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Tea Served at Our
a Room

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. L. NO. 227 — VICTORIA, B. C TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1909 — FIFTIETH YEAR

FIRST SITTING OF THE COMMISSION

A Number of Questions Are Settled in Very Business-like Fashion

GRANT OVERHEAD CROSSING

Several Matters Laid Over and Sessions Resumed Monday Morning

(From Sunday's Daily)

The railway commission commenced its sittings yesterday in the assize court and disposed of a number of matters before the adjournment at lunch time. The commission gets down to business at once and a very favorable impression was produced by its prompt methods. The questions of chief local import were not dealt with yesterday, but will be considered on Monday when the commission resumes its sittings at 10 a.m. The question of rates in British Columbia in which A. P. Luxton, K.C., has been briefed to represent the government will be argued then, as will the dispute between the city and the E. & N. with regard to the crossing at Esquimalt. The members of the commission agreed to visit the place during the afternoon so that they will be in a position to appreciate the situation.

The commission consists of J. P. Mabee, chairman, and S. J. McLean. With them are R. Richardson, secretary; H. A. Drury, of Winnipeg, engineer; James Hardwell, traffic expert, and a corps of stenographers.

The first matter taken up was an application by James Norcross regarding a crossing at Duncans on the E. & N. which was alleged to be dangerous. C. W. Bradshaw appeared on behalf of the complainant and said that an automatic signal was wanted as approaching trains could not be seen owing to local conditions.

J. E. McMullen, C.P.R. solicitor said that the board's engineer had inspected the spot and had advised that the section house be removed and a number of trees cut down. This would be done.

Mr. Bradshaw said he would give a view one way only, and pressed for the signal. The chairman announced that the ground would be examined again and the decision of the commission reserved.

At this juncture Trevor King, of South Cowichan arose and said that he had been deputed to place a number of matters before the commission. He had, however, been informed that he was out of order, and had not complied with the regulations of the commission. The people in his section had only recently and accidentally heard of the coming of the commission and had no means of knowing of what procedure to adopt. He asked that the rules of the commission and an intimation of the date of the sittings be posted up in the postoffices so that the people would know what to do.

Chairman Mabee said that an intimation had been given two months before and it had been made as public as possible. There was no special procedure, all that was necessary was to write a letter to the commission and lay the complaint before them.

The second application was from the Pacific Coast Coal company. A. E. McPhillips, K.C., said that the E. & N. had consented to do what was requested and so the matter passed without debate.

Railway Ousts Road

Deputy Attorney General McLean had some complaints in charge on behalf of the chief commissioner of lands and works in regard to a dangerous piece of road on the Nicola, Kamloops & Similkameen Coal & Railway company, a part of the C.P.R system. Mr. McLean stated that near Canford the railway had taken the highway which had been established since 1874 for its track. At this point there was but little room and the road had been shoved aside to the bank of the Nicola river.

In response to a question from the chairman, Mr. McLean said that the railroad had taken possession of the highway without permission and the result was that for some 1,200 feet there was only 17 feet between the rail and the bank of the river, with a drop of ten feet into the water. In some places there was only twelve feet, which made the road dangerous especially for horses. This was a horse country and the children were wont to go to school on horseback. The chief engineer of the works department had recommended that a road be built at a cost of some $600 to avoid this place, by establishing an alternative route.

R. G. Gamble, son of the chief engineer of works, and himself an engineer, said that he had examined the ground last fall. The alternative road was quite feasible and would be about 1,100 feet long. It would have to switch back up some 850 feet and then there would be no further expense. It would cost from $600 to $800. He had been there in June and since that visit the high water had taken away several feet of the road, and he thought that eventually it would practically all go. He thought a board fence would be inadequate protection especially in view of the fact that the bank was being eroded.

Mr. Gamble, divisional engineer for the C.P.R., thought the alternative road quite unnecessary and that it would not be used. Also it would cost more than stated. He thought the fence was sufficient. He believed that there was only white family that used the road, although he admitted in cross examination that there was a considerable settlement of Indians. He admitted that the place was dangerous as it stood.

