BUDGET SPEECH IS DELIVERED

HON. PRICE ELLISON ON FINANCES OF B. C.

Announcement Made That a Commission on Taxation May Be Appointed

Legislative Press Gallery, Feb. 13.

The first budget speech of the new minister of finance and agriculture, Hon. Price Ellison, was delivered this afternoon. The surplus for the last fiscal year was placed at $2,500,000, and the minister estimated that for the year which closes at the end of next month there will be a surplus of at least as much. He announced that the province has on deposit in various banks and bearing interest an aggregate of $7,500,000.

The only announcement of special interest in the speech was that of a proposed commission to go into the question of taxation and its incidence, with a view to a readjustment and a lowering of the scale. Commencing, Mr. Ellison said:

"In rising to present the budget for 1911-12, I am in much the same position as my predecessor last year, the Hon. Mr. Bowser, who had just accepted the portfolio of minister of finance. I had not been in the office really more than two or three days when the session opened, and I cannot, therefore, be expected to have the same knowledge and grasp of the finances of the province as the late lamented and highly esteemed Hon. Capt. Tatlow, who for seven years administered the office I have now the honor to fill, and whose budget speeches were always looked forward to with so much interest by the members of this House.

"I shall not attempt to deal with the subject in the same exhaustive way as Mr. Bowser did. Last year the government had just returned from the country after a big victory, and my colleague took occasion to review at considerable length the history of the McBride administration and its financial policy. Through the efforts of the government, the finances of the province had been placed on a very sound and highly satisfactory basis. The country also had reached a high state of prosperity, and the Hon. Mr. Bowser spent some time in dwelling upon the conditions that existed, and in painting in warm colors the immediate future of the province.

"While the progress of affairs in that direction has not abated in the least in the meantime, and has, in fact, been greater than was anticipated last year—as the result to a considerable degree of the railway policy of the government—there has not been such a change in the situation as to justify my going over similar grounds. I shall, therefore, confine myself to the subject of the budget proper and to the consideration of the industries and production of the province for the year just past, and, possibly, make some comments on the outlook for the year upon which we have entered."

Last Year's Estimates.

Mr. Ellison went into the details of the revenue, as estimated and realized, for last fiscal year, the expenditures and the supplementary votes now asked. Continuing, he said:

"When the present government came into power in 1903, the estimates framed by a committee of the House showed an estimated revenue of $2,193,476 and an estimated expenditure of $2,491,566. This year's estimates show an estimated revenue of $8,192,101, and an estimated expenditure of $11,080,790. I must honestly say I never anticipated a time during my occupancy of a seat in the legislature when the receipts and expenditure would reach the present figures.

"I trust that no one will become alarmed at the prospect of a deficit of $3,000,000. I do not think it will actually be so great as that. It is possible that we may even have a surplus, but in any event the government has decided that it is good policy to meet the requirements of the country in the way of public improvements squarely, even at the expense of our surplus. There is an immense amount of money required to open up an immense extent of territory, and the sooner it is undertaken the sooner we shall reap the fruits of the development to follow. There are two transcontinental railways building through to our coast, and the whole of the vast interior is becoming alive with population and its activities. There is a big task ahead of the government in providing for the new requirements, and it must be undertaken."

Estimates For 1911-12.

The minister explained fully the grounds on which he estimated the revenue for the coming fiscal year and in this connection said:

"In estimating the above receipts for the coming fiscal year the government has been very conservative, and I feel quite safe in saying that the actual receipts will very considerably exceed $8,000,000; but the government must not base its estimates on actual expectations, founded on the current revenues even for two or three years back. Any serious unexpected blow to one or two of our industries would greatly affect our revenue for the time being, and we have no guarantee, for instance, that we shall get a dollar from succession duties of Chinese restriction tax, or even from land sales. I say this because some of our friends think we are too conservative about the revenue. The government, however, has proceeded upon the principle that it is better to be agreeably surprised than to be disagreeably disappointed, and, therefore has not exceeded in any instance what under tolerably favorable conditions is reasonably certain.

"Coming to expenditures, we have to present a total estimate which seven or eight years ago would have taken the people's breath away, and been regarded as the act of madmen. Yet we are comfortably able, and at the same time keeping a substantial cash balance in the bank, to considerably exceed in one single item, twice the whole of our revenue at that time."

