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BUDGET IS PRESENTED AT OTTAWA

WORST STORM IN HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA CONTINUES

Canada's Progress Permits of Reduction in Debt as well as Further Relief from Taxation

Aim has been to give relief to people not to any specified communities, says minister; obligations down and revenue up

OTTAWA, February 17. — Announcing tax reductions estimated at $27,000,000, Hon. James A. Robb, minister of finance, presented his fourth budget in the House of Commons today. "The aim has been," the minister said, "to lighten the burden for every taxpayer rather than afford relief to special groups, provinces or sections of the country. We are again in the happy position of being able to report a continued story of progress for the current fiscal year which closes in March."

Mr. Robb's announcement included an estimated reduction in net debt in the present fiscal year of $31,000,000, making a total reduction in the national debt of $95,000,000 during the past four years. The net debt reduction for 1925-26 is placed at $27,700,000 as compared with $22,500,000 estimated in the last budget. The total revenue for the present fiscal years is estimated at $334,800,000, an increase of $11,900,000 over 1925 and 1926.

The estimated surplus of revenue over expenditure for the present year is $34,000,000.

Reviewing trade conditions, the minister gave an estimated favorable trade balance this fiscal year of approximately $250,000,000.

TAX REDUCTIONS

Tax reductions in the budget are:

Sales tax by twenty per cent, viz., rate reduced from five to four per cent, effective tomorrow.

Income tax cut by ten per cent all around applicable to this year's assessments.

Excise taxes on matches cut by 25 per cent.

Stamp exemption, increased from $5 to $10.

All checks over ten dollars bear flat rate of two cents, effective July 1.

Stamp tax on overdrafts and advances abolished.

Special War Revenue Act amended to make it clear that printers are liable to sales tax.

No tariff changes.

Reba, Lady Hambro, whose engagement to Mr. H. S. Hubert Dormer, is announced. She is the widow of Sir Everard A. Hambro, late director of the Bank of England, to whom she was married in 1911.

ESTIMATES MADE ON COAL COSTS

HOUSE OF COMMONS GETS A STATEMENT ON MATTER OF USING CANADIAN INSTEAD OF AMERICAN FUEL

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—The approximate cost of hauling Canadian coal to Central Canada to replace imported American coal would involve an annual extra charge to the public of $56,000,000 there would also be an annual loss in customs revenue amounting to $7,000,000 it was estimated in a memorandum tabled in the House of Commons on Wednesday by Hon. Charles Stewart, minister of the interior. The figures were prepared by the Dominion Fuel Board, the estimate being based on distribution of costs. The calculation is on the assumption "that the duty would be raised to a point excluding American coal as against the landed cost of Alberta coal carried at a seven dollar freight rate."

ANOTHER LARGE TIMBER PROJECT

BROUGHTON STRAITS TIMBER CO. LTD., CAPITALIZED AT $3,000,000, WILL OPERATE AT NIMPKISH LAKE

VICTORIA, Feb. 17.—Application for incorporation of the Broughton Straits Timber Co. Ltd. with capitalization of $3,000,000 yesterday revealed a newly-formed concern which intends to take over ninety-one square miles of timber lands in the Nimpkish Lake district near Kelsey Bay, said to be one of the finest on Vancouver Island. Provisional directors include a number of Toronto and Chicago business men as well as Mr. D. Hamilton, Vancouver, British Columbia supervisor of the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

QUAKES IN BALKAN STATES CONTINUE

Ninety-one Persons Killed Yesterday When 26 Houses Were Demolished at Ljubinke Herzemovina

BELGRADE, Feb. 17.—Ninety-one persons were killed when a terrific earthquake demolished twenty-six houses at Ljubinke Herzemovina in the same region which was shaken by disastrous earthquakes on Sunday.

THREE KILLED IN MID-AIR CRASH AT TEXAS AIR STATION

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Feb. 17. — Lieut. B. A. Coyle, Cadet J. W. Green and Private R. C. Bartel were killed in a mid-air plane crash at an altitude of 2000 feet over Camp Stanley.

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ALBERTA NATURAL RESOURCES TALK RULED OUT OF HOUSE

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—Discussion of Alberta's natural resources in the House of Commons was ruled out of order on Wednesday. The point was taken that the case was under reference to the Supreme Court of Canada and was to be heard in March, the question thus being sub-judice.

WIRELESS REPORT.

8 a.m.

