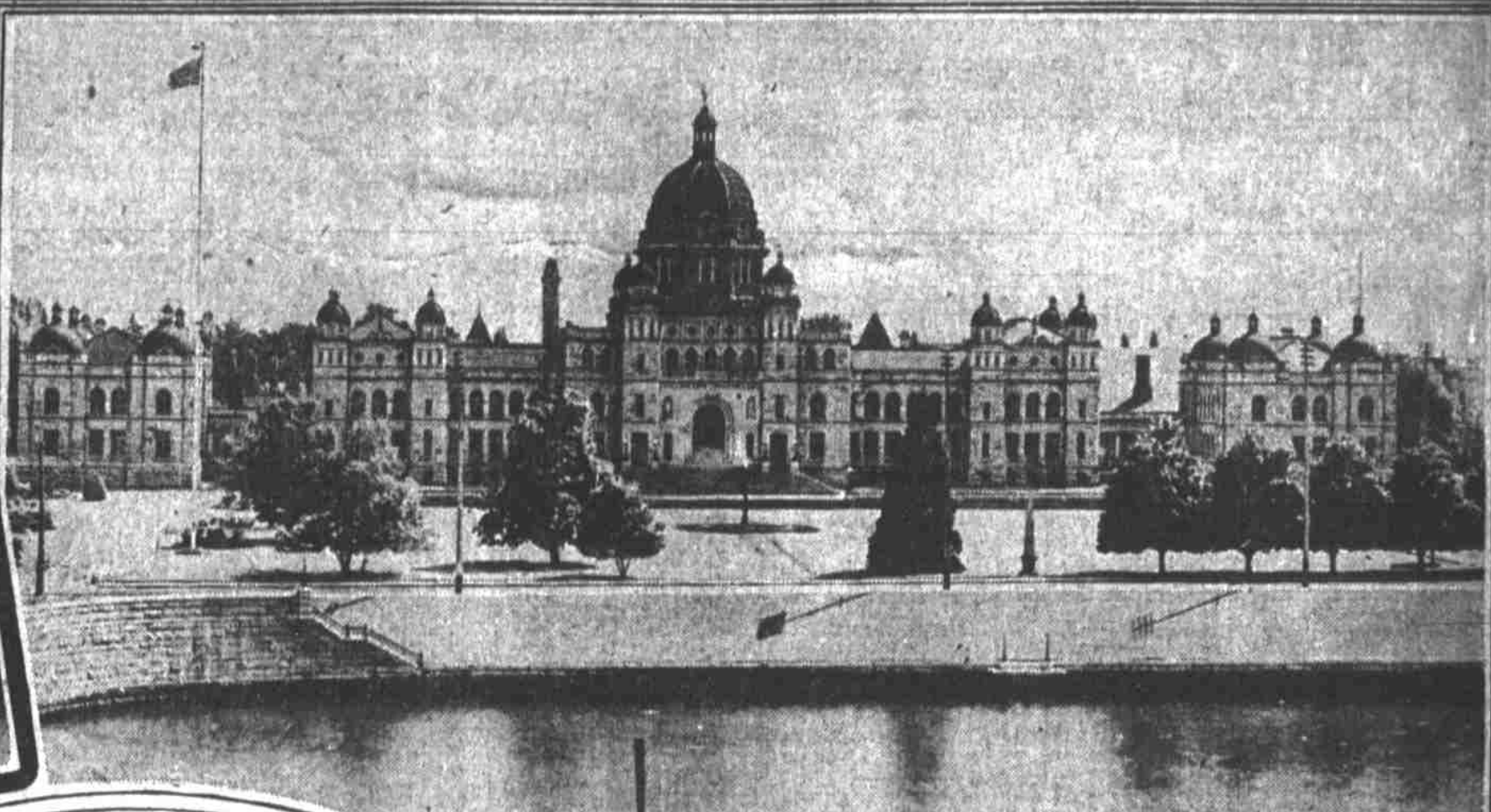
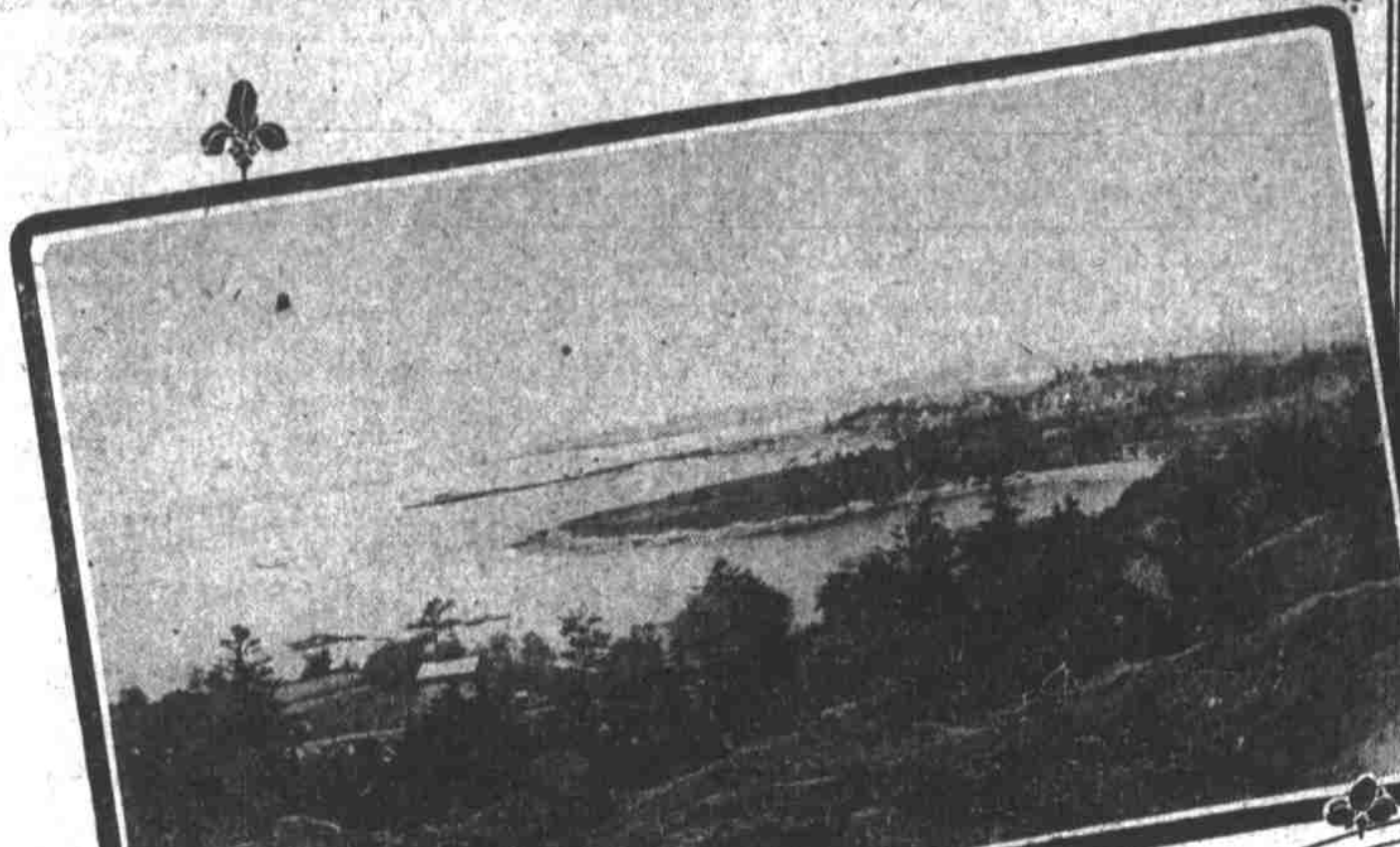