The details of the estimated expenditures were gone into and from that the minister passed on to the general financial position of British Columbia, in regard to which he said:

Provincial Finances.

"As to the present financial position of the province I need not tell you that it is excellent. The surplus for the fiscal year 1909-10 was in round numbers, $2,500,000. I cannot tell you what the surplus of the present year will be as the fiscal year does not end until March 31, but I have no hesitation in predicting that there will be a surplus, and a very substantial one. We have at the present moment deposited in the banks doing business in British Columbia $7,500,000 bearing interest, and I may say further that at the end of the fiscal year our available liquid assets, including cash, will be sufficient to wipe off our present total indebtedness of $9,000,000 odd. I think we may congratulate ourselves as a province and as a government in having achieved such a result in seven years. I shall not refer to our position seven years ago. It is within the knowledge of every member of the legislature and of almost every person in British Columbia. Our surpluses since 1904, to the 31st March, 1910, were roundly, $7,100,000.

"The position of the province in regard to bonded indebtedness on the 31st March, 1910, was as follows:

"Four and one-half per cent. debenture stock—Loan Act, 1887, maturing 30th June, 1917, $381,210.

"Three per cent., inscribed stock loans, loan acts, 1891-3-5-9 and 1902, maturing 30th June, 1941, $9,921,936.

"Three and one-half per cent., dyking debentures—acts, 1891-8-9, $16,000.

"Five per cent. treasury debentures—Loan Act, 1903, maturing 30th June, 1937, $500,000.

"Total funded debt, $10,819,146.

"Against this amount there is an accumulated sinking fund of $1,849,368, leaving a balance of $8,969,778, and to this is to be added guarantee of the Nakusp & Slocan railway bonds terminable 1st July, 1918, $647,022, making a total of $9,616,800.

"This shows the net funded debt to have been $9,616,800 on March 31, 1910. On the 31st of March the previous year, the funded debt was $9,855,667, so that in the twelve months intervening, the debt was reduced by $238,867, and, as I have already told you, in less than two months time we shall be in a position if we were called upon, to issue a cheque for every cent we owe. Various opinions may be expressed as to whether we should not buy up our outstanding debentures and be quit of debt, but we are providing for the maturing debentures by a sinking fund which is drawing interest, and the interest is being invested again. We are also drawing interest on our bank deposits. Any wholesale attempt on the open market to buy back our debenutres would force them up above par, and we would lose on the transaction.

"I may say incidentally, that our inscribed stock is appreciably better than it was at a corresponding date last year, and relatively higher than that of any other colonial stock in the London market. I think we may very well be satisfied with our present position. Besides, with a big cash balance in the bank we are always able to undertake any large work in the interests of the province or bridge over any financial crisis, to do which we might otherwise be obliged to borrow at a possibly unfavorable turn in the market. It is always well to be prepared for a rainy day. I do not think I need say any more on the subject of finances."

Trade and Industry.

The Minister of Finance briefly reviewed the general conditions of trade and industry in the province during the year, and the immediate outlook. The banks and other monetary institutions, in their annual reports, were unusually favorable and optimistic. British Columbia was exceedingly prosperous, everybody was hopeful, wages were high, there were no industrial disputes nor any feeling of unrest, and business all round was on a sound, healthy and profitable basis.

"I cannot help observing, however," said the minister, "that it seems almost too bad, from our point of view at least, that at such a time a feeling of uncertainty and apprehension, especially among our farmers, shall have been engendered by proposed changes in the tariff relations with the United States, changes which do not seem in any respect to promise benefit and may work much harm."

In mining the year had been a record one, due to the increased tonnage of coal lifted. The value of the total mineral production was estimated to be $26,183,505, an increase of $1,740,480 over the previous year. The increase in the output of coal was $2,777,334. The production of lode gold in 1910 was the largest in the history of lode mining in the province, with the exception of one year. It would have been much greater had it not been for the fire which restricted the operations of the Granby smelter, and the same applied to copper. Forest fires and other causes affected the production of silver, lead and zinc.

