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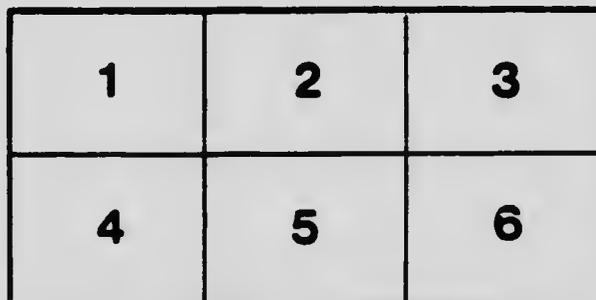
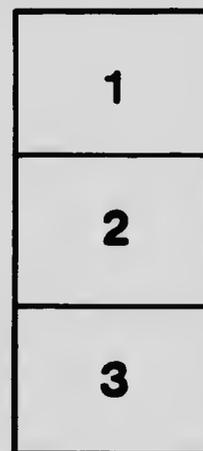
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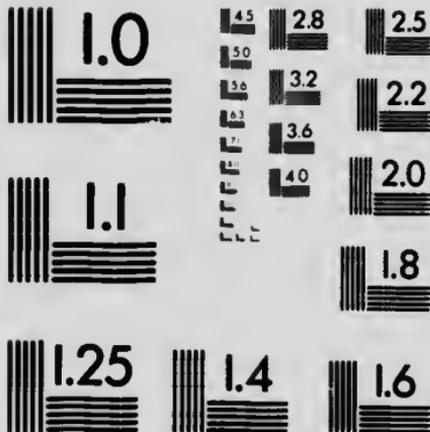
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A Brief Record of the Oliver Government

THE British Columbia Legislature having been dissolved and a new election called for December 1st, 1920, the Liberal Administration has prepared the following brief summary of the legislation passed and record of work accomplished, in order that the electorate may have a clear and concise idea of its four years' record and judge of its worthiness to be returned to power for another term, that it may continue its policy of safe, sane and progressive administration for the benefit of the Province and its citizens.

The manifesto of Hon. John Oliver, Premier, is given here entire, being worthy of the careful perusal of every elector of the Province:

Manifesto of Hon. John Oliver

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA:

Greeting:

THE Fourteenth Legislature of the Province of British Columbia has been dissolved, and you are called upon to elect its successor.

You are to be congratulated upon the quick escape from the financial slough into which the revenues and the credit of the Province had been plunged by the late administration.

The annual Provincial revenue decreased from \$12,510,000 in 1912-13 to \$6,291,000 in 1915-16, whilst during the years 1911-12 to 1916-17, inclusive, the aggregation of deficits totalled \$19,810,363, with the result that the credit of the Province had been seriously impaired.

At the present time the Provincial revenue shows a healthy condition. From an amount—estimated by the late administration—of less than six million dollars for the year 1916-17, we find the revenue increasing year by year until for the year 1919-20 it exceeds thirteen and three-quarter millions.

The financial credit has been restored to the extent that the last issue of British Columbia bonds netted a premium of 3.351%.

Large additions have been made to the Provincial debt, over \$14,000,000 of which have been on account of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, a legacy of debts and obligations inherited from the previous administration.

Other borrowings have been on account of:

Loans to farmer.

Improving agricultural lands for returned soldiers.

Aiding the Municipality of South Vancouver.

Protecting irrigation works in the dry belt.

Providing houses for returned soldiers.

Aid to returned soldiers and others in establishing various industries.

All borrowings of this class are repayable and are in the nature of investments.

With the increase of debt has come a corresponding increase in the amount required semi-annually to meet interest and sinking fund obligations. With the increased cost of living has come a corresponding increase in the cost of labor and materials, hence the carrying out of public works has become very expensive, whilst the cost of the maintenance of public institutions and of education has grown rapidly.

Consideration of all these and other factors indicates that, whilst the revenues are satisfactory, careful and economical administration is imperatively necessary, and that the present is not a time when lavish expenditures would be justifiable. At the same time it must be recognized that an opportunity for increasing both population and production is opening before us, and that a policy of moderate borrowing and judicious expenditure for reproductive purposes is, under the conditions, true economy.

THE B. C. UNIVERSITY

In the past large areas of more or less inaccessible lands were set aside for University purposes. These lands had little or no present worth and before they could become valuable must have proved an obstacle to agricultural development. Therefore these grants were cancelled and lands in Point Grey, the property of the Province, were substituted therefor.

It is the intention of the Government to prepare the Point Grey lands for use, and to dispose of the same for the benefit of the University.

In the meantime a local loan will be placed on the market. This loan will offer a safe investment for the savings of our own people, will encourage thrift, will keep the interest moneys in the Province, and the proceeds will all be spent in the development of British Columbia.

THE P. G. E. RAILWAY

This railway is inter-provincial in its character, and its construction should have been undertaken by the Dominion, rather than by the Province.

At the present time \$33,000,000 have been absorbed in this undertaking, and in September next, when the railway is completed from Squamish to Prince George, approximately \$37,000,000 will have been invested. To build and further equip the line from Prince George to the eastern boundary of the Province will involve a further outlay of from twenty to twenty-five millions.

Interest, maintenance and loss in operation are costing the Province approximately \$2,400,000 per annum. To complete the railway from Squamish to Vancouver, and to provide terminals, would cost another \$5,000,000.

There is a growing feeling amongst the people of the Province that there is too much concentration of the Provincial credit behind this undertaking, to the detriment of other lines of development.

The Administration proposes:

To complete the railway between Squamish and Prince George by September of next year.

To afford temporary transportation facilities to the settlers in the Pouce Coupe district by securing, if reasonably possible, the extension of the Edmonton & Dunvegan Railway from Spirit River, Alberta, to the eastern boundary of British Columbia, and by building from there into Pouce Coupe.

To thoroughly examine, during the summer of 1921, that portion of British Columbia lying between Prince George and the eastern boundary of the Province, with a view to ascertaining, beyond any reasonable doubt, which is the best route (having regard to permanent development and the production of tonnage) possible for the railway line.

To enter immediately into negotiations with the Federal authorities with a view to disposing of the P. G. E. Railway to the Dominion Government on such terms as will secure its completion at an early date, and also to relieve the Province of its obligations in respect to this line.

To enter into negotiations with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company with the same object in view.

To enter into negotiations with the Dominion Government with the view to securing a substantial subsidy in aid of the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, both as to mileage already completed and that yet to be constructed.

In any event, this railway must be carried to completion as quickly as financial and other conditions will permit without injury to other Provincial development.

LAND SETTLEMENT

The land settlement and development policy of the Government is producing satisfactory results. The speculative owner is now anxious to dispose of his lands upon reasonable terms.

It is the intention of the administration to extend its operations and to undertake more actively the task of constructing land settlement roads and securing a desirable class of settlers.

The Government policy of increasing production by means of loans for clearing, dyking and irrigation of lands, importation of live stock and establishment of creameries will be continued.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES

Prospects are good for the increased production of pulp and paper by the erection of new mills, and also for the early establishment of a plant for producing pig iron.

The Government will spare no efforts to secure the establishment of these and other important industries.

Aid to mineral development by the construction of roads and trails will be continued.

It is the intention of the Government to direct the efforts of the Department of Industries more along the line of research; and less along the line of loans, than has been done in the past.

ADJUSTMENT OF TAXATION

The question of the more equitable adjustment of taxation is most important, and will have the earnest attention of the Government.

SUPERANNUATION

Legislation providing for a system of superannuation, both for Provincial and Municipal employees, will be submitted, and will receive most careful consideration.

The present administration has more beneficial social and domestic legislation to its credit than has any or all previous Governments of British Columbia, and its efforts in this direction will be continued.

RETURNED SOLDIERS

The Province has been generous in its treatment of returned soldiers, and will continue its efforts on behalf of these men, who have rendered such splendid service to their country.

CONTROL OF LIQUOR SALES

The vote on this question, as recorded on October 20th, must be construed in the light of the Statute authorising its submission to the people. The preamble to Chapter 93 of the Statutes of 1920, being an Act to provide for a temperance plebiscite, reads as follows:

"Whereas a referendum was taken in 1916 on prohibition, and the 'British Columbia Prohibition Act' was brought into force following such referendum:

"And whereas it is contended by various persons that a majority of the electors of the Province, as now constituted, are not in favor of the said enactment, but are in favor of legislation providing for a restricted use of liquor as a beverage:

"And whereas the uncertainty as to the permanency of the present Act attendant upon the agitation for a referendum militates against its enforcement:

"And whereas some finality is desirable:

"And whereas the principles of democratic government require that the measure of prohibition or restriction imposed on the electors shall be in accord with the wishes of a majority of such electors:

"And whereas it is deemed in the public interest that the will of the electors be determined by a plebiscite at this time:

"Therefore His Majesty, by and with the consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:"

Following the preamble, the questions submitted to the electors were:

WHICH DO YOU PREFER?

