POINTS OUT THEIR SHORTCOMINGS

John Oliver Resumes the Debate Upon Budget Speech---The Premier in Reply.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

In the legislature yesterday John Oliver in a short speech subjected the government to a severe criticism for its reckless disregard of all statutory rules in providing for an expenditure of $300,000 without the sanction of the legislature. Backed by a faithful following which will sanction anything which the government may do, the estimates will be put through with this amount. The fact remains that the government has taken a step which violates one of the most fundamental principles. The government no longer requires the sanction of parliament. It expends money as it sees fit, and then trusts to a subservient following to acquiesce in the expenditure.

Mr. Oliver in a ready manner revealed many weak points in the speech of the Minister of Finance, and gave proof that the member for Delta is still a hard man to hoodwink.

The anomalous position of the Premier in going to London to seek better terms, while at the same time he was prepared to deal unfairly and with injustice towards constituencies which returned opposition members, was ably handled by Mr. Oliver and followed up by Parker Williams.

The member for Delta refered to the timber policy of the government which played into the hands of speculators. He in a conclusive way showed that the returns from timber were speculative, the royalties representing the actual cut of timber not being at all in proportion to the amount derived for licenses.

The Premier's reply was important only from the fact that he gave the basis of the original agreement which was to have been entered into with the Salvation Army. This was to have been the payment of $3 a head and assistance to the refuge home. The Salvation Army had not considered this sufficient, and had dropped it. Other negotiations were now in progress looking to an arrangement being entered into.

The Proceedings.

Prayers were read by Rev. W. Baugh Allen.

A petition was presented by H. Behnsen, signed by about fifty residents of Victoria, praying that an amendment to the Supreme Court Act should be passed.

The premier moved that the orders of the day be proceeded with and the debate on the budget speech be continued. John Oliver, who had adjourned the debate on Thursday, proceeded with a criticism of the government's financial policy.

John Oliver said that he was sorry he could not congratulate the finance minister on the budget speech. It had not been as clear and concise as usually. The minister had not given a clear insight into what had been done with the finances of the province. In two items alone the government was out hundreds of thousands of dollars in its estimate of receipts and the same applied to the expenditure.

During the last electoral campaign the government boasted of the surplus which had been secured. The electorate was assured that there was ample to be expended on the roads, streets and bridges. The premier himself had boasted of the surplus to be expended. But the financial statement shows that about $300,000 of this had already disappeared.

The increased revenue according to the minister under land and timber was due to industrial activity of the province. The increase in land sales, however, Mr. Oliver contended, was not due to this. It was due in the first place to the speculative value given to areas largely along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific. It was questionable whether this was for the benefit of the province. It might have been a wise thing for the government to have reserved the sale of agricultural lands for speculative purposes. It might have been better to limit these sales to those for actual settlement.

Mr. Oliver referred to the attacks which the members of the government had made upon the policy of the Dominion government with regard to the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific. The premier had shown a disposition to fear the opening up of the country on account of the increased demands which would be put on the local administration for roads. But a glance at the public accounts would show that the revenues for the various districts opened up in the past, were such as to more than meet the demands upon the treasury for increased public works, etc.

In connection with the timber receipts, it would be seen that the increase in the revenue was not due to industrial development. In going into the figures the royalties would be seen to have increased only about $4,000, or less than would have been expected from the natural increase in population. The increase in the amount derived from licenses was about $96,000. This showed that the increase in the revenue was due to the disposal of timber for speculative purposes. The government had made a great mistake when it took the course it did in disposing of the timber resources of the prvince.

The minister had shown that there was an over expenditure of over $300,000 this year. This surely was worthy of explanation. All the explanation offered by the minister was that it was all right. If the government could expend $300,000 without authority from the legislature, it might just as well spend the whole $3,000,000, which was only about ten times more, and not call the House together.

Quoting from the statute, Mr. Oliver contended that any over expenditure must be urgently required. He did not believe that the governemnt could show that this $300,000 came under this head.