In giving the decision of the court Mr. Mabee said the position was very simple, as the road had for years been a public highway, the fence remaining in the crown. There was a well established procedure for obtaining

(Continued on Page Two)

Ontario Bank Shareholders

Toronto, Feb. 27.—The liquidator of the Ontario Bank has called on the shareholders to pay 65 cents on the dollar. It all goes to the Bank of Montreal.

Rossland Mine Doing Well.

London, Feb. 27.—Optimism pervaded the meeting of the Le Roi No. 2 company, operating at Rossland, B.C. The chairman stated the mine was developing encouragingly, and gave promise of a more protracted and a more profitable existence than had ever been anticipated, while the Van Roi also was most promising.

Deadly Blast.

New York, Feb. 27.—One man was killed outright, three others are believed to be dying and several more were painfully injured by the belated explosion of a blast in a vacant lot at Woody Crest avenue today. The force of the explosion smashed every window in an apartment house on the opposite side of the street, and did damage to other nearby buildings. The dead man is Tony Dominto, an Italian laborer. Three Italian laborers were removed to a hospital, where it is believed they will die.

C. P. R. Shopmen's Terms

Winnipeg, Feb. 27.—C. P. R. shopmen at a mass meeting last night decided to submit a revised wage schedule to the company for acceptance. It contains a demand for an increase of wages of five per cent., recognition of seniority of employees, the pension system and transportation system which existed before the strike. Also that the men left out of employment after the strike ended be re-instated in their old positions. As their unions are now affiliated with the American Federation of Labor the men have hopes that an agreement will be reached with the company. They ask that a new agreement be entered into on May 1. Official notice was received from Montreal last night that the shops are to run on a nine-hour day, beginning on Monday. That is full time.

MONEY GATHERED UP BY SWINDLING GANG

Part of Gains of Men Arrested at Little Rock Arrives at Davenport

Davenport, Iowa, Feb. 27.—Packages supposed to contain $60,000, shipped here by alleged swindlers under arrest in Little Rock., Ark., arrived here today by the American express. The express company was served with a writ of attachment and garnishment papers on behalf of John E. Cavanaugh, of Davenport, one of the men who by a fake wrestling match is alleged to have been swindled out of $37,000 by the Little Rock prisoners.

The express packages probably will be allowed to remain unopened and deposited in safty vaults until produced under order of the court here at the April term. The men arrested at Little Rock made their headquarters in Davenport for several years.

Council Bluffs, Ia., Feb. 27.—Postoffice Inspector Swenson, after a trip to Little Rock, Ark., last night told of an alleged swindle perpetrated by an organization of men, the head of which he believed is under arrest in Little Rock in the person of J. C. Laybray. The organization formerly had headquarters in Council Bluffs, where it moved from New Orleans. The postoffice department believed the operations of the organization brought considerable more than half a million dollars.

More than a hundred persons in parts of the country were fleeced out of amounts ranging from $5,000 to $37,000 by means of fake races, wrestling matches and other contests. From documentary evidence taken from the trunk of Laybray it is apparent that a diary was kept of all operations and the inspector has procured the names of more than a hundred supposed victims of the swindlers.

These include the name of Thomas Cal, delegate from Alaska to the national assembly, and men of wealth from all parts of the country. Many bankers are included in the list. A woman's boast of how her husband had won $30,000, reaching the ears of a wife of the loser, is said to have brought out the clues in the case.

MINING REGULATIONS

Quartz Mining on Dominion Forest Reserves—Changes in Regard to Coal Lands

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—The government has decided to permit quartz mining to be carried on upon forest reserves, precautions being taken to prevent fires and destruction of timber.

The regulations in regard to coal mining rights in the northwest have been changed. Hereafter such rights could only be obtained by lease, the lessee paying in advance $1 per acre yearly. By the new regulations an applicant may have a two years' lease of 2,500 acres of crown lands by the payment of $100. This is designed to encourage prospecting for coal where no known surface indications exist. The money is to be returned upon proof of actual prospecting work having been done and to be applied to the rental in case of a subsequent lease.

Snake Venom as Medicine

New York, Feb. 27.—The second specimen ever captured of the lachesis, the famous South American venomous snake whose poison has proven successful in the treatment of acute nervous disorders that it is listed in the homeopathic materia medica, died today at the Bronx zoological park, where it had been exhibited since last April, when Professor Hungon, who captured it in Brazil, turned it over to the institution. Since the serpent was brought to this country six extractions of venom from its fangs had been made, about half a teaspoonful being taken from the creature at each operation.

