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MEMBER FOR PRINCE RUPERT AT VANCOUVER

Outlines Work That Has Been
Done By Oliver Government
And Tells of Plans.

Hon T. D. Pattullo, member for Prince Rupert and Minister of Lands for the Province of British Columbia, recently made a speech in Vancouver in which he is reported to have said:

"Move along with prudence and wisdom and we will solve the problems of British Columbia. Assimilate immigration, increase our population. The only real asset here regardless of all our timber, minerals, power and food, is the human being and not just the natural resources. We must get the people, to develop the country.

"A year or two before the war people were enjoying an expansion due to the influx of outside capital on our natural resources with the consequences that people settled here and an elaborate machinery of government was established.

Strengthen Provincial Credit.
"The province could not stand up under the proposed drastic measures of curtailing expenses when that government fell through and I suggest that we strengthen the foundation of the former super-structure. We found when taking over the new regime that we had an annual fixed charge of about \$10,000,000, but the securities of British Columbia have been re-established.

"The land policy has been well settled and legislation has been made whereby the land owner will develop the "wild" lands. The consequences are that the lands are being developed and settled, especially so along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific. Companies are being organized to bring in settlers from the United States and from other provinces.

"We are away ahead of any other province with regard to our legislation for the returned soldier and even the Dominion Government is falling in line with our proposals along the lines of land settlement. British Columbia is largely responsible for the policy adopted by the Dominion Government, owing to pressure we brought to bear on these points.

Set Aside Crown Lands.
"Through the parliamentary legislation at Ottawa, the provinces can set aside Crown lands for the returned soldiers, but just now the Crown lands are well away from any transportation facilities. The solving of the land settlement problem is to be done exclusively through the Dominion Land Settlement Board, with which the provincial organizations will co-operate.

It is expected that legislation for \$7,500 to each settling citizen soldier for purchases and individual loans by the government will be made this year. The plan of the Asia-men is the best. They do not want a 'community' loan, but would rather have money loaned to them individually, with the plan to co-operate for an organized return of the money at a later date.

Assist Soldiers.
"The Provincial Government will assist the soldiers by putting in roads and schools in the soldier-communities free of charge. "It will take a steady process of years to assimilate the soldier back to civilian life."

The speaker said that the stock industry was not developed as it should be, this being partly due to the cattle and sheep men being at logger heads. The result is that people who would come in, but for that, are not settling and not bringing in the stock that should be here. The department plans to reorganize the system of caring for cattle, studying the problem of winter feed and will make an effort to increase the stock industry many-fold.

Increase Timber Market.
He also said that the timber industry here had been over-exploited in the early days and the mills here now could cut many more than was produced. The remedy of this, he explained, was not to put some of the mills out of business, but to increase the market and make more increase in the cut of the mills. The export trade in this line had made the startling drop from

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twenty-five per cent. to four per cent.

"We must go after the foreign markets," he continued.

"Last August, feeling that the war was drawing to a close, we sent a lumber commissioner to the Old Country and got contracts that have saved the situation somewhat. In January a year ago we were cutting on an average of 1,046,000 feet of airplane spruce for the government and in ten months' time we had, through the efforts and co-operation of the mill men and loggers, cut as high as 10,000,000 feet.

"We are going to take advantage of the trade opportunities in the Far East.

Coast Steel Plant.

"The government is looking for more industries, and once we get a steel industry situated on our coast, the future of British Columbia is assured of success. The people are entitled to know just what and where our natural resources are, so the government is going to investigate, and sample every bit of mineral and other properties of the province.

"British Columbia is far ahead of the times regarding industrial employment questions. We had two provincial employment offices before it was ever taken up by Ottawa, and now we are working in conjunction. We passed over 300 important acts during the last legislature, about twenty of which deal with social welfare and educational development.

This Year's Program.

"The program this year for the expenditure of monies is confined chiefly to two things. Before the signing of the armistice, every man was profitably employed in some work, either war work or of some benefit to the nation. The first item will be for the benefit of the country, and the second for the help of the returned soldier.

"Twelve million dollars has been appropriated for the industrial situation this year.

"The extension of the P. G. E. will be gone ahead with. It is a losing proposition now, but once we get it on a paying basis, the ratepayers will not have to pay out one-tenth of their taxes to the upkeep of the interest on that road. \$1,500,000 will go to the P. G. E. extension. \$1,250,000 will go to the housing problem, and I might say here that this will be used exclusively for the soldiers in B. C. Of \$1,000,000 appropriated, \$500,000 will at once go towards development of the South Okanagan and \$500,000 will go to the irrigation and conservation fund of that district, and also the interior of the province," he concluded.

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