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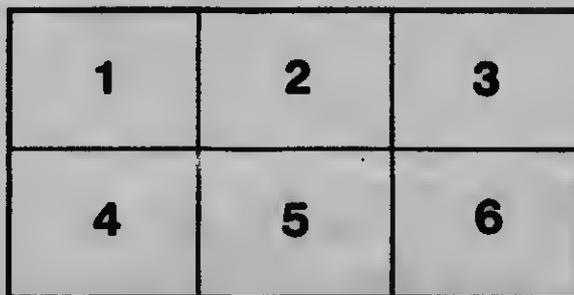
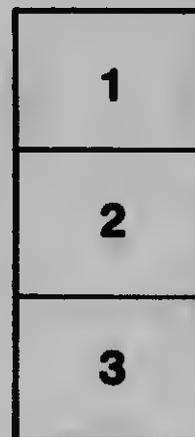
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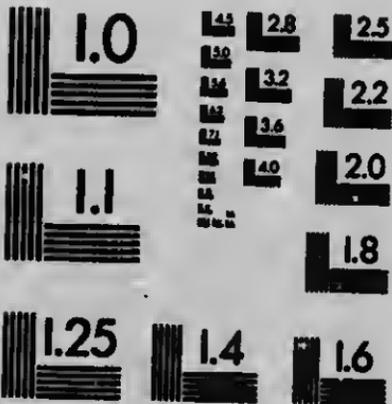
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Bowser

B.C. - Legislative Assembly

# CRITICISMS ANSWERED

Speech of the Honourable W. J. Bowser,  
K. C., in the Provincial Legislature  
January 29th, 1909.

Continuing the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, the Honourable W. J. Bowser, Attorney General, said:

Mr. Speaker: Unlike the hon. member for Delta, I do not think it is necessary to offer any apology for taking part in this debate; because it is not only the privilege, but one of the duties cast upon a member of the Cabinet, to answer to this House for all our acts since we last met here a year ago. And, therefore, when members on the opposite side of the House criticise our policy, or any of the acts of an individual member of the Cabinet, it is his duty to explain to the satisfaction of the House the reason for the course which he has taken.

According to the statement of the hon. member for Delta, in the address which he delivered yesterday, it would appear as if he had lost an opportunity last year of adding another to the many speeches with which he enlivened the session. It would appear from his remarks that he had prepared a speech with the evident intention of following me, had I seen fit to take part in that debate, but as I apparently did not feel that I was required to address the House at that time, the hon. gentleman was surprised by having the division bell rung on him; and I therefore regret very much, and now apologize to that hon. gentleman if I was the innocent cause last year of robbing him of the pleasure he always finds in inflicting a speech on the members of this Legislature. (Laughter.)

Now, what are the reasons, Mr. Speaker, I may ask, for the bitter speech which the hon. gentleman delivered yesterday against the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and myself? Perhaps the members opposite think that during the coming year an

election is in sight; and knowing how dark and lowering the clouds are ahead, and how rough and rocky is the road, the hon. gentleman has delivered this bitter speech thinking he may affect in that way the country in some small degree. I may say that I feel particularly honored in being singled out for attack by the member for Delta. I notice by the papers that a few nights ago a Liberal Party love feast was held in this city, and I read in their official organ, the Times, that some of the Liberal members delivered at that gathering the same class of speech that they have honored us with in this debate, namely, starting from the liquor licenses as controlled by the Department of which I am the head, then down to the road bosses, as being partisans, in the different portions of the Province. However, I notice for once, at least, the hon. member for Delta treated his Liberal friends with a great deal of candor; and in the report in the Times of his speech, he stated "that there was no reason why their party should not give a good account of itself at the next election, even if they did not succeed in ousting from power the worst Government this country ever had." That, to say the least, Mr. Speaker, is not very enthusiastic talk from the hon. member for Delta. He apparently admits that his party has no chance of being returned, and the best he may hope for is that they may be able to give a good account of themselves. After the Leader of the Opposition had also spoken and these other members of the Liberal party, it remained for the hon. member for Chilliwack, in those solemn tones we know and appreciate so much in the House, to rise in his place in the meeting and deliver the doxology. (Laughter.) He expressed the

confidence of the party in their leader, and said that notwithstanding the fact that he had been most unsuccessful ever since he has been elected to that high position, still the Liberals in the House and country were a unit behind him, and had every confidence in him.

**LIBERAL v. LIBERAL**

In reading the utterances of the hon. member for Chilliwack, it reminded me of the Queen in speaking to Hamlet as to how she liked the play, when she gave utterance to these well known words, "The lady doth protest too much, methinks"; as proof of the loyalty of the Liberals in this Province to the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, it might not be out of place on my part to quote from a speech made by the late but not lamented Duncan Ross, shortly after his federal campaign, in a banquet which was given to him by the Liberal electors of Yale-Cariboo; this speech I find reported in his own paper, the Boundary Creek Times. And in order for us to draw a conclusion as to whether the hon. member for Chilliwack was correct in stating that the Liberals were a unit behind the hon. member for Rossland, allow me to quote from the remarks made by the late Duncan Ross:

"As a friend and not as a critic, I want to say that the undoing of the Liberal party in this Province began when the Liberals in the local House joined Mr. McBride and supported his policy on both the Better Terms and the Oriental Question. The Liberal Leader then gave Mr. McBride a certificate of character he could secure in no other way. He gave to those two questions a certificate that they were legitimate and respectable; a reputation they could not possibly secure if they were solely dependant upon Hon. Richard McBride. These two questions are primarily responsible for the defeat of the Liberal Party in the Federal contest. If they are genuine and legitimate, they will also wipe out the Liberal Party at the next Provincial election. But they are not genuine and are not legitimate, and surely our friends in the Local House realize by this time if they are going to save themselves from total annihilation they must get out of McBride's hand-wagon, they must assume the proper functions of an opposition, they must be a fighting force with right on their side, believing thoroughly in their cause, and not be mere apologists making a futile effort to drift with effervescent public opinion."

That, Mr. Speaker, was the opinion which Mr. Duncan Ross held as to the merits of the hon. member for Ross-

land as a Liberal leader in this Province. So that you need not wonder that the hon. members for Chilliwack felt it necessary to protest at this Liberal meeting, their undying loyalty to their chief. (Applause.)

**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

I will now, for a few moments, deal briefly with the speech delivered by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition during this debate. It was delivered in a dignified and candid manner, and was worthy of every consideration from the Government side of the House. He had complained that in the speech from the Throne there was no suggestion of railway legislation, and therefore, on that account, he considered the speech very much lacking. Surely the hon. gentleman must have known that the policy of this Government since it came into power in 1903 was of such a sound and businesslike nature, that there was no necessity of delving into the Treasury in order to aid in railway development. The capitalists who are behind great railway enterprises always look on countries that have stable governments, and knowing that such a country is being properly developed, particularly in a new country having the resources that we have, that immigration is bound to follow; and where the population comes there is bound to be money invested in the development of the country, and therefore in that country the railways will always follow the tide of immigration. And, as a proof of this, the amount of railway construction which has taken place since the McBride administration took office in 1903, shows what has been done by the wise administration of the Hon. the Premier since that date; an administration which has encouraged not only railway development, but the building up of many great enterprises in this Province.

Since 1903, only to mention a few of the railways that have been built in this Province, is it necessary for me to draw your attention to the fact that the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway have extended their lines from Wellington to French Creek, and they are now proceeding with further surveys, and the construction shortly of a line towards Comox; then there is a line from New Westminster to Vancouver over which the Great Northern enters the City of Vancouver; the building of what is known as the out-off by the Great Northern railway from Blaine to New Westminster; the building by the same company of a line of railway from Cloverdale to Sumas, over which shortly the Northern Pacific will receive running rights and enter

the City of Vancouver—the second great transcontinental road to enter that city since we took office in 1903; then the road from Nicola to Spence's Bridge, built by the Canadian Pacific Railway company; the building of a road in the Boundary country and Southern British Columbia by the Victoria, Vancouver and Eastern railway; the building of a road in South-East Kootenay by the Great Northern Railway company, giving railroad transportation to Fernie and Mielbell; the building of a road by the same company from Grand Forks to Phoenix; the building in British Columbia of a portion of the Corbin system from Yak on the Crow's Nest Pass railway to Kingsgate on the southern boundary; the building of a portion of the Kootenay Central from Golden south towards the Upper Columbia valley; the building also of the Corbin railroad from the C. P. R. to their coal lands in Flat Head; the building by the C. P. R. of a railroad from Eburne on the North Arm of the Fraser river to New Westminster; and also the building of the electric railroad by the B. C. Electric Railway Company from New Westminster to Chilliwack; and then, besides all this, the starting of construction, by legislation which this Government brought down, of the new northern railway, namely, the Grand Trunk Pacific. And also, as the Hon. the Premier pointed out in the course of the debate a few days ago, that he hoped shortly to see the construction of the Canadian Northern railway from Edmonton through this Province down the Fraser valley into the City of Vancouver. Now, Mr. Speaker, when you consider that over 500 miles of railway have been built in this Province since this Government undertook the administration of its affairs, without a single dollar from the Treasury of this Province, it certainly is a record of which any Government might be proud. And therefore, you can quite understand while with that policy, without the expenditure of public money, we have seen so much mileage built in this Province, we have not considered it wise to depart from the policy as laid down by us in connection with railway construction. (Applause.)