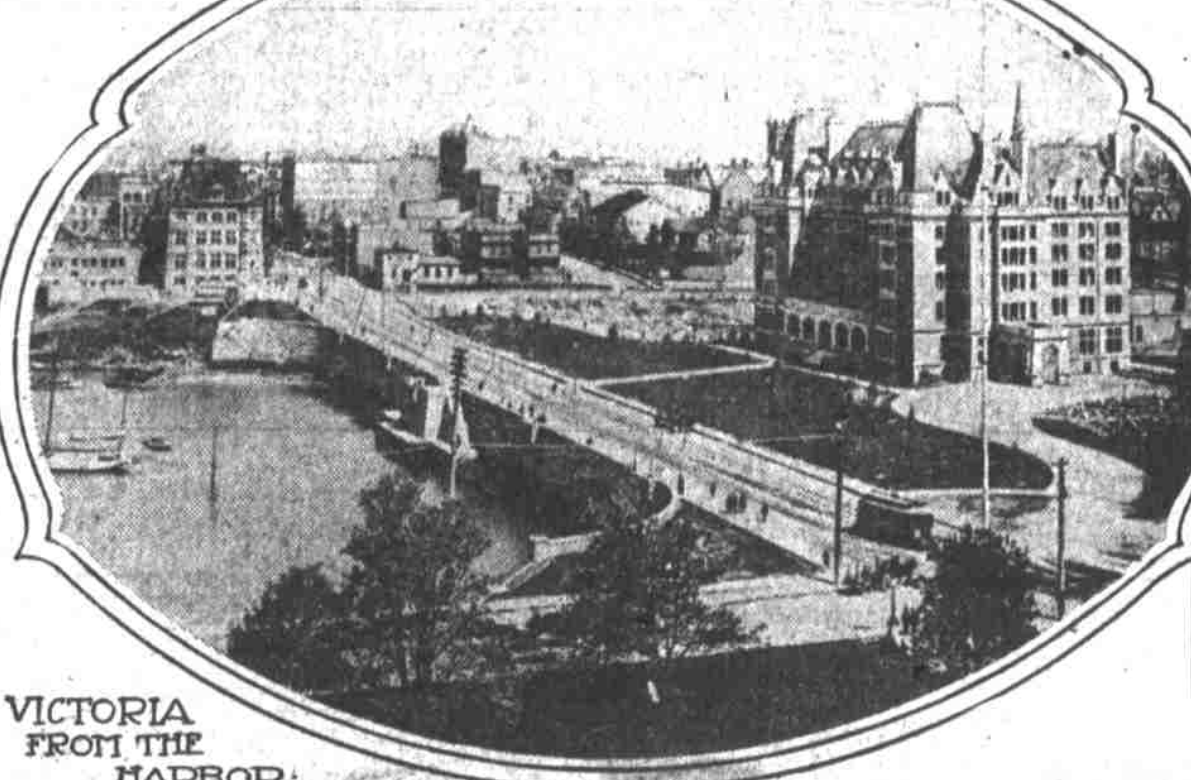