It was further required by the statute that as soon as the House met, the government should bring down a statement showing the amounts thus expended and the purpose to which it was devoted.

This had not been complied with. He felt that this was altogether wrong and he proposed to protest against it.

The minister of finance took credit for having come to an arrangement by which interest was paid on the money lying in the bank. The minister in reality took credit for extracting sufficient money from the people to be able to make a good showing in drawing 3 per cent. interest on the money lying in the bank.

The $1,000,000 loan of 1903, according to the government at that time, was necessary to save the credit of the province. Yet the government never had less than $400,000 of that million dollars lying in the bank at 3 per cent. The province paid 5 per cent. on it. The finance minister had taken credit for extracting taxes, etc. sufficient to keep enough in the bank to meet the had less than $400,000 of that million dollar loan. This surely required no marked ability.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow assayed to explain this, but Mr. Oliver quickly turned it back on him showing that if the 5 per cent. on $700,000 as he claimed was obtained from interest on moneys in the bank there must have been $110,000 in the bank at 3 per cent.

Mr. Oliver contended that the minister in his statement of having reduced the public debt was not stating the position correctly. He claimed to have reduced the payment on the public debt by $55,000. It appeared from the public accounts that $100,000 and $10,000 had been paid off in loans. Mr. Oliver contended, however that the accounts showed that $35,000 less was appropriated for public debt instead of $55,000, and the figures could show nothing else.

In the matter of the public service, there was a large increase. If the service was administered as in some parts he knew, there was no wonder that there was a large increase.

He could congratulate the government upon taking steps to preserve the forests from fire. The opposition had long pressed for this. There had been correspondence dealing with this subject between the Dominion and the provincial government. Up to now there had been very little expended in preserving the forests. The estimate was made that it would take about 5,600 years to exhaust the forests by cutting at the rate of that last year. It was true, therefore, that the greatest enemy was fire. He would like the minister to ascertain whether there was good foundation for the statement that when forests disappeared the same kind of timber took its place. His experience and the result of his observation had been different to this and inferior timbers followed the culling of the Douglas fir. He thought the government should not place credit upon the statement that there were 280,000 square miles of forest in British Columbia. He did not think there was anything like this amount.

The Premier had taken great credit in connection with the New Westminster bridge. There was a feeling prevailing that the tolls for passenger and vehicular traffic should be abolished. There were four toll collectors the year round. A system of tickets was used. The tickets were sold by one toll man and collected by another. In each case there was an automatic register to act as a check on these men and these cost about $400 or $500. The paying of these collectors and substitutes amounted to about $3,500 or 41 per cent of the $8,000 collected. With other costs of inspecting the books, etc., he felt satisfied that there was 50 per cent. of the money collected swallowed up in the cost of collecting. There was, therefore, annoying charges collected from those using the bridge for the sake of deriving about $4,000 for the revenues of the province. There was no justification at the present time for the government paying about 50 per cent. of the money collected in order to derive the tolls. In 1904-05 his district had got $1,000 appropriated and a little over $500 expended on the roads. In the year 1905-06 over $2,000 was appropriated and $168 spent on the roads, while $338 was spent on the road superintendent. This year there was an appropriation of $1,100. He was not going to make a cry about this. He had been met on the hustings with the representation that the appropriations were small because the member returned was on the opposition side. The people of the district were led to believe that if the government candidate was returned, there would be work carried out which he felt would amount to $250,000.

Mr. Oliver outlined the roads which were promised to be built if the government was returned to power.

The policy of the government in cutting off appropriation to districts covered by municipalities was calculated to discourage incorporation.

The government policy, however, seemed to be different towards municipalities represented by government supporters than it was towards those which returned opposition members. Referring to Dewdney Mr. Oliver pointed out that Dewdney municipality had found it advantageous to refuse to pay its debts and go out of existence and come to the legislature for aid. Yet Dewdney was well dealt with, although for the greater part it was incorporated as municipalities. Richmond also largely composed of incorporated municipalities got $35,000, although only $167 was expended on the roads of Delta.