1. The present Prohibition Act?
- OR
2. An Act to provide for Government Control and Sale, in Sealed Packages, of Spirituous and Malt Liquors?

The electors, by a majority of nearly two to one, decided in favor of the second question on the ballot paper, and the only question for the consideration of the Legislature is how the will of the people, as expressed at the polls, shall be given effect to. The Government does not interpret the result of the poll as an instruction authorising the return of the bar or the drinking saloon, but rather as an instruction to make available for use both spirituous and malt liquors, in reasonable quantities and at a reasonable price, subject to restrictions which will prevent abuses.

It is the function of the Legislative Assembly to originate and enact legislation in accordance with the desire of the electorate, and it is not the intention of the Government to usurp the powers and duties of the Legislature in this respect. Legislation prepared by a Legislative Assembly newly elected, and acting under the direct instructions of the electors, is much more likely to be effective and workable than legislation prepared in advance of an election.

Under the McBride-Bowser regime a practice prevailed of bills being

prepared and agreements entered into without consulting the people's representatives, and submitted to the Legislature for adoption, with the alternative of defeat of the Government and a dissolution of the Legislature. This practice tended to make the Legislature a body for recording the decisions of the members of the Executive, rather than a body charged with the duty of originating and enacting legislation, the administration of which was the duty of the Executive Council. In other words, the effect was to make the administration superior to the Legislature, rather than upholding the true position, that the Legislature should be superior to the administration.

The present Government is not an autocratic, but a democratic, body, and does not propose that the functions of the Legislature shall be usurped by the administration.

There are, however, essential features in connection with the control of the liquor traffic upon which the position of the administration may be very properly stated in advance of the pending election. In the opinion of the administration, in order to secure effective control of the liquor traffic it will be necessary to apply to the Dominion Parliament for legislation under which the Provincial Government would have effective authority to control the sources of supply to the extent necessary to prevent such sources of supply being made a base from which liquor could be obtained in contravention of the Provincial Statute.

This suggested control might be obtained in one of several different ways, but the principle which should govern should be the one which would cause the least disturbance to legitimate business, at the same time obtaining the maximum efficiency of control.

The administration is also of the opinion that the sale of malt and spirituous liquors to boys and girls under the age of 21 should be strictly prohibited.

It will probably be found that the most effective control of individuals will be obtained through a system of permits, which would be effective in preventing abuses. There should be the closest possible co-operation and co-ordination of both Provincial and Municipal forces to secure the due enforcement of the law.

Many complaints have been made in the past that Municipalities have been deprived of the revenue formerly derived from liquor licences, and as the effective control of the liquor traffic must necessarily impose considerable obligation upon the Municipalities, a substantial portion of the revenue derived should inure to the benefit of such Municipalities. The cost of prosecutions for offences under the Act, and the maintenance of prisoners convicted for breach thereof, should be a direct charge against the revenues derived from the traffic.

Legislation providing for more effective control of near-beer will be necessary, and sales of this liquor to boys and girls under 21 years of age should be prohibited.

In the past, political parties have expressed the desire to keep this question separate from party influences, and it is the desire of the administration that this shall not be made a party question, but rather that all parties should unite in securing the most effective legislation. To this end the enforcement of the Act should be placed under an impartial commission or board of control free from party influence.

SELECT THE BEST

All questions of public interest will be fully and freely discussed at public meetings previous to the election, and it is important that you select your best men to represent you in the Legislature.

Soliciting continuance of your confidence, and trusting that we may all unite in our efforts to make British Columbia a good place to live in,

I am,

Yours truly,

JOHN OLIVER.

Provincial Credit Restored

Fine Record of the Finance Department for the Past Four Years

WHEN the Liberal Administration took over the Government of British Columbia, a complete survey of the financial situation was made, and the sound policy of "Current expenditure to be within revenue" was adopted. This has been strictly followed out, each year showing a considerable surplus of revenue over the current expenditure. The soundness of this reflected in the splendid price received for the bonds. The last million dollars' issue brought a premium of over \$33,000.00, which makes the rate of interest $4\frac{3}{4}\%$ per annum on this loan, which was a better price than received by other provinces for a similar loan, proving that the credit of the Province, which was at the lowest possible point when we took office, had been completely restored.

The credit of British Columbia was so low when this Government took office that it was impossible to sell bonds at any reasonable price. Today, British Columbia bonds command the highest price. Mr. Castell Hopkins, editor of the "Canadian Annual Review," and a financial expert, said on his recent visit to the Province:

"To an outside observer, the most remarkable thing in the political history of British Columbia during the last few years has been its improvement from a financial standpoint."

Mr. A. G. Haskell, a banker from Seattle, Washington, said in an interview with the "Times," October 16, 1920:

"We sold the whole \$1,000,000 worth of the last lot in an hour. British Columbia securities are now regarded favorably by investors from Seattle to San Francisco. They realize that the Hon. John Hart, your Minister of Finance, has put the Province back into a sound financial position. This Province, as far as outsiders who have money to invest can see it, is now in quite a different financial position from what it was in the past. Careful management has brought back its credit." Mr. Haskell said that British Columbia bonds now have greater popularity with investors south of the line than even Ontario bonds.

A new form of Estimates was introduced, showing expenditures of each Department separately, and also showing a comparison with previous

year. This enables a member to see at a glance any suggested increase of expenditure over previous year, and prevents the Government from making such increases without full discussion and criticism.

The Public Accounts have also been introduced in a new form, to correspond with Estimates, showing each Department's expenditure as a separate unit.

A few quotations from leading newspapers and financial journals regarding our new system of Public Accounts are as follows:

The Globe, Toronto, 18th February, 1920—

"The Government of British Columbia has set a good example to other Governments by the full, clear and complete manner in which it has published its Public Accounts for the last fiscal year."

Financial Post, 21st February, 1920—

"The first annual statement of Public Accounts of any Canadian Government—Federal or Provincial, to be issued, with revenue and expenditures of each Department of the Government segregated under one heading, and with corresponding tables showing actual and estimated revenue and expenditures in each item side by side, was tabled in the British Columbia Legislature last week. This business-like form of presenting the Public Accounts is the culmination of a series of important improvements in Government auditing that have characterised the accounts and estimates of that coast Province during the past two or three years."

The Canadian Municipal Journal, 1st February, 1920. Model Public Accounts—

"As a model in efficiency and compilation, the report is worth following, not only by other Provinces, but by the Municipalities."

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

A Purchasing Department has been organized, with a Purchasing Agent in charge. This Department is run on business lines, and all purchases must be made through, and have the approval of, the Purchasing Agent. This prevents political influence being used in connection with Government supplies.

BORROWINGS

The Government has borrowed a large amount since it came into office, but it is only fair to show the purposes of such loans:

Pacific Great Eastern Railway Construction.....	\$9,500,000
P. G. E. (Note) taken over by Government. This does not increase liabilities, as we took over \$6,000,000 of P. G. E. guaranteed stock.....	4,800,000
To meet the liabilities and deficits left us by Bowser Government	4,000,000
	<hr/>
	\$18,300,000

This amount was all on account of liabilities left by the Bowser administration.

With the exception of an amount of \$1,650,000 borrowed for good roads and highways by the Public Works Department, the balance of our borrowings has been for the purpose of making loans for various

development schemes. All such loans are returnable to the Province with interest. The amounts are as follows:

Land Settlement Board	\$2,650,000
Better Housing	1,361,000
Soldiers' Land Act	700,000
Water Act, 1914	395,000
Department of Industries	690,000
South Vancouver Loan	790,000
	\$6,586,000

No amounts have been borrowed for consolidated fund to cover expenditures incurred since we took office.

The financial statement to 31st March, 1920, will show a surplus of revenue over both capital and current expenditure.

TAXATION DEPARTMENT

This Department has been reorganized and put on a business basis.

Farm lands are assessed by special assessors, valuations equalized and inequalities removed.

