

**CIHM
Microfiche
Series
(Monographs)**

**ICMH
Collection de
microfiches
(monographies)**



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques

© 1998

Technical and Bibliographic Notes / Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming are checked below.

- Coloured covers / Couverture de couleur
- Covers damaged / Couverture endommagée
- Covers restored and/or laminated / Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- Cover title missing / Le titre de couverture manque
- Coloured maps / Cartes géographiques en couleur
- Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black) / Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- Coloured plates and/or illustrations / Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- Bound with other material / Relié avec d'autres documents
- Only edition available / Seule édition disponible
- Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion along interior margin / La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la distorsion le long de la marge intérieure.
- Blank leaves added during restorations may appear within the text. Whenever possible, these have been omitted from filming / Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas été filmées.
- Additional comments / Commentaires supplémentaires:

L'institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- Coloured pages / Pages de couleur
- Pages damaged / Pages endommagées
- Pages restored and/or laminated / Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- Pages discoloured, stained or foxed / Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- Pages detached / Pages détachées
- Showthrough / Transparence
- Quality of print varies / Qualité inégale de l'impression
- Includes supplementary material / Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to ensure the best possible image / Les pages totalement ou partiellement obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure, etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à obtenir la meilleure image possible.
- Opposing pages with varying colouration or discolourations are filmed twice to ensure the best possible image / Les pages s'opposant ayant des colorations variables ou des décolorations sont filmées deux fois afin d'obtenir la meilleure image possible.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below /
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10x			14x				18x				22x			26x			30x		
			12x			16x			20x			24x			28x			32x	

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

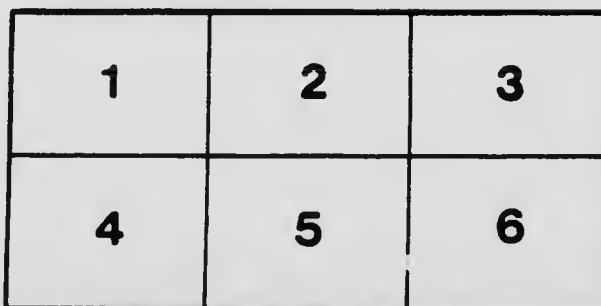
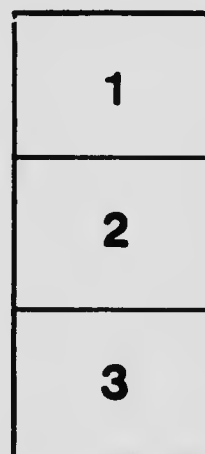
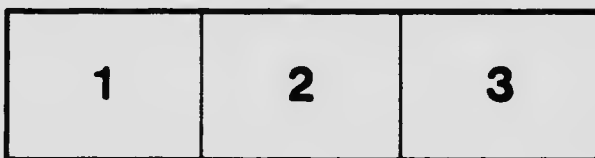
University of Victoria
McPherson Library

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol \rightarrow (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ∇ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:



L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

University of Victoria
McPherson Library

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaît sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole \rightarrow signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ∇ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.

MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART

(ANSI and ISO TEST CHART No. 2)



1.45

1.50

1.56

1.63

1.71

1.80

1.88

1.96

2.04

2.12

2.25

2.34

2.43

2.54

2.65

2.76

2.88

3.00

3.15

3.30

3.45

3.60

3.75

3.90

4.05

4.20

4.35

4.50

4.65

4.80

4.95

5.10

5.25

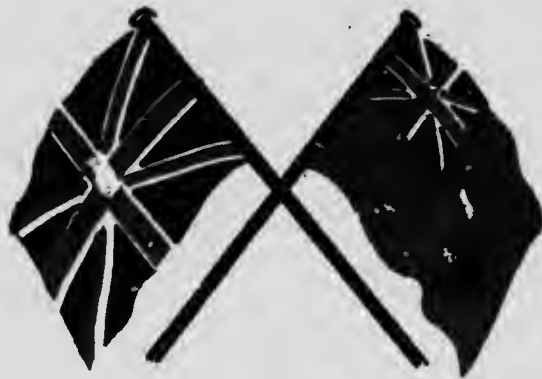
5.40

5.55



APPLIED IMAGE Inc

1653 East Main Street
Rochester, New York 14609 USA
(716) 482 - 0300 - Phone
(716) 288 - 5989 - Fax



The Oliver Administration



**A Short Statement of the Work and
Plans of the Present Government
in British Columbia.**



**Prepared and Published by the Victoria Liberal
Association so that the Citizens of British
Columbia may know how their Affairs
are being dealt with**



UNIVERSITY
OF VICTORIA
LIBRARY

a

FOREWORD

The manner in which your public affairs are conducted and the policies underlying that conduct is of immediate concern to you and your families. While world-wide conditions affecting the cost of living, labor and the export demand for our products are beyond Provincial control, a sound policy respecting Provincial affairs will tend to lighten your burdens and permit better advantage to be taken of opportunities afforded, just as a prudent man is better able to withstand the jibes of fortune and to benefit by her smiles.

It is the object of this brochure to give a fair statement of the position of the Province when the present Government took office, the measures taken by it, the policies underlying these steps, and the end in view. That you may judge justly a short reference also is made to the criticisms advanced by the Opposition.