POWERS SCHEME TO KEEP PEACE

Plan of Solving Austria-Servian Difficulty Not Yet Devised

HOPING FOR SETTLEMENT

Trouble From Slavic Pressure on the Russian Authorities

London, Feb. 27.—The powers are not finding the solution of the Balkan difficulty as easy as they anticipated a week ago. It is true that the negotiations looking to a settlement have advanced in some directions, and that the optimistic belief that war would be averted, which the British government has held throughout, has now reached the other capitals, but a definite plan to relieve the Austro-Servian tension has not been agreed upon.

The foreign office states that it is erroneous to say that Russia has consented to the proposal that Servia should be approached by the powers. Russia, in common with Great Britain, has agreed to an effort being made to have Servia state explicitly her claims in the way of compensation. France has proposed that these claims shall not include any territorial compensation, that they be moderate in nature and they be coupled with the announcement that preparations are being made to disarm.

Before the claims are formally presented, the powers desire to know what Austria-Hungary is willing to concede, and it has been suggested, with this end in view, that Vienna should be indirectly approached, the idea of making direct representations to the Austria-Hungarian government having been dropped early in the negotiations.

France and Great Britain are making particularly urgent efforts to maintain peace. M. Paul Cambon, the French ambassador to Great Britain, and Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary, have been in conference daily. They realize Russia's difficult position, arising out of the demands of her Slav subjects that Servia shall be supported, and they are endeavoring to reach a solution which will in no way compromise the third member of the triple entente.

The German View

Berlin, Feb. 27.—The situation between Austria-Hungary and Servia is viewed much more hopefully at the foreign office this morning. Inasmuch as Russia has agreed to participate in a joint note at Belgrade, it is believed that Servia will see that she is completely isolated and without any prospect of foreign assistance should she go to war. It was said at the foreign office that the collective note to Belgrade, the wording of which is still under consideration, will be mild in form for the purpose of sparing Servian sensibilities, but it will leave no doubt that Servia must relinquish the idea of territorial expansion. It is assumed here that Servia will accept this advice, particularly as Austria-Hungary has declared her willingness to make trade concessions to compensate for the abandonment of the claim for a portion of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

PACKING COMPANIES SUED IN ARKANSAS

Heavy Penalties Asked for Alleged Violation of Anti-Trust Laws

Little Rock, Arkansas, Feb. 27.—Prosecuting Attorney Campbell, assisted by former Attorney-General Rogers, today filed suits against the Cudahy Packing company, National Packing company, Morris Packing company, Jacob Dold Packing company, Swift & Company, and the Southern Beef and Provision company, asking for penalties aggregating $3,300,000 each for alleged violations of the state anti-trust laws, last week upheld by the supreme court of the United States in the case against the Hammond Packing company. The suits are filed in the name of the state, and charge the packing companies with being in unlawful combination to control prices and with discriminating against their competitors from January 19, 1907, until Feb. 27, 1909.

Preservation of Falls

Washington, Feb. 27.—The House today adopted a resolution extending for two years the operation of "An act for the control and regulation of the waters of Niagara river, for the preservation of Niagara Falls and for other purposes."

Engine Derailed

St. John, N. B., Feb. 27.—An accident occurred to the train conveying Sir Thomas, Lady and Miss Shaughnessy, from Montreal to St. John. The engine left the track and ploughed up the ties for twenty yards near Beatty's Rocks. The accident was caused by an open switch. Lady and Miss Shaughnessy sailed on the Empress of Britain for Liverpool.

Accused of Robbery

New York, Feb. 27.—On a charge of having robbed a post office safe at Morgan, Vermont, last August, George Edwards was held today in $3,000 bail, which he furnished for his appearance in the federal court in Vermont. Edwards was arrested here four months ago on suspicion of having robbed a bank in Quebec, Canada, in support of which the Canadian authorities failed to bring sufficient evidence.

Raisuli Made Governor.