Improvements on farm lands have been exempted from taxation up to a value of \$1,500.

Soldiers' lands have been exempted from tax sale.

All persons entitled to pay Personal Property Tax or Income Tax are now obliged to make proper returns to the Department.

Mining Companies, Coal Companies and Canneries were brought under the Income Tax Act. Previous to this administration they did not pay income tax.

Married persons are allowed \$1,500 of their income free from income tax and single persons \$1,200. They are allowed, in addition, \$200 for each dependent.

Arrears outstanding nearly 20 years when this Government came into office have since been collected and a business system of collection put in force.

An audit system in connection with returns for personal property and income tax has been established, with wonderful results.

The additional taxes collected through the audits amount to over \$1,300,000, and the cost of the audit system to date is only \$27,500.

Assessors have been relieved of the collecting of taxes so that they may have more time for proper inspection of properties.

Four Years of Efficient Administration of the Attorney-General's Department

ONE of the most striking contrasts in the administration between the old government and the present has been in regard to the success of the present Attorney-General in the appeals to the Privy Council. It is a well-known fact that many cases were taken to the Privy Council by Mr. Bowser and nearly all of them were lost. The

record of the present Attorney-General has been one hundred per cent. successful. The three cases carried by him to the Privy Council in 1919 are of vital importance in their results to the citizens of British Columbia.

THE SPANISH BANKS CASE

This was a case between the Attorney-General of Canada and the Attorney-General of British Columbia to determine the ownership of English Bay. It is fair to Mr. Bowser to state that this case was begun and carried through the local courts in his time, but its successful conclusion in the Privy Council was by the present Government. The contention of the Ottawa Government was that every indentation or natural harbor passed to the Dominion Government at Confederation. The effect of the Privy Council's decision is that only those two or three harbors which were in actual use at the time of Confederation passed to the Dominion Government, and the rest of the harbors of British Columbia belong to the Province. The effect of this decision not only preserves English Bay for the Province, but also the foreshore and bed of False Creek. It is a noteworthy fact that there is a letter on file in the Attorney-General's office at Victoria showing that Mr. Bowser was prepared to relinquish all claim to False Creek to the Dominion Government without receiving a single dollar therefor. The present Attorney-General has repudiated this position and is now carrying on proceedings which will result in the Dominion Government having to pay the Province many millions for False Creek and the Kitsilano Reserve

E. & N. RAILWAY FORESHORE CASE

This case arose out of the grant by the Province to the E. & N. of land granted to that railway as part of the bargain with the Dominion at Confederation for the construction of its road. The railway company's grant from Victoria to Comox was bounded by the "shore line." The railway company claimed that the shore line meant the low water mark, and that practically two hundred miles of foreshore on Vancouver Island belonged to the company. The decision of the Privy Council in this case has preserved this foreshore, worth millions, for the Province of British Columbia.

THE "SOPHIA" WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION CASE

The "S.S. Sophia," owned and operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, was lost with all hands in a storm in Portland Canal, in Alaskan waters. Under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act several hundred thousand dollars were payable to the widows and orphan children of the sailors who died in this disaster. The C. P. R. attempted to prevent the Workmen's Compensation Board paying these claims on the ground that the Province had no jurisdiction to deal with claims where the accident happened outside the Province. The Attorney-General, the Honorable Mr. Farris, at once took steps to fight the company on this decision, and instructed Mr. S. S. Taylor, K.C., to act for the Government in the British Columbia courts. The Court of Appeal for British Columbia upheld the contention of the C. P. R. and it looked as if the rights of the widows and orphans were gone forever. The case was taken to the Privy Council by the Government and argued by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Farris, with the result that the decision of the Court

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of Appeal for British Columbia was revised and the company compelled to pay these claims. One of the remarkable features of this case was the speed with which it was rushed through all the courts. Everyone knows that cases drag through the courts for years. From the time the Attorney-General intervened to protect the interest of the claimants until the case was finally disposed of in the Privy Council was only a matter of about nine months. This was one time when it paid to have a Minister of Labor who is also Attorney-General and who by his combination of positions was able to so quickly insure the payment to these widows and children of their just claims.

NEW LEGISLATION

The preparation and introduction of much of the new legislation of a social and domestic character, including the Mothers' Pensions Act, the Testators' Family Maintenance Act, Child Welfare, Equal Guardianship Act, Minimum Wage Law, etc., are also to the credit of the Attorney-General, Hon. J. W. de B. Farris.

Other branches of the Attorney-General's Department include the administration of the Labor Department and Workmen's Compensation Board (dealt with under separate headings), Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Insurance, etc.

Progressive Administration of the Provincial Secretary's Department

THIS department, under the administration of Hon. Dr. J. D. MacLean, has charge of a number of important branches, including Public Health, Provincial Library and Archives, Mental Hospitals, Old Men's Home, Hospitals, Printing Department, Civil Service, Returned Soldiers' Commission, etc. This department was in a most unsatisfactory condition when taken over by the Liberal Administration. Little or no supervision was exercised over institutions under control of the department, leading to abuses, grafting and waste, and affairs generally were conducted in a slipshod manner. Improvements have been made in all branches, giving greater efficiency and eliminating waste and loss. Some of the important changes made are noted below:

(1) The services of the Provincial Police are now used systematically as sanitary inspectors.

(2) A medical man has been appointed as Hospital Inspector. (Under the previous administration this work was done by a barber.)

(3) Camps, canneries and mines are now visited regularly by a Sanitary Inspector who is a qualified medical man, specially trained in this work.

(4) Complaints regarding living and sanitary conditions in camps are immediately investigated and changes ordered where required.

(5) Typhoid rapidly disappearing in consequence of improved conditions. Total cases, 1915, 141; total cases, 1919, 69.

(6) All possible assistance was given in fighting the epidemic of Spanish influenza, this work costing the Provincial Health Department nearly \$70,000.00.

(7) More attention has been paid to the work of fighting tuberculosis. In consequence the death rate from this dread disease has dropped from 1.23 per 1,000 of population in 1917-18 to .82 in 1919-20.

(8) Clinics for free treatment of venereal diseases established in Vancouver and Victoria.

(9) A Provincial Laboratory has been established in connection with two of the larger hospitals for the proper analysis of water, milk, pathological specimens, etc.

(10) Child welfare work is being given active support by the Health Department.

(11) Assistance given to the training of rural nurses. This work will be enlarged as speedily as possible until a trained nurse will be available in every rural district in the Province.

(12) Tranquille Sanatorium for tubercular cases being taken over under the control and management of the Provincial Government, and enlarged and improved.

(13) An average of 60 cents per patient per day now given to hospitals as maintenance allowance, as compared with 25 cents per day given by Manitoba and Alberta Governments. One dollar per day now allowed for treatment of tubercular patients.

(14) Power given to communities to form library associations and levy taxes for the purchase of books, etc.

(15) Printing Department reorganized on a business basis. Cost of work reduced from \$6.00 per page in 1916-17 to \$4.05 per page in 1918-19, in spite of the advance in labor costs. Each Department now charged for work done.

(16) Returned Soldiers' Aid Commission established to assist veterans in their return to civil life. Gratuity advances made to 1,335 men; \$120,000 expended in relief.

(17) Civil service reorganized and actual cost reduced. The following table shows costs for four years:

1914-15—Conservative rule	\$1,596,000
1915-16—Conservative rule	1,555,000
1916-17—Liberal rule	1,477,000
1917-18—Liberal rule	1,336,000

Department of Lands Playing a Big Part in the Development of British Columbia

THE Department of Lands consists of four main branches, namely: The administration of the Crown Lands of the Province, the timber, the water, and surveys. There are special branches of each of these four main units.

The general policy that is being pursued is to do all possible governmentally to assist the development of the natural resources of the Province. To develop the resources of the Province we must have more

people, and in order to get more people conditions must be made such as to render development of our resources profitable so that all who live within the borders of British Columbia may be happy and prosperous. To this end all energy is being bent.

Some measures adopted and results obtained by the Department, under the administration of Hon. T. D. Pattullo, follow:

(1) Surveyed vacant Crown lands not held under reserve are now open for entry for pre-emption purposes, encouraging closer settlement.

(2) The price of ordinary agricultural land has been reduced from five and ten dollars per acre to two and one-half and five dollars.

(3) Lands and all other resources are now disposed of only on the basis of use, not for speculative purposes.

(4) Half a million acres have been taken up by genuine settlers in the last three years.

