

**THE DAILY NEWS.**

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**AGAINST EXPENDITURES**

Victoria ratepayers made a dead set last week against any increase in capital expenditures by turning down three bylaws. The vote was so decisive that it is probable no attempt will be made to introduce another for some time to come. One of the bylaws was for the purchase of a landing field for the purpose of establishing the city as an airport. The other two were for repaving streets.

The action of the ratepayers in Victoria reflects pretty well the attitude of taxpayers in other cities, who feel that the mill rates are already as high as they can stand. One of the editorial writers in the Victoria Colonist, commenting on this, says:

"There was a deeper significance in the vote on the money bylaws than merely the crushing defeat of the measures—and that significance is capable of more than a local application. There was a note of warning which should be carefully considered by politicians at large as well as by our municipal politicians. The significance of the vote was that the people who pay taxes will submit to no further increases of taxation. And the ratepayers of Victoria, in recording their votes, registered the views of thoughtful people in all parts of Canada. For many years the tendency has been in the direction of higher and still higher rates of taxation."

In the Victoria bylaws the vote was ten to one against the airport scheme and four to one against each of the paving schemes.

We believe today that the only expenditures that are made by municipalities should be those that will give the largest possible amount of labor for the expenditures involved.

**Two of World's Speediest**



Frank Wykoff, U.S. champion sprinter, and Olive Hatch, member of world record-holding women's relay swimming team.

**OPPOSITION LEADER IS CRITICAL OF VICTORIA GOV'T ON MANY SCORES**

(Continued from page 1)

public affairs in hand. Instead, the new government had engaged in an orgy of gross partizanship which it had later attempted to cover up with an enormous program of road building.

**The Alaska Highway**

Mr. Pattullo declared that he was not opposed to the Alaska highway project. First things, however, should come first and "it's a long way to Terrace yet." His opponent in the last election, Mr. Pattullo recalled, had declared that, at the rate of progress of construction under the Liberal Government, it would be 100 years before Terrace was reached. Even under the Conservatives, it still looked as if it would be 100 years. Mr. Pattullo questioned if Premier Tolmie realized the magnitude of the Alaska highway project. "I suggest that it is a red herring drawn across the trail to cover up their orgy of partizanship," the speaker said. "It is just a government of bluff, bluster and four-flushing. There is much ballyhoo and they always seem to do the wrong thing."

**Horse Race Tipster**

In spite of what had been said, Mr. Pattullo asked if agriculture were more prosperous today in this province than it was in 1928. The speaker criticized the appointment of Hon. T. G. Coventry, who had given up his seat in Saanich for Premier Tolmie, as markets commissioner in England. He did not think Mr. Coventry was either competent or qualified to fill the office. Now he had become an official tipster on horse races at the expense of the province of British Columbia. "The government is conducting a burlesque of ineptitude and incompetence."

Turning to the financial situation, Mr. Pattullo denied absolutely that the one per cent income tax had been necessary because of debts left by the Liberals. The fact was that the Liberal Government had reduced taxes. The speaker charged that the Conservative Government had increased expenditures from \$22,000,000 per year in the last year of Liberal regime to over \$28,000,000 this year. Mr. Pattullo further charged that Minister of Finance Jones, in his budget this year, had padded his estimates of revenue and underestimated expenditures in order to convince the public that he had balanced his budget. Despite all Mr. Jones' protestations, Mr. Pattullo declared that "there had never been a more misleading budget than this last one."

**Ignorant Minister**

Mr. Pattullo then told of an incident where he had inquired from Mr. Bruhn, the minister of public works, in regard to an estimate of \$6,000 that had been presented to cover care of government grounds whereas, in the two years immediately previous, \$19,000 and \$22,000 had been required. Mr. Bruhn had replied that it was his business. "Only ignorance could have prompted such an answer but such is the ignorance of the government which would cover its ignorance with insolence."

Mr. Pattullo criticized the reorganization of the Liquor Control Board. They had paid Mr. Davidson, a perfectly efficient official, \$25,000 to get out and had then formed a board of rabid Conservatives at a cost of \$30,000 per year. What was there so extraordinary about the booze business than they had to pay all that, Mr. Pattullo inquired.

**Liquor Affairs**

The government was today paying \$580 a month more for liquor store premises than in 1928 and had 32 more employees, all this, in addition to a more expensive board, and less business was being done. This was one place where the money of the people was disappearing. There were 192 more persons in the civil service today than three years ago. That was where more money was going. The utterly useless position of keeper of the executive council chamber had been created in order to give a man in Premier Tolmie's riding a job. When inquiry had been made, it was explained that this new man would usher in delegations and run messages. "When we were in power, the ministers did not mind ushering in their own delegations and, if there was a message to be run, we could push a button and get a clerk. The position of colonization commissioner with a salary of \$5,000 had been created at a time when immigration had practically ceased, and a great friend of the minister of

finance had received the appointment. The former head of the Land Settlement Board had been removed and, although it was claimed the board had been abolished, the expenditure had been actually increased through appointment of a new man and assistants all with high salaries. More road machinery had been purchased in three years than in the whole 12 years of Liberal administration. They had a mass of machinery much of which was useless including snow plows for the roads on Vancouver Island. With such conditions of unemployment that existed, they continued their extravagant tactics. They had gone far beyond the available means and had landed now in a financial morass.