It is necessary in a democratic country that the citizens of such country do from time to time pass judgment upon the conduct and management of their affairs. It is essential to the well-being of such country that judgment so passed shall be based, not on hasty, ill-considered conclusions, or on passion or prejudice, but on knowledge of the acts of its Government, reasonably and fairly considered; criticising where necessary and giving credit where credit is due. So, will we really secure

"Government of the people, for the people, by the people."

CONTENTS

Foreword	1
Agriculture	3
Attorney General	5
Education	6.
Finance	7
Fisheries	10
Health	11
Labour	12
Lands	13
Mines	15
Opposition Tactics	17
Premier	18
Railways	18
Soldiers	21
Women	24
Works	25

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The development of agriculture had received little attention from former Governments and the industry would have been better off if it had not the attention it did receive.

In the dry belt, conditions were allowed to arise under which purchasers of lands, the value of which depended upon irrigation, were permitted to settle on a plan whereby the irrigation company supplying water became bankrupt and the settler faced ruin after years of hard work.

In other places, while no assistance was given the farmer, the assessed value of his lands was increased time after time on "boom" prices by the Government Assessors, so that when the time came which forced the farmer to rely on his own exertions to get along, he found assessment so high and so out of proportion to the producing value of lands that ruin stared him in the face.

In the newer areas lands were tied up by speculators who paid neither purchase price nor taxes, who would not settle on the lands themselves and who held them from settlement by anyone else.

Naturally settlement and progress were barred and British Columbia, which should be an exporting province, instead imported annually over \$20,000,000 of farm produce yearly, and still the farmers, disorganized and struggling, were unable to make a respectable living.

The underlying policy of the present Government is, by means of intelligent legislation, by help in marketing and organizing and assistance in co-operation, to make those now on the farms actually prosperous. This result when accomplished will go a long way to solve taxation and other agricultural difficulties. For example, the cost of producing what we eat is often less than the cost of selling these things to the purchaser. It is actually greater when we bring it on a long train or boat journey, pay profits to farmer, merchant and wholesaler in the South, than transportation charges, importer, wholesaler and retailer, (with all their profits) here. It is as well a serious financial drain on the country.

Proper organization means elimination of unnecessary waste and real profits to producer with lower cost to consumer.

Along the line of making the man on the ground produce, we would instance:—

(a) The attention now being given to irrigation whereby settlers will be assured of water.

(b) Seed legislation. Portions of B. C. such as Metchosin, V.I., have ideal conditions for growing seed. Progressive legislation on plan found successful in Denmark has been inaugurated.

(c) Sheep production. This industry had already died out. Legislation has been passed to protect sheep grower and sympathetic assistance will be given to promote industry.

(d) Loans to farmers are being continued as far as possible under present condition of market shortage.

(e) Especial attention will be given to building up co-operative plans and organization.

(f) Re assessment of lands of Province substantially to base their valuation on their productive value.

(g) In addition to exemption of \$1,000 on personal property, a further exemption of \$1,500 on improvements.

A large part of this work was commenced under Hon. Mr. Oliver, but the essential importance of the industry was recognized and it was made a special portfolio with Hon. Mr. Barrow in charge. Mr. Barrow has made a practical success of farm and co-operative work, being at the head of the Fraser Valley Farmers' Co-operative Society, a concern having an annual turn-over of over \$1,000,000 per year.

It is also necessary to secure settlement of our lands—especially along lines of new railways—to maintain balance of industries in the Province as a whole and to enable these railways to pay their own charges—and not to be forever a charge on the people of B. C. and Canada.

Under the Minister and Land Settlement Board, a survey of available lands is being made and a progressive colonization will be carried on, having in view the following prerequisites:

- (a) Lands must be good lands.
- (b) Available to markets.
- (c) Settled by people accustomed to conditions.
- (d) In communities.

The policy of preventing settlement is at an end. A policy is now inaugurated based on the experience of New Zealand, Australia and the Prairie Provinces. The Government looks for many difficulties and many disappointments, but in their serious effort to settle, it counts on the sympathetic support of the whole of the people of the Province.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

It was the policy of Mr. W. J. Bowser as Attorney General to concentrate in his Department the control of the administrative work of the Government, partly because he could conceive of no one else who could do the work but chiefly for political purposes to make himself master of the administration.

As indicating the measure to which he was able to do this, the cost of his Department in 1903-4 was \$290,509.33, whereas in 1915-6 it was \$1,281,461.43.

Harassed by details, and engrossed by the management of his political machine, he allowed to pass and was responsible, as chief law officer for the Crown, the fraudulent railway estimates of the C. N. P. Ry. Co. and P. G. E. Ry. Co., which not only cost the Province millions directly, but ended in these companies not fulfilling their obligations and depriving the Province of the line of railway and preventing development whereby the means to meet our obligations were not available.

It has been found necessary to reorganize his Department and to alter his system, firstly to get efficiency and secondly to save money.

For example, the duties of Game Wardens have been put under Provincial Police enabling twenty-seven men to be dispensed with.

The Provincial Police Department was a hot bed of partisan politics. This is now being reorganized; thirty men have been let out, forty-nine have resigned. This has not been done to find jobs for "hungry Grits" as alleged by Mr. Bowser; sixty-two returned soldiers have been appointed on the force.

In the Land Registry Office at Victoria nine men were wholly dispensed with; some who were married men with

children, have been placed in other departments when vacancies permitted. In New Westminster office, six were dispensed with and three have since voluntarily resigned with their positions not filled (showing office was overstaffed).

The Department has also been doing its own work. For example, the cost of "constitutional law work" in one year under Mr. Bowser amounted to \$29,184.66; under the present administration for year 1917-8 this cost was \$4,389.49.