(5) Realizing the possibilities of oil development in the Peace River country, a large area in that district was reserved from entry and an appropriation made for investigation. A preliminary geological survey was made in 1919 by Professor Gwillim. The work is being continued in 1920, and three parties are at present carrying on the work started by Professor Gwillim. If the work should ultimately result in the discovery of oil, it would be very easy to wipe out the debt of the Province.

(6) A definite grazing policy adopted, including:

Division of the grazing areas into districts;

Allotment of the range;

Organization of stock associations;

Building up of range improvements such as drift fences, salting and watering places;

Issuance of permits to graze stock;

Protection of permittees in the use of the range;

Free range up to ten head of stock to small settlers;

Special attention to grades of breeding stock;

Special rules to meet local conditions;

Resulting in:

A stable stock industry;

New interest in range control;

Unused grazing land now carrying stock;

Old depleted ranges recovering under system of rotation;

Better development of ranch lands adjoining Crown lands;

Better grade of stock;

Larger herds.

(7) Irrigation: In the Dry Belt the present administration was confronted with a difficult and involved problem. During the boom days land companies became possessed of large areas of irrigable lands which they sold at high prices "with water delivered." Subsequently, subsidiary companies were formed and the water end of the project was turned over to these subsidiary companies. These subsidiary companies were composed practically of the same men who owned the land. In actual practice no provision was made by the water-carrying companies for the upkeep of the system, with the inevitable result of trouble, and the years of effort of ranchers were in jeopardy of being lost through

the breaking down of the water systems. It was necessary to meet this situation, and the Water Act was amended to its present form by the present administration. Under this Act a Conservation Fund of \$2,000,000 was established. Under the terms of the Act, power is given to form local water users' communities to take over and operate irrigation works, domestic supply, and light and power. Liability rests on the community served and not on the general public of the Province. The total amount advanced for the protection of the water systems to 1st September, 1920, was \$325,000.

(8) Under the Soldiers' Land Act some 22,000 acres of irri;able land was purchased by the Government in the South Okanagan. Work is progressing on the installation of the irrigation system and it is expected the first block of land will be put on the market shortly. Preference will be given to returned soldiers.

(9) Sixty thousand acres of land have been surveyed in the Stuart Lake district. This land is specially reserved for returned soldiers.

(10) Forest protection work improved by the substitution of motor cars for horses where practicable; the introduction of motor fire pumps; wireless telephones at strategic coast points and on launches; seaplane patrol; and legislation passed providing for burning dangerous slash areas.

(11) A feature of the forestry work in the war period was the cutting of 26,124,000 feet of spruce and 9,224,000 feet of fir, enough to build 20,000 aeroplanes. This record was made possible by an order-in-council passed by the present administration and subsequently confirmed by the Legislature.

(12) Legislation was passed to enable the conversion of timber licences into pulp leases, when found advisable. The value of pulp and paper production in the Province has risen from \$3,520,000 in 1916 to \$12,554,257 in 1919.

(13) Joint committees of lumbermen, loggers and forestry officials have been formed and meet regularly to discuss scaling, log export, market extension, etc.

(14) Foreseeing reconstruction business in Europe, the Minister sent a Lumber Commissioner to London before the close of the war, with the result that an order for seventy million feet was secured for British Columbia lumbermen.

(15) Value of total forest production:

1915	\$29,150,000
1916	35,528,000
1917	48,300,000
1918	54,162,523
1919	70,285,094

(16) Forest Revenue:

1915	\$1,922,558.40
1916	2,005,940.76
1917	2,338,333.52
1918	2,730,808.53
1919	2,755,738.98

Revenue for 1920 will exceed 1919.

(17) An office has been opened in Toronto, where the uses and qualities of British Columbia woods are being kept before all branches of wood-working industries, architects, engineers, etc.

(18) An Immigration Branch has been added to the Department to encourage new settlers to come into the Province, to provide those who do come with the best possible service and to keep informed as to the number of new settlers arriving.

Progress in Education Under Liberal Administration

THE responsibility of fixing educational plans is vested in the Provincial Government. The administration in the larger cities is borne by the municipalities, but in smaller cities and towns and rural districts it is borne either wholly or in part by the Government.

This is a most important part of the Provincial Government's work, and the chief aim of the minister in charge, Hon. Dr. J. D. MacLean, is to have students upon leaving school so trained as to be ready and willing to take their proper place in the world's work.

Special attention is being given to practical business and technical training, and particularly in work connected with the great natural resources of the Province, so that British Columbia students may be in a position to take full advantage of British Columbia opportunities.

Education in Canadian and British ideals and the principles of government is another important aim of this Department under the present administration.

Some of the important items of progressive legislation in the past four years are:

(1) Minimum attendance required for maintaining a school in operation reduced from eight to six, giving a better opportunity to children in sparsely settled districts to secure their education.

(2) Free correspondence course established for children in isolated districts where schools cannot be maintained.

(3) Correspondence course for the benefit of coal miners established.

(4) Pupils now promoted to high schools on recommendation of teachers, based on work for term; instead of on special written examination, which, however, may still be taken, if desired, by those not so recommended.

(5) Uniform school hours established in municipal districts.

(6) Increased attention has been given to the establishment of night schools, domestic science, manual training and technical classes.

(7) Grants towards the payment of salaries of physical training instructors, dentists and school nurses provided for.

(8) Trustees given power to collect tuition fees from municipal corporations for the attendance of non-resident children.

(9) Provision made for the appointment of an official trustee to take charge of schools where work is hampered by trustees of alien birth, particularly those opposed to the teaching of ideals of British citizenship.

(10) Doukhobor school question successfully dealt with. There are now twelve schools in operation among this people, well attended by children of both sexes, whereas on June 30, 1916, there was only one Doukhobor school in operation.

(11) The courses in manual training, domestic science, night schools and agricultural teaching have been broadened and articulated with the general work of the schools. Four of the district supervisors are working in direct co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, giving assistance and advice to farmers in their respective districts.

(12) A Provincial School for mentally deficient children is being established.

(13) A Provincial School for the education of the blind is being established.

(14) A Provincial School for the deaf and dumb opened.

(15) A Provincial Technical School established.

(16) Free teachers' employment bureau opened.

(17) Arbitration of salary disputes between teachers and trustees provided for.

(18) Teachers consulted in case of changes in text books or courses of study.

(19) Inspectors now remain in their districts several years, instead of being transferred frequently, and they are held responsible for educational progress in their districts.

(20) Taxes collected for rural schools now transmitted to trustees quarterly, in full. Under old system, trustees frequently had to borrow money on their own notes to carry on the work.

(21) Provision made for financing the erection of buildings for the University of British Columbia, the amount to be repaid by the sale of Crown lands at Point Grey.

(22) New school buildings erected in outlying districts in every case where they were recommended by the inspector.

Mining a Tremendous Asset to British Columbia

IN the formation of the Liberal Administration, for the first time in the history of the Province the Department of Mines was raised to the dignity of separate ministerial administration. The Department, now under the ministry of Hon. William Sloan, himself a mining man of long experience, is one of the most important departments of the Government. The vastness of the mineral resources of British Columbia can hardly be realized. The per capita value of mineral production is the highest of any country in the world, being \$75.6, as against California with a per capita production of \$58.5, Ontario \$26.8, Alberta \$55.5; and the industry is still in its infancy, the greater part of the Province not having even been prospected as yet. During the past four years some most important legislation has been passed affecting mines; giving assistance in the building of roads and trails, assisting the prospector, improving sanitary and working

conditions, providing for closer inspection, mine rescue work, and regulations tending to the elimination of accidents.

It is admitted that mining laws and regulations of the Province of British Columbia are now the most favorable for miners of any state, province or country on the American continent.

A brief summary of the most important legislation affecting the mining industry passed by the present Government is given below:

(1) The division of the Province into six mineral survey districts, each under the charge of a highly qualified engineer, whose duties are:

(a) To help, through the free use of their technical knowledge, the prospector if he is in doubt as to possibilities of his claim or as to how best to develop it.

(b) To assist small operators in the same way.

(c) To advise the Government by their reports as to properties worthy of and needing such financial aid as the Government is permitted to afford in the construction of trails or roads, diamond drilling, etc.

(d) Generally speaking, to encourage the intelligent and energetic development of the mineral resources of the Province.

(e) To prepare a complete report of their season's work, and the condition of the mining industry in their several districts, annually, for publication in the Annual Report of the Minister of Mines.