# LAWMAKING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

## Where Legislation Follows Performance of Grave Public Duty



PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA B C



A RESIDENCE IN VICTORIA

FOWL BAY NEAR VICTORIA

### British Columbia and Its Legislature

Area, 395,000 square miles, or 252,800,000 acres.  
 Forest and woodland, 82,000,000 acres.  
 Coast line, 7,000 miles.  
 White population, 270,000.  
 Coal deposits are the most extensive of any similar area in the world.  
 In gold the province has produced over \$125,000,000; in other minerals over \$200,000,000.  
 Fisheries have yielded over \$120,000,000.  
 Over 3,000,000 fruit trees have been planted during the past three years.

Wheat land of the province aggregates 10,000,000 acres.  
 The legislature consists of but one house of 42 members, including six ministers.  
 Annual sessions are not limited as to time of adjournment.  
 The salary of each member is \$1,200 yearly.  
 Ministers are at the head of the several departments of the government.  
 The salary of ministers is \$5,000 yearly.  
 The lieutenant governor, as presiding officer of the legislature, has no power except as to the ministers. He may recommend disallowance of measures. The lieutenant governor is appointed by the dominion government at Ottawa.  
 No bill is passed until a printed copy of it is furnished every member with all changes and amendments correctly shown.  
 To introduce a bill consent of the legislature must first be obtained.  
 The number of members required and the amount of printing supplied, each, is remarkably small.  
 The budget (appropriations) is one of the first measures presented and the most carefully considered, irrespective of politics.