DIGBY ISLAND.—Cloudy, fresh S.E. wind; barometer, 29.63; temperature, 35; sea smooth; 6.30 a.m. spoke Alameda left Ketchikan 3 a.m. for Seattle.

DEAD TREE POINT.—Barometer, 29.44; temperature 32.

BULL HARBOR.—Part cloudy, strong east wind; barometer 29.80; temperature 36; sea rough; 10 a.m. spoke steamer Catala abeam Pine Island, northbound; 8 a.m. spoke tug St. Faith south of Cape Calvert, southbound.

NOON

DIGBY ISLAND. — Overcast, strong S.E. wind; barometer, 29.64; temperature 38; sea rough.

DEAD TREE POINT.—Barometer, 29.47; temperature 37.

BULL HARBOR.—Clear, strong east wind; barometer 29.74; temperature, 36; sea rough.

Corsets for girls are anathema and hard derby hats and stiff collars for boys are an abomination, says Dr. S. Henning Belgrade, secretary of the New Health Society of England.

In Utopia the rents are just as high as here, but the tenant acquires title to the property after he has paid for it seven times.

ROAD COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING

EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO HAVE RECONNAISSANCE OF A PROPOSED HIGHWAY TO TERRACE

At a meeting last evening of the committee selected to advance the construction of a road from Prince Rupert to Terrace communications were read from Hon. John Oliver, Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Hon. W. H. Sutherland, Hon. S. F. Tolmie, H. F. Kergin, M.L.A., and H. G. Perry, M.L.A., acknowledging receipt of letters from the secretary of the committee on the subject and promising consideration of the proposal.

Letters endorsing the highway were also read from Terrace, Telkwa, New Hazelton, Prince George Board of Trade, Cariboo Automobile Association, Bulkley Valley Automobile Association, Stewart Board of Trade, and J. McNeil of Telkwa.

Discussion took place as to the best means of advancing the scheme further and it was decided that it would be a good plan to have a reconnaissance made of the country between here and Terrace to ascertain a possible route and also the probable cost. The matter of financing the undertaking was considered and the committee will consider at a later date the possibility of having a preliminary reconnaissance made. It was stated at the meeting that possibly the provincial government engineers would be considering the project this summer.

The meeting was attended by the majority of the members of the committee and was presided over by the chairman, Alderman Jos. Greer, with S. E. Parker acting as secretary.

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B.C. Silver	1.55	1.62
Dunwell	1.43	1.46
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Gladstone	.27¾	.28¾
Granby	33.00	35.00
Independence	.10⅜	.10¾
Indian		.07¼
Marmot	.10	.13
Premier	2.17	2.20
Silver Crest	.06½	.07
Richmond	.14	.15½
Coast Copper	7.25	7.95

The way to get the most experience for the least money is to keep the neighbor's children for a day.

LABORITES HOWL MINISTER DOWN

INCURRING WRATH OF SOCIALISTS, POSTMASTER GENERAL THOMPSON REFUSED HEARING IN COMMONS

MENTIONED FIRING SQUAD

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Postmaster General Thompson was shouted down in the House of Commons yesterday when he attempted to reply to a question. The Laborites started a demonstration following a speech by Thompson at Croydon in which he declared that the firing squad would be the answer to any one seeking to prevent the assembling of troops in case of war with China. In his speech, the Postmaster General said, with reference to alleged utterances of certain Socialists that they would do their utmost to prevent the assembling of troops: "If they do that they will end up, and very properly too, against a wall with a firing party in front of them. It is just as well that they should know that right from the start."

When Thompson arose yesterday in the House of Commons, he was met with shouts of "Shoot, shoot, shoot him also," and, so great was the tumult, that he could not make himself heard.

DISMISS SUIT FOR LACK PROSECUTION

Application is Made by Publisher of Vancouver Sun in Stevens Libel Case

VANCOUVER, Feb. 17.—Counsel for R. J. Cromie, publisher of the Vancouver Sun, has applied for dismissal of the libel suit launched against the paper during the last election campaign by H. H. Stevens, M.P. Lack of prosecution constitutes the ground upon which the dismissal is being asked. A writ was issed against Cromie who alleged that Stevens had used House of Commons letterheads in promoting oil share selling scheme.

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SESSION MAY BE BRIEF ONE

CONSERVATIVES, THROUGH H. H. STEVENS, OFFER TO GIVE THEIR CO-OPERATION

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—The first intimation of the possibility of a brief session was given in the House of Commons by Hon. H. H. Stevens (Conservative, Vancouver Centre), who said: "If we have a response from the ministry, such as we have had during the past few days, I think I can assure them of reasonable co-operation."

