

INCREASED TAXES

Government Forced to Increase the Taxes to Pay the Charges for Public Debt.

Salaries of the Officials Reduced but Ministers Still Receive Four Thousand Each.

Yesterday the estimates for the year 1896-97 were laid before the house. They show that the government expects to receive for the year a revenue of \$1,163,789 and expend \$1,372,078. It is estimated that \$300,000 of the last year will remain on hand at the end of the current year, the 30th of June next. The estimated revenue is \$127,800 more than last year, large increases in taxation being responsible for the difference. The government estimate the land sales for 1896-97 less than last year, but all \$80,000 less than last year, but all \$80,000 less than last year, but all \$80,000 less than last year...

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Dom. Canada, Land sales, Land revenue, Timber royalties, etc.

Est. cash bal. 30 June 1896 \$1,163,789 \$1,035,989

Although the government have, like the civil bodies, made some big cuts in the salaries of the officials, the expenditure is estimated at \$86,241 more than last year. This is caused by the increased charge for public debt on account of the two million dollar loan of last year, of which only \$300,000 is left. A comparative statement of the estimated expenditure for 1896-97 and that estimated for 1895-96 follows:

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With the exception of the salaries of the ministers and those officials whose pay was already at the minimum figure, a cut of from 5 to 7 1/2 per cent, has been made. The government has also cut half way the demand for the abolition of the agent-general's expensive office in London by reducing Mr. Vernon's salary to \$2500 and allowing him \$1000 for expenses. The salary and expenses formerly amounted to \$5,000. Only \$1,500 is to be expended on the provincial board of health. Last year \$8,000 was voted.

In the provincial secretary's department, the printing office, finance department and other departments, a cut of from 7 1/2 to 5 per cent, has been applied. The deputy minister of agriculture will receive \$116 in place of \$125 per month; the inspector of fruit pests \$111 vice \$120; and inspector of animals \$95 vice \$100. A new office provided for is an auditor to inspect all offices, at \$139 per month.

The registrar of titles at Victoria will have \$157.50 vice \$175, and the chief clerk \$139 vice \$150. At New Westminster the registrar's salary will be \$139 vice \$150, and two clerks will receive \$2,414, while last session three were provided for—\$3,060. At Vancouver the registrar's salary of \$175 becomes \$157.50, and the three clerks will receive \$3,060 in place of \$3,440. At Kamloops the registrar will have \$139 vice \$150, and the two clerks \$2,040 vice \$1,938—an increase.

Last year's estimates provided for 23 officers at the salary for \$14,800. The present vote calls for 26 officers at \$15,748. At Victoria the assessment assessor is reduced from \$110 to \$102; the clerk from \$70 to \$68; the assessor at Westminster at \$140 to \$138; his assistant, \$100 to \$95; the clerk's salary disappears and the provincial revenue collector's \$85 becomes \$81. At Vancouver the assessor will have \$95 in place of \$125, but a new salary is here provided for an assistant at \$95. The assessor called at Nelson loses 5 per cent of his \$130 in place of \$140, and his assistant \$95 in place of \$100.

government agents have been thus reduced: Westminster, from \$150 to \$130; Donald, \$130 to \$139; Nelson, \$160 to \$144; Richmond, \$172 to \$155; Fort Simpson, \$110 to \$95; Yale, \$110 to \$102; Kamloops, \$150 to \$130; Okanagan, \$125 to \$116; Osoyoos, \$125 to \$116; Nanaimo, \$125 to \$116; Alberni, \$100 to \$95; Cowichan, \$125 to \$95; Lillooet, \$125 to \$116. The agent at Comox goes up \$5 to \$95. The salary of \$125 for the agent at Lakeside, in Cassiar, disappears. The first school inspector is reduced from \$1,800 to \$1,665 and the second from \$1,680 to \$1,554. There are increases in every district for school purposes.

By the sinking of the steamer Pearl, near Brisbane, 24 persons were drowned. News was received on Saturday of the death at Bloemfontein, South Africa, on February 8th, of Capt. Tempel, R.M.A., who was stationed in Victoria from 1893 until invalided home last year.

The residence of Capt. J. McAllister near San Jose, Cal., was destroyed by fire last week. The loss is about \$10,000, including the loss of the McAllister, which has been a member of the firm of Harrison & McAllister, Victoria, and is now visiting his old home in Scotland. No one but the servants were at home when the fire occurred.