Reference has also been made by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition to the fact that we should have contributed to the Alaska-Yukon Exhibition at Seattle. No doubt it would be a great opportunity to advertise this Province and shew the visitors to that great exposition the natural resources of our great Province. But, at the same time, it strikes me, Mr. Speaker, that this is a national matter and should be dealt with rather by the

Federal Government at Ottawa than by the Provincial Legislature of this Province. If our Government undertook to do this work and do it properly, in order that this Province might be placed on a proper basis in competing with other States in the union to the South, it would require at least a quarter of a million dollars. And with the vast country which we have now opening up in the North, which requires roads, trails, bridges, court-houses and schools to be built, it would seem to be not wide of the mark to say we have acted properly in this matter, when we decided to use the money for the purposes of the development of the Province rather than this exposition in our neighboring City of Seattle. (Applause.)

### CIVIL SERVANTS

Now, the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, in the course of his remarks, made some very drastic charges in reference to the civil servants of this administration, and that they were of a partisan nature. His certainly, Mr. Speaker, to use a common term, was endeavoring "to measure the Conservative corn by the Liberal bushel." It was well known, of course, that in past elections in this Province, the Federal civil servants, or at least a great many of them, were not only partisan appointments but took active parts in not only Dominion but Provincial campaigns. And for that reason, the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has seen fit to charge the civil servants of this Government with being partisans. I venture to say, Mr. Speaker, that not a civil servant in this building has ever been interviewed, nor has it been suggested to him by any Minister as to how he should cast his ballot in the late Dominion elections. Not only that, but in order to shew the stand that we take upon this matter, I may quote that we have lately endeavored to enforce an Order-in-Council passed by a previous Government against civil servants taking part in municipal politics; and only a few weeks ago we forced, in the City of New Westminster, a man out of the civic contest there on account of this Order-in-Council already mentioned.

Mr. Macdonald: When was that Order-in-Council passed?

Hon. Mr. Bowser: I am not sure, I think it was passed in the Semlin-Cotton Government, but it was never enforced by any other Government until this Government took it up. (Opposition Laughter.) My friends opposite laugh. They seem to treat this matter as a joke, but I, as well as other members of the Cabinet, consider it a very

serious matter indeed. We do not believe in civil servants taking part in politics. And therefore, on that account, we thought we had a perfect right to take advantage of any Order-in-Council passed by any other Government, if the result would be in divorcing the civil servants from participation in politics. It strikes me, Mr. Speaker, there was nothing more degrading in the late Liberal campaign than to see and hear the actions of certain Liberal speakers as well as the press, telling the public unless the Liberals were elected, they could expect nothing from the Dominion Government. The appeal they made then was not to judge the party on its record, but for the elector to find out which side he considered was likely to win and then vote for the dominant party.

### PATROL OF THE BOUNDARY COUNTRY

The hon. member for Greenwood, who is now no longer a member for that riding, but a resident of Prince Rupert, had attacked the policy of my Department in policing the Boundary country, making special reference to the murder of Mr. Thomet at Midway. There is nobody regrets more than myself and the officials under me in the police service, that the perpetrators of this foul murder were not brought to justice. But when you consider that there was only a bridge dividing Midway from the State of Washington, it made it exceedingly difficult to follow the guilty parties. But since that time, after a conference with the Superintendent of Police, we have decided to form a separate police district of the Boundary country, cutting it off from the District formerly controlled from the city of Nelson. And I therefore take pleasure in telling the hon. member for Greenwood, and in this way letting him know of something that has taken place in his constituency, which he is supposed to represent in this House, that during the last six months a new police district has been established in the Boundary country, with the Chief of Police located at the City of Greenwood. (Applause.)

I was surprised in the course of the debate to hear the hon. the second member for Cariboo go so far as to say that men were arrested by officials under me and brought before magistrates and sent to prison because they were not going to vote Conservative in the campaign.

Mr. Yorston (rising to a point of order): I did not say that at all; what I did say was that there were certain persons who are in the habit of running up against the law occasionally,

and sometimes these men were told if they did not vote right they would get into trouble. I said nothing about the magistrates at all.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: Well, if my hon. friend will give me the names of those parties controlled by our Department, who act in such an improper way and who attempt to use the courts of justice for political purposes, I will see that they are properly dealt with. (Applause.)

Mr. Hawthorthwaits: Will the Attorney-General also deal with employers of labor who make these threats?

Hon. Mr. Bowser: I have no control over employers of labor; but I have control over magistrates and police, and will see that they do their duty.

In the remarks delivered on the Address by the hon. member for Alberni (Mr. Brewster), he brought the attention of the House to the fact that his constituents were not able to obtain a traveling library. Well, those traveling libraries come under my Department, and therefore I am in a position to say a few words on this question. Since these traveling libraries were first inaugurated, we have spent over \$7,000 on them. And last year I raised the vote in the estimates from \$750 of the year before to \$1,500. The books are in great demand in country places. There are now 16 districts on the waiting list. And Alberni is among that number. And just as soon as their turn comes, by a library being returned to the Department, they will all be taken in their turn, and each will be supplied so far as our books will allow.

The hon. gentleman also charged this Government that we had been making political tours through the Province during the past year. It is the first time that I ever heard that it was a crime for a Minister to go through the country and become conversant with the needs of the people. We have always prided ourselves on being a business Government, and for that reason we feel that we should go amongst the people, find out their needs at first hand, and in this way see how their aims can be best met with. The Hon. the Premier should have every credit for the fact that he has instituted and asked his Ministers to take these tours throughout the Province. Early in the year, after prosecuting two up-country cases myself, I joined the Hon. the Premier and the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, and we toured through the magnificent Okanagan valley, down into the Boundary country and from there to Nelson, and through to East Kootenay. The Premier was given the most flattering reception, and we were tendered ban-

quets on every hand; and not by Conservatives and party-workers, but both Liberals and Conservatives vied with each other to give us the most enthusiastic reception. And in fact in many places the receptions were presided over by strong supporters of the hon. gentlemen opposite. Later on in the year, the Hon. the Premier, accompanied by the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works and the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, proceeded through the Nicola country, Kamloops, Revelstoke, and also into the Upper Columbia valley. And in this way they became acquainted with the conditions as they exist, and know exactly what the requirements of the people are. A little later on, the Hon. the Provincial Secretary and myself made a trip along the Northern coast in order that we should visit Prince Rupert, a rapidly developing city, as you know, and also the Queen Charlotte Islands, where there has been a large influx of miners, as well as those taking up land during the last year. And when I tell my honorable friend opposite that in the Queen Charlotte Islands alone there was not a single name on the voters' lists, he can then understand how far short his criticism falls when he states that these tours were for political purposes only. (Applause.)

#### LIQUOR LICENSES

I have received a great deal of hostile criticism in the course of this debate from the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, as well as lesser lights on his side of the House, from what they state is the improper manner in which the liquor license matters have been handled and controlled by our Department. Charges have been made without any justification or excuse, and I think, Mr. Speaker, you will agree with me, after I have reviewed the record of our Department in this matter, that the hon. gentlemen opposite have gone a long way in their hostile criticism on this particular question. When I brought down the amendment to the Liquor License Act last year, placing the issuing of liquor licenses in unorganized districts of this Province entirely in the hands of the Provincial police, I was then met with the statement by the hon. gentlemen opposite that I was doing this for the purpose of grasping more power in my Department, and that this matter would be controlled by this Government for the purpose of political advantages only. But when you see the record of this Department, I think you will come to an entirely different conclusion. The hon. member for Rossland has stated

that we should return to the old system of appointing the licensing board. But when he considers that in the north, at Prince Rupert itself, where under the statute, three licenses were allowed by the old board, without the necessary statutory qualifications at all, which have to accompany an application, namely, the situation of the lot in the townsite, and also the building of a hotel, were entirely absent, still the three liquor licenses were actually issued there, you could then come to the conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that it was high time that some change should be made. The same thing, I may say, applied to Kitimat, as well as other places in this Province. I am not here today to criticize the personnel of these old boards, but in very many instances they were hundreds of miles away from the place where the hotel was situated for which the application was being made, they were not at all in touch in that way, and did not in very many instances know the requirements in order to come to a conclusion as to whether this particular hotel was required for public convenience or not. And then there was this further objection, that living amongst these people locally, there were naturally local influences brought to bear upon them, and in the past the percentages of cancelled licenses and refusals were very small indeed. But now, under our system, the whole matter being controlled by the Superintendent of Provincial Police, who is not subject to local influences, and who is not partisan in the work of his Department, you can quite understand that the system has been an unqualified success since our taking it over. Why, Mr. Speaker, when I tell you that during these eighteen months that we have controlled the system, that we have actually cancelled 25 existing licenses, and when I tell you that we have refused 73 applications for hotel licenses, and have only during that time granted six licenses, you can then quite understand the way the question has been handled. Just to think Mr. Speaker, in eighteen months, only six new hotel licenses granted in this whole Province, and three of those were granted by the old Board before we took over the Department, and we simply followed along ourselves and issued the licenses after the old boards had become extinct. Under the Act as now administered by our Department, the hotel must qualify so far as satisfactory plans are concerned; and we also must be content that the hotel is required at that particular point for the convenience of the public. I was glad to hear the hon. member for

