

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

Enormous Sacrifices

so as to enable the minister of finance to announce that he has a substantial surplus. I have not had an opportunity of making a sufficiently searching examination of the public accounts and estimates to enable me to criticize them in detail, but I think, sir, that there is little doubt but that the people of the province of British Columbia will agree with me when I say that they have had to pay a very high price indeed for the privilege of knowing that the finance minister has been able to announce that he has a surplus (Applause.)

The president of the council was understood to demur but his remarks were inaudible in the press gallery.

Mr. Oliver: I may be mistaken, but I find a large sum for that district set down in the estimates, and it is a fact which cannot be gainsaid that the dis-

Mr. Ross: "I'd like to know where you get your facts?"

Mr. Oliver: We find his business partner—like a certain lady at a more recent date—travelling outside the bounds of the province, so that the authorities could not get hold of him. We find this government which gives out that it is a government of justice and equity, in fact so devoted to in-

ence in addition to his land and personal property; wrong in assessing the workingman 33 1-3 per cent. of the income he derived from what money he might have saved and deposited in the savings bank, in fact they found the government wrong in a great many things. I notice that one of the things

Speculators Had Inside Knowledge
the proposed legislation, and they
were thus enabled to stake off and
acquire licenses for immense areas
lying entirely to their knowledge of
the proposals of the government.
largely, as a result of their surrepti-

that it was not advisable to finance the loan for a longer period than six months. The Government might be issued for the purpose of making up the temporary loan at a not very reasonable rate of interest, probably 3 per cent. The Government of the day would not listen to this. I pointed out to them that the annual repayment coupled with the high rate of interest amounted to \$150,000, and that the result would be that the Government would have the money to lay out in reproductive works, such as roads, streets and bridges, as it would be impossible to maintain these and keep up the salaries on the staff. The Government appropriations for these necessary public works have been less than one half the amount of the former appropriations. Sir, the position of opposition then took up the matter and said that the Government was backwards. Less than two years after the issuing of that loan the municipality of North Vancouver and the City of Vancouver borrowed money at 4 per cent. The position of the new 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 to a large extent to participate with a new municipality, when there was a very heavy debt on North Vancouver already has. I maintain, sir, that the government of this province is not in a position to do this as well as a new and heavily burdened municipality. (Applause.) What position are we in to-day? Last session

to support to any reasonable extent a satisfactory solution to the question of what did and when this legislation was put down? Why, sir, the paid of speculators frequenting the floors and galleries of this House, moreover, when the matter came under discussion, we find this paid of speculators sitting in the galleries and contradicting a statement on the floor of this House by a member of this House; we find this vast number of speculators sitting in the galleries and denying what he had uttered the contradiction placing the blame on some mysterious person strongly resembling him, and his wife and his children, his mother and his father and applause. We find that this House has added to the burdens of the people, to the burdens of the people, burden has been saddled upon the people of the province, and this is a detriment to the interest of speculators. We wish to be the position: In Chinatown, where the land is nearly all owned by settlers, the reduction provided was 13 per cent, and in Matsqui, where a portion only of the land is owned by speculators, the proposed reduction was 25 per cent. In Coquitlam, where there was a proposed reduction of 10 per cent, in Coquitlam, where there were few settlers, a proposed reduction of 25 per cent; in Pitt Meadows, where there is not a single settler, there is a reduction of 25 per cent. We find that the amount of reduction allowed in these districts is in inverse ratio to the number of bona fide settlers in the district. I characterise this bill as a Rank Speculator's bill.

Is Government legislation on be-