By closing Saanich Prison Farm, and New Westminster Gaol, \$67,899.52 is saved annually.

EDUCATION

The responsibility of fixing educational plans is vested in the Provincial Government. The administration in large cities is borne by cities, but in the others and in the rural districts is borne either wholly or in part by the Government. The cost to the Province for the current year is \$1,700,000.

The chief aim of Hon. Dr. MacLean, Minister of Education, is to have students upon leaving school properly trained, ready and willing to take their place in the world. He is co-operating with the teachers; the old cramming system has been abolished and attention is directed to the proper training of the pupils rather than passing examinations. Many pupils broke down, many left school under the preparation for entrance to high school, and when they did pass the exam. were in many cases little better off.

The multiplicity of subjects is being cut down.

Especial attention is given to practical business courses, and the work of night schools extended.

Courses in technical education extended; plans are under way to have these especially directed to enable B. C. students trained in knowledge of those assets such as minerals, timber, farming, etc., in which this Province is well endowed, so that B. C. students may take advantage of B. C. opportunities.

It is the desire of the Department that parents co-operate with its officials and teachers in directing the education of the children. A general idea, when possible, should be

formed when the student is from 12 to 14 of what his particular bent is; and from then on education should be directed along the line which will be most useful to him. Many factors enter into the consideration, requiring individual attention.

It is also the intention of the Department to give some measure of education in the principles of Government. It is too often the idea in democratic countries that these principles are simply a matter of instinct and that study of their affairs and the principles underlying the administration is neglected. No idea could be more fallacious or more injurious to the country. In a democratic country it is vital that continued good government can only be secured and maintained by constant intelligent and vigilant attention on the part of the electors. The way in which our affairs are constantly mismanaged and muddled is often heartbreaking.

FINANCES

The importance of finance in any country or Province is expressed in the weighty and well-considered judgment of Lord Milner, now Secretary of State for War, and for many years in charge of Egyptian finances which, prior to British control, were in a bankrupt condition. Lord Milner says:—

“The men who control the Exchequer in more highly developed countries are, of course, well aware that it is not with statistics and balance sheets, not with the mere paraphernalia of finance that they are dealing, **BUT WITH THE COMFORT, THE HAPPINESS, EVEN THE MORALITY OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS.**”

In 1911 the Province of British Columbia had a cash surplus in the bank of some \$8,500,000. About 1912 the Government of that day entered upon a policy of reckless and extravagant expenditure, and from that time until it resigned office in November, 1916, it dissipated this surplus and in addition expended \$18,000,000 more than the revenues received in that time.

Much money was wasted on elaborate Government machinery, on home and overseas trips of ministers, on remunerative commissions for Members of the Legislature, on expensive public buildings and costly road work, and, in short, on a species of general “joy-riding.”

For example, there were such expenditures on public works as \$318,462 on the Saanich Prison Farm, closed by the present administration for purposes of economy and more efficient jail management; \$1,231,395 for Mr. Bowser's new court-house in Vancouver; and \$1,505,133 for Mental Hospitals at New Westminster and Essondale.

There were expenditures on Royal Commissions, upon which supporters of the late Government in the House sat, such as \$142,708 for the Indian Commission, and \$53,061 for the Agriculture Commission. Friends of the administration received fat commissions such as the \$80,000 paid to H. O. Alexander and Hamilton Read for purchasing the Kitsilano Indian Reserve, and paying the Indians \$300,000 for it. In this connection it is worthy of note that the Dominion Government refuses to surrender its title to the reversionary interests in this Reserve, and that consequently the Province has no title today in the property for which it paid, between purchase price and commission, \$380,000. That the late ministers of the Crown travelled like Eastern potentates may be judged from the fact that one minister's travelling expenses during his term of office amounted to \$37,541.

When the Brewster Government took office on November 23rd, 1916, there was in the bank to the credit of the Province \$52,105.75. Salaries and wages due and current expenses were largely in excess of this sum, and Pacific Great Eastern Railway interest amounting to \$422,443 had to be met the month following. The current year's revenue had practically been exhausted, and to meet obligations already incurred by the outgoing Government, \$443,409 to meet the expenditure for the balance of that fiscal year had to be secured. Through Mr. Bowser's delay in surrendering office, no great re-organization could be effected before the Session of 1917. At that Session, though taxation was increased, the deficit for the fiscal year 1917-18, in spite of the most rigorous economy, was estimated at \$932,479.

The estimates for the present fiscal year, which ends on March 31st, 1919, show a surplus on current account for the first time since 1911. The revenue is estimated to exceed the expenditure, which includes all the ordinary public services, by \$241,801. But capital expenditures, such as the providing of sinking funds for the greatly increased public debt, nearly \$1,000,000 for P. G. E. interest, and interest on the mortgage

on B. C. House in London, result in an estimated deficit of \$1,711,639.