Greenwood, as well as the hon. member for Skeena, give the Department credit in the way in which we had handled this system in the north. As you know, along the line of construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, it is our policy for the present to issue no licenses; and that has been our policy ever since taking over the administration of this Department. In the town of Prince Rupert we have not issued a license at all; and the three licenses which we found had already been issued when taking over the administration, we at once cancelled, because we considered that that had been illegally granted. I venture to say that this policy, which we have inaugurated in the north, would never have been suggested if the old Board of Commissioner had remained in charge of these matters. Yet, in the face of all that, the Leader of the Opposition asks me to revert to such a state of affairs. I may say that our policy is that when an application for a license is received, we always consider the claims of the community and the traveling public, as to whether a licensed house is required or not. The hon. member for Delta stated in the course of the debate that the first thing we did in our Department when an application was made, was to find out the political leanings of the applicant.

Mr. Oliver: I made no such statement.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: Well, in that case, Mr. Speaker, I will have to accept the hon. gentleman's statement. But I certainly was under the impression that he had used language to that effect. But it has been hinted in the course of this debate that this line of policy had been followed in connection with these licenses. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to weary you, but I want to point out in connection with the 25 licenses that were cancelled, the political leanings of the applicants. At Moyie we cancelled a license owned by the Vice-President of the Conservative Association. At Fort George a license was cancelled which belonged to the secretary of the Conservative Association. At Camborne a Conservative there lost his license; the same condition applies to Port Harvey in the North, Bannock City in the Grand Forks District, and in the town of Wilmer, in the riding of Columbia, we found two licenses, one held by a Conservative and the other held by a very prominent Liberal worker; we found on investigation that the hotel controlled by the Conservative was not being handled according to our regulations, and we did not consider it was in the public interest that he should

retain his license; the result was that in Wilmer the license of a Conservative was cancelled, and the Liberal was left in the field, in possession of the only license in town. The same applies to an application in Bannock City made there by a Conservative, also one in Franklin Camp. And at Port Essington, as the hon. member for Skeena well knows, we cancelled a license there belonging to a prominent Conservative. And lately at Kitsimakanun, we have given the proprietor of that hotel notice that at the end of three months his license will be cancelled. And I might say that the gentleman who held this license was a very prominent worker in the campaign against the Liberal candidate in the last election.

I may say that I have received most flattering testimonials from the heads of the different churches, not only in this Province but also in Eastern Canada, resolutions passed by moral reform societies, as well as by temperance workers, congratulating the Superintendent of Provincial Police on the wonderful record which he has made in connection with the administration of liquor licenses in this Province since we took them over some eighteen months ago. And when the charge is made that this Department is run on political lines in connection with the issuing of licenses I say there is no justification for such a statement. I may say here now, openly, in this House, that the only complaints that I have received have been from members of my own party. Certain Conservative members returned to this House at this Session have complained that in some instances they have considered my action was too drastic in cancelling the licenses held by local Conservatives without what they considered due cause. So that, Mr. Speaker, to my mind does away once and for all with the charge which has been made that this Department has been handled rather in the interests of the Conservative party than in the interests of the general public. And in this connection, Mr. Speaker, I now challenge publicly any hon. gentleman on the opposite side of the House to name one Liberal in this Province whose license has been cancelled since we took over this Department. There is no answer, Mr. Speaker. And these charges, made in this rash way, must act as a boomerang against my friends opposite. (Applause.)

#### ANOTHER CRITICISM DEALT WITH

There has been considerable talk in the course of this debate, as well as an insinuating charge made by the Times newspaper, that the Government

had been very wrong in obtaining so much money by special warrant during the recess between the two Parliaments. But in order to find out what the real conditions are, Mr. Speaker, and what induced the Government in asking for special warrants, you must consider the whole circumstances of the Province and the peculiar conditions surrounding the administration of the Departments. Emergencies in a Province of this sort are liable to happen at any moment, and these of course cannot be anticipated in the framing of our estimates in the Session before. This is not only very applicable to this Province, but also to other places as well. For example, only a few days ago the Governor-General at Ottawa, before the convening of Parliament, had authorised a special warrant for the relief of the sufferers from the terrible earthquake in Italy. How have the warrants complained of by our enemies been expended? The first warrant is for hospitals and charities, the amount being \$15,000; \$11,000 only of which was expended. In this \$11,000 was a vote of \$10,000 for the anti-tuberculosis work. Surely no gentleman opposite will cavil with the Government for expending this money for this worthy purpose. The next two items are \$15,000 and \$10,000, of which \$21,000 alone was expended. This was for free text books, which gives, as you know, the children of poor people in this country an opportunity to have them obtain all the advantages of our school system. And there is no act of the Hon. the Minister of Education which has placed him in the front ranks in administering that Department more than when he instituted and developed the policy of supplying free school text books to the scholars throughout this Province.

The next special warrant is for \$5,000, which was for clearing land in the Richmond District, for carrying out the projected works in connection with the Marine Drive around Point Gray. We all know this is money well expended, because we have hundreds of acres of land contiguous to this road, and the building of it had not only been started, but had previously been endorsed by votes of the Legislature, and as this vote had overrun, it was necessary to have a special warrant to carry on this work during the fine weather.

The next item is for \$50,000 for surveys. Now, surely the hon. gentlemen opposite will not object to the money that has been spent in the way of surveys in order that the country might be opened up and the intending settler have advantages which he had not before this work was undertaken.

The next item is \$200,000 in connection with the construction of streets, grading and sewers at Prince Rupert. Of this amount nothing has yet been paid, but the special warrant was issued so that the funds might be in hand to pay on the estimates as they came in. As to this vote of \$200,000, a little later on I will have a few remarks to make. The next vote is \$100,000, of which only \$44,000 has been spent. This was spent for sundry buildings, mostly in connection with works such as the Reformatory where the vote had overrun, in connection with certain court-houses in the Province, including the new one at Prince Rupert, and also in connection with the erection of public buildings which had been destroyed in the Fernie fire. The next one is \$195,000, of which only \$95,000 has been spent, and that was spent on different district roads throughout the Province that required repairs to be placed on them at once; and it would have been unfair to the people in these districts and unbusinesslike to have forced them to wait until this Legislature met before this important and necessary work should be done.

The next vote is \$75,000, of which only \$28,000 has been spent, and that is all done in connection with further survey work.

The next warrant is for \$10,000, which was used by this Government as contribution to the tercentenary celebration at Quebec. When you consider the large amount that other Provinces gave, as well as the Dominion, I do not think the hon. gentlemen opposite can complain very much that this special warrant was issued for this very laudible purpose since the last session of Parliament.

The next item is \$10,000, which is a further loan to the Canada Zinc company at Nelson. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that last year we brought down a Bill authorising the loan of \$10,000 to this Company in order that they should not be handicapped in their efforts and endeavors to show if possible that this new system in connection with the smelting of ore in the Upper Country could be a success. It was considered, when discussed in this House, that it was a very proper enterprise to be assisted, it meant so much to the mining portions of this Province, and therefore would be in the public interest that that money should be expended. After the loan was advanced it was found that they were short of money, and unless they received another \$10,000, it meant that all the money that had been put in, not only by the private people themselves composing the Company, but as

well by the Government, would be entirely lost. So, as a result, the Government decided to advance them a further loan of \$10,000, taking a second mortgage subject only to our own mortgage for the first loan. I may say that the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition agreed entirely with us in this connection, and in fact wrote a letter to the Hon. the Premier stating that he would support legislation at this Session to approve of this loan. (Applause.)

The next special warrant is for \$3,000; this arose in connection with fruit pests when it was considered by the Inspector of Fruits necessary to destroy effected fruit in certain orchards on Vancouver Island, and particularly in the Saanich District. These people in nearly every instance depended on the income they received from their orchards in order to make a livelihood, and the Government considered that as it was in the interest of the general public that their fruit should be destroyed, that they ought to be at least compensated, and for this reason this special warrant was issued.

The next and last special warrant is for \$10,000, which was a grant to the City of Fernie intended in part to recoup them for the great calamity which they suffered some few months ago. (Applause.)

