

LARGE EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS SAID TO BE THE CAUSE OF B. C.'S POLITICAL TROUBLES

(Financial Post)

Searching the thick political controversy of British Columbia for a prime cause of the Government's collapse, a visitor may well fall upon public works. The native sons and old-timers may assert that the Government came to grief through cutting down agricultural estimates, or skimping the grants for education, or starving some other 'essential service,' but obviously those things are secondary. When the last bone had been given to the builder the cupboard was bare, and those who came later got none.

Cause of Ill

Accepting public works as the source from which flow the major B. C. ills, the advocacy of the hustings becomes the more difficult to understand. At first sight, Liberal contention makes the matter very simple. Mr. Pattullo and his followers put the blame on the political patronage and waste that went with the public works. The case is practically undefended. In fact, several of Dr. Tolmie's ministers have joined the Independents, whose stock in political trade is largely made up of denouncing political patronage. But the Independents go further than Mr. Pattullo, they denounce all party patronage, in fact, they denounce party government; they assert that switching Conservative ministers for Liberal ministers, or even switching contractors, is no solution at all. The Independents propose a new brand of

government in the shape of men, who, some years ago, was a minister in a Liberal provincial administration, and later on, a Liberal member at Ottawa, makes out an attractive case for a non-partisan government. The hustings' effort of those who, only a few hours ago, warmed the treasury benches is regarded by the public as a "sharing," or confession of things that should not have been, with a disposition to forgive, but not forget right away.

The proposal for a non-partisan government has merit. During the world war something of the sort was proposed and elaborated for the United Kingdom. But the visitor is apt to pass it by in an enquiry as to how a province that got into trouble by an expansion of public works is to get out of it by more public works. And Mr. Pattullo has pledged himself and all his candidates to an extensive programme of "work and wages," while every other candidate appears to have thought of something that ought to be built at the public expense.

Providence, or whatever assign, land and rocks and water to people, opened both hands when it came to the share of the British Columbians. The visitor is not inclined to find fault with them when they try to keep up with Providence, he is more apt to pick out a sight with a view of the Gulf of Georgia and dream about finding the money to build a house. That is the rub—money, at least, the private rub, for

when it comes to public expenditure the thing is called credit and is supposed to appear at the command of legislatures. While Dr. Tolmie's government, or another, was building those highways that wind through the valleys and climb mountains and cross canyons, the Government was probably popular. While those magnificent buildings that house public servants in towns and cities were in course of erection there was work for all and times were good.

Public Work

The story of public works has been written in many lands. Its first chapters are invariably pleasing. If the works pay their way, the story is pleasing to the end; if the works do not pay their way, when the workmen are discharged and the interest falls due, and the maintenance charges begin, it is unnecessary to inject a plot of political patronage to ensure a dismal ending. British Columbia already has many public works with only 600,000 people and still few taxpayers. But that is only a visitor's opinion.

COLUMBIA HEAD GETS JUDGMENT OF \$300,000

New York, N.Y., Oct. 27—Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler yesterday won his suit against the closed Harriman Trust Company for the sum of \$300,000. The presiding judge took the ground that when Dr. Butler deposited his securities at the bank he had the way of knowing that he institution was bankrupt. Harriman afterwards made use of the securities for his own purposes. The Harriman Bank did not reopen after the bank holiday law last March.

CARE OF THE BREEDING FLOCK IS IMPORTANT

(Experimental Farm Note)

As soon as they are dry breeding ewes should be flushed by supplying a grain ration such as three parts of oats and one part of corn or barley, up to one pound per day per ewe, or by providing good rape or clover aftermath pasture. When the pasture is used care is necessary at the start in order to prevent bloating; the rape or clover should be dry and the ewes allowed on it only one or two hours per day at the start. Before breeding, the flock should be culled and all ewes that are poor milkers, shy or non-breeders, poor type, or having poor teeth should be discarded. For best results the ewes should not be bred until they are a year old.

After the breeding season is over the ewes may be wintered on good quality clover hay and roots until two weeks before lambing, when a grain mixture made up of oats, 3 parts, bran, 2 parts, oil meal, 1 part should be supplied and the root ration reduced. After lambing from one to two pounds of grain per day and three pounds of roots per ewe together with all the clover hay the eyes will clean up should be fed.

During the lambing period every care and attention on the part of the attendant, and this often means the difference between profit and loss in the year's operation.

After the pasture season starts the same close attention is not necessary, provided the pasture is of good quality and a change is made as frequently as possible to reduce the danger from internal parasites. The control of these parasites is one of the major factors in successful sheep husbandry and the two chief points to keep in mind are frequent changes in pasture and treatment twice yearly with mustard-blue-stone solution or Nema capsules. The flock should be dipped both spring and fall to control external parasites.

This brief outline is a summary of the practices followed at the Dominion Experimental Farm at Nappan where a high class flock of Shropshires is maintained. During the past five years only sixteen lambs have been lost out of 252 dropped and the quality of the flock has been maintained at a low cost.

RUSSIANS TO SOW POTATO SEEDS TO SAVE MONEY

Moscow, Oct. 27—A revolution in the technique of raising potatoes is promised by Soviet agricultural experts.

After a series of experiments conducted in the past two years, it is announced that potato seeds have been found which can be sowed instead of the potato itself. The discovery, credited to agriculturists in the Ukraine, will mean an enormous saving in potatoes. Thus, if the method is applied throughout the Soviet Union 9,000,000 tons of potatoes would be saved.

The experiments were made with the small berries which appear on the potato plant when it is in flower. Each of these berries contains about 300 seeds. By sowing these seeds M. Ovcharenko, the agriculturalist who discovered the method, obtained four tons of potatoes from an acre of land, and the quality of the potatoes was higher than where the potatoes had been raised in the normal manner.

DISPLAYED HIS PROWESS AND SHOT A MULE

Novra, Italy, October 27 — Arturo Poncetti, 40, regaled his friends with stories of his prowess as a marksman until they insisted Thursday that he make good.

A hunting party was organized. They approached a thicket and Poncetti saw a long pair of ears sticking up from a flowering bush. He mentioned for silence, approached stealthily and fired just under and in front of the ears. The ears disappeared.

A moment later a farmer came through the thicket with a pitchfork to avenge the death of his favorite mule.

SONG FOR OCTOBER

(Philadelphia Bulletin)

We do endeavor to avoid the trite. In dashing off a rondeau or a sonnet, We would not use the phrase "tonight's the night", Or other phrase with abuse upon it.

With autumn verse we find the going hard, We do not want to say the month is sober, With grapes and apples looming on the card, But there's no other rhyming for October.

MONEY RECOVERED

Chicago, Oct. 26—The sum of \$35,000 stolen in a recent mail robbery here, has been recovered by the authorities.

"Interesting people" are largely those you don't know.

WINTER THREAT

I had not known autumn would raise so brown A barrenness of branches to a sky Heavy with threat of snow. The sun went down Behind trees rasped by sudden winds and I Who walked this field, knew, in that brittle sound, Winter's slow fingers str along the ground.

—EDWARD F. FITZGERALD in New York Sun.

REACHED SCOTLAND

Inverness, Scotland, Oct. 27—The flying Lindberghs arrived here yesterday for Galway, Ireland. They are expected to start today on their return flight to America.

Vermont's oldest barber is 94; no doubt he has heard everything and told everything by this time.

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