

## THE BUSINESS RECORD OF A BUSINESS GOVERNMENT

At the moment when the McBride Government for the third time in its existence is about to ask the verdict of the people whose affairs it has so successfully administered for the past six years, it is no more than is demanded by plain business commonsense that a glance should be taken at the record of their past conduct of Provincial affairs, to form a correct judgment of their fitness for a continuation of the public confidence. Such a survey of this record is briefly made hereunder, taking the leading departments of administration and summarizing their work, and also referring to those larger matters of policy where the relations of this Province to the Dominion as a whole have to be considered. The present conditions of unexampled prosperity which prevail throughout British Columbia are the best proofs of the wisdom and efficiency with which the various departments have been conducted, and, in placing these details before the people for their verdict, it may be stated without fear of contradiction that the methods which have brought the present prosperity about are as creditable to the business ability of the men who employed them as that prosperity is creditable to the resources of the Province as a whole.

### PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

The Government of a country is as much a business as any commercial institution, and the first questions relating to it that are asked will concern its financial ability and the financial standing of the country which it administers. Is it on a paying basis? What are its liabilities? In what relation does its expenditure stand to its revenue? These are the first questions, in Government and in commerce, and the main questions, upon a satisfactory or otherwise answer to which the verdict of success or failure will be rendered.

Judged, then by this purely business standard, the McBride Government takes a very high place. And this on two grounds. Not merely are the finances of British Columbia to-day in an eminently satisfactory condition, not merely is the revenue of the Province in excess of its expenditure, but it is to be remembered that this gratifying state of affairs has been brought about in the face of such adverse circum-