Fez, Morocco, Feb. 27.—The sultan has appointed Raisuli, the former bandit, governor of the province of Djebala. Raisuli has promised to renounce the ransom paid in behalf of Sir Harry Maclean, the former sultan's military adviser, whom Raisuli held as a prisoner in 1907. The new governor promises to fulfil the duties of his office honestly and not to oppose Europeans.

Military Training of Youth

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—The South African Veterans' association gave its sixth annual banquet last night, the guest of honor being governor-general, Earl Grey. In response to a toast in his honor, Earl Grey spoke along patriotic lines. There was one contribution, he said, which Canada could make to the empire, and which would be of the utmost importance, namely, that every boy from Vancouver to Halifax under the age of 13 should be given physical training, and over that age military drill and the use of the rifle.

Against Bucket Shops.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 27.—The senate by a decisive vote today added to the provision that puts "bucket shops" in the felony class an amendment directed at brokers who are members of eastern boards of trade or stock exchanges, including them in a class with the bucket shop proprietors. The senate modified the felony gambling section so that it applies only to public gambling.

Hurting Canada's Apple Trade

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—Trade Commissioner Chesley in South Africa, complains to the trade and commerce department that many apples being sent to that country from Canada are inferior. It will be absolutely necessary in order to successfully market Canadian apples in South Africa, especially in Cape Colony, to export only sound fruit, as the authorities there will insist upon absolute cleanliness and freedom from all kinds of fungus disease found in apples offered for sale in the market in future.

POPE PIUS TOO ILL TO HOLD AUDIENCES

Attending Physicians Think Indisposition is Not Very Serious

Rome, Feb. 27.—The Pope was indisposed this morning when he received Bishop Bonacul of Nebraska, and this afternoon his Holiness felt so ill that he was obliged to suspend further audiences. The attending physicians do not consider his sickness grave, and they believe that his indisposition at times is largely due to the frequent changes in the weather. It is possible that the Pope's condition may result in changes being made with reference to the consistory which it had practically been decided to hold on April 1st.

ALBERTA ELECTIONS

Date is Fixed For March 22nd—Calgary Liberals Nominate Their Candidates

Edmonton, Feb. 27.—The first parliament of Alberta was dissolved yesterday. Nominations take place on March 15, and election on March 22.

Calgary, Feb. 27.—A Liberal convention was held here last night. Hon. W. H. Cushing and Dr. Egbert were nominated to contest the two Calgary seats. The Conservatives will hold their nominating convention on Monday night, when M. S. McCarthy, M.P., and R. B. Bennett, K.C., will probably be nominated. With the elections only three weeks away the contest will be a short but bitter one.

CANADIAN CURLERS

Much Impressed With Cordiality of British Hosts—Victory in Switzerland

London, Feb. 27.—The Canadian curlers were given a great send-off when they boarded the Empress of Ireland at Liverpool yesterday. Lieut.-Governor Fraser, captain of the team, said that the curlers had been treated with the greatest possible kindness from the moment they arrived in Great Britain. He hoped that there could be a return visit on the part of their Scottish opponents, so that they might in some measure repay the hospitality they had received.

Villars-Sur-Ollon, Switzerland, Feb. 27.—The Canadian rink, skipped by James McDermott, today won the International at the curling bonspell here. Fourteen rinks participated. The second prize was won by the Huddersfield rink.

NEGRO SOLDIERS

Congress Passes Bill for Inquiry Into Brownsville Affair—Some Violent Opposition

Washington, Feb. 27.—The long fight of the discharged negro soldiers of the 25th infantry for an opportunity to prove their innocence in connection with the shooting up of Brownsville, Texas, on the night of August 13, 1906, was won today, when the house, by a vote of 210 to 101, passed the senate bill to that end.

Violent opposition was encountered from members of the southern delegation and others, but as the vote shows, their efforts were unavailing.

A lively tilt between Speaker Cannon and Mr. Gaines of Tennessee turned out something of a scene. Each claimed that the other had insulted him, and before Mr. Gaines would take his seat, the mace, the emblem of authority, was ordered from its place and the sergeant-at-arms directed to place it before the Tennessee member. Mr. Gaines sat down before the official got to him, and was thus spared the disgrace implied by such action. The last occasion on which the mace was similarly used was in the fifty-fourth congress.

