

PARING EXPENSES  
ON PUBLIC WORKSENORMOUS REDUCTION  
IN APPROPRIATION

About One Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Dollars Less Estimated for This Year Than Last.

The estimates of revenue and expenditures as submitted by the Finance Minister Tuesday indicate that the government has decided to go far as the main estimates are concerned to keep the expenditure down. There will be no quarrel with them on that point, but grave objection is likely to be taken to the fact that every branch of the public service shows an advance on the estimates of last year with the exception of roads, trails, wharves and bridges. It is on this item that the economy has been exercised, and the pruning knife has been applied to the extent of about \$116,000.

This decrease is likely to be seriously criticized, especially by those opposing members who receive from \$1,200 to \$2,000 for their districts, and who are anxious to see the government's estimates reduced to create a good impression by a budget attractive in its economy.

Although there is an increase of about \$8,000 under salaries, this is due to new officials and not to advances on the old salaries. The appointment of a deputy minister of mines at \$150 a month, a mining recorder at Revelstoke, and the payment of various incidents for clerical assistance explains the increase in this figure.

A comparison of the estimated expenditure of this year with that of last year shows wherein the increases have taken place. The table is as follows:

	1902-1903.	1901-1902.
Public debt (estimated)	\$51,329.31	\$48,140.32
Civil government (estimated)	289,540.00	281,112.00
Administration of justice (salaries)	129,456.00	121,112.00
Legislation	44,135.00	44,135.00
Public institutions (maintenance)	136,706.00	128,470.00
Hospitals and charities	88,100.00	74,800.00
Administration of justice (other than salaries)	104,350.00	110,900.00
Education	140,350.00	140,350.00
Transport	20,200.00	21,200.00
Revenue services	17,000.00	17,000.00
Public Works	\$187,500.00	\$187,500.00
Government House	4,500.00	4,500.00
Roads, streets, bridges and wharves	336,200.00	336,200.00
Surveys	10,000.00	10,000.00
Contingencies	30,000.00	30,000.00
Repairs to government buildings	5,000.00	5,000.00
Provincial House, Kamloops (general repairs)	300.00	300.00
Hospital for the insane (general construction, repairs and equipment)	11,700.00	11,700.00
Furniture for government offices throughout the province	5,000.00	5,000.00
Improvement and care of government grounds, Victoria	3,000.00	3,000.00
Improvement and care of government reserves (various districts)	2,000.00	2,000.00
Government House, Victoria	10,000.00	10,000.00
Court house, Greenwood (furniture, fencing, etc.)	1,800.00	1,800.00
Court house, Vancouver (repairs and care of grounds)	2,900.00	2,900.00
Court house, Chilliwack (vanity, etc., additional to \$800 voted)	700.00	700.00
Court house, Nelson (construction)	40,000.00	40,000.00
Fish hatchery, Rivers Inlet (construction)	10,000.00	10,000.00
Fish hatchery, Quesnel Lake dam (construction)	6,000.00	6,000.00
Fish hatchery, Seaton Lake (maintenance)	8,500.00	8,500.00
Jail, Vernon (furniture, etc.)	3,000.00	3,000.00
Reformatory, Vancouver (barn, school, furniture, water supply, etc.)	8,000.00	8,000.00
Locks throughout the province (renewals and repairs)	4,000.00	4,000.00
Lock-up, Discovery	1,000.00	1,000.00
Public schools throughout the province (construction and repairs)	30,000.00	30,000.00
Public schools throughout the province (furniture)	5,000.00	5,000.00
Police (maintenance)	20,000.00	20,000.00
Police works, Kicking Horse River	3,500.00	3,500.00
Towards experimenting on clear-cut bush lands	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total	\$187,500.00	\$187,500.00

Public Works.

The appropriation for the above service is itemized as follows:

Works and buildings	\$187,500.00
Government House, Victoria	4,500.00
Roads, streets, bridges and wharves	336,200.00
Surveys	10,000.00
Contingencies	30,000.00
Repairs to government buildings	5,000.00
Provincial House, Kamloops (general repairs)	300.00
Hospital for the insane (general construction, repairs and equipment)	11,700.00
Furniture for government offices throughout the province	5,000.00
Improvement and care of government grounds, Victoria	3,000.00
Improvement and care of government reserves (various districts)	2,000.00
Government House, Victoria	10,000.00
Court house, Greenwood (furniture, fencing, etc.)	1,800.00
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Government House, Victoria.