In the lumber trade the year had proved one of exceptional prosperity in British Columbia, as throughout all Canada. The cut was the largest on record, 435,000,000 feet for the mountain mills and 605,000,000 feet for the coast mills, or a total of 1,040,000,000 feet, valued at $171,160,000, an increase of $5,160,000 over 1909. The shingle cut of 866,275,000 was one-quarter of the entire production in Canada and was worth $1,627,624. Crop uncertainty on the prairies had produced an adverse effect on the industry, but this had been largely counterbalanced by local demands. Labor troubles had affected the industry slightly, if at all. A. D. McRae, of the Fraser River mills, estimated the cut for 1911 at 1,010,000,000.

In agriculture and horticulture there was an output of $14,399,090, an increase of nearly six millions over the year before. The totals were: Live stock, $2,571,865; dairy produce, butter, eggs, etc., $3,645,405; grain and hay, $5,347,630; fruit, $1,939,110; meats, $675,475; eggs and honey, $159,447; miscellaneous, $60,162. Continuing, the minister said:—

Importing Produce.

"What in one sense is not, perhaps, so gratifying is that the imports of agricultural products have been still greater than the home production, and amount to $14,962,904. Comparing, however, the figures with those submitted last year by the minister of finance, the home production has almost caught up with the imported articles, despite the fact that the latter were over three and a half millions more than the year previous. The figures altogether show that there has been a great expansion of population in the province, because the total consumption of farm products in 1910 amounted to nearly $28,500,000 in value, and in 1909 it was only about $20,000,000, and in the latter I am allowing $2,000,000 for what I believe to have been an underestimate last year. It means that there was at least $8,500,000 more consumed by the population in 1910 than in 1909. If we figure $80 as the consumption of agricultural products per head of the population, and allow for the increased price of farm products, it means that we added between 75,000 and 100,000 to the population in 1910, or a number equal to the entire population of 25 years ago. It is regrettable, of course, that we do not supply more of the home consumption than we do, but, however fast we may produce in view of the increasing population it will be a long time yet before we can fully supply the home market, and in any event there will always be a very considerable amount of agricultural articles in one form or another that we shall import."

Fruit Industry.

The province exported not more than one million dollars' worth of agricultural products, mainly fruit, that industry developing at a very rapid rate and bidding fair soon to become the most important branch of agriculture. The total production of fruit was far in excess of any previous year and amounted to about $2,000,000. The quality was all that could be desired and a marked improvement was shown in packing and grading. The estimated area under cultivation in 1911 was about 100,000 acres, of which there were something like 60,000 acres of bearing trees. The imports of poultry and eggs convinced one of the great future there was for this branch of agriculture. In poultry there was $1,113,400 worth imported, and $335,375 worth produced at home, while of eggs $285,582 worth were imported and $156,247 worth home production. Cattle imports were $2,271,640, against $1,135,820 raised in the province. The dairying industry was on a very progressive plane at present, the total output amounting to $950,000, and it was anticipated its success would secure to the dairymen the highest market prices possible and should prove a great incentive towards rapid development. Active work was being conducted in the local improvement of stock-breeding and a decrease in the number of horses and cattle imported in 1910 was noted. Hops were being grown in considerable quantities.

The imports during 1910 were: Live stock, $5,254,286; dairy produce, $2,701,946; eggs, etc., $306,893; hay and grain, including malt, $5,381,544; meats, $974,128; fruit, $163,620; miscellaneous, $180,486. Of this large importation $2,253,623 worth passed through the customs and paid duty; the rest came from the middle west and eastern Canadian points. The largest items were for sheep, bacon, and hams, lard, butter and eggs, hay and grain, and there were brought in $163,620 worth of fresh fruits, such as are grown in British Columbia.

In many respects the fisheries of 1910 were very successful and the salmon pack of 762,201 cases was, all things considered, very satisfactory. The fresh fish trade and industry of curing and preserving were largely on the increase. After explaining in detail the re-organization of the department of agriculture Hon. Mr. Ellison concluded as follows:

"The premier a short time ago stated in an interview that over $100,000,000 would be spent in British Columbia within the next five years in actual railway construction. The circulation of such a vast sum of money among half a million people alone must produce great activity and promote general prosperity in an unusual degree. I am sure we would be lacking in due sense of appreciation of our growing greatness if we did not realize the meaning of the figures I have submitted on this occasion. They are beyond any reasonable anticipation we had of the future ten years ago. They not only indicate great progress during that time and during the past year in particular, but they point to an immediate future even much brighter. We have every reason to be proud of and grateful for the present position of affairs. I have, therefore, great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in moving that you do now leave the chair, and that supply be granted to his Majesty."