(2) Provision is made for the protection of investors in mining properties, the Minister of Mines being given authority, upon investigation, to publish such notices as may be necessary to prevent injury to investors.

(3) Special privileges were given to returned soldiers until March 31st, 1921, in that their Free Miners' Certificates were being continued without charge, they being exempted from doing record work and their placer mining claims being retained in good standing. These privileges were extended, in case of the soldier's death, to his widow, children or other close relatives.

(4) "The Iron Bounties Act" binds the Province of British Columbia to give a bounty of \$3 per ton on all pig-iron manufactured from British Columbia ore in British Columbia, and \$1.50 per ton on all pig-iron manufactured in British Columbia from foreign ore, and is, without doubt, a most important piece of mining legislation.

(5) The Iron Ore Supply Act is designed for the encouragement of the development of the iron ore deposits of British Columbia, and will be the laying of the foundation of an iron and steel industry.

(6) Indian reservations are now open for prospecting and mining the precious minerals, gold, silver, etc., and restrictions on placer mining on Indian reservations are removed.

(7) Amendment to the Coal Mines Regulation Act provides for an eight-hour day for all above-ground employees, except office, boarding-house or bus-house men.

(8) The Minimum Wage Board was appointed, with power to define any portion of the Province as a Minimum Wage District and decide what the minimum wage for coal miners in such district shall be.

(9) Stricter regulations have been made regarding the examinations for overmen, shift-bosses, shot-lighters and mine surveyors.

(10) Stricter regulations have also been made in regard to dangerous gasses, safety lamps, and for the inspection and treatment of winding ropes.

(11) Payment of employees must now be made at least twice a month.

(12) Amendment made to the Placer Mining Act provides for the elimination, by easy stages and in an equitable manner, of any accumulated rentals on placer mining leases.

(13) The eight-hour day has been made applicable to metalliferous mines.

(14) Twenty-five prospecting parties have been outfitted at the expense of the Government, each consisting of an experienced prospector and a companion without experience. All are returned soldiers. Any claim staked becomes the property of the locating party, subject only to the repayment of a sum equal to double the amount advanced by the Government, with six per cent. added.

(15) There has been a marked decrease in the number of fatal accidents in coal and metalliferous mining. There were but six fatal accidents last year in the metalliferous mines of the Province, and but 12 in the coal mines, a record never before equalled in the history of coal mining of the Province.

(16) The establishment of correspondence courses for coal miners has proved of great benefit, and a total of 104 students are now taking this course.

(17) Close attention has been given to Mine Rescue and First Aid work. Many improvements have been made in connection with the equipment of the rescue stations, and the Department encouraged competition between the miners of different Provincial centres in mine rescue and first aid demonstrations, resulting in a steady improvement in the efficiency of the miners, not only in the use of the mine rescue apparatus, but in knowledge of all those points in connection with first aid so useful in any emergency.

(18) Material assistance has been extended to the building of roads and trails for the benefit of miners in different parts of the Province.

(19) A representative exhibit of the minerals of British Columbia is being prepared for display in England. It will be the best that ever has been got together for the purpose of illustrating the mineral resources of the Province.

(20) With reference to the prospects of an iron and steel industry being established in British Columbia, the activity of the Government in the obtaining of accurate information of the iron ore resources of the Province is to be continued. It long has been known that an important deposit of hematite ore exists on Sand Creek, in the Fort Steele Mining Division, and A. G. Langley, government mining engineer, recently inspected the property. His report is favorable, showing that there is a considerable body of massive red hematite, which assays in places 57.4 metallic iron. He recommends that there should be further development, and the Provincial Government will initiate diamond drilling and other work to the end that the deposit may be opened up and some information obtained as to the tonnage. Another property to which attention is to be given is the Zymoetz (Copper), River limonite deposits. These are situated in the Skeena River section of northern British Columbia, and there

is no doubt, from reports of J. D. Mackenzie, Canadian Geological Survey, and Wm. M. Brewer, Provincial Government, that they are of importance.

(21) There has been a consistent growth in the mineral production of the Province, as the following figures will show:

For the years 1911-1912-1913	\$86,236,270.00
For the years 1914-1915-1916	\$98,126,795.00
For the years 1917-1918-1919	\$112,089,179.00

A Record of Progress in the Public Works Department

THE organization and operations of the Department of Public Works have changed very materially under the administration of the Honorable Dr. J. H. King. By the policy of the Liberal Government the Province is divided into nine engineering districts, geographically arranged, each district being in charge of a competent engineer who advises the department regarding the location, construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, ferries, river bank protection, etc., and who is directly responsible for the carrying out of these works in the most economical and efficient manner.

Under the "Canada Highways Act, 1919," the Provinces wishing to secure Federal aid for highways must have such an organization, and British Columbia is therefore now in a position to take advantage of the Dominion Act.

Large sums of money, averaging \$2,000,000 annually, have been spent in the construction and reconstruction of highways in British Columbia, and the physical nature of the country makes it necessary to spend increasingly large sums every year in order that the vast natural resources of the Province may be adequately developed and suitable transportation afforded existing and prospective settlers.

In connection with the important Trans-Provincial Highway from the coast to the Alberta boundary, careful detailed surveys have been made to determine the best location from a national standpoint. The following portions of this highway are now under construction: Osoyoos to Greenwood; the Cascade-Roseland section (35 miles in length); the Thrums-Brilliant cut-off (completed in spring of 1920); the Kuskanook-Sirdar section (which is practically completed). The matter of the remaining link between the coast and interior east of Hope is being carefully investigated, and one of the alternative routes will be under construction in the spring of 1921.

The Department is constructing between Quesnel and Fort George, and thence up the Bulkley Valley, a standard road, which will give the northern interior a direct outlet to the southern portion of the Province. Another important link under construction is the Revelstoke West Road, in the Eagle Valley. With this completed and the four-mile Mara-Sicamous portion opened up in the spring of 1921, Revelstoke will have road connection with the Okanagan.

The money necessary to carry out such important works will be financed by the Province by a provision made in the "Motor Vehicles

Act, 1920," whereby the whole revenue derived from automobile licences will be funded and used for road construction purposes. This, it is estimated, will produce \$600,000 annually, and it is proposed to capitalize this revenue to the extent of \$5,000,000. Under the "Canada Highways Act" \$1,250,000 of Federal aid will be available. Thus \$6,250,000 is to be expended, mostly on new work, over a period of five years, including the work now under way.

It is the policy of the Government not only to build the trans-provincial highway, but also industrial, settlement and mining roads and trails, thus developing our agricultural, mineral and timber resources. While provision has been made to carry on trunk road development from year to year, the Government will continue to appropriate funds to open up secondary or lateral roads in the various valleys and portions of the Province in order to expedite and encourage development of all natural resources.

An important feature of the Department's road policy is the hard-surfacing of the trunk roads adjacent to the larger cities, as well as the main roads traversing municipalities. The abnormal growth of motor truck traffic in particular has rendered imperative the hard-surfacing of such roads to withstand the excessive wear and tear. Chief among the main roads to be hard-surfaced this year were the Island Highway (2 miles), near Victoria, the Trans-Provincial Highway (5.6 miles when completed), south of New Westminster, the Ladner-New Westminster Road (2 miles when completed), and roads in Lulu Island. All of this work was one course concrete paving varying from 14 feet to 18 feet wide—this being the Department's first experience of concrete roads. Bituminous hard-surfacing to the extent of about 5 miles was also satisfactorily carried out in the Municipalities of North and South Vancouver and the City of Chilliwack—most of the work being paid for equally by the Government and the municipalities. The Highways Act of 1920—passed at the last session of the Legislature—will help to solve the problem of proper classification of highways and define the responsibilities for construction and maintenance of highways traversing municipalities.

Bridge construction forms a very considerable portion of the Department's work, an average of \$400,000 having been spent annually during the past four years. Owing to the Department's efficient maintenance system, scrupulous investigation of all proposed structures, and economical methods of construction, considerable saving has been effected and high standards maintained. The larger of the ferries, Ladner and Mission, have also been materially improved and transportation taken care of more expeditiously and efficiently.

Credit must also be given the Department for the transfer of the Provincial wharves (with the exception of Prince Rupert wharf) to the Federal Government, thus relieving the Provincial Government of the responsibility for maintenance of all the wharves and the renewal or reconstruction of several in bad condition.