Repairs to buildings and furniture

Light and water

Paints and fencing

Repairs to buildings and furniture

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Repairs to buildings and furniture

Light and water

Paints and fencing

North Nanaimo District (maintenance and repairs)	5,000.00
South Nanaimo District (maintenance and repairs)	9,000.00
Nanaimo City District (maintenance and repairs)	1,200.00
Comox District (maintenance and repairs)	10,000.00
Vancouver Island, Main Trunk Road	3,250.00
Nanaimo to Comox	2,250.00
Parksville to Alberni	1,500.00
Westminster District, Richmond Riding (maintenance and repairs)	5,000.00
Westminster District, Dewdney Riding (maintenance and repairs)	4,000.00
Westminster District, Chilliwack (maintenance and repairs)	3,000.00
Westminster District, Delta (maintenance and repairs)	4,000.00
Yale District, North Riding (maintenance and repairs)	12,000.00
Yale District, West Riding (maintenance and repairs)	9,000.00
Yale District, East Riding (maintenance and repairs)	20,000.00
Lillooet District, East Riding (maintenance and repairs)	7,000.00
Lillooet District, West Riding (maintenance and repairs)	7,000.00
Carleton Place, including Omineca (maintenance and repairs)	14,000.00
East Kootenay District, North Riding (maintenance and repairs)	14,000.00
East Kootenay District, South Riding (maintenance and repairs)	17,000.00
West Kootenay District, Revelstoke Riding (maintenance and repairs)	14,000.00
West Kootenay District, Shonawa Riding (maintenance and repairs)	14,000.00
West Kootenay District, Nelson Riding (maintenance and repairs)	14,000.00
West Kootenay District, Rossland Riding (maintenance and repairs)	15,000.00
Cassiar District (maintenance and repairs)	20,000.00
Lillooet-Lytton main trunk road (maintenance and repairs)	2,000.00
Cariboo main trunk road (maintenance and repairs)	20,000.00
Hastings-Barnet road (completion and repairs)	4,000.00

Grant in aid of Ethnological Society	150.00
Grant to Canadian Forestry Association	200.00
Investigation of life of young salmon in fresh waters of province	1,500.00
Expenses re entertainment of distinguished visitors	3,000.00
Coal miners' examinations (allowance to examiners and secretaries)	3,100.00
Permanent exhibit of agricultural products, Vancouver	250.00
Poultry shows	300.00
Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	500.00
Miscellaneous, not detailed	13,000.00
Superannuation	
G. Cowan, 12 months to 30th June, 1904, at \$200	240.00
C. H. F. Blake, 12 months to 30th June, 1904, at \$25	300.00
D. Whiteside, 12 months to 30th June, 1904, at \$30	360.00
N. Finlayson, 12 months to 30th June, 1904, at \$50	600.00
H. O. Wellburn, 12 months to 30th June, 1904, at \$25	300.00
J. E. McMillan, 12 months to 30th June, 1904, at \$50	600.00
J. Sage, 12 months to 30th June, 1904, at \$25	300.00
Agent-General's Office, London. Salary of Agent-General, including clerical assistance and rent of office, 12 months, to 30th June, 1904	10,000.00
Immigration	
Miscellaneous requirements	4,000.00
Total	\$140,350.00

The expense of the coal mines commission, as revealed by the overrunning of the grant for that purpose, was \$4,350.

The work of the commission committee, at Revelstoke, cost \$2,100. It is not probable that John Houghton gets \$40,000 for a new court house at Nelson, although it is stated the government demurred and wanted to be left for \$20,000. The member from Nelson, however, was intransigent.

Measures, Neil and E. C. Smith are beginning to back in the warmth of government favor, as a reference to the votes for their districts and comparison with others will show.

## DELIGHTFUL AFFAIR.

Very Successful Dance Given By Lawa Tennis Club Last Night.

The Assembly hall on Fort street was a scene of gaiety and splendor Tuesday when a successful ball was held by the Victoria Tennis Club. All previous functions given by the club were put in the shade in comparison with that of last night. There were between eighty and one hundred couples present, and it was readily seen that all were enjoying themselves by the hearty cheering of each dance. Indeed the committee in charge are proud of the success achieved.

The splendid hall was most handsomely decorated. From the entrance to the little distance was an arch made of flowers, and the right was a neatly arranged room, contained off into five separate sections, used as a "sitting-out" department.

Entering the hall itself one was struck with the artistic arrangement of innumerable flags of different nationalities. The walls were one mass of evergreens, flags, Chinese banners and streamers. The far right hand corner was converted into one of the prettiest rose corners one could possibly imagine. It was large and well supplied with seats. This was provided by the Westside. The three other corners were adorned chiefly with flowers and hanging and were prepared for the ladies of the club. Passing on through the hall to the rear the eye took in at a glance eight tables tastefully arranged for supper, which was partaken of at midnight. The supper was contributed by the lady members of the club and their friends.

