

Premier Oliver Deals With Provincial Finance

Shows how Bowser plunged people into debt and left
clean up for present administration;
Incriminating Documents

VICTORIA, Nov. 18.—In the course of an optimistic fighting speech at Oak Bay Premier Oliver said:

"Mr. Bowser says that we have increased taxation. The Conservative Government of which Mr. Bowser was a member in 1912 collected \$360,000 through the poll tax. But at that time with an election coming on they cancelled it. When we took office we had to reimpose it and double the tax on personal property.

"But the whole proceeds of the poll tax, the personal property tax and the real property tax does not meet the annual deficit on the Pacific Great Eastern, a liability left us by the late Government.

"The Conservatives say that we have increased the debt of the Province by \$15,000,000," the Premier went on. "Why this is only a few dollars more than we have borrowed for the P.G.E. to carry on this liability the Conservatives left us.

"The Conservative campaign booklet says that the Liberals during their term of office have spent only a little over \$3,000,000 on public works while the Conservatives spent over \$14,000,000. Where did they get their money from? During their last six years of office they spent \$19,810,000. They did not spend that amount of money on all the roads of B.C. during the same time. So you have this position that they had deficits aggregating more than all the money they spent on all the roads in B.C. during the same six years.

"During the same six years they sold public lands of this Province and received \$11,000,000. What did they do with this money. They built court houses and jails all over the country. During 1914 they spent \$190,000 for special constables, \$160,000 for transport and keep of prisoners, \$747,000 in the administration of justice.

Stripped Files of Documents
"The Conservative campaign booklet says the Conservatives are out to restore the credit of the Province to where it was in 1916. Mr. Bowser says let us forget the past and look to the future. I met him on the same platform at Pouce Coupe and he said that the people don't want post mortems. I replied to him that if they were like those of Mr. Bowser's Government, nobody would want them."

The Premier repeated his assertion that after the Bowser Government had been defeated in 1916, it hung on to office for two and one-half months, while its members were busy stripping the files of incriminating documents.

"It is true that they removed public documents from the official files during this time," the Premier continued. "Isn't that a serious statement to make?"

Will Not Return Papers
"Before Mr. Bowser left office as Premier he took with him public papers to his house. I brought the matter up in the Legislature and the Legislature passed a resolution ordering Mr. Bowser to bring back those papers. Mr. Bowser said that they were private papers. But I pro-

duced the vouchers to show that these papers were public documents and paid for by this Province. To this day Mr. Bowser has not returned these papers.

"You can search the history of any Parliament in the world and you will not find a parallel to this. However, they did not strip the files quite clean as we have letters from bond houses pointing out to the Government the unsatisfactory condition of its finances.

Revenue Dwindled to Half
"In 1912 they had a revenue of \$12,500,000," the Premier continued. "And they spent \$15,500,000. They had a deficit that year of over \$3,000,000.

"Next year the revenue was between \$10,000,000 and \$11,000,000 and they spent nearly \$16,000,000, leaving a deficit of over \$5,000,000.

"And under their administration a revenue of over \$12,500,000 in 1912 had dropped to \$6,291,000 in 1915.

"If I would tell you that with a shrinkage of revenue to one-half, the finances of the Province could be in a safe condition you know that I would not be telling you the truth.

Found Many Non-Taxpayers
"Out of the millions that Mr. Bowser says we have borrowed, \$14,000,000 is for the P.G.E. and \$4,000,000 to pay the deficit left when they left office.

"When we took office the Hon. Ralph Smith and then the Hon. John Hart got to work as tax collectors. They found that some of the people of Victoria had not paid an income tax in eighteen years.

"At the end of our first year of office, our revenue was up to over \$8,000,000. At the end of the second year it was up to over \$10,000,000 and at the end of the third year it was up to \$13,750,000."

PAPER MAKERS TO HOLD ANNUAL BALL

Committee Appointed to Arrange
for Big Event; Won Launch;
Loggers Caught in Storm

OCEAN FALLS, B. C., Nov. 17.—Arrangements have been completed for a big dance on Christmas Eve in the new hall. The mill will be closed on Christmas Day and dancing will be indulged in instead of work. It is planned to make this the best yet and a good time is assured. The following committee has been appointed:

Jess Harris, Chairman.
C. Kelley, Arrangements.
C. Killin, Refreshments.
W. C. Hower, Decorations.
F. D. Simons, Floor and Music.
C. Knapp, Advertising.

The drawing for the \$1,000 gasoline launch took place at the Bowling Alley Saturday night and John Sperb, Assistant Master Mechanic at the mill, won the boat. Mr. Sperb intends using his prize on extensive hunting trips, he being one of the city's most enthusiastic sportsmen.

Loggers Marooned
News has just been received of the rescue of J. Johnson and

partner, logging contractors, from a dangerous position on the rocks just off Sunny Island in Dean Channel. They were caught in a storm and their small boat was driven shoreward and as they could not land, were forced to take refuge on a small exposed rock, where they remained for 36 hours before Gus Michael's boat "John M." picked them up.

CICOTTE TO TURN STATES EVIDENCE

CHICAGO, Nov. 17.—Eddie Cicotte of the White Sox, whose confessions resulted in indictments in connection with the world's series of baseball games at the end of the year 1919, will turn states evidence when the men are tried. His only sentence will be banishment from organized baseball.

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TUG BOAT FLOATED

ALERT BAY, Nov. 17.—The sunken tug boat Prosperative has been floated and is getting temporary repairs by a Vancouver concern.

WATER NOTICE. DIVERSION AND USE.

TAKE NOTICE that P. W. Racey, agent for the Moose Group Mining Syndicate, whose address is Alice Arm, B. C., will apply for a licence to take and use one-quarter of a cubic foot per second of water out of Moose Creek, which flows southerly and drains into Trout Creek, about at its junction with the Kitimat River. The water will be diverted from the stream at a point about 2,000 feet north of the Trout Creek falls at a point on the Moose No. 6 Mineral Claim, and will be used for domestic purposes upon the mine described as the Moose Group.

This notice was posted on the ground on the 14th day of September, 1920. A copy of this notice and an application pursuant thereto and to the "Water Act, 1914," will be filed in the office of the Water Recorder at Prince Rupert, B. C. Objections to the application may be filed with the said Water Recorder or with the Comptroller of Water Rights, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B. C., within thirty days after the first appearance of this notice in a local newspaper.

THE MOOSE GROUP MINING SYNDICATE, Applicant.

By P. W. Racey, Agent.

The date of the first publication of this notice is November 15, 1920.

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