I think now, Mr. Speaker, that our hon. friends opposite must agree with me that in every instance these warrants were not only justifiable, but they were necessary disbursements which could not possibly have been anticipated, and therefore it was necessary in handling the affairs of the country in a proper way, that the administration should take the responsibility of asking His Honor to issue these warrants and then come to the House at this session for their approval.

In this connection, before leaving this question, I wish to point out that the Victoria Times went so far as to insinuate that as this \$200,000 special warrant had been issued the day after the Dominion election, that therefore it had some connection with that contest. But when I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that \$200,000 was for expenditure in connection with the streets grading and sewers at Prince Rupert, and that not a dollar of it has yet been expended, you will see how this Liberal canard, like many others, is entirely exploded. (Great applause.)

#### THE FISHERY QUESTION

A most virulent attack was made on me as Commissioner of Fisheries, in the course of the debate, by the hon. member for Delta in connection with

my administration of that Department. He worked himself into a "high frenzy," but fortunately for this House did not repeat the operation he went through at a meeting, of which he has spoken, in the City of New Westminster, held some few months ago, when he actually shed tears. (Laughter.) I may say in this connection, that in the year 1898, the Privy Council decided in the fisheries case that the property in the fish belonged to the Province; and as a result, Mr. Speaker, when you were the very efficient head of the Department which I now preside over, you entered into a *modus vivendi* with Sir Louis H. Davies, then Minister of Marine and Fisheries in Ottawa, in connection with the fishing season of the year 1901; that was followed in other seasons by those who succeeded you in the Department, with the same understanding that the Dominion Government was to give us at least 50 per cent. of the revenue derived from the issuing of licenses in the Fraser river during those years. But notwithstanding this matter has been pressed ever since upon the Dominion Government by the local Department here, and notwithstanding that during those years they collected a very large sum of money from our local fishermen, they have not repaid this Province a single dollar nor rendered us any statement of the account. So when I took over this Department and was honored by the Hon. the Premier by being placed in charge of the fisheries in this Province, I came to the conclusion that the only way to receive what properly belonged to us for our rights in the fish was to charge a license to the fishermen. So, accordingly, we brought down an Order-in-Council on the 23rd of April, 1903, by which we charged every man who engaged in the taking of salmon in this Province the sum of \$2.50. Some few weeks afterwards, namely, on the 8th of June, the Dominion Government also brought down a new Order-in-Council dealing with this question. I may say that in our Order-in-Council we changed to a great extent the close season at the mouth of the Fraser River, as well as on the fishing grounds above the bridge at New Westminster. My hon. friend opposite has accepted a brief, apparently, for the fishermen who did not agree with our regulations above New Westminster bridge. But when I tell this House that those regulations promulgated by us were drafted along the lines as suggested by a commission appointed by the Dominion Government at Ottawa, you can quite understand that there is no reason for

criticism if we have accepted the result of their labors. We felt that the Department of Fisheries being handled some four thousand miles away from the locus in quo, could not be properly advised, and therefore the industry must be very much affected. And, in fact, Mr. Speaker, every one knows, who has taken any interest in this question at all, that owing to the administration of the Department as it has been handled for the last few years at Ottawa, the result has caused a great depletion in the industry, particularly in the Fraser river. And it was with that in mind, as well as the enforcing of our jurisdiction, that we came to the conclusion that this Order-in-Council of April 23rd should be passed. My hon. friends opposite have complained of my being an enemy of the fishermen of this Province. Why, Mr. Speaker, if you only consider for a moment and will follow me with a few figures I will give you, I will show you that the way we have controlled this Department during the last year has really placed money in the pockets of the fishermen. Before we brought down our Order-in-Council, the Dominion authorities charged each salmon fisherman \$10 for the right of fishing in each district in this Province. They divided the Province into three districts, with the result that if a fisherman wanted, in the earlier part of the season—where the fish run early—to fish in River's Inlet and Skeena and then come to other districts farther south, finally arriving at the Fraser River, he found that he was required to pay \$10 in each district, or \$30 in all. The regulations that we brought down stated distinctly on the face that for the sum of \$2.50 they gave the fisherman the right to fish in every portion of this Province. If there were two men in a boat that meant \$5 for the fishermen, under our regulations fishing in any part of this Province; if there were two men in a boat under the Dominion regulations, it meant \$11, that is \$10 for the netman and \$1 for the boat-puller, in each district in the Province, with the result if they fished in the three districts it would cost them \$33 for each boat. The Dominion Government, as soon as they found out what our regulations were, as I have already pointed out, some six weeks afterwards, brought down their regulations. And in the first place, followed what we did by making their license good for the whole Province, and in the second place, reduced the license from \$10 for each of the three districts, to \$5 per boat good for all the waters of the Province, so that, as a result of my regulations, the Dominion Government

were forced—and this was an advantage to the fishermen—to allow their licenses to be good for all the Province, and reduce the amount of license fees to each individual fisherman from \$10 to \$5. With the result, Mr. Speaker, that if you work the matter out, you will see that our regulations forced such a reduction from the Dominion Government in connection with the prices charged by them, that every single fisherman in this Province saved from \$5 to \$22.50 per year. This was all done by our regulations. And in case my hon. friends opposite should say that it was the intention of the Dominion Government to reduce their license, I have only got to show you that in the earlier parts of the season, before our regulations were issued, they had actually collected \$10 from the fishermen who had taken out license in each district; but afterwards they were forced to change their licenses, then their officers were instructed to and did repay to the fishermen \$5.00 in each case, and, besides, made their district license good all over the Province. (Applause.)

Now, so far as the close season is concerned, there were many very drastic changes in the regulations brought down by us; and as the result, in June, when the Dominion officials had time to consider the regulations issued by the local authorities, they brought down regulations very nearly agreeing with ours, and making the close season longer than formerly; which, of course, would only result in one thing, and that is the better preserving of the fish, and allowing them an opportunity to get into the upper regions of the Fraser river during the propagating season.

Now, in connection with this question of the control of the fishing industry in this Province by the Dominion Government, it might not be out of place upon my part to give the members of this House a few figures on this particular question. I find on starting with the licenses which they charged last year for gill-nets, herring, sturgeon, fish other than these, emelts, crabs, abalone, purse nets, drag nets, salmon and herring drag nets, that if one of our fishermen was to attempt to take out licenses during the year for each of these different methods of fishing, it would cost him the sum of \$151. This, Mr. Speaker, is a pretty large tax. And when you consider that the Dominion Government have really done nothing to any extent in upbuilding this industry in our Province, you can quite understand that we considered it was high time that we did something here to exercise our jurisdiction, in order that this great indus-

try might be built up to the conditions it formerly occupied, if it is possible, in the years gone by, and thus become a source of great revenue, not only to the Provinces, but also to those taking part in the industry. (Applause.)

Now, Mr. Speaker, we are highly favored under our terms of Union, as when we entered into Confederation, a clause was inserted in connection with our entry, entirely different from that of any other Province in the Dominion. The duty was cast upon the Dominion Government to "protect and encourage our fisheries"; and when I give you the figures which I am about to quote, you will see that nothing commensurate with the money invested in this enterprise has ever been attempted by the Dominion Government along the lines of preservation. And so far as protection, the duty which was cast upon them, as I say, in this Province, and not in any other Province in the Confederation, when you look into this question closely, you can then conceive as to how this industry, in my opinion, has been very improperly administered by the authorities at Ottawa. Why, Mr. Speaker, in connection with the protection of fisheries in this Province, we have at the present time what may be termed two political cruisers, or what perhaps is more aptly expressed by the halibut fishermen in Seattle, who poach in this Province, under the term of "crab cruisers." And notwithstanding that these cruisers have been kept in commission in this Province at a very large expense—for instance, the "Kestrel" alone last year, the sum of \$22,150 was consumed in operating her, yet all that they have done with the two hundred American poachers in the way of capturing them has been to seize three gasoline boats. Why, Mr. Speaker, we are informed by those who know well, that the system of patrol instituted by these American fishermen for following the movements of the Dominion cruisers is far ahead of the system followed by these cruisers in attempting to locate the whereabouts of the American poachers. Flash lights and reflecting machines are placed on many islands in the north so that they can find out at once when the cruiser is likely to come in sight; and as a result when the cruiser has arrived they have left our harbors and gone beyond the three-mile limit, where she cannot follow them. (Applause.)

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me proceed and give you a few more figures in connection with the fishing industry. In the year ending the 31st of March, 1907, the Dominion Government collected a total of \$59,544, from all the Provinces of the Dominion for fishing

licenses and fines, of which amount \$29,903 was contributed by the Province of British Columbia, or 50 per cent. of the total amount collected by Ottawa. And during that same period, will you be surprised when I tell you that the Dominion Government expended in this Dominion a total of \$698,685 for the protection and support of the fisheries of this Dominion, and this, our Province, which has contributed 50 per cent. of the total income, only received the sum of \$59,750, or less than 10 per cent. of the amount expended in the entire Dominion.

