

**MAR**

**1894**

was not sufficient punishment for what the government had done. It would not put the money mispent back into the treasury. The only allegation the government made against the public accounts committee reports was that the report was in his handwriting. That report had been referred to the committee and had been thoroughly considered and sanctioned.

Hon. Mr. Turner contended that all the abuse came from the opposition, and that his arguments had not been refuted. There was a surplus to commence the present year with. The trust and special funds could be used as revenue. The government were just the bankers for the fund and they could use the money as bankers used deposits. The acts said the funds were to be paid into the revenue of the province.

Mr. Booth made a few remarks in support of his contention when speaking in the budget speech. He moved in amendment:

"That all the words after the second 'the' in the first line, down to the end of the resolution be struck out, and in lieu thereof insert the following: Revenue for the present year, to the 30th June next, is estimated at \$1,658,000, and that on the 1st July, 1893, there were on hand available funds amounting to \$375,265, and that in addition to this there was received from the Nakusp & Slovan railway company \$118,400 which, under the railway aid act, reverted to the revenue of the province, making a total real and estimated sum of \$1,552,338 available for the current fiscal year, ending 30th June, 1894, besides the balance for the time being of suitors fund deposits and intestate estates moneys; and whereas the total estimated expenditure, including provisions for special warrants and all sums shown in the supplementary estimates after deducting lapsed balances, will amount approximately to \$1,425,000, showing approximately a surplus of more than \$125,000, exclusive of suitors and intestate funds, in favor of revenue, which will be far more than sufficient to meet any contingent liabilities on account of railway guarantees: therefore, be it resolved, that in the opinion of this house the estimates of revenue and expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service."

Mr. Brown said the finance minister had acknowledged that the figures on which the Hon. Mr. Beaven's remarks were founded were correct. Several times it had been shown that the government documents were unreliable, but as the majority of the legislature seemed to be glad that the government had put falsehoods in their documents what was to be done? One had only to consider the statement of the minister of finance to make him conscientiously vote for the original resolution. The finance minister said the trust funds could be used as revenue, but the amount of the trust funds would be a liability of the province. He said there would be a balance of \$105,000, but there was \$277,000 to be paid. The government had misled the people by not showing that \$277,000, the amount of the trust funds, was not a liability. Taking the finance minister's own figures the only thing ahead of the government was bankruptcy or the borrowing of more money. The actions of the government were reckless and against the best interests of the province.

Hon. Mr. Davie said British Columbia was not alone in having blue-ribbon advocates. He read an extract from a Winnipeg paper, which he applied to the opposition. It was those who had nothing at stake who were decrying the position of the province. The government did not try to force the estimates through the house, and they did not object to a fair discussion. The province was not a loser by having to pay a few thousand dollars a year as interest on the bonds of the different railways. He referred to some length to the acts of the leader of the opposition when he was in power, and contended that the government was justified in issuing special warrants. The opposition were delaying the progress of the business so that they could not go to the people. They would like the election to be delayed until next fall or next spring, while the government was anxious to go to the people immediately.

Mr. Sword said the arguments of the government respecting the debt were different now from what they were a few days ago. Everybody with the exception of the premier knew what a sinking fund was. It was absurd for the government to say that they could use the sinking fund as revenue.

Mr. Semla said the premier charged the opposition with all kinds of misstatements, but the opposition could well handle this kind of business over to the premier, who was better able to handle it. It was the government that was trying to delay the elections. They had made up their minds to rush the estimates through the house. The premier had forced them through so that the people would know little or nothing about them. The glowing hopes that the Shuswap & Okanagan railway would pay have not as yet been realized. In view of this, the house should deal very carefully with any further expenditure in similar lines. The course of the government might lead the province into very serious embarrassments and it was the duty of the legislature to point out to the public the danger that was ahead. If there were careful men on the government benches the danger would be prevented.

Hon. Mr. Turner said that Mr. Brown had contended for just what the government had done. He must therefore vote for the government. He went back to 1886 to show that the revenue had increased steadily.

Dr. Watt referred the leader of the opposition to rule 15, which provides that no member shall use offensive words against any member of the house or reflect on any motion passed during the current session. The leader of the opposition had used violent language about members and had frequently referred to a previous motion.

Mr. Grant said he considered himself a free lance, having conferred with neither the government nor the opposition. Both the statements of the leader of the opposition and the finance minister were correct. The government had no doubt stretched the authority given to them in the act and perhaps exceeded it. The same had been done in Victoria, but he was satisfied that the money thus expended was in the interests of the city. Nothing had been done to prove that there had been corruption in the government of the province.

Dr. Milne also believed in spending lots of money, but it should be obtained in a proper way. One of the strongest arguments in favor of the original resolution was that every statement was correct. The government should not spend so much money by special warrants. The legislature should say how the money is to be expended. But five members of the legislature, the executive, sat down and decided how \$135,000 should be spent. The last speaker had said every government had spent money without authority. If that was so, it is time that it was stopped.

Mr. Kitchen moved the adjournment of the debate, which was carried.

Mr. Brown wanted to know when the government would be ready to proceed with the business of the country.

Mr. Kitchen wanted more information regarding the census.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented a message from the Lieut.-Governor transmitting a bill to establish a provincial library and bureau of statistics.

Hon. Mr. Davie said the redistribution bill would be taken up in its order.

Mr. Kitchen—What we complain of is that the most important bills are left until the end of the session.

Hon. Mr. Davie promised more regarding the census.

The house adjourned at 6 o'clock.

### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Continuation of the Debate on the Want of Confidence Motion.

#### WESTERN TELEGRAPH BILL ADVANCED

An Evening Session to Close the Debate—The Government Members Again Whitewash the Executive—Private Bills Passed.

February 28.

The speaker took the chair at two o'clock; prayers by the Rev. A. B. Winchester.

Dr. Watt moved that it be an order of the house that whenever it is desired to amend a section or sub-section in either a public or a private act, by erasing, substituting or adding words to the said section or sub-section, the whole or a material part of the said section or sub-section be re-read and re-acted as it is intended it should read. The mover said the present system led to abuse and he thought the change would recommend itself to the house.

Hon. Mr. Davie considered the motion a step in the right direction, but in some cases it was not practicable. He suggested that the words "when practicable" be inserted in the resolution.

Hon. Mr. Beaven was pleased to see that the member for Cariboo was moving in a direction that he (Mr. Beaven) had suggested several times. The rule, however, should be placed in the rules or orders, or in the statutes. The rule should be absolute, without any qualifying words, as suggested by the attorney-general. If the words were inserted in the resolution it would be practically nullified.

The resolution was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Turner suggested that the house should proceed with the debate on the vote of want of confidence. A vote of want of confidence had precedence over everything.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the minister of finance was in part correct, but the question was whether it would be well to pass over the private bills. The constitution provided that public measures, not private bills, should not be passed until a vote of want of confidence was disposed of.

Hon. Mr. Pooley contended that the rule applied to both public and private bills.

The speaker—I cannot find any authority on the question.

Hon. Mr. Davie—You have the authority of the leader of the opposition.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—What I said was that there were many men present to advance private bills, and being private members' day, and they might be inconvenient.

Mr. Kitchen said the convenience of the public should be considered.

Mr. Speaker did not think any distinction could be made between public and private bills.

Mr. Kitchen rose to a question of privilege. The returns respecting the census brought down by the government were incomplete. Last evening the attorney-general said he could see the schedules, but when he asked the librarian for them he said he could not have them without a formal order. This morning he said they had been sent to the provincial secretary's office.

Hon. Mr. Davie promised that the schedules would be placed where the members could have access to them.

Mr. Sword rose to a question of privilege. He contended that the order of the house asking for a return of the papers respecting the Nakusp & Slovan railway had not been obeyed by the government. Among the papers there should be the report of the engineer as to the cost of the proposed line, the conditions under which the tenders were called for and the engineer's reports regarding the work done upon which advances had been made. He moved that these additional papers be returned to the house.

Hon. Mr. Davie held that the motion was out of order. It would be in order when the motion to go into committee was moved. The government had acted within the provisions of the act and had been advised before they entered into any agreement. Most of the advice was verbal. All the written information is in possession of the house.

Mr. Sword—Do you mean to say that there are no engineer's certificates on which advances were made?

Hon. Mr. Davie said the government had no objection to bringing all the papers down.

Mr. Speaker did not think the motion was in order.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—It is clearly a question of privilege. The hon. member (Mr. Sword) says an order of the house has been disobeyed.

Mr. Cotton—The premier has admitted that the order of the house had not been obeyed. The government were guilty of contempt.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Members should state in their resolutions just what they want.

Mr. Kitchen—We have found out several times this session that the government did not send down all the papers called for. The idea of the government proceeding with the Nakusp & Slovan scheme on verbal information! The road might be built for \$15,000 a mile, and the government were guaranteeing \$25,000 a mile.

The premier promising to bring down all the information in the government's possession, the resolution was withdrawn.

Mr. Kitchen contended the debate on the vote of want of confidence. Those who were decrying the credit of the province were the men who were misleading the people of the province and the financiers of the world. If the finance minister placed in the revised issue of his budget speech the figures that he had used in the debate, it would make a good election document for the opposition. As had been shown by the leader of the opposition, the deficit was \$406,000. It would be easy to make a surplus if the government used the deposits made by railway companies. The government could give a railway subsidy every year, and thus obtain a deposit from them and use it for the revenue. But this could not go on forever. A great deal was said about the debt of the cities, but the money spent by the cities was for productive works. The government did not take steps to protect the province when guaranteeing the bonds of railways. As the attorney-general had said, the government proposed to guarantee the bonds of the Nakusp & Slovan railway on verbal information. The attorney-general said yesterday the opposition waited until the government members had spoken, so they could get in the last word. That was just what the government did. The attorney-general said the C. P. R. and E. & N. railways supported the present government. He did not doubt that the E. & N. railway supported the government. That company relied on the government for their grants of coal lands, etc. The reason why the C. P. R. supported the government could be seen in the Nakusp & Slovan railway papers. In those papers it was shown that the Nakusp company had to buy old stock from the C. P. R. to build their road. Then the C. P. R. were talking of building a railway in Cariboo. It was in Mr. Van Horne's interests to rush the attorney-general off to Montreal to arrange the Nakusp scheme. The fact that the opposition wanted the government to bring down a redistribution bill last year was sufficient evidence that they were willing to appeal to the people.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked if, after an amendment had been moved, the mover of the resolution had the right to reply. He was proceeding with an attack on the opposition when called to order.

Mr. Speaker—If the leader of the opposition speaks to the amendment he gives up his right to reply.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said he did not wish to close the debate. The attorney-general rose to a point of order and then attacked the opposition. It was a standing point of order and then attack the opposition. The government complained of not being given a chance to reply when attacked. A few days ago charges had been made against the government and they were dumb, allowing the question to be put before it was discussed. If the twenty members of the government could not take their part against half the number of opposition members they were in a pretty bad position. He wished to point out some of the discrepancies that found place in the minds of the government members. The fact was there was a considerable deficit on July 1st, 1893. At first the finance minister said there would be a surplus of \$300,000 on July 1st, 1893, and yesterday he said the surplus would be only \$705,000. This showed a large discrepancy in the government's own figures. But he contended that both amounts were wrong. There is a deficiency instead of a surplus. The minister of finance and the premier said if the government wished they would place the trust funds in the bank and leave them there. What he contended was that the money should be kept for the purposes for which it was deposited. The money could earn interest while in the bank. If the money deposited on account of the Shuswap & Okanagan railway was used, how were the liabilities incurred by the government on account of the railway to be paid? The proportion of the earnings received by the province was very small compared with the amount the government has to pay as interest on the bonds of the railway company. The amendment proposed by the member for the Islands, if passed, would make a grand campaign document for the opposition. That amendment was prepared by the premier and finance minister, who placed it in the hands of the member for the Islands. The member for Comox said government of which he (Mr. Beaven) had been a member issued more special warrants than did the present government.

During the ten years that he was a member of governments the whole sum spent by special warrants did not amount to \$50,000 all told. The conditions were very different twenty years ago, when sometimes it took a week to go from Victoria to New Westminster. Most of the time that he was a member of governments no special warrants were issued. But even if the treasury was looted in the seventies, that was no reason why it should be done in 1894. No member ever said the province was bankrupt. The contention was that the government could not meet the appropriations and pay the special and trust funds unless there was another loan or the taxes were increased. The premier continually referred to his (Mr. Beaven's) private affairs. It would take a great deal of temptation to make him stoop to refer to the private affairs of members. It did not make any difference whether a member was worth two cents or two million dollars.

Hon. Mr. Davie—What have you been doing with Col. Baker?

Hon. Mr. Beaven—That was a public affair. The provincial secretary went to England at the expense of the province. He would not have done his duty if he had not called the attention of the house to that advertisement that appeared in the Times.

Hon. Col. Baker—Why did you discuss the value of my property?

Hon. Mr. Beaven denied that he had discussed the value of the hon. gentleman's property. The all-night session, for which the opposition had been blamed, was caused by the tactics of the government. They persistently refused to make an explanation asked for by a member.

Mr. Speaker—Are you in order to refer to what occurred in committee of the whole?

Hon. Mr. Beaven—You allowed the premier to refer to it.

Mr. Speaker—I do not think the attorney-general referred to what occurred in committee.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—He is reported in the Colonist as having referred to the all-night session. Perhaps he had remarks placed in the report that he did not make in the house.

Mr. Speaker—Allow me to see the paper.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—I will do so with pleasure. I could not blame you for not reading it after having heard the speech made by the premier. As he was saying when interrupted, the all-night session was caused by the members of the government refusing to answer a question and then trying to force the estimates through the house. The attorney-general referred to anarchy. What was anarchy? It was where brute force was used to do something that could not be done by legal methods. The estimates had been forced through by brute force, not by law. The attorney-general said the government had drowned out the opposition. Perhaps they had; liquid had caused much of the trouble that had occurred the other evening. The premier had also said that he (Mr. Beaven) had handled the scheme to guarantee the interest on the bonds of the Victoria & Sidney railway. That statement was absolutely devoid of truth. You may call that what you like. The bill to guarantee the interest on the bonds of that company, on condition that the city of Victoria did the same, was introduced by the government. How could he be responsible for that? He did not say whether he opposed the bill or not. He could not withhold his signature from the law when it had been assented to by the citizens of Victoria. The government had not refuted his statements about the cost of the conversion of the loan. The attorney-general said the government were anxious to appeal to the country. Actions speak louder than words. The government voted down the proposition moved by Mr. Kitchen, that would have brought about a speedy dissolution.

Hon. Col. Baker rose to an explanation, and contended that the leader of the opposition had reflected on the value of his private property.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—If I told the hon. gentleman the number of gentlemen who condemned him for his action he would be astonished. In fact, a number of gentlemen wished to take the matter up in another way. Although he did not refer to the value of the property, he would have been quite within his rights had he done so. His friends complained that he had handled the question too gingerly.

Hon. Col. Baker—A number of persons have told me that they would not vote for the leader of the opposition again on account of this matter.

Mr. Hunter complained of the leader of the opposition occupying so much time. Mr. Beaven had misquoted him. He (Mr. Hunter) did not refer to special warrants in the seventies. The special warrants he referred to were issued in 1880. Of course he knew that the leader of the opposition initiated the system of special warrants. He would now wait for the hon. gentleman to apologize to him.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—All he had proved was that he knew it. I thought he did not know it, and was charitable enough to suppose that he did not know it.

Mr. Hunter, continuing, said the leader of the opposition did the same as he accused the government of doing, only in a more serious manner.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—You do not know anything about it.

Mr. Hunter said the leader of the opposition had been preaching blue-ribbon for seventeen years out of the twenty-three years that the province had been in existence. The hon. gentleman had only been in power for five years and six months out of the twenty-three years.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—You cannot even make that calculation correctly.

Mr. Hunter—As long as the socialists, the members of the opposition, were kept out of power the province would blossom like a rose.

Mr. Cotton said if the leader of the government knew how to lead it he would have no cause to go about the way the debate was conducted. He was sure the premier knew the about the conversion of the debt. The government had not succeeded in getting the statement that it would cost \$400,000 to convert the loans and 1887. When the government legislature to sanction the 1891 they acknowledged that it cost over \$400,000 to convert it but it was shown by the public that it would cost more than that. The finance minister had said the trust funds could be used as the banks use. How would it be if a bank deposits to pay the salary of the agent and clerks? The province had the right to act as a bank. The member for the Islands should have a man's political morality could be used by being connected with the government. That gentleman contended that it would be better to have an innocent man to jail than to let three rascals go free. He had, although the government had done they should be retained. The hon. gentleman contended that the monopolists of the government, of which the hon. gentleman supported a government would milk.

Hon. Mr. Beaven quoted from the Colonist to show that he had quoted marks of Mr. Hunter correctly in the special warrants.

Hon. Mr. Davie said before special warrants were called out.

Mr. Hunter said he knew about what appeared in the Colonist to show that he had made was correct.

Mr. Keith advised the members to drop ancient history and discussions of interest to-day. No one about what was done in the government had been so an appeal to the country they passed the redistribution bill last session. The house rose at six o'clock.

Mr. Croft continued the debate contending that some of the special warrants were allowed and other sums were for and unforeseen works. The spent on the Boundary road, as it prevented commerce being diverted to American territory government had done everything to encourage settlement.

Mr. Booth's amendment to Mr. Beaven's motion was adopted by a vote of 17 to 9. Mr. Grant voted for the government.

The Delta & New Westminster bill was finally passed.

The house went into committee on the Western Telegraph Bill. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment to the effect that the company would obtain the consent of cities which proposed to enter such city.

Mr. Eberhart said he did not counsel having the right to re-erection of poles, but it was able to say that the council whether the company should in their cities. What was passing the bill if the cities were whether the company was new?

Mr. Brown changed his name provide that the councils should the erection of poles and the wires. By assent the attorney added to the amendment that and wires in the outlying districts be under the direction of the commissioner of lands and works. The amendment was adopted. Other technical amendments and the bill was reported complete.

The house went into committee on the B. C. Southern railway bill, reported complete.

The house adjourned at 10.30.

#### EVENING SESSION

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Hon. Mr. Beaven quoted from the Colonist to show that he had quoted the remarks of Mr. Hunter correctly regarding the special warrants.

Hon. Mr. Davie said before 1870 the special warrants were called over-expensives.

Mr. Hunter said he knew nothing about what appeared in the Colonist.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said he just quoted the Colonist to show that the statement he had made was correct.

Mr. Keith advised the members to drop ancient history and discuss questions of interest to-day. No one cared about what was done in the past. If the government had been so anxious to appeal to the country they would have passed the redistribution bill last year.

The house rose at six o'clock for recess.

**EVENING SESSION.**

Mr. Croft continued the debate. He contended that some of the sums spent by special warrant were allowed by statute, and other sums were for necessary and unforeseen works. The \$12,000 spent on the Boundary road was well spent, as it prevented commerce from being diverted to American territory. The government had done everything possible to encourage settlement.

Mr. Booth's amendment to Hon. Mr. Beaven's motion was adopted on a division by 17 to 9, Mr. Grant voting with the government.

The Delta & New Westminster railway bill was finally passed.

The house went into committee. Mr. Grant in the chair, and considered the Great Western Telegraph bill. Mr. Brown moved an amendment to the effect that the company should be obliged to obtain the consent of cities when it was proposed to enter each city.

Mr. Eberts said he did not mind the council having the right to regulate the erection of poles, but it was unreasonable to say that the council should say whether the company should do business in their cities. What was the use of passing the bill if the cities were to say whether the company was to do business?

Mr. Brown changed his amendment to provide that the council should direct the erection of poles and the stringing of wires. By assent the attorney-general added to the amendment that the poles and wires in the outlying districts should be under the direction of the chief commissioner of lands and works.

The amendment was adopted. A few other technical amendments were made and the bill was reported complete.

The house went into committee. Mr. Smith in the chair, and considered the B. C. Southern railway bill, which was reported complete.

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The house went into committee. Mr. Smith in the chair, and considered the B. C. Southern railway bill, which was reported complete.

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**PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.**

The Speaker's Decision on the Coal Mines Regulation Bill Sustained.

**MR. DAVIE TURNS A SOMERSAULT**

Advices the Speaker to Rule the Bill Out of Order and Then Vote Against the Ruling—Dr. Watt's Motion Ruled Out.

March 1st.

In the absence of the speaker, Mr. Martin took the chair at 2 o'clock. Prayers by Rev. A. B. Winchester.

Dr. Watt moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, that a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Booth, Croft, Brown, Forster, and the mover, be appointed to take into consideration the subject of the settlement of the provincial lands on the single tax or other equitable system of permanent but not freehold tenure, without taxation of improvements, in order to the encouragement of the settlement of such lands, and to report to the house, with any recommendations as to the legislation which shall tend to the more rapid occupation and tillage of the agricultural lands of the province.

Mr. Semlin did not feel disposed to oppose the resolution, but he would like the mover to explain how he expected the motion to work itself out.

Mr. Brown thought the proper time to discuss the matter was when the report of the committee was presented.

Mr. Booth considered the motion premature. He did not know of any better way of settling the land than by the freehold system.

Mr. Forster said the house was not a debating society so he would not discuss single tax. If the committee could find a better way of settling lands it would do some good.

Hon. Mr. Davie could not support the motion, as it made the house admit that single tax was an equitable method of taxation. He was not prepared to admit that the system was an equitable one.

Mr. Anderson thought it would be better to settle the lands and give the settlers a small piece of cleared land.

Mr. Keith could see no reason why the house could not appoint the committee. It would not cost the province anything and it would give the committee an opportunity to express an opinion on the word equitable.

Hon. Mr. Pooley said the amendment would make no difference. He proposed to make the house commit itself to the single tax or other system. There was no more liberal system than the freehold system. As he understood single tax, it meant a perpetual rental.

Mr. Horne did not think that there could be a more liberal law than at present.

Mr. Forster said the president of the council had in his mind the leasehold or the single tax system. Single tax meant did not wish to change the present method of holding land.

The speaker ruled the motion out of order. The right of dealing with lands was left in the hands of the crown.

Mr. Horne moved for a return of all correspondence, papers, orders in council, or other representations relating to the necessity of stationing a supreme court judge in the city of Vancouver.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he would welcome a tremendous amount of correspondence on the matter, but the government would be pleased to bring it down.

The resolution was adopted.

Dr. Watt moved, seconded by Mr. Keith, that while this house would welcome a substantial reduction in the import duties on all classes of goods—not luxuries—consumed but not manufactured or produced in the province, it desires especially to urge on the Dominion government that machinery and appliances of all kinds used in the reduction of ores or in general mining, whether or not wholly in part only manufactured in the Dominion, should be admitted free of duty; that his honor the Lieutenant-Governor be respectfully requested to send a copy of this resolution to the Hon. Minister of Finance of Ottawa. The mover said it would do much to develop the quartz mines of the province if the duty were taken off. He read a speech in support of Mr. Mara in the Dominion house in support of the abolition of the duty on machinery.

Mr. Booth supported the resolution. One day the members voted for the abolition of the duty and the next day they voted for the continuance in sending members to the Dominion house to amend the tariff. He moved an amendment that agricultural machinery be included.

Mr. Hunter wanted coal mining machinery included. No doubt other members would wish to include other goods, so that all Canadian factories would be closed down.

Mr. Rogers said there was no comparison between mining and agricultural machinery. Good agricultural machinery was made in Canada, but so far miners had to go to the other side for their machinery.

Mr. Adams supported the resolution as amended.

Mr. Croft thought the motion would have more force in its original state.

Mr. Smith said both miners and farmers were suffering from the high price of machinery and the Canadian made machinery is inferior to the imported articles. Everything possible should be done to encourage the industry of mining.

Hon. Col. Baker would support anything that would in any way remove impediments that prevented trade.

Dr. Milne did not know whether he would vote for either resolution or amendment, as they were both milk and water, very poor milk and very poor water. He would support the first two lines of the resolution which read: That this house would welcome a substantial reduction in the import duties on all classes of goods. He would like to see some definite resolution introduced.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the mover of the resolution wanted to be a free trader and a protectionist and did not know do something for his constituents in opposition to his colleague, Mr. Adams. The house had already expressed their opinion in passing Mr. Adams' resolution.

The speaker did not know whether the motion was in order. A similar motion had been dealt with during the present session. He ruled the motion out of order.

Mr. Sward moved for a return showing the prices at which the trustees for the sinking funds under the loan acts, 1877 and 1887, bought B. C., inscribed stock.

Mr. Adams moved that whereas there is a very large area in the province north of the Canadian Pacific railway with no immediate prospects of railway facilities; and whereas there are no industries which may be prosecuted profitably without such facilities, viz., dairying and hop raising; therefore be it resolved, that it would be most advantageous if practical dairymen and hop growers could be induced to come into that section of the province to prosecute those industries, and that it is desirable that this house appoint a select committee to consider this matter, with the view as above set forth. The committee to consist of Messrs. Booth, Anderson, Semlin, Martin and the mover. The mover said that with a little encouragement the dairying and hop industries could be profitably prosecuted. There were thousands of acres of unimproved land and the proper climate for the industries.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Sward asked the chief commissioner, or if there was any condition inserted in contracts for the construction of the parliament buildings stipulating a minimum wage for laborers? If not, why not? The chief commissioner answered that no such condition was inserted in the contract.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the more he had looked at the Nakusp railway papers, the more it became apparent that there was a great deal of information that had not been brought down from one point to another along the line of railway.

Mr. Kitchen moved the second reading of the wide the amendment bill. The motion was negatived.

The house went into committee on the message of his honor the Lieutenant-Governor, enclosing "An act to establish and maintain a library for the use of the legislative assembly, and to constitute a bureau of statistics." The act was reported to the house.

On motion to go into committee of the whole on message of his honor the Lieutenant-Governor with bill respecting the Nakusp and Slokan railway. Hon. Mr. Beaven said the bill should be passed until all the information had been brought down by the government.

Hon. Mr. Davie consented to allow the bill to stand over.

The house went into committee. Mr. Keith in the chair, to consider the courts act. A large number of amendments were made and the bill was reported complete.

Mr. Speaker Higgins having resumed the chair, the adjourned debate on appeal from the decision of the chair on the second reading of the bill to amend the "coal mines regulation act" and "amending act, 1890," was continued.

Mr. Speaker's ruling was "I rule bill (No. 18) introduced. An act to amend the 'Coal Mines Regulation Act' and 'Amending Act, 1890.'" out of order, for the following reasons:—First, because it aims to oppose indirect taxation, contrary to the provisions of the B. N. A. Act; and second, because it has been decided by the Supreme Court of the province that the power to impose unequal taxation does not reside with the provincial legislature. See ruling January 29th, present session."

Hon. Mr. Davie said he did not quite understand the reasons for the speaker's ruling as printed. The incidence of taxation did not arise in the bill. The motion did not arise in the bill. That ground he took against the bill. There was no tax imposed by the bill.

Mr. Speaker said he was perfectly clear in the matter. The bill proposed to tax employers of Chinamen.

Mr. Kitchen said if indirect taxation was levied by his bill it was levied in the general act, as the general act provided for a penalty for the employment of Chinamen in certain capacities around the mines. He simply wished to make the act clear and plain.

Mr. Forster said the general act which imposed a penalty was introduced by a private member and was not ruled out. Every act imposed a penalty and if that was called a tax, every act introduced by a private member was out of order.

Dr. Milne said the pharmacy act passed similar legislation. That bill provided a fine for chemists who employed incompetent clerks.

Mr. Booth said it had never been shown in the house that Chinamen as a class were more dangerous than other people.

Mr. Sward said the bill was not any different than the act now on the statute book.

Dr. Watt thought it was better to allow doubtful legislation to pass the house and then let the courts decide on its constitutionality. It was in the province of the legislature to deal with the Chinamen. But in view of the promise of the attorney-general to bring in a bill, he thought the bill should be withdrawn.

Hon. Col. Baker said it was just hugging the wind, to discuss the bill in view of the decision of the supreme court.

The chair was sustained on the following divisions.

Ayes—Messrs. Baker, Pooley, Vernon, Martin, Croft, Eberts, Hunter, Stoddart, Booth, Rogers, Adams, Anderson, Horne, Smith and Punch—15. Nays—Messrs. Davie, Milne, Semlin, Brown, Grant, McKenzie, Sward, Kitchen, Brown, Forster, Keith, Cotton and Watt—13.

The house adjourned at 5:45.

**PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.**

Redistribution Bill Passes Without Much Discussion.

**THE PREMIER DOES NOT SPEAK ON IT**

Mr. Keith's Motion to Stop the Sale of Liquor Around the Legislative Hall Voted Down, But no More Liquors Will be Sold.

MARCH 2.

The Speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. A. B. Winchester.

The private bills committee reported the drainage and dyking bill to the house.

Mr. Keith moved the following as a new rule to be added to the rules and orders of the legislative assembly: Rule No. 113—No wine, spirits, beer, porter, or other fermented or intoxicating beverages shall be brought, supplied, sold, bought, given, used, or consumed in or about the premises or buildings where the legislative assembly holds its sittings, or in any of the rooms, buildings, restaurant, or premises adjoining the same, or in its or in their immediate vicinity, or within the limits of the jurisdiction where the rules of the legislative assembly are applicable. The mover said the motion should commend itself to the house.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said the principle might be all right but he did not think it was a desirable rule. The speaker had complete control of the assembly and he could make rules to deal with the question.