Mr. Stevens in the course of a few remarks preliminary to the criticism of a resolution before the House, said: "During the last week I think this House has witnessed a spirit of courtesy and co-operation which, in my opinion, has been unparalleled during my 17 sessions in parliament. We have expedited the passing of various measures. I might instance the fact that this afternoon we advanced several important bills for the minister of finance with scarcely any comment, and I must say that the ministry has been very prompt in making brief statements and explanations. I am exceedingly anxious that we should expedite the business of the session. We have had a couple of years of pretty hard parliamentary duty, and I think both country and parliament will be better for a little surcease from bitterness and controversy. I can say on behalf of my colleagues on this side of the House, that we have tendered to the House our hearty co-operation."

LEGISLATURE ENGAGED IN PASSING OF SUPPLY

Most of Wednesday's Session was Spent in Committee—B.C. Electric Railway Bill Up

VICTORIA, Feb. 17.—For the greater part of the session on Wednesday, the legislature was engaged in committee of supply. A number of votes under the Department of Agriculture were disposed of before the committee rose.

The B.C. Electric Railway bill was up for discussion on its second reading, the debate being adjourned.

State Prosecutor Opens Mail Robbery Trial at Fairbanks; Story of Lost Money is Told

FAIRBANKS, February 17.—The story of how $33,000 disappeared from a dog sleigh at an isolated Alaska road house began to unfold in the federal court here last night where Nellia Bates, alias Nellie Beattie and better known as "Black Bear," is charged with robbery from the mails. The alleged robbery occurred more than four years ago about 350 miles south of here on the Iditarod trail.

Prosecutor Ellis, in outlining the case, traced the route of the money from the time it left Seattle until it disappeared a month later from a dog team upon which he related the accused was a passenger. The team stopped during the night of December 30, 1922, at William Schermeyer's road house and the next morning the money was missing from the sled. After burying the $33,000, the prosecutor charged, "Black Bear" and the seventy-year old Schermeyer dug it up and, finally, divided it in September, 1924. Schermeyer is jointly accused with the woman but his case has not yet been called for trial. The prosecutor recounted how inspectors of the United States postoffice department trailed Schermeyer from Alaska to Mexica and back again to Los Angeles where he was arrested and, it is alleged, confessed, involving "Black Bear."

After the prosecutor had made his statement, the defence moved that the case be dismissed on the ground that the charges detailed in the indictment did not constitute a crime. Judge Ritchie reserved his decision on the motion and instructed the state to present its testimony. The jury is composed of eleven men and one woman.

Premier King Refuses Tory Request for Production of Correspondence Over China

OTTAWA, February 17.—A motion asking for the production of all correspondence between the Canadian and British governments regarding Chinese troubles was defeated in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon. Premier King voiced opposition to such revelations, stating that he was sure the British government would not desire the publication to the world at present of confidential correspondence in connection with the matter.

T. L. Church, Toronto Conservative member, sponsor of the motion, said that the attitude of the Premier was unfair both to the House and to the country as there were many Canadians in China whose people did not know where they were. The country, he contended, was entitled to know what steps the government had taken to protect the lives and property of Canadians in China.

What Chicago needs is a few arresting personalities on its police force.

Tempest Kills Twenty-Four and Injures Many in Golden State South

PROSPECT TODAY WAS FOR MORE UNKIND ELEMENTS—COUNTRY IS ISOLATED AND BIG CITIES ARE INUNDATED—THREE THOUSAND HOMELESS

SAN FRANCISCO, February 17.—With twenty-four known to be dead, three missing and believed to have lost their lives and reports of twenty-eight injured, some probably fatally, in what is described as "the greatest storm that has ever visited the Pacific Coast in its known history," California, this morning, faced the prospect of another storm during the next forty-eight hours. Approximately three thousand Californians have been left temporarily homeless as a result of the storm.

Telegraph companies are gradually restoring service but the State Automobile Association reports the main highways to be in "the worst general disruption in five years."

The greatest loss of life was in the Sierras, east of Fresno, where a snowslide killed thirteen. There are other casualties in various places in the southern part of the state from causes attributed to the storm. A Los Angeles despatch stated that, from Tehachipi to the Mexican border in southern California, the country was almost isolated as a result of the floods, wind and rain. More than five feet of water in Mission Valley, back of San Diego, forced farmers there to quit their houses while it is estimated that sixty-four blocks in the northeastern section of the city of Long Beach is under water with about two thousand persons driven from their homes.

