

population into British Columbia—destined to be one of the greatest Provinces of the Canadian Confederation.

A PATRIOTIC POSITION

We are bound to respect the treaty with Japan as long as it remains in force. We are bound to accord just and honourable treatment to our fellow subjects throughout the Empire. But one central idea overshadows all others and it has been well expressed by Mr. Borden in a speech delivered at Vancouver, in September, 1907. He said:—

"Let us have a due sense of Imperial as well as Canadian interests involved; let us appreciate the sanctity of treaty rights and the respect which must be paid to a great nation like Japan, the ally and friend of Great Britain; let us remember the importance of trade relations with both China and Japan. But above all let us never forget that there are considerations greater than those of trade or material progress."

"The Conservative party, which brought this splendid Province into our great Confederation, will maintain one supreme consideration to which all others must give way and it is this: British Columbia must remain a British and Canadian Province, inhabited and dominated by men in whose veins runs the blood of the great pioneering races which built up and developed not only Western but Eastern Canada as well. And while recognising our duty to the great Empire whose flag will always float above us, we respectfully maintain that Canada in such vital essentials must be accorded a freedom of judgment as perfect and unfettered as that already exercised not only by the other great dominions of the Empire, but by Great Britain herself."

COSTLIEST GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD.

In 1900 and 1901 the Government boasted that the Yukon was paying in royalties all that it cost to govern the district. The gold output was \$22,000,000, and there were 30,000 people. The expenditure in that year and the next was \$1,250,000 a year, but the revenue was half a million more.

In 1907 the gold output of the Yukon was less than \$5,000,000. The population is about 5,000. The total revenue for the fiscal year 1907 (9 months) was \$518,000.

But the expenditure was \$922,000, or still at the rate of \$1,230,000 a year. It cost the country \$246 per head to govern that quiet and orderly community. It is the most costly Government in the world.

To govern a population equal to that of a modest town in Eastern Canada, there are:

	Living	Salary Allowance	Total
Commissioner with free house.....	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$12,000
Legal adviser.....	5,000	1,500	6,500
Registrar.....	4,000	1,500	5,500
Gold Commissioner....	5,000	1,500	6,500
Assistant Commissioner	4,000	1,200	5,200
Assistant Commissioner	2,500	1,500	4,000
Mining Engineer.....	2,400	1,200	3,600
Secretary.....	1,800	1,200	3,000
Clerk.....	2,000	1,500	3,500
Comptroller	3,000	1,200	4,200

With numerous others at \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Not only is this the most costly Government in the world, but it is one of the worst.

Ross Rifle Contract

Details of a Remarkable Financial Transaction.

Paying a Million Extra for a Home-made Rifle That is Not Made at Home—Government is Banker for the Contractor. Auditor-General Protests, But is Turned Down.

One of the remarkable contracts made by the Laurier Government was that of the 27th of March, 1902, with Sir Charles Ross. By this contract and subsequent agreements the Government obtains from the Ross Rifle Company 62,000 rifles, on the following terms.

THE TERMS

Price \$25 each, without bayonet, the Government paying extra for sights, and paying also for gauges to measure the parts for purposes of inspection.

The contractor receives on account, before delivery, payments equal to his whole outlay on material and work for each order of rifles, up to 75 per cent of the contract price, or \$18.75 on each rifle.

The contractor is granted at \$1 a year rent, a perpetually renewable 99 year lease of over 19 acres of land on the Plains of Abraham, close to the City of Quebec.

The contractor is allowed to bring in all his machinery free of duty.

The contractor is allowed to bring in free of duty all raw material, all partly finished portions, and all completed parts of the rifle which he finds it impossible or inconvenient to manufacture in the factory.

By the contract the company was not to receive advance payments on rifles more than a year before delivery. This provision has been disregarded, and payments have been made on rifles not delivered for more than two years after the advance. When the Auditor-General intervened and stopped these payments, the Government came to the rescue by extending the time of delivery.

COMPARED WITH THE LEE-ENFIELD PRICE

At the time the bargain was made with Sir Charles Ross, Canada was using the Lee-Enfield, magazine rifle, the weapon now used by the British Army, Australia and other colonies. This rifle is still preferred by our own militia, and is used by Canadian marksmen at Bisley, Rockliffe and other competitions.

The cost, delivered in Canada, of the Lee-Enfield rifle, bought from the Royal Small Arms factories, Great Britain, in 1896, when 18,850 were purchased, was \$15.75 each. (Statement by Sir Fred. Borden in the House, Hansard, 1908, page 8659.)

At that price the Country is paying 58 per cent. more for the Ross rifle, without taking into account the special privileges granted, than