Mr. Grant said he would like to see anybody go to his pockets to see if he had a bottle of liquor on his person. Those who did not wish to use liquor did not have to use it.

Mr. Rogers said he had signed a paper against the sale of liquor in the house, but it was with the understanding that no motion would be introduced. The matter could be dealt with without a rule.

Mr. Semlin did not wish to curtail anyone's privileges but he thought it would be in the interests of good government to pass the resolution.

Mr. Croft said if the resolution was passed it would reflect on the capabilities of hon. members to resist drink. He had signed a petition to prevent the sale of liquors on the premises, but he could not support a motion to place such a rule in print.

Hon. Mr. Pooley said if it was proposed to say what members should have at their lunches it would be better to do away with the lunch room.

Mr. Kitchen supported the motion. It was time to stop the use of intoxicating liquor on the premises when an hon. member got up in the house and wanted to sing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Mr. Speaker—No such thing ever occurred in the house.

Mr. Kitchen—It certainly did.

Mr. Speaker—I deny it. It never occurred, unless it occurred during the two hours which I was absent yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Kitchen—It occurred in committee.

Mr. Speaker—You cannot refer to what occurred in committee.

Mr. Kitchen said he would like to see the motion amended to do away with the refreshment room.

Mr. Booth said he considered the motion a reflection on the speaker. The House was under control of the speaker and he was well able to regulate it.

Hon. Col. Baker said the actions of some members of the opposition might lead the public to believe that they were intoxicated, but he did not think anyone had been drunk. It was in the power of the speaker to deal with the matter.

Mr. Martin said the mover of the resolution was fouling the nest in which he belonged, the legislative assembly. The motion might be considered a good election dodge by the mover, who was a temperance advocate. All members were in favor of temperance, but the motion was in bad taste. He was referring to the proceedings in committee the other night when called to order.

Mr. Hunter said he would support the motion if the matter could not be settled in a quieter manner. They had a perfect right to protect themselves and families from the liquor traffic. If the mover would not withdraw the motion and have it settled quietly he would vote for the motion.

Mr. Brown considered that the passage of the resolution would not reflect on the members of the house. It would strengthen in the hands of the speaker in enforcing the rule asked for in the round-robin.

Mr. Horne and Mr. Adams thought the matter should be left in the hands of the speaker.

Mr. Cotton moved, seconded by Mr. Sward, that the debate be adjourned to give the speaker an opportunity to consider the round-robin.

Hon. Mr. Davie jumped excitedly to his feet and objected most strenuously to the adjournment of the debate. He said the matter had been brought up to consider the members of the legislature. The round-robin referred to was in his hand, having been handed to him by the speaker. He had referred to his colleagues and had received two notes, in both of which members of the executive agreed to prevent the sale of liquor in the refreshment room. If the motion had not been brought up, the government would have dealt with the matter.

Mr. Cotton said the attack made by the premier was a cowardly one. He had not signed the round-robin as he did not know that liquor was sold in the refreshment room and because he thought the Speaker would deal with the matter. He denied that he wished to slander the house. He had moved the adjournment of the debate to allow the Speaker to deal with the question.

Mr. Sward—I seconded the motion for the same reason.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he did not mean that the members who moved the adjournment of the debate wished to slander the members, but their motion, if carried, would cover up the slime that had been thrown.

Mr. Cotton withdrew his motion.

Dr. Milne said he had signed the round-robin because he thought it would be better to deal with the matter without bringing it before the house. He would like to see the sale of liquor in the lunch room stopped, but he did not believe in preventing a man from having liquor at his meals if he wished it.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—It has been said that the matter should be left in the hands of the Speaker. The Speaker could not make a rule that would be effective without the consent of the legislature. Some of the remarks that had been made about Mr. Keith should not have been applied

to him. He was doing what he considered to be his duty. The introduction of liquor into the house might safely be argued as a breach of the privileges of the house. If it deterred the members from dealing with the business of the house it was a breach of the privileges. It was laid down in all constitutional authorities that anyone preventing a member from dealing with the business of the house was guilty of a breach of privilege. It was not fair to throw the responsibility in the Speaker, who could not enforce the rule unless it was sanctioned by the house. The round-robin had been signed by 20 members and the executive should comply with the request. He would vote for the motion as it was. Although he seldom used the lunchroom himself he did not think that it should be abolished. It was a great convenience to members who had to attend committee meetings in the morning and be back at the opening of the house at 2 o'clock. He did not know that liquor was sold in the lunchroom. If it was, it was an infraction of the liquor license law of Victoria.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he disclaimed any insinuation that he considered the members voting for the resolution, with one exception, were doing so to slander the house. He did not stand second to the hon. member for Comox in an earnest desire to bring the liquor traffic under such control as to bring freedom and happiness to the household. Whenever a general motion came before the house to restrict the liquor traffic he would know how to deal with it as he had opportunity to throw slime. You (Mr. Speaker) called that gentleman to order when he said an hon. member had got up and wanted to sing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." He commenced to read a little poem on scandal mongers when called to order.

Mr. Brown, who said that the attorney-general had no right to use lies published in the provincial papers in the debate.

Mr. Speaker called the premier to order and referred him to rule 15, which states that no member should use offensive language.

Hon. Mr. Davie—I was just reading a little paragraph. If the cap fits the hon. member who rose to a point of order all right. The junior member for Yale, Mr. Semlin, insinuated that the public would attribute the heated debate the other evening to liquor. If so they would attribute the language used by the leader of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker—Order! order! order!

Hon. Mr. Beaven—Oh, let him go on.

Mr. Speaker—The premier cannot refer to what occurred in committee.

Hon. Mr. Davie—I am afraid I cannot debate without getting out of order. (Hear! hear!)

Mr. Keith closed the debate. He denied that he brought in the resolution for the purpose of throwing slime or slandering the members of the house. After having circulated the round-robin, he found that he would have to bring the matter up as he had done. The only names called were those that had been called by the attorney-general. That hon. gentleman must feel disgusted with himself when he used such contemptible language as he had done. It was the attorney-general who was the scandal monger. Only the other day he had repeated in the house something that he had heard in the lobby.

Mr. Speaker—Out of order.

Mr. Keith—I know I am out of order. The attorney-general, when called to order, would not take his seat until he had had his miserable say. What would the people think if there was a bar in the supreme court and the judges, jurymen and lawyers went out during the session to take a drink? But this was done in the courts where the laws administered in the courts were framed. The resolution did not reflect on the members.

The resolution was negatived on the following division:

Ayes—Messrs. Semlin, Milne, Beaven, McKenzie, Horne, Brown, Sward, Kitchen, Keille and Hunter—14.

Nays—Messrs. Grant, Smith, Punch, Watt, Baker, Pooley, Davis, Turner, Vernon, Martin, Ebert, Croft, Booth, Rogers, Hall, Anderson, and Adams—17.

Hon. Mr. Davie, after the division was taken, stated that the government had given orders that no more liquors were to be sold in the refreshment room.

Hon. Mr. Turner said respecting the return asked for, showing the prices at which the trustees of the sinking fund had bought British Columbia inscribed stock, that no returns had been received since January, 1892, on account of the illness of one of the trustees.

Hon. Mr. Vernon moved the second reading of the redistribution bill, which he said was one of the most important measures that could be introduced. He referred at some length to the history of the early governments and parliaments of British Columbia. The composition of the legislature at the time of confederation was 12 members from the Island and 13 from the Mainland. At that time, although the population of the Island was the larger, because it was known before long that the population of the Mainland must become larger than the Island. There was no census of British Columbia taken until 1881, so the voters' lists had to be taken on signs of the population. According to the lists the population of the Island was larger than the Mainland for 13 years. In 1886 the number of representatives was increased by two members, one for the Mainland and one for the Island. In 1890 the membership was again increased, the Mainland being given 17 and the Island 15 members. The present bill gave the Mainland 19 and the Island 14 members.

From confederation to the present time, neither area, revenue or population had been taken for a basis upon which to form a redistribution bill. The government, in preparing the present bill, decided that 33 were sufficient to represent the country during the next four years. It was considered that it would be unwise to decrease the number of members and it was agreed not to increase the number, so a redistribution method was decided upon. It was decided to give the cities representatives according to their population, and the cities were given one member for every 4000 people. Westminster was entitled to one and a half but not to two members, but no doubt it would soon be entitled to another. The cities were given 9 members to represent their 40,000 people, leaving 24 members to represent the 55,000 people in the rural districts. Although the Indians were looked after by the Dominion government and did not pay taxes, they had to be taken into consideration in the rural districts. The present bill gave the Chinamen who did contribute to the revenue. It would be improper to alone take into consideration the population in considering the representation of the rural districts. The white population of Cassiar amounted about 500 and the Indians about 4700, so if the Indians were not considered, Cassiar would not even be entitled to one member; in fact all the representatives would be grouped in New Westminster and Yale districts. The bill before the house, he was sure, would satisfy the voters as a whole. So far no criticism of the bill had been heard. The press had been very silent and he thought if there was anything objectionable it would have been heard before now. Victoria was left as it was. So had Esquimalt, which was entitled to two members in view of the works being carried on there. Victoria district and the Islands had two members, whereas they formerly had three. Alberni had been merged into Cowichan and the combined district was given two members, where the two districts now return three members. Nanaimo City and district returned the same number of members as formerly, three. The boundaries of Comox had been extended while Cassiar was decreased. Both returned one member. Westminster district and Vancouver city had each been given an additional member. Westminster city and Yale district were about the same, with the exception that the boundaries of Yale had been slightly changed. Lillooet was about the same, while Cariboo had one member less. It was hoped that the population of Cariboo will soon be largely increased and it would then be entitled to the same representation that it has now. East Kootenay remained the same, while an additional member had been given to West Kootenay, the population of which had largely increased. He had gone into details of the population of each district as they were dry and could be better discussed in committee. The change in the management of the voters' lists was absolutely necessary as many men whose names were on the list had passed away and other names were duplicated. It was in the interest of the province to have corrected voters' lists. He was satisfied that the bill would meet with approval from all parts of the province, as an equitable and just measure. The bill before the house showed the fallacy of the charge that it was a gerrymander. The districts increased were represented by government supporters while those increased were represented by opposition members. It could not be denied that the basis of representation in the cities was a fair one. He hoped the measure would be approached in an unbiased manner, and that provincial, not district interests, would be considered. The details of the bill could be altered in committee.

Hon. Mr. Beaven was sure that the moderate language used by the chief commissioner of lands and works must commend itself to hon. members. The actions of the government could only be judged by the legislature. All agreed that the people should be properly represented, but the bill before the house did not carry out this prospect in its entirety. There were different opinions as to how the country should be represented. Some argued that the population should be the basis of representation, others that interests should be the basis, others that property should be the basis, and still others that territory should be the basis. Most people, however, admitted that men should be represented as far as possible. The majority of the voters should decide the way in which the province should be legislated for. It would be difficult to frame a measure that would bring about

this principle in its entirety, but after the delay there had been in bringing down the measure it was to be expected that it would be of more useful and permanent benefit. The chief commissioner had referred to the introduction in this province of responsible government. He made a mistake when he said that representation had never been based on population or interests. The first constitution act passed in the province was framed on the basis of interests and interests alone. He could not say what influenced the government of which the chief commissioner was a member when they increased the number of members by six. The various interests of the province were the basis on which the first constitution bill, which brought the province into existence, was based. The first change was made by a government of which he was a member. One member was taken from the mining district of Kootenay and given to the mining district of Cassiar, to which district a large number of miners were moving. He was one of those who objected to this change, as he argued that the mining representative of Kootenay could represent the mining district of the north. He also objected to the ground that the population of Kootenay would increase again, as he was glad to say it had. The same was the case with Cassiar, which district the miners had left, but would return to. There was Cariboo, which was not as prosperous as formerly, but was regaining its population, and was to be developed. The chief commissioner also referred to the patriotism of some members who had assisted in the framing of the bill. He did not know that there were more than five members of the executive after the time that had been spent in framing the bill the province was entitled to a measure that would give proper representation. The general complaint was that the minority rule the province. What was wanted was a radical change whereby the majority rule. A mere change of the boundaries and the division of some of the districts was only a remedy that was not what was wanted. The bill just increased the representation of the minority. If the bill was passed the majority would not be heard in the legislative hall. It could not be the wish of the government that they should have the minority of those enjoying the franchise supporting them. What was wanted was that the majority of the people entitled to vote should rule, not the majority of the representatives. He was sorry to hear frequent references to the Island and the Mainland, as if they were two separate portions of the province. He challenged any one to point out a division of the house by which the representatives of the Island had arrived themselves against the representatives of the Mainland, or vice versa. The balance of power referred to was only a fiction. He regretted to see that in the census returns brought down the government had gone to the trouble to obtain the population of the Island and of the Mainland as if they were two different provinces. There was no other theory of the returns. The interests of the citizens of Victoria were bound up with the interests of the miner or settler in the most remote portion of the province. It was mischievous to try to divide the province into two portions

by referring to where the largest population was. If the basis of representation was founded on the population, all the representatives would be massed in the southern portion of the province. If representation had been based on the population in early days, Cariboo would have had all the representatives. It was disappointing that after so long a delay the government could not bring down a bill that would give the majority of the people the right to say what laws should or should not be passed. The bill should be placed in the waste paper basket and a better one introduced. The bill was not worth all the talk with which its introduction had been heralded. After the announcements made by the late premier and the present government, it was to be thought that a broad and statesmanlike measure would be brought down. He felt very sorry to hear of any violation being attempted in the province, but the measure before the house, one that allowed the minority to rule, was such as caused the violence that was heard of in different parts of the world. The basis of representation was wrong as long as it allowed the minority to rule. As long as this lasted there would be dissatisfaction and distrust. The basis of representation had been going from bad to worse. No one had ever attempted to show to him that it was necessary to have thirty-three members. The six members added in 1890 had been to the advantage to the province; in fact, he believed the change had been a detriment. The whole object of the bill was that the minority should make the laws and say who should administer them.

Mr. Brown, after showing up the cowardly tactics of the government in refusing to speak till their opponents had done so, proceeded to answer some of the points advanced by Mr. Vernon. The old division of 12 on Island and 13 on Mainland, made at confederation, had recognized the right of outlying constituencies to large proportionate representation. All admitted that cities should not have as many members in proportion as rural constituencies, and in those days, a large part of the population of the whole province, according to the best data he had, was in Victoria. It was nonsense to talk about balance of power, that was got up by certain capitalistic and monopolistic clique, who saw a chance by their aid to govern the province in their own interest, and they had done it, too, more or less, from that day to this. Mr. Vernon had said that no government since confederation had been able to agree upon any basis of representation—neither area, interests, nor population, but this bill had established the bill of representation by population as far as the cities were concerned. Mr. Brown showed that this was hardly correct, as the two Main-

land cities had at least as much population as the two on the island. But he had not dwelt upon that, and did not mean to. He felt assured that the mass of people in all four were a unit in their desire for good government, and a man who came to the house to advocate that was a good representative, no matter where he came from. What made Mr. Vernon's statement an unfortunate one for the government was that the same rule had not been carried out in other cases, and they could not plead that they had not thought of it. If it was right, as

of course it was, in the case of the cities, it was right in other cases also; all constituencies of the same class should have been dealt with, as among themselves, on the basis of population. The government, not having done this, was self-condemned. Esquimalt, Mr. Vernon had said, was entitled to retain its present representation, as its population was increasing and large works were to go forward there shortly. And almost immediately afterwards he had told us that Cariboo had been reduced one member, but that works now going on and to be undertaken there would, no doubt, speedily bring it up to its old standing. Now Cariboo, a sparsely settled, outlying district, of immense area, was entitled to greater representation in proportion than Esquimalt, yet under the bill it was to be given just the same, although it had more voters than Esquimalt, and had increased more in six or eight months than Esquimalt had in four years. After congratulating Mr. Vernon on the smooth way in which he had slipped over the dangerous points of the bill, Mr. Brown proceeded to his own criticism of the measure. He said one could not but be struck with the grasped sectionalism of the government as displayed both in the bill itself, and the comments made upon it both in this house and in the government organs. The bill divides the country into two camps—Mainland and Island—and proceeds upon the assumption that these are in themselves and hostile to each other. The bill was an invitation to the people of the province to consider themselves not British Columbians, but Mainlanders or Islanders as the case might be. In contrast with this the steady demand of the trust with this the steady demand of the independent party for fair and equal representation of the whole people of the province, in the legislature, stood out, broad, statesmanlike and patriotic, against the narrow, sectional policy of the government. This was even more apparent when one came to look into details a little. We were told that, as between Mainland and Island, the division was exactly according to population. In his peregrinations up and down the country, at the country's expense, the premier had endeavored to make it appear that the independents were demanding all the representation for the cities. The false statement had been accompanied by a declaration that the government would be careful to guard the interests of the outlying, sparsely settled districts, of large area. The bulk of the latter of course lay upon the Mainland, and a whose expense had their interests been guarded? If we take a division of the province which recognizes both the natural boundaries, and not one only; if we divide the province into three parts by the gulf and the Cascades, we find a large proportion of voters to population, showing at once an strong reason why they should have large representation in proportion to their population. Dealing with the figures as we have them before us—a course which made his argument less striking than it would be had we the correct figures for West Kootenay—we find that this trans-Cascade country is given by the bill one member for each 830 of white population, and each 347 voters. This, of course, is according to the figures as we have them before us, in the cas-Cascade region, or lower Mainland, we have rather more than 3,000 population, and about 900 voters per member. Now if we compare this latter division with the Island division, we find that there is little difference between them, in respect of the things which enter into a calculation like the present. The Mainland division has a little the better of it in the inhabited territory, in population and in voters, but the divisions may be taken as practically equal, and what difference there is strengthens the argument. It follows, of course, that we should find the same difference in proportion of representation to population and voters between the trans-Cascade division of the Mainland and the Island, that we find between the two divisions of the Mainland. But do we? On the contrary, we find that 540 and some 2,000 white population on the Island are to have as much political power as 900 on the lower Mainland. Except pure and unadulterated sectionalism, no reason can be advanced to justify this. Comparing the two divisions, we find city population, agricultural and other population, both about equal to each other, with the advantage a little to the credit of the Mainland division, and yet the Island division is to have a majority of five in the legislature. This is, as has already been said, treating the Mainland and the Island as two, not one. A strong reason for that separation of which we have heard so much—a stronger argument for those who advocate it—would be hard to find. It is true that Comox has been extended to include part of the Mainland, but it is also true that Cassiar has been made to include what was formerly part of Comox, so that the argument from population and voters is not materially affected. Perhaps this point would be best brought out by way of an illustration. A certain prince came in possession of some territory in a country distant from his own, and sent out his two sons to manage it. They were to arrange details between themselves, and to remit the gross revenue to his treasurer, who would send them what appeared from their report to be necessary to

enable them to live decently and for the management of the estate report was that the estate embraced square miles of territory, and square miles of it needed little, but the remainder 30 square miles require a larger expenditure, as per square mile. A river made a division of the territory, and each took one side of it. The younger was called away just as they agreed, and the report was written. He did not think it necessary to mention that the whole of the expensive territory, in addition to the other, lay in that part of the river, which the elder brother had undertaken to so that the treasurer sent the whole amount of \$84,000. Now it will be seen that the first report upon was: The elder brother square miles at \$200, \$12,000; the other brother, 60 square miles, and square miles at \$2,000, \$72,000; accident had kept the younger brother's own territory all this time, a first he knew about the receipt application had met with was a The elder brother, whose name was Theodosius, whom nothing would persuade to base his advance from a rate per mile had been accepted the sum of \$84,000, equal to \$3 mile, has been sent me. I have to waive any claim I might have elder, and to retain only my ex- portion—60 miles at \$500, equal to 000, and therefore enclose you share, namely \$50,400." And th went around and told what a brother he was, and what a just exact division he had made, and toadies of his little court sang his but his brother did not take that. He wired him a short message: "Y omizable scoundrel, if you want whole bones in your skin, don't c any side of the river." And to th there are people who insist th younger brother is a man of unj violence, and who will not give up. He has shown that the bill nised, endorsed, perpetuated acti as the basis of representation in t legislature. Turning to the discuss the measure, as it should have been el, that was, by constituencies, it be found to be almost as involu mystifying as a Chinese puzzle. For instance, the two ends of the "Squamish and Comox. Under th arrangement, Comox, who has behind Squamish in actual num voters, or in population, indeed, probable that its population will b er. Its territory is immensely larg as an outlying, sparsely settled c it is entitled to larger proportion presentation than Squamish. Eve acknowledged that, the bill itself nized that argument in other cas course, as compared with other c constituencies, no injustice was c Comox; it was, treated pretty in the outlying constituency on the land was treated, if one could ven talk about "average" in discussi a hotch-potch of a bill. But this b not only more clearly the enormo voritism with which Squamish ha treated. Even in contrast with t the white-headed boy, which is t trust with Comox, and Ne (favoritism shown it amounte scandal. Yet the fact that the ment had not dared to divide it, f of risking one of the seats, showe even this pet government const contained amongst its voters a o of good British Columbians, broo ed, provincial men, and the w would be able to stand the strengt election in 1890, and the governme as the results of petty, sectiona lstration. Someone should offer a for the discovery of the system which the trans-Cascade consti have been dealt with, for his p gave it up. He might notice he exceedingly characteristic. I trick had been played in the exten ding mix to the coast district of what Westminster district, so that its a to Comox would not threaten the influence there, while it would ena government to claim the relative revenue of that part of Westmin "Island" revenue. As he had sa instance of "purloining" was ch characteristic. Another chara trick was the cutting of the pre about the registration of voters i bill. In 1890, these had been e in a separate act. Even in 1891 the change made was a little ma detail, caused by the annexati toria city of certain small strip surrounding districts, two bills h introduced, one to amend the con and one to amend the voters' act, we had a most important amendm the constitution, and a radical ment of the voters' act brought i house in one and the same bill, v title which did not refer to either acts it amended. As he had sa, a trick, and a very small, cont trick at that. It was done, o to divert attention from the ob registration provisions. An ex of these clauses governing the regi of voters would show that they h carefully constructed on the prin putting the lists absolutely at the of the government. The provi an appeal from the verdict of the statute book for 20 years—was away; not only were collectors m solute dictators but machinery vided by which they could harass o or undesirable voters with al questions, and a savage penalt and costs or imprisonment with bor, was held over the head of a cant to vote, who could be cutt ping in his answers to any of the ions. And for fear even these ing provisions should prove ineffe to quote the language of the bill

cities had at least as much population as the two on the island. But he did not dwell upon that, and did not say that he felt assured that the masses of people in all four were a unit in their desire for good government, and a man came to the house to advocate that a good representative, no matter who he came from. What made Mr. Brown's statement an unfortunate one was that the government was that same government, and they could not plead that they had not thought of it. If it was right, as it was, in the case of the cities, it was right in other cases also; all instances of the same class should be dealt with, as among themselves, on the basis of population. The government, not having done this, was condemned. Esquimalt, Mr. Verdon said, was entitled to retain its representation, as its population was increasing and large works were to be carried out there shortly. And almost immediately afterwards he had told us that Cariboo had been reduced to one member, that works now going on and undertaken there would, no doubt, bring it up to its old standing. Cariboo, a sparsely settled, out-district, of immense area, was entitled to greater representation in proportion than Esquimalt, yet under the bill to be given just the same, although it had more voters than Esquimalt and had increased more in six months than Esquimalt had in years. After congratulating Mr. Brown on the smooth way in which he had stepped over the dangerous points, Mr. Brown proceeded to his criticism of the measure. He said it did not but be struck with the sectionalism of the government. He said both in the bill itself, and in the amendments made upon it both in the government organs. The desecration of the country into two camps and the assumption that these are all hostile to each other, was an invitation to the people of the province to consider themselves not as British Columbians, but Mainlanders or Cascadians, as the case might be. In this steady demand of the government for fair and equal representation of the whole people of the province, the legislature stood out, statesmanlike and patriotic, against the narrow, sectional policy of the government. This was even more apparent when one came to look into details. We were told that, as in the Mainland and Island, the division of the province into three parts, the Cascades, the Mainland, and the Island, was a division of the province into three parts, and the Cascades, we find a portion of voters to population, and once one strong reason why there is large representation in the Cascades to the population. Dealing first with the Mainland, before we get to the Cascades, we find that it would be had by the government for West Kootenay—we find the trans-Cascade country is to be a member for each of its population, and each 30,000 is, of course, according to us, as we have them before us, a cascade region, or lower Mainland, rather more than 3,000 and about 900 voters. Now if we compare this latter with the Island division, we find a little difference between the two, but the difference in calculation like the present division has a little the in the inhabited territory, and in voters, but the divisions are as practically equal, and hence there is strength in the bill. It follows, of course, that we have the same difference in representation to population between the trans-Cascade Mainland and the Island, and between the two divisions. But do we? On the island, we find that 540 and some 2,000 on the island are to be a political power as 900 on the Mainland. Except pure and unadorned sectionalism, no reason need to justify this. Comox divisions, we find city agricultural and other population equal to each other, and a little to the credit of the island division, and yet the island is to have a majority in the legislature. This is, as has already been said, treating the Mainland as two, not one. A strong argument in favor of which we find a stronger argument who advocates it—it would be to include part of the island in the Mainland. It is also true that Casiar is to include what was formerly Comox, so that the argument of population is not affected. Perhaps this point was brought out by way of a certain primary, same in some territory in a county of his own, and sent out to manage it. They were to be between themselves, and across revenue to his treasury, and send them what appears to be necessary to

enable them to live decently and provide for the management of the estate. The report was that the estate embraced 150 square miles of territory, and that 120 square miles of it needed little, and could be managed at the rate of \$200 per mile, but the remainder 30 square miles would require a larger expenditure, say, \$2,000 per square mile. A river made a natural division of the territory, and each brother took one side of it. The younger brother was called away just as they agreed upon this, and the report was written by the elder. He did not think it necessary to mention that the whole of the 30 miles of expensive territory, in addition to the 60 of the other, lay in that part of the estate east of the river, which the younger brother had undertaken to manage, so that the treasurer sent the draft for the whole amount of \$84,000 to him. Now it will be seen that the division agreed upon was: The elder brother, 60 square miles at \$200, \$12,000; the younger brother, 60 square miles, and also 30 square miles at \$2,000, \$72,000. An accident had kept the younger brother in his own territory all his time, and the first he knew about the reception of his application had met with a letter from the elder brother, whose name was Theodore, running like this: "Our proposal to base allowance from home on a rate per mile has been accepted, and the sum of \$84,000, equal to \$300 per mile, has been sent me. I have decided to waive any claim I might have as the elder, and to retain only my exact proportion—60 miles at \$300, equal to \$18,000, and therefore enclose you your full share, namely \$50,400." And then he went around and told what a good brother he was, and what a just and exact division he had made, and all the toddlers of his little court sang his praises; but his brother did not take that view. He wired him a short message: "You are an admirable scoundrel, if you want to keep whole bones in your skin, don't come on my side of the river." And to this day there are people who insist that the younger brother is a man of unjust and violent temper, whom nothing will satisfy. He had shown that the bill was a legalized, endorsed, perpetuated sectionalism on the basis of representation in the legislature. Turning to the discussion of the measure, as it should have been framed, that was, by constituencies, it would be found to be almost as involved and unjustifying as a Chinese puzzle. Take, for instance, the two ends of the island, Esquimalt and Comox. Under the new arrangement, Comox will not be much behind Esquimalt in actual number of voters, or in population, indeed, it is probable that its population will be larger. Its territory is immensely larger, and as an outlying, sparsely settled district, it is entitled to larger proportionate representation than Esquimalt. Everybody acknowledged that, the bill itself recognized that argument in other cases. Of course, as compared with other outlying constituencies, no injustice was done to Comox; it was treated pretty much as the outlying constituency on the Mainland was treated, if one could venture to talk about "average" in discussing such a hotch-potch of a bill. But this brought not only more clearly to the enormous favoritism with which Esquimalt had been treated. Even in contrast with Victoria, an Cowichan, Esquimalt was evidently the white-headed boy, while in contrast with Comox and Nanaimo, the favoritism shown it amounted to a scandal. Yet the fact that the government had not dared to divide it, for fear of risking one of the seats, showed that even this pet government constituency contained amongst its voters a number of good British Columbians, broad-minded, provincial men, and he hoped they would be able to muster strength at the election to read the government a lesson on the results of petty, sectional administration. Someone should offer a reward for the discovery of the system upon which the trans-Cascade constituencies have been dealt with, for his part he gave it up. He might notice here an exceedingly characteristic trick which had been played in the extending of Comox to the coast district of what is now Westminster district, so that its addition to Comox would not threaten the ruling influence there, while it would enable the government to claim the relatively large revenue of that part of Westminster as "island" revenue. As he had said, this instance of "purloining" was eminently characteristic. Another characteristic trick was the cutting of the provisions about the registration of voters into this bill. In 1890, these had been embodied in a separate act. Even in 1891, when the change made was a little matter of detail, caused by the annexation to Victoria of certain small strips of the surrounding districts, two bills had been introduced, one to amend the constitution and one to amend the voters' act. Now we had a most important amendment of the constitution, and a radical amendment of the voters' act brought in the house in one and the same bill, under a title which did not refer to either of the acts it amended. As he had said, it was a trick, and a very small, contemptible trick at that. It was done, of course, to divert attention from the obnoxious registration provisions. An examination of these clauses governing the registration of voters would show that they had been carefully constructed on the principle of cutting the list absolutely at the mercy of the government. The provision for an appeal from the verdict of the collector—a provision which had been on our statute book for 20 years—was swept away; not only were collectors made absolute dictators but machinery was provided by which they could harass doubtful or undesirable voters with all sorts of questions, and a savage penalty of \$500 and costs or imprisonment with hard labor, was held over the head of any applicant to vote, who could be caught tripping in his answers to any of these questions. And for fear even these sweeping provisions should prove ineffectual, to quote the language of the bill itself—