IN LOS ANGELES

In various suburban districts of Los Angeles, floors of residences and business places are flooded with several inches under muddy lagoons. Laurel Canyon, the fashionable residential hill district of Hollywood, is waterlogged and the home owners there, fearing landslides, are moving out. Several smaller houses were buried under minor floods.

The sea offered the only secure means of transportation and communication for southern Californians today.

The property loss in southern California from the storm will amount to several million dollars. Bridges have been washed out at Los Angeles and at Taft one hundred oil derricks toppled over.

FISHERMEN, FROM WRECKED SCHOONER CAPE CLEAR, LEAVE

Captain Ben West, Oscar Holt and Louis Wick of the ill-fated halibut schooner Cape Clear are leaving on tomorrow's boat for Seattle where they expect to secure employment on one of the fishing vessels out of that port for the season. Capt. West said this morning that he would not consider the building of another fishing boat this year but, perhaps, in the fall, might buy or build one. Harold Wick and Adolf Anderson, the other members of the crew, expect to get away to Ketchikan at the first of the week and will try to secure berths on the crews of fishing vessels out of that port.

WEATHER REPORT.

Prince Rupert.—Cloudy, fresh S.E. wind, temperature, 35.

Terrace.—Snowing, north wind, temperature 6.

Rosswood.—Cloudy, calm, temp. 5.

Alyansh.—Snowing, calm, temp. 5.

Alice Arm.—Snowing, north wind, temperature 9.

Anyox.—Snowing, north wind, temp. 10.

Stewart.—Snowing north wind, temp. 9.

Telegraph Creek.—Cloudy, calm, zero.

Burns Lake.—Fog, calm, 5 below.

Hazelton.—Snowing, N.E. wind, 4 below.

Smithers.—Cloudy, calm, 10 below.

Whitehorse.—Cloudy, calm, 16 below

Dawson.—Foggy, N. wind, 45 below.

52 below at Fort Selkirk and Stewart River.

The shaving mug social register still exists in a Moberly, Mo., barbershop. The proprietor has rows of handsome gilt-edged cups, the largest collection, he contends, in a Missouri barbershop.

NEW PASTOR COMING HERE

FORMALITIES IN CONNECTION WITH APPOINTMENT OF REV. J. R. FRIZELL TO LOCAL PULPIT COMPLETED

(Special to Daily News)

VANCOUVER, Feb. 17.—At a meeting of Westminster Presbytery held here yesterday, the moderator, Rev. R. G. McBeth, presented a call to Rev. J. R. Frizell, now of Vancouver Heights Presbyterian Church, from the First Presbyterian Church at Prince Rupert. A salary of $2,400 per year, free house, and a month's vacation each year were perquisites of the call which was sustained by the Presbytery and accepted by Rev. Frizell.

The new pastor at Prince Rupert will be inducted during the first week in March. Rev. McBeth had hoped to go north to officiate in person but he rather fears that he will be unable to make the trip. In case he does not go, the induction will be performed by Rev. W. J. Seeds, who is already at Prince Rupert relieving in the pulpit.

Rev. Frizell has resigned the clerkship of Westminster Presbytery and Rev. Thomas Oswald was appointed to succeed him.

VANCOUVER HOME MATTER PROBED

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HEARS THAT THERE WERE OVERCHARGES BUT THAT SUPT. HANNA'S MANAGEMENT GOOD

VICTORIA, Feb. 17.—Charges of mismanagement of the Vancouver Children's Aid Society Home were further aired before the public accounts committee yesterday when A. H. Hanna, the superintendent, appeared, supported by a delegation of directors of the institution. It was freely admitted that the government had overcharged for children from unorganized districts, owing to mistakes in accounting, but it was generally felt that Hanna's management was excellent.

LOCAL JEWELLER IS NAMED DIRECTOR AT VANCOUVER MEETING

VANCOUVER, Feb. 17.—At the annual meeting of the British Columbia section of the Canadian Jewellers' Association, Alex Waters was elected president and John Bulger of Prince Rupert was chosen a member of the district executive.

VANCOUVER MAN IS HEAD GRAND BLACK CHAPTER OF ORANGE

NEW WESTMINSTER, Feb. 17.—C. E. Carpenter of Vancouver was elected grand master of the Grand Black Chapter of Orangemen in British Columbia at the twenty-third annual meeting held here.