H. C. Brewster will continue the budget debate to-morrow afternoon.

PLANS FOR GREAT SWIMMING MEET

Entries Expected From Northwest—Champion May Enter

Portland, Ore., Feb. 14.—Plans are afoot to have a great swimming carnival in the Willamette river during the rose festival in June. Arthur Caville, who is at the head of the movement, went to San Francisco and Los Angeles recently and is assured of fifteen entries from the California cities. There probably will be a large number of entries from cities in the Northwest also.

Frank Holloughrew, of Los Angeles, who came within a fifth of a second of breaking the world's record for 25 yards, held by C. M. Dannels of New York, will be among those who will participate.

Efforts are being made to have C. M. Dannels and Bud Goodwin come to Portland for the meet. Goodwin is the champion swimmer of the world.

ORANGEMEN HERE IN ANNUAL SESSION

Provincial Grand Lodge Holding Their Convention in Victoria

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The Royal Black Chapter of the Orange Lodge of British Columbia opened this morning in the A. O. F. hall at 10 o'clock with Grand Master W. H. Dunmore in the chair.

An address of welcome was given on behalf of the Victoria R. B. P. 538, by A. I. Kirkpatrick and responded to by Past Master H. T. Thrift. Speeches were made by the chairman, Mr. Dunmore and the Grand Registrar, J. J. Tulk. Mr. Tulk expressed the hope that the time would soon come when Canada would have a national school system from the Atlantic to the Pacific and said he was strongly in favor of "one flag, one school and one language" throughout the Dominion. He also referred to the prosperity of the society and stated that the membership had increased in a wonderful degree during the last year. He was sure that the Eucharistic Congress held in Montreal last year was the means of producing a strong Protestant sentiment throughout Canada.

This afternoon the meeting will be continued and the officers for the coming year elected. To-morrow the Provincial Grand Orange Lodge opens. Over 125 delegates from the different parts of the province are expected to be present. The chair will be occupied by the Rev. R. J. MacIntyre, Grand Master, Revelstoke.

G. E. FOSTER ON TRADE AGREEMENT

Declares American Trusts and Capital Will Control Canada's Natural Resources

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—The debate on reciprocity was resumed in the Commons this afternoon by Hon. G. E. Foster continuing his speech of Thursday. He declared if the agreement were carried through it meant that within five years American trusts and American capital would have practically control of all the natural resources of Canada. Canadians would be merely producers of raw materials, which would be exploited by Americans instead of being manufactured into finished products in the Dominion. He emphasized the argument advanced by R. L. Borden that traffic would be diverted to the south instead of east and west, thus being unfair to the billion dollars of British capital invested in the railways of this country in the good faith that the present lines of development would be maintained. As a result of the agreement British capital would now be diverted to the States.

STARTED TO-DAY TO SOOKE LAKE

Water Commissioner Puts Fifty Men to Work on the Gorge Road

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Pursuant to instructions from the city council, the water commissioner, James L. Raymur, this morning commenced the actual work of construction on the project to bring water from Sooke Lake, a gang of fifty men being employed on the Gorge road, preparatory to putting down the 24-inch pipe line.

This move on the part of the water commissioner was taken on the advice of the city barrister, W. J. Taylor, K. C., who pointed out that it was compulsory on the part of the city, if it wished to preserve the right to go to Sooke Lake for its water supply, to commence the actual work of construction before the 15th March, 1911, the act setting this date as the final limit.

The work now being done is more in the nature of mere technical compliance with the provisions of the statute, rather than a formal commencement upon the huge scheme, the details of which have not yet been completed.

WILL SUCCEED PAUL MORTON.

New York, Feb. 14.—Former Judge William A. Day, vice-president of the Equitable Assurance Society, is to succeed the late Paul Morton as president of that corporation, according to credited reports to-day. The election is scheduled for Thursday.