"In order to give full and due effect to the meaning and intent of the provisions contained in this act," which means, of course, in order to secure to this government, if possible, another lease of power, the legislature is commanded to sign away its functions, to hand over the power of the government, to alter or amend any provision of the bill, even to make a new redistribution by order in council. It seemed impossible that such a proposition should be made to a British legislature in the evening of the 19th century, but an examination of clause 21 would show that he had not overstated the case. Returning for a moment to the manner in which representation had been apportioned, and constituencies had been cut and carried, he wished to point out how completely the government had discredited its own excuse for the postponement of redistribution—that it was waiting for correct information as to population. Not only had population been disregarded in all instances, in the apportionment of representation to constituencies, with perhaps one exception, but the old boundaries had been shifted and confused so that even such information as was obtained from the printed census about the population of former constituencies, the bill, the government had information which would be useful, but had refused to bring it down. As they had used the money of the province to pay for their electioneering tours, so they had used it to pay for information which enabled them to carry out their gerrymander. In the case of West Kootenay, but he believed in that case only, the increase of population since the census had been taken into account—in other cases it had been ignored. He had already pointed to the scandalous case of Esquimalt, as contrasted with other constituencies of the island, and that was by no means the only scandal. He pointed to constituencies of the same class—which should have exactly the same treatment in the matter of proportion of representation to population—which were so differently treated in the bill that a voter in one of them represented six times as much political power as a voter in the other. He would not occupy time now in comparing constituencies. Putting the bill alongside the voters' list, any man could see for himself what a jumble it was. He would turn for a moment to the question: How should the bill have been framed? The considerations which had entered into the framing of the bill as we had it were apparent enough. The government had gone to a certain length in the direction of recognizing the right of the people to fair representation in the legislature, and the aim of the bill was to minimize as much as possible the good effect of these forced concessions. The people would not be slow to see this, and he believed they would not be slow to resent it. Whenever he had spoken on this subject throughout the province he had found unanimous acknowledgment that the fair plan of British Columbia was to give large, sparsely settled districts representation which should be over the average, city representation under the average, and he comparatively well settled agricultural districts what he would call fair average representation, and to treat all districts of the same class alike, as nearly as it was possible to do so. The bill went just far enough in the direction of recognizing this principle to emphasize its unfairness. This was especially true in the matter of treating alike all constituencies of the same class. Esquimalt, for instance, should belong to the class of comparatively well-settled agricultural constituencies, yet it would have a member for 233 voters, while some of the outlying constituencies would have to put up with a member for six or seven hundred voters. Why, again, should Yale be put off with a member for 900 voters, while its next door neighbor had only 1,300? The bill was a slight mitigation, merely, of a change of the present system. The principle of the bill was the principle under which we had been working—that the majority should rule. A small concession to popular right had been wrung from the government, and the government was arranging to offset this by cooking the voters' lists, by subdividing into constituencies, to corporations, to syndicates. But he believed that the people were awake—were resolved that the general election of 1894 should sound the death-knell of autocracy and corruption in British Columbia. Col. Baker said the government were to be congratulated on the very mild criticism that their measure had been treated to by the members of the opposition who had already spoken. If the majority were to rule the cities would rule the rural districts, and in fact would be entitled to 21 members out of the 33. When Mr. Beaven referred to Westminster being entitled to more representatives than Nanaimo, he did not refer to consideration the fact of an important industry carried on at Westminster. Esquimalt was entitled to two members. The voters of that district were principally married men, and the population was a fast increasing one. (Laughter.) The bill would do away with sectionalism, the island and the Mainland having been joined by the extension of Comox to the Mainland. Mr. Semlin said the people had been waiting for four years for the bill. After four years' incubation the people did not have a measure that they wished. The government admitted that faults existed in the present act, and as the same system was followed in the measure before the house, faults also existed in it. What was wanting in the present bill was equality between the different constituencies. The same discrepancies occurred in the bill as occurred in the act. He was satisfied that in some constituencies it would take four electors to have as much power as one in another constituency. If Yale were represented on the same basis as Esquimalt Yale would be entitled to eight members. If it was

fair to give the cities representation according to population, the same system would be fair in the districts. If the government were right in dividing certain districts into ridings why were all districts not divided into ridings? If the system was not a just one why introduce it in certain districts? His contention was that the legislature should deal carefully with the voters' lists. The present bill gave the government power to strike every individual voter off the list. If the government, through their submitters, said any one should not be a voter, there was no appeal against it. He hoped that he did not understand this provision rightly. The government had the power to disfranchise every voter in the province. The bill should be brought in as two bills, one dealing with redistribution and one with the registration of voters. He knew of one case where one of the oldest residents of the province when he went to vote at the last general election was told by the returning officer that he was dead. The voter showed that he was very much alive, but the distributed vote was in his favor but the distributed vote was not removed from the list without good reason being given. There were different manners of gerrymander. Under the bill there was a sign of gerrymander. The government could when they saw that the accumulated vote would be in their favor but the distributed vote would not divide the accumulated vote from the distributed vote by forming ridings. He could not vote for the bill. Hon. Mr. Pooley contended that the remarks of the leader of the opposition were more in favor of than against the bill. His criticism, however, had been very fair. Every interest in the province was fairly represented. There were ten representatives of the mining interests, thirteen of the agricultural interests, five of the fishing interests and nine from the cities. (The first objection that he heard against the bill came from the hon. members for New Westminster city and Yale. The settlers of Esquimalt were all permanent settlers, and besides these some extensive works were to be constructed. Dr. Milne could not see why the new Cowichan district could not be divided into two districts, the two portions being so far apart. Nanaimo district had been divided, and it would have been equally as reasonable to have divided Cowichan into two districts. The government should explain why they divided Nanaimo district. It looked very suspicious. They had placed Wellington in one district so that one party could control these votes. There was certainly a semblance of gerrymander in the bill. From what he had heard from Nanaimo district, he understood the government hired all their employees from one district so as to try and make that a sure district for them. The collectors of voters did not have to have a standing in the community. He supposed they would be good supporters of the government. The men who revised the Dominion lists had necessarily to be barristers, and even then there were very often complaints about them. Great powers were given to the collectors by the bill. They can ask a man any question, and may make the questions very distasteful to the opponents of the government. They were also revisers of the lists, and the collectors and revisers should be responsible men. They will have great power, being more or less acquainted with the politics of the districts for which they are appointed. He read an opinion of Hon. E. Blake on the franchise, in which he severely criticized the system of revising lists contained in the act, and suggested that judges should be the revisers. He thought this opinion condemned the bill, which went further than the Dominion act to which Mr. Blake referred. The deposit of \$200 required of a candidate should be abolished. This came particularly hard on farmers, who just about election time required all their spare cash, either for the election or for their cash, either or materially decreased. Hon. Mr. Turner said all the arguments of the opposition had been answered. The fact that there were so many names of dead men on the lists was the best argument in favor of a revision of the lists. There would be no more favoritism for the government than for the opposition. There will be a provision for an appeal. There was a great deal of sack and very little bread in the speech of the member for Westminster city. Mr. Brown—You'll get the sack all right. Hon. Mr. Turner—Under the new system of registration every man will have his vote, there will be no impersonating and there will be no dead men voting. It would enable every man who was qualified to vote to be registered. A division was taken at 10:30 and the second reading was carried on the following division: Ayes—Baker, Pooley, Davie, Turner, Vernon, Martin, Eberts, Croft, Stoddart, Hunter, Booth, Rogers, Hall, Adams, Fletcher, Grant, Horn, Smith, Punch, Watt and Kellie—21. Nays—Semlin, Milne, Beaven, McKenzie, Sword, Kitchin, Brown, Forster, Keith, and Cotton—10. The house adjourned at 10:45.

**PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.**  
Consideration of the Redistribution Bill in Committee.  
A LONG GOOD-NATURED DISCUSSION.  
The Session Lasts Until Nearly Midnight, But no One Loses His Temper—Government Adopt a Number of Recommendations Made by Opposition.  
March 5.  
The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Right Rev. Bishop Perrin.  
Mr. Punch moved and it was resolved that whereas the navigation of the Nikomok, Serpentine and Campbell rivers is at present much impeded by log jams and by short curves, all of which could be removed at a comparatively slight cost; and whereas the Dominion government have already expended different sums on the Nikomok and Serpentine with great advantage to these streams, and a very small additional expenditure would largely extend the navigable portion of them; and whereas the clearing out of the navigable portion of the Campbell river would enable the settlers on the upper part of the stream to utilize the river for necessary drainage and also provide an outlet for timber, of which there is a large supply belonging to the Dominion government; be it therefore resolved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor praying him to urge upon the Dominion government the necessity of taking steps to carry out these suggested improvements.  
The house went into committee. Mr. Martin in the chair, to consider the redistribution bill.  
In consideration of clause 2, Hon. Mr. Beaven said he could not see the necessity of thirty-three members for a province where there are but 65,000 white people. Many of the cities of the east had more voters than the whole province. He could not see the utility of having thirty-three members.  
Hon. Mr. Davie said a legislature of sufficient numbers made it a more independent one. Sir John Macdonald had said the province could not be properly governed by a legislature of twenty-five members. The government in power would have complete control of a small legislature; in fact, there could not be proper responsible government without a legislature of sufficient numbers. Those who were advocating the cutting down of the number of legislators were striking a blow at responsible government.  
Mr. Brown said the premier knew quite well that there was no responsible government in the bill. What was wanted was a new bill. It would be difficult to amend the present one to decrease the number of members. He would not advocate a decrease to the old number of twenty-five members, but he thought twenty-nine members would be sufficient. All governments were responsible governments. The government of this province had even given it out to the world that they could do without \$12,000 worth of clerks this year.  
Hon. Mr. Beaven contended that the argument of the attorney-general that there was an attack on responsible government did not hold good. The province had not had a semblance of responsible government for a number of years. What was the foundation of responsible government? There must be an executive which should consist of five members. That executive should formulate a policy and submit it to parliament assembled. The process of the present government was not to formulate their policy until all the members had arrived to attend parliament. Then all the government members met in a private room and decided on the bill to be brought down. When the practical working of the government of the province was examined it was found that there was no such thing as responsible government here. The best statesman in the world could not by argument change the opinions of hon. gentlemen opposite. Everybody knew that they were ready to hold up their hands no matter what arguments were advanced. The attorney-general had asked him what the number of members should be. The bill was so defective that it could not be amended; an entirely new bill would have to be brought in. It has been said by a British statesman that it was time enough for a physician to prescribe when he was called in. It would be time enough for him to prepare a bill when he was called upon to do so.  
Mr. Hunter said if it could be shown him that the province could be properly represented by less than thirty-three members he would be ready to support a reduction in the number. The first question was whether it would be desirable to do so, and secondly, how could it be done? The cities were fairly represented, while some districts were too well represented.  
Mr. Brown said the government did not attempt to defend their bill. If they desired to do so, the government could ask the committee to rise and consider the question of decreasing the representation.  
Mr. Kitchin—I thought the premier would be man enough to get up and defend his bill.  
Hon. Mr. Davie, referring to what Mr. Beaven had said, contended that the members of the house were consulting physicians, and they should lend their assistance to perfect the bill.  
Hon. Mr. Beaven—What is the use of us proposing amendments when we know that a majority of the members are prepared to hold up their hands against such amendments?  
Mr. Kitchin, speaking on the clause referring to Westminster district, pointed out that the eastern boundary of the district cut the settlement of Agassiz in two, part being in Yale and part in Westminster.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said the people who had been taken into Yale district had asked for the change, many of them having always voted in Yale.

Mr. Sword contended that the ridings of Westminister district had been unfairly dealt with. There were more people in each of the ridings than there were in Cowichan or Esquimalt. He moved in amendment that each riding of Westminister district be given two members.

Hon. Mr. Vernon contended that the amendment was out of order.

Mr. Sword—The premier has just asked us to say how many members we thought there ought to be.

Mr. Kitchen considered it very strange that after the premier had promised a fair bill that Cowichan and the riding of Chilliwack had only one member. In the municipality of Chilliwack there are 906 voters, and there are two other municipalities in the same riding.

Hon. Mr. Vernon contended that the house had passed the principle of thirty-three members, and this could not be changed.

Mr. Brown—I never knew of such a hopeless task to correct all the anomalies in the bill. The proper way would be to throw it out on the second reading. The bill was only a piece of patchwork at the best. To attempt to rectify the glaring errors in it would only make it worse. The bill was simply to treat a class of politicians. He advised Mr. Sword to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was defeated.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment to change the name of the Cowichan electoral district to the Cowichan-Alberni electoral district. Adopted.

Mr. Semlin wanted to know if the old system of registering voters would be continued. By the bill the whole list of voters could be dropped. The present act would give more satisfaction than would the proposed changes.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—it is not to be supposed that the collector of voters will abuse the power conferred on him. The new system would do away with a lot of confusion. A man who did not give an address would have his name dropped from the list and advertised. Many names were duplicated on the lists. In Victoria those applying for registration had given their names in such a way that there were few duplicates, but in Vancouver and New Westminster there were many names without addresses, and it was presumed that many were duplicates.

Mr. Brown said in cities where there is a letter delivery it is more likely for addresses to be given.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said one of the reasons that had caused much discussion in the registration of voters was that men were going around and asking voters if they intended to vote for the government. The collectors of votes should not be appointed by the government, but by some third party. The collectors could drop the names of those who opposed the government from the lists.

Mr. Semlin considered that the present registration system was better than the one proposed by the bill. Many men would sooner not have a vote than have to answer all the interrogatories that a collector might put to him.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said many men signed the present forms without so much as reading them. When the questions are asked him a man's attention will be called to what he is declaring to. The present system was perfunctory.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—Will you ask them if they are government supporters?

Hon. Mr. Beaven—A man will have to show that he is entitled to vote before his name is placed on the list.

Mr. Semlin said his experience had been that men generally read what they were going to sign. A man would sooner not have a vote than go through a lot of machinery.

Mr. Kitchen said he could point out cases where three or four men of the same name and address were on the list, and each one was entitled to vote. In some municipalities a man could not give an address outside of the municipality in which he lived.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the bill was rather hurriedly drawn, and the provision requiring addresses to be given all over the province might not be perfect. The rule requiring that full addresses should be given might only apply to cities and towns, not to rural districts. He would have no objection to amending the clause.

Mr. Booth said he had never heard of a voter being impersonated in the province. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Beaven—Have you known a white man to vote for a colored man?

Hon. Mr. Beaven—And I have known a dead man to vote twice.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the house should carefully consider the question of the appointment of collectors. It might cause a good deal of trouble to revise the lists just before a general election. A man going to the polls on election day and finding his name off would have no remedy. Something should be done to prevent voters in rural districts from voting at two or more polling places.

Mr. Sword moved an amendment providing for the collector of votes to show that he could not find the voter to be a resident of the district before dropping his name from the list. The amendment was lost.

Another amendment was moved providing that a name should not be dropped from the list until diligent inquiry had been made as to his residence in the district. The amendment was lost.

An amendment was adopted going away with the provision that a collector could put interrogatories on voters contained in the schedule.

The penalty for making false statements in the registry form was decreased.

After passing clause fourteen the committee rose and reported progress.

Hon. Col. Baker introduced a bill to amend the school act.

The house adjourned at 11.50.

**EVENING SESSION.**

The debate on the motion of Mr. Sword to do away with the member for South Victoria district was continued.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said the government had considered it advisable to merge the island into Victoria district and divide the combined districts. The voters in Victoria district were all permanent settlers, not like the loggers and miners who are here to-day and away to-morrow. These settlers make a better class in the district, and deserve more consideration than the temporary settlers. The district had the same representation at Confederation as it was given by the bill, although it had increased 500 fold in population. The government had given a little beyond the census of 1891 in distributing the representation. Especially had this been the case in Esquimalt and West Kootenay, where the progress had been wonderful.

Mr. Brown considered that the settlers in Westminister district had not been dealt with as fairly as had the settlers in Esquimalt and Victoria districts.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said it would be a hopeless task to correct all the anomalies in the bill. The proper way would be to throw it out on the second reading. The bill was only a piece of patchwork at the best. To attempt to rectify the glaring errors in it would only make it worse. The bill was simply to treat a class of politicians. He advised Mr. Sword to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was defeated.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment to change the name of the Cowichan electoral district to the Cowichan-Alberni electoral district. Adopted.

Mr. Semlin wanted to know if the old system of registering voters would be continued. By the bill the whole list of voters could be dropped. The present act would give more satisfaction than would the proposed changes.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—it is not to be supposed that the collector of voters will abuse the power conferred on him. The new system would do away with a lot of confusion. A man who did not give an address would have his name dropped from the list and advertised. Many names were duplicated on the lists. In Victoria those applying for registration had given their names in such a way that there were few duplicates, but in Vancouver and New Westminster there were many names without addresses, and it was presumed that many were duplicates.

Mr. Brown said in cities where there is a letter delivery it is more likely for addresses to be given.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said one of the reasons that had caused much discussion in the registration of voters was that men were going around and asking voters if they intended to vote for the government. The collectors of votes should not be appointed by the government, but by some third party. The collectors could drop the names of those who opposed the government from the lists.

Mr. Semlin considered that the present registration system was better than the one proposed by the bill. Many men would sooner not have a vote than have to answer all the interrogatories that a collector might put to him.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said many men signed the present forms without so much as reading them. When the questions are asked him a man's attention will be called to what he is declaring to. The present system was perfunctory.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—Will you ask them if they are government supporters?

Hon. Mr. Beaven—A man will have to show that he is entitled to vote before his name is placed on the list.

Mr. Semlin said his experience had been that men generally read what they were going to sign. A man would sooner not have a vote than go through a lot of machinery.

Mr. Kitchen said he could point out cases where three or four men of the same name and address were on the list, and each one was entitled to vote. In some municipalities a man could not give an address outside of the municipality in which he lived.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the bill was rather hurriedly drawn, and the provision requiring addresses to be given all over the province might not be perfect. The rule requiring that full addresses should be given might only apply to cities and towns, not to rural districts. He would have no objection to amending the clause.

Mr. Booth said he had never heard of a voter being impersonated in the province. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Beaven—Have you known a white man to vote for a colored man?

Hon. Mr. Beaven—And I have known a dead man to vote twice.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the house should carefully consider the question of the appointment of collectors. It might cause a good deal of trouble to revise the lists just before a general election. A man going to the polls on election day and finding his name off would have no remedy. Something should be done to prevent voters in rural districts from voting at two or more polling places.

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After passing clause fourteen the committee rose and reported progress.

Hon. Col. Baker introduced a bill to amend the school act.

The house adjourned at 11.50.

**PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.**

**Redistribution Bill Reported Complete With Amendments.**

**PRIVATE BILLS READ A SECOND TIME**

**Nakusp and Slocan Railway Bill to be Read a Second Time on Friday—Business Being Passed Through Without Delay.**

March 6.

The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Ven. Archbishop Scriven.

Mr. Kitchen presented a petition against the Sumas dyking scheme.

Mr. Keith introduced a bill to amend the pharmacy act.

Hon. Mr. Turner introduced a bill for the extermination of weeds and the encouragement of dairying.

The house continued in committee on the redistribution bill. Mr. Croft taking the chair in the absence of Mr. Martin.

Mr. Brown objected to clause 21, which reads as follows: "In order to give full and due effect to the meaning and intent of the provisions contained in this act, or of any of the enactments specified in section one of this act, the Lieutenant-Governor in council may by regulations provide for any proceeding, matter or thing for which express provision has not been herein made, or for which only partial provision has been made, or where any alteration in any of the forms contained in the schedules to this act, may be found necessary, or where it shall be found that the time allowed to do any act is insufficient, and an alteration or extension of such time, and any alteration of dates consequent thereon, shall appear to be necessary, the Lieutenant-Governor in council may declare, either by regulation or notification in the British Columbia Gazette, that such alteration shall be made, and thereupon the same shall be made and take effect accordingly." He moved to strike out all the words after "made" in the sixth line down to and including "necessary" in the eighth line.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said it was useless for the legislature to enact acts if the Lieutenant-Governor in council could change the provisions of it.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the clause would not give the government power to supercede the act. Mr. Beaven presumed that the government would abuse the power given to them. The government would take undue advantage of a similar clause in the redistribution bill. The clause in the bill of 1890 gave the government more power than the one before the house, which was taken from the New South Wales act.

Mr. Beaven said the point was that the power to enact laws should not be given to the government. The clause in the act of 1890 was not as stringent as the clause before the house. It was all right to give them the right to correct mistakes in the act, but they should not be given the power to alter any specified enactments of the act.

Mr. Brown's amendment was lost and the clause was passed.

The bill was reported complete with amendments. The report will be considered on Friday.

Hon. Mr. Vernon moved the second reading of a bill to authorize the crown grant of townsite of Three Forks. The bill was introduced. A number of residents of West Kootenay expressed in a petition. A large number of people had settled on the pre-emption, who wanted the crown grant two months sooner than it would naturally issue. The gold commissioner had reported that the statements in the petition were correct. A number of people had erected buildings, but could not obtain the title to their land. In view of certain protests against he waited for some time before introducing the bill. Those who had protested against it on account of mineral claims had withdrawn their protests. The grant would not issue if everything was not clear. Everybody's rights would be protected.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the bill was a peculiar one. It was, in fact, a private one, and should have gone to some committee, where the facts could be thrashed out. There were also some extraordinary departures from the usual practice in the bill. If the pre-emption clause was being abused the lands and works department should inform the house and request it to remedy it. The bill proposed to make it easier for a speculator to deal with his pre-emption than it was for a bona fide settler. It seemed to be an extraordinary thing to do this, when the object of the land act was to settle the country.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said there was a great deal in what Mr. Beaven had said. But it must be remembered that there were a hundred or more people who were asking for relief. A number of people had established their homes on the pre-emption were asking for the legislation, not the original pre-emptors. Whatever rights the holder of the mineral claim has will be preserved by the bill. Several who had at first protested against the bill had withdrawn their protests. He did not like the provisions of the bill, but the government could not turn a deaf ear to the settlers. The original pre-emptors, he did not believe, would make any profit by the passage of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the law said the pre-emptor could not transfer any title to his land until he had been given a crown grant. How, then, could the settlers have a legal claim to the land? The legislature had nothing to do with anybody but the pre-emptors.

Hon. Mr. Beaven understood that the people were just squatters.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said the people had built on the strength of receiving a title when the crown grant was issued.

Mr. Semlin said what had been said by the government should guide the members in not voting for the bill. It was essentially a private bill, and should have been brought in as one. Then if any one had an objection to it they could appear before the private bills committee. If they could get their grant in two months why was there such a hurry about it?

Mr. Sword said it was certainly private legislation, and should not be passed until the private bills committee had considered it and any one protesting had had an opportunity of appearing. He moved that it be referred to a select committee for report, the committee to consist of Messrs. Hunter, Eberts, Anderson, Kitchen and Brown.

Hon. Mr. Beaven objected to the amendment. He thought it would be better to have the petition and other papers printed. The debate was adjourned to allow the papers to be printed.

On the motion to go into committee of the whole to consider the message of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting the Nakusp and Slocan railway bill, Mr. Sword said he would like further information. There must surely be an engineer's certificate showing why the road was going to cost \$25,000 a mile.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said there was no engineer's report, but there was other information that would be printed.

The house went into committee, Mr. Croft in the chair, to consider the message.

Mr. Sword asked the premier to explain the bill.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said it was not the practice to discuss the matter in committee.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—That it just what the house goes into committee for. The premier and his predecessor had established the rule referred to by the premier.

Mr. Brown contended that the premier should explain the bill to give the members an opportunity to consider it before the second reading was moved.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said there was a great deal of opposition to the bill, but when it was explained the people would see that the government had introduced a wise measure.

Hon. Mr. Beaven explained that he had not yet made up his mind on the bill. That was why the opposition were seeking all the information possible.

Mr. Cotton said the government must have known that they had the papers that were not yet printed. The government should give the house all the information it has before the second reading came on.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said every scrap of information in the possession of the government would be before the house before the second reading came on.

The bill was reported to the house, the report was adopted and the bill was read a first time. It will be read a second time on Friday.

Hon. Col. Baker moved the second reading of the school bill, the object of which was to allow the dismissal of a trustee who was guilty of some offence.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the amendment was a necessary one, and would commend itself to the house.

The bill was read a second time.

On consideration of the report of the Great Western Telegraph bill, Mr. Eberts moved an amendment to allow the company to build a line from Nanaimo to Victoria.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment to strike out the provision exempting the company from provincial taxation or impost.

The amendment was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved a similar amendment respecting municipal taxation. The municipal act, he said, provided that the municipality could do that under certain conditions. It would be unwise to allow the private act to override the general act.

The debate was adjourned, and the house rose at 6 o'clock.

**EVENING SESSION.**

Mr. Eberts continued the debate on Hon. Mr. Beaven's proposed amendment to the Great Western Telegraph company's bill. He saw no reason why a municipality should not be allowed to assist the company if it so desired.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the municipal act gave cities the power to assist enterprises of the kind.

Mr. Eberts did not think the general act gave cities the power to assist telegraph companies.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—If that is the case an amendment is required to the general act.

The amendment was negatived.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment to strike out the clause giving cities the power to exempt the company from taxation or other impost. The clause, he said, conflicted with the general act.

The amendment was lost and the report of the bill was adopted.

The B. C. Southern railway bill was finally passed.

Mr. Eberts continued the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Cariboo railway bill. He did not wish to be understood as being opposed to the bill, but the company had had a charter for six years and had done nothing so far. The company proposed to enter Cariboo by the back door, which he did not think was in the best interests of the agriculturists of Cariboo. The house, having made a land grant, should say which route the company must follow.

Hon. Mr. Beaven rose to a point of order. A recommendation of the crown was necessary to transfer a land grant from one company to another. The grant had been made to the Ashcroft & Cariboo railway company, and the present company was the Cariboo railway company.

Dr. Watt contended that the company was the same as the old company, the name having simply been changed.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—The grant has also lapsed, and it requires a recommendation of the crown to revive it.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the company could certainly transfer the land to another company, but if they had lapsed it was a different thing, because if the company had no right could be no harm in the bill.

The bill was read a second time.

Mr. Home moved the second time of the Consolidated Electric Rail Light company's bill. The bill proposed to amalgamate the Vancouver Light and Railway company and the Vancouver and Westminister tramway company.

Mr. Martin opposed the bill. He said, who had put their money in the Vancouver company were properly protected by the bill. It was not a private bill, because they were misled. He moved that the bill be laid on the table for six months.

Mr. Brown said he felt decidedly dubious of the bill and thought it would be well to lay it over until some more was heard about it.

Mr. Semlin said if there was a possibility of an injustice being done he should go back to the private bills committee.

Mr. Grant moved the adjournment of the debate, which was carried.

Mr. Eberts moved the second time of the bill to give the Hall Mine power the power to build a tram from the Silver King mine to Kootenay lake and to erect a concentrating mill. The mine was the largest in Kootenay and the company needed a tram to transport their ores. This concession would be a lasting benefit to the mine. The company did not ask for special privileges. The value of an acre to be expropriated would be determined by arbitrators.

Mr. Brown supported the bill, said that the minister of justice ought to the province giving companies to take water from navigable rivers was necessary to give a company to expropriate lands for a tramway. It was not necessary for building man might as well be given to expropriate land for a private road or a business block. It would be mischievous to give a company power.

Hon. Mr. Beaven agreed with Mr. Brown. He could not see why the company, if they wished to erect a mill, should not purchase their land in the usual way. The company were no doubt spending large amount of money in the province but he thought the company were doing for too much in the bill.

Dr. Milne considered the object of the expropriation of lands for tramways were well taken.

The bill was read a second time.

Mr. Anderson moved the second time of the Victoria Electric Rail Light company's bill, which was to increase the usefulness of the company's system. It gave the company the right to carry freight and multiple passengers.

The bill was read a second time.

Mr. Kitchen moved the second time of the Chilliwack Drainage bill, asked the legislature to validate the law. If this was not done the company would have to repudiate the contract. The mover went fully into circumstances. The supreme court declared the by-law valid, but the court, against which there was an appeal, decided that the assessments could be collected under the by-law.

Hon. Mr. Beaven supported the reading of the bill, which was to remove a technical point.

Hon. Mr. Beaven and Hon. Mr. Vernon contended that it was necessary to attach the by-law to be validated bill.

The debate was adjourned until Friday.

The bill to make perfect the operation of the Brunette Saw Mill was read a second time.

The Kaslo-Slocan railway bill was read a second time.

Mr. Eberts moved the second time of the Hydraulic Mining company's bill. The object of the bill was to obtain for the company crown grants of the mining claims that they had obtained a lease of.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said there were clauses in the bill of a startling character. The aim of the bill was to obtain properties out of the hands of the government. He did not agree with the bill in the shape it was drawn.

