

opinion that much of the above expenditure is extravagant and that little, if any, constructive or useful purpose has been served. It is impossible to eliminate the Bureau as it is charged with the task of answering numerous inquiries seeking information of all descriptions with regard to the Province. We therefore recommend that it be reorganized and revitalized, and that it be transferred to the main buildings under the direct supervision of the Premier. Much of the statistical work now distributed amongst various Departments might well be combined with the Bureau, thereby creating an office which should accumulate a mass of useful information and prove of great value in answering the varied inquiries with which it has to deal.

PRINTING AND REPORTS.

244. We are of opinion that the work given to the King's Printer in the shape of reports and printing of all descriptions is in many cases unnecessary and in nearly all cases, excessive, particularly in so far as the number and elaboration of various reports are concerned. We approve of mimeographing certain of the Government publications, and think that this should be extended as far as practicable. While we do not underestimate the value of the annual reports, we think these should be curtailed in length, and the illustrations reduced in number. The cost of printing 26 annual reports in quantities varying from 100 to 6,825 is nearly \$20,000, which we consider unnecessarily high. The reduction in the number of Legislators which we recommend should bring about a substantial reduction in these costs.

245. We think the Government might well adopt a policy of making a charge for annual and special reports sufficient to defray their cost.

CHAPTER XII.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

246. For convenience we summarize the more important recommendations contained in this report:—

247. 1. PUBLIC DEBT.

That a determination be inculcated in all sections of the community throughout the Province to insist on restrictions on Government expenditures so that further borrowings either for purposes of expenditures on account of capital or revenue, will be unnecessary. The reasons for this determination are:—

(a.) The excessive burden which the cost of the existing debt imposes on all industries tends to increase rather than reduce unemployment.

(b.) The certainty that, if we do not reform, no further borrowings will be possible, because no one will lend us money.

2. THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

That the Legislative Assembly be reduced from forty-eight to twenty-eight members and that a special session of the Legislature be immediately summoned for that and other purposes recommended in this report. (See paragraphs 48, 50, and 54.)

3. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

That the Executive Council be reduced in number to six, and that it be constituted on the basis of capacity to administer rather than on the basis of party consideration and expediency, and that the main Departments of Government be as follows:—

Department of Finance.

Department of Attorney-General.

Department of Social Services.

Department of Public Works.

Department of Natural Resources.

(See paragraphs 58 to 67, inclusive.)

4. CONTROL OF EXPENDITURES.

That the existing regulations contained in the statutes with regard to the control of Government expenditures be rigidly adhered to by all concerned, and that all such expenditures should be subject to the following three primary tests suggested by Sir Ernest Benn in connection with expenditure by the British Government:—

"(a.) Is the work worth doing? Is the need for it real?

"(b.) Is there no other way of achieving the same object, no cheaper or more efficient, or more reliable agency through which it can be secured?

"(c.) Have we the money to pay for it?"

5. PACIFIC GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

(a.) That the Province make no betterments or other capital expenditures on the existing line nor any extensions thereto:

(b.) That every effort be made to sell or otherwise dispose of the railway on terms which will not add to the liabilities already incurred:

(c.) That unless such a disposition can be made in the near future, not exceeding nine months, its operations be discontinued, and that in the meantime operating expenses be reduced to a minimum. (See paragraph 231.)

6. UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF.

That a committee be immediately appointed in connection with unemployment relief as recommended in paragraph 237.