FAVORS RECIPROCITY.

Helena, Mont., Feb. 13.—Representative Nelson Storey jr., Reublican, of Galattin county, has introduced in the House a memorial urging Congress to ratify the Canadian reciprocity agreement. The resolution was referred to the committee on federal relations.

BRITISH SUPER-DREADNOUGHT.

London, Feb. 14.—With reference to the reported dissension in the Liberal party over the naval estimates, it is learned that the Admiralty wants six new super-Dreadnoughts laid down this year.

RECIPROCITY DEBATE AT WASHINGTON

Alabama Representative Talks in Favor of Trade Agreement

(Times Leased Wire.)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 14. — Denouncing the Payne-Aldrich tariff law, Representative Underwood of Alabama to-day took up the cudgel in the House for President Taft's reciprocity agreement with Canada. He declared that the treaty was the direct result of the failure of the maximum and minimum provision of the present tariff.

"There is not a single item in the proposed bill," he said, "that does not reduce the taxes the Payne bill is levying upon the people."

Underwood insisted that the protective tariff on farm products was a mere subterfuge.

"Now is the time," he asserted, "to show the farmer that he had been fooled into standing for high protection in favor of the manufacturer in return for a protection he himself did not need."

Attempts to fix a date for the final vote in the House on the reciprocity measure failed.

Representative McCall of Massachusetts, first tried to make the bill the order of business for to-morrow, which is "calendar Wednesday."

To this there was no immediate objection. Gardiner then moved to dispense with calendar Wednesday, but Speaker Cannon ruled him out of order.

BITTER FIGHT FOR COUNTY SEAT

Two Commissioners and Clerk Accused of Illegally Removing Records

Oklahoma City., Okla., Feb. 14.—Mob spirit is rampant in Swanson county to-day as a result of the fight over the removal of the county seat from Mountain Park to Snyder. County Commissioners Bull and Thompson and County Clerk Bristow are prisoners in the Mountain Park jail charged with illegally removing the county records to Snyder.

Additional guards were stationed around the Mountain Park jail to-day, as it was feared that an attempt will be made by Snyder residents to-night to release the prisoners.

Governor Cruse has wired the sheriff of Swanson county to preserve order at any cost.

Militia Held in Readiness.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 14.—Militia is being held in readiness to be rushed to Mountain Park and Snyder, towns which are rivals for the county seat of Swanson county. The soldiers were ordered to prepare as the result of a telegram to Governor Lee Cruse from Sheriff Daniels, of Kiowa county, who declares that the situation is critical and that bloodshed is imminent.

ENGLISH SOCCER LEAGUES.

London, Feb. 14.—Three football games were played yesterday in the big leagues. In the first division Tottenham Hotspur had the best of Middlesborough by six to two. In the second division Fulham beat Bradford four to nothing, and Stockport County won easily from Birmingham three to one.

NATIONAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Challenge of Prince Albert Hockey Club Has Been Filed

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—Although the national hockey championship has not yet been decided, the challenge of the Prince Albert Hockey Club, champions of the Saskatchewan Hockey Association, has been filed by Trustee Foran and will be dealt with just as soon as the Ottawas, the prospective champions, announce their readiness to defend the mug.

The application for dates came somewhat as a surprise. The league comes up to the requirements of the Stanley cup and the Prince Albert seven state their willingness to comply with the rulings of the trustees. There is no reason why the prairie septette should not be given dates. In this regard, the western club have stolen a march upon the champions of the Ontario professionals and the maritime province leagues, and should the trustees see fit to give the challengers dates this month or next, they will certainly be dealt with ahead of the Waterloo and New Glasgow septettes who are now leading in these two organizations.

Mr. Foran further states that with the rules as laid down by the trustees some years ago, the Prince Albert seven will have to play the same aggregation that won the trophy in the league games and that they will not be allowed to pick an all-star team from the eastern players or any other section of the country. Defending the Stanley cup dates will certainly interfere with the Gotham jaunt. The final N. H. A. game is on March 10, when the cup games will undoubtedly be started.