Mr. Adams said a similar bill twenty years ago was found to be prejudicial to the mining interest. He thought it would be well to give the company certain lands, although not support the bill in its present form. The company should be considered nothing should be done to prejudice general mining interests.

Mr. Hunter hoped the company receive every consideration for house. The bill had been fully considered by the private bills committee and could be improved in committee. Nothing should be done in the way of the company, which was pending a large amount of money. One took any notice of the ground the company had spent a large amount of money.

Mr. Smith said the general laws should be amended to place companies on the same footing as a company whose bill was before government to be placed on. There were faults in the bill. If the company granted what they asked for, put a stop to prospecting in the district.

Hon. Col. Baker said there were provisions in the bill that would be carefully considered.

Dr. Watt said he had received letters opposing the bill as it was originally introduced, but it had been modified. He moved the adjournment of the debate, which was adopted.

The house adjourned at 11 o'clock.

what had been said by... should guide the mem... of the bill. It was... private bill, and should have... in as one. Then if any one... on to it they could appear... private bills committee. If... their grant in two months... such a hurry about it?... said it was certainly prin... and should not be passed... private bills committee had... and any one protesting... opportunity of appearing. He... it be referred to a select... report, the committee to... Messrs. Hunter, Eberts, An... and Brown.

Hon. Mr. Davis said the company could certainly transfer the land grant to another company, but if the grant had lapsed it was a different thing. Of course if the company had no rights there could be no harm in the bill. The bill was read a second time. Mr. Home moved the second reading of the Consolidated Electric Railway & Light company's bill. The bill proposed to amalgamate the Vancouver Electric Light and Railway company and the Vancouver and Westminster tramway company. Mr. Martin opposed the bill. Those men, he said, who had put their money in the Vancouver company were not properly protected by the bill. They did not appear before the private bills committee, because they were misled by the title. He moved that the bill be read this day six months. Mr. Brown said he felt decidedly suspicious of the bill and thought it would be well to lay it over until something more was heard about it. Mr. Semlin said if there was any possibility of an injustice being done the bill should go back to the private bills committee. Mr. Grant moved the adjournment of the debate, which was carried. Mr. Eberts moved the second reading of the bill to give the Hall Mines company the power to build a tramway from the Silver King mine to Kootenay lake and to erect a concentrating plant. The mine was the largest in Kootenay, and the company needed a tramway to transport their ore. This concentrator would be a lasting benefit to the province. The company did not ask for unusual privileges. The value of any land to be expropriated would be decided by arbitrators. Mr. Brown supported the bill, but he said that the minister of justice objected to the province giving companies power to take water from navigable rivers. It was necessary to give a company power to expropriate lands for a tramway, but it was not necessary for buildings. A man might as well be given power to expropriate land for a private residence or a business block. It would be very mischievous to give a company this power. Hon. Mr. Davis agreed with Mr. Brown. He could not see why the company, if they wished to erect a mill, could not purchase their land in the usual way. The company were no doubt spending a large amount of money in the province, but he thought the company were asking for too much in the bill. Mr. Milne considered the objections to the expropriation of lands for buildings were well taken. The bill was read a second time. Mr. Anderson moved the second reading of the Victoria Electric Railway & Light company's bill, which, he said, was to increase the usefulness of the company's system. It gave the company the right to carry freight and mail beside passengers. The bill was read a second time. Mr. Kitchen moved the second reading of the Chilliwack Drainage bill, which asked the legislature to validate a by-law. If this was not done the municipality would have to repudiate a contract. The mover went fully into the circumstances. The supreme court declared the by-law valid, but the county court, against which there was no appeal, decided that assessments could not be collected under the by-law. Hon. Mr. Davis supported the second reading of the bill, which was only to remove a technical point. Hon. Mr. Beaven and Hon. Mr. Vernon contended that it was necessary to attach the by-law to be validated to the bill. The debate was adjourned until Thursday. The bill to make perfect the incorporation of the Brunette Saw Mill company was read a second time. The Kaslo-Slocan railway company's bill was read a second time. Mr. Eberts moved the second reading of the Cariboo Hydraulic Mining company's bill. The object of the bill is to obtain for the company crown grants for the mining claims that they have obtained a lease of. Hon. Mr. Davis said there were many clauses in the bill of a startling character. The aim of the bill was to take certain properties out of the hands of the government. He did not agree with the bill in the shape it was drawn. Mr. Adams said a similar bill passed twenty years ago was found to be very prejudicial to the mining interests. But he thought it would be well to grant the company certain lands, although he could not support the bill in its present shape. The company should be considered, but nothing should be done to prejudice the general mining interests. Mr. Hunter hoped the company would receive every consideration from the house. The bill had been fully considered by the private bills committee. It could be improved in committee of the whole. Nothing should be thrown in the way of the company, which was expending a large amount of money. No one took any notice of the ground until the company had spent a large amount of money. Mr. Smith said the general mining laws should be amended to place all companies on the same footing—that the company whose bill was before the house wished to be placed on. There were many faults in the bill. If the company were granted what they asked for it would put a stop to prospecting in the district. Hon. Col. Baker said there were many provisions in the bill that would have to be carefully considered. Dr. Watt said he had received several letters opposing the bill as it was originally introduced, but it had since been modified. He moved the adjournment of the debate, which was adopted. The house adjourned at 11 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Turner moved the second reading of the bill to eradicate noxious weeds. One only needed to drive along the country roads to see the necessity of such a measure. Mr. Semlin had no doubt that the intention of the bill was a good one, but it would be impossible for the government and the people to eradicate noxious weeds. Mr. Kitchen and Mr. Booth pointed out that many of the things called noxious weeds in the bill were food for cattle. Mr. Speaker ruled the bill out of order on the ground that as it imposed a charge on the province it must originate from the government. The bill will be re-introduced. The house went into committee, Mr. Rogers in the chair, to consider the Hall mine bill. Mr. Brown moved an amendment to the preamble to cross out the provision giving the company power to expropriate land for building and smelting works. Hon. Mr. Pooley supported the amendment. A company should not be given power to expropriate lands for any speculation they might wish to go into. Mr. Eberts said he would be willing to cross out the clause giving the company power to expropriate lands for a smelter and other buildings, but it was absolutely necessary to allow the company to expropriate lands for concentrating works. The success of the town of Nelson depended on the success of the Silver King mine and the mines adjoining it owned by the company. In one breath the legislature said the company could bring their ore down to the Kootenay river and in the next breath it said they could not erect concentrating works there to work the ore. No one could be injured by the provisions of the bill. The only place the power works could be erected was on crown lands, so no private interests could be hurt by that. Hon. Col. Baker could not support the clause. The company could buy any lands they needed for buildings. Mr. Kellie said the land the company needed was unoccupied and would not be valuable until the works were built. It was not right that the owners of the land should be able to take the company by the throat and force them to pay any price for the land. Mr. Kitchen—By the way the members speak one would think there was only one small piece of land in the vicinity. Hon. Mr. Beaven said the proposition contained in the bill was a dangerous one. Private rights should be respected. If the company could not purchase one piece of land they could purchase another piece. Dr. Milne said the individual as well as the corporation should be protected. There was lots of land along the stream that the company could obtain by purchase. Mr. Croft said there was only a small area where it was necessary to build the concentrator. Dr. Watt considered that a man who obstructed such an enterprise should be compelled to give up his land by arbitration. Mr. Brown—The house should not say to a man, you must sell your land to the company or have it taken from you. Mr. Croft said it might be well to limit the company to five acres. Mr. Eberts—The company did not say that they could not buy land, but there was a bare possibility that they could not buy the land, would then have to wait a year before they could get power to expropriate. Dr. Watt said the value of the land had been given to it by the promoters of the scheme. Mr. Sward moved an amendment to strike out all the words in the original amendment with the exception of the words "smelting works." There was a long discussion as to how the amendments should be offered to the house, during which the Hon. Mr. Beaven offered some suggestions. Mr. Eberts said it looked very much like a dodge of the leader of the opposition to defeat the clause. Hon. Mr. Beaven—I might add that from the way the hon. member in charge of the bill is acting it looked as though he is being paid to pass it through the house. Mr. Eberts—That is an unqualified untruth, and he knows that it is untrue. He dares not say such a thing outside of the house. It is an unqualified lie. I do not like to speak to an old, gray-headed man like this. Hon. Mr. Beaven—That is very unseemly language and should not be allowed in the house. Perhaps I touched a tender spot. Mr. Eberts—There are certain members who think that when a professional gentleman takes charge of a bill he is paid for it. Mr. Crossdale is a friend of mine, and it took charge of it for him. There is not a cent in it for me. It would be against the orders of the house for me to accept anything, and if I did so I would not be allowed to retain my seat in the house. I apologize to the member for any unparliamentary language I may have used. Hon. Mr. Beaven—Well, then I will withdraw any thing unparliamentary I may have said. After a long discussion it was finally decided that the amendment to the preamble should be put first. It was put and carried, as was also the original amendment. That left the clause as it was, with the exception that the company should not be allowed to expropriate lands for smelting purposes. Hon. Mr. Vernon then pointed out that the house had done something that was out of order. It was not possible to amend the preamble. The house had never before been asked to give a company power to expropriate lands for building purposes. The committee rose and reported progress. Hon. Mr. Turner presented a return showing a statement of special warrants issued. Hon. Mr. Vernon presented papers respecting the Three Forks legislation. The house adjourned at 6 o'clock.

**PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.**  
Yesterday Was Another of the Very Quiet Days in the House.  
**THE G. W. TELEGRAPH BILL PASSED**  
Victoria Electric Light and Railway Company's Bill Before the Committee of the Whole House—All Afternoon Spent on it.  
March 7.  
The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Ven. Archdeacon Scriven.  
Mr. Smith presented reports from the mining committee recommending amendments to the placer mining and mineral acts. Received.  
Mr. Adams presented a report from the select committee on dairying, recommending that an expert dairyman be sent through the province.  
Mr. Home introduced a bill to repeal the wide tire act, 1893.  
Mr. Home moved and it was resolved: "That whereas the commercial importance of the harbor of the city of Vancouver is rapidly increasing, and there is commerce on the Pacific coast; and wherefore it will become one of the most important in the interest of shipping and commerce on the Pacific coast; and where as it is necessary in the interests of shipping and commerce that a certain natural shoal in the said harbor (known as Burnaby shoal) should be removed; therefore be it resolved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to urgently request the Dominion government to take immediate steps for the removal of said Burnaby shoal."  
Mr. Home dropped his long motion respecting Point Roberts.  
The house went into committee, Mr. McKenzie in the chair, to consider the Cariboo railway bill.  
Mr. Adams moved in amendment that the route of the road should be approved by the house, not by the executive committee.  
Dr. Watt thought the amendment might hinder the construction of the road, as the company might wish to commence work during the recess.  
Mr. Adams said the farmers should be considered. The railway might be built in such a way that the market for the farmers' products would be taken away.  
Mr. Booth argued that it would be better to allow the government to deal with the matter; the house might make a mistake.  
Hon. Mr. Beaven considered the amendment was a desirable one.  
Hon. Mr. Vernon said it would virtually kill the bill. No company would make surveys if there was a chance of the route being changed by the house.  
Mr. Brown could not agree with the chief commissioner.  
Hon. Mr. Beaven said the arguments of Mr. Vernon were insults to members. He as much as said that members of the house were not capable of dealing with the matter, which the members of the executive were.  
Mr. Rogers did not think there need be any fear of the company ignoring the agricultural portion of Cariboo.  
Mr. Adams said he did not wish to cast any reflections on the government. The company, it was said, wanted to connect with the C. P. R. at Kamloops, not at Ashcroft. If this change was made the road would enter Cariboo by the back door, as it were.  
Mr. Foster—if the company intend to build through the agricultural district, what objection could they have to the amendment? The amendment was in the right direction.  
Hon. Mr. Vernon said the selection of the route should be left to the engineer and the company.  
Mr. Stoddard considered the amendment a good one. The interests of the farmer should be respected as well as those of the miner. The company could not show that it would be cheaper to build the road by not going through the farming district.  
Mr. Kitchen said the fact was that the promoters of the road were the men who were asking for grants of land for hydraulic mines. If the road is to be assisted it should be built through the farming country. If it did not go through that country the farmers of Cariboo would be prevented from selling their supplies to the miners.  
Mr. Brown said he was more in favor of the amendment than ever. When bulldozing was resorted to he made up his mind that there was something wrong. It had been said the company would not build the road if the amendment was made. That was bulldozing.  
Dr. Watt moved to rise and report progress, to have time to confer with the promoters.  
This motion was defeated and the amendment was put and declared to be carried.  
Hon. Col. Baker disputed the ruling; the member for Cowichan did not vote.  
Hon. Mr. Beaven—if he did not vote he should be counted in the affirmative.  
Mr. Croft—I did vote.  
The bill was reported complete with amendments.  
The Great Western Telegraph company's bill was finally passed.  
The house went into committee, Mr. Sward in the chair, to consider the Victoria Electric Light and Railway company's bill.  
Hon. Mr. Beaven objected to the clause exempting the company from taxation for four years. It would require the sanction of the crown to do this. The proper time, however, to take a point of order on this would be when it was proposed to read the bill a third time.

Hon. Mr. Eberts said the company were working under peculiar circumstances. They had suffered materially by a disastrous fire, and being of great benefit to the city they should be encouraged and placed on the same footing as the mainland companies. What the company want is exemption from provincial, not municipal, taxation.  
Hon. Mr. Beaven had no doubt that the company had done a great deal of good, but it was not fair to other taxpayers to exempt the company.  
Mr. Eberts said the clause should be allowed to remain in the bill. Four years' exemption from provincial taxation would not entail any hardship. The committee rose and reported progress.  
Hon. Mr. Vernon presented additional papers respecting the Nakusp & Slocan railway.  
The house adjourned at 5.50.  
**PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.**  
Mr. Speaker Called on to Give His Casting Vote on Mr. Kellie's Bill.  
**HE VOTES AGAINST THE MEASURE**  
A Long Discussion on the Clause Allowing the Hall's Mine Company to Expropriate Land for Building Purposes—Dentistry Act Passed.  
March 8.  
The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Ven. Archdeacon Scriven.  
Hon. Mr. Turner introduced a bill for the regulation of the department of agriculture, and for defining the powers and duties of the minister and of the officers of the department.  
Mr. Kellie introduced the tramway, telephone and telegraph incorporation act. The object of the bill was to simplify the formation of tramway companies in West Kootenay. The interests of the crown and private individuals were guarded by the bill. A company formed under the act could not build a tramway until they had advertised their intention and had obtained permission from the Lieutenant-Governor in council.  
Mr. Eberts said he thought a similar bill had been ruled out of order last year.  
Mr. Kellie explained that two years ago a similar bill, giving greater powers, was defeated on a division. Last year he had withdrawn the bill.  
Mr. Speaker said there was nothing in the bill for which he thought it could be ruled out of order. The clauses in italics, of course, would have to be brought in by the government.  
Dr. Milne thought that if the principle of the bill was good for one district it was good for the whole province.  
Hon. Mr. Davis said that in his opinion such legislation was pernicious and should not be allowed. The present bill made it necessary for people who wanted the privileges asked for to apply to the house by means of a private bill.  
Mr. Kellie explained that a company could not act under the act without the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor in council.  
Hon. Mr. Davis—it is far safer to leave the matter in the hands of the house.  
Dr. Watt pointed out that no road could be built if a protest was lodged against it, unless such legislation was overruled by the chief commissioner. The bill, he thought, would be of great advantage to companies wishing to build short tramways from their mines. At present they had to go to the expense of a private bill when they wished to build a short line.  
Mr. Eberts said the whole object of the bill was to allow companies to expropriate land. Any company could build a tramway on their own property, and the mineral act allowed companies to build tramways in connection with their mines.  
Mr. Foster said he could see nothing objectionable in the bill.  
Hon. Mr. Beaven said if the bill was of a general character and had been constitutionally introduced he might take a different view of it. If the principle was good for Kootenay it would be good for the whole province. He could see no utility in voting for the bill, however, as it could not have any force unless introduced by the government.  
Dr. Watt thought the bill a desirable one.  
Mr. Hunter supported it and Mr. Booth opposed it.  
On a division 15 members voted for and 15 against the bill, as follows: Ayes—Messrs. Semlin, Grant, McKenzie, Sward, Kitchen, Kellie, Brown, Foster, Keith, Watt, Stoddard, Hunter, Hall, Adams and Fletcher—15.  
Nays—Milne, Beaven, Home, Smith, Cotton, Punch, Baker, Pooley, Davie, Eberts, Croft, Booth, Rogers and Anderson—15.  
Mr. Speaker said he would be pleased to vote for any measure introduced by the member for West Kootenay, but he could not vote for this bill, so it was defeated.  
Dr. Watt moved the second reading of the dentistry bill.  
Mr. Semlin asked if the bill was a public one.  
Mr. Speaker said that in his opinion such bills were private, but there were several rulings that such bills were public, which he did not care about overruling.  
The bill passed its second reading on a vote of 12 to 10.  
The bill to establish and maintain a library for the use of the legislative assembly and to constitute a bureau of statistics was read a first time.  
The dairying bill was read a second time, Hon. Mr. Turner explaining that it explained itself and carried its own recommendation. The bill had been passed from the Ontario act.

Hon. Mr. Turner moved the second reading of the bill to eradicate noxious weeds. One only needed to drive along the country roads to see the necessity of such a measure. Mr. Semlin had no doubt that the intention of the bill was a good one, but it would be impossible for the government and the people to eradicate noxious weeds. Mr. Kitchen and Mr. Booth pointed out that many of the things called noxious weeds in the bill were food for cattle. Mr. Speaker ruled the bill out of order on the ground that as it imposed a charge on the province it must originate from the government. The bill will be re-introduced. The house went into committee, Mr. Rogers in the chair, to consider the Hall mine bill. Mr. Brown moved an amendment to the preamble to cross out the provision giving the company power to expropriate land for building and smelting works. Hon. Mr. Pooley supported the amendment. A company should not be given power to expropriate lands for any speculation they might wish to go into. Mr. Eberts said he would be willing to cross out the clause giving the company power to expropriate lands for a smelter and other buildings, but it was absolutely necessary to allow the company to expropriate lands for concentrating works. The success of the town of Nelson depended on the success of the Silver King mine and the mines adjoining it owned by the company. In one breath the legislature said the company could bring their ore down to the Kootenay river and in the next breath it said they could not erect concentrating works there to work the ore. No one could be injured by the provisions of the bill. The only place the power works could be erected was on crown lands, so no private interests could be hurt by that. Hon. Col. Baker could not support the clause. The company could buy any lands they needed for buildings. Mr. Kellie said the land the company needed was unoccupied and would not be valuable until the works were built. It was not right that the owners of the land should be able to take the company by the throat and force them to pay any price for the land. Mr. Kitchen—By the way the members speak one would think there was only one small piece of land in the vicinity. Hon. Mr. Beaven said the proposition contained in the bill was a dangerous one. Private rights should be respected. If the company could not purchase one piece of land they could purchase another piece. Dr. Milne said the individual as well as the corporation should be protected. There was lots of land along the stream that the company could obtain by purchase. Mr. Croft said there was only a small area where it was necessary to build the concentrator. Dr. Watt considered that a man who obstructed such an enterprise should be compelled to give up his land by arbitration. Mr. Brown—The house should not say to a man, you must sell your land to the company or have it taken from you. Mr. Croft said it might be well to limit the company to five acres. Mr. Eberts—The company did not say that they could not buy land, but there was a bare possibility that they could not buy the land, would then have to wait a year before they could get power to expropriate. Dr. Watt said the value of the land had been given to it by the promoters of the scheme. Mr. Sward moved an amendment to strike out all the words in the original amendment with the exception of the words "smelting works." There was a long discussion as to how the amendments should be offered to the house, during which the Hon. Mr. Beaven offered some suggestions. Mr. Eberts said it looked very much like a dodge of the leader of the opposition to defeat the clause. Hon. Mr. Beaven—I might add that from the way the hon. member in charge of the bill is acting it looked as though he is being paid to pass it through the house. Mr. Eberts—That is an unqualified untruth, and he knows that it is untrue. He dares not say such a thing outside of the house. It is an unqualified lie. I do not like to speak to an old, gray-headed man like this. Hon. Mr. Beaven—That is very unseemly language and should not be allowed in the house. Perhaps I touched a tender spot. Mr. Eberts—There are certain members who think that when a professional gentleman takes charge of a bill he is paid for it. Mr. Crossdale is a friend of mine, and it took charge of it for him. There is not a cent in it for me. It would be against the orders of the house for me to accept anything, and if I did so I would not be allowed to retain my seat in the house. I apologize to the member for any unparliamentary language I may have used. Hon. Mr. Beaven—Well, then I will withdraw any thing unparliamentary I may have said. After a long discussion it was finally decided that the amendment to the preamble should be put first. It was put and carried, as was also the original amendment. That left the clause as it was, with the exception that the company should not be allowed to expropriate lands for smelting purposes. Hon. Mr. Vernon then pointed out that the house had done something that was out of order. It was not possible to amend the preamble. The house had never before been asked to give a company power to expropriate lands for building purposes. The committee rose and reported progress. Hon. Mr. Turner presented a return showing a statement of special warrants issued. Hon. Mr. Vernon presented papers respecting the Three Forks legislation. The house adjourned at 6 o'clock.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Private and Public Measures Advanced in the House Yesterday.

HORNE'S MOTION RE POINT ROBERTS

Victoria Electric Light and Railway Company's Bill Finally Passes in Committee of the Whole—Government Measures Have to be Passed Over, Not Being Ready.

March 9. The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. Archdeacon Scriven.

The committee appointed to consider the municipal act and amendment submitted a report enclosing further amendments.

Mr. Horne moved that whereas the boundary line between British Columbia and Alaska is likely to be defined at an early date; and whereas that piece of land situated south of the 49th parallel and north of the 50th parallel, and known as Point Roberts, containing about four square miles of territory, is so isolated from the United States of America that the only means of communication by land is through British Columbia; and whereas during the summer months a large number of Indians and others congregate on the said Point Roberts and cause great annoyance to settlers in the vicinity of the mouth of the Fraser river, in British Columbia; and whereas there is growing up at the said Point Roberts a salmon fishing and canning industry, which being in United States waters, is wholly uncontrolled by such strict regulations as those of British Columbia fisheries; and whereas the salmon caught by those fishermen are on their way to the Fraser river and are entrapped by means which are illegal in British Columbia, and which are a weekly close season; and whereas the trapping and fishing at Point Roberts seriously interferes with the fishing and canning industry on the Fraser river, it is of the utmost importance that it should be, either by consent or arrangement, brought under some international arrangements in harmony with those on the Fraser river; and whereas it is desirable for the protection of the fishing interests of the United States and the Dominion of Canada for preventing the catching and destruction of salmon at Point Roberts by methods which are illegal in the adjoining waters of British Columbia; and whereas it would be of great advantage to British Columbia and the fishing industry of the Fraser river if Point Roberts were part of Canada; therefore be it resolved that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be respectfully requested to call the attention of the Dominion government to the desirability of placing before the joint commissioners (appointed by the United States and Canada in the summer of 1882 to settle the boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia) the desirability of Canada acquiring the said Point Roberts, either by purchase or by giving a piece of land in British Columbia adjoining Alaska in exchange for the said Point Roberts; and that His Honor be respectfully requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Dominion government.

Mr. Horne gave a number of reasons why the motion should be passed, most of them being the same as set forth in the preamble of the resolution. He thought that Point Roberts might be purchased by the Dominion or exchanged for another piece of land.

Hon. Mr. Turner considered the resolution an important one. There was some evidence that the United States government might be approached on the question and asked to exchange Point Roberts for a small piece of land to the south of Alaska. Point Roberts was a great deal of trouble to the United States as it was the headquarters of smugglers and caused much trouble to the Fraser river canneries. The fact was that the canning industry of British Columbia was very critical at the present time. The industry here could not be carried on as cheaply as it could in other countries. Hundreds of cases of salmon had been sent to England which could not be sold, and word had been sent out from England to cause several canneries to be closed down. Everything possible should be done for the industry.

Mr. Semlin said he was in favor of obtaining Point Roberts for the Dominion, but the Dominion could not afford to give away any of their coast line on the Pacific for the Point. In fact, it would be well to obtain for the Dominion that portion of Alaska that forms the western boundary of the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. Beaven pointed out that a resolution to obtain Point Roberts was passed in 1888. The house should know what the Dominion government had done with that resolution. It went without saying that the province, not the Dominion, should acquire the land. The United States government was very liberal with its land, and might be inclined to sell it to the province. From the resolution it would be inferred that the Dominion should acquire the land.

Mr. Horne wished to amend his motion to provide that the province should acquire the land, but the government objecting he left it as it was and it was passed.

Hon. Mr. Davie introduced a bill to amend the companies act.

Hon. Col. Baker introduced bills to amend the placer mining and mineral acts.

The county courts bill was re-committed, as amendments formerly made in committee were not inserted as intended by the house. One of the amendments provided that the leave of a county court judge would have to be obtained before an appeal could be taken against his judgment.

Mr. Brown took objection to this. If a judge thought he was right he might not grant the appeal.

Mr. Kitchen thought it would be well to show cause for an appeal before a supreme court judge, but a litigant should not have to obtain leave from a county court judge to appeal.

Hon. Mr. Davie said the provision to obtain leave only applied to cases involving an amount under \$100. It must be held that the judges are honorable men and would allow an appeal if they thought there should be one.

Mr. Kitchen said what was wanted was an appeal on points of law, not on points of fact. He could not see why there should be any objection to appeal on points of law.

Dr. Milne did not think there should be an appeal in cases involving amounts under \$100.

Hon. Mr. Davie said the point was whether an appeal should be allowed on the appeal of the county court judge who tried the case or by application to a supreme court judge.

Hon. Mr. Pooley introduced an amendment allowing appeals on point of law in cases involving amounts under \$100. The amendment was adopted and the bill was reported complete.

Hon. Mr. Davie in the absence of Mr. Hall introduced a bill for the better protection of bottlers and manufacturers of beverages.

Hon. Col. Baker moved the second reading of the legislative library and statistical bill. The office proposed to be established under the bill would be of incalculable benefit to the province. An efficient officer had been appointed to take charge of the office.

The bill passed its second reading without discussion.

The house went into committee, Mr. Adams in the chair, to consider the British Columbia Railway act amendment bill. The bill was reported complete.

The house went into committee, Mr. Horne in the chair, to amend the school act.

Hon. Mr. Beaven pointed out that the bill was introduced to amend the school act of 1891, and it proposed to amend the act of 1893.

The question was referred to the speaker, who suggested that the order for the committee be discharged. This was done, and a new bill will be introduced.

The house went into committee on the dairying bill, which was reported complete.

The house again went into committee on the Victoria Electric Light and Railway company's bill. There was another batch of amendments moved and adopted. They had been approved of at a conference between the city solicitors and the solicitors for the company. They provide that the work done by the company on the streets shall be on the approval of the city engineer and that they shall leave the street in as good a condition as they found it. The company is empowered by one of the new clauses to eject drunken or other obnoxious characters from its cars. The cars must surrender the right of way to fire engines.

The amendments proposed by Dr. Milne, as follows, were also accepted: "Provided that nothing herein contained shall be deemed to authorize or empower the said company to lay any rails or construct or operate any of the works authorized by this act within the limits of Beacon Hill park or on Dallas road, in said corporation, and the rails used must be approved by the city engineer."

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

The Kaslo-Slocan railway bill was considered in committee and reported complete.

Mr. Eberts moved the second reading of a bill to authorize certain drainage and dyking works in the district of New Westminster. The company, to make their scheme successful, have to turn the waters of Yallar creek, which runs out of the Sumas prairie. The bill was opposed in the private bills committee by farmers owning about 2,000 acres, which might be or might not be affected by the scheme. The committee decided that the company should be allowed to carry on the work under certain provisions. The scheme would reclaim between twenty and thirty thousand acres of land.

Mr. Semlin—After the bill passed the committee another petition was presented by certain parties who wished to reclaim 2,000 acres of land themselves.

Mr. Kitchen said he was thoroughly in accord with the principle of the bill. In regard to the last petition, it was from men who owned land that could be reclaimed more cheaply than under the general scheme. The first petition was signed by many people from the States and the side of the river not affected by the scheme.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said he did not know whether the petitioners would be affected, but nevertheless their petition should be considered by the committee.

Mr. Swoed said the general act gave the company power to act within a certain jurisdiction. What they wanted in the bill was to go outside the jurisdiction. The petitioners had an appeal to the court of revision. He did not think any term could be done by the bill.

The bill was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Davie introduced a bill to amend the municipal act.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

The Premier Moves the Second Reading of Nakusp Bill.

DEBATE ADJOURNED EARLY IN DAY

Government Anxious to Bring the Session to a Close Before Easter—A Batch of Private Bills Disposed of Last Evening.

MARCH 12. Mr. Speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. P. McF. Macleod.

Dr. Milne introduced a bill to amend the elections regulation act.

Mr. Grant introduced a bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Swoed moved for a return showing the results of the revised census in each enumerator's division, with a statement showing in which of the new electoral districts, or ridings of districts, each enumerator's division was.—The motion was adopted.