The net funded debt of the Province at March 31st, 1917, was \$19,724,010, a doubling of the debt in the course of three years. This entails very heavy fixed charges for interest and sinking fund. By way of comparison the following are the deficits for the past few years:—

Year ending March 31, 1912.....	\$ 433,316
Year ending March 31, 1913.....	2,902,107
Year ending March 31, 1914.....	5,283,654
Year ending March 31, 1915.....	3,968,171
Year ending March 31, 1916.....	3,588,969
Year ending March 31, 1917.....	2,172,534
Year ending March 31, 1918..... (Est.)	932,479

The additional taxation which has been imposed has been made necessary by these deficits and by the obligations on account of railways incurred by the late Government. If it had not been for this the practice of economy would have enabled the Province to get along very comfortably without recourse to new taxation. In increasing taxes, however, the Government has sought to equalize the burden over all classes, and it intends to collect all taxes strictly and not allow the accumulation of arrears which was permitted by the Conservation administration. Banks, railways, corporations, and those in receipt of large incomes are all being asked to pay a larger share of the revenue, as well as the farmer and the wage earner. In many cases the increase has been a doubling of the old rate. Mining companies and canneries will have to pay on output or on income, whichever is the greater. As the tax will fall in the great majority of cases on income rather than on output, these companies will pay on the sliding scale of the income tax according to their profits, which is an eminently fair method.

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

This Department, formerly administered by the late Hon. H. C. Brewster, is now under the charge of Hon. Wm. Sloan, who has had, both here and at Ottawa,, extensive experience in dealing with the problems constantly arising.

The importance to British Columbia is shown by the fact that for the fiscal year ending 1914, the market value of fish caught was \$13,391,398, or over 40 per cent of the total of fishery products of Canada.

The administration of this Department is complicated by the fact that while the ownership of the fish once they are on land is vested in the Province, the right to grant licences to catch the fish is under the jurisdiction of Ottawa; some of the fish before reaching British Columbia waters pass through United States waters and therefore under United States jurisdiction, and some in the open seas are only subject to control by treaty between the Powers concerned.

The salmon run has fallen off so considerably that there is danger that this fish will be exterminated.

This is in part due to the fact that in 1913-1914 the great spawning grounds of the Fraser River were blocked by the blasting of rock into the river by the C. N. R. in the canyon above Yale.

The same applies to halibut, which is gradually being driven farther and farther north and is gradually disappearing.

It is to the credit of the Ottawa Government and the United States Government that a joint commission is now sitting to solve the problems and avoid the extermination of these valuable fish.

The Commissioner of Fisheries has made representations to the International Board looking to the curtailment and regulation of fishing for both salmon and halibut.

Special attention is also being given to maintenance of game fishing, an important asset of this Province.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The matter of the Health of the people of this Province is of outstanding importance.

Quite apart from moral obligations, the true welfare of the State, our own true self-interest, prompts us to take such measures as will eliminate as far as possible, avoidable disease. That, for example, dread disease tuberculosis: each person going around endangering others may mean ruin to each family, to a member of which he communicates the disease. Is it not better to render this impossible? From an economic standpoint the same arguments apply as to unemployment as are set out under Labour Department.

The neglect of tuberculosis in this Province has been little short of criminal. The increase in percentage of deaths in B. C. is shown by the following figures:

1908.—1 out of 20 deaths caused by tuberculosis;

1917.—1 out of 10 deaths caused by tuberculosis;

Or an increase of one hundred per cent in eight years!

In the other Provinces there has been a decrease or a very nominal increase in the death rate.

In spite of shortage of money, the grant to hospitals for tubercular patients has been doubled, and accommodation at Tranquille largely increased.

A resolute campaign against this disease is under way. Further moneys will be voted from time to time and knowledge of the utmost importance is combating this disease is being diffused through the Department's publicity branch.

The sanitation, especially in camps throughout the Province, has been very bad. This was formerly under the supervision of an untrained man. Last session we provided a salary for a physician especially trained in sanitary matters to take charge of this work.

A matter of pressing importance, the neglect of which may undermine the health and well-being of whole communities, is that of venereal diseases, the increase in which is becoming alarming. Careful attention is being given to this; publicity as to its evils is being secured. Plans are under way with neighboring States and Provinces, looking to similar laws for quarantining cases. It is felt that the growth of knowledge will soon enable legislation along this line to be put into effective operation.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

This new Department is administered by Hon. Mr. J. W. McB. Farris, the Attorney-General.

The principle governing modern legislation and administration is:—

(a) Every day lost by a workman, either by strike or unemployment is a loss not only to the workman and his family, but also the state or community as a whole. Take for example the strike at the coal mines in Vancouver Island, which should have been averted if the Government had assisted; cost the people of this Province directly \$600,000 and indirectly many millions. From the community point of view, we live from day to day as much as our ancestors did; the truth of this will be recognized if we consider what would happen if in any year all the crops in the world were destroyed. This might be amplified but it emphasizes this, that it is the duty of each and all to bear his share of production in the world, or the comfort, progress or happiness of the inhabitants, and anyone not doing so or prevented from doing so is carried as a burden by the others.

(b) The welfare of any state depends in large part upon the welfare of the workers; their ability and opportunity to work, to provide for their families, for their own possible sickness and old age, their intelligence and education, and the securing by them of a stake in the world, such as home savings, etc.

The Labour Department has only commenced operations in this big field of endeavour and that only in a small way.

It has under organization Labour Bureaus, which will eventually extend throughout the Province.

It is collecting data about employment and openings.

By its good offices a strike in ship-building establishments was arrested in the early part of this year and publicity as to the contentions of both sides to the dispute was secured.

It is now assisting in organization work of labour, preparatory to wise and economical distribution at harvest time.

It assisted in settling difficulties at Trail Smelter.

It is collecting data on all matters pertaining to the welfare of workers, such as eight-hour law, so that it will be available to guide and assist the Government and members of the Legislature.