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Coroner Crompton having decided that an inquest was not necessary, the funeral of the late John E. is now being placed this afternoon from Hanna's undertaking parlors. Rev. W. L. Clay officiated at the parlors and the cemetery. The pallbearers were: Messrs. R. T. Williams, A. Oldershaw, T. Bryden, J. R. Giesbe, J. A. Grant and D. H. Callum. The funeral will be held in which he appointed Ald. R. T. Williams and Mrs. Oldershaw and Mrs. Gamp of London, England, executors. The will suggests that the executors adjust the amount of the compensation to be allowed to the late wife to release the estate from the payment of alimony. After this the entire property, estimated at \$30,000, is bequeathed to the three children of deceased, to be equally divided when the youngest shall become of age.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

SHAWINIGAN. (From our own correspondent.)

Shawinigan, March 18.—Mr. Albert Pear met with a painful accident last Wednesday at the mill. He was struck by a plank which got foul on the rollers. He was carried home, where he is likely to remain for some time. The mill is running full time again and business seems to be good.

At last report from Mr. Weiler's party they were having fair sport. Fish are reported as being very plentiful at Little Shawinigan lake. It is thought they come from the salt water; if so, they will soon find their way up here. There is a great deal of interest evinced in the white fish, experiment in Shawinigan lake. Allow me to answer a few of the first questions asked by all anglers: What kind of looking fish are they and how large? Imagine two large black eyes attached to the sides of one end of about three-quarters of an inch of transparent tail, with a tremendous number of white spots on the fish as they are. Will weigh about eight pounds at maturity if they have luck. Can you see them in the lake? Well, yes. Thursday morning there were swarms of them close to the top of the water, about five feet opposite the hotel, with tears in their eyes as if they were looking for their mother, or they may have called around to say farewell to their foster parent and benefactor. Mr. McNab, who took the train that morning for Nanaimo. But they have not been seen since. Probably they have gone into business and are hustling for a living. How many did they deposit? Two wagon loads of cans that would hold from twelve to fifteen gallons each. It would have been necessary to count the fish in a square inch and found the total number of inches to have even an approximate estimate of the number. They were so numerous it was impossible to see the bottom of the can for fish; many hundred thousands in each can I should judge. How are they caught? The only way that suggests itself is to get some trained trout and turn them loose after them. But in the east they use a net with four and a half inch mesh and spear them through holes cut in the ice.

Shawinigan, March 18, 1896.

NANAIMO. Nanaimo, March 20.—An individual who gets his living by supplying the public with crumplets, was arrested yesterday on a serious charge of having bestial relations with his own daughter. The girl in question is only 12 years old, and the man is a married man, one of the Indian who take great interest in doing good among the poorer classes. The prisoner has not yet been tried, but languishes in jail at present.

It is reported here that a seam of coal has been discovered on Spring Island, and the prospect is being developed. The seam thieves who robbed several residences on Tuesday night have left no clue whereby the police could track them.

The New Vancouver Coal company have recently chartered several more vessels so that better times may be expected here.

Nanaimo, March 23.—The charge of incest lodged against John Clever was proceeded with on Saturday before Magistrate Simpson. The case was heard in the morning, but was not of such a nature as it has been made out to be, so that the information will be amended to-day, when the case will be resumed. The fact that the man is very poor and that both he and his daughter had occupied the same bed had led to the complaint being exaggerated. The W. C. T. U. have taken charge of the child, so that even if the father succeeds in getting clear he will not be again burdened with her.

The next Dominion election in this constituency will be a three-cornered contest, and that the third candidate will announce himself as an independent.

The amateur opera company will produce the "Chimes of Normandy" in the opera house next month. As they have been rehearsing this particular opera for some time it is expected that their interpretation of it will prove eminently successful.

Panthers have been of late very close to the city, and no less than three were seen at one time close to Newcastle townsite. The heavy snow in the mountains is responsible for their close proximity to the city.

Dr. McKee has announced himself as a candidate at the forthcoming election of the Medical Council of British Columbia.

WELLINGTON. At a meeting of the Crescent Cycling Club held in the Abbotsford hotel the following officers were appointed: President, Dr. Eberts; captain, Thomas Bryant; secretary and treasurer, Dr. Wasson. An effort will be made to train a large area of swamp lands by the clearing out and straightening of Bennett creek.