Mr. Oliver said that he found that an analysis of the appropriations showed that the Socialists got $4,833 on an average for their constituencies; that the Liberals got $1,225 on an average, and the Conservative constituencies got $32,598.

There had been a good deal of talk about better terms for the province. The Premier was about to go to the foot of the throne in an effort to get better treatment for the province. But who was going to plead the cause of the constituencies which were being unfairly dealt with? asked Mr. Oliver.

If this was what the government called justice their consciences must be very small. The Premier had declared on the hustings that he would deal justly with the constituencies. If the Premier intended to continue this system of discrimination against constituencies which returned opposition members, the people of the province would take a decided hand in the matter.

The duty devolved upon the government, he felt, of bringing the attention of settlers who had been found of great benefit to other parts of Canada to the openings in British Columbia for these. This had been urged upon the government by the opposition from time to time. Yet little had been done to bring these settlers in.

Dealing with the fruit industry Mr. Oliver said that there were complaints that the work of inspection was not carried out satisfactorily in all cases. Complaints had been made that fruit trees had been destroyed at the order of the provincial inspector without being unpacked for inspection.

Questioned by Hon. Mr. Tatlow Mr. Oliver said that it had been represented to him that the provincial inspector had had trees destroyed which had passed the Dominion inspector, and the packages had not again been reopened for inspection.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow said that the trees were not repacked after the Dominion inspector made his examination before being inspected by the provincial officer.

Mr. Oliver said his information was different to this. He contended that there were complaints also that the provincial inspector did not repack these trees properly after inspection, and they reached the planter in poor condition.

In closing Mr. Oliver repeated his appeal to the government to deal justly with the various constituencies.

Mr. Oliver moved the motion that the Speaker now leave the chair by adding the following clauses:

"But this House regrets:

"1. That the government has not seen fit to abolish the tolls collected upon other than railway traffic over the provincial bridge at New Westminster; and

"2. That the government has not introduced legislation reserving agricultural lands from sale, except upon conditions of actual residence and settlement."

The Premier Speaks.

Premier McBride said that the government had not treated constituencies meanly or unfairly. The estimates were arranged as in the past with a view to acting fairly towards all parts. He said that Delta was composed of incorporated municipalities. It had been the policy to cut off the aid from the province to these organized districts. Delta had in the days when it was unorganized received generous treatment by the province. Dewdney was a large district. There were scattered settlements which the government sought to give the advantages of trunk roads, etc. The returns from timber, etc., to the provincial treasury from Dewdney were very great.

He contended that he did not make promises of great works for Delta. The Conservative candidates also had been very conservative in these promises. (Laughter.)

On the question of the New Westminster bridge, the Premier said that the $300,000 expended on the vehicular portion of the bridge had been largely for the benefit of the district, which Mr. Oliver represented. It had been found of great benefit, and residents had expressed their appreciation of it.

Mr. Oliver wanted to know if $300,000 had been the cost of the vehicular section.

The Premier said he believed it would be about that, but even if it were $200,000 or $100,000.

"You're nearer it now," said Mr. Oliver.

The Premier said that when the erection of the bridge was authorized it had been represented that the tolls to be collected from the use of the bridge would help to pay the interest on its cost. This had been urged as a result of opposition to the scheme by other parts of the province. The tolls collected on the ferry had been cited. The government reduced the tolls on the bridge from what they were on the ferry. No complaint, therefore, should follow. Mr. Oliver never advocated a free bridge when the proposal for a bridge was up in the House.

The Premier said that he would only be too glad were the railway tolls such as to warrant the abolition of the vehicular tolls.

If the Dominion government would pay the cost of the vehicular portion of the New Westminster bridge or a good portion of it the government of the province would abolish the tolls.