VICTORIA FROM THE HARBOR

tenant governor draws but \$1500 per year. Compositors in the government printing office, on the other hand, draw \$102 a month during the entire year. The last session appropriated but \$1000 for the maintenance of the militia, while it gave \$3207 for the aid of farmers' institute work largely among fruit-growers. To aid in immigration work the Salvation Army is given \$8500 annually for its part in colonizing vacant land, while \$17,128 is spent yearly to prevent the spread of contagious diseases in the rural communities. The government provides a bounty of \$2 for each coyote killed and \$15 for each timber wolf or panther. Yet with it all the various departments turned back \$68,536 of the money appropriated for the work assigned by the last session. This is almost an unheard of thing in American legislatures. Deficiencies are considered as part of the record of the larger departments by American appropriations committees.

**Funds Galore.**  
 While legislatures in "the states" are puzzling over deficiencies and short funds one of the greatest problems before the British Columbia body is the disposition of the huge surplus in the treasury. About \$2,500,000, gathered by taxation and saved by economy, lie idle, and there is a general demand that it should be put into circulation. It is a vexing problem which seems to be a long way from solution, the spending of so large a sum with perfect safety to the province and with every assurance that the very best results will accrue. Strange as it may seem, no effort has been made in past years to create new offices and commissions for the purpose of eating the fund up in salaries and traveling expenses. An effort is being made to bring about the spending of part of the surplus in giving permanent improvements to remote and scattering settlements, and in allowing the cities and towns of the province to withhold all taxes gathered from personal property within their boundaries for the purpose of making municipal improvements more easy and insuring their construction much sooner.

The legislature of British Columbia maintains by ample appropriations one of the most perfect immigration bureaus in the world. Every section of the province is represented by displays, by maps and booklets, telling of the natural resources and advantages of the province to settlers, while men in charge of the work extend every assistance possible in encouraging settlement any-where within the boundaries of the enterprising province.

The British Columbia legislature is made up of the members who come from the remote districts, and are sturdy farmers, with all the interests of their districts close to their innermost desires. The proportion of wealthy men is very small. In intelligence, in industry, in faithfulness to duty, the body stands high. Of the 42 members 25 were reelected in the campaign last fall, having served one or more terms. The personnel of the legislature follows:

H. C. Brewster, H. E. Young, M. Callahan, J. A. Frazer, E. A. Cawley, William Duncan, Thomas Caven, W. H. Hayward, H. G. Pearson, F. J. McKenzie, W. J. Manson, J. Jardine, W. R. Ross, J. R. Jackson, E. Miller, A. E. McPhillips, C. P. Shaw, N. F. McKay, J. McDonald, J. H. Hawthornthwaite, Parker Williams, Harry Wright, Price Ellison, Thomas Taylor, L. F. Carter-Cotton, W. R. Braden, W. Manson, D. M. Eberts, L. W. Shatford, W. Hunter, W. J. Howser, A. H. B. Macgowan, Dr. McGuire, C. E. Tisdall, H. H. Watson, H. F. W. Behnen, Frank Davey, R. McBride, H. B. Thompson, T. Gifford, J. Schofield.

### Where Laws Are Made in Earnest

There is a peculiar conservatism in the making of laws in England and in all her dependencies. To the United States alone belongs the honor of having made lawmaking an industry; in fact, one of the most expensive industries of the country. Other countries believe in making fewer laws and having them observed more generally.

During the legislative year 1906-7 England, acting for the whole United Kingdom, enacted but 700 public acts or laws, and it required the active time of parliament for 18 months to accomplish this task. Debate, criticism and elucidation required weeks of time by the body.

In America during the same period 25,446 laws were enacted by congress and state legislatures. It is safe to say that a large part of the laws were of special character or merely local bills. Politics enter into lawmaking in the United States, more largely, perhaps, than in any other country.

**Systematic Lawmaking.**  
 Parliament has so systematized lawmaking and given so much importance to the enactment of a statute that there is no effort made to clog the wheels of the lawmaking body by introducing local, special or "tinch" measures. Even parliament has been doing most unusual things in recent years to prevent the passage of laws other than those admittedly necessary.

