

PACIFIC SECTION

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BRITISH COLUMBIA BUDGET.

Over a Million Surplus—Three Prominent Visitors— Real Estate Appreciation.

Vancouver, B.C., February 22nd, 1908.

Interest in legislative circles this week has centred in the budget speech of Honourable R. C. Tatlow. His statement, which was brought down late on Thursday afternoon, was one of the most favorable in the history of the Province. The surplus for the past year reached \$1,200,000, derived largely from timber revenue and land sales. The loan of 1877, the parliament buildings loan of 1897, and all but \$28,000 of the 5 per cent. treasury loan of 1903 have been redeemed, with a net saving in interest, sinking fund and repayments of instalments for the coming year of nearly \$300,000. As there is to be a change in the date for the extending of the fiscal year, the estimated receipts and expenditures are limited to the period of the next nine months. The estimated receipts for this period are \$3,143,000, while the estimated expenditures are \$3,026,000, or \$117,000 less than the estimated receipts.

Depression only Temporary.

All the industries of the Province are shown to be in a flourishing condition, and that any depression would be only temporary. Honourable Mr. Tatlow strongly justified the immigration policy of the Government, saying that if they wished to make this a white man's country they must bring people of their own race to supply their industries, instead of having them depend on Oriental labor. He pointed out that the British of British Columbia was unique among the Provinces of the Dominion, in that with a population of 250,000 it had produced last year a total of \$55,000,000.

Three prominent men have passed through here on their way to Europe. Perhaps the most important, as far as the West is affected financially, was Sir Edgar Vincent, who came up from the South and went East over the C.P.R. Although he stated that his intention was to look for investment, he would not say what he had found or what he had done. Neither would he discuss the present conditions as he had found them across the continent. He confined his remarks to Egypt, where his field of labor has been. Sir Edgar was the guest of the Canadian Club at Victoria.

Another visitor was Dr. Solf, the representative of Germany in Samoa, who was on his way to the fatherland. He stated that the financial panic had not been felt in Samoa, and alluded to Chinese employed under contract in those islands. They were brought in as required, he explained, their time of residence being three years unless specially extended by the Government. The average wage was \$12 per month, although living was not cheap, as almost every article of food had to be imported.

Worse in South Africa.

The other transient was Mr. W. Buell Orr, general manager of the British Press Association, who is engaged in obtaining data for a series of articles on Canada for the chief English and Colonial papers. He left England in September, 1906, visiting South Africa first. That part of the world, he says, is in a deplorable condition, everybody living on paper. Matters were so bad that even the financial stringency in New York made no further impression on them. In Australia, the money scarcity was not felt.

G.T.P. and Prince Rupert.

It was generally thought that when Mr. William Wainwright and Mr. D'Arcy Tate, of the Grand Trunk Pacific, went East, it was only a matter of time before the term of the agreement with the British Columbia Government would be announced, and a date settled when Prince Rupert would be available for public entrance. Now, these officials are returning. Mr. John Houston, editor of the "Empire," published at Prince Rupert, is in the city this week. He has published fearlessly, and at times with severe criticism, giving the bald truth with savage thrusts, the conditions as they exist in the new terminus, and his advice is for people to keep away until everything is settled. "Keep your eye on the capital," he says. There are eighty idle men in Prince Rupert. Outside of the sawmill there are no industries whatever, and the only general work going on is the clearing of land. At this, he states, 300 white men and 175 Japanese are employed.

Mr. Charles Baldwin, town clerk of Whitewood, Sask., was in Vancouver last week, after a trip through the States, from Dakota to California. One of his remarks is of interest to people concerned in the West. He invested in Winnipeg and in Dakota, but says he wishes he had waited until he had struck British Columbia, as that was the best field he had seen in his travels for investment.

That conditions are not too bad are further indicated by the comment of Mr. Charles Woodward, proprietor of the Woodward departmental stores in Vancouver. Not one month has his business gone behind that of last year. In the jewellery line the increases have been very gratifying.

\$35,000 in a Year.

That real estate is more than holding its own is shown in the transfer this week of a prominent business corner in Vancouver for \$160,000. This was bought a year ago for \$125,000, and the purchaser was laughed at by some who thought he was building too much on the fever of speculation which was rampant at that time in real estate circles. The property was secured by a leading dry-goods firm, which will erect a large building thereon.

So successful were last year's operations of the Canadian Concentrating & Smelting Company in its silver mine at Field, B.C., that at the annual meeting an honorarium of \$500 was voted to the manager. The principal stockholders are mainly Vancouver and Victoria men. The officers are: President, J. W. Skelthorne; vice-president, Dr. W. B. McKechnie; Walter Townsen, secretary-treasurer; J. W. Malcolm, William Carter, H. B. Warren, all of Vancouver; H. J. Gaine, Maurice Cane, H. D. Twigg, of Victoria; J. R. Roland, of Winnipeg; Arthur Wheeler, jr., managing director.

Progress in mining is also noted by the purchase by the officials of the Tacoma smelter of a large interest in the Eagle group of claims adjoining the famous Japanese group near Jedway, Queen Charlotte Islands. The properties are to be extensively developed immediately. American capital is being spent in large amounts on mining properties in the North, but a considerable influx is expected this year.

Not only in mining are things going ahead; other enterprises are also being started for money-making purposes. With the growing of vegetables and fruit in the vicinity of Kamloops, the Thompson Valley Canning Company has been organized to erect a cannery, the output to consist mostly of tomatoes, beans and corn. The provisional directors are: Frank Rushton, chairman. A. E. Meighen, Dr. M. S. Wade, C. H. Strutt, treasurer, and W. T. Slavin, secretary, all of Kamloops.

Development of New Westminster.

New Westminster has made rapid growth within the past year or two, a large number of industries having been established there. The only drawback to its advantages is its location, sixteen miles from the mouth of the Fraser River. This interferes with the passage of ocean-going ships, although lumber vessels have been loading there. To over-

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