No, Mr. Speaker, I say that it is not surprising that this Government came to the conclusion that something must be done in order to see if these matters couldn't be remedied in connection with the administration of this great enterprise.

But let me go further. In the year 1906, the Dominion Government paid in hounties to the fishermen of the Dominion, \$159,015, of which amount the fishermen in Nova Scotia received \$99,518; Quebec, \$84,410; New Brunswick, \$16,247; Prince Edward Island, \$8,839; and not one cent was paid to the fishermen in British Columbia. And yet the total value of the fishery products in that year—and it must be remembered that that was an off year for salmon in British Columbia—amounted to \$26,279,485, of which Nova Scotia produced \$7,799,160; British Columbia, \$7,003,347; New Brunswick, \$4,905,225; Quebec, \$2,175,035; Prince Edward Island \$1,168,939. And notwithstanding this splendid showing from the Province of British Columbia, which was within \$700,000 of Nova Scotia which produced the most, not a single dollar was received in hounties by the fishermen of this Province. But let me go further. During the fiscal year of 1906-7, the Dominion Government paid out \$47,850 for the cold storage of bait for Atlantic fishermen, and not one dollar came to the assistance of the bait fishermen of this Province. For the same period, the Dominion Government paid out \$45,384 for the destruction of dog fish on the Atlantic coast; and though our herring and other fishermen here suffered great loss from the ravages of dog fish, not a single dollar was expended for their destruction on this Coast.

My hon. friend from Delta went on further in dilating upon the wrongs of these fishermen, and asked me the pointed question if I still intended to prosecute the fishermen of his district. My answer to him is that while I am head of this Department the man who violates our laws will be prosecuted in a fair and proper manner, no

matter whether he happens to be a constituent of Delta or my own constituency of Vancouver. (Applause.)

Another phase of the administration of our fishery department I wish to bring to the attention of this House, and that is in connection with our regulations as to Japs. Under the Dominion regulations a boat-puller can be a Japanese or a subject of any country, and does not require to have taken out his British papers. Under the regulations issued by this Department, we made it necessary for every person taking any part in connection with the fishing, to be a naturalized British subject; with the result that on the Fraser river alone many Japanese who were not British subjects were forced out of the industry. And when we place side by side the Dominion regulations which protect the Jap, and our own which protect the British subject, you can then understand exactly the position which we have taken in this matter. (Applause.)

But let me go further, Mr. Speaker. As you remember last year I had the honor of introducing into this House what is known as the "Canneries Revenue Act," which made it imperative upon every salmon-canner and salmon curing establishment in this Province who intended to do business, to take out a license from our Department costing \$100. During the season we found that there were 24 salt-packing establishments operated entirely by Japanese; with the result that from these 24 Japanese salteries, we succeeded in collecting \$2,400. And the Dominion Government, although charging the canneries operated by white people the sum of \$50.00, do not ask or require the Japanese who are salting salmon and shipping it to their own kingdom, to pay a single dollar for operating in this Province.

I may say further that this year our revenue from the fish licenses was \$13,172.50, the first amount we have ever received from this source, and \$7,800.00 from cannery licenses. (Applause.)

Now, my hon. friend from Delta has asked me what has become of this fishery litigation in which, so far, we have been unsuccessful. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that we are now taking steps to appeal that case to the Privy Council, the highest court of the realm, in order that we may know exactly where we stand upon this question of being able to regulate the fisheries of this Province. And, in passing, I may also state, in answer to a query from that hon. gentleman, that so far as the British Columbia Immigration Act is concerned, that matter is now before the Privy Council to be argued

shortly in London. But notwithstanding the great interest shown by the hon. gentleman on the eve of the late Dominion election, for the fishermen of his district, I would like to ask that hon. gentleman how the fishermen voted in that particular portion of the Province? Notwithstanding the fact that he advocated their cause on every possible occasion, and notwithstanding the fact that he attempted to make political capital out of the fact that we were administering the Department improperly, as he claimed, and adverse to their interests, yet, when the time came for them to record their votes and give an opinion as to what they thought as to the way the fisheries had been handled by the Ottawa Government, they, in his own district, by a very large and overwhelming majority, voted for the Conservative candidate.

#### CROWN LANDS

In dealing with the administration of the Crown lands Department, the hon. member for Delta has made certain unwarranted charges against the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands, who is one of the most painstaking and upright ministers that ever graced any administration; who has also under him tried and responsible officials who have used their every effort and ability to bring the Department up to the very highest state of efficiency. And as to this matter I can personally speak, because for several weeks I had the honor of presiding over that Department, during the absence from the Province of the Hon. the Chief Commissioner. I very greatly regret that the hon. gentleman has seen fit to give utterance to such remarks with respect to this particular Department, because I think it is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, and a practice that cannot be reprehended too strongly, that hon. gentlemen opposite should give utterances, as they do, to such statements, which are naturally heralded from one end of the Continent to the other, and with the result that they may have a very serious effect on the coming of new settlers into this country. If the immigrant who proposes to come to this Province receives the impression that the settlers are not being properly treated, that they have come here, as the hon. gentleman has improperly stated, under false pretences, there is nothing, to my mind, that is more detrimental to the fair fame of this Province and will retard immigration more than unwarranted speeches of this nature. It has been stated in the course of this debate that the intending settler has no way of finding out what lands are open to settlement in

this Province. The hon. members opposite cannot surely be sincere on this question. Why, Mr. Speaker, when I tell you that the Land Department here has had no complaints during the last year whatever, that the Immigration Bureau has had the same experience, you can then understand that the bona fide settler in this country is not finding the difficulty which the hon. gentleman opposite would lead us to believe is present. Money has been expended in the way of surveys during our administration; these surveys and plans have been filed and are open to any intending settler on coming to the Department here, and in cases where he wants more minute information, he, of course, can go to the local Government agent in the district in which the lands are situated, in order to get the information which may be had there, and which is always cheerfully extended by the very efficient officials which we have in our service in this Province. We must remember, of course, that this is a new country. It requires a great deal of money to develop it, either by way of surveys or putting in roads and trails for the transport of the settler and his effects, and perhaps in the past there has not been the information in the hands of the Department that there should have been. The hon. gentlemen opposite know that of course up to the year 1903, and for a short time after we came in power, it was necessary to retrench in connection with the expenditure of our public moneys. But since that time the Government has been most liberal in making the necessary surveys in order that the public might know exactly what lands were open to settlement and for pre-emption. It has been stated by hon. gentlemen opposite that this Government has been selling lands to speculators, and the hon. member from Delta quoted from some real estate dealer's pamphlet, mentioning a large lease of grazing lands which had been given to some one somewhere in this Province. Why, if the hon. gentleman would have stopped to think, he would know under our Statute law a grazing lease of that dimension is not possible to be issued by the head of the Department. And I cannot help thinking, Mr. Speaker, that my hon. friend's imagination has been wandering, and he has forgotten for the moment as to which Government it was that had been dealing with grazing lands in the past, and I cannot help but think that he had for the time being forgotten entirely that it was his own Government at Ottawa whom he is so very anxious to support, that had issued the grazing leases which were in his mind, namely,

the leases in the Northwest which caused so much comment and scandal during the late Dominion campaign. (Laughter.)

### FIRE PROTECTION

The hon. members opposite have also taken pains to criticise us for our fire protection. Why, Sir, when I tell you that during the last year the Hon. the Chief Commissioner has made expenditures as high as \$700 a day, and when I tell you that the total spent for fire protection by our officers was \$32,221 this last season, you can see how alive to the situation the Hon. the Chief Commissioner has been in dealing with this branch of his Department. (Applause.)

### TIMBER

The question of the timber policy has also been mentioned in a critical way by hon. gentlemen opposite, and I do not propose to enter into details of this question today as to whether that policy is the best one that could be inaugurated in this Province or not, but simply to point out that the mills have been built since 1903 since this administration came into power, is certainly a record of which any Government should be proud; and it also shows the justification which the public investor sees in the policy in connection with timber outlined and carried out by this administration. Our Timber Manufacture Act, which made it necessary for timber to be manufactured in this Province, was the greatest incentive and caused the greatest amount of capital to be invested in the building of mills in this Province than it could be possible to conceive. (Applause.)

### SURVEYS

And now, Mr. Speaker, passing to the question of the surveys of this Province, when I point out to you that the amount of money that we have spent in connection with this particular matter, you will see at once that this criticism, like all others which have taken place in this debate, really had no grounds at all. Why, in the year 1904, we only spent \$5,191 on surveys; in the year 1905, \$6,534; in the year 1906, \$6,978; in the year 1907, \$2,547; in the year 1908, \$73,850; and in the year 1909, \$163,345; making a grand total in five years of \$280,945. What better evidence of the splendid administration of the Department of Lands and Works, and a credit to the Hon. the Minister who presides over it, than this one fact alone? As a result of this money \$29,333 acres of Crown lands have been surveyed in

that time, as well as miles of traverses, resurveys and explorations made.

