

FUTURE OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY

H. B. Thomson (Victoria) Proposes Great Future for Vancouver Island

BUDGET DEBATE CLOSED

Afternoon Session of House Yesterday Devoted to Budget Matters

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The debate on the budget came to an end at yesterday afternoon's sitting of the legislature. The feature of the close of the debate was an address by H. B. Thomson (Victoria) which was an eloquent plea for the future of the iron industry on Vancouver Island, and for the encouragement of fruit-growing and the preservation of the provincial forests.

An important statement was made yesterday by the minister of finance, and agriculture regarding the establishment of an agricultural college in the province. Mr. Tatlow announced, in reply to a statement made by the member for Delta, that such a college would be established in connection with the proposed B. C. university.

The budget debate was opened by H. B. Thomson (Victoria). Mr. Thomson said that after the full exposition of the financial situation of the province as given in the finance minister's speech it was almost unnecessary for a private member to deal with the budget. There were, however, a few details on which he wished to touch.

Fruit Growing Prospects. He was glad to see that an additional sum was to be voted for the preservation of the fruit trees of the province and to deal with the fruit pests. This step was a very important one at present.

Some of our fruit growers here are afraid that they will not find a market for their fruit," said Mr. Thomson. "These figures will show that there is no need for any such fear. In the United States in 1908, had it not been for the states of Washington and Oregon, there would have been an apple famine, and therefore a large importation from Canada."

He stated that the Victoria Fruit Growers' association was looking farther afield than the markets of the northwest. This year samples of apples were sent to China, Japan and Australia, and large orders were looked for next year. The organization this year shipped 330,000 worth of fruit to the prairies. The association shipped 2,600 boxes of pears, 30,000 crates of strawberries and 31,500 crates of small fruits.

Mr. Oliver next attacked the pre-emption record of the government. He said that the pre-emption records were not satisfactory. The settlers were frequently the victims of the government's policy, and there was insufficient inspection, and the true index of the amount of land pre-empted and sold was the amount of land that was not applied for. During the past year 163,000 acres of land had been decided to purchase and only 41,000 acres had been sold.

Mr. Oliver passed again to his own district. There was not, he said, a better agricultural section in any part of B. C. and yet a great deal of the land was in the hands of men who sold large tracts of expensive private property. Settlers are charged from fifty to one hundred dollars an acre for bush land that it requires \$150 an acre to clear.

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consumption in that country continued the forests would be depleted in twenty years. The increase of the consumption was going on at an alarming rate and it was possible that this term of years was too short.

Mr. Thomson dealt with the question of clearing land for farms on Vancouver Island. He suggested a scheme whereby the farmers might club together, as in the case of the creamery business, and borrow money from the government for clearing purposes.

The government of B. C. is only a business proposition," said Mr. Thomson in conclusion, "and comparing the budget of 1903 with that of 1908 it is not to be wondered at that the majority of the people of the province continue to be satisfied with and to show their confidence in the present administration."

Mr. Oliver (Delta) then came into the debate. He took up the statement made by the member for Cowichan that the province was both "rich and lucky." Starting out with this as his text he proceeded to show wherein the minister of finance had been lucky in his operations.

Regarding the loan of 1903, the minister had also been lucky. When this ten year loan was mooted, opposition had brought in an amendment to the effect that a three year loan was sufficient. Conditions had changed more rapidly than anybody could anticipate, and within five years the province was able to pay off the loan.

Mr. Oliver drew attention again to the special warrants, by which \$360,000 had been spent by the government, and he stated that the government had spent \$58,000 expended in Richmond district. The premier had ordered that this work had been completed long before the Dominion election.

Mr. Oliver said that in November and December last the government had a large force of men and teams on the roads hauling lumber. He stated that this had not been practising economy. In October, November and December lumber sums had been spent on roads in Chilliwack, and upwards of \$5,000 had been spent on the New Westminster bridge.

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An Alarming Situation. The speaker contended that an alarming situation had been created, which even the government had recognized by clipping on a reserve, the wisest thing they had ever done.

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Mr. Bowser—"The Dominion Government has disallowed my bill." Mr. Oliver suggested that there had been time to get the appeal before the Privy Council before the disallowance, and then made an impassioned plea on behalf of the bill.

Next going north to Enrie Rupert, Mr. Oliver announced that the G. T. P. had got the better of the government at Enrie and that he proceeded to dig up the ancient story of the Kalen Island deal as he saw it.

The minister had congratulated the province on its large surplus. It was remembered that the revenue of the province had exceeded the estimate of the minister of finance by only 80 per cent. It was easily seen that the minister was being a little touchy.

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The Hickman Tye Hardware Co. Ltd. Victoria, B. C., Agents, 544-546 Yates St. Phone 59 Bacon, per lb., .32 to .37; Pork, dressed, per lb., .12 to .15; Rabbits, dressed, each, .50 to .55; London, Feb. 23.—The fund for the workmen's memorial of gratitude to Sir Robert Peel, which has been raised by the penny subscription, amounts to 400,000 workmen of Great Britain, as a record of their gratitude to Sir Robert Peel for his successful legislation in abolishing the tax on bread in 1846, has been completed.

