BUDGET IS PRESENTED

Minister Makes Excellent Showing for Province and Himself

Finances are in Satisfactory Condition-Province is Flourishing and Industries Expanding

(Special to The Daily News)

\$152,000 in all—or in other words we were actually \$72,000 behind. Since that date we have had to pay out over \$556,000 to complete the New Westmin-ster bridge over the Fraser river, in addition to nearly \$200,000 on other public works then under contract and which were supposed to have been provided set to the province at \$355,621, upon which the province is drawing interpolate the province at \$355,621, upon which the province is drawing interpolate to the province at \$355,621, upon which the province is drawing interpolate to the province at \$355,621, upon which the province is drawing interpolate to the province at \$355,621, upon which the province is drawing interpolate. ster bridge over the Fraser river, in addition to nearly \$200,000 on other public works then under contract and which were supposed to have been provided for out of the balance of that loan. So it could hardly be called all plain saling. However, it is useless to refer at greater length to a condition of affairs now happily past, and which is already well known of by the people of the province.

nce.
"I am glad," the minister continued, entering upon the subject matter proper of his address, "to be able for the second time to announce that we have not only been able to live within our income during the past year, but also to bring forward a substantial surplus of revenue over expenditures, a surplus in round figures of \$268,765. In considering this surplus the first question that naturally suggests itself is how it has been arrived at. And I am doubly being in a position to show that it has been almost entirely due to improved industrial conditions and very healthy expansion in the increased amounts we have been able to realize upon the actual increases in production in the industries of the province. You will remember that in framing our estimates for the last fiscal year we exer-cised the greatest possible caution and economy, so that it was hardly possible to curtail the expenditure provided against. As a matter of fact the actual expenditure for the year was \$2,652,196 where as the estimate of expenditure had been \$2.638.285—showing the small excess of \$13,911. On the other hand the actual revenue was \$2,920,481, our estimate having been \$2,522,076, the excess being in this case \$398,389, princi-

cess being in this case \$398,389, principally due to the growth, in timber revenue, land revenue, revenue from land sales, and receipts under the Chinese restriction act. Our surplus is therefore found not to result from any curtailment of necessary expenditure below the estimate in that behalf, but in the ex-

900. Be a matter of race, processed and least were seeded in least were many for the province at \$58,000 and advances under the Dewdings Relief Act (a considerable part) on which the province at \$58,502, 10-10 of which comes back to the province at \$58,500 and advances under the Dewdings Relief Act (a considerable part of the power of as the fruit industry is concerned, the growers commence in this country with a clean slate, 'We are determined to use all our efforts to keep the slate clean, because we realize the loss caused by bad or diseased stock is not so much the cost of planting and cultivation, as in the

Fraser (Grand Foris) moved the Second reading of the bill extending the rights of the West Kootenay Power and Light company, and permitting them to transmit and dispose of power in Yale district. Fraser pointed out that the object of the bill was to enable the company to extend their lines and supply power in the Boundary country. He quoted a great mass of figures to prove the nature and extent of the smelting and mining industries now under way in the Boundary, basing thereon an argument in favor of allowing the West Kootenay Power & Light company every facility to supply power for cheap and permanent operation of these great and growing industries. He dealt with the Cascade Power company's opposition to the bill and pointed out that that company could at best only supply 300 horse, Dower and frequently could not supply more than 1600. Fraser said he was not seeking to advocate the cause of one company in preference to that of another, but simply to secure for his constituency an adequate power supply. He belleved if the present bill became law every mining operator in the Boundary district would be assured a teneap, plentiful supply of power for years to come. Speaking particularly of the operations of the Granby company, Fraser said that anything that tends to curtail its, operations must necessarily have a bad effect on the general prosperity of the whole district, lack of sufficient power would necessitate the partial closing down of the smelter, and such an event would be disastrous, not only to the company, but in an equal degree to all working men finding employment in and about Grand Forks. Merchants would also suffer. It closing Fraser said: "Our very future depends upon successfully treating iow grade ores in which this portion of the country abounds. Cheap power must be the basis upon which we shall build broad and strong the foundations of our future prosperity. On no account must we restrict the generation of electrical power. For such a course would spell ruin to our various mining Interests and

Dr. Young (Atlin) moved the adjournment of the debate. He will move an amendment in committee protecting the interests of the Cascade Power company to the limit of its present capacity.

(Special to The Daily News)
Press Gallery, Legislative Assembly,
Victoria, March 5.—Oliver (Delta) resumed the budget debate this afternoon
and for more than two hours held the
close attention of the house in an exhaustive review of the record of the
McBride government since its taking
office in 1993. Owing to the late hour

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well known fact that contrary to the statute law, settlers had been referred to the C. P. R. agents for information regarding public lands, that were not owned by that corporation, but which, in defiance of the law, the company now controlled and handled as though they actually owned them. It was unintelligible to Oliver how a finance minister who professed such unbounded confidence in the potentialities of the province, falled to impress his colleagues with some of his own enthusiasm. Dealing with the estimates for the coming fiscal year, Oliver declared that they contained clear evidence of an approachinscal year, Oliver declared that they contained clear evidence of an approaching general election, and in view of this fact he said, he proposed to review at some length the record of the McBride government since taking office three years ago.