In some respects, present legislation protecting electrical workers is defective and they are exposed to unnecessary dangers; investigation is now under way tending to remedy this.

All of this is but a beginning; but at least the importance is recognized and work is under way.

LANDS DEPARTMENT

It would take a good deal of space to adequately outline the work of the Lands Department in its change of policy under new administration and also the immense amount of detail necessary to cover arrears left by the last administration and which had to be put in order before much progress can be made.

The former policy in lands in practice could only end in disaster. A great railway policy was embarked upon, which could only be borne by the Province if, coincident with it and as part of policy a land colonization policy were adopted. This was not done; instead, exploitation of the lands (as in the railways) was adopted. All available lands were tied up—the purchasers (only speculators in many cases) paid only first instalment and held lands without payment of taxes and without payment of arrears for years.

They were unable to settle the lands themselves and prevented others from doing so. In many cases the lands inevitably had to come back, the speculator not only lost but at once became a "knocker" of all Provincial lands.

Many of these lands have now come back to the Province, as the Government insisted that arrears of principal and taxes should be met. A card index of these and all surveyed Crown lands is being made; one copy on file in Victoria and one for each Government Agent for his District. This is necessarily slow work, but makes available for the use of pre-emptors and purchasers a complete survey record of all lands available for settlement.

On the wild lands still held and unused, a tax of five per cent per year is imposed and **WILL BE COLLECTED.**

An outline of plan of settlement is set out under "Agricultural Department." In the work of that Department it is the desire of the Lands Department to co-operate and assist.

An important change has been made in requirements of obtaining pre-emptions. The old policy of continuous settlement (usually evaded improperly in practice) prevented many from taking up lands; an opportunity is now afforded the worker in the city to secure his pre-emption, have enough work done on it to enable him to make a living on it, and only then to require him to live on it. The present requirements are:—

(a) Location as under old law relating to pre-emption.

(b) At least \$300 worth of work in each year—provision for layover in event of sickness or other reasonable excuse. The pre-emption may be held for any number of years provided \$300 work is done in each year or layover secured,

(c) Residence for two years previous to Crown Grant and improvements to value of \$10 per acre.

Provision is also made for pre-emption being taken up and worked by partners.

The present policy is to bring about the development of our agricultural areas, and no less than six measures were passed at the last session of the Legislature dealing with the important problem of land development.

Without particularizing in detail, it might be said that the measure with respect to the lands of the Province requiring irrigation is of a most important character. The success of thousands of the people of the Province, representing several million dollars annual output, is dependent upon successful irrigation.

Another important feature in connection with land development is that of stocking the immense areas of grazing lands in the Province of British Columbia. For some years the industry has been languishing instead of developing. Great differences of opinion have arisen between cattle men and sheep men, and with a view to adjusting the whole situation

and developing the stock industry, action has been taken which it is confidently felt will bring about a solution of the whole problem. The development of the stock raising industry in British Columbia is susceptible of much enlargement, and the success of the measures now being taken by the Government will certainly mean a great deal for the Province as a whole.

Another measure emanating from the Department of Lands was the Aeroplane Spruce Production Bill. Hitherto practically the total output from this continent was being supplied the Allies by the United States. On the entry of the United States into the war, this condition could not continue, as they required the spruce for themselves. The British authorities looked to British Columbia for a supply and requested the advice of the Department of Lands, looking to a solution of the difficulty. The result was that where there had formerly been months of delay and the production of aeroplane spruce almost nothing, today the production is counted in millions of feet.

MINES DEPARTMENT

The real estate speculation at the Coast had the effect of attracting almost the entire attention of the people of the whole of the Province to money so to be secured. The result was not only was the interior drained of its money, but there was not a legitimate source whereby the prospector could get money and he almost died out.

Another injurious feature is that as a result of a heavy load of debt, taxes had to be increased on all industries; this meant necessarily heavier taxation on producing companies.

The purpose of the Mines Department is to assist the prospector, to increase production so that the returns to the Province will be greater and the burden on producers lighter, and to put mining on a basis of permanent industry, and to insure fair and just treatment for miners.

The following, amongst other things have been done:

The Province divided into districts with competent engineers in charge to assist and look after the industry.

Provision has been made for diamond drilling on claims on request of owner and where, in the opinion of the resident

engineers, it is justified. This act should go a long way to help the industry.

Taxation is so fixed as not to put the small man out of business, and yet that the large producer will assume his share of the general burden.

An extension of the eight-hour principle and provisions protecting men against tuberculosis in certain dangerous workings.

Especial attention has been given to iron; special provision has been made for diamond drilling on these properties. Data has been collected of ore available and made available to the public. Investigation is also being made into electrothermic process of treating iron.

Legislation has also been passed providing for bounty on ore, which on fifty per cent ore mined and smelted in the Province amounts to \$2.75 per ton net, after deducting the tax of 37½c per ton on ore mined. The Government wishes to insure the establishment of the industry in this Province.

The Government feels that the establishment of an iron industry in this Province is perhaps the most important contribution this Province could make to its welfare and the welfare and strength of Canada and the Empire as a whole, and every effort will be made to secure its establishment.

Like the other Departments, a great deal depends on its administration, quite apart from the legislation. Mr. Sloan is giving his undivided attention to the Department and has already made many trips through the Province to meet men engaged in mining and keep in thorough touch with workings and problems.

As an instance, many miners desire to secure lands, but under old laws there is no chance of this. The new pre-emption law (referred to under Lands Department) will be of great assistance to miners as it will enable them while working in mines to secure lands, thus giving them a real stake in the country and benefitting them and the Province of which they are a part as well.