#### LAND FOR SETTLERS

A charge has been made that we have been selling our public lands to the speculator, Americans and others, but when I show you, Mr. Speaker, that in August, 1907, all the unsurveyed lands in the projected Nechaco Valley townships and the old Poudrier survey was reserved against sale or lease, and held for pre-emption alone, amounting to 69,000 acres, you will see that in that one portion of the Province, where a very fertile valley exists, that 69,000 acres was reserved for the pre-emptor. Again, on August 12th, 1907, after the Dominion Government had selected their lands in the Peace river, due them under the railway settlement, the entire valley of the Peace, the Parsnip and the Pack rivers, amounting to 4,600,000 acres, was reserved for pre-emptors. On September 26th, 1907, the reserve established in 1906 over all vacant lands in Township 1-a, 2-a, 3 and 4, Buckeley Valley, was lifted, so as to permit pre-emptors alone to locate on these lands, amounting to 27,000 acres. And then, on July 2nd, 1907, a splendid move was made by the Chief Commissioner, when he reserved against sale or lease, but continued open for pre-emption all Crown lands which were then about to be surveyed. These areas just reserved for pre-emption are as follows: Along the 52nd parallel in Lillooet and Cariboo districts, 768,000 acres; along the Black Water river, 307,200 acres; along the Mud river, 378,840 acres. And in this connection I wish to refer shortly to a charge made by the hon. member for Alberni, that one Templeton who had taken part in the Government survey at Mud river had been offering for sale a large portion of the public lands of that portion of the Province. But in order to shew that this was not only no reflection on the Department, that this man absolutely had nothing that he could sell in the way of our Crown lands, I have only to bring to your attention the fact that at the very time he was offering, as suggested by my hon. friend, lands in the Mud River for sale, all the lands in that locality which he had surveyed had been reserved by this Department. But let us proceed. At the head of Babine Lake there were reserved for pre-emptors 80,640 acres; Kitsimakalum Valley, 65,280 acres. On March 26th, 1908, the lands on Porcher Island which are contiguous to Prince Rupert, and which in time will doubtless be very valuable from a settler's standpoint, were reserved for settlers, amounting to 153,600 acres. Of this

area, 37,000 acres have since been surveyed by Government surveys. On July 30th, 1908, the eastern portion of Graham Island, one of the Queen Charlotts group, was placed under reserve for pre-emptors; and the holders of timber licenses in the reserved area were required to survey, so as to facilitate the pre-emption of land. This area amounted to 437,000 acres. On August 6th, 1908, lands on the north fork of the Thompson river, amounting to 204,800 acres, were reserved for pre-emption; on August 27th, 1908, lands on the Canoe river, Kootenay District, amounting to 204,800 acres, were also reserved. On February 20th, 1908, lands surveyed in the Kisplox Valley, amounting to 2,000 acres, were reserved to pre-emption. On September 10th, 1908, a further reserve of lands in the Kisplox Valley, amounting to 69,120 acres, was reserved to pre-emption only. On July 13th, 1908, a reserve along the Nechaco Valley for pre-emptors amounting to 14,080 acres, was made. On December 17th, 1908, a reserve on the Stewart river, for pre-emptors, amounting to 349,440 acres. On December 17th, 1908, a reserve on the Babine Lake amounting to 161,000 acres; thus shewing an estimate of total acreage under all these reserves to which I have referred for pre-emption only, amounting to 7,790,540 acres. And still, Mr. Speaker, in the face of that remarkable record, shedding such credit as it does upon the Hon. the Chief Commissioner in the administration of his Department, the hon. gentlemen opposite will be so reckless as to state in their public places in this House that we have been giving away the public lands to the American speculator, and that the bona fide settler has not been given an opportunity to locate on the Crown lands of the Province! These figures, Mr. Speaker, should be sufficient to answer once and for all the absurd and unfair charges which have been made against the administration of the Crown lands by this Government. (Great Applause.)

#### REASONS FOR LIBERAL DEFEAT

If there is one thing, Mr. Speaker, in which the Liberals excel more than another, it is in their propensity and ability in making excuses as to why they lost the different elections in this Province. You will well remember when the Hon. the Premier went to the country in 1907 that he was returned by a very large majority, supported by the hon. gentlemen now sitting on your right. The Liberals at that time took the ground and have since, and in fact even so recently as in the debate

on this address, that that was caused by an untrue statement which I made in the course of a speech which I had the honor of delivering in the Victoria theatre, the evening preceding our General Election in 1907; at that time you will remember the question came up as to the fact of a contract being in existence, or about to be entered into with a Japanese contractor, with the intention of bringing many Japanese workmen into this Province to work on the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. This matter has been discussed before in the House, and from my place in this Parliament I made the statement that I had received my information from a prominent Liberal in the City of Vancouver, and I thought that, considering the source from which my information came, that I was justified in making the statement that I made at that time. And, if any further justification was required, I need only refer you to the investigation held by Mr. Mackenzie King in Vancouver a little later on after the Japanese riots. In the evidence taken by that gentleman, a certain letter, which I will now read, was put in evidence. This letter is as follows:

"Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

"Vancouver, December 10, 1906.

"Mr. S. Gotch, Japanese, Vancouver, B. C.:

"Dear Sir,—Making reply to your verbal inquiry of recent date upon the subject of Japanese labor for general and railway work in Northern British Columbia, I would say 5,000 men will undoubtedly be required should they apply in reasonable numbers, and there is no doubt that all such men can secure a remuneration of \$1.50 per day.

"There would not be any difficulty in securing 5,000 acres of land in British Columbia for cultivation at not to exceed \$12 per acre, and upon reasonable terms, but not for speculation.

"There could not be any objection to giving an exclusive right to supply Japanese labor required, so far as was legal, as soon as a company demonstrated its ability to perform such an undertaking, and so long as good labor and acceptable citizens in numbers required were furnished, and that you could control their actions as law-abiding people or remove them, and everything was done as required.

"Yours truly,

(Signed) "E. G. RUSSELL."

This letter, Mr. Speaker, you see, was written on the letter head of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company, and was signed by their accredited

agent for the Province at that time. You will notice that he speaks of 5,000 men whom the Japanese contractor might bring into this Province, and he goes further and says that these men could receive remuneration of \$1.50 per day, and that there would not be any difficulty in securing 5,000 acres of Crown lands of British Columbia for cultivation at not to exceed \$12 per acre. Now, surely, if there was any further justification needed for the fact that my speech was well founded, this is an answer, I hope, for all time to come.

Mr. Macdonald: Did you not state that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company had entered into an agreement to bring in 50,000 Japs?

Hon. Mr. Bowser: I cannot say just now, I may not have been correct as to the number, but I was correct as to the principle, as clearly borne out by Mr. Russell's letter.

Mr. Macdonald: It was proved before the McKensie King inquiry that Mr. Russell had no authority to make any agreement.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: The reason that I bring this question up, Mr. Speaker, is that the hon. member for Delta said that because of my having made that speech at that time in the Victoria theatre, that I could be behind prison bars like any other transgressor of the law. And therefore, on that account, I feel that I am justified today in shewing again by this communication from Mr. Russell to the Japanese contractor, that negotiations were actually entered into by him on behalf of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company.

Mr. Oliver: Will the hon. gentlemen get the files of the Colonist and compare his speech as reported there with that letter?

Hon. Mr. Bowser: I will leave that to my hon. friend; it will give him another excellent opportunity to inflict another speech on this House. (Laughter.)

But, Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friends were sincere in this question, and if I was discredited and had been untruthful in my speech at the Victoria theatre, the hon. gentlemen opposite had a splendid opportunity to go before the country, and particularly to my own constituents in the City of Vancouver, to point out to them that I was a man of such a character, and that my utterances were so dishonest, that the electors as a whole should not place any further confidence in me. I was, as you know, honored shortly afterwards by the Hon. the Premier in being asked to assume control of the Department of which I am now the

head. This required a bye-election; I went back to my constituents in the City of Vancouver, and if my hon. friends opposite had been honest in connection with these charges which they had made before and since in reference to my statement on the eve of the local election, they then had the opportunity to come into the City of Vancouver and contest that seat and place a Liberal candidate against me. But where do we find them? Dumb as oysters on that occasion. And had it not been for the Socialists placing a Socialist candidate in the field, I would have been returned by acclamation. But, so far as the Liberals are concerned, they had not the hardihood to dare place a Liberal to contest that election. (Applause.)

Mr. Oliver: That information was not before us at that time.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: It was certainly before this House before I went back for re-election.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the reasons given for the defeat of the Liberal candidates in the late Dominion election is owing to a certain telegram which was transmitted by Mr. Borden to the Colonist newspaper, published in this city. They apparently now try to lay the blame, that the reason of the elections going as they did was owing to this telegram. Why, Mr. Speaker, don't they face the actual situation? The fact is that the Province of British Columbia is not in accord with the Liberal party, just as the majority of the electors in this whole Dominion were not with our party in the recent election in October last, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was again returned to power. But there is this great difference, Mr. Speaker, that we are manly enough, on our part, to admit it, and the Liberals are not. (Applause.)