In 1907 parliament enacted but 256 laws, which were contained in a record of 700 printed pages. Perhaps every state in the union passed more laws than did England. New York alone passed 754 separate acts, covering a wide range of subjects and requiring 2500 pages of the legislative record.

American legislatures and even congress have more employes than members in many instances, and at the close of sessions the work is found to be poorly done if done at all. The British Columbia legislature, handling over \$5,615,000 annually, conducts its deliberations with the aid of a clerk of the house, a law clerk, a sergeant-at-arms, a doorkeeper, a messenger and eight pages. The entire allowance for employes during the session is but \$2820.

### King Edward's Proclamation Convening the British Columbia Legislature

CANADA, PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.  
 EDWARD VII, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions Beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.  
 To Our Faithful, the Members Elected to Serve in the Legislative Assembly of Our Province of British Columbia, at Our City of Victoria—Greeting:

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, We are desirous and resolved, as soon as may be, to meet our people of our province of British Columbia, and to have their advice in our legislature;

Now know ye, that for divers causes and considerations, and taking into consideration the ease and convenience of our loving subjects, we have thought fit, by and with the advice of our executive council of the province of British Columbia, to hereby convoke, and by these presents do join you, and each of you, that on Thursday, the twentieth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ten, you meet us in our said legislature or parliament of our said province, at our city of Victoria, for the dispatch of business, to treat, do, act and conclude upon those things which, in our legislature of the province of British Columbia, by the common council of our said province may, by the favor of God, be ordained.

In testimony whereof we have caused these, our letters, to be made patent, and the great seal of the said province to be hereunto affixed.

Witness, His Honour James Dunsmuir, lieutenant-governor of our said province of British Columbia, in our city of Victoria, in our said province, this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and nine, and in the ninth year of our reign.

By command, HENRY ESSON YOUNG, Provincial Secretary.

### MARKSMANSHIP THAT COSTS MILLIONS

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE OF THIS SECTION.

29 times out of a possible 39 with six inch rifles. One more shot was due, but there was no target left for it. The battleship was steaming at full speed when this phenomenal 75 per cent of hits was scored.

At night practice the Maine's two 12 inch guns in the after turret scored 62 per cent of hits.

As time went on there was an increased tendency to practice with the big gun. The war between Russia and Japan had demonstrated that the smaller guns seldom got at close enough ranges to be effective. In the sea of Japan it was Togo's 12 and eight inch guns that sent so many of Rojestvensky's vessels to the bottom.

By 1907 the Atlantic fleet's big gun record had risen to 90.7 per cent of hits at 10 knots an hour, and ranges of from 5000 to 3000 yards. Individual battleships, with their 12 and 13 inch guns averaged as high as 62 per cent of hits.

As a legitimate evolution came the practice, in 1909, of using old and more or less worthless vessels as targets. The O'Brien and the Katahdin were among those hammered at.

Off the Virginia capes, the southern drill grounds, some remarkable records were made last fall. When steaming at 17 or 18 knots the Kansas several times made nine out of 10 hits with her 13-inch guns at ranges from 7000 to 9000 yards.

The pictures which accompany this article were taken aboard the Kansas during these practice battles.

The Vermont also made some remarkable scores, once tearing the target entirely to pieces.

For the skill necessary to make those records the navy is willing to pay. Everything possible is done to stimulate the ambition of the men to become good

gunners. Those who would become gun pointers may take examinations, and if successful, begin a thorough course of training. At first they are not allowed to fire or scarcely even touch the guns. Education comes before everything else. They are taken to shops where guns are made and every detail of manufacture and construction is made plain.

Once the mechanism of the guns is thoroughly mastered the candidate goes back aboard ship. There he is drilled in loading and unloading and the like. Then comes the actual handling of the gun. Yet, as always, the novice must go slowly. "Ping-pong" practice, as the English term it, is all that is allowed him. This is a small-bore rifle is placed inside a big gun, so that a maximum of aiming may be done at a minimum of expense.

Last of all comes the practice with

real powder and projectiles, as in actual warfare. By the time this stage is reached the candidate for distinction has become a thorough master of the weapon he is handling, and is not likely to waste much valuable material.

Then comes the real test. Close records are kept of practice where real ammunition is burned up. Furthermore, every officer is keenly alive to the necessity of seeing that his men make good records.