MARRIED. DONALDSON-GULBRANSEN—At the residence of Rev. W. Leslie Clay, last evening, James, eldest son of James Donaldson, of 138 St. Lawrence St. of this city, to Helen Burns-Gulbransen, of Armstrong, Dumbarstron, Scotland. DIED. CLARK—In this city on the 16th inst. at the family residence, 852 Johnson Street, Jane Stirling, beloved wife of James S. Clark, late of Japan, aged 66 years. A native of Scotland. BOORMAN—In this city on the 16th inst. at the family residence, 12 Alford Street, William Scowen Boorman, a native of Wandsworth, England, in his 67th year. FLEWIN—Drowned in Port Simpson Harbor, on Friday, February 12, Arthur, fifth son of John and Helen Flewin, aged 15 years. BORN. BROWN—On Thursday, the 17th inst. to the wife of George S. Brown, a daughter. HOLMES—On Sunday, Feb. 21st inst. to the wife of James Holmes, Columbia Ave., a son.

Births, Marriages, Deaths BROWN—On Thursday, the 17th inst. to the wife of George S. Brown, a daughter. HOLMES—On Sunday, Feb. 21st inst. to the wife of James Holmes, Columbia Ave., a son.

Public Service Act Before the House. Last Year's Bill Repealed—Classifications of Various Employees. (From Wednesday's Daily.) The Public Service Act, more popularly known as the Civil Service Act, was brought down to the House yesterday by the provincial premier. The bill introduced last year and modified it in certain particulars. These changes are the result of a careful study of the subject during recess. The superannuation measure was dropped in order that the bill should be laid before the House. The members of the public service are classified into four classes, namely: officers, agents, chief clerks, stenographers and generally clerical, technical or scientific character. The term agent includes all government assessors, recorders, registrars and chief clerks. Officers, agents and clerks are graded into four classes according to skill, training, competency and length of service. Provisions are made for passing from one class to another with corresponding increases of salary. Hereafter clerks will be appointed at the age of 18. The initial salary is \$35 per month, increasing automatically to \$40 at 20 years of age and to \$45 at 25 years of age. A chief clerk's salary runs from \$120 to \$150, although in certain exceptional cases a larger stipend may be placed on the estimate. The power of dismissal is retained unimpaired and the act provides for the appointment of a service commission and examiners.

Stevenson is Back. Thomas Stevenson who left the staff of the Dominion newspaper to go to take over the Winter's Post in Vancouver, has sold that paper and returned to his duties in the management of Stephen Jones' house in the city. Stevenson is leaving for the Terminal City a number of Stevenson's friends gave evidence of their regret at his departure. He returned here by presenting him with a handsome jeweled pocket watch and an expressive letter of sentiment. While he will be missed on the main land he will be most heartily welcomed back to the city by his acquaintances next occasion. He state immediately his familiar figure was noticed yesterday in the city. He arrived from Vancouver by way of Seattle. It is his intention to "go back into harness" without delay.

Aberdeen Society's Appeal. The Aberdeen Society appeals to friends and the public generally for donations of books and magazines. The society meets on the first Monday of each month to distribute literature among those living in out of the way places, who cannot get, or who cannot afford, reading matter. The society has no funds, and it has to depend solely on the generosity of the public for the books and magazines which are so greatly appreciated by those to whom they are sent. At present the supply on hand is very small indeed, so that contributions for the next meeting on Monday, the 1st March, would be greatly appreciated. The society is open to all who wish to help after anyone wishing to find a good way for their old books and magazines, or to help the society, should send them to the Aberdeen Society. All contributions will be thankfully received and can be left in charge of the caretaker, Market Hall, Cornwall Street, or arrangements will be made for collection on application to the Hon. secretary, Lawson, Simcoe St., telephone 141.

MAY INCREASE CAPITAL. Application of Hardy and Quatling Sound Railway Held Over. (From Wednesday's Daily.) The application of the Hardy and Quatling Sound Railway for a charter came up before the railway committee yesterday, but was held over for today to allow of the incorporation making some suggested changes in their application. The railway is 12 miles in length and twenty miles in length or twice the length of the main line. The company might consider making the railway main line three miles in length and increasing its capitalization from \$350,000 to \$500,000. Mr. C. P. R. is the member of the committee for the application. He said that the company had located the site for the Western Railway. The company's mill on Marble Creek, at the desired communication from Hardy and Quatling Sound through Quatling Sound to Quatling Sound. This main line of ten miles it was intended to build next year, but there was no hurry for the twenty-mile branch which was projected down the coast. The company's mill on Marble Creek, at the desired communication from Hardy and Quatling Sound through Quatling Sound to Quatling Sound. This main line of ten miles it was intended to build next year, but there was no hurry for the twenty-mile branch which was projected down the coast. The company's mill on Marble Creek, at the desired communication from Hardy and Quatling Sound through Quatling Sound to Quatling Sound. This main line of ten miles it was intended to build next year, but there was no hurry for the twenty-mile branch which was projected down the coast.