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Press Releases 1945

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PRESS RELEASE
PREMIER'S OFFICE
DECEMBER 14, 1945.

Scope of the studies now being made by the joint committee examining surveys and reports of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and British Columbia's northern resources has been widened to include Alberta, so that a further outlet to the Coast and development of greater resources may be considered, it was announced by Premier John Hart today following an increase in the personnel of the joint committee.

Mr. Hart has wired Premier E. C. Manning of Alberta, advising him that he is quite agreeable to having a representative from the Alberta Government sit on the joint committee. The Alberta Premier recently requested representation.

The course of action taken by Premier Hart is in line with his policy to take every step possible to encourage a greater flow of traffic to the west and open up new resources that will benefit the economy of British Columbia.

The committee will meet in Victoria on January 8 and is expected to continue its deliberations until all matters requiring decisions have been discussed.

Session of Legislature

The Steering Committee of the Dominion-Provincial Conference reconvenes in Ottawa on January 28. Premier John Hart and other Provincial representatives will be in attendance. It is expected, therefore, that the first session of the new British Columbia Parliament will not meet until after February 20. In the meantime preparations are being made, and legislation and estimates are being made ready so that no time will be lost.

Seed Production

Upon his return from the Dominion Food Production Conference at Ottawa, the Honourable Frank Putnam, Minister of Agriculture, announced he had asked the Dominion Government to subsidize British Columbia's seed growing industry for at least two years.

During the past five years seed production has grown to more than \$2,000,000 annually. The Minister is most anxious that the seed growers shall not lose the ground they have gained in building up this industry and is desirous of developing production to a greater degree. It is with this object in view that he is making every effort to assure that the Dominion and Provincial Governments will give encouragement to the seed growers.

Report on Forest Resources

The Sloan Report on the British Columbia forest industry will be submitted to the Government early in January, it was announced by the Honourable E. T. Kenney, Minister of Lands and Forests. An early study of the findings will be made for the purpose of formulating Government policy with respect to forest resources and allied industries.

Hope-Princeton Highway

It has been announced by the Honourable Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Public Works, that work on the western section of the Hope-Princeton Highway has been started four miles out of Hope. It is expected that 350 men, together with construction equipment, shortly will be employed on the project.

Gasoline Price Control

More stringent control of unfair practises in the gasoline wholesale and retail field are being brought into effect under a new set of regulations, it was announced by Dr. W. A. Carrothers, Chairman of the Coal and Petroleum Products Control Board. The new regulations overcome the excessive competition which in the past has led to instability in the gasoline trade.

Campbell River Power Project

A further step was taken this week by the B. C. Power Commission for the development of Campbell River power, it was announced by S. R. Weston, Chairman of the Commission. Tenders have been called for clearing a 90-foot right-of-way for the 132,000 volt power line to link Campbell River with Nanaimo, a distance of 94 miles.

Contracts already have been let for turbines and the engineers are surveying sites for a power-house and water lines prior to calling tenders. Ultimate development of the Campbell River project is 150,000 horsepower. The first unit now being developed will produce 25,000 horsepower.

Municipal Loans

While in Ottawa, Premier John Hart made representations to the Dominion Government to secure loans for municipalities on a 2% basis with a Provincial guarantee. These loans were to be for the purpose of assisting the municipalities

PRESS RELEASE
PREMIER'S OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 7, 1945.

W. C. Mainwaring, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Civilian Defence, has been instructed by Premier John Hart to proceed forthwith with the disbandment of A.R.P. units throughout the Province. This is being done in accordance with a recent ruling made by the Federal authorities.

In making the announcement, Mr. Hart declared that the Provincial Government was now able to proceed with the implementation of its gift of A.R.P. equipment to all municipalities and districts as a token of appreciation of the work carried on by the thousands of volunteers in defending lives, homes and public property during the menacing days which followed Pearl Harbour until the surrender of Japan.

It will be remembered that the Provincial Government purchased for \$100,000 all Dominion A.R.P. equipment distributed and stored throughout the Province with the purpose of making this gift possible. This equipment was purchased by the Dominion at a cost of \$1,500,000.

"Mr. Mainwaring's ready acceptance of the onerous duties imposed upon him; the unselfish manner in which he devoted himself to the task; his outstanding ability for organization work and the long hours of labour and patience that he devoted to this self-imposed task, leave the Province of British Columbia with a very deep debt of gratitude to him; a debt which we find exceedingly hard to repay, either by words or token," the Premier declared.

"Under the leadership of Mr. Mainwaring, and all those associated with him, there was built up an organization of volunteers totalling 62,944 persons of whom 16,804 were women. Each and everyone of these persons, whether they held executive positions or occupied posts of a minor character, gave an example of devotion to duty for which the citizens of this Province should be deeply grateful. I feel sure that I express on behalf of each and everyone, their sincere appreciation when I say that these volunteers have completed a job which was most exacting, particularly as it was extremely difficult to discipline themselves to maintain a high level of efficiency during those long periods between which there were no alarms. Yet those volunteers had a full realization of the importance of being equipped mentally and physically at all times to answer an alarm at a moment's notice," the Premier stated.

"I would like to take this opportunity", the Premier stated, to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who identified themselves with this work. There was a very great need for this organization at all times and the responsiveness

of the volunteers and their faithfulness to the service they had joined was a source of gratification to me as it helped lighten the worry of protecting our Province during a period of great danger."

Hope-Princeton Highway

With survey work drawing to a close, it is expected that tenders for the construction of the Hope-Princeton Highway to provide the southern Okanagan with a highway to the coast, will be called within the next few weeks, it was announced by the Honourable Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Public Works.

The road will be 88 miles in length and it is expected that work will commence before the end of the year. The survey is expected to be completed this month.

The original estimated cost of \$2,600,000 for this highway is expected to be exceeded when the survey reports are in and tenders invited.

Agents Meeting

Inauguration of an annual conference of Government Agents took place in Victoria last week when Premier John Hart, as Minister of Finance, called together Government Agents from all over the Province to convene in the Capital and discuss problems affecting administration and public service.

Many matters of importance were on the agenda for discussion and as a result of the three-day conference, a much closer liaison between the seat of Government and the agencies has been established and a greater understanding of government policy so that the agents will be able to inform the public in greater detail with respect to administrative matters.

Survey of Opportunities

The Honourable H.G.T. Perry, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Post-War Bureau Cabinet committee, issued the first bulletin dealing with opportunities available throughout the Province for returning British Columbia veterans.

The survey, crystallized in this bulletin, shows that there are 2,000 small business enterprises in British Columbia for returning veterans.