Mr. Semlin moved and it was resolved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that an additional polling place in the electoral district of Yale be established at Boundary Creek.

Hon. Mr. Beaven asked the chief commissioner what is the cause of delay in commencing work upon the parliament buildings?

Hon. Mr. Vernon answered that the matter was in the hands of the contractor who was responsible for the delay. The cause was that the contractor could not use the stone that was being delivered.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented a message from the Lieut.-Governor enclosing a bill respecting the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the Nakusp & Slocan railway bill which was one of the enterprises included in the railway aid act of last year. Under section 2 of that act the government were empowered to guarantee interest upon an amount sufficient to exceed and equip the road, but not to exceed \$25,000 per mile, and section 6 limited the amount of the guarantee to interest on \$925,000, or the cost to the company of the said railway enterprise, whichever might be the smaller sum. The measure passed the house without division unanimously, as had also the Shuswap & Okanagan guarantee act at a previous session. Soon after the house rose the government took the enterprise up, and conceding the Nakusp & Slocan road to be the most urgent the government took steps to engage fully into its merits, and taking advantage of the assizes, at which he had public business to transact, he (Mr. Davie) had gone to the spot, and it did not take long to convince him of the vital importance to the country of immediate construction of the road to preserve the Kootenay trade, which otherwise would be diverted to the south, and lost to British Columbia. The projected road would give access to one of the greatest mining regions of the world, the trade of which, without the road, would be drained.

Mr. Davie read the number of extracts showing the amount of ore shipped out of the Kootenay country. The desirability of prompt construction being established and a commencement made at once—the question arose how to begin, what was the cost of the road and how he had valuable aid at hand to solve both questions. From a gentleman who happened to be travelling in Kootenay, connected with one of the strongest financial houses in London, he became convinced of the underliability of issuing interest guaranteed bonds. They were not looked upon as a desirable investment, and could only be sold at a heavy discount. Interest guaranteed bonds can, in fact, only be sold at just such a rate as would give the investor margin sufficient out of the interest and discount to form a sinking fund which would make good the principal by the time the loan expires. To have allowed the project to remain over for a year to obtain further legislation would have been as injurious, or more so, than to make the sacrifice in money, not only on account of the delay, but because the trade would in the meantime have been diverted, and as is well known when a market is once lost it is a difficult matter to recover it. Vast quantities of ore waiting shipment, and mines waiting a railroad to develop their wealth—the country would not have justified the government in waiting; the people are impatient for the development of this country, and the only way in which British Columbia will benefit by the trade of its development is by this road. To have ascertained by bills of quantities and engineers' measurements exactly what the road would cost, would have meant a year's delay, which the country would not have tolerated any more than they would have contented with another year's time to consult the legislature in the matter of floating bonds. He (Mr. Davie) went to Montreal, and Mr. Van Horne ascertained from his engineers on the spot what the probable cost of construction would be, what the C.P.R., with the facilities which they had at hand, could construct the road for, and that cost was placed at \$17,500 a mile. He, Mr. Davie, pressed upon Mr. Van Horne to build the line, but he did not care to undertake it. He agreed, however, that his engineers would superintend the construction, and that the company would lease the line, paying 40 per cent. of the gross receipts as a rental.

He, Mr. Davie, then arranged with the Nakusp and Slocan Railway Co., to build the road, and concluded an agreement between the Pacific company and the Nakusp and Slocan, which is now before the house, under which the C.P.R. superintend the construction and agree to operate the line for 25 years under a penalty of \$50 per day. The company had to put up the sum of \$118,400, being the amount of the Dominion subsidy in cash. To have built the road by interest guaranteed bonds, would have required all of the bonds—for under the act the company were to have "added" therefore the cost of construction at \$17,500 per mile for thirty-seven miles, the length of the road, amounted to \$647,000. Add to this the discount of bonds, which would have been part of the "cost of the enterprise," cost of the organization, engineering, right of way and one thing and another, would have footed up fully to the \$925,000, and no company could then have been procured, nor now, so far as he knew, to undertake the work, and put up the \$118,000—under the whole of the bonds and there was no time to hunt up others if the work was to be commenced at once. In fact the company had called for tenders for construction, payable in bonds, and the lowest bid was for all the bonds at \$25,000 per mile. With these facts before the government, it would be suicidal to build the road with only the interest on the bonds guaranteed. The cost of the road was \$647,000, but of that \$118,000 is paid as a subsidy by the Dominion government. The government made the stipulation that the amount received as 40 per cent. of the earnings should, after paying the interest, be allowed to accumulate as a sinking fund to wipe out the principal. The provision that the company should not be allowed to charge a higher rate than that charged on the main line in British Columbia, would be an advantage to the settlers in that district. It will be for the government to say whether the district should be given lower rates, or whether higher rates should be charged to relieve the exchequer. The road would not only cost the company the actual cost for construction, but they would pay the cost of negotiating the bonds. With this the road could not be built for less than \$25,000 a mile. There would be \$31,440 a year to pay as interest and sinking fund, and at the end of the time the province would have a road. By the system of interest guaranteeing bonds the government would have to pay \$32,000 a year for interest and at the end of the term they would have nothing to show for it. There was no doubt that the plan proposed to be adopted was a saving one. For the Victoria & Sidney railway the government were paying five per cent. on \$300,000, while they only received \$270,000. If they had borrowed the money right out they would have saved over \$4,000 a year which in time would have paid for the road. He read abstracts to show that there would be immense amounts of ore to be shipped over the Nakusp road after it was built. Estimating on 40 tons of ore daily, which is a very fair one, the road would earn \$64,800 for ore only; then there would be \$31,000 for merchandises; and stock, and \$34,000 for passengers and mail. Of this the government would receive \$48,000 yearly, as that 40 per cent. of the earnings, so that there would be no danger in guaranteeing \$31,000 a year. The government has an engineer under whose superintendence the work will be done. Then the C.P.R., who have to operate the road for 25 years, will have an engineer. The company will want a well constructed road to carry their trains. The C.P.R. in their agreement have provided that the road must be well constructed. The Nakusp company could not draw money from the bank without a certificate from the government and C.P.R. engineers. He was satisfied that the C.P.R., having to operate the road for 25 years, subject to a penalty of \$30 a day, would not take over a road that was not well built. Then the Dominion government had deposited \$118,000 which the company could not draw until the road had passed muster at Ottawa. Those who said old rails were to be used, did not know what they were talking about. The rails that were to be used on the Nakusp road had only been down on the C.P.R. for two years. They were not old or damaged, the life of a rail being about 30 years. It could not be classed as old material. The company were fully justified in using them and the government were justified in approving of the rails. He read a memorandum from the government engineer showing that the curves on the road were not sharp and the bed and trestles were well constructed. On the whole it would be seen the scheme was a bona fide one and the 40 per cent. of the earnings would be sufficient to pay the interest and leave a balance for a sinking fund to pay the principal. The plan of guaranteeing principal and interest was by no means a new one. The government could after seeing the road worked for two years, purchase a half interest in the road for the province. He quoted a number of cases where the plan proposed in other colonies. In fact, he said, the plan proposed by the government was a moderate one compared with the plans adopted abroad. The government had not jumped at the conclusion; they had thoroughly considered the matter during the recess. They had been pressed to adopt the same plan with two other roads, but they did not consider that they could do that until they had consulted the house. But in the case of the Nakusp road there was urgency. They would next year know whether their plan had been successful, which he was sure it would be. The government did not consider that they could assist the Nicola road until the country was fully explored. It would not do to do too much on the credit of the province or give everything to railways. In a few days a measure would be brought down to facilitate drainage and dyking in New Westminster district. He would say something about the Chilliwack railway later.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

The Premier Moves the Second Reading of Nakusp Bill.

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Mr. Davie read the number of extracts showing the amount of ore shipped out of the Kootenay country. The desirability of prompt construction being established and a commencement made at once—the question arose how to begin, what was the cost of the road and how he had valuable aid at hand to solve both questions. From a gentleman who happened to be travelling in Kootenay, connected with one of the strongest financial houses in London, he became convinced of the underliability of issuing interest guaranteed bonds. They were not looked upon as a desirable investment, and could only be sold at a heavy discount. Interest guaranteed bonds can, in fact, only be sold at just such a rate as would give the investor margin sufficient out of the interest and discount to form a sinking fund which would make good the principal by the time the loan expires. To have allowed the project to remain over for a year to obtain further legislation would have been as injurious, or more so, than to make the sacrifice in money, not only on account of the delay, but because the trade would in the meantime have been diverted, and as is well known when a market is once lost it is a difficult matter to recover it. Vast quantities of ore waiting shipment, and mines waiting a railroad to develop their wealth—the country would not have justified the government in waiting; the people are impatient for the development of this country, and the only way in which British Columbia will benefit by the trade of its development is by this road. To have ascertained by bills of quantities and engineers' measurements exactly what the road would cost, would have meant a year's delay, which the country would not have tolerated any more than they would have contented with another year's time to consult the legislature in the matter of floating bonds. He (Mr. Davie) went to Montreal, and Mr. Van Horne ascertained from his engineers on the spot what the probable cost of construction would be, what the C.P.R., with the facilities which they had at hand, could construct the road for, and that cost was placed at \$17,500 a mile. He, Mr. Davie, pressed upon Mr. Van Horne to build the line, but he did not care to undertake it. He agreed, however, that his engineers would superintend the construction, and that the company would lease the line, paying 40 per cent. of the gross receipts as a rental.

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Add to this the discount of bonds, which would have been part of the "cost of the enterprise," cost of the organization, engineering, right of way and one thing and another, would have footed up fully to the \$925,000, and no company could then have been procured, nor now, so far as he knew, to undertake the work, and put up the \$118,000—under the whole of the bonds and there was no time to hunt up others if the work was to be commenced at once. In fact the company had called for tenders for construction, payable in bonds, and the lowest bid was for all the bonds at \$25,000 per mile. With these facts before the government, it would be suicidal to build the road with only the interest on the bonds guaranteed. The cost of the road was \$647,000, but of that \$118,000 is paid as a subsidy by the Dominion government. The government made the stipulation that the amount received as 40 per cent. of the earnings should, after paying the interest, be allowed to accumulate as a sinking fund to wipe out the principal. The provision that the company should not be allowed to charge a higher rate than that charged on the main line in British Columbia, would be an advantage to the settlers in that district. It will be for the government to say whether the district should be given lower rates, or whether higher rates should be charged to relieve the exchequer. The road would not only cost the company the actual cost for construction, but they would pay the cost of negotiating the bonds. With this the road could not be built for less than \$25,000 a mile. There would be \$31,440 a year to pay as interest and sinking fund, and at the end of the time the province would have a road. By the system of interest guaranteeing bonds the government would have to pay \$32,000 a year for interest and at the end of the term they would have nothing to show for it. There was no doubt that the plan proposed to be adopted was a saving one. For the Victoria & Sidney railway the government were paying five per cent. on \$300,000, while they only received \$270,000. If they had borrowed the money right out they would have saved over \$4,000 a year which in time would have paid for the road. He read abstracts to show that there would be immense amounts of ore to be shipped over the Nakusp road after it was built. Estimating on 40 tons of ore daily, which is a very fair one, the road would earn \$64,800 for ore only; then there would be \$31,000 for merchandises; and stock, and \$34,000 for passengers and mail. Of this the government would receive \$48,000 yearly, as that 40 per cent. of the earnings, so that there would be no danger in guaranteeing \$31,000 a year. The government has an engineer under whose superintendence the work will be done. Then the C.P.R., who have to operate the road for 25 years, will have an engineer. The company will want a well constructed road to carry their trains. The C.P.R. in their agreement have provided that the road must be well constructed. The Nakusp company could not draw money from the bank without a certificate from the government and C.P.R. engineers. He was satisfied that the C.P.R., having to operate the road for 25 years, subject to a penalty of \$30 a day, would not take over a road that was not well built. Then the Dominion government had deposited \$118,000 which the company could not draw until the road had passed muster at Ottawa. Those who said old rails were to be used, did not know what they were talking about. The rails that were to be used on the Nakusp road had only been down on the C.P.R. for two years. They were not old or damaged, the life of a rail being about 30 years. It could not be classed as old material. The company were fully justified in using them and the government were justified in approving of the rails. He read a memorandum from the government engineer showing that the curves on the road were not sharp and the bed and trestles were well constructed. On the whole it would be seen the scheme was a bona fide one and the 40 per cent. of the earnings would be sufficient to pay the interest and leave a balance for a sinking fund to pay the principal. The plan of guaranteeing principal and interest was by no means a new one. The government could after seeing the road worked for two years, purchase a half interest in the road for the province. He quoted a number of cases where the plan proposed in other colonies. In fact, he said, the plan proposed by the government was a moderate one compared with the plans adopted abroad. The government had not jumped at the conclusion; they had thoroughly considered the matter during the recess. They had been pressed to adopt the same plan with two other roads, but they did not consider that they could do that until they had consulted the house. But in the case of the Nakusp road there was urgency. They would next year know whether their plan had been successful, which he was sure it would be. The government did not consider that they could assist the Nicola road until the country was fully explored. It would not do to do too much on the credit of the province or give everything to railways. In a few days a measure would be brought down to facilitate drainage and dyking in New Westminster district. He would say something about the Chilliwack railway later.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

The Premier Moves the Second Reading of Nakusp Bill.

DEBATE ADJOURNED EARLY IN DAY

Government Anxious to Bring the Session to a Close Before Easter—A Batch of Private Bills Disposed of Last Evening.

MARCH 12. Mr. Speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. P. McF. Macleod.

Dr. Milne introduced a bill to amend the elections regulation act.

Mr. Grant introduced a bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Swoed moved for a return showing the results of the revised census in each enumerator's division, with a statement showing in which of the new electoral districts, or ridings of districts, each enumerator's division was.—The motion was adopted.

Mr. Semlin moved and it was resolved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that an additional polling place in the electoral district of Yale be established at Boundary Creek.

Hon. Mr. Beaven asked the chief commissioner what is the cause of delay in commencing work upon the parliament buildings?

Hon. Mr. Vernon answered that the matter was in the hands of the contractor who was responsible for the delay. The cause was that the contractor could not use the stone that was being delivered.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented a message from the Lieut.-Governor enclosing a bill respecting the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway.

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They had been pressed to adopt the same plan with two other roads, but they did not consider that they could do that until they had consulted the house. But in the case of the Nakusp road there was urgency. They would next year know whether their plan had been successful, which he was sure it would be. The government did not consider that they could assist the Nicola road until the country was fully explored. It would not do to do too much on the credit of the province or give everything to railways. In a few days a measure would be brought down to facilitate drainage and



line for 25 years under a \$50 per day. The company...  
of the Dominion subsidy in...  
built the road by interest...  
would have required...  
under the act...  
to have "laid" therefore...  
construction at \$17,500 per...  
seven miles, length of...  
ounted to \$647,000. Add to...  
out of bonds, which would...  
art of the cost of the en...  
of the organization, engin...  
of way and one thing and...  
and had footed up fully to...  
no company could then...  
ocurred, nor now, so far as...  
undertake the work, and...  
118,000—under the whole of...  
there was no time to hunt...  
the work was to be com...  
ence. In fact the company...  
tenders for construction...  
bonds, and the lowest bid was...  
bonds at \$25,000 per mile...  
to be the government...  
snickel to build the road...  
interest on the bonds guar...  
cost of the road was \$647...  
at \$118,000 is paid as a sub...  
Dominion government. The...  
made the stipulation that...  
be paid as 40 per cent, of...  
the bond, after paying the in...  
terest on the principal. The...  
the company should not be...  
charge a higher rate than...  
on the main line in...  
which would be an advanta...  
in that district. It will be...  
rain to say whether the...  
ld be given lower rates, or...  
er rates should be charged...  
the exchequer. The road...  
the company the ac...  
of negotiating the bonds...  
road could not be built for...  
5,000 a mile. There would...  
year to pay as interest and...  
at the end of the time...  
would have a road. By the...  
interest guaranteeing bonds...  
nt would have to pay \$2...  
ercent and at the end of...  
y would have nothing to...  
There was no doubt that...  
posed to be adopted was a...  
For the Victoria & Sidney...  
government were paying five...  
\$300,000, while they only re...  
out. If they had borrowed...  
out they would have saved...  
a year which in time would...  
for the road. He read ab...  
at that time the govern...  
of ore to be shipped over...  
road after it was banded...  
in 40 tons of ore daily, wh...  
in one, the ore would earn...  
re only; then there would be...  
merchandise and stock, and...  
passengers and mail. Of...  
erment would receive \$48...  
that 40 per cent, of the...  
that there would be no...  
guaranteeing \$31,000 a year...  
under...  
the work will be...  
the C.P.R. who have to...  
road for 25 years, will have...  
The company will want a...  
C.P.R. in their agreement...  
that the road must be well...  
The Nakusp company could...  
money from the bank without...  
from the government and...  
neers. He was satisfied that...  
having to operate the road...  
subject to a penalty of \$50...  
did not take over a road that...  
built. The Dominion had...  
deposited \$118,000 which...  
y could not draw until the...  
assessed muster at Ottawa...  
Hon. Mr. Turner will have...  
a change in the land grant. It...  
to be the subject of another bill...  
Mr. Hunter said it was understood...  
that there would be a change in...  
grant. But even if it was not...  
way would be in the same position...  
as other railways which received land grants...  
from the government...  
The report was adopted...  
Mr. Punch continued the debate on the...  
Chilliwack drainage bill. The by-law...  
had been attached, and the bill was...  
in order. He hoped that it would pass...  
The bill was read a second time...  
Hon. Mr. Beaven rose to a question...  
of privilege, as to whether the preamble...  
of a private bill should be passed before...  
the rest of the bill. The practice that...  
had been followed in this house was not...  
the same as in the English house of...  
commons, as there a private bill was not...  
considered in committee unless the rights...  
of the crown were affected. He explained...  
at some length the system in England...  
There the bill was considered by a select...  
committee, which took up the preamble...  
first and then the clauses. The course...  
of procedure in this house was in...  
accordance with the procedure of the...  
Doubtless house of commons. It was...  
necessary to discuss the preamble first...  
as that was the basis of the bill...  
Mr. Speaker said the discussion was...  
a very unnecessary one. He saw no reason...  
to change his ruling. If the house...  
wished to change the ruling they could...  
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read, but not considered first. It is not...  
worth changing this session, but the next...  
speaker can make it up...  
The house went into committee, Mr...  
Hunter in the chair, to consider the Brun...  
ette Saw Mill company's bill. The bill...  
was reported complete...  
The house rose at 6 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said that much of...  
the information that the attorney-general...  
had given the house was not contained in...  
the papers that had been presented to the...  
house. The government must have a...  
great deal of information that they had...  
not given to the house. He was amused...  
at the way in which the attorney-general...  
had placed the responsibility for the rail...  
way aid act on the shoulders of the legis...  
lature. He had also tried to place some...  
responsibility on the city of Victoria for...  
the Victoria & Sidney scheme. Every...  
body knew that the railway aid bill was...  
submitted to the house by the govern...  
ment. The attorney-general tried to...  
make it appear that the measure had...  
been forced on the government by the...  
house. He did not know what the govern...  
ment members made the government do...  
do, but he was sure the legislature had...  
not forced the measure on the govern...  
ment. Any one who had listened to the...  
attorney-general must have come to the...  
promoters of the scheme than it was...  
for the province. Then the attorney...  
general said because, he (Mr. Beaven)...  
was the mayor of the city, he was respon...  
sible for the Victoria & Sidney scheme...  
The ratemakers authorized the passage of...  
the by-law to guarantee the interest on...  
the bonds of that company. He would...  
not give the attorney-general the satisfac...  
tion of knowing whether he considered...  
that scheme wise or unwise. If the...  
house was going to pledge the credit of...  
the province to such an extent the provin...  
ce had better build the road. If the provin...  
ce has to advance the money to build...  
the road the province had better own it...  
All that the attorney-general had said...  
should further convince the house that...  
such was the case. Railways built in...  
the way proposed were not advantageous...  
to the province. In view of the fact that...  
the attorney-general had given the house...  
a lot of information not contained in...  
the papers, the debate should be adjourned...  
to allow the members to consider that in...  
formation. The figures quoted by the at...  
torney-general should be explained. The...  
figures should have been in the papers...  
laid before the house and not given mer...  
ely in a speech. The attorney-general...  
said the government could in two years...  
obtain a half interest in the road. This...  
was not the case; the government could...  
only obtain 40 per cent. of the stock. He...  
could not say that 40 was half of a hund...  
red. The attorney-general tried to...  
make it appear that in case the govern...  
ment took an interest they would have a...  
controlling interest. The fact was that...  
the company would have the controlling...  
interest. The government were putting...  
all the money into the scheme, therefore...  
what could the company have to sell...  
The province would build the railway...  
give it to the company and then buy a...  
minority of the stock back from them...  
He moved the adjournment of the debate...  
which motion was adopted...  
Hon. Mr. Turner moved the second...  
reading of the bill to regulate the de...  
partment of agriculture, which he ex...  
plained in a few words. Read a second...  
time...  
Hon. Col. Baker moved the second...  
reading of the bill to amend the plac...  
ement act. The amendments were sug...  
gested by the mining committee, and he...  
as minister of mines presented it to the...  
house. Read a second time...  
The second reading of the mineral act...  
was also moved by Hon. Col. Baker...  
who explained it in the same way as he...  
explained the placemint act. The...  
second reading was passed...  
On consideration of the report on the...  
Kush-Slocan railway bill, Hon. Mr. Be...  
aven asked whether the company would...  
receive the same land grant for a nar...  
row gauge road as it had been proposed...  
to give for a broad gauge road...  
Hon. Mr. Davie will have to...  
be a change in the land grant. It will...  
have to be the subject of another bill...  
Mr. Hunter said it was understood...  
that there would be a change in...  
grant. But even if it was not the rail...  
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worth changing this session, but the next...  
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The house went into committee, Mr...  
Hunter in the chair, to consider the Brun...  
ette Saw Mill company's bill. The bill...  
was reported complete...  
The house rose at 6 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.  
Mr. Horse moved the second reading...  
of the bill to validate certain public...  
works in the township of Richmond. The...  
object of the bill was to validate a by...  
law and a contract for certain public...  
works done by McLean Brothers...  
Hon. Mr. Beaven rose to a point of...  
order. The bill proposed to validate a...  
contract and a by-law, which were not...  
attached to the bill...  
Mr. Speaker—The point of order is well...  
taken...  
The by-law and contract were distrib...  
uted, having been printed...  
Mr. Sword said the bill did not recite...  
the case as it actually was. It would...  
have been well if the private bills com...  
mittee had submitted to the house an...  
abstract of the evidence given before the...  
committee. There would be no injustice...  
done if the bill was read this day six...  
months, the corporation having paid Mc...  
Lean Brothers what they were willing to...  
receive. He moved that the bill be read...  
this day six months...  
Mr. Grant supported the second read...  
ing of the bill...  
Mr. Beaven said it seemed that the...  
corporation of Richmond had acted very...  
liberally with McLean Brothers. The...  
corporation had agreed to pay them what...  
it owed them, although the court had...  
said that it did not need to pay. It...  
would be very high-handed for the legis...  
lature to set aside a judgment of the...  
supreme court and make the corporation...  
pay McLean Brothers more than they...  
contracted to do the work for. He would...  
be very loath to set aside a judgment...  
of the supreme court...  
Mr. Booth said the judgment had been...  
decided on a mere technicality. After...  
the case had been thrown out the cor...  
poration would pay the amount for the...  
work, but would not pay the costs of...  
court, which were more than the amount...  
involved...  
Mr. Martin said the bill had been th...  
oroughly considered by the private bills...  
committee and passed by the committee...  
McLean Brothers had been non-suited on...  
a point of law, the judge remarking that...  
it was with reluctance that he gave the...  
judgment that he did...  
Mr. Kitchen reviewed the case from...  
the time the money was raised by by-law...  
and the contract was let. The corpora...  
tion agreed to confess judgment for \$4...  
970 and the McLean Brothers agreed...  
to accept this. But they did not do this...  
They sued the corporation for \$4,970...  
and interest and damages. They lost...  
the case and the corporation passed a...  
by-law and paid the amount of the con...  
tract. He was in favor of validating...  
the contract, but he did not believe in...  
making the legislature a court for the...  
collection of small debts. McLean Bro...  
thers were not entitled to \$716 costs, as...  
they had not incurred these costs if...  
they had accepted confessed judg...  
ment...  
Hon. Col. Baker said Mr. Kitchen ac...  
knowledged that the McLean Brothers...  
were entitled to the amount and ex...  
posed the corporation by saying that it...  
did not have the money to pay it. It...  
would be disgrace to the province and...  
municipality if the contractors were...  
not fairly dealt with...  
Mr. Brown supported the six months'...  
halt. The last speaker had deliberately...  
misrepresented Mr. Kitchen...  
Hon. Mr. Davie said the corporation...  
had induced McLean Bros. to bring a...  
suit and then by a technicality defeated...  
the action that they requested should...  
be brought. The corporation had evidently...  
been ill advised. They could have paid...  
the money into court or allowed the judg...  
ment for the amount they admitted to...  
go by default. He did not by any vote...  
of his men to allow any municipality to...  
treat individuals unfairly...  
Mr. Sword said the debate should be...  
adjourned to allow the petitions against...  
the bill to be printed...  
A motion to adjourn the debate was...  
defeated...  
Mr. Semlin opposed the bill. The coun...  
cil had paid the McLean Brothers the...  
amount of their contract, but they de...  
clined to pay damages. Did it look like...  
a dishonest transaction when the coun...  
cil had paid the amount although the...  
court had decided against the contractors?...  
As long as the council was acting fairly...  
the house should not interfere. The...  
house was not a debt collecting agency...  
and it would be adopting a very bad...  
precedent to pass the bill. Every contractor...  
who had a grievance against a municipa...  
lity would appeal to the legislature...  
The court was the place to settle such...  
disputes. He was willing to support...  
the bill as it validated the by-law and...  
contract, but the house should not say...  
that the municipality owes the contractors...  
a certain amount of money. The house...  
should be very careful in interfering...  
with the powers of municipalities...  
Mr. Brown wished to speak again, but...  
the speaker ruled that Mr. Brown had...  
spoken to the principle of the bill...  
Mr. Brown—I beg your pardon. I...  
spoke to the adjournment of the de...  
bate...  
Mr. Speaker—You discussed the prin...  
ciple of the bill...  
Mr. Brown—I beg your pardon. I...  
did not...  
Mr. Speaker—You have already spok...  
en. Shall the bill be read this day six...  
months?...  
The question that the bill be read this...  
day six months was defeated...  
Mr. Foster said before he heard the...  
evidence given before the private bills...  
committee he had intended to vote for...  
the bill, but after hearing it he could...  
not do so. The argument of the premier...  
was very unfair to both the council and...  
the member for Westminster, Mr. Kit...  
cher. The council had tried to pass the...  
by-law to pay McLean Brothers as soon...  
as possible. The council took steps to...  
pay the money nearly a year before Mc...  
Lean Brothers gave notice of their in...  
tention to ask for the passage of a pri...  
vate bill. The bill was making the house...  
a court to decide on a debt, and they...  
did not have all the evidence before them...  
The reason why the petition was signed...  
by Victorians was because the deputa...  
tion from Richmond found when they arrived

here that they could not be heard before...  
the private bills committee without a...  
petition. The private bills committee...  
were not justified in coming to the con...  
clusion they did on the evidence received...  
The bill passed its second reading on...  
a vote of 19 to 8...  
Mr. Brown rose to a question of priv...  
ilege. He wished to know if a member...  
spoke to a motion to adjourn the debate...  
could he not afterwards speak to the...  
principle of the bill. He would like to...  
have a clear understanding on this ques...  
tion...  
Mr. Speaker—If a member speaks to...  
the adjournment of the debate he can...  
afterwards speak to the principle of the...  
bill, but if he speaks to the principle...  
of the bill under the guise of speaking...  
to the adjournment, he cannot afterwards...  
speak to the principle of the bill...  
The house went into committee, Mr...  
Foster in the chair, to consider the den...  
tistry bill. The bill was reported com...  
plete without amendment...  
Dr. Wait moved the second reading of...  
the pharmacy bill. The measure, he said...  
was for the protection of the public by...  
preventing the careless handling of po...  
isons by unqualified persons...  
Hon. Mr. Beaven said the bill was only...  
a measure providing that a man who was...  
qualified in other countries would have...  
to pass an examination before being al...  
lowed to practice in the province. It...  
was not fair. The bill was not for the...  
public benefit...  
Mr. Semlin opposed the bill, as he had...  
opposed all its predecessors. The bill...  
was not for the protection of the public...  
it was for the benefit of a class, the...  
druggists. The bill also provided that...  
druggists should not do jury duty. Why...  
should druggists be exempt from jury...  
duty any more than any one else? Poor...  
er men than druggists had to serve on...  
juries. There was no reason why drug...  
gists should not be allowed to take in...  
a partner who was not a druggist...  
The bill was passed on a division of 9...  
to 7...  
PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.  
Opposition Ask for More Information re...  
the Nakusp Railway.  
PREMIER GIVES EVASIVE ANSWERS  
Government Refuse to Delay the Debate...  
Until All the Information is Before...  
the House—Hon. Mr. Beaven Speaks...  
on the Question Until Time for...  
Adjournment...  
MARCH 13.  
The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock...  
Prayers by Rev. P. McF. Macleod...  
Dr. Watt moved: That in accordance...  
with the practice in this and other prov...  
inces, and in the Dominion, but for the...  
more efficient carrying out thereof, it...  
be an order of this house that as soon as...  
the public accounts or other departmental...  
reports are printed and ready for distri...  
bution, the Queen's Printer be and is...  
hereby directed to send a copy to each of...  
the members of this house and to the vari...  
ous newspapers and public libraries in...  
the province...  
Hon. Mr. Beaven said the motion hav...  
ing been passed over yesterday two days...  
notice was necessary...  
Mr. Speaker sustained the objection...  
Mr. Sword said the premier had prom...  
ised to give all information respecting...  
the Nakusp & Slocan railway and on...  
the second reading he said the house had...  
all the necessary information. There were...  
however, a number of points upon which...  
he would like to be informed. He asked...  
the premier the following questions: Who...  
are the shareholders of the Nakusp &...  
Slocan railway? What were the terms...  
of the contract? What tenders were re...  
ceived and the amounts? Who acted as...  
engineer for the C. P. R.? What amount...  
is paid up of N. & S. capital? Corres...  
pondence as to the price at which the...  
bonding could be sold? Duchesney's estimate...  
of the cost of the work? Copy of the...  
contract? Any further particulars as to...  
cost of work?...  
Hon. Mr. Beaven asked the premier for...  
the orders-in-council approving of the...  
agreement between the Nakusp & Slocan...  
railway and the order approving of the...  
form of bond...  
Mr. Sword asked if the government...  
had an alignment of the road that was...  
to be followed...  
Hon. Mr. Davie said he thought he...  
could answer most of the questions im...  
mediately. He did not know who the...  
shareholders were, nor had he taken the...  
trouble to enquire. He did not know who...  
the contractors were, neither had he...  
the individual members or directors of...  
the company were. He could not say what...  
the names of the tender were, nor the...  
number of tenders received or the amount...  
of them, but he had been told that the...  
lowest tender was for the amount of...  
\$25,000 which they were limited, viz.,...  
\$25,000 at 4 per cent., per mile. He did...  
not know who acted as engineer for the...  
C. P. R., but thought he could ascertain...  
the name of the engineer as to the amount...  
of the capital stock of the company. He...  
had not inquired as to the amount...  
of the unpaid stock of the company. He...  
was not aware of any correspondence fur...  
ther than that before the house respect...  
ing the price at which the bonds were...  
sold. All the information respecting Du...  
chesney's estimate of the cost of the...  
work, he thought, was before the house...  
The government did not have a copy of...  
the contract, but could obtain a copy...  
if any further information respecting...  
the scheme he would refer the members...  
to the speech he delivered on Monday...  
If there were any orders in council ap...  
proving of the C. P. R. agreement and...  
the bonds he would lay them before the...  
house. He thought the house had all...  
the information in the hands of the gov...  
ernment...  
The discussion was proceeding when...  
the speaker declared it to be irregular...