Largely due to the condition of the Provincial finances, the Department has been considerably limited and handicapped for funds since the Liberal Administration took office. This necessitated the Government taking firm measures to re-establish the Provincial financial

standing by exercising economy and eliminating unnecessary work, and in this policy the Public Works Department has concurred and borne its share of retrenchment and economical administration.

Importance of Agriculture Recognized by the Oliver Government

THE Department of Agriculture under the Liberal administration has been raised to the dignity of a separate portfolio, and the minister in charge, Hon. E. D. Barrow (who succeeded Hon. John Oliver in this important post) gives his whole attention to the various branches of this Department. The underlying policy of the Government is to increase production by giving intelligent assistance and encouragement to farmers, stock raisers and horticulturists already on the land, facilitating co-operative marketing schemes, securing more intensive cultivation, and bringing new areas into production.

LAND SETTLEMENT

By legislation enacted in 1917, the Land Settlement Board was created under the provisions of the Land Settlement and Development Act.

The primary objects of the Act are to increase agricultural production:

- (a) By granting loans to farmers upon terms and at a rate of interest which will enable the borrower to extend his operations in the matter of agricultural production.
- (b) By taking over from private owners lands held out of production, to be re-sold to bona fide settlers, at appraised values, upon terms extending over a period of years.
- (c) By the sale to settlers of livestock and commodities used in agricultural pursuits.

CATTLE CLUBS

Under the provisions of the Land Settlement and Development Act, authority was given the Board to form cattle clubs, through which cattle might be supplied to settlers upon extended payments. During 1919, representatives of the Board were instrumental in forming ten clubs, resulting in the distribution of 908 cattle and 205 sheep.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENTS

To meet the demand for land upon which to settle returned soldiers in the southern part of the Province, land was acquired for development on Vancouver Island, in the Okanagan Valley and the Kootenay District.

AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION

The Brand Act, 1917, and Sheep Protection Act, 1917, were designed for the protection of property, the first mentioned to assist in determining ownership of cattle, and the latter measure to protect sheep from the depredations of dogs. Under these enactments there have been 4,481 brands for cattle and 3,394 for horses registered, and 5 sheep protection districts constituted.

The Seed Grain Act was enacted to encourage increased agricultural production. Seed grain to the value of \$33,574.94 was distributed throughout the Province, a charge against the land being registered as security for repayment of the amount advanced.

The Agricultural Act was amended to bring the incorporation of agricultural associations with share capital under the provisions of the Co-operative Associations Act of 1920, giving greater opportunities for expansion in the marketing of farm products and in purchasing commodities necessary for agricultural development.

The incorporation of Farmers' and Women's Institutes was brought under the provisions of the Societies Act of 1920, giving a wider sphere for their activities, and Government assistance in carrying on their work provided for.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT

Amendments to this Act were passed during the sessions of 1917 and 1920 and, as a result of the operations of the Act, British Columbia now holds first place in the Dominion for healthy dairy herds. Reactors to the tuberculin test have been reduced in number from 8½ per cent. to 3 per cent. for the whole Province, whilst in certain sections the percentage of reactors has changed from 35 per cent. to 3¼ per cent.

HORTICULTURAL BRANCH

The work of the Horticultural Branch has been carried on under a system of District Representatives, whereby each of such officials is responsible for directing the activities of the various members of the Horticultural Branch in the district.

CREAMERIES AND DAIRIES

An important part of the dairy work of this Department is in connection with the cow testing associations, of which there are now seven in this Province. As a result of the operations of these associations, the members have secured accurate information regarding the production of milk from each animal in their herds, and these data have enabled them to get rid of the unprofitable cows, thus securing a maximum of production for the feed consumed. The Department has rendered assistance to the associations by contributing \$50 per month towards the salary of each of the supervisors.

In districts where there are not a sufficient number of cows to form a regular association, a scheme has been substituted whereby the farmers take their own samples and bring them to a central point, where they are tested.

LIVE STOCK BRANCH

To encourage the importation of pure-bred sires, the Department has given financial assistance through the medium of the Live Stock Associations of British Columbia.

A series of sheep sales have been inaugurated with a view to giving an impetus to the breeding of pure-bred stock and the consequent production of wool.

Bull sales were held at Kamloops in 1919 and 1920, resulting in the importation of some very good stock from Alberta, and giving an opportunity for the interchange within the Province of a number of pure-bred sires.

In connection with the work of the Poultry Division, the Egg-laying

Contest, which has been held at Victoria for the past eight years, has been broadened in scope, and during the past year trap-nesting has been introduced, disclosing some very instructive and interesting information.

SILO DEMONSTRATION

The great need of succulent food for dairy cattle has called for the construction of silos in different parts of the Province, and with the introduction of one in each district the benefits derived have become so apparent that many others have been erected.

To encourage this work, the Department has conducted demonstrations of building and filling, and, under the supervision of members of the staff, 65 silos have been built throughout the different sections of the Province.

Labor Conditions Vastly Improved in British Columbia by the Oliver Government

LABOR AND LIBERALISM are not only alliterative—they are naturally sympathetic. The affluent are instinctively conservative—they dread change as threatening their comfort and leisure. The workers seek eagerly for measures that shall ameliorate their lot, and so, in all lands, they may be found supporting the parties of reform.

In the first session of the Liberal Government of British Columbia, the Department of Labor was inaugurated in order to deal specifically with the particular industrial conditions of this Province. Under Hon. Mr. Farris, as minister, and Mr. J. D. McNiven, as deputy minister, this Department has for the past three years used its influence, persistently, to establish amicable relations between employers and employed. When differences have arisen they have tried quietly to bring about an adjustment, and more than once a threatened strike has been averted so quietly that no word of it has reached the ears of the public.

Where it was impossible to avert a rupture, the Department has endeavored to limit the area of dispute and bring about a settlement as quickly as possible. While the number of strikes that have occurred is to be regretted, they have been of comparatively short duration, and such a condition as prevailed in Nanaimo in 1913-1914 has happily gone from us.

The following brief notes will give a general idea of the work of the Department in the interests of Labor generally:

(1) Sanitary conditions in camps, canneries and mines vastly improved, through the work of a qualified sanitary inspector, specially trained in this work. Complaints regarding working conditions are immediately investigated.

(2) A great deal of valuable information and data, with reference to Labor conditions in the Province, have been collected and tabulated. This information is published in the annual reports, which may be obtained free on request.

(3) Free employment bureaux were established in 1918, saving the working man the fees formerly charged by private agencies. There are now

17 of these bureaux in different parts of the Province, and placements average over 1,500 per week.

(4) Wages must now be paid semi-monthly and no hold-back of more than 8 days is allowed. This applies to all the principal industries of the Province, with a few special exceptions.

(5) A Colliers' Minimum Wage Board was established, with power to fix a minimum wage for coal miners.

(6) Additional precautions ordered to be taken to lessen the danger to workmen from accidents.

(7) In 1918, the Government extended the eight-hour law for underground workers in coal mines to those employed above ground, and in the bill to amend the Labor Regulations Act, 1918, an eight-hour daily limit was placed on the work of any person employed around a coke oven, smelter, concentrator or mineral plant.

(8) The eight-hour day legislation enacted by the present Government has reduced the hours of labor from nine or ten to eight per day for from 5,000 to 6,000 workers.

(9) Factory Act amendments passed requiring adequate ventilation.

(10) Laundries brought under Factory Act and working hours set, eliminating, to a great extent, the unfair Chinese competition.

(11) Weekly Half-holiday Act extended to take in a large number of trades formerly exempted.

(12) Better Housing Act passed for benefit of returned soldiers and working men. All contracts for buildings erected under this Act must contain a "fair wage" clause.

(13) A Correspondence Course for the benefit of coal miners has been established.

(14) A Provincial Technical School has been established.

(15) Minimum Wage Board for women and girls formed. As a result of its investigations and decisions, working girls who had been paid as low as \$4.00 per week cannot now be paid less than \$12.75 to \$15.50 per week.

(16) Legislation passed enabling school trustees to establish night schools where twenty or more persons seek instruction in technical education, manual training, domestic science, commercial or ordinary education. Provision is made for grants of not more than one-half cost of installing accommodation up to \$500 for such courses.

(17) A most important item of legislation passed by the Oliver Government was the Mothers' Pension Act, providing for payment to a mother whose husband has died or become incapacitated, of a pension based on the number of dependent children.