EXPLOSION KILLS THREE SOLDIERS

Ammunition Barracks Near Palace of Nicaraguan President is Wrecked

Managua, Nicaragua, Feb. 14.—Three soldiers were killed and it is estimated to-day 7,000 rifles and 10,000,000 cartridges were destroyed as the result of an explosion in the ammunition barracks near the palace of the president. The barracks were gutted.

Troops worked energetically in removing the supplies from the buildings adjoining the ammunition barracks, and when later the fire had burned itself out a search disclosed the bodies of three of the sentinels, who probably were killed by the explosions.

President Estrada said last evening: "I do not think the explosion was the result of a plot, but we are investigating."

Several leading men have been imprisoned. They include Dr. Rudolfo Espinoza, former minister of foreign affairs; his two brothers, Amelio and General Adano Espinoza, Feliz Pedro Zelaya, former minister of finance; Hildebrando Castillo, Colonel Jose Santos Ramirez, Luciano Gomez and General Fernandiz Rives.

LOCAL NEWS

—James Bay residents have been visited, and have been for some time past, by a stout woman, wearing a fawn-colored coat, who asks for whiskey for a sick child and gets abusive if it is refused.

—The Victoria hotel has again changed hands. Jack Teren, Prince Rupert, is the new owner, and will take possession on March 1. The present owners, Graham & Grant, have been running the hotel for 13 months.

—News has been received from Brigstock, England, of the death there of the Rev. John Rippon. Mr. Rippon will be remembered by many Victoria friends whom he met here last summer, when visiting his daughter, Mrs. P. A. Hawkes.

—Mrs. Hanna Truron, aged 73 years, widow of Mr. Edward Truron, passed waay at the St. Joseph's hospital on Monday afternoon. Mrs. Truron was a native of Dublin, and was well known and respected in this city during her long residence. She is survived by two sons and one daughter, resiging in Vancouver.

—Monday night at St. Paul's manse, Dundas street, Victoria West, Rev. D. MacRae officiated at the marriage of George Ball of Rocky Point, and Miss Cora Jane Wilson of Ladysmith. The groom was supported by Joseph M. Eastwood, of Rocky Point, and the bride attended by Miss Gladys Gertrude McLennan of Ladysmith. The newly-married couple will make their home at the ranch, Rocky Point.

—At the meeting Monday afternoon of the newly-elected executive committee of the Canadian Club committees were struck for the ensuing year and other business transacted. It was decided to make an effort to have Dr. J. A. Macdonald, LL.D., editor-in-chief of the Toronto Globe, address the club. Dr. Macdonald has been in California for some time for the benefit of his health and will shortly visit Victoria.

—Building permits were issued on Monday to Charles Stuart for a dwelling to be erected on Davie street to cost $1,600; to Boniface & Wright, dwelling on Cambridge street to cost $1,500; to E. Tuck, dwelling on Grant street to cost $2,800; to G. N. Joyce, dwelling on Fifth street to cost $1,200; to J. J. Ross, dwelling on Pembroke street to cost $1,600, and to Edward Munro, dwelling on Market street to cost $500.

—The Burleith Tennis Club will hold a social hop on Friday evening and the committee promise all who attend a good time. The Heater-Rutley orchestra has been secured which ensures good music for the occasion. The hall will be prettily decorated. The dance will be strictly informal. The committee are: J. H. McConnell, J. McBeth, P. McCarter, K. McCarter, C. V. McConnell, E. Townsley, E. G. Rowebottom and O. Sommer.

—On Monday evening, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis, View street, the marriage of Mr. Samuel Thomas Dutson and Miss Ella Mary Blyth was solemnized, Rev. Otto G. M. Gerbich of St. Paul's Lutheran church officiating. The bride looked charming in a gown of champagne, silk veil and lace, and a large picture hat, as she entered the room on the arm of Mr. McGinnis, who gave her away. The beautiful ring ceremony as prescribed by the Lutheran ritual was used. The groom was supported by Mr Gerrard, Miss Daniels acting as maid of honor. The floral scheme was carried out in white sweet peas and ferns. Only the most intimate friends witnessed the ceremony.

MILLION SPENT ON BATTLESHIP.