Mr. Brown asked the chief commis...  
sioner: Is it the intention of the govern...  
ment to appoint one or more official...  
scalers of timber? If so, when?...  
Hon. Mr. Vernon answered that a bill...  
would be introduced shortly for the pur...  
pose. He could not say when the ap...  
pointments would be made...  
Hon. Mr. Davie said the government...  
had a number of amendments to prop...  
ose to the redistribution bill, so they...  
would not be ready to consider the re...  
port before Friday...  
The house went into committee, Mr...  
Adams in the chair, to consider the leg...  
islative library bill. An amendment was...  
adopted preventing the government from...  
appointing assistants to the librarian...  
without the consent of the legislature...  
Hon. Mr. Beaven objected to the clause...  
providing that municipalities, school...  
boards and public institutions should be...  
forced to give any information asked for...  
by the collector of statistics. He in...  
stanced a case where the city of Victoria...  
had to engage a special clerk to obtain...  
information asked for by the provincial...  
secretary. It was all right for insti...  
tutions which received government aid to...  
be forced to give the information...  
Hon. Mr. Davie said the information...  
was for the public good; it was not only...  
for the use of the government...  
Mr. Beaven said the municipal and...  
school board officers would be willing to...  
give the government any reasonable in...  
formation, but he for one objected to...  
the officers being forced to give the in...  
formation...  
Hon. Mr. Davie said the clause must be...  
good, as it was in the Ontario act...  
Mr. Keith—The government should...  
make the Ontario statutes and put them...  
all in force in British Columbia. Then...  
it would be unnecessary to frame any...  
laws. The councils and school boards...  
would give reasonable information with...  
out being forced to do so in fear of a...  
fine of \$50...  
Mr. Brown—The government of Brit...  
ish Columbia copied Ontario where they...  
should not and ignored Ontario where...  
they should copy it. The clause before...  
the house went a great deal further than...  
the Ontario act...  
Hon. Mr. Beaven—I suppose the att...  
orney-general will apologize now...  
Hon. Mr. Davie contended that there...  
was no difference between the clause be...  
fore the house and the one in the Ontario...  
act...  
Mr. Hunter hoped that the leader of...  
the opposition and Mr. Brown would...  
stop hectoring at one another and al...  
low the house to proceed with business...  
They repeated again and again their ar...  
guments...  
Mr. Brown—If the government contin...  
ues to repeat their misrepresentations...  
we will have to repeat our arguments...  
We will not allow reasonable propositions...  
to be buried by a lot of stink pots, smoke...  
and rubbish...  
Hon. Mr. Turner was afraid that the...  
member for New Westminster would be...  
known as "Stink Pot" Brown instead...  
of "Winchester" Brown if he continued...  
to use the word stink pot. (Loud laugh...  
by the premier...)  
Hon. Mr. Beaven—Small things annoy...  
small minds. There had been some nice...  
language used in the legislature during...  
the present session. He was surprised...  
to hear the minister of finance use such...  
language unless it was to make the at...  
torney-general laugh. Of course nothing...  
better could be expected from the at...  
torney-general. "Stink pot" was a nice...  
name for the finance minister to apply...  
to fellow-member of the legislature...  
Hon. Mr. Turner—What I said was...  
that if I was asked the hon. member for...  
New Westminster would be called that if...  
he continued to use the words...  
Mr. Brown—I might be called anything...  
if I went to Montreal to lie about my...  
political opponents...  
Hon. Mr. Beaven's amendment was...  
negotiated...  
Mr. Kitchen suggested that a clause...  
might be inserted in the bill providing...  
that the members of the government...  
should be fined when they gave the house...  
misleading or untruthful answers to...  
questions or refused to answer them at...  
all. There had been too much of that...  
sort of thing this session...  
The bill was reported complete...  
The clerk called up the adjourned de...  
bate on the Nakusp & Slocan railway...  
bill and the government wished to go on...  
with it...  
Hon. Mr. Beaven said the house should...  
have all the information on the question...  
before proceeding with the debate. The...  
order in council, on which the whole...  
scheme hinged, had not been brought...  
down. He would like to have all the...  
papers before continuing the debate...  
Hon. Mr. Davie could not conceive...  
what information the hon. leader of the...  
opposition expected to get from a simple...  
order in council approving of something...  
He was not sure that such an order in...  
council had been drawn up. He would...  
like to hear what the opposition had to...  
say. They had heard what he had...  
said...  
Voices—You have said nothing which...  
gives information...  
Hon. Mr. Beaven—The basis of the...  
whole scheme should be an order in...  
council, which he for one would like to...  
see. The house would do wrong in al...  
lowing the government to withdraw such...  
an important document. The house had...  
waited two months for the papers. If...  
there was no such order in council the...  
whole thing was illegal...  
Hon. Mr. Davie said there was an or...  
der in the papers before the house ap...  
proving of the agreement between the...  
chief commissioner and the company...  
which was based on the agreement be...  
tween the C. P. R. and the Nakusp...  
company...  
Mr. Cotton—We consider that the at...  
torney-general has not given us infor...  
mation which we require before we can...  
discuss the question. We have asked for...  
the information and cannot get it before...  
to-morrow. If the government say they...  
will not give us the information we and...  
the country will know what to think...  
Hon. Mr. Davie said he had answered...  
as far as possible, the questions asked...  
by Mr. Brown. The opposition could gain...  
information regarding the company just...  
as easily as could the government...

Mr. Kitchen—The documents brought down show that there is other information or there should be other information.

Hon. Mr. Davie—There might be another informal order in council, but there is nothing else.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said the plans and profiles of the line of railway were in the hands and works department, which could be seen by the members. The government had tried to give all the information they have.

Mr. Kitchen—Why did you not let us see the plans and profiles before?

Mr. Sword—I asked for those plans and profiles at the beginning of the session. One minute the premier said all the papers were before the house and the next minute the chief commissioner said he had the plans and profiles. They should have been placed where the members could see them.

Mr. Souin—The dilatory actions of the government were enough to make the members suspicious. It was necessary that the house should have all the information asked for.

Hon. Col. Baker said the members had not asked for the profiles. The profile could not be called a paper.

Mr. Cotton—I would like to have a distinct answer from the government.

Dr. Milne said there were many rumors about the road, and the government should place everything before the house.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—Mr. Sword asked for the plans to-day, and the premier said he had nothing. The plans were under the chief commissioner's desk the whole time.

The government refusing to lay the matter over until all the papers were down, Hon. Mr. Beaven continued the debate on the second reading of the bill. He said to understand the question it was necessary to go back to the railway aid act, where should be found the conditions under which the bonds were guaranteed. The attorney-general laid great stress on the statement that the railway aid act had been passed unanimously. That was not so. Because a division was not taken, that did not mean that the bill had been passed unanimously. Of course as the statement came from the attorney-general it might not have any weight. The policy of the government in guaranteeing the bonds of certain railways had been criticized adversely. The attorney-general made a further statement respecting the Victoria & Sidney railway, and had motion to his soul in the fact that the outgoers of Victoria had passed a by-law guaranteeing part of the interest on the bonds of that railway. The attorney-general said because he (Mr. Beaven) was mayor of the city at the time the by-law was passed he was responsible for the by-law. He might just as well say that he was responsible for everything that the attorney-general did in the legislature. Because he was mayor he did not mean that he voted for the by-law. The legislature, in the railway aid act, authorized the government to do something. The government exceeded that authority in every way possible. It was not an idle thought that made the legislature think in the statute a clause providing that the lieutenant-governor in council should pass an order in council before the bonds of the Nakusp & Slokan railway company were guaranteed. The premier had said that there was no such order in council. He read the clause in the railway aid act, which expressly states that there must be an order in council approving of an agreement between the C. P. R. or some other company and the Nakusp & Slokan railway company before the bonds were guaranteed. The fact that there was no such order in council went to show how carelessly the provisions of the bill were being carried out. The whole basis of the scheme hinged on an order in council which the government said had no existence. The actions of the government were enough to make one believe that there was something behind the scenes that would not bear the light of day. Even if the order in council was in existence the government had exceeded the provisions of the railway aid act. He hoped it would be shown that the government were not actuated by corrupt motives in acting as they did. The next provision in the railway aid act was that the Nakusp company should give security for the payment by the company of the interest on the bonds during the period of construction. There is nothing to show that this provision of the act has been complied with.

Hon. Mr. Davie—You will find the bond on page seven of the papers.

Hon. Mr. Beaven read the bond referred to by the premier. He said he did not care to criticize it, but it hardly complied with the statute. The railway aid act said the amount guaranteed should not exceed interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum upon the sum of \$925,000, or the cost of the railway, whichever was the smaller sum. It seemed very peculiar that the government should take the maximum amount, \$925,000, or \$25,000 a mile, while they themselves said it would not cost more than \$17,500 a mile. In the face of this they guaranteed the bonds to the extent of \$25,000 per mile. If there were members of the company in the executive this might be expected, but a government working in the interests of the people could hardly be expected to guarantee \$25,000 per mile on a railway that they say will only cost \$17,500 per mile. He thought it would show that the estimate of \$17,500 per mile was an exaggeration. There was another discrepancy, a small one, it was true. The engineer said the railway would be 36 miles long, while the attorney-general said it would be 37 miles long, a difference of \$17,500—an acre, insignificant, no doubt, to the attorney-general. The attorney-general said the discount on the bonds should be considered as part of the cost of the railway. The C. P. R. engineer in his report said the cost of the railway would be \$15,200 per mile. In telegraphing to Mr. Abbott, of the C. P. R., said the estimate was a very liberal one. Mr. Abbott was no novice in railway building

in British Columbia. He knows all about railway construction, and having lived in the province ever since the completion of the C. P. R., he understands the country. In a late dispatch Mr. Abbott said the engineer had left no margin for contingencies, but the estimate of the cost of different branches of the work was very liberal, and that it was not desirable to undertake the work until 15 per cent. was added to the estimate. In considering this question, continued Mr. Beaven, we should keep in mind the engineer's figures, \$15,200 per mile. The government said the railway would cost \$17,500 per mile, and they had guaranteed \$25,000 per mile, simply because the statute gave them power to do so. But the statute said if the road cost less than \$25,000 per mile the smaller amount should be acted upon. The whole basis of the attorney-general's argument was that it would cost the province less to guarantee the principal and interest than it would cost to guarantee the interest only. It was plain that the government had done something that the legislature did not authorize them to do. He could not see how members could have confidence in a government that abused the powers placed in their hands. A railway engineer said the railway would cost \$15,200 per mile, Mr. Abbott said that was a liberal estimate, the Government said it would cost \$17,500 per mile and the government guaranteed \$25,000 per mile. He stated when the Shuswap & Okanagan guarantee bill was before the house that the engineer's estimate of the cost of the road was far below the amount of that company's bonds, upon which the government guaranteed interest. Now it was common report that the Shuswap & Okanagan railway was built for less than the guarantee. With this experience in their possession the government should know better than to repeat the mistake in the Slokan railway. With that knowledge before them, it appeared as though there was some subtle influence in the executive to make the members of that body act as they did. The government would have to answer to the country for this abuse of power. It was also provided in the railway aid act that no guarantee shall be given until the work had been approved by the Dominion government, and the Dominion subsidy of \$3200 per mile had been paid. The Dominion government had not yet accepted the work. It is true that the company had paid into the provincial treasury \$118,400, the amount they expected to receive as Dominion subsidy. The public accounts committee had found out that this amount had been paid in, but they could not obtain the agreement under which it had been paid. The member for Cassiar asked the gentleman in charge of the treasury for the agreement, but he said he did not have it. The provincial secretary and the minister of finance were asked for it, and it was then learned that it was in the attorney-general's office. After a number of excuses had been given why it should not be laid before the committee, the attorney-general said point blank that he would not allow the committee to see it. This was an example of the obstacles placed in the way of committees who were endeavoring to obtain information for the members of the house. As far as the official was concerned he did everything he could for the committee, but he could not make the attorney-general produce the agreement. That agreement was one of the mysteries about this matter. The amount paid in by the company had been absorbed. How then was it to take the place of the Dominion subsidy? Of course it. The province was responsible and good for it, and it was placed in the hands of the government for a certain purpose and under certain conditions it would have to be returned to the company. The question was, what authority had the government for doing what they had done? They had treated the legislature as a nonentity and had taken the whole matter into their own hands. Was the government right in guaranteeing the maximum amount allowed by the statute with the information they had?

It being six o'clock, and the government having decided not to sit in the evening, Mr. Beaven moved the adjournment of the debate, which was carried and the house adjourned.

### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

#### Several Public Bills Killed by the House Yesterday Afternoon.

March 14.

The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by the Rev. P. McF. Macleod.

Dr. Watt moved that in accordance with the practice in this and other provinces and in the Dominion, but for the more efficient carrying out thereof, it is an order of this house that as soon as the public accounts or other departmental reports are printed and ready for distribution, the Queen's printer be and is hereby directed to send a copy to each member of this house and to the various newspapers and public libraries in the province. Dr. Watt said it was the practice in other provinces to do this.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said it would no doubt be beneficial to do the same in British Columbia. The practice here, however, was to first refer the reports to the Lieutenant-Governor, who instructed the members of the executive to present them to the house. He moved in amendment to strike out all the words after that and insert "a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor informing His Honor that this house is of opinion that as soon as the public accounts and other reports have been printed and referred to the Lieutenant-Governor they should be sent to the members of the house and otherwise made public."

Dr. Watt moved that whereas many of the Indian reservations throughout the province, especially in the interior, comprise vast areas of the best agricultural lands, which are either altogether unutilized by the Indians, or if cultivated, then in many cases in such a slovenly way as to injure rather than improve the land, seeding it as well as adjoining property with noxious weeds; and whereas in most cases a much smaller area would suffice for the wants of the Indians, and the surplus if thrown open to settlement for whites would be of permanent advantage to the province; therefore, resolved, that in the opinion of this house steps should be taken at once to acquire back the interests of the tribes in those reservations, or portions thereof, suitable for agriculture, on equitable terms of purchase or exchange, and that thereupon such re-acquired lands will be thrown open for settlement on such terms as may be agreed upon.

The mover said a similar resolution had been introduced in the Dominion house some time ago, and he read from Hansard some of the arguments used in favor of it.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said the government had always held that the Indians should be given the same rights as the settler occupying lands adjoining the reservations. It was not easy to prove that the Indians had a larger area of land than they needed. They were increasing the size of their farms year by year and were producing a large amount of grain. Unless the Indians would agree to it, he did not see how the resolution could be of any use. After a discussion of the matter he hoped the resolution would be withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker ruled the resolution out of order, as it would lead up to the expenditure of public money.

Mr. Foster moved that whereas a return of the houses has been printed showing, among other things, a detailed statement of the expenditure in connection with the bureau of labor statistics; and whereas in said statement certain items appear as follows: Collector of statistics, 7th September to 31st October, 1893, at \$100 per month, \$179.92; clerk, 7th September, 1893, to 31st January, 1894, at \$60 per month, \$228; purchase of buggy for collector, \$110; purchase of team of horses for collector, \$180; purchase saddle horse for collector, \$50; purchase of saddle, harness, etc., \$71.50; care of horses and horse hire, \$14; expenses in travelling, \$158.25; and whereas in said statement no explanation is given as to the object for which such expense was incurred nor the locality in which the money was spent; therefore be it resolved that a further return be granted giving the name of the collector of statistics, the name of the clerk, the localities in which they operated and all statistics collected. The mover said what he objected to was that the return was deficient. He would like to know what had been done for the money. A collector who had a horse and buggy should be able to collect a great many statistics. But he had not seen any statistics.

Dr. Watt asked the minister of mines the following questions re Lightning creek, Cariboo, lease: 1. What sums have been paid into the treasury since the lease was granted: (a) by the original grantees, Harper & Cameron; (b) by the present holders of the lease. 2. Who are the present holders of the lease; when was it granted to them, for what period, and on what terms as to rent and work? 3. Have the terms of the lease been complied with as to the work to be done; and, if not, is the ground now open for location by others?

Hon. Col. Baker answered: 1. (a) \$300; (b) \$1,000. 2. J. C. Frewer and H. S. Mason, the receiver of the estate of T. Harper; lease granted to them on March 31st, 1891, for 15 years, with privilege of renewal for ten years, at a rental of \$50 annually for two years, and \$1,000 annually for the remaining thirteen years; the terms of the lease have not been complied with, and the ground is now open for location by others.

Hon. Mr. Beaven, on consideration of the report of the bill to incorporate the Victoria Electric Light and Railway company, moved to strike out clause 23, which provides for the exemption of the company's property from provincial taxation. If the company was exempt from taxation other property would have to pay it.

Mr. Croft thought it would be doing an injustice to the company not to exempt them from taxation in view of the fact that they had assisted in developing the suburbs of Victoria.

Mr. Grant considered that the clause should remain in the bill. It was necessary to assist the company.

The amendment was negatived and the report was adopted.

Mr. Speaker said the clause could not have any effect until it had been approved by the government.

The Kaslo-Slokan Railway company's bill was finally passed.

Mr. Sword rose to a point of order on the Consolidated Electric Railway & Light company's bill. The bill, he said, provided for something that was neither mentioned in the advertisement nor in the petition. Neither the petition nor advertisement mentioned the Vancouver and New Westminster tramway company, which was mentioned in the bill. He would like to know if the bill was in order.

Mr. Speaker reserved his decision.

The Chilliwack Drainage bill passed through committee and was reported without amendment.

The report on the Cariboo railway bill was adopted.

The Brunette Saw Mill company's bill was passed through the same stage.

In committee on the bill relating to public works in the township of Richmond, Mr. Sword moved an amendment to strike out in clause 13 of the preamble the words "and to provide for the payment by the said municipal corporation of the township of Richmond of the damages awarded by the jury on the trial of the said action and the costs of the said suit."

Hon. Mr. Davie said in mercy to all parties the litigation should be ended. The amendment would only prolong litigation.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said it was a very objectionable thing to bring in a bill to set aside the verdict of a court. There would be no objection to the bill if it provided for the payment of money due to the plaintiff, but there was an objection to paying McLean Bros. damages.

There was a long discussion on the proposed amendment, being very much a repetition of what was said on the second reading. Mr. Horne and Mr. Brown got a little personal, but nothing serious resulted. Mr. Grant made a remark that Mr. Brown considered as a reflection on him.

Mr. Brown—A word be ashamed to state so many deliberate untruths and misrepresentations.

Mr. Grant—My character for truthfulness is just as well established as is that of the hon. gentleman from New Westminster city. Nothing better could be expected from the member for New Westminster city.

The committee rose and reported progress.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented a message from the Lieutenant-Governor enclosing a bill respecting the British Columbia Southern railway.

The house rose at six o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

The house again went into committee on the bill relating to certain works in the township of Richmond. The division on Mr. Sword's amendment was 8 to 8, and Mr. Stoddart, who was in the chair, voted against it, leaving the preamble as it was.

Mr. Sword introduced other amendments with the same object in view, and they were also negatived. The bill was reported complete.

Mr. Speaker delivered a ruling on Mr. Sword's point of order, holding that the Consolidated Electric Railway & Light company's bill was out of order. The speaker ruled that the point was well taken, as the preamble of the bill did not agree with the petition and the advertisement. He was willing to consider any suggestions as to a means of reviving the bill.

The report on the judiciary bill was adopted.

The house went into committee, Mr. Booth in the chair, on the pharmacy bill. Mr. Foster moved that the committee rise. The motion was adopted, thus killing the bill.

The order for the second reading of Mr. Keith's pharmacy bill was discharged.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the bill to protect the bottlers and manufacturers of beverages. The object of the bill was to prevent the purloining of bottles, (Langlater.)

Mr. Souin said he was not satisfied that the measure was a necessary one. The bill would be a great inconvenience. If a man purchased a bottle that bottle belonged to him.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the legislature should stop at protecting bottles. Were the police to prosecute a boy for selling bottles?

Mr. Hunter thought the bill might be workable if it referred to labels. It would be rather inconvenient for a man to send to England to obtain permission to have in his possession a bottle belonging to some English firm.

The second reading was negatived.

Mr. Grant moved the second reading of the municipality not amendment bill. He explained that the bill was prepared by a committee, and would be open to amendment in committee of the whole.

The bill was read a second time, as was also Hon. Mr. Davie's municipal bill. Both will be considered in committee to-morrow.

The house adjourned at ten o'clock.

### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION.

#### Mr. Sword's Motion for More Information re the Nakusp Scheme.

GOVERNMENT AGREE TO THE MOTION.

#### Dr. Milne's Election Regulation Defeated—All the Government Members Vote Against It—Amendment to the Redistribution Bill.

March 14.

The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Ven. Arch. Scriven.

Mr. Horne presented a petition from the municipality of Chilliwack. The select committee on the petition reported a bill to amend the act in relation to the return of the division of the Nakusp & Slokan railway company when the contract for construction was signed? Who are the contractor a firm or company, who are the members of the firm or company? What were received, and for what sum? Who acted as engineer for the Canadian Pacific railway? What is the capital of the Nakusp & Slokan railway company? What have they to do with the government's money? \$50,000 for 49 per cent. of their stock; statement of the grounds on which the government assumed that the land could only be sold at a large discount; the estimate of the cost of the road; copy of the contract under construction proceeded.

Mr. Sword said the government should remember that there was a higher appeal to than the house. That court was the country. The members of the house had asked time and again for the information, part of which had been brought down.

Hon. Mr. Davie said there was objection to the motion, but the bill should go on without all the information for. The questions were inquiring into other people's business, but the government would try to get the information just as easily as the government can. The information would not aid members in the discussion of the bill. The house had before it the information upon which the amendment proceeded in the matter. He would not aid members in the discussion of the bill. The house had before it the information upon which the amendment proceeded in the matter. He would not aid members in the discussion of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the premier had refused to answer them. He would not aid members in the discussion of the bill. The house had before it the information upon which the amendment proceeded in the matter. He would not aid members in the discussion of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Davie—You have not any information.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—We refuse to bring down the order in council which the whole scheme hinged on.

Hon. Mr. Davie—There is no order in council.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—That makes the worse. The premier when questions either refused to answer or tried to justify his acts by "The leader of the opposition did when he was in power or when mayor of the city." The premier the member for Westminster obtain the information from the company? What has Mr. Sword got to do with the company?

Hon. Mr. Davie—What have you to do with the company?

Hon. Mr. Beaven—Why, you have everything to do with the company. A government was assuming responsibility for a company it should know something about it. In other words, the government would not incorporate a business before it proved that it had the business capacity of the government when the leader asked, "What is to do with the company?" The should not be asked to vote on a bill before all the information in the possession of the government should have it. They should be before entering into an agreement. What view he took of the Shuswap & Okanagan railway and the Victoria & Sidney railway did not have any to do with the Nakusp & Slokan railway.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he did not think that the government knew nothing about the bonds sold at. The everything about it. It was not the government to concern its shareholders in the company.

Mr. Brown contended that it was the duty of the government to find out the members of the company were the government guaranteed the bonds for \$17,500 a mile when they could not cost more than \$15,000 a mile. The house should know who the members of the company were. If other had the same information that they would not move a step until they had a sworn statement as to the members of the company are.

The government knew that the bonds placed on the road are rotten? of a government guaranteeing the bonds of the company before they had formed!

Mr. Cotton said the debate should not proceed until the information had been brought down. The the Shuswap & Okanagan railway should make the members care proceeding with this scheme.

The resolution as amended was defeated on the following vote: Messrs. Baker, Davie, Finner, Croft, Milne, Kellie, 8.

Messrs. Martin, Stoddart, Adams, Flesher, Keith, Cotter, Brown, Kitchen, Swan, Horne, McKenzie, Beaven, 16.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Sword's Motion for More Information re the Nakusp Scheme.

GOVERNMENT AGREE TO THE MOTION

Dr. Milne's Election Regulation Bill Defeated—All the Government Members Vote Against It—Amendments to the Redistribution Bill.

March 15. The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. Archdeacon Scriev.

Mr. Horne presented a petition against a bill to validate a drainage by-law in the municipality of Chilliwack.

The select committee on the game act reported a bill to amend the act. Read a first time.

Mr. Sword moved for a return of information as to who were the directors of the Nakusp & Slokan railway company when the contract for construction was signed?

Mr. Beaven—I have introduced several amendments to the regulation bill as a private member.

Mr. Speaker—This is not a constitution bill. I do not think Mr. Croft's point is well taken.

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Hon. Mr. Beaven—I have introduced several amendments to the regulation bill as a private member.

Dr. Milne moved the second reading of the election regulation act, which provides for the reduction of a candidate's deposit from \$200 to \$50.

The \$200 deposit was in some cases a hardship, some who wished to be candidates being unable to make the deposit of \$200, much less to lose it in case he did not get the required number of votes.

In order to overcome the objection that there would be too many candidates he had an amendment providing that a candidate's nomination paper should be signed by ten electors.

He proposed that the polls should be opened from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m., thus giving more time in which to vote.

This was the same as the Dominion act. In England the polls were open twelve hours, from 8 a. m. until 8 p. m.

The counterfoil was cumbersome and of no use. There would be a stamp on the ballot paper.

Mr. Croft rose to a point of order. The bill proposed to repeal a tax of \$200, which a private member could not move to do.

Mr. Booth—It also affects the constitution.

Mr. Speaker—This is not a constitution bill. I do not think Mr. Croft's point is well taken.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—I have introduced several amendments to the regulation bill as a private member.

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Hon. Mr. Beaven—I have introduced several amendments to the regulation bill as a private member.

The second reading of the bill was negatived on the following division: Ayes—Messrs. Milne, Semlin, Beaven, Grant, McKenzie, Sward, Brown, Foster, Kitchen, Keith and Cotton—11.

Nays—Messrs. Baker, Pooley, Davie, Turner, Vernon, Croft, Martin, Hunter, Stoddart, Booth, Rogers, Anderson, Fletcher, Adams, Watt, Punch, Kellie, Smith and Horne—19.

The bills respecting the British Columbia Southern and Nelson & Port Sheppard railways were considered in committee and reported to the house. They were then read a first time.

On consideration of the report on the supreme court bill, Hon. Mr. Davie moved an amendment providing that assizes should be held at the following places and dates:

Nanaimo, first Tuesday in May and fourth Tuesday in November; New Westminster, second Tuesday in May and first Tuesday in November; Vancouver, third Tuesday in May and second Monday in November; Victoria, last Tuesday in May and third Tuesday in November.