(18) The Factories Act has been amended and consolidated, making strict regulations governing the employment of children. Except in the business of canning fish, no boy may be employed under the age of 14 or girl under the age of 15.

(19) Provision has been made for indenturing apprentices, assuring them of proper treatment and education in the trade to which they are apprenticed.

Many other regulations for the benefit of the working man have been put into effect and suggestions for the betterment of conditions have always received the sympathetic consideration of the Government, action always being taken, where possible, to improve conditions.

Interesting Facts and Figures from the Workmen's Compensation Board

THE "Workmen's Compensation Act," which became effective January 1st, 1917, applies to all industrial employment, except farm laborers and domestic servants.

Under this Act, when a workman receives an injury resulting in death, a sum of \$35.00 a month is payable to the widow, and \$7.50 monthly in respect of each boy or girl under the age of sixteen years. If the dependents are children without surviving parent, the payment is \$12.50 per month for each child. Allowances are also made to other dependents.

The Board is attached to the Attorney-General's Department. The Act is administered by three Commissioners, and its chief features may be summarized as follows:

1. It abolishes completely the whole system of litigation arising out of industrial accidents.
2. It provides that the workman, after the first three days of disability, shall receive fifty-five per cent. of his wage loss resulting from accident.
3. It provides for medical attention (including specialists), surgical treatment, hospital treatment, nurses, medicine, crutches, apparatus and artificial members for injured workmen.
4. It takes the question of industrial compensation out of the realm of private controversy and settles amicably claims of workmen, which formerly were subject of troublesome litigation.
5. It tends to remove anxiety and fear of want for himself and family from the mind of the workman during disability.
6. Accident prevention regulations are provided and enforced.
7. Regular payments of stated amounts are paid to widows and children of victims of industrial accidents, and the Act helps in preventing the possibility of them becoming dependent on public or private charity.
8. It provides economical accident insurance to employers for their workmen and makes for better feeling between employer and workman.
9. It eliminates profiteering out of the misery and distress of workmen maimed or crippled in industry. Out of every \$100.00 collected from the employers last year, \$95.21 went directly to the workmen or their dependents, without any expense to them whatever.

ACCIDENTS

Up to the 1st November, 1920, no less than 72,134 accidents have been dealt with since the Act came into force in 1917. Compensation has been paid to workmen amounting to over \$2,300,000.00. New claims are being filed at the rate of 70 per day, and claims are being adjusted on an average of from five to seven days after the reports are received from all parties concerned.

To pay for pensions resulting from accidents that have already happened, there has been set aside in the pension reserve fund over \$2,000,000.00 to pay pensions for widows and other dependents of deceased

workmen as well as maimed and incapacitated workmen. Compensation for wage loss and pensions have run to over \$4,000,000.00.

RESERVES

Only sufficient assessments are collected from employers each year to pay for the accidents adjusted during that year. The accidents during any year, and on which future pensions must be paid, are paid for by the employers operating during the year. The money set aside to pay future pensions is invested in guaranteed securities to yield the highest possible interest.

At present over 750 widows and other dependents receive cheques, monthly, running to over \$22,000.00 a month.

MEDICAL AID

There has been paid for medical and surgical treatment, hospital treatment, nurses, etc., approximately \$1,000,000.00 to date. A workman, under the Act, is entitled to receive, and does receive, just as good medical treatment as the richest man in the land. The workman is permitted to choose his own doctor, and specialists are provided at the cost of the Board, when necessary.

FIRST AID SERVICES

There has been in force for the last three years a First Aid Service set of regulations, requiring employers to provide certain first aid emergency treatment for all injuries.

Injured workmen are entitled to First Aid treatment and the Board has insisted that all workmen should obtain First Aid service. In this way treatment has been given for many apparently insignificant cuts and bruises which were previously neglected, and which formerly resulted with serious consequences by infection at a later date. The importance of antiseptic treatment of slight wounds is now being generally recognized.

AMENDMENTS

Important amendments have been made in the original Workmen's Compensation Act of 1916.

During the 1919 session of the House, provision was made for paying of Oriental dependents on a basis compatible with the lower cost of living abroad than that which prevails here. The savings thus made to the Accident Fund are now semi-annually divided up among dependents residing in Canada.

During the 1920 session a further important amendment was made, increasing the pension to widows from \$20.00 to \$35.00 per month, and children from \$5.00 to \$7.50 per month, and orphan children \$12.50 per month each.

The original Act made no provision for children in excess of four in any one family. The 1920 amendments include all children, regardless of number, to participate equally in pensions.

First Aid amendments and Accident Prevention regulations have been provided under the Act, and are generally resulting very satisfactorily throughout the Province.

Workmen and employers generally are heartily co-operating with the Board in complying with its safety regulations, the enforcement of which has shown a gratifying decrease in the number of avoidable accidents, which in the past were mainly due to defective or unprotected working places.

Legislation of Particular Interest to Women Passed by the Liberal Government of British Columbia

UNDER the advanced legislation brought forward by the Oliver Government, women have rapidly taken their place on an equal footing with men in the political field, while many laws unjust to women have been revised and new legislation passed safeguarding their interests in the home and in the industrial field.

At the first session of the Legislature following the election of the Liberal Government an Act was passed conferring the vote upon women, and this was followed from time to time by other important legislation.

The mother has been given equal rights with the father in the guardianship of children. Under the old law the father's right was absolute.

More humane and considerate treatment of the inmates of the Girls' Industrial School and Boys' Industrial School has been inaugurated.

Provision has been made for the appointment of a Superintendent of Neglected Children, this office being most satisfactorily filled at the present time by Mr. David Brankin.

The Minimum Wage Law was enacted for the benefit of girls and women earning their own living. The minimum wage has been raised from the \$4.00 per week paid, in some cases, to from \$12.75 to \$15.50 per week. This has removed the dangers to which many girls were exposed on account of inadequate pay. Working conditions and hours have been improved as well.

A Juvenile Court has been established and the first woman judge in British Columbia appointed in the person of Mrs. McGill.

Provision has been made for venereal disease control.

The advanced legislation affecting education and public health, mentioned elsewhere, is of particular interest to women.

The new "Adoption Act" provides that a child adopted by a family is given the full legal status of a natural born child of the foster parents.

The Marriage Act has been amended, placing the mother on an equality with the father in the matter of consent to the marriage of a minor child.

The law respecting wives deserted by their husbands was consolidated and amended. Under a new provision of the Act, the wife shall be deemed to be destitute when she is in necessitous circumstances because of her husband's refusal or neglect, without sufficient cause, to supply her and their infant children with food, clothing or other necessities.

The Health Department is giving valuable assistance in the training of rural nurses, and it is intended to enlarge this work from time to time until the ideal is reached of having a trained nurse at the disposal of every rural district in the Province. There is great need for skilled nursing and intelligent advice in case of sickness in the isolated districts, and in no place is this need greater than in the home of the expectant mother.

One of the most important items of legislation affecting women was the passing of the Mothers' Pension Act. The object of this Act is to provide children with home life and care of a suitable character, and to keep them out of institutions when the father, the bread-winner, has died or become incapacitated, either from physical or mental disability. Until the passing

of this Act, if a man were incapacitated from any permanent mental or physical disability, his wife and children would not be entitled, under any law of the Province, to receive any financial consideration to maintain the home. The same was true if a worker died from any disease—there was no provision made for the care of his widow and family. The intention of this Act is to place the fund beyond the pale of charity and place it upon a basis of equity and fairness, the central idea being to pay an indigent mother a certain monthly sum which will enable her to keep her family at home under her watchful care and to allow them to be brought up and educated to become good citizens. The criminals and persons who are a charge upon the state become so, very frequently, through lack of influence of good homes, and the money expended under this Act will be one of the best investments that a province or state can make. It will have the effect of lessening the annual number of law-breakers of all descriptions and the amount of disease, and will ensure a better and higher type of citizenship.

The wife's share in the family estate receives just and generous recognition in an Act passed during the session of 1920. The "Testators' Family Maintenance Act" establishes the rightful claim of a wife and children to adequate maintenance before any other gifts or bequests. No person may die leaving a will without making adequate provision for the proper maintenance and support of either husband or wife or children. If such will be made the Court may order such provision for the same as the Court thinks adequate, just and equitable in the circumstances. This provision may consist of a lump sum or periodical or other payment. While this is a great stride forward, it is only a proper recognition of the claim of the family upon the family estate.