Coming to the estimates the Premier said that in the past constituencies represented by the opposition had been very generously represented.

With respect to the supplementary estimates, the Premier said it would be interesting to know that of the $300,000 contained therein only $101,000 has been expended. Of that over $30,000 was expended on the election. Another large portion was paid to the auctioneers who disposed of the lands.

For public works $179,000 was set aside. Of this only $53,000 was spent. A large sum was spent in reclamation works in Chilliwack in order to save a valuable portion of farming land. There was $22,000 appropriated for this, of which only $16,000 had been spent. When the items were carefully examined it would prove that there had been nothing unfair done.

On the question of borrowing money at 5 per cent, and getting only 3 per cent, the Premier said that when the loan at 5 per cent. was made five years ago it was the very best that could have been done by them at that time. The province had to protect its reputation, and the only course open was to do as the government did in 1903. That loan was the best that could have been done for the province. The experience and ability of the Finance Minister stood the province in good stead. The province had endorsed the stand of the government at that time as well as the financiers, declaring it the best thing that could be done.

The government had not been slow to grapple with the immigration question. The government had carried on negotiations with the Salvation Army. The men proposed to be brought out were to be settlers not strike breakers as the member of Newcastle seemed to fear them to be. It had been proposed to give $3 a head for each settler brought to the province by the Salvation Army, and aid was to be given to a shelter home at Vancouver, which would be a distributing point. This had come to nought, however, the Salvation Army deciding that this aid would not be sufficient to warrant the work.

New negotiations had been entered into and were now in progress looking to a new agreement.

The government had, however, in other ways, tried to attract settlers to the province. The bureau of information was being made use of for this purpose. The Premier said the Dominion government was aided by this province in the way of immigration, yet it had not received any benefits from the Dominion expenditure because the Dominion government gave its attention to attracting settlers to the prairie sections, and not to British Columbia. Another disadvantage to the province in this work was that the railway companies gave no reduction in rates to immigrants coming to British Columbia. General Booth and the Salvation Army had now been able to secure a reduction of $12.50, and instead of $52.50 from Montreal was able to get a quotation of $40.

The Timber Policy.

On the timber policy the Premier said that the government was now getting a larger revenue from the timber resources. The government had various suggestions before it looking to the increasing of the returns. The necessary changes if found to be in the public interest would be taken by the government. The Dominion government was not getting nearly the same returns from the timber in the 40-mile railway belt that the province was getting from its timber lands.

Premier McBride paid a compliment to the ability of the Minister of Finance, who, judging by the comments made about him in eastern Canada, was the most important Finance Minister the province had ever had.

The condemnation by the fruit inspector of trees brought to British Columbia had led to very embarrassing situations, the Premier said. He cited a case where Mr. Kellie, of the Okanagan, had ordered a large shipment. The Dominion inspector passed the trees, but these were condemned by the provincial inspector. The shipper of the trees disputed the inspector's report, but the latter did not give way, and the trees were destroyed. Mr. Kellie suffered a considerable loss, and the case was now before the government. The vigilance of the inspectors would, however, result in benefit to the province, as it would give good fruit stock to British Columbia.

Parker Williams.

Parker Williams said he was anxious to know, now that the Premier had introduced the subject, whether there was no attempt at strike breakers being asked into the province. He would like to know if a concern in Victoria which had a strike on had asked for any workmen through the Salvation Army scheme.

He also wanted to know why the Minister of Finance did not insist upon the Salavtion Army officers taking their turn at the reading of the prayers at the opening of the legislautre.

Mr. Williams took up the question of cutting out of the government agency at Ladysmith.

The Minister of Finance, while knowing that the office was to be closed, passed a vote of $1,000 to continue it. Mr. Williams said that he had repeatedly gone to members of the government. The Premier was always very accommodating, but the agency was never reopened. He had been criticised by some of his constituents for being a tool of the government, because he believed a statement of the Premier without requiring a statement under oath.