Clinton, first Wednesday in June and first Monday in October; Kamloops, second Monday in June and second Monday in October; Richfield, last Monday in September; Lytton, second Friday in October.

Provided, however, that if there are no prisoners awaiting or committed for trial, or if there are no cases, or if there is otherwise no business to come, before any of the courts, there shall be no necessity for the holding of the same.

Provided always that it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in council to appoint times for holding additional and other courts of assize. The amendments were adopted.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved an amendment providing from an appeal from a county court on questions of municipal assessments.

Hon. Mr. Beaven did not think the amendment an advisable one. The business of a municipality could be tied up for months while the appeals were being considered.

The amendment was adopted and further consideration of the report was deferred.

Hon. Mr. Davie introduced a bill respecting the union of certain Methodist churches in Canada.

On consideration of the report on the British Columbia railway act amendment bill, Mr. Hunter moved a number of amendments, many of which were of a technical nature.

One amendment would allow a railway company to make a deviation from their main line under certain conditions. By the present act a company could not deviate their line over a hundred yards without obtaining the consent of the legislature.

This amendment was laid over and further consideration of the report was postponed.

The report of the dairying bill was adopted.

On consideration of the report on the redistribution bill an amendment was adopted correcting the boundaries of the electoral district of Victoria city. A number of technical amendments were also adopted, as was also one providing that any one who claims that his name has been wrongfully dropped from the list must appeal against it within four weeks after the publication of the corrected list in the British Columbia Gazette.

Another important amendment adopted was one providing that in the electoral districts of Vancouver city, New Westminster city, Nanaimo city and Victoria city the collector shall drop from the register the names of all those persons proprietors of whose residences are not given upon the register of voters.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved that the interrogations put to a prospective voter may be given either in the presence of the collector or of some credible person as a witness, but in either case must be subscribed by the applicant and the witness. It was adopted.

The following was added as a new section: "Any person dissatisfied with the decision of the collector of voters in leaving any name off or placing any name on the register, may, within forty-eight hours after the decision complained of, give written notice to the collector of assize, or to the collector of assize having jurisdiction in the district, and such judge, or any acting judge, shall thereupon forthwith hear and determine such appeal, and may direct the name in question to be retained or omitted, as the case may require. The judge, or acting judge, shall be at once notified of such appeal, and the same shall be brought on for hearing at the earliest time when the judge can sit to dispose of the same, which he may do in a summary manner; and in default of being so brought on shall be deemed to have been abandoned. An appeal shall not stay the collector in completing and certifying his register, or in doing or completing any other matter or thing required by law, but after so completing or certifying his register he shall amend the same if the decision of the court of appeal shall require it."

Mr. Brown moved to do away with the provision that the government could change any enactment of the act. This was voted down.

Mr. Brown moved the following as a new section: "No spirituous or fermented liquors or strong drinks shall be sold or given at any hotel, tavern, shop, or other place within the limits of any electoral district during the whole of the polling day at any election for a member or members to serve in the legislative assembly of this province; and every one who violates the provisions of this section shall be liable, for every such offence, to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars, and not less than twenty-five dollars, and costs, and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months in default of payment of such penalty."

Hon. Mr. Davie supported the amendment and moved the adjournment of the debate, a motion that was adopted.

The house adjourned at 6 o'clock until 11 o'clock a.m. on Friday.

MARCH 16.

The Speaker took the chair at 11 a.m. Mr. Kitchen introduced bills to amend the line fences and water courses acts.

Dr. Watt moved that the house resolve itself into committee of the whole on Monday on bill No. 44, intitled "An act to further amend the Pharmacy Act, 1891." This is the bill that was negatived by the house a few days ago.

In moving the house into committee, Dr. Watt said he did it as he believed the house had not fully considered the bill when they killed it.

The resolution was negatived by a large majority.

The dairying bill was read a third time and passed.

The house went into committee, Mr. Rogers in the chair, to consider the agricultural department bill. It was reported complete with amendments.

The placer mining bill was considered in committee, Mr. Kitchen in the chair. The bill was reported complete with amendments.

The house rose at 1:10.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Adoption of Important Amendments to the Municipal Act.

MARCH 16.

AFTER RECESS.

The mineral bill was partly considered in committee, Mr. Grant in the chair. It was referred back to the mining committee.

The house went into committee on the municipal bills introduced by Hon. Mr. Davie and Mr. Grant.

Mr. Keith objected to the increase in the property qualifications for mayor and aldermen in the cities of Victoria and Nanaimo.

Hon. Mr. Turner did not think there was any necessity for raising the qualification. He also thought that there was no necessity for the qualification being above a mortgage.

Hon. Col. Baker moved to strike out the word mortgage.

Mr. Keith moved to strike out the whole clause.

Mr. Brown favored the striking out of the whole clause and amending the old act by striking out the word mortgage.

Mr. Keith's motion was lost and on motion the property qualification for mayor was left at the old figure of \$1000.

Mr. Grant moved to strike out the word mortgage wherever it appeared in the section. Hon. Mr. Beaven and Mr. Kitchen considered that if this was done the whole property qualification might as well be struck out. The motion was adopted.

The property qualification of aldermen was brought back to the former amount of \$500.

The committee adopted Mr. Grant's clauses referring to qualifications of voters, Hon. Mr. Davie withdrawing his. The only difference in the two was that Hon. Mr. Davie's bill provided that a voter should simply be assessed for property while Mr. Grant's bill provides that they must be registered owners.

Mr. Brown moved an amendment which would give lodgers an opportunity to vote. It was negatived.

Mr. Grant moved to amend the amendments to sections 40 to 43 provided that names could be added to voters' lists after they had been closed.

Hon. Mr. Davie withdrew the provision in his bill that a municipality could borrow money by either resolution or by-law and in the township municipalities it was left to the option of the council to say whether the ratepayers should lose his vote if he does not pay his taxes by a certain date.

After passing a number of clauses the committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Mr. Croft introduced a bill to amend the fire companies act.

The house rose at 6 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. McKenzie moved the suspension of the standing orders to allow the removal of Mr. Hall's name from the Gauley expedition committee. This was adopted.

The house again went into committee on the municipal bills. The provision in Hon. Mr. Davie's bill providing that by-laws, etc., must be published in newspapers published in the districts to which by-laws, etc., referred, if there is a paper published in the district, was voted down.

The clause providing that 7 per cent. should be charged on delinquent taxes could be registered against the property, was struck out.

The date on which taxes should be paid to save the one-sixth rebate was changed from October 31st to December 1st.

A clause was inserted for the exemption of private as well as public hospitals from taxation.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved an amendment to strike out of the general act the clauses providing that those who obtained liquor licenses since 1891 should be made to advertise and apply every six months for a renewal of his license. He did not see any necessity for the distinction between the licenses issued before 1891 and those issued after 1891.

Hon. Mr. Beaven objected to the amendment. This was taking away the few restrictions placed on the issuing of licenses.

Mr. Semlin explained that Hon. Mr. Davie was one of those who insisted that there should be a distinction between the old and the new license holders.

Hon. Mr. Davie's motion was carried by a vote of 13 to 10.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the following as a new clause: It shall not be lawful in any municipality for any merchant, trader, artificer, mechanic, workman, laborer, or other person whatsoever, on the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, to sell or publicly show forth or expose, or offer for sale, or to purchase, any goods, chattels, or any other personal property, or any real estate whatsoever, or to do or exercise any worldly labor, business or work of his ordinary calling (conveying travellers or Her Majesty's mails, by land or by water, or the operation of railways or street railways, the business of hack driver and livery stable keepers, the selling of drugs and medicines, or other works of necessity and works of charity, only excepted). Any person summarily convicted before any justice of the peace of any act herein declared to be not lawful, upon the oath or affirmation of one or more than one credible witness, or upon view had of the offence by the said justice of the peace himself, shall for every such offence be fined in a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, nor less than five dollars, together with the costs and charges attending the proceedings and conviction.

The mover said many people in Victoria and other cities were advocating such a provision. The proprietors of barber shops, for instance, were in favor of it, but could not do it as one would do it while others would not. When business was carried on on Sunday it was by compulsion, as if a man did not do it his neighbors would, and thus the one closing would be forced out of business. There were certain lines of business that it was necessary to carry on.

Mr. Grant said he could not agree with the amendment as a whole. In mining districts Sunday was often the only day on which a miner could go to town to purchase his provisions. He contended that it was a matter of necessity and convenience to open barber shops on Sunday.

Mr. Brown wanted the resolution to apply to cities working under special acts.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said he thought it would apply to all municipalities.

The amendment was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Davis said he thought that the clause providing that the health officer or reeve of a municipality should say when an inquiry is necessary was a dangerous one.

Mr. Kitchen said it would do away with a lot of unnecessary expense. There were cases in which the coroner had to travel many miles, and the municipalities had to pay the expenses and a large fee.

The clause was adopted.

Mr. Grant moved the following as a new clause, at the request of the Victoria council:

The line fences and water courses bill, contrary, it shall and may be lawful for the council of every municipality to make, alter and repeal by-laws for the following purposes, or in relation to matters incidental to the purposes hereinafter mentioned:

"For assessing any or all real property directly or indirectly benefited by any main, common or branch sewers or drains constructed, or to be constructed, or for levying and collecting the amounts of such assessments at such times and in such manner as the council may deem advisable. Such assessments may be in the nature of rents, or tax per foot frontage, or otherwise (whether of corner or irregular shaped tracts or otherwise) as may be determined by the council."

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the clause was superfluous, and might be mischievous.

Mr. Grant said he had the same impression, but a committee of the council, who presented it to him, said the clause was a necessary one to carry out the sewerage system.

Mr. Hunter said the legal adviser of the city told him the clause was a necessary one if the city was to proceed with the sewers. He did not think it would do any harm.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the clause would give the council power to assess property not directly benefited by the sewer. They had all the necessary power to assess property directly benefited.

The clause was laid over, the committee rising and reporting progress.

The house adjourned at 11.20.

#### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

A Number of Bills Finally Passed at This Morning's Session.

March 19.

The speaker took the chair at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Martin moved for a copy of the report of Messrs. Keefer & Smith, C. E.'s, regarding the proposed bridge at Kamloops. Adopted.

Mr. Martin moved for a return of the reports of the government inspector of coal measures in the Nicola country. Adopted.

On consideration of the report of the legislative library bill, Hon. Mr. Beaven moved to strike out the part of a clause providing that municipalities, school boards and all public institutions should be compelled to give the statistician information. He did not think the municipalities and school boards should under fear of a penalty, be compelled to give information. The board would give all information voluntarily.

The amendment was lost and the report was adopted.

The placer mining bill was finally passed.

The Cariboo railway and Brunette sawmill bills were finally passed.

The report on the Chilliwack drainage bill was adopted.

In committee of the whole on the Hall mines bill, Mr. Sword pointed out that the preamble of the bill did not agree with the notice of application. It was referred back to the speaker, who rescinded his decision.

On the second reading of the Horseshy hydraulic mining company's bill, Hon. Mr. Davis stated that the government could not assent to either this bill or the Cariboo hydraulic company's bill. The government intended to bring down a bill to give the companies fair and just franchise. They could not assent to the bills in their present shape.

A discussion arose as to whether the government had the power to introduce such a bill. Mr. Speaker ruled the discussion out of order and the bills were laid over.

Mr. Martin moved the second reading of the game protection bill which he explained clause by clause.

Mr. Grant thought the legislature did not have the power to prevent people from exporting deer skins. Skins were articles of commerce which could not be interfered with. On account of the law Indians were taking all their skins to the States and buy their provisions there.

The bill was read a second time.

The line fences and water courses bill, Mr. Kitchen, was read a second time.

Mr. Kitchen moved the second reading of his amendment to the homestead act, the object of which he said was to prevent fraud. The bill was read a second time.

The house rose at one o'clock.

#### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Another Batch of Bills Finally Passed and More Introduced.

MARCH 19.

Mr. Speaker said he was of opinion that the Hall mines bill asked for greater powers than were asked for in the notice of application. He suggested that as Mr. Horne had a notice on the order papers to refer the Consolidated Electric railway and Light company's bill back to the private bills committee, the Hall mines bill should be included in the motion.

In the absence of Mr. Horne, Mr. Grant moved the motion to refer the Consolidated Electric railway and Light company's bill back to the committee. Mr. Booth moved in amendment that the Hall mines bill be dealt with in a similar manner. The resolution as amended was passed.

On the second reading of the fire companies bill Mr. Beaven raised the point that the bill proposed to amend a private act, which a member could not do without complying with the rules and orders respecting private bills.

Mr. Speaker thereupon ruled the bill out of order.

Hon. Mr. Davis presented a message from the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting a bill to aid in the construction of a traffic and railway bridge across the Fraser river.

The bill to provide for the payment of succession duties in certain cases was considered in committee of the whole.

Hon. Mr. Davis explained that the minister of finance intended to reduce the rate of duty provided by the bill.

Hon. Mr. Beaven contended that the bill should be discussed at this stage. He quoted a number of authorities in support of his contention. If the government were not prepared to proceed with the bill the committee should rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. Davis contended that the usual practice should not be departed from, especially in view of the fact that most members desired to adjourn before Easter. He would, however, leave the matter in the hands of the house.

Hon. Mr. Beaven contended that it was a departure from the rules not to discuss the bill in committee.

The bill was reported to the house and was read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Vernon introduced a bill to amend the land act.

Mr. Croft moved to revive the bill for the better protection of bottlers and manufacturers of beverages. He intended if the bill was revived to amend it in many particulars.

Mr. Speaker said if the member intended to bring in a different bill he should ask leave to introduce it. He would decide on the question later in the day.

On consideration of the report of the supreme court bill, a number of clerical errors were corrected. The dates for the assizes were slightly changed.

The British Columbia railway act amendment bill was finally passed.

A number of technical amendments were made to the redistribution bill on consideration of report. Hon. Mr. Davis moved an amendment to assist the returning officer to find out if a voter in country districts voted at more than one polling place. The amendment provided that at the final count the returning officer shall examine ballots rejected by the several presiding officers, and shall scrutinize the marked copies of the register of voters received from the several deputy returning officers for the purpose of ascertaining whether any person has voted more than once, and the decision of the returning officer at the final count as to any question arising in respect of a ballot paper shall be final, subject to reversal on petition questioning the election on return. The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Brown's amendment to close saloons and prevent the sale of liquor on election day was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved an amendment to the schedule placing naturalized citizens on the same footing as natural born subjects. The amendment was adopted, as was also the report.

Hon. Mr. Turner presented a message from the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting supplementary estimates for 1893-94 and 1894-95.

Hon. Mr. Davis asked the views of the members respecting the Easter holidays. He had thought that the house could adjourn before Good Friday, but it was not possible to do so. The business could be completed by the 31st.

A number of suggestions were made. An amendment was made to the county courts act amendment bill providing that a deputy or acting judge can act as a county court judge.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment to the agriculture bill to strike out the clause compelling farmers to answer all questions put by the gatherer of statistics. The answers should be voluntary. Men should not be forced to answer questions about their private affairs.

Hon. Mr. Turner said it must be supposed that the questions would be reasonable ones.

Mr. Semlin said he thought the bill would be a better one if the clause was eliminated.

The amendment was defeated and the bill was finally passed.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the second reading of the British Columbia Southern railway bill, the object of which is to adapt the land grant to the amendment to the private bill. The motion was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the second reading of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway bill. The original act provided that the railway should run to Nelson. There was a question as to whether it actually ran to Nelson, and the bill before the house proposed to extend the time to give the company an opportunity to complete their line. The motion was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the second reading of the companies act amendment bill, which proposed to carry out the regulations of the act of 1890, which was ambiguous. The bill was read a second time.

On a question of privilege Mr. Grant said he had hoped that the government would have made provision in the supplementary estimates for the exploration of the northern portion of the province in the vicinity of the Yukon country.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said the member for Cassiar had considered the estimates for that district were sufficient.

The house adjourned at 5.50.

#### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Premier Davis Looks After the Interests of His Sunday Paper.

SUCCESSION DUTIES BILL PASSES

Steps Taken by the Police to Prevent Crime Along the Northern Coast of the Province—The Land Bill Read a Second Time.

MARCH 20.

The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. Dr. Campbell.

Hon. Mr. Turner presented a petition from the school board asking the legislature to take some steps to have the powder magazine removed from Beacon Hill park. Received.

The message from the Lieutenant-Governor enclosing a bill to aid in the construction of the Fraser river bridge was considered in committee and the bill was reported to the house.

Hon. Mr. Vernon presented a copy of the report of Messrs. Keefer and Smith, C. E.'s, regarding the proposed bridge at Kamloops and the reports of the government inspector of coal measures in the Nicola country.

The legislative library bill was finally passed.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the second reading of the succession duties bill. He did not think it could be disputed that the taxation under the measure would be equitable. Similar acts were in force in every colony and the provinces of the Dominion. As he had stated, the duties would be modified. The scale in the bill was taken from the act in force in Manitoba, while the rates in Ontario were lower. The rates in the bill compared favorably with the rates imposed in the Australian colonies. The proposal to reduce the duties would no doubt be more in conformity with the wishes of the people in the province.

Hon. Mr. Beaven was aware that similar bills had been introduced in the other provinces, but he thought the house should not forget that by the bill the province was taking from legatees of estates what was important to them. The government should have placed before the house the bill that they thought was fair. The house would have to deal with the bill before it, as they could not read what was in the minister of finance's mind. The bill would allow the government to step in and take from a family the money they needed for their daily bread. He knew of cases where the estate was nominally worth a large amount, but enough could not even be obtained from the estate to pay the taxes. The measure was just an experimental one. Many estates worth \$25,000 did not earn a cent and were very often only an encumbrance. In such a case the government could step in and take what little a family had for their daily bread. If it was intended to levy the duty it should be levied in all cases, whether the money was bequeathed to families or outside the family. He, however, did not think the bill was one that should commend itself to the house.

Hon. Mr. Turner thought the last speaker had overlooked certain provisions of the bill. He intended to increase the amount of an estate that was to go free from \$25,000 to \$50,000. This he also intended to do away with the duty in cases where a member of a family received \$25,000 from an estate. There would therefore be some very large estates that would not be affected. The measure had been adopted in other provinces and countries, and he could see no reason why it should not be adopted here.

Mr. Semlin could not see why property that was being taxed before the death of the owner and would be taxed after his death should be taxed a large amount simply because it changed hands. It looked very much as though it was proposed to make it a crime to die. The bill proposed to tax property just where it would be hardest to pay the tax. A better system, less objectionable, could be adopted.

Hon. Col. Baker said the measure could be called a tax on the wealth for the benefit of the people. It had been tried in other colonies and had worked successfully.

Mr. Sword hoped that the bill would be materially amended before being passed. When the property passed to a direct heir the rate of duty should be less than when it went to a stranger.

Mr. Brown said he had heard it said that the bill had been proposed by men who wished to ease their consciences. They wish to return to the province after their death some of the money they had boodled out of the province. If individual legacies of \$25,000 were to be exempted the government would collect little or nothing under the bill, unless once in a while when some very wealthy person died. He did not intend to vote against the bill, although many amendments should be made to it.

Mr. Grant did not wish to oppose the bill, inasmuch as the government had signified their intention of modifying it.

Mr. Hunter was in favor of the principle of the bill, but he could not see why the preamble of the bill should be amended.

The bill was read a second time and the supreme court amendment bill finally passed.

The redistribution bill passed the final stages.

The house went into committee under the municipal bill. Mr. Grant moved the following as a new clause: "Notwithstanding any law to the contrary it shall and may be lawful for the council of every municipality to alter and repeal by-laws for the following purposes, or in relation to matters incidental to the purposes hereinafter mentioned: For assessing any or all real property directly or indirectly benefited by any main, common or branch sewer or drains constructed, or to be constructed, or for levying and collecting the amounts of such assessments at such times and in such manner as the council may deem advisable. Such assessments may be in the nature of rents, or tax per foot frontage, or otherwise (whether of corner or irregular shaped tracts or otherwise) as may be determined by the council."

The amendment was defeated.

Mr. Grant moved an amendment giving the council power by resolution by-law to declare any building, tower, or erection of any kind, or any drain, ditch or water pond, surface water, or any other structure or thing in or upon any private street or road, or in or about any building or structure, a nuisance and to order the same to be removed, pulled down, filled or otherwise dealt with by the owner, lessee, or occupier thereof, as the council may determine, after the publication of a notice for five days. The amendment was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Davis read an amendment presented to him by a deputation of the city council of Victoria asking a clause be inserted in the act giving council power to place the sinking in the hands of commissioners, one appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, one by the council and one judge of the supreme court.

Hon. Mr. Beaven and Hon. Mr. Grant contended that the principle was a dangerous one.

Mr. Grant and Mr. Hunter opposed it.

The amendment will be printed, being introduced.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved an amendment to section 30, which provides for the service of Sunday. He proposed to strike out the business of hack drivers and livery stables from the business excepted and to allow hotels and restaurants to keep open, the delivery of mail and the work in connection with the papers.

There was a long discussion as to whether more work was done on a day morning paper than on a Monday morning paper. Mr. Kitchen wished to know whether the government intended to enforce this clause as loosely as it enforced the clause to close saloons Sunday.

Hon. Mr. Beaven asked whether the attorney-general intended to enforce the clause in the districts.

The amendment was adopted and a bill was reported complete with amendments. There are a number of amendments to propose on report.

Mr. Brown asked the attorney-general: 1. Has the attention of the government been called to the need which exists for better protection to life and property on the northwest coast of the mainland island adjacent thereto? 2. What, if any, have been taken to afford that protection? 3. Have any steps been taken to limit the issue of liquor licenses in that part of the province?

Hon. Mr. Davis replied as follows: 1. The officers of the government kept the government informed of the necessities of the case from time to time and all reasonable steps have been consistent with the excellent nature of the settlements and the geographic peculiarities of the districts to render property secure, and the success of such steps is sufficiently evidenced by a comparison of the districts in question with similarly situated districts in other countries and provinces.

2. The government naphtha launch charge of three constables, has been engaged in patrol work in the vicinity of Valdez, Cortes and Camp Island some time.

3. The only liquor license held on the northwest coast north of Comox Lund, and such license was issued by the licensing court in New Westminster without the government being consulted in the matter. All applications made to the superintendent of police within the past four years under instructions from the government were refused by that officer, and applications recently received are being similarly treated. Mr. Moses I. storekeeper at Camp Island, has been fined \$84 for selling liquor without a license, and all similar cases are prosecuted without regard to the police. In November last the steamer Ius, with a cargo of whiskey in charge, was seized by the police at Bate Inlet. Each of the men was convicted of three separate offenses, supplying liquor to Indians, and steamer Ius, valued at \$3,000, was forfeited and sold by public auction at Nanaimo.

Hon. Mr. Davis presented a resolution of correspondence respecting the closing of a supreme court judge Vancouver.

The British Columbia Southern railway bill was considered in committee and finally passed.

The Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway bill passed through similar stages.

The companies act amendment bill passed through committee.

... moved the second reading of the bill, but he could not see why the preamble of the bill should read as it did. There were other clauses that should be amended.

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Looks After the Interests of the Sunday Paper.

### DUTIES BILL PASSES

The Police to Prevent the Northern Coast of the Land Bill Read a

MARCH 20.

... took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. Dr. Campbell. Mr. Martin presented a petition from the board asking the legislature to take steps to have the bridge removed from Beacon street.

MARCH 21st.

... The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. Dr. Campbell.

... Mr. Martin presented a petition from the residents of Yale asking for a grant for a physician at that place. The petition was ruled out of order on the ground that it asked for an appropriation.

... The private bills committee reported that they had reconsidered bills Nos. 29 and 35 and amended them to agree with the notices and petitions. They recommended that the bills be placed on the orders of the day.

... The mining committee reported that they had reconsidered the mineral bill, and submitted it with amendments. Received.

... Mr. Kellie asked the minister of mines who furnished the information on which N. Fitzstubs, gold commissioner for West Kootenay district, based that part of his annual report dated the first day of January, 1894, which refers to the northern division of the said district?

... The Chilliwack drainage bill was finally passed.

... Hon. Mr. Turner stated that the Lieutenant-Governor in council was pleased to place in the hands of the legislative assembly the interests of the crown in connection with the Victoria Electric Light and Railway company's bill.

... On consideration of the bill relating to certain works in the township of Richmond, Mr. Sword moved an amendment providing that the dispute between the municipality and McLean Brothers should be referred to arbitration. The amendment was ruled out of order and the report on the bill was adopted.

... The house went into committee, Mr. Keith in the chair, to consider the bill to authorize certain dyking and drainage works in the district of New Westminster.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven asked if the land, the owners of which had petitioned against the bill, was included in the scheme.

... Mr. Kitcher explained that the land was included in the bill, and it would not be advisable to exempt the land from the assessments levied under the scheme.

... Mr. Sword said the bill would not change the position of those who had petitioned against the bill.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven pointed out that clause seven did not agree with the petition. Clause seven provides that the commissioners could use the water of the river for generating electricity.

... Hon. Mr. Kitcher said if the bill was to be endangered by the clause he would like to see the clause struck out, but if not he would like to see the clause remain in. It was absolutely necessary that the commissioners should be allowed to use the water for generating electricity for running their pumping machinery.

... Mr. Hunter amended the clause to do away with the objection.

... The bill was reported complete with amendments.

... Hon. Mr. Davie presented a message from the Lieutenant-Governor enclosing a bill for the drainage, dyking and irrigation of lands. The message was considered in committee and the bill was reported to the house and read a first time.

... The Lieutenant-Governor assented to the redistribution and horticultural bills.

... Mr. Sword asked if the information respecting the Nakusp & Slokan railway was ready.

... Hon. Mr. Davie answered that it was being prepared.

... The house went into committee, Mr. Croft in the chair, to consider the succession duties bill.

... Mr. Hunter moved an amendment to strike out the clause exempting property bequeathed to religious, charitable or educational purposes.

... The amendment was carried.

... The bill was read a second time.

... The supreme court amendment bill was finally passed.

... The redistribution bill passed through the final stages.

... The house went into committee to consider the municipal bill. Mr. Grant moved the following as a new clause by request of the city council of Victoria:

... Notwithstanding any law to the contrary it shall and may be lawful for the council of every municipality to make, alter and repeal by-laws for the following purposes, or in relation to matters incidental to the purposes hereinafter mentioned: For assessing any or all real property directly or indirectly benefited by any main, common or branch sewer or drains constructed, or to be constructed, and for levying and collecting the amounts of such assessments at such times and in such manner as the council may deem advisable. Such assessments may be in the nature of rents, or tax per foot frontage, or otherwise (whether of corner or irregularly shaped tracts or otherwise) as may be determined by the council.

... The amendment was defeated on the chairman's casting vote.

... Mr. Grant moved an amendment giving the council power by resolution or by-law to declare any building, structure, or erection of any kind whatsoever, or any drain, ditch or water course pond, surface water, or any other matter or thing in or upon any private lands, street or road, or in or about any building or structure, a nuisance and dangerous to the public health, and may, by such resolution, order that the same shall be removed, pulled down, filled up, or otherwise dealt with by the owner, agent, lessee, or occupier thereof, as the council may determine, after the publication of a notice for five days. The amendment was adopted.

... Hon. Mr. Davie read an amendment presented to him by a deputation of the city council of Victoria asking that a clause be inserted in the act giving the council power to place the sinking fund in the hands of commissioners, one to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in council, one by the council and one by a judge of the supreme court.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven and Hon. Mr. Turner contended that the principle was a dangerous one.

... Mr. Grant and Mr. Hunter spoke in favor of it.

... The amendment will be printed before being introduced.

... Hon. Mr. Davie moved an amendment to section 30, which provides for the observance of Sunday. He proposed to strike out the business of back driving and livery stables from the businesses excepted and to allow hotels and restaurants to keep open, the delivery of milk and the work in connection with Sunday papers.

... There was a long discussion as to whether more work was done on a Sunday morning paper than on a Monday morning paper. Mr. Kitcher wished to know whether the government intended to enforce this clause as loosely as they enforced the clause to close saloons on Sunday.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven asked whether the attorney-general intended to enforce the clause in the districts.

... The amendment was adopted and the bill was reported complete with amendments. There are a number of amendments to propose on report.

... Mr. Brown asked the attorney-general: 1. Has the attention of the government been called to the need which exists for better protection to life and property on the northwest coast of the mainland and island adjacent thereto? 2. What steps, if any, have been taken to afford the protection needed? 3. Have any steps been taken to limit the issue of liquor licenses in that part of the province?

... Hon. Mr. Davie replied as follows: 1. The officers of the government have kept the government informed of the necessities of the case from time to time, and all reasonable steps have been taken consistent with the excellent nature of the settlements and the geographical peculiarities of the districts to render life and property secure, and the success of such steps is sufficiently evidenced by a comparison of the districts mentioned with similarly situated districts in other countries and provinces.

2. The government naphtha launch, in charge of three constables, has been engaged in patrol work in the vicinity of Valdez, Corrie and Camp islands for some time.