MILITARY MEN HOLD COUNCIL

Annual Meetings of Three Organizations at Capital Yesterday

CHANGES IN RIFLE RULES

Mr. Tyrrell Speaks of Hudson Bay Route From Military Viewpoint

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—The annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery association and the Corps of Guides were held this morning. His excellency Earl Grey and Sir Frederick Borden were in attendance.

Replying to a vote of thanks for his interest in the work of the artillery, the governor-general advocated getting an adequate training for the artillery of Canada.

Sir Frederick Borden promised that while there had to be economy in the administration of the military service, it would not be of such a kind as to interfere with efficiency.

Major Costigan of Montreal was elected president. Lieut.-Col. Hall, Victoria, B. C., is one of the vice-presidents.

The meeting of the Corps of Guides was held under the presidency of Major Caldwell, administrator of the corps; Brig.-Gen. Otter, chief of the corps, announced that henceforth provisionally appointed officers in the Corps of Guides must hold a certificate in one of the three arms, cavalry preferred. He hoped to have Guides' training at Petewawa camp in the near future. The intention is to give an opportunity to work together with different corps and to practice special duties under service conditions.

At the afternoon session of the meeting of the Corps of Guides, Lieut. J. W. Tyrrell read a paper on the Hudson Bay route from a military point of view. He said Fort Churchill was the most feasible port of the bay, and that the straits were unobstructed from July 15 to November 15 for certain, and two weeks might possibly be added to that time. From a military point of view, the route would be an advantageous one as a line of communication to Great Britain in case of war.

Major C. F. Winter retired from the secretaryship and Captain R. J. Bird was appointed in his place. Col. Tilton, chairman of the executive committee, said the D. R. A. should meet some of the transportation expenses of teams to bring a better attendance at the annual shooting. The matter was left to the executive to settle. The date of the next annual meeting will be Aug. 23 and following days.

The officers elected were: Honorary president, Sir Frederick Borden; president, Col. S. Hughes; vice-president, Lt.-Col. W. C. Macdonald, Toronto, for Ontario; Lt.-Col. E. T. Ibbotson, of Montreal, for Quebec; Hon. L. G. Power, of Halifax, for Nova Scotia; Col. John Tilton, of Ottawa, for New Brunswick; Hon. Hugh Macdonald, of Winnipeg, for Manitoba; Hon. E. G. Prior, of Victoria, for British Columbia.

MORE PAY WANTED BY CIVIL SERVICE

Representations Made to Premier Laurier and Minister Templeman

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier was waited on this morning by a deputation representing outside civil servants who made a request for a general increase of salaries and re-organization of the outside civil service under the civil service commission. The deputation included Dr. J. M. Barrett, of the inland revenue service, Winnipeg, and Frank Adamson, of the immigration agency, Winnipeg, being accompanied by several members, including Mr. Turriff and Dr. McIntyre. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said it was the intention of the government to take up in the near future the question of salaries and reorganization of the outside service. They hoped to accomplish reforms similar to those in the inside service.

Vancouver, Feb. 25.—A deputation of outside civil servants representing the Dominion Civil Servants' association of British Columbia, waited on Hon. Mr. Templeman, minister of mines and inland revenue, at the hotel Vancouver today and asked his co-operation in securing a bonus of at least $200 per annum to all salaries, dating from Sept. 13 last year, and continuing until such time as the civil service act passed last year shall be extended to the entire service. The excessive and increased cost of living in British Columbia was the leading argument advanced by the various spokesmen.

Mr. Templeman expressed sympathy with the object sought and the justness of the demands. He promised to take the matter up with his colleagues as soon as he reached Ottawa.

This morning's deputation was well satisfied with the assurances made by the minister, who left for the east this afternoon.

British Capital in Canada.

London, Feb. 25.—The Chronicle says that in 1908, exclusive of conversion loans, nearly £30,000,000 of British capital went to Canada, and remarked: "It is in order that the tariff reformers who affect so much keenness upon colonial preference, should shed tears at the investment of British capital in colonial development."

Modern Immorality.

Vancouver, Feb. 25.—In opening the Anglican synod today, Bishop Dart deplored the growing tendency to race suicide and the immoral habits of young people.