Messrs. Wright and Pelly have located the Close Call and Old Tom on the point at the arm of Okanagan lake. These two ledges are probably the most promising prospects that have been struck about here. The quartz is similar to that from which Mr. Morden got his \$65 assay, being a galena and copper-bearing carrying gold. The ledges are from six to eight feet wide. Mr. Morden reported to be a dreamer of dreams. It appears he dreamed a few nights ago that some friends asked why he did not stake out that silver ledge on the point at the arm of Okanagan lake. The following morning early he arose and took skiff and skiffed him speedily to the point and lo! and behold he discovered the ledge as the voice of his friends prophesied, and he straightway staked him off a claim in accordance with the Mineral Act and amendments thereto. As Joseph got the start of his brothers by being up in the dreaming business, so Mr. Morden got ahead of his brother prospectors, Mr. Jim Cameron, who, it appears, discovered the ledge of the Morning Glory two weeks ago on his way to the west side of the lake, intending to stake it on his return.

It seems that the crew of the steamer Aberdeen were thrown into a state of consternation over the discovery of a sack of giant powder in juxtaposition to the boiler. The crew, being pos-

sessed of a guilty conscience, naturally attributed the circumstance to the malicious hand of some over-taxed shipper, who was endeavoring to elevate the boat to the altitude of the freight rates. The detective department was immediately notified and lost no time in investigating. It was ascertained that no malice aforethought was mixed up in the case, but that the package had been inadvertently placed upon the boiler by a prospector, who either forgot or was not aware that it is against the law of common sense and of the land to place explosives on steamboat boilers.

EAST KOOTENAY. Golden Era. Mr. Wm. McNeill again visited his copper mine last week and gives us very encouraging accounts of the same. He brought with him some remarkably fine specimens of copper ore, some blue copper glance which contains 64 per cent metallic copper. This ore exists in large quantities and it promises to exceed even the owner's expectations. He is making arrangements to have some of it shipped to a smelter.

Mr. Canard, of Victoria, who has made the management of the Nip and Tuck gold property on Will Horse passed through here on Tuesday last. He is going to work the property on a much more extensive plan than hitherto. It is an hydraulic property and he is shipping the machinery in from Victoria. The Nip and Tuck has been worked in a crude way for some years and has given good returns.

QUEENSLAND FORKS. B. C. Mining Journal. John Grey in charge of a gang of men are busily pushing work on the North Fork to divert the river. Mr. Pierson, of Victoria, who is largely interested in the project, is now on the ground.

On the Breckenridge claim several shafts have been sunk to a depth of 50 or more feet. They are now drifting and are taking out some gold. The weather has been cold, although now warmer and about 2 1/2 feet of snow on the ground.

A note is posted here calling a meeting in the interest of Hewitt Postock for Dominion member of parliament. Many who should be voters are not on the list and much dissatisfaction is expressed thereby.

The outlook for the various propositions in this section is good. The Montreal and the Beaver Mouth, the French Company (the Columbia) the Fishback hydraulic and various other large propositions are making preparations to go on with work on a large scale. The various propositions will be put in shape for capitalists to take hold of for the next season. Queensland Forks has a great future.

ASPECT OF. B. C. Mining Journal. S. Tingley, of the B. C. Company, reports himself as having a good time in New Brunswick. Mr. Tingley has not been back to his old home in very many years before and is entitled to a vacation.

Already quite a large number of men have come into Ashcroft, stayed a day or two and gone up the road, heading in most cases for the Horseshoe or Port country. More than fifty have left this week for the Horseshoe. About 60,000 lbs. of machinery direct from Pittsburgh is now on the track here. The freight on the carload is nearly \$1000 and with Canadian duty, makes a valuable equipment. Mr. Young is a practical man and is interesting capital for the district which has been so long in British Columbia from now on.

We are in receipt of a pleasant letter from Dr. Hinch, at present in Victoria, in which he states that in relinquishing his practice at the 150 mile and vicinity to Dr. Herald is not with the idea of leaving Cariboo. While on a recent trip east the doctor has succeeded in interesting capital for the district which has been so long in British Columbia from now on.

Mr. Jack Ellwell, of Ducks, was in the city on Monday and Tuesday in connection with the deal between the Swan Lake Mining and Development Company and a Scotch syndicate. Mr. Craven is expected to arrive here about the middle of April.

Mr. Jim Cameron returned Monday from a prospecting trip on the west side of Okanagan lake. He reports having made a good find, and judging from the samples he shows he has struck it rich.