3. The only liquor license held on the northwest coast north of Comox is at Lund, and such license was issued by a licensing court in New Westminster district without the government being consulted in the matter. All applications made to the superintendent of provincial police within the past four years have, under instructions from the government, been refused by that officer, and several applications recently received have been similarly treated. Mrs. Moses Ireland, storekeeper at Camp Island, has recently been fined \$84 for selling liquor without a license, and all similar cases coming under the attention of the police are prosecuted without regard to the expense. In November last the steamer Ina, with a cargo of whiskey in charge of three men, was seized by the police near Bute inlet. Each of the men was tried and convicted of three separate offenses, viz., supplying liquor to Indians, and the steamer Ina, valued at \$3,000, was confiscated and sold by public auction at Nanaimo.

... Hon. Mr. Davie presented a return of the correspondence respecting the situation of a supreme court judge at Vancouver.

... The British Columbia Southern railway bill was considered in committee, reported complete and finally passed.

... The Nelson & Port Sheppard railway bill passed through similar stages.

... The companies act amendment bill was passed through committee.

... Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the bill to amend the act respecting the union of certain Methodist churches. The amendment was a trivial one. The bill was read a second time.

... Hon. Mr. Vernon moved the second reading of the land act amendment bill, which he explained clause by clause. At present farmers in the interior cut hay on the meadows, and the province did not receive any revenue therefrom. By the bill before the house, the farmer can lease the meadow lands for working stone quarries and fishing stations. At present quarries could not be obtained without pre-emption, and a man would not go and live on a mountain of rock to obtain a quarry.

... The bill was read a second time.

... The house adjourned at 5.40.

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Rates of Duty Under Succession Bill to be Materially Reduced.

### HON. MR. TURNER'S AMENDMENTS

A General Drainage, Dyking and Irrigation Bill Brought Down by Message-Lieut. Governor Assents to Redistribution and Horticultural Bills.

MARCH 21st.

... The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. Dr. Campbell.

... Mr. Martin presented a petition from the residents of Yale asking for a grant for a physician at that place. The petition was ruled out of order on the ground that it asked for an appropriation.

... The private bills committee reported that they had reconsidered bills Nos. 29 and 35 and amended them to agree with the notices and petitions. They recommended that the bills be placed on the orders of the day.

... The mining committee reported that they had reconsidered the mineral bill, and submitted it with amendments. Received.

... Mr. Kellie asked the minister of mines who furnished the information on which N. Fitzstubs, gold commissioner for West Kootenay district, based that part of his annual report dated the first day of January, 1894, which refers to the northern division of the said district?

... The Chilliwack drainage bill was finally passed.

... Hon. Mr. Turner stated that the Lieutenant-Governor in council was pleased to place in the hands of the legislative assembly the interests of the crown in connection with the Victoria Electric Light and Railway company's bill.

... On consideration of the bill relating to certain works in the township of Richmond, Mr. Sword moved an amendment providing that the dispute between the municipality and McLean Brothers should be referred to arbitration. The amendment was ruled out of order and the report on the bill was adopted.

... The house went into committee, Mr. Keith in the chair, to consider the bill to authorize certain dyking and drainage works in the district of New Westminster.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven asked if the land, the owners of which had petitioned against the bill, was included in the scheme.

... Mr. Kitcher explained that the land was included in the bill, and it would not be advisable to exempt the land from the assessments levied under the scheme.

... Mr. Sword said the bill would not change the position of those who had petitioned against the bill.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven pointed out that clause seven did not agree with the petition. Clause seven provides that the commissioners could use the water of the river for generating electricity.

... Hon. Mr. Kitcher said if the bill was to be endangered by the clause he would like to see the clause struck out, but if not he would like to see the clause remain in. It was absolutely necessary that the commissioners should be allowed to use the water for generating electricity for running their pumping machinery.

... Mr. Hunter amended the clause to do away with the objection.

... The bill was reported complete with amendments.

... Hon. Mr. Davie presented a message from the Lieutenant-Governor enclosing a bill for the drainage, dyking and irrigation of lands. The message was considered in committee and the bill was reported to the house and read a first time.

... The Lieutenant-Governor assented to the redistribution and horticultural bills.

... Mr. Sword asked if the information respecting the Nakusp & Slokan railway was ready.

... Hon. Mr. Davie answered that it was being prepared.

... The house went into committee, Mr. Croft in the chair, to consider the succession duties bill.

... Mr. Hunter moved an amendment to strike out the clause exempting property bequeathed to religious, charitable or educational purposes.

... The amendment was carried.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven moved to amend the clauses providing that the act should not apply to estates the value of which did not exceed \$5,000 by striking out \$5,000 and inserting \$10,000.

... Hon. Mr. Turner said that would be covered by amendments that he intended to introduce later on in the bill. The amendment was lost.

... Hon. Mr. Turner moved an amendment changing the scale of duties to the following: \$100,000, a duty of one dollar on every \$100; \$200,000 to \$500,000, \$2 on every \$100; \$500,000 to \$700,000, \$3 on every \$100; \$700,000 to \$1,000,000, \$4 on every \$100; \$1,000,000 or over, \$5 on every \$100, provided that where any property devised, bequeathed or passing to, or for the use of any one person, being the father, mother, husband, wife, child, grandchild, daughter-in-law or son-in-law of the deceased, under a will or intestacy, the first \$10,000 of value of the same shall be exempt, and upon so much of the value of the property as is in excess of \$10,000 duty shall be charged at half the several rates set forth.

... Provided that all duties under this act shall be levied and collected pro rata upon the whole of the estate of the deceased person liable to the duty.

... The house adjourned at six o'clock until Tuesday next.

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Long Discussion on One Clause of the Game Protection Bill.

### ALL EVENING SPENT ON THAT BILL

Several Measures Finally Passed and New Ones Introduced to Fill Up the Spaces on the Orders of the Day.

MARCH 27.

... In the absence of the speaker, Mr. Martin took the chair at 2 o'clock. Prayers by Rev. S. Robson.

... Mr. Horne moved that whereas it is desirable that trade and commerce between the Dominion of Canada, the Hawaiian Islands and Australia should be fostered, developed and further encouraged; and whereas the present line of steamers plying between these countries are developing a large and productive trade, which is of great benefit to the whole Dominion and the mother country; and whereas at present there is no direct cable or telegraphic connection between these countries, which is a serious drawback to the increasing trade and commercial relations with them; and whereas it is highly desirable, in the interest and advancement of trade and commerce between these countries, to build and establish a direct line of cable between them and British Columbia; and whereas the Dominion government have by their policy shown an ever ready and earnest desire to aid, assist and promote the extension of trade relations which are of benefit to the Dominion; and whereas in order to induce the investment of the necessary capital to build, establish and maintain a first-class line of cable, and to assure dividends on the capital invested therein, it is necessary that some aid and assistance should be given in the way of an annual subsidy; therefore be it resolved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to impress strongly upon the Dominion government the urgent necessity for and the great advantages to the Dominion to be derived from a first-class line of cable between this province and Australia, via the Hawaiian Islands, and also to urge the Dominion government to subsidize, and to endeavor to join with them in subsidizing or aiding, the construction and maintenance of such cable line. The motion was adopted.

... Mr. Croft moved that the bottlers' and manufacturers of beverages bill be placed on the orders for a second reading to-morrow.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven moved in amendment that the bill be read this day six months. It was going a little too far to say that old bottles should not be sold.

... Hon. Mr. Davie said he thought the bill was not thoroughly understood when laid before the house. The object of the bill was to prevent one manufacturer from using the bottles of another manufacturer. Some of the provisions of the act, however, went too far, as they would prevent the selling of old bottles. An act that aimed at the prevention of an imposition on the public should meet with favor.

... Mr. Sword said if the whole scope of the bill was as the attorney-general explained, he would like to know whether it was not ultra vires, as it dealt with trade and commerce.

... Mr. Speaker Martin ruled the bill in order.

... Mr. Brown said there was a great deal more in the bill than the attorney-general explained. The amendment should be supported.

... Dr. Milne said the bill would only protect big firms who had their names on the bottles. Bottles belonging to the firms would have to be returned to them. He knew one man who would lose \$3,000 worth of bottles if the bill was passed.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven's amendment was carried.

... Mr. Booth moved that the standing orders of the house be suspended in regard to the bill to authorize the Hall Mines, limited, to construct tramways and electrical and other works in the vicinity of Nelson, to allow the bill to be placed in the position on the orders of the day that it occupied when it was ruled by Mr. Speaker not to be properly before the house. The motion was passed.

... Mr. Horne moved that the standing rules and orders of the house be suspended in regard to the bill to incorporate the Consolidated Railway and Light Company, to allow the bill to be placed in the position on the orders of the day that it occupied when it was ruled by Mr. Speaker not to be properly before the house. The motion was adopted.

... Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the Fraser river bridge bill, the object of which was to supplement the bill passed last year. The bill before the house increased the government grant by \$3,000 a year. By the act of last year a railway company was authorized to construct the bridge, while by the present bill the city was authorized to construct it and receive the government grant. The negotiations between the city of New Westminster and the Burrard Inlet and Fraser Valley Railway company had not amounted to much.

... Dr. Milne said the Fraser Valley company had spent over \$60,000 on the road and the bridge, and the government should consider all rights before passing the bill. Negotiations were pending between the company and their financiers, and the company had kept up their contracts with the city. The bill before the house authorized the city to say who and what should cross the bridge. The city could say that the terminus of the railway should be in New Westminster, which would be a blow to the company. The bill proposed to wipe out legislation passed last year, which would injure private interests.

... Hon. Mr. Vernon said all parties were satisfied if the bill did not come into force before May 1st. The agents of the company said they were satisfied that the bill should be brought into force if they could not complete negotiations for the construction of the bridge by May 1st. It was proposed to place a suspending clause in the bill, so that it should not come into force until that time.

... Mr. Brown said the people of New Westminster would not put any obstacle in the way of treating the company fairly. But they did not wish to see the work indefinitely postponed until the company was prepared to construct the bridge. He hoped the aid proposed would secure the construction of the bridge, which was one of importance to the whole province.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven thought with the last speaker that the bridge was of provincial importance. He was, however, surprised that the government had not more fully explained what had been done in connection with the scheme. The bridge was not only of interest to the municipality, but was of interest to the whole province, so that the government should not leave the whole control of the bridge in the hands of a lesser body.

... Mr. Horne supported the second reading of the bill. He understood that the railway company would be prepared to commence work on the bridge by May 1st.

... Mr. Kellie thought it was going a little too far to pass a bill of that kind to spend a large amount of money for an unproductive and unnecessary work. If the government had so much to spend they should spend it in building roads in the outlying districts. He could not see how members who claimed that the house was an unrepresentative one could vote for the bill.

... Dr. Milne said after hearing the explanation of the chief commissioner he would not oppose the bill. He hoped the bill would be hedged in with the guards promised to His Honor.

... The bill was read a second time, Mr. Kitcher only voting against it.

... The house went into committee on the succession duties bill and passed the amendment to the scale of duties proposed by Hon. Mr. Turner at the first meeting of the committee.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven moved to strike out the provision that the executor or administrator should give a bond for security for the duty before filing a will for probate.

... Hon. Mr. Davie said if the provision was struck out the government in some cases would be unable to collect the duties.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven contended that the present government and every government did just what he proposed to do. Did any government or council call for a land owner to give a bond for the payment of the taxes? It would be just the same to make them give a bond for their taxes as it would be to make a man give a bond for the succession tax. The government proposed to introduce a new feature in the matter of taxation. The proper way was to appoint officers to collect the tax in the usual way.

... Mr. Semlin pointed out that the value of the property might be much less when the estate was settled than when the executors gave their bond, and yet the executors would be called on to give a bond for 10 per cent. of the value of the estate.

... The amendment was lost.

... The bill was amended so that interest shall not be charged at the rate of 6 per cent. until two years after the death of the testator.

... The preamble was amended by striking out the word "whereas this province annually expends large sums for the maintenance of the insane and towards the support of hospitals and other charities, and it is expedient to provide a fund for defraying part of the said expenditure by a succession duty on certain estates of persons dying as hereinafter mentioned."

... The bill was reported complete with amendments.

... The house went into committee, Mr. Grant in the chair, to consider the mineral bill.

... Hon. Mr. Beaven rose to a point of order on the clause providing that miners should have the surface rights, contending that the bill, not being a government measure, could not deal with crown lands.

... There was a long discussion on the point of order, which was finally settled by the clause being struck out.

... The bill was reported complete with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented a message from the Lieutenant-Governor enclosing bills to amend the school act, to authorize the sale of certain lands in Westminster, and one respecting councils of arbitration and labor conciliation.

Hon. Mr. Davie introduced a bill to amend the jurors act.

The house rose at 6 o'clock.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The Victoria Electric railway and light company's bill and the bill relating to certain works in the township of Richmond were read a third time and passed.

Mr. Horne moved the second reading of the wide tire act repeal bill.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said he could consistently vote for the bill, as it proposed to repeal the wide tire act now in force.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that he could also vote for the bill.

Mr. Keith moved that the bill be read this day six months.

Dr. Milne could not vote for the bill, as the present act was working beneficially. If the act had been sprung too suddenly it could be deferred for another year.

Mr. Kitchen said the present act was generally acceptable. There was no hardship occasioned by the act. It might be improved, but it should not be repealed.

Mr. Booth said the men who objected to the wide tire act were the cordwood farmers. It would not be wise to repeal the act.

Mr. Keith's amendment to read the bill this day six months was carried by 17 to 8.

The house went into committee, Mr. Keith in the chair, to consider the game bill.

Clause one of the bill was struck out and Mr. Grant moved an amendment to clause two providing that deer skins should be allowed to be exported from any district of the province. He contended that the present act disallowing the exportation of deer skins was diverting the Indian trade from the cities of the province. Eastern manufacturers were sending to San Francisco for British Columbia deer skins, which were smuggled across the border.

Mr. Hall spoke in favor of the amendment to allow the exportation of deer skins. The act preventing it was an interference with trade and commerce, and the house could not legally do that.

Mr. Brown said he understood that deer had increased since the bill preventing the exportation of hides had been passed.

Mr. Booth said the best way to protect the deer was to prevent running dogs and killing them for their skins.

Mr. Semlin held that if skins were allowed to be exported the Indians could kill enough skins in the open season to kill off all the deer in a short time. This was the second time that the house had been asked to legislate to allow some dealer to get rid of a stock of hides.

Mr. Smith moved that the committee rise. This motion was lost.

Mr. Grant's amendment to allow the exportation of skins during the open season and sixty days after the season closed was defeated.

Mr. Brown moved to strike out the clause providing that skins taken in Cassiar district could be exported. The amendment was adopted.

Several amendments were proposed with a view of allowing the exportation of skins, which led up to a lively tiff between the minister of finance and Mr. Brown. The latter said several members seemed to be working very hard to allow certain individuals to make a few dollars in deer skins.

Hon. Mr. Turner said the member for Westminster was continually casting insinuations in respect to the motives of other hon. gentlemen. He might just as well say that Mr. Brown was being paid by some one in Westminster for opposing the proposition to export skins.

Mr. Brown said he did not make insinuations. He said what he meant without insinuating.

Mr. Grant said Mr. Brown was too fond of insinuating. He brought up the few warm words that he and Mr. Brown had a few days ago on the municipal bill.

Mr. Brown said it could not be true that he always casts insinuations. He might use a few warm words once in a while that rattled hon. members, but he did not make insinuations. He did not wish to refer to previous debates, but looking back it would be seen that he had not been guilty of all the insinuations, nor the worst one.

Hon. Mr. Turner moved an amendment to allow the exportation of deer skins, which was defeated by the chairman's casting vote.

Finally Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment which would allow the exportation of skins of deer, which was carried and the house adjourned at 11:05.

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

### Another Day Spent Considering Amendments to Municipal Act.

### AND STILL THE BILL IS NOT COMPLETE

#### A Batch of New Bills to be Rushed Through at the End of the Session—Hardly Possible for Prorogation to Take Place This Week.

MARCH 28.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock. Prayers by Rev. E. Robson.

Dr. Watt presented a report from the select committee on forestry as follows:

1. That endeavors should be made on the grounds of the provincial home at Kamloops and at any other government institution in the upper country having suitable land attached thereto to plant shrubs and trees of various kinds, both native and imported, so as to ascertain what kinds can be most successfully acclimated in that portion of the province and be most profitably cultivated for economic purposes.

2. That care should be taken by reservation or otherwise to protect the forests covering the sources of the mountain streams, and also to prevent the wasteful cutting or destruction by fire of the timber in the neighborhood of the mines.

3. That the Dominion government should be approached with a view to the location of an experimental farm in the dry belt with, among other objects, a special view to the investigation of what kind of forest and fruit trees can be most profitably introduced.

4. That every possible effort should be made by the officials of the province in outlying districts to prevent the destruction of valuable timber areas by fire, and to punish persons carelessly or intentionally starting forest fires.

The report was received.

The house went into committee, Mr. Rogers in the chair, to consider the Hall Mines bill as amended by the private bills committee.

After a long discussion about the different provisions of the bill, Hon. Mr. Davie said the powers asked for were extraordinary. The company asked to be given control of streets and roads for tramways without being controlled as to the fares they are to charge. The people who brought the bill in deserve to have it thrown out, but he would not advocate that. The bill, however, should be put in proper shape by the promoters, and the house should not be asked to do it.

Mr. Booth said all the company asked leave to do was to build a tramway from the Silver King mine to a point at or near Nelson and to carry on works in connection with their mine.

Mr. Kitchen said the company owned the best mine in Kootenay and should be allowed to build a tramway to carry ore from their mines. The company did not wish to interfere with the companies in Nelson. The house should give them every consideration possible.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the house could not properly amend the bill to do justice to the company and the public. The committee should rise and allow the company to amend the bill. He moved in that direction.

Hon. Mr. Davie said it would be all right if the company just operated the tramway and electric light works for their own use.

The committee rose and reported progress.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented a return of additional information regarding the Nakusp & Slovan railway.

Mr. Horne moved the second reading of the Consolidated Electric Railway and Light Company's bill. The object of the company is to consolidate the Vancouver Tramway Company and amalgamate with other companies. The private bills committee had amended the bill and inserted clauses to protect all parties interested.

The bill was read a second time.

The bills to authorize the sale of certain lands to the Bishop of New Westminster, to amend the school act and to provide for the formation of councils of labor conciliation and arbitration were introduced and read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the Drainage, Dyking and Irrigation bill. The bill was an amendment and consolidation of the drainage acts, but it gave the commissioners more power, particularly respecting the borrowing of money. There were large tracts of land that should be reclaimed, and the present act would facilitate the carrying out of this scheme.

Hon. M. Beaven said it was unfortunate that so many bills were placed before the house at once at the end of the session. He had been unable to examine the bill and see where the great changes occur.

From what he could understand of the bill he could not favor it and must record his vote against it.

Mr. Booth said as far as he could gather from the bill he thought it was a useful one.

The bill was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the Jurors' bill, the object of which is to distribute jury duty more fairly. At present only a very few of those on the voters' lists were called upon. The bill provided that after a man had served for some time he would be released from duty for six or seven years. It would also make less work for the selectors of jurors. He intended to propose an amendment providing that every fit person, whether he was on the voters' list or not, will have to serve as jurymen. Such men would be the first to be called on. It was a duty for everyone to serve on juries. The law would be made so that those who fail to register would have to serve.

Mr. Stoddart asked if the government had considered the question of paying grand jurors. In country districts grand jurors have to go to a great deal of trouble.

Hon. Mr. Davie said the matter had been considered, and the arguments for paying grand jurors in the country had some force. But in the cities the men who acted as grand jurors could afford to give the time.

Mr. Kitchen said in New Westminster district farmers were called on to act as grand jurors and had to go to the city at their own expense. The government should consider the matter.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Booth contended that if grand jurors were to be maintained those acting on such should be paid. The bill was read a second time.

The house went into committee, Mr. Grant in the chair, to consider the Fraser bridge aid bill. An amendment was inserted providing that the construction to and maintenance of the bridge should be under the control of the Lieut.-Governor-in-council. There was some discussion as to the terms of the bridge, but no changes were made. The committee rose and reported progress.

The house rose at 5:20.

#### EVENING SESSION.

Mr. Kitchen rose to a question of privilege. He was reported in the Times as having voted against the Fraser River bridge bill. He was not in Victoria when that vote was taken.

It was Mr. Kellie, not Mr. Kitchen, who voted against the bill.

The house continued in committee on the Fraser River bridge aid bill. An amendment was inserted providing that the act should not come into force until proclaimed and the bill was reported complete with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented messages from the lieutenant-governor enclosing bills for the appointment of assessors of logs, respecting the Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Company, the Horse Fly Mining Company and to authorize the grant of certain lands to the Westminster and Vancouver Tramway Company.

On consideration of the report of the municipality act amending bill a large number of amendments were proposed.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the following as a new clause: "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Municipal Act, 1892, or in any other act contained no municipality shall hereafter be incorporated, nor the limits of any municipality be extended during any calendar year, unless the petition for incorporation or the application for extension, as the case may be, shall have been received at the office of the Provincial Secretary on or before the 30th day of June in such year, and the letters patent incorporating or extending a municipality, as the case may be, shall take effect and be in force from and after the first day of January next following the date of such letters patent."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Brown moved that sub-section (c) of section 5 of bill No. 75 be amended by inserting the following after the word "householder," in the fourth line: "and every person paying rent of the amount hereinafter named for any room or rooms used by such person as a dwelling, shall be held to be a householder within the meaning of this section." The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Grant moved an amendment to decrease the householder qualification from \$120 to \$60 per annum. This amendment was carried without dissent.

Mr. Hunter moved an amendment providing that by-laws requiring the assent of ratepayers should require a majority of votes instead of three-fifths as inserted when the bill was in committee.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said it would not be well to make the proposed change.

Hon. Mr. Turner agreed with Hon. Mr. Beaven.

Mr. Grant and Mr. Keith argued that the majority should rule.

The amendment was adopted on a division of 15 to 11.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment providing that to save the rebate of one-sixth tax-payers must pay their taxes by October 31st. The bill before the house proposed that the taxes should not be paid until December 1st. The amendment was carried.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment providing that all applications for a renewal of a new license shall be made to the board of licensing commissioners, sitting in open court, and may be made personally by agent, and without notice. This, he explained, would do away with the expense of advertising as made necessary by the present act.

The amendment was lost on a division of 14 to 13.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved to amend section 30, referring to Sunday observance, by striking out the words "mercantile, tradesman, artificer, mechanic, workman, laborer, or other," in lines one and two, also to strike out the words "between brackets, which except certain classes of business from the provision of the clause to operate on Sunday, and substitute therefor:—conveying passengers, or Her Majesty's mails by land or by water, the operating and running of railways, and street railways, lighting works, telegraph and telephone lines and offices, hotels, restaurants, the printing, publication, and delivery of newspapers before the hour of nine o'clock a.m., the selling and delivery of milk, and of drugs and medicines, and works of necessity and charity excepted."

Mr. Grant made a long speech against the clause, which he called a Puritanical provision. He moved in amendment except the carrying of messages, selling cigars, candies, fruit, confectionery and bread, playing of hands and conducting hairdressing and bathing establishments and barber shops and the catching of fish.

Mr. Brown replied at some length to the arguments advanced by Mr. Grant.

Hon. Mr. Davie explained the object of introducing the clause. He had a petition before him asking that such a clause be inserted in the bill. It might be well to allow the sale of perishable fruits on Sunday.

Mr. Grant's amendment was lost on a division of 14 to 4, and Hon. Mr. Davie's amendment was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment providing for a court of appeal from assessments under local improvement by-laws which was carried.

Mr. Brown moved the following as a new clause: "271a. All actions against any municipality (whether such municipality be incorporated under any general act or by a special act) for the unlawful doing of anything purporting to have been done by such municipality under the powers conferred by any act of the legislature of British Columbia, and which might have been lawfully done by such municipality if acting in the manner prescribed by law, shall be commenced within six months after the cause of such action shall have arisen, or when such cause of action has arisen before the passing of this act, then within three months after the passing of this act, but not after wards; and in any such action which may be duly brought the municipality shall not be liable for a larger sum than it would have been liable for if the questions of the right to recover, and the amount recoverable were being determined in an arbitration under the incorporating act, or in any other act in that behalf, instead of in such action."

The amendment was carried.

Mr. Anderson moved the following, which was negatived:—"To limit and define an area adjoining and surrounding the public markets area, so established by the council no fish, game, meat, poultry, etc., or other articles which the council may deem objectionable, shall be sold or exposed for sale, except at the public market or markets within the said area, and to fix a penalty for any contravention thereof."

The house adjourned at 11:35.

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

### Game Protection Bill Thrown Out of the House.

MARCH 29.

The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. E. Robson.

Dr. Watt moved that whereas within the past few days a number of Chinamen have been landed at Vancouver from the steamer Empress of India, one of whom was infected with smallpox; and whereas from the facts reported it appears that two Chinese passengers taken on at Hong Kong, and found afterwards to be afflicted with the said disease, have been landed at Victoria, and the respective addresses be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor praying him to again strongly impress upon the Dominion government the necessity of taking such steps as will secure a thorough inspection by qualified medical inspectors at the ports of departure of passengers and goods coming from Asiatic seaports, so as to prevent infected persons or cargoes being received on board vessels destined for Canada; that in the opinion of this house such medical inspectors should be empowered and enjoined to require all Asiatic emigrant passengers to remain in quarantine under medical observation for a period of at least three weeks immediately prior to embarking; and also that should Asiatic cholera at any time become epidemic in China or Japan all emigrant travel from such countries be strictly prohibited until the complete cessation of such epidemic.

Mr. Sword thought the government should be asked to find out who was responsible for the state of affairs referred to in the preamble of the resolution. He moved an amendment with a view of having those who were responsible presented.

The amendment was lost and the resolution was carried.

When the speaker asked if he should leave the chair to allow the house to consider the game bill.

Mr. Booth moved that the speaker leave the chair this day six months.

It was pointed out that the speaker would be placed in a peculiar position if the motion was carried. The motion was varied to the effect that the bill be considered in committee this day six months.

Mr. Martin made an appeal for his bill. It was the wish of all to protect the game.

Mr. Hunter pointed out that the bill was different from what it was when introduced. The bill as it was now would allow the destruction of the deer of the province. For that reason he would vote for the motion that the bill be considered in committee this day six months.

The amendment to consider the bill six months hence was carried by 13 to 11.

The line fences and water courses bill was considered in committee and reported complete.

After a long discussion in committee on the homestead bill the committee rose without reporting.

The messages enclosing bills respecting the Homestly Hydraulic Mining Company, the Cariboo Mining Company, to authorize a grant of land to the Vancouver & New Westminster Tramway Company and to appoint an official scaler of logs, were considered in committee, reported to the house and read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Verma moved the second reading of the bill to authorize the sale of certain lands to the Bishop of New Westminster, which he explained as set forth in the bill. The bishop was willing to pay for the land. Although there was a doubt as to whether the see had a legal right to the land, there was no doubt that they had a moral right to it. The land had always been considered as a church reserve.

The bill was read a second time.

Hon. Col. Baker moved the second reading of the bill to amend the school act, to give the trustees power to operate the high schools with some unity. He read the conditions under which a school could affiliate with McGill College. This gave many privileges to affiliated schools. Pupils could take one of the high schools of the province so that they would have to spend two years away from home. He thought all the high schools would take advantage of this provision. There was a school that would do away with the power of the school property in the case over to the corporation.

Hon. Mr. Beaven questioned whether the bill would be the means of removing the powder magazine from Beacon Hill. The Imperial and Dominion governments could store their powder where they wished. Of course it would be desirable to have the magazines removed. It perfectly right to hand the school property over to the cities, but the corporations should not have the power to change it.

The bill was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Turner moved the second reading of the compulsory arbitration bill. The bill was not clear with different interests, as the previous act. It did not provide compulsory arbitration, as in other countries that system had been found successful, while voluntary conciliation and arbitration had been successful. It would facilitate the settlement of disputes, and records of such disputes would be kept.

Mr. Semlin said the result of a provision of a similar nature could not be recommended to this house. If it were wished to arbitrate they would do without reference to an act. It had been done and always could be done. Last year's bill was an expense to the province, but no benefit was derived.

Mr. Forster said he was surprised the bill was brought in so shortly as \$4,000 had been placed in the estimate for a commission of inquiry. Where interests of the public were involved arbitration should be compulsory.

Hon. Col. Baker regretted that the bill of last year had not worked satisfactorily, but it was introduced with the intention of benefiting the working men. There would be very little expense incurred in carrying out the provisions of the present bill. The object of the bill for a commission was to obtain evidence so that a more extensive bill could be introduced next session.

Mr. Brown would vote for the bill although there were some provisions in it with which he did not agree.

The bill was read a second time.

The Fraser river bridge bill was finally passed.

The Methodist church bill was passed through committee and finally adopted.

The house went into committee, Mr. Hall in the chair, to consider the land amendment bill. After a short discussion the committee rose and reported progress.

The house rose at six o'clock.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The house continued in committee on the land bill. The bill was reported complete with amendments.

Mr. Grant presented a petition from twenty barbers of Victoria asking that they be not forced to close their places of business on Sunday morning.

The house went into committee, Mr. Stoddart in the chair, to consider drainage, dyking and irrigation bill. There was a long discussion on the clauses authorizing guarantees for dyking works. Several amendments were introduced, but being to the effect that Dominion lands should be subject to assessment by consent of the Dominion government, the bill was reported complete with amendments.

The jurors bill was considered in committee and reported complete.

The house adjourned at 11:30.