Oliver certainly carried out his threat. He commenced at the preceedings immediately preceding the last general election, when by a change in the date of polling the government were enabled to obtain a snap vote of the country, and continued his researches down to the passage of the second reading of the bill to amend the Columbia & Western Railto amend the Columbia & Western Rall-way Subsidy Act on Friday evening last. This portion of his speech was replete with good things, and kept the opposi-tion benches in a great state of en-thusiasm. Very little escaped the mem-ber for Delta's attention, and his scathing denunciations of the government's tinkering with the land laws, and the tinkering with the land laws, and the public school question were punctuated with loud and long applause. In concluding, Oliver again referred in eloquent language to the government's wasted opportunities in so far as any active assistance in the development of the resources of the province was concerned. He severely censured the government's model. Brown, and letters to Hon. Mr. Cotton, were quoted in proof of the

the finance minister, but naturally re-frained from discussing the controver-sial matters his more experienced col-leagues had deemed it the part of wis-dom to ignore. Wells (Columbia) fol-lowed, and then Ross (Fernie) and Ful-

into a committee of supply without division.

In resuming the budget debate Brown (Greenwood) opened with a graceful recognition of the concise and business-like character of the finance minister's deliverance, in which he had to a large extent avoided the self-glorification not infrequently indulged in upon similar occasions. It was however, a subject for regret that after Mr. Oliver's cogent and pertinent criticism not one member or supporter of the ministry had risen to attempt a reply, evidence in itself of a weak cause and a desire for time to patch up a defence.

The member for Greenwood then commented upon the absolute failure of the government to deliver the promised railway legislation, which was to have been brought down at the summer session which never materialized. In place of such promised measures legislation had been placed upon the statute book which had proven directly antagonistic to the interests of the province and the people

interests of the province and the people of British Columbia, of which the amended school act was a pertinent example. On the other hand the govern-ment had been derelict in collecting the legitimate revenue of the province, where such legislation would press vexatiously upon certain favored corporations.

The position of the Columbia & West-The position of the Columbia & Western railway belt lands was next critically reviewed, evidence being offered
to show that F. August Heinze had retained one-half of the lands involved,
upon transferring his railway interests
to the C. P. R., these lands lying between Rossland and Robson. Telegrams
from sir Thomas Shaughnessy to George
Mol. Brown and letters to Hon. Mr.

transfer or retention referred to, and it was clearly shown that Heinze had for years been liable to taxation upon 270-000 acres of this land, yet what had this government done toward the collection of these taxes during the two years in which it had held office. Then there was the case of the B. C. Southern land grant in connection with which condi-tions were imposed upon settlers and intending purchasers that were directly contrary to the land act, while the grant of three million three hundred thousand acres had become indisputably liable to taxation. The finance minister had claimed he was going after a dollar wherever it was due to the province, yet what endeavor had he wade to collect taxes on these lands. intending purchasers that were directmade to collect taxes on these lands. Placing the value of these lands at the very lowest mark of \$1 an acre, and allowing an assessment of but one per cent, here was uncollected revenue of \$300,000 per annum, of which the pro-vince was robbed for the advantage of a railway company.

The government, it was maintained

by the member for Greenwood had broken practically all its pre-election pledges, notably in regard to the aboli-tion of what the finance minister him-

self had described as the "iniquitous two per cent tax," the setting apart of coal areas, and the establishment of government control over the telephone service and telephone rates. The government had shown no true initiation and had done nothing practical to stimulate the development of industries and, therefore, of the prosperity of the province.

The members above mentioned also spoke but contributed nothing of moment with the exception of Ross (Fernie) who took advantage of the opportunity to severely censure the Associated Boards of Trade of Southeastern British Columbia. This body, he alleged, originally gave promise of being an useful organization, but it was now entirely subject to the dictation of the leader of the opposition, who instigated its resolutions and he thought, in some instances actually drafted them. The associated boards were now to all intents and purposes part of the liberal machine in southern British Columbia. It was presided over by a paid official of the liberal government who spared no efforts to advance liberal interests. Another active, member was Smith Curtis, whose hostility, to the government was well known. He-wished to issue a warning to the associated boards, that if its usefulness was not to be altogether destroyed, if it had not already gone, it must break loose from its relations with the leader of the opposition. Ross had a good deal to say in connection with his own election and the now notorious incidents of the ballot boxes. He further proceeded to make a bitter personal attack upon J. A. Macdonald, because of that gentleman's support of the eight hour day for smelters. He charged Macdonald with being a political fakir, and said he was entitled to no credit for attempting to bring about a settlement between the smelter owners and their employees in the matter of hours of labor.

Before the house rose this evening the committee of supply had completed its labors. The various estimates passed with very little comment from either saider on Feriday after in the land gran

(Special to The Dally News)

Press Gallery, Legislative Assembly, Wictoria, March 7.—This afternoon's session of the legislature would have libeen wholly devoid of interest had it mot been for the presentation by chairman J. F. Garden of the select committee's report on the Kaien Island land grant investigation. The presentation of this report pracipitated a lively debate arising out of the motion of the leader of the opposition to amend the resolution offered; that the report be now received, by a recommendation that the report be referred back to the committee with instructions that the minority report be attached hereto in the form of an appendix. For several minutes Macdonald, McBride, Bowser and Oliver poured questions in upon Mr. Speaker from May, Bourinot and every other parliamentary authority. The position taken by the premier and Bowser was that the leader of the opposition was trying to do indirectly what the rules of the house prevent his doing directly, that is, to present a minority report of the select committee.

Macdonald contended he was not trying to do anything of the sort, and even if he were, there was no precedent to show he should not do so. Mr. Speaker said the point of order was raised for the first time in this legislature and lbeing one of very serious import he would defer his decision.

the first time in this legislature and libeling one of very serious import he would defer his decision.

The committee's report not having been received by the house it is not available for publication but from its general tenor as gathered in the press gallery when read by the clerk of the house, the majority of the committe entirely exonerate the government of any blame in connection with the matter and declares that the negotiations for the allenation of the land to have been conducted with perfect propriety and find that the deal was pre-eminently to the advantage of the province. to the advantage of the province.

The minority report is made available