Messrs. Hooper and Creight have gone into camp on the commonage near Mr. Birnie's ranch on the west side of Long Lake. They intend prospecting in that vicinity, some very promising ledges having already been located thereabouts.

The municipality of Spallumcheen has thus far displayed a commendable spirit of enterprise and progress in the matter of reclaiming waste lands. In addition to the proposed scheme of extending the Deep creek ditch to Okanagan lake and thus draining the Greenbush and O'Keefe meadows, the ranchers to the north of Ashcroft are contemplating draining a large area of swamp lands by the clearing out and straightening of Bennett creek.

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It seems that the crew of the steamer Aberdeen were thrown into a state of consternation over the discovery of a sack of giant powder in juxtaposition to the boiler. The crew, being pos-

sessed of a guilty conscience, naturally attributed the circumstance to the malicious hand of some over-taxed shipper, who was endeavoring to elevate the boat to the altitude of the freight rates. The detective department was immediately notified and lost no time in investigating. It was ascertained that no malice aforethought was mixed up in the case, but that the package had been inadvertently placed upon the boiler by a prospector, who either forgot or was not aware that it is against the law of common sense and of the land to place explosives on steamboat boilers.

EAST KOOTENAY. Golden Era. Mr. Wm. McNeill again visited his copper mine last week and gives us very encouraging accounts of the same. He brought with him some remarkably fine specimens of copper ore, some blue copper glance which contains 64 per cent metallic copper. This ore exists in large quantities and it promises to exceed even the owner's expectations. He is making arrangements to have some of it shipped to a smelter.

Mr. Canard, of Victoria, who has made the management of the Nip and Tuck gold property on Will Horse passed through here on Tuesday last. He is going to work the property on a much more extensive plan than hitherto. It is an hydraulic property and he is shipping the machinery in from Victoria. The Nip and Tuck has been worked in a crude way for some years and has given good returns.

QUEENSLAND FORKS. B. C. Mining Journal. John Grey in charge of a gang of men are busily pushing work on the North Fork to divert the river. Mr. Pierson, of Victoria, who is largely interested in the project, is now on the ground.

On the Breckenridge claim several shafts have been sunk to a depth of 50 or more feet. They are now drifting and are taking out some gold. The weather has been cold, although now warmer and about 2 1/2 feet of snow on the ground.

A note is posted here calling a meeting in the interest of Hewitt Postock for Dominion member of parliament. Many who should be voters are not on the list and much dissatisfaction is expressed thereby.

The outlook for the various propositions in this section is good. The Montreal and the Beaver Mouth, the French Company (the Columbia) the Fishback hydraulic and various other large propositions are making preparations to go on with work on a large scale. The various propositions will be put in shape for capitalists to take hold of for the next season. Queensland Forks has a great future.

ASPECT OF. B. C. Mining Journal. S. Tingley, of the B. C. Company, reports himself as having a good time in New Brunswick. Mr. Tingley has not been back to his old home in very many years before and is entitled to a vacation.

Already quite a large number of men have come into Ashcroft, stayed a day or two and gone up the road, heading in most cases for the Horseshoe or Port country. More than fifty have left this week for the Horseshoe. About 60,000 lbs. of machinery direct from Pittsburgh is now on the track here. The freight on the carload is nearly \$1000 and with Canadian duty, makes a valuable equipment. Mr. Young is a practical man and is interesting capital for the district which has been so long in British Columbia from now on.

We are in receipt of a pleasant letter from Dr. Hinch, at present in Victoria, in which he states that in relinquishing his practice at the 150 mile and vicinity to Dr. Herald is not with the idea of leaving Cariboo. While on a recent trip east the doctor has succeeded in interesting capital for the district which has been so long in British Columbia from now on.

Mr. Jack Ellwell, of Ducks, was in the city on Monday and Tuesday in connection with the deal between the Swan Lake Mining and Development Company and a Scotch syndicate. Mr. Craven is expected to arrive here about the middle of April.

Mr. Jim Cameron returned Monday from a prospecting trip on the west side of Okanagan lake. He reports having made a good find, and judging from the samples he shows he has struck it rich.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

SHAWINIGAN. (From our own correspondent.)

Shawinigan, March 18.—Mr. Albert Pear met with a painful accident last Wednesday at the mill. He was struck by a plank which got foul on the rollers. He was carried home, where he is likely to remain for some time. The mill is running full time again and business seems to be good.

At last report from Mr. Weiler's party they were having fair sport. Fish are reported as being