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MEMBER OUTLINES THE WORK WHICH HAS BEEN DONE AND IS TO BE PROCEEDED WITH

HON. T. D. PATTULLO GIVES INTERVIEW ON WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS; BUSINESSMEN OF VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER MAY COME HERE

"Yes, we are very busy, but nobody has any business to be anything else than busy at this juncture when there are so many things to be done," said Hon. T. D. Pattullo to a Daily News man yesterday. "Our government has necessarily had to do a great deal of spade work. Previous to the signing of the armistice practically everybody was profitably employed and it was not thought desirable to engage in an extensive program of public works. In view of the fact that everybody was bending his efforts to war purposes it would have been folly to take, for instance, men from spruce production to engage in construction of public works.

With the signing of the armistice it was necessary to immediately prepare an extensive program having in view two objects: (1) works of a productive character, (2) to relieve unemployment.

Appropriations.

We have appropriated for this year some twelve millions of dollars; some three and one half millions for public works, a considerable amount of which will be spent on capital account; \$1,250,000 for construction of houses for soldiers; \$1,500,000 for construction work on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway; \$2,000,000 for the operations of the Land Settlement Board; \$500,000 for the development of the South Okanagan irrigation project and \$700,000 for the protection of the irrigable lands in the dry belt and \$2,000,000 for the new department of industry. This is a large expenditure to add to our present indebtedness, but British Columbia is a huge territory with immense resources, and we must view the situation from a broad gauge aspect. Our problem is to get more people into the country and the only way to get more people is to develop our resources. This we propose to do with all the energy we possess.

Northern B. C.

As far as Northern British Columbia is concerned, in addition to the land situation, which is now being taken care of in comprehensive fashion, and to the opening up of our mineral resources, we must look to the development of our timber resources. There are a number of projects in hand of which it is not possible to make any announcement at the present because they are still in tentative form, but we will leave no stone unturned, as far as we are concerned, to bring these matters to a head.

At the last session we passed legislation to encourage the pulp industry by enabling the conversion of limits now held as timber licences to pulp licences. This will considerably lessen the carrying charge for the operator. We took power also to enter into special agreements during the first years of operations in respect to our water powers, in order to encourage the establishment of the industries. We are also going after foreign trade in respect to our timber in an aggressive way. In fact in every line with regard to our natural resources we are reaching out looking for development. We must have people here, but we have got to be able to assimilate them when they come and the only way we can assimilate them is to make it profitable for them to live here.

Fishing Industry.

"With respect to the development of the waterfront in Prince Rupert, I of course, look with every sympathy upon the desire of the fish industry to have much better accommodation than now exists," continued the minister. "Major Hull recently discussed with me the question of the Dominion Government undertaking certain work upon Provincial water front at Seal Cove and I informed Major Hull that if the Dominion Government would undertake the work that I would recommend that the necessary waterfront be provided. I incline to the opinion that the Dominion Government will likely take action, but should they fail to do so the question must be faced from a provincial standpoint.

"What we are trying to bring about is the spirit of co-operation amongst our people. Everybody should try to understand and try to help everybody else.

Businessmen's Trip.

"I have just recently suggested to the Board of Trade in Victoria

that they should co-operate with the Board of Trade in Vancouver and go on a business man's trip through British Columbia in order that the businessmen of Vancouver and Victoria should become better acquainted with the resources of the province. I suggested that they should take a trip this year to Prince Rupert, Prince George, thence down the Pacific Great Eastern to Vancouver and I am asking the president of the Board of Trade here, Mr. McCaffery, to take the matter up with the Boards of Trade at Vancouver and Victoria. It seems to me that an understanding of each other's needs is a very vital factor.

Returned Soldiers.

"With reference to what is generally known as the soldier problem, we are trying to meet the situation comprehensively and we believe that we are doing so. I do not think there is any other province in the Dominion that is doing more, if as much, than we are. At the recent session there was not one single suggestion made that we had not anticipated. We must not look upon the result (continued on Page Four.)

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