The closing of the office had worked a great disadvantage to residents. He had no hope that it would be reopened, but he believed that the Conservative candidate at the last election had reasons for believing it would be opened under certain contingencies. It was peculiar, Mr. Williams pointed out, that with one exception the increases in appropriations required were constituencies represented by Conservatives, and with one exception the constituencies requiring no increase were represented by members of the opposition. Kamloops had not been increased, and Skeena had been increased, which was due doubtless to the fact that the Grand Trunk Pacific was to be built in there.

Taking up some of the instances, Mr. Williams said that it was evident that population was not the basis for increases. Slocan had been represented in the House a few days ago as being practically depopulated. Yet the appropriation had been increased. (Laughter.) The appropriation for Newcastle was only $5.50 per vote, while for Richmond it was $58 a vote. Surely this was discrimination. This was a most objectionable practice. It meant really disfranchisement. Were the private members on the government side prepared to go back to their constituencies and say they had acted fairly, if they sanctioned the appropriations as brought down discriminating against the opposition members. If the government forgot its duty and acted this way it became the duty of the supporters of the government to protest against this practice. While no one would accuse Mr. Carter Cotton of doing anything that was not honest, yet it became a question of doubt whether the House would have had the advantage of the wisdom of that member if $15,000 had not been appropriated about election time. It might also be questionable, in view of the appropriations for Richmond, whether a bye-election might not be expected there this summer.

The Premier was not in a fit frame of mind to proceed to London to demand fair treatment for the province. He had not acted fairly with all parts of the province in these appropriations.

Mr. Williams graphically pictured the opportunity which lay before Premier McBride to make himself so solid with his own province that the call for a Premier of Canada might be open to him eventually.

On motion of Dr. Kergin the debate was adjourned.

Hon. R. G. Tatlow introduced a bill to protect horse breeders of the province of British Columbia, which passed its first reading.

Hon. Premier McBride moved the following resolution:

That on Tuesday next, and all following days to the close of the session, there shall be two distinct sittings in each day, one from 2 p.m. till 6 p.m., and the other from 8 p.m. until adjournment, unless otherwise ordered.

The resolution carried.

Thos. Gifford presented a petition asking for amendments to the Game Act.

Harry Jones moved the following resolution:

That an order of this House be granted for a return—

(a) Giving number, acreage and date of all leases issued to each of the following mining companies:

(1) Bullion Hydraulic Mining Co.
(2) Cariboo Gold Mining Co.
(3) Consolidated Cariboo Gold Mining Co.

(b) Giving all assignments of any of the above leases.

(c) Giving any assignments of lease on record issued to any party and assigned to any of the above-mentioned companies.

(d) The water records held and enjoyed in conjunction with one or all of above leases.

The resolution carried.

The House then adjourned.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The government yesterday presented the spectacle of being unprepared to meet the House with their bills. The university endowment bill was again up for discussion in adjourned committee and the leader of the opposition succeeded in putting the government members in a most deplorable position.

Chas. Munro voiced the feeling of the majority of the members on both sides of the House when he implored the government to take the bill into consideration and before proceeding, become sufficiently informed on the subject matter of it to be able to tell the House what was intended and what the government intended to do.

The arrival of six o'clock was indeeed welcome to the government, and the minister of education gladly embraced the opportunity thus afforded of getting the bill out of the House again to be caucused by the government side and a line of policy agreed upon.

The premier's change of front on the bill was exposed by Mr. Macdonald. The premier had last week assured the House that the royalties from timber and minerals would not go to the university in arguing that the endowment was really only the land value of the 2,000,000 acres. He is now, however, satisfied that the timber royalties arising in connection with the lands will go to the university, but the mineral and coal royalties and taxes will go with the revenues of the province.

The father of the bill, Hon. F. Carter-Cotton, who according to the Socialist leader, is seeking an honorary degree of L. L. D. as a reward for the putting through of the measure, and his assistant, Hon. H. E. Young, have likewise changed front as shown by Mr. Macdonald.

