

they have caused on the shoulders of other classes of the community. We think that they should continue to bear their burdens which in the face of increasing population and better financial conditions is getting lighter and will continue to get lighter from year to year, but we think that they might take concerted action on the line, that before any new bond issues are presented by any municipality for submission to the ratepayers that they should refuse to vote in favour of those bond issues until the principle of taxation had been widened to include a larger variety of elements in the community than are now involved under the present system. If the principle of taxation is to be widened it should apply on new commitments and for new purposes, and that the present debt rest as it does now upon the holders of land and their improvements within municipal jurisdiction. The increment of population in both Vancouver and Victoria is bringing more land into the tax paying realm and will gradually affect in the years to come the lands now held by the municipalities which have been returned to them through tax sales. We think those clamouring for reform in our present system of municipal taxation are painting too gloomy a picture of the present situation and not taking into consideration those factors of development and progress which are now contributing to the lightening of their burdens.

PAMPHLET ON CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA

A new and valuable publication on Central British Columbia has just been issued by the Department of the Interior through the Natural Resources Intelligence Branch at Ottawa. The writer, F. H. Kitto, D.L.S., who has already prepared several very useful economic reports on Western Canada, in this publication, as in his other writings, gives the results of his personal investigations in the different districts.

The publication not only provides an accurate description of the country for general readers, but it also contains exceedingly useful information for the settler. There are chapters on the climate, soil, forests, minerals, fisheries, game, water resources, and the different districts, Fort George, Peace River, Cariboo, Fort Fraser, Hazelton and Skeena, are each treated separately and in detail. The agricultural and industrial opportunities are shown without any exaggerations or embellishments. In the appendix are given synopsis of regulations and acts affecting the settler, such as pre-emption, purchase and lease, Land Settlement Act, Government aid, mining laws, etc.

The report is written in non-technical language and is well illustrated with photographs taken by the author and an excellent map of Central British Columbia, scale 35 miles to one inch, accompanies the book. This interesting and very promising part of British Columbia, which has now been made accessible by the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, offers a new field, vast and fruitful, to thousands of willing workers. It is thus described: "An immense territory of which the potential wealth in natural resources is beyond estimate and where conditions for home-making are of the best. The areas of arable agricultural lands are in the neighborhood of 10,000,000 acres, with additional lands suitable for grazing purposes. The belt is highly mineralized and no one can foretell what extent of treasure lies buried beneath its hills. The coast and inland waters are rich in fisheries, the extent and value of which are beginning to be more fully realized. The forests are also most extensive and the lumbering and pulp industries are already well under way. Water-powers are numerous and great. The climate is agreeable. In fact conditions are exceedingly inviting for intensive settlement and development along agricultural and industrial lines."

The report may be had free upon application to the Superintendent, Natural Resources Intelligence Branch, Department of the Interior, Ottawa.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Capital Assets exceed Capital Liabilities by \$13,788,196.

Current Assets exceed Current Liabilities by \$1,038,999.

For the year ending March 31st, 1919, revenue of \$10,931,279 exceeded expenditure of \$9,887,745 on Current Account by \$1,043,534.

THE PROVINCE HAS UNPLEDGED ASSETS OF

Agricultural Lands Suitable for Settlement.....	50,000,000 Acres.
Timber Lands of Saw Material.....	349,568,000,000 Board Feet.
Coal Lands.....	83,828,523,000 Tons.

PRODUCTION FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1919

Agricultural	\$61,749,719
Mining	\$33,421,333
Lumbering	\$70,285,094
Fishing	\$15,216,297
General Manufacturing and Other Industrial, Approximately.....	\$50,000,000

The Minister of Finance will be pleased to answer any enquiries of a financial nature, and where the enquiry does not directly concern his department he will be pleased to see that it is referred to the proper department and receives prompt attention.

JOHN HART,

Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

Minister of Finance for the Province of British Columbia.