4"c.# 11 .

Dr. Sirois. For more than two House of Commons. the thought and study given by the Commission to the many problems and questions involved. I also stated that, whether one agreed with the report or disagreed with it, it Prime Minister as follows: constituted a most valuable compendium of useful information.

ally, by my colleagues in the gov- report of the Rowell-Sirois Comernment and by expert authority in mission. our service clearly indicates that " 'Your letter is provocative of the main recommendation of the much thought and will require report known as Plan 1 would be considerable discussion so that I not sacrifice the well-being of Brivery injurious to the development, shall not attempt to elaborate at tish Columbia." welfare and prosperity of our prov- the moment, but would say that I

Peace Time Commission

during peace time, not in anticipa- like to arrive in Ottawa some days tion of war, and to meet conditions prior to the conference as it might Dominion government can do anyexisting in time of peace. The war result in very much expediting the having started before the Commis- work of the conference.' sion completed its report, reference ! was made by the Commission to its value in meeting conditions consequent upon the war.

a communication from the Prime the Ottawa government and the Minister of Canada, inviting myself | provinces and so advised not

POSITION ON SIROIS REPORT ion-Provincial conference in Jan- but also our Provincial Legis- be paid by somebody else. uary. The Prime Minister advised lature at that time. Among other communication to the other prem- as follows:

"Thanks very much for your defined. "Careful study by myself person- letter of November 2nd regarding

and some of my colleagues will be glad to attend the conference "This Commission was appointed which you propose. In fact I would

"Here was clear indication that I had reservations regarding the proposals of the Dominion government but I was anxious to "On November 4, 1940, I received come to an understanding with

headed by Hon. Chief Justice Rowell iers of the provinces and was im- "There are those who would ad- have tied the hands of the Prov- attendance to play "O Canada" at and upon his retirement by the late mediately placing a copy before the vocate placing in the hands of the ince for all time. This would in- the opening of the meeting and Federal authority plenary powers deed be a serious step. It is a good "God Save the King" at the close. years and a half the Commission "I did not approve of the terms event to the extent of those which thing to allow some time to elapse gave study to innumerable prob- of the calling of the conference are now xercised during this war for those who became so frantic lems and there was filed with the but had no opportunity to suggest period. In peace time such auth- to cool down. They need not imag-Dominion government last May any alternative. As our Legislature ority could only lead to disruption ine that by violent outcry they what is now generally termed the was meeting, immediately follow- and disunity. Undue centralization are going to stampede those of us Sirois Report. It is a most volum- ing receipt of the communication of any kind would be harmful who are prepared to look at this inous report and at the recent con- from the Prime Minister of Cana- There are certain jurisdictions situation calmly and dispassionference I personally paid tribute to da, I advised our Legislature of its which should be exclusive to the ately. purport and stated that myself Dominion and the provinces res- "I have been accused of unpatriand various colleagues would at pectively and these should be otic motives and motives of positend the conference. On November clearly and definitely stated. There tive dishonesty. What other object 5 I replied to the letter of the are other jurisdictions where joint could I have than that of preservparticipation would appear desir- ing the welfare of British Columable. These also should be clearly bia? And if the government of

"This government proposes to cooperate to the full with the Federal government and other provincial authorities to reach common ground but, in so doing, we must

"I stated at the conference and I state now that I think it was an error to call the conference on the basis of the emergency of the war. Under the present constitution the thing which it wishes to do to further the war effort. It can take all the man power and all the money power to produce to our fullest capacity necessities required inelastic methods of taxation, overseas to meet the emergency there and at the same time protect our home front. It is not necessary to change the constitution until that time to make radical changes in our constitution would

to definite conclusions.

"The reason for the intense be centralization with a vengeance. FOR SALE Girls' bicycle, good! increased.

iport British Columbia taxpayers would be saved four or five million delbars annually in taxes. There is no explicit evidence to this effect. The Commission itself is very hazy "It has been successed that we are tions. It suggests that the aim should be to make the personal income tax take the place of the corporate income tax. This is defined as an ultimate goal, not an immediate probability, as evidenced by further statement of the Commission that the retention of the corporate tax with an exemption in respect of personal income from dividends would appear preferable to complete abolition of the corporate income tax.

"There can be no sleight of hand about this business. If the Dominion is to benefit from the plan. it must compile the rate structure so that it will produce the money.' There is no doubt that it is the intention of the plan to increase the base and increase the rate upon the smaller incomes. The ardent advocates of the plan are those provinces which will most benefit at the expense of the other provinces and those who count on get-

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posals at the conference it would the chair. C. P. Balagno was in

British Columbia is not prepared to protect the walfare of the province as it sees the light, how can you expect anybody else will do so?