The beautiful costumes worn by the guests were shown to advantage by the electric light. The music furnished by the Phil's orchestra was excellent. The ball did not break up until the small hours of the morning. These on the committee in charge follows: J. A. Rithet, E. Langworthy, A. T. Goward, P. B. Langston, D. M. Rogers and F. T. Cornwall, secretary of the club.

## IS NOT WORRYING.

Nothing to Settle About Strike So Far As Concerns Capt. Troup.

The strike on the waterfront is now something which, so far as the public is concerned, has been almost lost sight of. There have been rumors of settlement but when asked regarding these, Capt. Troup, the local manager of the C. P. N. Company, denied that he is a party to any such agreement. "There is nothing to settle," he said when consulted on the subject. "In the first place I did all I could in an effort to persuade the men from going out on strike. When they walked ashore it was probably thought that C. P. N. boats would be tied up. The reverse happened. Other men were secured to take the strikers' places. The boats have been kept running, and I have simply dismissed the matter from my mind as far as possible."

"That the captain has got the best of the strikers there is now no doubt, and the fact is unquestionably due to the prompt measures taken when the first trouble broke out. The night when the crew of the Charnier walked ashore there were many of the C. P. N. fleet in port, and had it not been for consideration and good judgment exercised in the management of the men the company might have been placed in an extremely awkward position. As it was Capt. Troup, while showing every courtesy to the striking steamship men, took a very determined stand after they resolved on striking, and was bound that on no point should he be bested. The various steamers of the fleet never missed a run; the travelling public never suffered in the slightest; and C. P. N. freight is received with the same regularity in which it was handled previous to the strike. The 'Longshoremen's Union' remained friendly to the company, as a result no doubt of a clear understanding reached between them and the captain when the trouble first began."

Miss M. La Dell, who is to sing at the Y. M. C. A. concert, and Miss Emily F. Scott, of Toronto, are at the Grand.

PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE LEGISLATUREMINISTRY NARROWLY  
ESCAPES A DIVISION

Motion of Smith Curtis Caused Consternation—Premier Pledges Abolition of Two Per Cent. Tax.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

As expected the resolution introduced by Smith Curtis yesterday afternoon caused considerable consternation on the government side of the House. In anticipation of its coming up the members were nearly all in their places. Price Ellison alone was not present. The resolution was one of an expression of the opinion "that it is in the interest of good government that there should be a dissolution of the legislature and an appeal to the electorate immediately after the close of the present session."

The government, through the Minister of Finance, took the position that the resolution was out of order. This was combated by the opposition, and the resolution really became a vote of want of confidence. With Price Ellison absent the result of a vote was very questionable, and members of the government could not conceal their anxiety in connection with the subject.

The Speaker's decision to leave the question over until this afternoon probably saved the day for the government. The opposition was not able to see the position in which things were placed, and pressed strongly for an immediate decision by the Speaker, announcing their willingness to run the risk of an adverse ruling rather than postpone it.

During the remainder of the afternoon members of the government were seen to pass from bench to bench unanimously feeling the pulse preparatory for a decision being given this afternoon that the motion is in order.

The Premier made a direct announcement in the House later on that the two per cent. tax would be repealed and an adjustment of the mineral taxes made.

Prayers were read upon opening by Rev. W. Leslie Clay.

Petitions.

A. W. Neill presented a petition from John Best and others, of Alberni, concerning the sale of timber lands of British Columbia Lumber Company for arrears of taxes.

The following petitions were received: From Cassius M. Buck and others, for private bill to incorporate the Kootenay Development & Tramway Company.

From the Kootenay, Trail and others, for private bill to incorporate a private bill to incorporate the Quatsino Railway Company.

Reports.

Reports were presented by H. D. Heinicke from the Kootenay and the following were reported to have been complied with: Petition of Pacific Northern & Eastern Railway Company; petition of Pacific Northern & Eastern Railway Company; petition of Kootenay Central Railway Company; petition of Kootenay, Cariboo & Pacific Railway Company.

The report was received.

In the case of the petitions of Vernon & Nelson Telephone Company and Adams River Railway Company, the rules were suspended and the reports adopted.

Private bills in connection with each of these, with the exception of the first two mentioned, were then introduced, read a first time and referred to the railroad committee.

## Estimates Presented.

Hon. J. D. Prentice presented the estimates for the year, and moved that they go into committee for the consideration of them the following day.

The motion was carried.