The bill is one of the most immature pieces of legislation which has probably ever been introduced into the House and stamps the government as weakness itself.

Dr. Kergin, who opened the debate on the budget on behalf of the opposition, yesterday made a splendid impression in his maiden speech in the House. He well advocated the claims of the northern part of the province to recognition and received a hearty applause as he sat down. His summary of the situation in the statement that Skeena was a little B. C., having all the resources of the remainder of the province was a very happy way of putting forward his claim.

Price Ellison adopted a novel way of advertising the Okanagan by producing samples of apples which he exhibited to good effect before the members, at the same time making their mouths water.

W. H. Hayward put forth a proposition which is of interest to all residents of Vancouver Island. He suggested that the government take steps to impose such a tax upon iron ores shipped from Vancouver Island to the U. S. smelters as would enforce the treatment of these ores in the province The lumber industry was urged as a precedent for this.

The Proceedings.

Prayers were read by Rev. W. Baugh Allen.

The House proceeded to the orders of the day.

Dr. Kergin resuming the debate on the budget and John Oliver's amendment, said that it was a pride and pleasure to the opposition members that British Columbia was enjoying prosperity. British Columbians had waited long for the coming prosperity. The day had come when the province was entering upon an area of activity. The government which had been privileged to be returned to power at this time had a great responsibility. The opposition was there to assist in the legislation. The prosperity of the day extended in all directions; mines were being opened up, saw-mills built and railways constructed. The government had a duty to perform to all classes whether they were investors or labor men, whether in the mines or on the farms or in the mills. There were members better qualified to speak on the subject than he was.

Referring to his own district, he said that Skeena was British Columbia on a smaller scale. All resources of the province were represented in that district. The northern part of the province was a rich portion. B. C. had not many years ago been regarded as an unimportant part. This was being dispelled. Northern British Columbia would be shown to be capable of great development. It had rich agricultural lands and it would yet be shown that it could produce fruit second to none.

The mining reports would show that the greater part of the area of the Skeena was mineral bearing in character. It but required the men to develop it. On Portland Canal, on Queen Charlotte Islands, on Princess Royal Island, in the Telqua and elsewhere were mines being developed.

There were great timber areas also which were attracting attention. The fisheries of the Skeena district were of importance. The Skeena, Naas and other rivers had shown great possibilities in the salmon industry, while the halibut fisheries off the Queen Charlotte Islands were the greatest in the province.

Farming was being prosecuted with success and in various valleys there were being raised fruits, berries and other products which were equal to any grown anywhere.

The government had not exhibited a knowledge of the needs of the district when the estimates were considered. Last year Skeena had contributed $56,000 to the treasury of the province. This would probably be doubled this year. The pioneers of the district had shown their hardihood in going in there and awaiting the building up of the country. There was a crying need for transportation in that district. The Bulkley Valley had to depend upon a poor pack train in getting all the effects into the district. A sleigh road at least was needed. The Telqua also needed transportation facilities.

3. By whom was the job passed as be-

A bridge was needed over Bear River at the head of Portland Canal. He was glad the government had at last decided to carry this out. On Queen Charlotte Islands there was also need for transportation. The Bella Coola settlement required assistance. These people had come to the province under certain promises. There was a demand for the survey of available agricultural lands in the various valleys of the Skeena. In order to aid in the work a government office was needed in the interior, probably at Aldermere, where information could be got respecting lands, mines, etc.

It was well known that timber was passing into the hands of large corporations. This was not in the public interests. Two pulp corporations controlled 79,000 acres and 84,000 acres of pulp land. There was valuable timber thus tied up, which could be turned to use were facilities afforded for building saw-mills.

A railway was needed in that part of the province. He was glad to know that this was being done. There was great need of the Grand Trunk Pacific. There had within the last few months been manifested a disposition on the part of the company to curtail work at Prince Rupert. He thought it was up to the provincial government to see that the company acted fairly by the province.

