

ting its fair share of revenue? Is there not something radically wrong in the way in which these two industries are being taxed?

If the lumber interests are now satisfied with the carrying charges and royalty imposed, and I have failed to find any complaint as to the rate, then it is apparent that the mineral industry is not contributing to the revenue of the province its just share. What is the remedy, or is there a remedy? Let us guard against any legislation that would in the slightest degree retard the investment of capital in the development of our Province, but let us encourage the industry by removing the penalty of \$50,000 (in the estimates) for Free Miners' Licenses, and charge a nominal sum of .25c for record purposes only. Remove the present tax on ore production. Reduce the recording fees. Establish one or more Customs smelters to enable small shippers to get their ore treated at cost, and in connection therewith to maintain free assaying laboratories, thus taking from the shoulders of those who are bringing their properties up to the producing stage, a tax, which they must now pay out of capital account, and encourage the prospecting for new fields and new mineral deposits.

Legislate to prevent mineral lands being closed indefinitely to development and operation; let an earnest endeavor be made to promote and establish the iron and steel industry; let the tax on minerals be confined to a just and fair tax on the profits and place an export tax on all ore shipped out of the Province to smelters or refiners and build up an industry in British Columbia to treat all British Columbia ores.

I will not at this time go into any other phases of this subject. It is a large question and has many details to be considered. You will, I think, admit that it is imperative, in the interests of the people, that certain and drastic changes must be made in the administration of the affairs of the Province in order to bring prosperity to its citizens from natural and legitimate enterprises, such as lumbering and mining.

LAND QUESTION

What has the Government done toward the settle-