

to \$18,000,000. This, together with the undertaking of the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, was the reason why the present Government found it necessary to increase taxation when we took office.

Mr. Bowser also tried to convince you that I, as your representative, had done nothing for my riding. I want to show you that, notwithstanding the fact that I have not moved round among you as often as I should like to be able to do, the interests of the riding have not been overlooked. On the contrary, I have kept a close watch on the needs of the district and take some satisfaction in pointing out that a great many things have been accomplished in your interest.

Every request made to me for a trail to mineral prospects or mining developments has been granted.

Every promise made by me in the campaign of 1916 has been fulfilled.

The main Kettle River Road has been extended, and I am sure you will concede that I had something to do with that.

The Heinze lands have been taken over by the Government for non-payment of taxes and will be available for settlement before the end of this year.

The Government office at Greenwood has been kept open despite the remarks of Mr. J. W. Jones, Conservative member for South Okanagan, during the last session of the House.

Legislation has been passed which will compel the irrigation of the Midway Flats. This is a very tangled affair and is taking longer than I anticipated.

These are specific instances which show that, in all matters of importance to the district, I have given the closest attention and my efforts have met with a measurable degree of success.

You know, too, that during the four years we have been in office there has been a great deal of progressive legislation passed. I think I am not claiming too much when I claim to have had a share in the consideration of this progressive legislation, and, in common with the other members of the Government, I have spent a good deal of time putting such legislation into proper shape for submission to the House.

You will have to regard Mr. Bowser's attempt to put a slight upon my work and my interest in your welfare as just so much more of the cheap criticism which characterizes most of his campaign addresses.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

The question of the financial status of the Province is one of the most important of all the matters we have to consider. In spite of this fact, I find that Mr. Bowser, when he addressed you here, dealt with the question as if it were a subject for mere buffoonery. He read to you, I am told, an article published in the *Financial Times* purporting to be authorized by Hon. John Hart, Minister of Finance. This article dealt with the enormous resources of the Province and the valuable assets at our disposal. The Leader of the Opposition seemed to think this was strange talk—after the way the Liberals had complained of the prodigal dissipation of these assets by the former Government. He complained,