Prince Rupert Daily News
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Anscomb's Budget

IF the spirit of old John Oliver hovers around the Legislative Assembly what a shock he must have had when Hon. Herbert Anscomb brought down his budget yesterday disclosing an estimated revenue of around $59,000,000.

Well do we remember the consternation and alarm felt and shown by the late Premier John Oliver about 25 years ago when the budget came close to $20,000,000. That grand old man feared then the Province was headed for bankruptcy with what seemed in those days a tremendous sum to be collected from the tax-payers and expended by the government.

Now, without blinking an eye, the former critic of governmental expenditures when sitting as a member of the Conservative opposition, Mr. Anscomb, brings down his estimates of expenditures to the tune of $58,781,334.

But we do not think there is any cause for alarm. Our population and production have increased tremendously. Expansion of social services, pensions, education, health, forestry and public works has been going on year by year and must continue to do so if we are to maintain a high standard of these services.

Fortunately our production of wealth both from natural resources and secondary and subsidiary industries has grown well ahead of governmental services and expenditures.

The increased grant from the Dominion Government under the recent Dominion - Provincial agreement will of course add many millions to the revenues compared to last and preceding years.

According to statistics recently released at Ottawa the national income for 1946 was around $9¼ billions, only half a billion under the peak of the war years. It is safe to assume that the share of the national income in British Columbia is around the billion-dollar mark. It is further estimated that the gross national product in Canada last year was over $11,000,000,000.

Gross national products includes taxes and depreciation not included the national income figure.

Assuming, therefore, that British Columbia's share of the national product is over a billion dollars, which in our opinion it must be though actual figures have not yet been received, the governmental expenditures of narly $60 million is not at all out of line with the production and income in the Province.

We do not think there is anything to be fearful of in these estimates.

In modern society it is essential that the State assume a considerable responsibility for the redistribution of the income wealth of its community. By no means does that imply a Socialist State but rather an enlightened State that leaves enterprise to function in the productive field but sees to it that sufficient is withdrawn by taxation, without unduly penalizing industry and thrift, to ensure that members of the community shall receive those services that can only be supplied by the community's own organization, which is the State, comprised of the executive government who are part of the elected representatives of the communities forming that State.

Whether or not revenues and expenditures will continue to rise in the immediate future yars is too much for us to prophesy. But it is certain, that if capitalism is to function at its best and for the good of all, there must be an expanding economy in these post-war years.

And if we do have an expanding economy it is reasonable to assume that governmental income and expenditure will parallel that expansion.

The Coalition government may not move as fast as some would have it do. But we believe the government has moved steadily and progressively forward, meeting new demands as fast as possible.

A budget of nearly $60 millions indicates the forward movements in almost every government department.

One encouraging sign is that the municipalities and education are to receive a goodly share of the increased expenditures.

* * *

RAIL CAR SHORTAGE

A SERIOUS LOSS to the whole central interior district is in sight due to the shortage of railway boxcars for shipping lumber.

The pressing need for boxcars for the shipment of grain is the reason given for the embargo on cars for lumber shipment.

From reports it appears thousands of Canadian boxcars are in the United States, adding to the difficulties of the railways. We do not think carping criticism of the railways is justifiable. Weather conditions, the steel strike and the pressing demand for grain overseas have created a bad condition for which none was prepared. Something similar to this has happened in England with a coal shortage occurring just at the time weather conditions were the worst in 100 years.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL ALEXANDER ENDS WHITE HOUSE VISIT — Viscount Alexander of Tunis, governor-general of Canada, and Lady Alexander, say their farewells to President Truman as they leave the White House after a three-day visit with the "first family." Left to right are Canadian Ambassador Hume Wrong, Mrs Truman, Governor-General Viscount Alexander, President Truman, Lady Alexander and Mrs. Hume Wrong.

DRUG MAKES WEEDS "GROW TO DEATH"

"Creeping Pest of Plains" Find Bane in New Chemicals

SASKATOON (CP)—One of the scourges of prairie farm lands is near extermination.

Dr. T. K. Pavlychenko, head of the plant ecology laboratory of the University of Saskatchewan, says the advent of selective weed-killers is momentous enough to be compared with the discovery of electricity.

The two herbicides—Sinox and 2,4-D—go at the job in different ways but they both give the boon of weed control which precludes pulverizing of the soil. Previously, control of weeds meant constant cultivation which broke the soil down and led to wind erosion—the "creeping death of the plains."

"Weed control has been man's chief problem in the realm of land cultivation and he has always waged an unequal struggle against weeds," Dr. Pavlychenko said. "But the turning point in that struggle has been reached with the discovery of chemicals such as Sinox and 2,4-D."

Sinox, which has a toxic effect on Saskatchewan's worst weeds, mustard, stinkweed and Russian thistle, is a coal tar derivative. Its effectiveness was displayed in a test which showed a yield of 33.86 bushels of wheat per acre on a field tested with the chemical, beside an unchecked field which yields 17.78 bushels per acre. A flax plot's yield increased 129.5 percent when treated.

The other chemical, 2,4-D, is in effect a plant growth regulator. Under its influence weeds with tap root systems such as dandelions, Canada thistle and leafy splurge.

However, plants "growing to death" use a lot of water which cuts down supply to the growing crop.

Dr. J. L. Doughty, of the Dominion Soils Research Committee, believes these chemicals will be used extensively as the means of killing both annual and prennial weeds on fallow land.

CHEST SURVEY UNIT IS HERE

Examination of some 30 persons for signs of tuberculosis was made Wednesday by Miss Doris M. Bullock R.N., of Vancouver, public health nurse in charge of the provincial department of health chest survey unit which is making one of its periodic visits to the Prince Rupert Health Unit. The examinations are made on appointment in cases where the disease is suspected. The mobile caravan which makes general x-ray surveys of communities in the province will visit Prince Rupert about the end of May.

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Train Schedule

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Monday, Wednesday, Friday—
8 p.m.
From the East—
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
—10:45 p.m.

WALLINGTON, Surrey, England (CP)—Goldfish in the town hall gardens were poisoned, "probably by a youngster dabbling in chemistry," the parks committee was informed.

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Today there are thousands of sick and disabled veterans who need the continued help and friendship of the Red Cross. Isolated frontier communities need Outpost Hospitals and nursing service—their only medical aid. Crippled children's hospitals must be maintained and expanded. Men, women and children across Canada need the Blood Transfusion Service the Red Cross has started to supply.

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