Provincial Fisheries Department

THIS Department is now under the administration of Hon. Wm. Sloan, who brought to the discharge of its duties a knowledge of the extent and needs of the fisheries of the Province, acquired by a close study of conditions during the period when he represented the Comox-Atlin District in the House of Commons.

Under his administration of the Provincial Fisheries Department, he directed special attention to the study of the life history of our edible fishes, made publications of notable contributions on their life history, and, by a close study of conditions on the fishing and spawning grounds of the salmon, kept in intimate touch with the industry. Being convinced that, under existing conditions, the supply of salmon in our waters was being seriously and systematically depleted, he issued notes of warning of the impossibility of perpetuating the races under the present inadequate Dominion Fishery Regulations, and urged the adoption of measures that would ensure future supply.

The importance to British Columbia of the fisheries business is shown by the following table, giving the latest available data (1918) on the value of the fish caught in British Columbia waters:

Salmon	\$17,207,245.00
Halibut	5,196,539.00
Herring	1,742,757.00

Whales	\$1,382,278.00
Cod	426,239.00
Pilchards	413,853.00
Black Cod	285,034.00
Flounders	145,385.00
Soles	92,471.00
Crabs	54,660.00
Clams and Quahaugs	48,200.00
Red Cod, etc.	43,422.00
Grayfish	29,607.00
Oysters	26,926.00
Smelt	26,075.00
Shrimps	23,930.00
Skate	16,565.00
Perch	11,252.00
Oolachans	8,476.00
Trout	5,025.00
Fur-seals	3,320.00
Hake and Cusk	3,097.00
Shad	2,700.00
Octopus	2,321.00
Sturgeon	1,690.00
Whiting	1,451.00
Bass	249.00
Mixed fish (not including any kinds men- tioned elsewhere)	168.00
Eels	72.00
Tomcod	18.00
Fish oil	53,380.00
Fish offal	9,775.00
Scrap and fertilizer	8,423.00
Guano	10,500.00

The Salmon pack of 1919 totalled 1,393,156 cases.

The Halibut catch, landed at Provincial ports during 1919, totalled 3,198,565 lbs.

The policy of the Department is to continue efforts to secure, in co-operation with the Dominion Government, stricter regulations to prevent the extermination of edible fish and the loss of a most valuable asset to the Province.

British Columbia Leads All Provinces in Legislation for the Benefit of Returned Soldiers

WHILE the care of returned soldiers is primarily the business of the Dominion Government, the Liberal administration of British Columbia has done more than that of any other Province in the Dominion to assist in the settlement of the problems incident to their return to civil life. The best proof of this is in the fact that veterans, generally, are satisfied with the work done by the present administration.

Some things the Liberal Government has done to assist the return of the soldier to civil life and independence are:

(1) It reorganized the Returned Soldiers' Aid Commission, which has spent \$120,000 in the past four years in providing relief, besides helping with advances on war service gratuities to 1,335 men.

(2) Prepared and submitted the Soldier Housing Scheme to the Government at Ottawa. Under the Better Housing Act, secured \$1,351,521.59 from the Federal Government as loans to soldiers for the erection of homes, besides supplying free homesites on Government lands.

(3) Exempted pensions of returned men from taxation. Also exempted soldiers' pre-emptions from taxation for five years. Extended their ten per cent. discount on unpaid taxes from August, 1914, to March, 1920.

(4) Withheld from tax sale lands of soldiers and their dependents.

(5) The 6 per cent. interest on delinquent taxes made non-applicable to soldiers.

(6) All disabled men relieved from poll tax.

(7) Gave preference to returned men for Civil Service positions.

(8) Outfitted and paid expenses for returned men to engage in prospecting.

(9) Through the Department of Industries, has loaned over one million dollars to assist enterprises on behalf of returned soldiers, and so helped to create employment for approximately 1,200 persons.

(10) Under Soldiers' Land Act, has reserved large areas exclusively for returned men who wish to go farming. Has conveyed Provincial land to the Dominion Government, free of cost, for soldier settlement. Has given all soldiers purchasing land through the Land Settlement Board a rebate of \$500 on the purchase price of their land.

(11) Assisted the "Empress of Asia" scheme for a community settlement, watching over the progress of the men, and arranging for financing them until the settlement became self-supporting.

(12) Furthering the Asia scheme, has supervised and financed the soldier settlement schemes at Merville and Creston, on which over 200 soldier farmers are now settled.

(13) Soldiers holding special timber licences were relieved from payment of any additional sums because of failure to renew annual fees.

(14) Has revived the lapsed water records held by soldiers and has given power to the Water Board to extend the time for completion of work required to put water in use.

(15) Lands held by soldiers have been exempted from sales for dyking taxes.

(16) By the University Act, 1919, has empowered guarantee of a loan of \$500,000 for co-operating with the Dominion Government for buildings and equipment for vocational training of returned soldiers.

(17) Exempted returned soldiers from payment of tuition fees at the University.

(18) Soldiers' Free Miners' Certificates continued, without charge, to March 31st, 1921, they being exempted from doing record work.

The Pacific Great Eastern

THE affairs of this railway were pretty well ventilated at the Legislative enquiry in 1917, following the election of the present administration. Subsequent to the investigation writs were issued against Foley, Welch & Stewart for the performance of their contract. Owing to the impossibility of effecting service on General J. W. Stewart the suit could not be proceeded with. At that time also efforts at settlement were made on behalf of Foley, Welch & Stewart, and after a long period of negotiations an agreement of settlement was arrived at. Shortly, this was as follows:

Surrendered to the Government:

All the capital shares of the company.

The railway as constructed, including right-of-way, bridges, etc.

All the railway equipment and rolling stock, the property of the P. G. E. Equipment Company.

All the lands of the P. G. E. Development Company.

The claims of P. Welch as contractor, approximating \$2,000,000, for work done and not yet paid for, were cancelled.

A note for \$857,000 owing by the Railway Company to the P. G. E. Development Company for right-of-way and terminal lands was also cancelled.

An outstanding contract for the supply of steel rails, angle bars and track material, amounting to 20,000 tons at a cost of \$33 per ton, f.o.b. Chicago, was surrendered to the Government, thus enabling them to obtain this track material at less than half its then market value.

In addition to the foregoing, \$750,000 in cash was paid to the Government by Foley, Welch & Stewart.

This agreement of settlement was submitted to the Legislature and approved without a dissenting voice. The railway was reopened for traffic and further construction undertaken.

At the time of the settlement the liabilities of the Province in connection with the railway were approximately \$25,000,000; at the present time they are approximately \$33,000,000, the additional \$8,000,000 having been absorbed by the purchase of rails and equipment, payment on account of construction, and payments on account of guarantees of interest. The total obligations of the Province in connection with this railway constitute a liability fastened upon it by the late McBride-Bowser administration. A further payment of \$2,000,000 on account of construction and \$1,500,000 on account of interest charges will probably be required to complete the railway from Squamish to Prince George.

PEACE RIVER EXTENSION

From Prince George via Pine River Pass to the eastern boundary of the Province is approximately 330 miles, and an approximate estimate of the cost of constructing this portion of the road is \$21,000,000. Data in the hands of the Government are insufficient to make a close estimate of cost, nor are there sufficient data upon which to base a reliable estimate as to the traffic-producing power of the territory to be traversed.

A considerable number of settlers located near the eastern boundary of the Province, in the vicinity of Pouce Coupe and Rolla, are in dire need

of transportation facilities. A suggestion has been made that relief might be afforded by inducing the Edmonton & Dunvegan Railway Company, whose line is now graded to the eastern boundary of the Province, to lay steel that far to afford the necessary temporary relief until such time as the P. G. E. might build westward.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

Since the Government took over the road steel has been laid from Chasm to Deep Creek, a distance of about 115 miles, and about 125 miles have been ballasted. Approximately 25 miles of new grade have been built, and on a large proportion of the balance of the road wooden bridges have been built and the grade prepared for ties. One large steel bridge, approximately 1,300 feet long and 280 feet high, over Deep Creek, will be completed within a few days. The only other very large bridge is that over the Cottonwood River, which will be about 400 feet long. The road should be completed and in operation to Prince George by September of next year.

The Liberal Administration appeals to the electorate for re-election in the firm confidence that the record of the past four years of safe, sane and progressive administration of the affairs of British Columbia has met with the approval of every man and woman who has the best interests of the Province at heart.

Election, December 1st, 1920

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