Brakeman Killed

Cornwall, Ont., Feb. 25.—Charles Sams, brakeman on the Grand Trunk, fell off a westbound freight train near here last night, and was instantly killed. He leaves a widow and family in Brockville.

Death of General Sandham

Toronto, Feb. 25.—A cablegram announces the death at Folkestone, England, of General Robert Sandham, R. A., who came to Canada in the early seventies with the Royal Artillery, and was for a long time stationed at Toronto and Halifax. He also saw active service in India, and was subsequently stationed at a number of the principal British military ports. While in Toronto he married the daughter of the late Sir Casimer Zzowski, who survives him. He was 72 years old.

EMPIRE DEFENCE

Australians Taking Much Interest in Question—Standard's Advice to Canada

Melbourne, Feb. 25.—Rarely has the whole question of defence, local and imperial, been more public than now. Almost every ministerial speech touches upon one aspect or another of it. Attorney General Hughes warns all able-bodied men that if they neglect military service they must be prepared to pay for their default. The imperialist breadth of view of Mr. Haldane's despatch respecting the general staff is keenly appreciated.

London, Eng., Feb. 25.—The Standard urges colonial representation on the imperial defence committee. In the meantime it says to Canada: "Build your navy, rest must come. Build, and your claim to a share in the controlling of imperial defence cannot possibly be evaded, but build."

POWERS MAY SPEAK TO LITTLE KINGDOM

Germany's Proposal to Influence Servia Meets With Acceptance

Berlin, Feb. 25.—Great Britain, it is understood here, has expressed readiness to associate herself in joint action of the powers at Belgrade, provided Russia participates in this action. According to the information of the German government, France is now sounding Russia in a confidential and friendly way with regard to the acceptance of the suggestion made by Germany that representations should be made to Belgrade and not to Vienna. The tone of optimism continues to prevail in official circles, and as an explanation of Germany's viewpoint it is stated that neither Germany nor any great power is threatening Servia, nor is the proposed action at Belgrade intended to have the least appearance of menace. The opinion is general, however, that Servia ought to be informed regarding the feeling of the European concert concerning her claims, so as to leave no doubt that the powers will support Servia's demand for territorial compensation. If the situation is regarded in this light, it is believed that Russia will join with the other powers, thereby doing a service to Servia without inconsistency.

ALBERTA RAILWAYS

Extensive Scheme of Bond Guarantees Proposed By Government and Approved By House

Edmonton, Feb. 25.—At the session of the Alberta house last night, it endorsed the railway policy of the government, as set out in resolutions introduced by Premier Rutherford and accompanied by bills to guarantee bonds of the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern railways for branch lines totalling 1,681 miles and requiring a total guarantee of $27,433,000.

Twenty thousand dollars a mile will be given to a railway from Edmonton to Fort McMurray fourteen thousand dollars a mile to the Grand Trunk Pacific for five hundred miles, and the Canadian Northern for nine hundred miles of branch lines.

It is expected that six or seven hundred miles will be built this year.

Moulders on Strike

Guelph, Ont., Feb. 25.—The moulders of the Griffin Stove company, fourteen in number, are on strike as a result of a disagreement over wages.

Editor Thorne Dead

Woodstock, N. B., Feb. 25.—H. Foster Thorne, mayor of Woodstock, and editor and manager of the Carleton Sentinel, died this morning of typhoid fever. He was 30 years old.

More Money in Business

Kingston, Ont., Feb. 25.—Rev. Ferdinand Boswell, a Chicago clergyman, has decided to go into the automobile business because there is money in it. He has a brother who is a Methodist minister in Illinois.

Montreal's Civic Affairs

Quebec, Feb. 25.—The Quebec government has decided to submit the question of the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into the civic affairs of Montreal to the court of appeal, the cabinet being dubious about its authority in the matter.

Appointed Principal

Winnipeg, Feb. 25.—Rev. Clarence Mackinnon, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian church, has accepted a call to fill the principalship of Halifax Presbyterian theological college, to take effect six months hence. The vacancy in the college was caused by the resignation of Principal Magill.