Work is now under way to render possible the development of mineral areas in the E. & N. belt on Vancouver Island which are now lying dormant through the dual control by the Government and the Company. This will be prosecuted diligently and it is hoped with satisfactory results.

OPPOSITION TACTICS

The policy of the Leader of the Opposition has been by constant reiteration of petty grievances and untiring efforts to stir up discord amongst the different groups of the citizens, to divert attention from the sincere attempts and real accomplishments of the present administration in the way of good government.

In this he has been partly successful. It is in part to remove this impression, and in part to give some idea of the work actually done that this pamphlet is written, so that we may cease quarrelling among ourselves and one and all work for the public good.

That the Leader of the Opposition is quite prepared to put party interests, party gains and party triumph before that of the Empire's safety was evidenced in his support of a Bill introduced into the Legislature aimed directly at the Japanese, at a time when the fate of Democracy hangs in the balance, with Japan as a trustee and faithful ally of Great Britain, keeping faith with Canada absolutely in the matter of the "Gentlemen's agreement" respecting the immigration of Japanese. The Leader of the Opposition and those who follow him were quite willing to join forces with an irresponsible "independent" member of the House to slap Japan in the face, if by doing so some temporary gain could be achieved among certain sections of the electorate. The grave responsibility of going on record, demagogically and for party ends, in a matter which cannot but have been interpreted as an insult to a faithful ally of Great Britain does not seem to have been sensed by the Leader of the Opposition. It is for the public to judge the conduct of a man who is willing to precipitate even international strife and treaty-breaking as justifiable if a small section of one political party in British Columbia could thereby gain its partizan ends.

The result of his work has been to make many people believe that the Government was accomplishing nothing. A consideration of the many constructive works undertaken by the Government is the best answer to his propaganda.

. THE PREMIER

The duty of the Premier as head of the Government is to establish policies and to co-ordinate the work of the different departments.

The complexity and variety of the problems facing British Columbia, requires that the heads of the different departments pull together.

The immediate needs of British Columbia, stated generally are:

Honest and efficient administration.

Putting our finances in sound condition.

A policy of development of our resources.

A policy of balancing and regulating that development so that people here may benefit by wealth produced here.

Making this Province self-sustaining.

Such social legislation as will make for the betterment of the whole of our people.

In these general objects, and with a view to having British Columbia take its proper place in Canada and in the Empire, the Government is bending every energy and hopes to have the support of the people as a whole.

CANADIAN NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY

It would require a volume considerably larger than this memo to adequately explain the position with respect to this road. It is the same old story of the issuing of railway bonds guaranteed by the Province, and the illegal payments of the proceeds of the bonds, which, under the Statute, had been placed in a Trust Fund. Had not the Dominion Government

intervened and assisted the railway company by the advancement of many millions of dollars, this Province would have been obliged to default in meeting its obligations under this guarantee. For the reason that the Dominion Government intervened and saved the Province from the direct results of its own folly, this Government has sought to co-operate with and assist the Dominion Government in a broad-minded and fair manner in dealing with the present difficult situation.

This Government has pointed out to the Dominion Government and to the Meredith Commission—which was appointed to fix the value of the Mackenzie & Mann shares in the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company—the obligations of this railway in connection with railway construction in this Province. This Government has pointed out that the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway is in default of the majority of its contractual obligations with the Province, and has endeavored to obtain the performance of these contractual obligations by the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company, especially as to that portion of its obligations relating to the construction of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway on Vancouver Island; the supplying of the Gulf Ferry; also the construction of workshops and terminals in or near the City of Victoria. This Government has made an extraordinary effort to secure the placing of steel on the Canadian Northern Pacific line on Vancouver Island so that transportation facilities may be furnished to the inhabitants at Colwood, Metchosin and Sooke Districts and access provided to the magnificent stretches of timber adjacent to this projected line of railway on Vancouver Island. The Dominion Government has admitted the advisability of carrying out this work at the earliest possible moment but plead the inability to obtain steel rails for this purpose. This Government ascertained that large quantities of steel rails had been in storage in Vancouver for many months past. Very strong representations were made to the Dominion Government urging that the Dominion Government obtain possession of these rails and provide for the laying of the same on the Canadian Northern Pacific grade on Vancouver Island.

This Government feels that only by following the policy herein outlined can the Federal Government partially atone for the wrongs done to the people of the City of Victoria and Vancouver Island through the neglect of the Railway Company to carry out its contractual obligations.

PACIFIC GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY

This Government caused a searching investigation to be made into the business relations of the Province of British Columbia with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company. As a result of the activities of the Government in this respect the Pacific Great Eastern Railway promoters and contractors have been compelled to surrender to the Province all their property and share capital interests in the Railway itself; also all the property of the Pacific Great Eastern Equipment Company and the property and shares of the Pacific Great Eastern Development Company; also payment of \$750,000 in cash. So thorough and complete were the methods of the Provincial Government that an agreement securing the before-mentioned properties and franchises to the Province was accepted by the Legislature without a dissenting voice.

The Provincial Government is endeavoring to reach an agreement with the Dominion Government whereby the latter will take over the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company and its liabilities and make this Railway a part of the national transportation system, by this means relieving the Province of British Columbia from its liabilities in respect to this Railway and securing for the people of the Province and of the Dominion the very best possible results which could accrue from the construction of this important line of Railway.