B. C. was destined to be a great manufacturing province.

In closing, Dr. Kergin said that the government had not done fairly by Skeena with its needs. This was a district which was fast opening up and deserved consideration. (Applause).

The Richmond Appropriation.

F. Carter Cotton took occasion to defend the appropriation for Richmond district. He contended that Richmond was the milch cow of the province. Mr. Oliver had intimated that the election of himself (Mr. Carter Cotton), was a costly affair. Nearly all the appropriations in Richmond, said Mr. Carter-Cotton, were not in the ordinary sense for Richmond, but were for the development of vast districts. Instead of yielding miserable skim milk to the treasury of the province which Delta did, it had yielded rich cream. Richmond district had contributed about three quarters of a million to the treasury.

A new area was opening for the province. During the past few years the foundation work had been laid. The conservative party was in power for many, many years. It could only be expected to be retired by some blunder made on that side.

"Hear, hear," from J. H. Hawthornthwaite. (Laughter).

The leader of the opposition asked if the government would retire on its first blunder.

"Certainly," returned Mr. Carter-Cotton.

Continuing his speech, the member for Richmond said that the time was coming when attention would have to be given to the trunk roads. He believed that it might be found necessary to join a few municipalities on this line and thus allow the government to assist properly in adding the trunk roads.

The timber policy of the government had proved satisfactory and had enabled the province to share in the increasing value of the timber resources. He felt satisfied that the opposition would object if it was proposed to increase the royalties.

Mr. Oliver wanted to know if the government had not taken steps by which the royalties on a certain class of licenses could not be increased.

Mr. Carter-Cotton had to admit this was correct.

Population was needed in the province to develop the resources, although he believed the Socialists did not agree with this.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite wanted to know if he wanted more newspapers.

Mr. Carter-Cotton said he did not. Population was needed to develop the agricultural resources of the province.

Westminster Bridge.

Price Ellison said he was opposed to the amendment offered by Mr. Oliver. He hoped the government would live up to the trust imposed in them. On the question of the New Westminster bridge Mr. Ellison said that had it not been for that undertaking there would have been no need for the million dollar loan with which Mr. Oliver took exception.

He had opposed the Westminster bridge when it was proposed. The loan for the bridge called for taxation. It was built for the benefit of the Fraser River Valley. It was due to the premier that this bridge was built.

Mr. Oliver suggested Mr. Brown as responsible.

Mr. Ellison said Mr. Brown had done nothing of the kind. It had been represented that the revenues for the bridge in tolls would be $24,000. Instead of that there had been only $8,000. That was a bagatelle for the people south of the Fraser to pay. He thought Mr. Oliver had no shame. The Indian expression applied to his case "halo shame, halo shame mika."

Mr. Oliver said the member for Okanagan should be ashamed to stand up and say that the returns from the bridge were $8,000 when the public accounts showed they were $22,000.

Mr. Ellison said that he intended to refer only to the vehicular traffic and not the railway returns.

He felt that the Conservative government had done well in restoring good times to the province. He would like to have seen a greater increase in the salaries of the civil servants. Since the present government came into power the work of the civil servants had doubled. The increased cost of living was such that an increase was required. Other salaries were increased and he thought the civil servants should get better salaries. The ministers' salaries should be increased. The Premier of the province should get $7,500.

"Why not make it $10,000 as in Ontario?" asked A. E. McPhillips.

Mr. Ellison said he was afraid to ask too much for fear the Minister of Finance would have a fit. The other ministers should get $1,000 more, and the members $1,200. The Speaker also should get $2,000.

He was surprised at the leader of the oposition asking to cut the grant for the endowment for the university to 1,000,000 acres. Proceeding the Speaker called Mr. Ellison's attention to the fact that he was out of order.