**One Per Cent Tax**

"In my opinion," Mr. Pattullo declared, "the one per cent tax is solely and totally due to the extravagance of this government and their orgy of expenditure. Moreover, they are taxing people who should not be taxed at all."

Another objection Mr. Pattullo had to this administration was that it persistently and constantly worked in secret. No reports of commissions were ever made public and it was impossible to obtain information. The speaker stated that he had inquired of the minister of finance how much had been received during the first two months of the new one per cent tax. The minister would not give the information. In several cases, Mr. Pattullo charged that the Premier had given answers which "were not in keeping with the truth."

**Unemployment**

In 1928, Mr. Pattullo recalled, the Liberal Government had been attacked upon the score of unemployment. The Conservatives had said that, if they were returned to office, there would be no unemployment. Now it arose before them as a Frankenstein monster. Much changed was the cry of Mr. McKenzie, the minister of labor, who now declared that unemployment was a national, rather than a provincial matter.

Despite this, Mr. Pattullo declared that he did not blame the provincial government for all the unemployment. It was caused by world conditions over which this province had no control. "But we have got to take alleviative measures. We must let no person in our Dominion go hungry."

There was something wrong with the credit system of the world today, Mr. Pattullo declared, in disgressing from provincial affairs. Why could not the money of the world be put in the possession of the people? Why was it that no business could be done although some people wanted to sell and others wanted to buy? Mr. Pattullo hoped there would be no decrease in wages. If there were, a 20-year fight would have been lost. It seemed a matter of fact from experience that there was usually more prosperity when wages and commodity prices were both high.

**Deplores Tariff**

Mr. Pattullo deplored tariff measures that had been adopted by Premier Bennett. As a result of these, there was actually more unemployment rather than less.

Turning to the educational situation, Mr. Pattullo charged Minister of Education Hinciniffe with believing that higher education should be confined to the few. That was the whole attitude of this government. Even the member for North Okanagan had said that farm boys should not go to college. Here, even, it was the policy of the government to keep the people in ignorance. Unemployment could not be solved until the people learned to speak and think internationally. Education and the creation of goodwill were needed as well as tolerance. "I would carry educational advantages to every citizen of British Columbia," declared the speaker.

**The Party System**

Mr. Pattullo thought it would be unwise to change from the present two-party system. No matter what change there might be, there would always be the "ins" and the "outs." There would still be human frailties and weaknesses as well as the risk of putting into power inexperienced and incompetent administrators. There was a decided difference between Liberal thought and that of the Conservative party as represented by the Tolmie Government. This administration, Mr. Pattullo

charged, was not trying to benefit the province or the Conservative party. "It is only working for a clique that is at present in control of the province."

**Social Legislation**

Mr. Pattullo thought that it was the duty of the government to take care of the social and domestic life of the people as far as possible. The old Liberal Government had worked along this line. The Tolmie Government, however, was opposed to paternal legislation. Here was a line of cleavage between the two administrations. Liberals had proposed legislation whereby rates charged by public utility concerns would be no greater than was consistent with the money actually and prudently expended. The Conservatives had voted this down. The Liberals would have had telephone rates similarly regulated but the Conservatives had voted this down too. All this was indicative of the difference in the viewpoints of the Tolmie and the Liberal administrations.

Mr. Pattullo criticized the action of the government in granting an exclusive franchise for the use of the highways on Vancouver Island to the Vancouver Island Coach Lines, a subsidiary of the C. P. R. This exclusive franchise had been

granted for five years with right of renewal for another five years. The speaker felt that the government should be fair to both railways. Each should be given equal opportunities. This exclusive franchise, he thought, was wrong.

**Business and People**

While he believed in doing all he could to encourage business and business people, proper protection should be given the mass of the people and the perspective should never overlook their welfare. Mr. Pattullo felt, "I believe," concluded the speaker, "that the Liberal party is in a better position than any other—Conservative, Third Party, Labor or Independent—to give sound administration for the people in general. Within two years, we must have an election. I hope and trust that throughout the province we will have most outstanding men in every community representing the Liberal party and its principles. Then I will be confident that we will be returned to power and that British Columbia will once again have a common-sense government."

**As Premier Soon**

Before closing the meeting, Mr. Patmore predicted that it would not be long before Mr. Pattullo was

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standing on a Prince Rupert platform as Premier of British Columbia. The remark was greeted with an enthusiastic round of applause. Miss Maxine Heilbronner played the piano for "O Canada" at the opening and "God Save the King" at the close of the meeting.

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