In respect to the activities of the Railway Department in other respects, it may be stated that the office work of the Department is being carried on at a greatly reduced cost for salaries. The work of improving the former Songhees Indian Reserve and making the same available for industrial sites is progressing satisfactorily and at a vastly reduced cost as compared with the same operations under the late administration. This reduction in cost simply is astounding. The Chief Engineer's figures show that whilst the present administration is paying one dollar per day more for labour than was paid under the late administration, yet the cost of work is only a little in excess of fifty per cent of what the same work cost under the late administration.

Legislation has been placed upon the Statute books whereby statistics and returns from Railway corporations—which, under the late administration, were confidential and secret in their character—now are open for public information.

Inspection of railways and other equipment now are more thoroughly made and the law in respect to safety devices is being more rigorously enforced, the policy of the present Government in this respect being that safety shall be the first consideration.

The extension of the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act so as to furnish the same protection to Government railway employees which private employers and corporations are compelled to provide for their employees, by law, will be found to be very beneficial.

SOLDIERS

The best and indeed the only satisfactory way of dealing with the rehabilitation of returned soldiers into civil life, will only be accomplished by the hearty co-operation of the Dominion and the several Provinces. To assist in this way was one of the chief matters undertaken by Hon. Mr. Oliver when at Ottawa.

The effort of the Opposition in the local House, led by W. J. Bowser, to make the returned soldiers themselves, as well as their problems, a political football, is injurious to the soldiers themselves and the country as a whole and might lead some to believe that the Government of British Columbia is, if not openly antagonistic, at least lacking in sympathy towards these men. This conclusion is the exact opposite of the truth.

We have in the Province a Provincial Returned Soldiers' Commission, to which has been appropriated \$15,000 per year for the purpose of the Commission.

This Commission has 75 local branches, located in different parts of the Province. Four of these, at Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and New Westminster, each have a Secretary, whose salary is paid by the Provincial Government.

The Secretary in the case of Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster, is a returned soldier; so, too, is the Secretary of the Central organization, with headquarters in the Parliament Buildings.

It is the work of these local Commissions to keep in touch with the returned men and to assist them in getting employment. If they cannot get employment, they notify the Provincial Returned Soldiers' Commission here. Then the Provincial Commission endeavors to secure positions for them.

These local Commissions are doing voluntarily a very valuable work.

With reference to the employment situation, at present there are very few men on the list who were on two weeks ago, showing that all excepting these have employment. In all, during the past year, 116 returned soldiers were permanently employed, and are still in the service, while a large number received temporary employment, of which no accurate record is kept.

In all, our Provincial Returned Soldiers' Commission has dealt with 5,972 men and at the present time only 38 men who are able to work are out of employment who were unemployed two weeks ago.

In all cases of vacancies in any branch of the Provincial service, when returned men suitable for the positions are available or are on our unemployed list, they are given the preference.

With reference to the resolutions submitted to the Premier on the alien question and on bringing into effect the Civil Service Act, the first resolution was forwarded to Ottawa, as requested by the returned soldiers, for consideration, and the Civil Service Act will go into effect on July 1, 1918.

Among the acts passed at the last session of the House, giving preferential treatment to the returned men, were the following:—

Soldiers' Settlement Act—

(a) This provides that a reserve shall be placed on Crown lands for the benefit of soldiers.

(b) Conveys such lands to the Dominion Government so that soldiers can avail themselves of the Dominion Government grant.

(c) Provides for the purchase of lands up to \$500,000 for the use of returned soldiers.

2. Amendment to the Wills Act—

This provides that if the soldier's will is signed by himself (without any witness) or if another party can sign the will which has been dictated by the soldier, it will be valid in a court of law.

3. Appropriated \$50,000 towards the erection of a new wing to the Tranquille Sanatorium to accommodate returned tubercular soldiers.

4. We are paying the enlisted men who left the employ of the Government to serve their country the difference between their salaries in civil life and their army pay.

5. We have passed a special warrant granting \$30,000 to the Invalided Soldiers' Commission of British Columbia, to buy apparatus, in co-operation with the Dominion Government, for the purpose of purchasing equipment to re-educate the crippled returned soldier.

6. Courses in agricultural and technical training for returned men are established at the B. C. University.
Land Settlement Act—

The Dominion Government has undertaken to make loans up to \$2,500 for returned soldiers settling on the lands. The Government here is urging upon Ottawa that we will provide lands necessary, so that this loaning privilege be extended to B. C. soldiers. We have pointed out that as B. C. contributed more according to population than any other Province, and that we did not have benefit of war work to extent of other Provinces, we should be placed in the matter of loans at least on same basis as Prairie Provinces.

WOMEN

The passing of legislation in the first session under the Brewster Government, whereby the vote was conferred upon women, was in conformity with the pledge of the Liberal Party many years ago.

While the women will be interested in the workings of all the Departments, some matters will be of especial interest to them.

Under the former guardianship law, a woman had no control over her own children; the father could by will, for example, give the entire control to absolute strangers. This now is changed and the mother has equal rights with the father.

The minimum wage law for women is now enacted. The unsafe conditions under which some of the girls have been working, and the dangers to which they have been exposed by inadequate pay will now be carefully dealt with by a Board, and acting voluntarily, along the lines first tried out in Australia and found to work out so satisfactorily in practice that the principle was adopted in a number of the States to the South of us.