Mr. Ellison said that he was glad to see that the government was about to give attention to the lands in the interior and the area in the dry belt would receive attention. The sum of $5,000 was not sufficient. There should be enough to allow of the work being done by the commission between the time when high water closed about July and before the high water came again. The advantages of irrigation had been demonstrated in his district. In the United States there were millions of dollars being expended on this work. He told of land which when he went there 30 years ago would not produce a spear of oats. Now it produced, in consequence of irrigation, apples of the type he exhibited to the House, the Newton Pippin, which had commanded such a price on the London market.

The Okanagan could produce fruit unexcelled by none other. There were other rich districts in the province also, and he did not wish to disparage these. He agreed with the member for Skeena that northern British Columbia would prove itself a rich country.

Continuing to press the advantages of providing for irrigation Mr. Ellison exhibited Ben Davis apples grown in the Okanagan. The irrigation of the land did not mean the same kind of work as that of reclaiming lands on the Fraser. The returns from the Okanagan in fruit would be immense. The Canadian Pacific railway had promised to give the same rates from Okanagan to the British market as was given to Washington and Oregon.

Want Policeman.

J. McInnes said that there was no evidence of fair play in the appropriations. One company in Grand Forks had contributed by the two per cent. tax $3,800. He took exception to cutting off a policeman from Phoenix. He would remind the House that there were still a few Conservatives left, and therefore a policeman was required.

On the matter of immigration Mr. McInnes said that the best class was that which came in on their own initiative. The government should discontinue bringing in inferior men to flood the labor market.

W. H. Hayward contended that to the Minister of Finance more than any other man was due the prosperity in the province.

He approved of the $25,000 voted for the protection of the forests from fires. The loss of timber on Vancouver Island had been enormous from fire. He also approved of the vote for surveys. He found that people who came into the province to float colonization schemes knew more about the province than the government officials knew. Surveyors should be sent out to get information. Referring to some criticisms of Mr. Williams, who had compared the appropriations for Newcastle and Cowichan. From 1900 to 1904 Newcastle, although there was only about half the mileage of roads as in Cowichan, had received $59,000, while Cowichan received only $31,000.

Mr. Williams asked who represented Newcastle at that time.

Mr. Hayward admitted it was Mr. Dunsmuir.

Coming to general matters Mr. Hayward said that he would like to see the government force the G. T. P. to show its plans for the Prince Rupert, so as to settle the question of whether that was to be the terminus or not.

Another question he would like to see the government grapple with would be that dealing with the shipping of iron ores. He believed the time was coming when iron ores would be shipped to smelters in the United States. This would mean little benefit to the province. He hoped to see something done to prevent this in some way, somewhat similar to the course the government took with respect to the lumber industry.

On the subject of labor Mr. Hayward said it was ridiculuous to say that there was no labor required. He knew that herds of cows were being sold because farmers could not get the labor to handle them. There was need of domestic labor also. The farming class was a hard working one. There was no eight hour law for them.

He felt that all members irrespective of the side they sat on agreed that British Columbia should have better terms.

H. C. Brewster moved the adjournment of the debate, which carried.

The orders of the day were then proceeded with, and the House went into adjourned committee on the bill to aid the University of British Columbia by a grant of provincial lands.

The amendment proposed by J. A. Macdonald that on the lands reserved for this endowment the timber, minerals and coal should be open for disposition similar to other public lands, and that the royalties, licenses, etc., collected should be for general provincial purposes and not for the use of the university.

This amendment was defeated.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite moved an amendment to require the government to designate the lands proposed to be set aside and passed upon by the legislature before being set aside. He thought this would be desirable. The government would set aside what lands it liked independent of the wishes of the legislature if some provision such as this were not inserted.

Hon. H. E. Young said that the lands would have to be given over to some governing body. It would be very undesirable to have from year to year a bill introduced to set aside certain lands.

Parker Williams wanted reasons given why this was impracticable.

F. Carter Cotton could not see how the legislature could do this.

Mr. Williams thought that if a part could do things surely the whole could. The legislature could do what the government, a part of the legislature, could do.

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