Now, the hon. member for Delta asked me where I was in the late election in Yale-Cariboo that I did not proceed to that district in order to meet the late Duncan Ross. Well, I should think that there should be at least some decency amongst the members of this Legislature. At that time, as my friend well knows, I was confined to my sick bed. I was only able to make one speech after returning from the contest in Eastern Canada, and in my own constituency. And still the hon. gentleman will stand up in his place in this house and ask me where I was in that Dominion election. I may say this, that Mr. Ross himself was fair enough, so I have been informed, in one of the meetings held in his own constituency, to state that he understood that I was incapacitated, and therefore on that account had not

taken part in the campaign in his riding. I hope, however, that the time may yet come, in the not far distant future, when I will be able to meet Mr. Duncan Ross. My hon. friend from Delta says that perhaps we may not meet in this world, but in another one; well, I only hope, Mr. Speaker, that when I pass from this world I shall not find myself in the same one as Mr. Duncan Ross. (Loud laughter.) He also states that he has preceded me. No doubt he has—because he certainly is politically dead—to use a favorite and classic expression of the Hon. Mr. Templeman, Mr. Duncan Ross is “as dead as Julius Caesar.” (Laughter and applause.)

But, sir, to come back to the question of the dispute between the late Duncan Ross and myself, I wish to draw your attention to a speech which that hon. gentleman delivered at the City of Greenwood, and which was reported in his own paper, the Boundary Creek Times, shortly before his election. He stated then, in reference to the charges which he was making against me, that “if the charges were not true, then he had no right to the suffrages of the people; if they were true, then Mr. Bowser has no right in public life, and his gown should be taken from him for unprofessional conduct; it was for the people to decide.” Well, Mr. Speaker, the people have decided in Yale-Cariboo, and with no uncertain sound; they have settled the question for all time to come as to the credibility of the late Duncan Ross and myself, by such a large and overwhelming majority against Mr. Ross, that I have no cause to complain as to the result of the verdict which the jury of Yale-Cariboo have rendered, and am therefore content to allow it to remain in their hands. (Applause.)

Now, speaking on the question of the late Dominion elections Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the hon. member for Delta had taken considerable part in the campaign, as you know; prior to that election, and even in this debate he has posed as a friend and advocate of what he calls the “persecuted” fishermen; and had gone through the whole Fraser valley in his own riding, amongst them, speaking on every hand, taking up their cause, agitating their claims whenever an opportunity offered, and at the same time urging them to vote for the Liberal candidate; with the result that every single fisherman voted for Mr. Taylor, the Conservative candidate of that constituency. (Laughter.) Even in East Delta, in the old school-house where he had been practising his speeches, in the early days of his political career,

the Conservative candidate had a majority at that polling-booth. It was the same in Kootenay; it was the same in Yale-Cariboo; wherever he went a stampede followed to the Conservative party. (Renewed laughter.) And, Mr. Speaker, even later than this, as you well know, there has been a hya-election in Nanaimo for this House, and the hon. gentleman saw another opportunity to make more speeches, so he hied him there, but fortunately for the Liberal candidate, he only arrived the night before the election; had he been a week earlier the candidate would certainly have lost his deposit, but, as it was, he only lost by three or four hundred votes. (Loud laughter.)

My friend has charged me, in this debate, with being a Solomon. I certainly have never laid any particular claims to wisdom upon any particular subject. Unlike my hon. friend from Delta I do not profess to be an expert on every question which comes before this House. Why, you well know, Mr. Speaker, if a legal question comes up, if a question is brought before this House requiring the knowledge and skill of a legal mind such as the hon. member for Rossland, his place is at once taken by the hon. member for Delta, who can enlighten the house upon this question as well as upon all others. For instance, if a question of medicine arises in this House in connection with any particular measure, the hon. member for Cranbrook is at once placed to one side, and the hon. member for Delta usurps his position; we all know that he is an expert on farming, but unfortunately he does not confine himself to that of which he knows most; but upon every conceivable question, as I have already said, which is ever discussed in this House, the hon. gentleman is not averse to standing in his place and for hours at a time shedding his knowledge and light upon the members present. Why, Mr. Speaker, in the course of the debate he complained of the commission which the Hon. the Commissioner of Finance had appointed a few years ago, dealing with the taxation question, in which several prominent business men were called in by him to assist and aid in this important work. Here we find the hon. member for Delta again appearing on the scene. For several hours he gave evidence before that Commission to shew them upon what financial basis the country should be established. And now, in the course of this debate, he complains of the amount of public money which was paid for that Commission. Why, Mr. Speaker, I have looked into the public accounts and find that there

was only the small sum of \$1,000 disbursed in that connection. And surely the hon. member for Delta does not begrudge the payment of a single dollar of that amount when it gave him the opportunity of shewing the country his wisdom on the financial question. (Laughter.)

#### "TALKING JOHN"

But, Mr. Speaker, the country takes the honorable gentleman at the estimate which properly belongs to him. He has gone from one end of this Province to the other during the late elections, and I have shewn you the result of his eloquence, and today he has lost the old soubriquet of "honest John," and is now known all over the country as "talking John."

#### LIBERAL GRAFT

I noticed a few days ago that the seat of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition was vacant in this House, and found later on, from information, that he had attended a Liberal banquet in Vancouver. And, according to reports, the same old question again arose, when several persons present had tried to explain the reason why they had lost the late elections. Why the hon. gentleman should go to Vancouver to expect any solace from that Conservative seat, I am at a loss to understand. Strange to say, at this meeting, instead of blaming me for speeches which I had delivered, which had stampeded the country, nor, on the other hand, blaming it to a distorted telegram which had appeared in the Colonist newspaper, the speakers were very outspoken in laying the whole cause of their defeat upon the record of Liberalism on the question of graft. (Government applause.) One young man of that city went so far as to say that no party could expect to win in such conditions as they were laboring under.

Mr. Macdonald: Who said that?

Hon. Mr. Bowser: The report says Dr. Kendall.

Mr. Macdonald: Dr. Kendall said nothing of the kind.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: I will accept the statement of the hon. gentleman; but there evidently was a discussion on graft, because I see that Mr. W. W. B. McInnes undertook to explain the Liberal system of patronage in this Province. (Applause.)

Mr. Macdonald: Not in this Province, but in Vancouver alone.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: Well, we will confine it to Vancouver, because, after all, Vancouver is the hub, the political hub of this Province. And in this connection, this discussion must have been

very interesting indeed, and I know of no one better able to explain the system of patronage in that city than Mr. McInnes. (Renewed laughter.) I also noticed that the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition had also spoken at that banquet, but made no reference to the Colonist telegram, but attributed their defeat to want of organization; and stated that a party so long in power as that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier must expect to have greater scandals attached to it than a party in power for a short time. It is now clear, Mr. Speaker, beyond any question, that graft had been discussed in that meeting—showing that there was something in the charges made by the Conservative party during the campaign. But at this meeting my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition—though a very poor one, according to Mr. Duncan Ross (laughter)—warned the party that a Provincial campaign might come on during the summer. And I noticed that he was not as outspoken as the hon. member for Delta in stating that the Liberal party had no chance of success in the next election. (Laughter.)

#### PRINCE RUPERT MATTERS

Now, Mr. Speaker, we will discuss for a few moments—and I hope I am not wearying the House—the question of the division of the Prince Rupert townsite as between ourselves and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company. And I notice hon. gentlemen opposite, who cannot possibly be conversant with the situation there, offer in this case, as well as others, most unfounded criticism. The townsite has been equitably divided, we receiving one quarter and the Grand Trunk Pacific, three-quarters. We must always remember, in approaching a discussion of this sort, that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company own three times as much land there as we do. They are a very large corporation, which must not be handicapped in the way of terminal facilities; their building of a road in this Province will mean great development in the North, untold results will arise from their developing that country; and not only in the way of immigration which will follow them, but the business which will naturally be created by such operations. On this account we did not wish to handicap them, we wanted to be fair, as business people dealing with business people, as we knew their prosperity meant our prosperity. When their lots would enhance in value at Prince Rupert, our lots would enhance in value at an equal rate. If they made this a great terminus, and proper yards and facilities were given them for terminal pur-

poses, this would necessarily mean that the quarter of the townsite which we hold in outlying lands surrounding the townsite would be a great asset in the years to come for the people of this Province. And therefore, with that aim in view, we approached the subject in a fair businesslike way. There had to be certain give and take and we finally came to the conclusion that we had arrived at a most equitable basis in reference to the dividing of the townsite. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, under the Act of last year that we agreed to give the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company certain lands for railway purposes. They asked us for lands at Morse Creek and also at Hays Creek, amounting to 93.6 acres. Under the section of the Act we allowed them for railway purposes 24 acres of this 93, and the overplus of 69 acres they paid us for by giving us 15.9 acres in the City in what is known as the Market Square, a most valuable block in the city, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, and four blocks in other portions of the city for school purposes. Opposite this market place, we are now building a wharf for the use of the general public. So now we will not have repeated the monopoly of wharves in other cities of this Province owned by great railway corporations. This wharf will be held by the Province for the use of the people of the Province, so that there will always be ingress and egress; other transportation companies will be allowed to land their freight and passengers on this public wharf at fair wharfage rates. They also went further, and, at our suggestion, agreed to have all the streets crossing our blocks to proceed over their tracks. In this way we gave a free and unimpeded way for the general public from the city to the harbor and from the harbor into the city. They also allowed us, at Morse Creek, a crossing over their land in order to get to our 1,500 feet which we had acquired in the settlement at that point. Then, in their own block near the centre of the city, they allowed us an overhead crossing right in the middle of their block, so that the general public could reach the water from all those different avenues. They further agreed with us to extend and operate their main line to our far Eastern portion, at the eastern extremity of the townsite, where we hold, as you know, some 3,000 feet, which may be at any time in the future a splendid terminus for another transcontinental and competing line of railway. Now, my hon. friend from Delta, amongst his many other criticisms, stated that the people did not yet know whether this was the real townsite or not. Why,

