

THE ALL-RED FOLDERS ON "SURVEYED LANDS FOR SETTLERS" ("Crisis," p. 3), which are shown to be entirely misleading by the pre-emptors' maps of the Land Department, and which perpetrate a gross deception on honest land-seekers, are still being issued through land offices and information bureaus.

THE "VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS" OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR MAY 16th, 20th, ETC., 1916, show that 5,760 acres of timber lands in the Renfrew district, with 60,000 feet of merchantable timber to the acre, were illegally sold to certain speculators as second-class agricultural land at \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre, the government having received about \$18,000. These were afterwards sold to the Puget Sound Lumber Co., registered, and fees paid on a declared valuation of \$421,800. They are in the company's books as an asset value of \$689,000. The difference in value of timber on Crown-granted land and that on licensed lands would indicate a loss of \$345,670 to the province by this illegal transaction. (See also "Crisis," p. 15.)

MR. BOWSER STATED IN HIS ORPHEUM SPEECH in reply to "The Crisis" that the government "assessed and collected 50 cents an acre" for the Heinze and railway subsidy lands in the Boundary and Crow's Nest country. On March 21st Hon. Lorne Campbell told the house that **no taxes had ever** been collected on any of these lands, thus proving "The Crisis" correct.

TIMBER

THE FORESTRY COMMISSION OF 1910, WITH **MR. A. C. FLUMERFELT** as one of its members, urgently recommended in the interests of the public that timber license fees should not be fixed for more than one year at a time. This was the most emphatic of all the commission's recommendations, yet the Timber Royalty Act of 1914 fixed these fees at \$100 and \$140 for the next forty years. Mr. Ross was Minister of Lands and Mr. Bowser Attorney-General throughout this period.

THAT AMERICAN SPECULATORS HOLD IMMENSE AREAS of B. C. timber ("Crisis," p. 15) is confirmed by Supreme Court proceedings of June 1st and Sept. 20th, 1915, where it was revealed that **ALVO VON ALVENSLEBEN HAD PURCHASED \$2,200,000 OF TIMBER** from the Red Cliff Lumber Co. of Duluth.

FINANCES

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS OF THE McBRIDE-BOWSER ADMINISTRATION (1913-1916) the finances of B. C. stand as follows:

Expenditure	\$54,623,305
Revenue	31,432,385
Deficit	\$23,190,920
Revenue for 1913	\$10,479,000; for 1916 (estimated) \$5,944,000
Or a little over one-half for 1913 and less than half for 1912	
Debt charges for 1913	\$ 529,776; for 1916 (estimated) \$5,472,894*
Deficit for 1913	\$5,475,865; for 1916 (estimated) \$9,408,000*
Or nearly double for 1913	
The Public Debt of this year = \$13.96 per head; Expenditure = \$39.13 per head	

N.B.—In the **ESTIMATES FOR 1911** all debt charges on the loan of \$7,275,000 issued April 1st of that year were suppressed. In the **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS** for that year one half-year's interest on this loan was also suppressed. Only \$541,736 was voted, but the actual amount was \$1,161,827. It would seem that both Estimates and Public Accounts were falsified so as to deceive the public.