

WAYS AND MEANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FINANCE.

(Continued from page Four)

just able to make a nominal return on its capital, it would hardly be fair to allow an outside syndicate to enter into competition with it, organized with, say \$1,000,000 fully paid-up capital, and the balance supplied by themselves as a loan, thus enabling them to get the advantage derived by not having to pay taxes on the interest on the \$9,000,000. I think we shall have to leave this question until we see our way to allow all capital invested to make a reasonable return before taxing it, and in all probability increase the rate of taxation on all profit made above some certain percentage.

"Our taxation department deserves a great deal of praise for the efficient manner in which the revenue is being collected, and it is only necessary to quote a few statistics to bear out this statement. It will at the same time be interesting to know that for 1916 the total taxes collected were \$1,906,641.80, for 1917, \$3,432,721.44, for 1918 \$4,977,649.01, and for 1919 \$5,846,325.65.

"On December 31st, 1916, the amount of arrears of taxes on the rolls was \$3,519,783.98. Up to the end of 1919 we had collected \$2,668,553.90 of this amount, leaving outstanding at the present time \$851,250.08 on account of arrears of all classes of taxes accumulated prior to December 31st, 1916.

"The audit branch of the taxation department has also made a splendid showing. Up to this date 537 audits of taxpayers' returns have been made, with the result of bringing in an increased revenue of \$775,870 which, without this checking up, would have been lost to the treasury. The total cost, inclusive of all expenses, in connection with this branch has been \$13,568.30, or 1 3/4% of the increased revenue which was derived. I want at this point to express my appreciation of the fine work done by the Surveyor of Taxes, Mr. E. E. Leason, and his assistant, Mr. V. C. Martin.

"When I took office in 1917 I had in mind the idea of an unearned increment tax on certain natural resources of the province, the proceeds of which tax would be placed in a reserve to offset the depletion of these resources. The principal would be used in connection with the development of the province by way of loans to farmers and to other industries, the interest only to be taken into consolidated revenue fund for general purposes. In view of the financial condition of the province and the many other problems which have had to be dealt with, this idea had to be allowed to stand over, but I hope to make a close study of and investigation into the whole matter this year, and I may be in a position to make some recommendation to the house at the next session.

"It is our intention to have the motor license fees collected by the taxation department in future. The Hon. the Attorney-General is now working out a new scale of fees, which will be fixed on a unit basis of weight and value, thereby making allowance for depreciation of cars. Weight will be a constant factor but there will be an annual allowance for depreciation in connection with the factor of value. We expect that the new scale of license fees will give us an increase of about \$400,000 over the present scale.

"The Government intends to ear-mark these fees for the purpose of defraying the expenses of a \$5,000,000 loan to be expended upon the main trunk roads throughout the province. This loan will in all likelihood be for a twenty year period, interest, sinking fund and other charges being paid out of the motor fees and any surplus being taken into the consolidated revenue fund.

"It is also proposed to have the amusement tax collected through the taxation department, and some changes will be made in this tax which I will refer to later on in discussing municipal revenues. In the same connection I will deal with changes in the Poll Tax Act."

BRUNETTE SAWMILLS SOLD TO VANCOUVER INTERESTS

The Brunette Sawmills, Ltd., located at Sapperton, New Westminster, has been sold to a syndicate of Vancouver men composed of Messrs. J. A. Smith, A. J. Anderson, David Jeremiason, William Hanson and the Lamb brothers. While not officially announced, it is stated that the deal will involve \$1,750,000. For the present Mr. L. A. Lewis, the present general manager of the company, will continue as manager for the new interests. In addition to very heavy holdings of specially selected timber, the company has a modern electric lumber mill, 100,000 feet daily capacity, with planing mill, box factory and shingle mill.

SUMAS LAKE TO BE RECLAIMED

The Provincial Government is embarking on an undertaking for the reclamation of approximately 30,000 acres in the Sumas Lake area of the lower mainland, fifty miles distant from Vancouver. While no contract has been defin-

itely awarded which will involve an expenditure of \$1,200,000, it is understood that the Marsh, Bourne Construction Co., Vancouver, will be the successful tenderers.

REORGANIZATION OF MARWICK, MITCHELL, PEAT & CO.

Marwick, Mitchell & Co., chartered accountants, Standard Bank Building, Vancouver, and with branches in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Moose Jaw and Calgary, has taken over the business previously carried on by the firm of Marwick, Mitchell, Peat & Co. The new firm will continue to act for Messrs. W. B. Peat & Co., of London, England, as their representatives in Canada.

NEW EXPORT AND IMPORT FIRM FOR VANCOUVER.

The firm of Creighton Blair & Company have recently opened offices in the Pacific Building as export and import agents with connections in India, Ceylon, Persia, Burma and West Indies and with offices in London and Glasgow. This firm is in the process of organization and will shortly have goods to offer. Major Blair has been in the Imperial Service for 29 years. In the near future he will have associated with him about six Imperial officers and business men from India. Land and settlement projects will be a department of the organization.

It is announced that the Dominion Government is considering the advisability of erection of a million dollar structure for the housing of the various Dominion departments operating in the City of Vancouver.

P. W. Racey, M.E., of Vancouver, will have charge of operations on the Silver Crest on Salmon River, where work will commence as soon as weather conditions permit.

In order to enable big G.T.P. boats to tie up at Stewart three dolphins are to be built at the old Stewart wharf pending construction of a new wharf.



Earnscliffe
Linen Bond
For Business Stationery

Write for

Earnscliffe Sample Book

It shows specimens of this very fine Canadian Made Bond—in all standard weights and sizes, and in eight different contrasting colors.

Write for a copy on your regular office stationery.

*High Grade paper makers since 1882
Makers of the Famous Superfine
Linen Record*

THE

ROLLAND PAPER COMPANY
LIMITED **MONTREAL**

The "R Shield" Watermark



guarantees "Rolland Quality"