Mr. Speaker, that matter was settled in the Bill of last year, that Prince Rupert was the terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company, and in order to make matters doubly sure, in the settlement which we made in adopting this plan in connection with the division of the townsite, this last year, we also made them settle on the very blocks in which their terminale and stations are to be placed. But, if there is any lingering doubt in the minds of any of the hon. gentlemen opposite, as to whether this is the real terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, or not, my hon. friends have only to go to Prince Rupert and see the money which the railway have expended in the way of putting in their railroad, to convince them beyond any question that this is the western terminus of this great transcontinental railway. (Applause.)

I may further say, Mr. Speaker, another question that was discussed with us, and pressed by us upon the railway, was that they should agree to not only extend and operate their main line to our eastern block, but they should, at any time, at our request, put in spurs and sidings wherever we asked for them along the line of the railway through the townsite. Can you conceive, Mr. Speaker, of a better bargain? Anyone who may invest money in the future by way of building a warehouse and establishing a business there has simply to come to the Governor-in-Council and request him to ask the railway company to put in a spur or siding into his particular place of business, and under this agreement they have covenanted to do so. I may say that the hon. the Provincial Secretary and I called at Prince Rupert last autumn in connection with our northern trip, and we then explained to the people in public meeting there that it was not the intention of the Government to place the lots upon the market at that time. No surveys had been made. If lots were sold, great confusion might arise, and particularly if buildings were erected on lots purchased by any particular person, he might find out later on that his building was encroaching on the lot next to him, and perhaps, for that matter, might be on the street itself. We explained exactly the position of the Government and although the people waiting there were naturally anxious to hear of the sale taking place, still after this full and candid explanation on our part, they were entirely satisfied. We pointed out further that the Government would do all they possibly could before the sale took place, in putting in sidewalks, levelling the streets and putting in sewers, which,

of course, as you know, would be in the interest of the public health. Why, even the hon. member for Greenwood was fair enough in this connection, in this debate, to commend us for the action we have taken. On our return to Victoria, when the matter was taken up by the representatives of the railway company, we found that they were not anxious to advance their share of this money, and therefore we had, to a certain extent, to impress upon them the very important question it was to the people now residing at Prince Rupert; and, as a result of our negotiations; we agreed to loan them their share of the disbursements which would be required, about \$150,000, to be repaid to us at the end of two years, with five per cent. interest. Of course, the other \$50,000 we contribute ourselves.

And now, Mr. Speaker, we are proceeding, as you know, a contract has already been let in connection with this matter, and the people of Prince Rupert have seen that this Government has kept every promise which we made on that occasion of our Northern trip. We are now calling for tenders for the building of the wharf, so that the people will have this opportunity that I have already pointed out in having a wharf for the general use of the public. (Applause.)

Before passing away from this question, Mr. Speaker, I just wish to point out a little incident which took place in connection with the tenders for the sidewalks and street grading at Prince Rupert. You well know, Mr. Speaker, that a rule of this Department is that the lowest tender will be accepted provided the tenderer is a satisfactory party. This question of patronage list, such as they have under Liberal regime in Ottawa, is unknown in this Province. And when I tell you that the lowest tenderer in connection with this Prince Rupert work was Mr. Forester, who was the Liberal candidate against the Hon. the Premier in Dewdney in 1903, you can then understand upon what an honest basis the Department of Public Works, as well as other Departments under this Government, are controlled and regulated. But can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, can your imagination carry you so far as to believe that the time would ever come when a defeated Conservative candidate would ever receive a tender from the Liberal party at Ottawa? (Applause.) As an instance, and as a parallel of the way in which these matters are handled by the two Departments, that at Victoria and that at Ottawa, is it necessary for me to refer you to the very able report which has been brought down and presented

to the House by Mr. Justice Castles in connection with his investigation into the Department of Marine and Fisheries? Let me read you, for a moment, Mr. Speaker, the language taken from a part of that report:

"To my mind, the adoption and continuance of the system is absolutely wrong." Mr. is referring, Mr. Speaker, to the patronage system unknown in this Province, but well known in Ottawa. "It apparently is based on the maxim, 'to the victors belong the spoils,' utterly ignoring the fact that the money to be disposed of is money contributed by the people generally, and not money of the political followers of the party at the time being in power.

"The revenues of the Dominion are entrusted to those in power to be expended as any other trust money should be expended, namely, for the best advantage of all.

"No man can reasonably complain if in the open market and with fair competition, friends furnish goods of equal quality with goods furnished by political opponents, and at equally low prices are preferred, but everyone should have the same opportunity of tendering, no matter what political party he supports."

And again, further on, in referring to the question of commissions having been paid to men in the Department, he proceeds as follows:

"It may also be assumed that those paying these commissions did not pay it out of their own pockets, but so arranged it that the prices paid to them amply recouped them for such outlay. The conduct of some of these officials who have been guilty, deserve nothing but condemnation. They were placed in positions of trust, they were entrusted with duties requiring them to protect the interest of the Department as against contractors and others from whom they received gratuities."

And finally, allow me to read you some of his recommendations:

"The chief remedy for the amelioration of the conditions I have sought to portray lies in the awakening of the public conscience. If the public generally could be brought to view with abhorrence graft and abuse of trust on the part of those administering the public moneys and property, the end of such abuses as have occurred in the past would be in sight."

"Secondly, capable and efficient officials should be adequately remunerated.

"Thirdly, the abolition of the patronage system in the Department of Marine and Fisheries, is a long step in the right direction. According to the evidence, a saving of about \$100,000

per annum would be effected in the Marine and Fisheries alone by the change. Are there no other Departments administered by the Government which could be dealt with in the same manner?

"Would it not be feasible to appoint a board of, say, three competent men assisted by inspectors conversant with the ruling market prices to act as purchasing agents for all Departments?

"The office of the Auditor-General is a very valuable and necessary one, but to leave matters with him alone is only to look the other side after the horses have been eaten."

But, notwithstanding this report of the Judge, no later than yesterday, Dr. Reid, the member for Grenville, moved for a different system in opening tenders in the Departments, so that all tenderers would be protected irrespective of their party and color. But, Mr. Speaker, what do we find? We find the Hon. Mr. Pugsley, the Minister of Public Works, rising in his place in the House, and stating that the present system is the proper one. No stronger language could be used by any Conservative member than this quoted from Mr. Justice Castles, and which carry such expressions with it as "to the victors belong the spoils."

Mr. Oliver: Did you ever hear of a Conservative Judge giving such a report to a Conservative Government?

Hon. Mr. Bowser: The way the Conservative Governments administer the different Departments, do not require any commissions of investigation. (Applause.)

Now, Mr. Speaker, I must apologise to the House for having infringed on their time to a somewhat greater length than I had intended. I thank the hon. members for the courteous way in which they have received my remarks on this occasion. But I felt that as criticism had been levelled at this Government, and the various members of the Ministry, that some of them, at least, should be answered, because, so far as we are concerned, we have nothing to fear; all our Department can bear the open light of day on any occasion. In fact, we court investigation in connection with any of them. I think it is not only a duty that we owe to the public, but they have a right to know how their affairs are being administered by this Cabinet. We have given the country the best government of which we are capable. We have dealt with the public affairs as we would with our own, in a fair and businesslike way, and I think that the result of the late Dominion election in this Province goes to show that the great majority of the people are satis-

Sec. And we feel that when the time comes to appeal to the electors in this Province on the record of the Government, whether it is this year or next, that there will be no question as to what verdict will be returned by them.

and that the result of that contest will be that many faces will be missing from the other side of the House, and not the least among them will be the hon. the member for Delta. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

