so that they would occupants of the government benches, the first Conservative government of have at their disposal reliable infor- that the railway companies were not British Columbia. Owners of shingle mation to lay before the capitalist paying their fair share of taxation, It mills who proposed to manufacture the when he sought to invest in this pro- was the exposure then made which timber on these homesteads found that vince. We

the effect of the proposed legislation Should Have a Uniform System would be to render their operation im- of dealing with our timber resources, this House will doubtless call to mind troducing this legislation, would be closing up these promising industries. We found that the effect of the company that the like and straightforward policy in this connection. (Applause.) Then, sir, we have this session num-

erous amendments to the Land Act. seen to hurry out and return accom-Judging by their general tenor and by the speeches made in their support, we are forced to the conclusion that this legislation was inspired by the de- So soon as the last named takes his lutely necessary to save the credit of timber on crown lands which had sire of the chief commissioner of lands seat he asks the premier, "Have you the provided and works to get a very with Mr. Error. never had anything done to them in son, of Vancouver. We find legisla- companies?" At once the premier tion to force the hand logger to return dives into his pocket, pulls out a yeloriginally fixed by the proper authoring in an amending act to this very ity and so prevented the full and free ing in an amending act to this very the members of them proceeded to be to the primitive methods of fifty years low paper and reads a protest from nied the assistance of steam power, man evidently thinks the members on ever with the members of the opposiback fifty years or more. That was ate a nice little piece of clap-trap of

To the lasting credit of the member for sought to impose upon the province. | ed for some time, and whilst the pre duced by the government. Owing to from Nanaimo may condescend, we, on the financial position of the govern- this side of the House, think it be ment it was claimed that it was abso- neath our dignity to resort to such lutely necessary to float a loan for \$1,others of his colleagues whom he had 000,000. It was proposed that that loan should bear interest at 5 per cent., and trarily confiscate the property of these that it should be repayable in ten land owners. It was owing to the deposition took the position that the this side of the House were fully alive sisted by some three or four of the stringency in the money market was to the difficulty of settling the quesonly temporary, and moved in amend- tion, and we were fully prepared to ment that it was not advisable to is- give our support to any reasonable the position they had taken up, and sue the loan for a longer period than measure tending to a satisfactory soluthree years, during which time a new tion of the question. But, sir, what did was reluctantly reduced to 1 cent per loan might be issued for the purpose we find when this legislation was thousand feet. I well recollect the de- of taking up the temporary loan at a brought down? Why, sir, the paid ermined attitude taken up by the much more reasonable rate of interest, agent of speculators frequenting the finance minister when this question probably 3 per cent. The government corridors and galleries of this House. was before the House. He first held of the day would not listen to this reaout for 50 cents per cord on shingle sonable proposition. It was pointed up for discussion we find this paid out to them that the annual repay- agent of speculators sitting in the gal interest amounted to \$150,000, and that made on the floor of this House by a the result would be that the govern- member of this House; we find this ment would not have the necessary paid agent of speculators vacating the money to lay out in reproductive works, such as roads, streets and that he had uttered the contradiction That is due, sir, entirely to the action bridges, as it would be impossible to and laying the blame on some mysstill maintain these and keep up the terious person strongly resembling him. instalments on the loan, and we find that the appropriations for these very necessary public works have been less \$600,000 to the burdens of the people. than one half the amount of the former appropriations. Sir, the position the opposition then took up was more than justified less than two years afed legislation, authorizing the issuing the issuing of that loan the municifees being paid in a lump sum by this pality of North Vancouver and the city of Vancouver borrowed money at 4 per cent. That is to say that a new owned by speculators, the proposed e municipality was in a better position to borrow money than the province of British Columbia. I say, sir, that under a wiser administration the province of British Columbia would be in a position to borrow money at a cheaper rate than a new municipality, when Speculators Had Inside Knowledge it has a very heavy debt as North

renewed licenses at 60 cents per thous- on the 30th June, 1904, \$536,000 stood to and feet. When you come to consider the credit of the province at current that in the near future it may be account at the Bank of Commerce; we you can easily see the immense advan- \$554,000; on the 30th June, 1905, \$525,000 tage these speculators have over the and on the 31st December last we find ordinary license holder. The favored \$622,000 standing to our credit. In individuals who, on account of inside other words, under this Loan Act we nformation, were enabled to stake off are paying 5 per cent on \$1,000,000, and large areas of our timber lands, have on an average have \$588,000 lying in thus added to the value of their hold- the bank at current account, for which ings. When we consider the fact that we receive 2 per cent., a loss of 2 per may be found necessary for the cent. to the province, or over \$10,000 purpose of increasing the revenue to per annum. I think, sir, that if the raise this royalty on timber to 75 cents honorable gentleman, the minister of or even \$1, or possibly \$2, the immense finance, will take such matters as this speculative value of these licenses can into consideration, he will find himself easily be seen, they become a most in a position to make a more satisfacvaluable property solely on account of tory financial statement than he has

we had the honorable the third mem- that the Liberals opposed the taxation ber for Vancouver declaring that it of railways. Sir, you can take the was good policy to give the speculator journals of this House and turn up a good chance in the province of Brit-ish Columbia. I do not know, sir, what Bill, and you will find that that bill position that honorable gentleman will passed its second reading without any take when next he solicits the suf- division of the House. You will find, that the electors of British Columbia creased taxation of railways. You will would prefer that these values should find, sir, that we did protest emphatishown as between one railway and an-I think there is another point in ther. It was pointed out that some gulations of the Dominion government were very liberal towards the settlers our attention. We have a class of this bill would be paying at the timber lands held under leases with a rate of 1 per cent., and some of the royalty of 50 cents; we have another others as high as 38 per cent. of their gave every settler a homestead of 160 class of timber license where the royal- gross income taxation. It was pointacres free, and after some little time ty is limited to 60 cents, and we have ed out that an equitable government, they followed that up by a free gift a large number of licenses—new li-

To Bear Equitably

led to the increased taxation of railself on the back because of his courage in introducing this legislation, when suddenly a page of the House was

panied by the

verdict of the people in its favor, but year before. In other words, sir, it bly opposed to a policy of confiscation. We now come to the Loan Act intro- mier of the privonce and his dictator petty tricks. (Applause.)

ment, coupled with the high rate of leries and contradicting a statement position in the galleries and denying (Laughter and applause.) We find that This burden has been saddled upon th people of the province, and this is a bill in the interest of speculators. We find this to be the position: In Chilli terwards. Less than two years after wack, where the land is nearly all owned by settlers, the reduction proposed was 13 per cent., and in Matsqui, where a portion only of the land is duction was 23 per cent.; in Maple riding there was a proposed reduction of are few settlers, a proposed reduction of 62 per cent.; in Pitt Meadows, where reduction of 68 per cent. In other words, the amount of reduction allowed these districts is in inverse ratio to the number of bona fide settlers in the

Came Into

the first of

t that the work makted, he said,

l mercantile