Conditions in the Boys' Industrial School and Girls' Industrial School were found unsatisfactory; more humane and considerate treatment and education are now being installed and it is the pleasure of the present Attorney-General to have the opportunity to give these his personal supervision. The assistance to these unfortunate children should be and is a labour of love.

The attention of the women voters, who are now learning so that they may exercise their ballot with fairness and intelligence, is directed to the whole of this pamphlet but particularly those portions pertaining to Education, Health and Labour Departments. This Government invites their suggestions and co-operation at all times, particularly the Government wishes the help of the mothers of this Province in making this our own land a place of opportunity for their children and as well a clean, moral and decent country for their children to grow up in.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Scope

This Department has under its direct control not only such public works as roads, bridges, wharves and ferries, but also all construction work in connection with court houses, gaols, prison-farms, mental hospitals, and numerous schools.

In addition, this Department supervises the inspection of machinery, factories, dyking and electrical energy.

The fact that approximately one-fifth of the total estimated expenditure of the Province for the fiscal year is accounted for by the Works Department in itself emphasizes the important position it occupies in the affairs of the Province, and the great responsibilities placed upon its Executive and Administrative Officials under its capable Minister.

Extent

Embracing an area of approximately 373,000 square miles, it is natural to expect widely varying physical and climatic conditions throughout the Province. Physically it holds a unique position in the Dominion, rendering the construction and maintenance of roads, trails and bridges a most difficult and proportionately expensive undertaking, in its efforts to construct trunk roads to link up the centres of population, in addition to reasonably accommodating the widely scattered settlers and pre-emptors with serviceable wagon roads and trails. The mileage of roads, trails and bridges constructed to date are as follows:—

Roads	16,000 miles
Trails	14,000 miles
Bridges	52

As roads generally must be maintained in fairly passable condition, and bridges require regular repairs and frequent renewal, the maintenance of such public works in itself constitutes a serious financial problem involving in its current year an expenditure of approximately \$1,400,000.

Organization

With such large expenditures under its control, there is apparent need for close and careful supervision with a view

to securing economical and efficient results. Following the return to office of the present Government, the Works Department was completely reorganized. In lieu of the Road Superintendents, most of whom were chiefly political bosses, there were appointed eight District Engineers directly responsible to the Public Works Engineer for the work in their respective districts. With their Assistant Engineers or General Foremen (some of whom were the more competent of the former Road Superintendents), it has been possible for these District Engineers to closely supervise all maintenance and construction work and at the same time keep the Department fully advised as to local conditions.

The District Engineers are men of high type with wide technical experience and no political interests, and the reports submitted by them have been based solely upon the merits of the case from an engineering and business standpoint. Obviously this re-organization scheme, involving as it does so many interests and problems will take some considerable time to properly materialize, but already much splendid work has been accomplished, as is evidenced by the numerous appreciative references made by individuals and societies of widely divergent political opinions.

Labor Conditions

The abnormal labour conditions prevailing during the past two years has made the administration of the Department a difficult and expensive matter. Owing to the great demand for labour generally, and the high wages paid in the more skilled employments, the Department has had to pay correspondingly greater wages, and consequently has had to undertake less work. The high cost of materials, particularly of lumber, added to greatly enhanced freight rates, has enormously increased, particularly in bridge work, the cost of construction. Moreover, in keeping with the prevailing working conditions the Department has now adopted an eight-hour working day, the former rate of pay for a nine-hour day still obtaining. Where practicable, construction work will be undivergent political opinions.

Tractors, etc.

To offset the high cost of team labour, the Department has recently purchased tractors for facilitating the delivery of road building material, and it is proposed to further intro-

duce labour saving machinery as the conditions and circumstances warrant the heavy capital outlay.

Trunk Roads

During the past year the Department has endeavoured in District Municipalities to spend money only on recognized trunk roads, conditional to adequate assistance being obtained from the Municipalities affected.

Mining Trails

Consequent upon the increased activity in mining, the Department last year supervised or carried out the construction of many mining roads and trails at an approximate cost of \$100,000, chargeable to the "Aid to Mines" Vote.

Cost of Work

The Department is preparing standard plans and specifications for all classes of work and forms to be filled in by the local foremen so that the detail costs will be available and an intelligent comparison can be made. This information will be supplied to the foremen and will be an incentive for them to reduce the cost of work by improved methods. They also will be supplied with literature upon the basic principles of road construction, and through co-operation will be encouraged to take an active interest in this most important work. Charts have been compiled showing the cost each month of certain works and a copy given to the man in charge so that he is regularly advised of any increase or decrease, and the results have been most satisfactory.

Co-operation

The Department is endeavoring to co-operate, not only with the other Departments of the Civil Service to avoid overlapping of work and needless expense, but it is also attempting to obtain the co-operation of such responsible associations as Boards of Trade, and Farmers' Institutes throughout the Province. Besides eliciting the interests of such public bodies, much good work tending towards harmony and efficiency has thereby been accomplished.

Conclusion

In such a general review it is not possible to deal, even briefly, with all the interests and activities of this Department, but the foregoing should be sufficient to convey to the general public a fair idea of the comprehensive nature and extent of its undertakings mostly for the convenience and welfare of the public. While not overlooking the many defects in the present systems, and appreciating the need for greater reform in some of its many branches, the Department feels that the foundation of the re-organization has been well laid and that it is but a matter of time before reports on file will show that tangible results are being obtained, and the work in the different branches of the Department carried out much more efficiently and effectively.

(SC)
JL428
V6