## First Readings.

The following bills were read a first time and placed on the orders for second reading:

A bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Children's Protection Act of British Columbia,'" and a bill intituled "An Act respecting the support of Illegitimate Children," by Mr. McPhillips; and a bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Beneficial Societies Act,'" by Hon. Mr. Eberts.

## Question of Dissolution.

Mr. Curtis moved: "Resolved, that it is in the interest of good government that there should be a dissolution of the legislature, and an appeal to the electorate immediately after the close of the present session."

Hon. Mr. Prentice considered the motion out of order, inasmuch as it involved an expenditure of public money in holding an election.

Smith Curtis said he would leave the latter part of the resolution off, if the motion was out of order. He would not provide for an election. The government could suit themselves about the holding of that.

J. Martin said the objection raised was ridiculous. There was no contemplation of an expenditure of money. There was not the suggestion of the expenditure of money. It was a matter of the government's right to carry on an election without money, but such was not specified. The motion was out of order.

Hon. Mr. Prentice held that a dissolution must be followed by an election, and hence an expenditure of money.

A. E. McPhillips was surprised at the ground taken by the government. That position would preclude a vote of want of confidence being introduced into the House. Such a vote would be followed by an election, and hence was open to the same objection as that taken by the government in this case.

Mr. Martin, in support of his position, called attention to the fact that last year a commission was appointed on the motion of Smith Curtis and J. H. Hawthornsworth to inquire into charges that did not result in a report, but in the expenditure of a large amount of money. Yet there was no objection to it.

Hon. Mr. Prentice said that made no difference. That made no difference. There was no recommendation of an expenditure of money.

Premier Prior took exception to the resolution inasmuch as it was an expression of an opinion derogatory to the members of the government. Reading a resolution to stand the stand he took, he said he had committed his position to writing, which was to the effect that dissolution was a question for the Crown only to decide.

R. McBride said that was a wonderful production of the Premier's, and he looked upon it as an original production.

Premier Prior: "I agree with you."

Continuing, Mr. McBride contended that the resolution was in no way out of order. This ruling would preclude nearly every resolution introduced into the House. This government had nothing to fear in this. (Mr. Hunter: "Hear, hear.")

J. F. Garden held that there was no expenditure enforced by this, as the government was not forced to dissolve the House.

J. H. Hawthornsworth also spoke against it being regarded as out of order.

Mr. Curtis said rule 45 did not apply to this. He asked the government to withdraw their objection, as he would bring it up again in another form if not allowed to introduce it in this way. He thought the government was not itself clear on the subject. He would like an expression of the House so as to guide the government.

The Speaker said that the question of dissolution was one for the Crown to decide. If alone had to decide.

Mr. Martin said that the resolution did not call for a vote, and that the error to dissolve the House. That would be objectionable. It was simply an expression of opinion. He believed that a dissolution would be favored by nine-tenths of the people of the country. This suppression of the opinion of the House was going farther than in the days of Stuart. The Crown did not pretend to represent public opinion. The representatives of the House alone did that.

He agreed with the originality of the Premier's stand as contained in his words. He believed he was the only man in Canada who could produce it.

Mr. McBride said they were simply expressing an opinion to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. McPhillips called attention to the fact that it was wise for the government to ascertain the opinion of the House. Last session the ministry had made recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor which were withdrawn upon the advice of the opposition. (Opposition applause.)

This was not a question of the expenditure of money, contrary to the wishes of the people. It might be contrary to the wishes of the government.

Mr. Curtis said that the objection seemed now to be that urged by the Premier, which was that it was not right for the House to express its opinion to the Lieutenant-Governor.

From the prerogatives of the House of Commons was the right to have access to the Crown and express its views. He might even have added to this motion that the Lieutenant-Governor carry it to the Governor.

The Speaker said he would not offer him rule it out of order. He asked that his decision might be allowed to stand until the next day.

Mr. McPhillips feared laying it over until the government should cause this matter. The opposition only wished to voice the people.

Mr. Curtis passed for a ruling. The resolution had been on the order papers for some time, so that it might have been studied up.

The Speaker said he was not going to be forced to give an immediate decision. Mr. Curtis said that if he was not ruled out of order he would debate the question. He said he had suffered so much from rulings that he had become calloused.

The Speaker said this was not an urgent question, and he would give his decision the following day at 2 o'clock.

Mr. McBride urged that the opposition regarded it as an urgent matter, and pressed for an immediate decision. One of the prerogatives of the House of Commons was the right to have access to the Crown and express its views. He might even have added to this motion that the Lieutenant-Governor carry it to the Governor.

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