PROMISE AID TO ORGANIZATION

Provincial Government Pledge Assistance to Vancouver Island Trails

DELEGATION IS RECEIVED

Claims Pressed By Committee of Vancouver Island Development Association

(From Sunday's Colonist)

After promising the deputation of the Vancouver Island Development league which waited upon the executive yesterday morning that the government would make some provision for building trails in the unsettled districts of Vancouver Island, Premier McBride told the representatives of the development league that he was enthusiastically in favor of the policy adopted by that body.

"I wish to say," stated the premier, "that I am heartily in accord with the work of the Vancouver Island Development League. While it may not be permitted to me to take as active a part as I would like in the way of that organization, I want you to feel that as a Victorian and as one of your representatives in the legislature, I am in full sympathy with your aims. The statement made here this morning by Col. Prior that in a few hours you succeeded in raising $4,000 in the city of Victoria for the development scheme of which we have been speaking gives this association and its scheme a status that no government can afford to overlook. It is not a Victoria scheme, but one for the benefit of the entire island. Get the island opened up, and you need not fear for the future of Victoria."

Raised Readily

Col. Prior's statement, to which the premier referred, was to the effect that with the assistance of Mr. Leiser and Mr. Ker he had succeeded in a very short time in raising $4,000 in Victoria towards building trails on the island. This Col. Prior mentioned for the purpose of showing that in asking the government for assistance the league was also prepared to do its share.

The premier told the delegation that, as the estimates for the coming year had already passed the committee of the whole house, the government would not this session ask the legislature for any additional grants. However, the treasury this year allowed of a larger appropriation for miscellaneous and contingent purposes than ever before, and for that reason there would be no difficulty, where the conditions warranted, in giving Vancouver Island a fair share of this appropriation.

H. B. Thomson, M.P.P. (Victoria) brought up the question of government aid in clearing land for agricultural purposes. Mr. Thomson suggested that the commission to be appointed by the government for the purpose of investigating the timber and forestry situation also take this question into consideration. He suggested again the scheme which he unfolded in the House at the time of the budget debate, that farmers be authorized to form co-operative companies to borrow money from the government for the purpose of clearing their land.

Roads to Sea

H. C. Helgesen, Metchosin, asked the government to provide the citizens of Colwood and Metchosin with access to the sea. He said that this could be easily done, as the main highway ran close to the salt water, and it would require very little expense to lead roads through to the sea at Metchosin and Colwood. He received executive assurance of support.

The deputation, headed by Col. E. G. Prior, included Simon Leiser, president of the Board of Trade; H. B. Thomson, M.P.P.; Fred Davey, M.P.P.; H. F. W. Behnsen, M.P.P.; H. C. Brewster, M.P.P.; W. J. Sutton, A. J. Shallcross, L. R. Ker, L. A. Genge, F. Elworthy, A. W. McCurdy, C. H. Lugrin, John Nelson, R. E. Gosnell, Capt. Gosse, Colwood; H. C. Helgesen, Metchosin, and others.

Col. Prior, in introducing the deputation, said that the Vancouver Island Development league, which was represented by himself and his colleagues, was representative of the entire Island. It had been decided that one of the first things to be done was to open up a large part of the island, hitherto closed to settlement, by the building of cheap trails in districts now impossible of access on account of dense timber. The deputation was not asking for a great expenditure of money for roads, but only for trails to allow a man with a pack to get into the country. Trails suitable for the purpose would cost on the average $150 a mile, and the trails on the plan drawn up by Mr. Sutton would come to about 200 miles. Thus the total sum asked of the government was $30,000.

Col. Prior produced a map prepared by Mr. Sutton, on which the suggested trails were marked. A large map prepared for the chief commissioner of lands was brought in and spread out on the table, and Mr. Sutton borrowed a cane and proceeded to show where the proposed trails were to run.

The Trail Routes

The first trail proposed was from the mouth of Campbell river up to Campbell lake and around Crown mountain. From this a trail would run from Kartmutsen lake to the head of Kyuquot Sound, and another from the head of Nootka Sound. Another trail would connect with Buttle's lake by way of the upper Campbell lake. Another would be from Sproat lake, through Sutton Pass, connecting the upper reaches of the Taylor river with those of Elk river, which empties into Kennedy lake. Others were from Nanaimo lakes connecting with the Cowichan lake trail; another is from Cowichan lake to Alberni and another from San Juan up the Robertson river to Cowichan lake. Some of these

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