

of husbands, sons and brothers, and generously of their means—and this at a time when civil burdens, well-nigh crushing in their weight, have, as a result of the world-wide financial and commercial depression, been imposed upon them.

Nothing in the history of British Columbia is more significant, nothing, indeed, is more promising than the measure of courage and fortitude which has been shown by our people in the face of these unexampled difficulties.

It has been well said that "the darkest hour is just before the dawn"; and I am profoundly of the opinion that with the achievement of the final triumphant victory which assuredly awaits the arms of the Allies, and the conclusion of a permanent peace, the clouds which now lower upon us shall be dispersed and that the dawn of a brighter and fairer day will witness a restoration of progress and prosperity in British Columbia which will amply reward us for the courage and faith we have shown in this hour of bitter trial.

AGENT-GENERAL FOR B.C.

In conclusion, it is hardly necessary for me to state how incapable I feel in attempting to carry on the leadership in any way comparable with the record of our former popular leader, Sir Richard McBride, but it is not without a measure of confidence that I ask the people of British Columbia to give the new Government an opportunity to show that we can succeed and thereby merit public approval. The public will be pleased to know that we are fortunate in not losing entirely the services and ability of our late Premier, because as Agent-General for British Columbia, to which position he has been appointed, we will have a most worthy representative, than whom there is no one more capable for the office nor more conversant with our great natural resources.

It affords me pleasure at this time to again express our deep appreciation for the excellent work which the retiring Agent-General, Mr. J. H. Turner, has done while residing in London for the last fourteen years.

I hope, together with my colleagues, to be able to visit the various portions of our great Province before a general election and discuss the public issues in each constituency, while appealing for the first time, as leader of the Government, for the endorsement of the electors, with every confidence that they will give me an opportunity to carry out the policies I have outlined.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. BOWSER.