

Nwp
326 9711
Mint

REVIEWS WORK OF SESSION

Premier McBride Sums Up Results Accomplished by Legislature and Deals With Salient Features of Many Important Measures Passed.

(Victoria Colonist, May 3, 1908.)

"It is a little late, is it not?" queried Premier McBride, as the representative of the Colonist asked him for a review of the work of the late session of the legislature.

"Better late than never," was the response, "besides, good things are always in season."

"I have no objection, if you have not," was the Premier's further remark; "but," with a merry twinkle in his eye, "if the Colonist is accused of publishing belated news, the responsibility is on you, not on me."

"We cheerfully accept the responsibility," remarked the Colonist representative, and, with this prologue, the interview was proceeded with.

"There were two things about the late session that especially pleased me," began Mr. McBride. "The first was, it was short, sharp and decisive, to use a familiar election phrase. The second was that the average standard of debate was higher than it ever has been in my experience of the House; and, what is still more gratifying, the amenities of debate were, with a very few exceptions, well observed."

"I suppose it might be well in dealing with a general review of the work of the session, which was of a most important character throughout, to consider it under the different heads under which the various measures might fall—such as finance, agriculture, mining, labor, education, land, timber, and so on."

The Treasury.

"To begin with finance, the minister in charge of that department, Captain

Tatlow, presented a highly gratifying budget, introduced one or two measures that have met with much favor, and made announcements of other good things in prospect. The careful guardianship of the treasury, the exercise of economies in the public service wherever possible, and the general reorganization of the finances, together with the opening up of new sources of revenue, have restored the credit of the province, and placed it higher than it ever was before; and have also not only greatly increased the revenues and afforded substantial surpluses, but have led to an extraordinary reduction of debt in a very short time. These results have been very gratifying to the government, and I need not say to the country as well. It has been possible, as a consequence, to reduce taxation in several directions, and to increase the appropriations for new and needed public works. The province is now in a position in which it never was before to prepare for the opening up of what I have called 'New British Columbia,' to undertake surveys on a considerable and systematic basis, and to meet the further responsibilities that the advent of new lines of transcontinental railways will impose, the nature of which I need not discuss. As I have stated on many previous occasions, the success of our financial policy, the putting to rest of political turmoil arising out of unsettled conditions, and the general trend of our legislation and administration, have had a direct effect upon the activities of the coun-