When the scores are high the officers in command of the good guns are favored in every possible way. They get the best assignments, and are made to feel that they are high in the graces of the navy department.

On the other hand, the officers whose guns make poor records are required to explain in writing for their failure, and receive small consolation. To add to their discomfort, above the muffled roar of the train above the continuous wailing of a child. More than one man cursed softly and sought refuge in another cabin—all, as it happened, crowded. Finally a harsh-looking passenger spoke.

"Why don't you keep that brat quiet?" he snapped.

The mother, a forlorn looking woman clad in rusty black, looked pathetically up at him. "I've been trying to," she faltered. "But, you see, the heat and the long journey—"

A new expression stole over the harsh-looking passenger's face. "Give it to me," he said in a tone of marvelous gentleness; and the poor mother placed the fretful baby in his arms.

Whereupon he threw the child out of the window.

Sold again!

**So Unreasonable.**  
 From Boston Herald.  
 "Yes," she snapped viciously, "you said if I would close and marry you we would fly to a land of milk and honey, and live on the fat of the land. We have been here a month, and where is the milk, and where is the honey? Not even a pound of salt pork!"

"Well," he replied meekly, "use your eyes. There isn't a place on this estate to keep a cow, and as for bees, there isn't a man in town willing to let me have a flock for their keep. As for pork, one can't keep a pig without the cow, so there we are."

**Dramatic.**  
 Actress bride of discarded son defies millionaire father. Naturally, situation demands it. Wait for the play.

**By A. M. Harris.**  
 BRANCH of the oldest established law making body known to the Anglo-Saxon race, will convene in the quiet little city of Victoria, British Columbia, "just across the line," next Thursday. For the king's parliament, with questions grave and gay to consider, will gather on that day at 2 o'clock in the magnificent government buildings over which will flutter Britain's flag. How long the session will continue is problematical. Before it will come the most important problems in the history of the province, and their solution will require time, plenty of time. For be it known, the British lawmaker does nothing in a hurry, in strong contrast with the closing days of congress and of legislative sessions in the United States.

Procedure in the British parliament, which is little changed from that of centuries long past, is essentially different from procedure in congress and in state legislatures. Even with the variety of procedure employed in various states, and while changes more or less radical have taken place in the procedure in congress within the past 100 years, there is not in all of the variety of methods employed scarcely a tinge of the system of law giving which has come down through the centuries as one of the strongest characteristics of Great Britain.

**A Solemn Function.**  
 While some of the stiffness has been removed, and while the formality does not cling as closely as it did in the days of King George, there is still that element of solemnity attached to the law making which insists that the importance of the action of a legislature be given all possible force. Law giving is not considered a school boy's task nor is there anything frivolous about a parliament building.

Supremely orderly, dignified, decorous, is a British legislature. To expedite business and have all the time wasted at once, the lawmaking body sits as a whole, occupying a single room, the members being gathered about a central position "rows from the state" provided at the sides in front of the speaker. Committee rooms open off a wide hall, and these are provided with all the conveniences of business, with just enough chairs for the members of the largest committee occupying the room. Usually committee rooms are named from the wood in which each is finished, there being an elaborate and rich finish to the whole legislative department of all parliament buildings. The American plan of numbering rooms seems cheap and shoddy when one enters the maple room, the mahogany room, or even the oak room in the Victoria government buildings.

**An English Body.**  
 While Americanism is flooding Canada, while half the people one meets on the street seem to be Americans, no linking that a man from the states ever entered British Columbia can be gathered from visiting the legislative body while in session. Adhering strictly to rules few and venerable with age, taking everything seriously and with no attempt to banter or occupy even political adversaries, the members give undivided attention to the duty before them, whether it be disagreeable debate or tiresome detailed financial statements. The American plans of filibustering, of adjourning to "steal a march" on some one, of "dig rolling" for favors easily given, of abusing persons in speeches on the floor, of impugning the motives of members of the legislature, are unknown here or at least untried. In political campaigns these tricks are resorted to, perhaps, but in legislature never.

Legislative action is direct and positive. When once the body has spoken, its mandate is accepted without murmur, at least until the next campaign.