MUST RETAIN OPPORTUNITY "Let me just warn the people that if this report were adopted as outlined by the Commission, this opportunity of the provinces for development in accordance with their capabilities would be gone. In British Columbia, the progress which we have made over a period of years at a cost of millions of dollars would come to a standstill and would inevitably retrogress.

Vicious Centralization

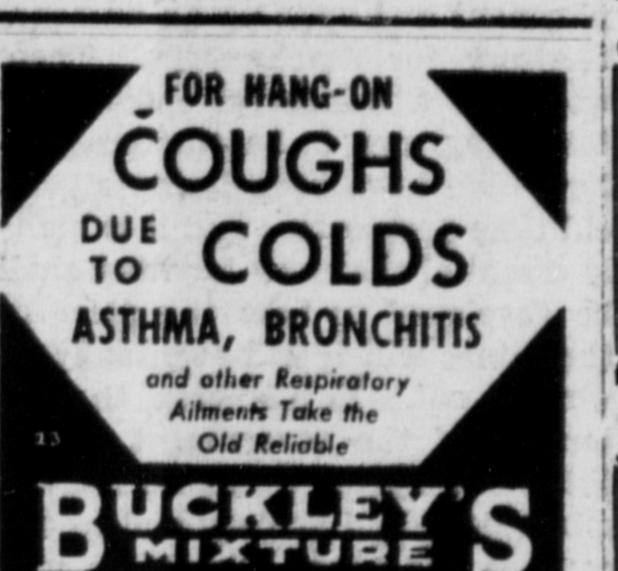
"Under the Commission's plan. would be left to us, while the elastic and flexible tax on income would be taken away from us.

"The plan provides for the setdo this. Nobody knows just ting up of a Finance Commission what conditions may be at the in Ottawa and, while nominally conclusion of the war and to wait the provinces might borrow upon CAR For Sale at Bargain. Phone their own account, the practicabil- Green 890 between between 5 ity of the situation would be that only seem to be the part of wis- no province would be able to borrow for capital expenditures until FOR SALE-Gas boat, 35 feet long "It took years and many confer- application for approval had been ences to bring about the Confed- made to the Finance Commission. eration of Canada and now there we would not even be able to FOR SALE-Leather chesterfield, 2 are those who are frothing at the approach the Dominion governmouth because in a single confer- ment directly but would be subence their wishes were not carried ject to a board appointed by the Dominion government. Here would

feeling exhibited is not hard to "The fact of the matter is that" discover. Apart from antagonism there are powerful influences in to myself, it is clear that certain the east who would like to see interests hope under the propos- centralization of authority. They ed plan to push taxes off them- believe that the provinces should ROOM FOR RENT-343 selves upon other shoulders and be curbed in their expenditures | West. there is hope also that the value and a permanent check be placed of bonds new outstanding which upon their activities. These influare at a heavy discount will be onces found expression through the Decadiment of Finance and WANTED-Girl for housework, 322 "The public is, therefore, being according to the Prime Minister of 6th St. (42) told that und Plan I of the rether Department of Finance which WANTED Waiter, Central Hotel. persuaded the government of Canada reluctantly to call the recent conference.

spending to much money in the province because of the fact that our revenue is higher than ever before in the history of the province. Our expenditures on ordinary current account are less than expenditures on ordinary account in 1930, notwithstanding increase of population.

There was a large attendance at



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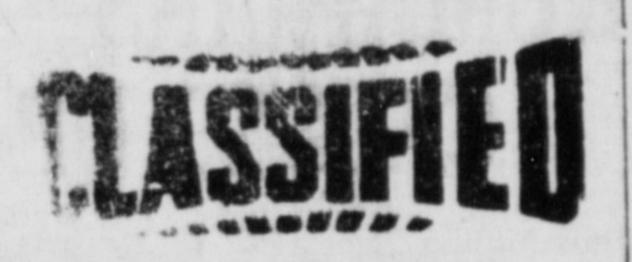
Mike Colussi Accordionist and Teacher

A.A.A. Certificate PHONE RED 814

PREMIER PATTULLO EXPLAINS and colleagues to attend a Domin- only the Dominion government ting rid of some of their taxes, to the meeting and the Premier received an attentive hearing. W. O. Fulton, president of the Prince Ru-(Continued from Page One) me that he was sending a similar, things I advised the Legislature | "Had we consented to the pro- pert Liberal Association, occupied



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