The Oregon Will Probably Be Assigned to Coast Defence Work.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 14.—It was stated here to-day that the famous old battleship Oregon will go into commission about March 15, but it is considered as unlikely that she will be placed in active duty.

Practically $1,000,000 has been expended at the Bremerton yards in putting her in condition. It is stated that a skeleton crew of 200 men will be placed aboard her and that she will lie in reserve at Bremerton for several months after which it is probable that a full crew will be assigned her and the vessel will be given a limbering up cruise.

The Oregon is well fitted up for coast defence and probably will be used for that purpose hereafter.

MEETING OF LOCAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Domestic Help Matter is Discussed—Equality League Affiliates

Premier McBride having refused to entertain the proposals of the Local Council of Women which invited him to assist in the importation of domestic help for the city, the council submitted its officers to the Salvation Army, and Mrs. Jenkins in reporting on the matter at the regular monthly meeting held in the city hall, Monday afternoon, said that no complaints had been made regarding the class of domestic help brought here by the Salvation Army, and added that the supply had been adequate. It is the ambition of the council to take the work up on its own initiative.

The council took action regarding the Ross Bay cemetery foreshore, and appointed Mrs. Day and Mrs. Spofford a deputation to wait upon the mayor with a request that the necessary protection be provided against the ravages of the sea.

Letters were received from the Alexandria club and the Auxiliary of the Royal Jubilee hospital withdrawing affiliation, and Mrs. Hasel's resignation was received as national press secretary. Both bodies will be requested to reconsider the decisions made. The Equality League was granted affiliation and represented at the meeting by Miss Bromley Jubb. A letter from the national secretary, Miss Riddell, read that the proceedings of the congress of women at Toronto had been published. The reception to Miss Ravenhill was voted a success and a pleasure and the treasurer was instructed to defra the cost of the same.

Mrs. Gordon was appointed corresponding secretary. Delegates to the annual meeting to take place May 8th were requested to prepare resolutions early. Mrs. Perrin, whose absence was due to illness and who shortly leaves for England was granted a life certificate. She was the first president of the council.

PALATIAL ESTATE IS ON THE MARKET

"Leasowes," the Home of Mrs. Todd, Offered for Sale

Much interest has been excited among realty dealers and, indeed, among the general public by the published announcement that tenders are being invited for the palatial and charming residential estate known as "The Leasowes," on St. Charles street, since 1905 the homestead of Mrs. Todd. The property is perhaps the most beautiful residential estate in the province, its spacious grounds, fine elevation and remoteness from the noise and bustle of the business section lending it all the attractiveness of a country seat.

The site on which the splendid residence stands consists of about five and a quarter acres, fronting for about 361 feet on Saint Charles street, and about 628 feet in depth. Besides the residence there are stable, large open-air aviary, outbuildings. The buildings are all modern and (excepting some later additions) were all erected in 1905. The view of mountains and sea is unsurpassed; grounds contain two tennis courts, croquet-lawn, flower and vegetable gardens, aviary, numbers of magnificent oak trees, great masses of native Golden Broom, shrubbery, lily pond, four fine cement-floored dog kennels, two poultry runs and houses, back drive, oiled front drive, substantial ivy-grown stone walls at front and rear boundaries and similar stone wall retaining considerable of front drive, etc.

OLDEST PIONEER IS 93 YEARS OF AGE

Celebrates His Sixty-Third Year in Victoria To-day and is Canadian Born

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

William Cook, Carey road, Victoria, is to-day celebrating his 93rd birthday and his sixty-third year as a resident of Victoria, where he landed in 1848, when the population of the city numbered only thirty people. He is now believed to be the oldest resident pioneer and also the oldest living person in the city of Victoria.

Mr. Cook was born on the shores of Lake Champlain and he lived there fourteen years, when his parents moved with him to Montreal. At Montreal he went to school, and was later in the meat trade. At 20 he came West with a party bound for the Great Lakes. He joined the Hudson Bay Company at the time of the rebellion, and in 1847 went to Fort Athabasca. During the spring of the next year he was commissioned to take the manager of the company on a tour of inspection to Victoria, and Mr. Cook has resided here almost continuously since then. Mr. Cook and his wife, who celebrated their diamond wedding last year, have six children, four daughters and two sons.