

**J A N**

**1892**



PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Business of the Session Already Commenced.—The House to Meet on Monday.

The usual formal motions attaching to the commencement of the session were presented in the House yesterday by the Premier after His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor had retired.

Notices of the following bills were given: The Attorney-General—A bill to amend the Companies' Act; a bill to amend the Constitution Act; a bill to amend the Magistrates' Act; a bill to amend the Municipalities Act; a bill to amend the Commissioner—A bill to amend the Land Act.

Mr. Anderson gives notice that he will move: "That a Select committee be appointed, to consist of Messrs. Stoddard, Fletcher, Keith, Grant and the mover, to enquire into the circumstances connected with certain lands claimed by Samuel Greer on English Bay, and the adverse claims of Angus and Smith to the same lands; and what number of acres of land is claimed by Angus and Smith in Crown grants numbered 9 and 98 in New Westminster district, in the Province of British Columbia, and by whom surveyed, if any one, and what price (if any) per acre was paid to the Government of the aforesaid Province for the same; and what steps the Government have taken with respect to the report of a Select committee submitted to the House and appointed April 14, 1888; and also to another report of a Select committee of the House, dated March 14, 1890, and to further enquire into a certain petition of right between the Government of the aforesaid Province and Samuel Greer, with power to call for persons, papers and documents, and to examine witnesses and report to the House."

Hon. Mr. Beaven will ask for a printed copy of an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, passed during the 40th and 41st years of Her Majesty's reign, chapter 59.

Mr. Beaven will also ask the Finance Minister: "Upon what date or dates, to what amount and at what rate of interest have the Government issued and sold inscribed or registered British Columbia stock; upon what date or dates is the principal repayable?"

"What amount of the loan of £700,000, authorized by the 'British Columbia Loan Act, 1891,' has been placed upon the English market and at what rate of interest; what offers have been received and what accepted?"

"How much of the money obtained under the 'Loan Act of 1891' has been applied to redeeming the debentures issued under the authority of the 'British Columbia Loan Acts of 1877 and 1887?"

"What sum (if any) has been set apart out of the consolidated revenue fund of the province to pay interest on stock issued under the 'British Columbia Loan Act, 1891'?"

"At what date and in what amount (if any) has money been appropriated for the creation and maintenance of a sinking fund for payment of stock issued under the 'British Columbia Loan Act, 1891,' and what provision has been made for the investment of the same?"

"What sum of money in Dominion currency has the stock issued under the 'British Columbia Loan Act of 1891' netted the province, at Victoria, after deducting exchange, discount, commission, accrued interest, stamp duty and charges of all descriptions, and on what date was the money received by the Government?"

The House, on rising, stood adjourned till Monday.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

THE HOUSE SETTLING DOWN TO BUSINESS.

The Address in Reply to the Speech From the Throne Promises the Usual Fidelity in the Discharge of the Legislative Duties.

The Speaker took the chair a few minutes past 2 o'clock this afternoon, and as there was no clergyman to say prayers, business was at once proceeded with.

Mr. Kellie presented a petition re the Kootenay water works, asking for incorporation. Also re incorporation of Nelson Electric Light Co.

Mr. Eberts—in regard to the Esquimalt water works.

Mr. Hall moved the address in reply. In doing so he referred in feeling terms to the loss the country sustained in the death of Sir John Macdonald, "that able mariner of the craft of state." He dealt with the death of the late Duke of Clarence. Coming to local affairs, he desired to give credit to the enlightened policy of the present Provincial Government for the year of solid prosperity that had been experienced. We had truly to congratulate ourselves on prosperity and solid progress. There was no reason to fear for the future of B.C. so long as this Government lived and its present policy was pursued. The Kootenay mines had proved rich, and soon the development there would surprise even the most sanguine. Railway enterprise had not fallen back, and it was to be hoped that there would be still more.

It was also satisfactory to note the solid state of the province's credit, another fact for which the Government deserved praise. The act of the Government in keeping all the arable land for settlers was a very good move. What we want is the arable land for settlers and settlers only. The crofter movement was also referred to as a desirable step in the cultivation of our deepsea fisheries. He prophesied that at an early date the fisheries of B.C. would be able to supply not only our inland cities, but those of the whole coast. There was no doubt but that the House would give its cordial support to any measure that the Government would introduce in this connection. Referring to the sealing question, Mr. Hall said that 39,579 skins had been caught by British Columbia vessels last year, representing in money over half a million dollars. This is entirely the result of the labor of our seal hunters. Half a million dollars is a great deal of money to us, and he hoped that in the solution to which it appears that this question is now coming, justice would be done to the British Columbia sealers. Mr. Hall had pleasure in moving the address in reply, which, as usual, was simply an echo of the speech from the throne.

Mr. Rogers in seconding the address, said there were a few points which he would like to touch. They all knew that Cariboo has been one of the chief sources of wealth to the Province, and he believed it will continue so. The Forks of the Quesnelle gravel mining was an industry of a magnitude hardly understood. The opening of William's Creek by hydraulic work was another big venture which will undoubtedly result in a rich harvest. Slough Creek development was another work which will yield a golden harvest. With regard to railways, these will also do much to help revive mining in Cariboo. The carrying of freight costs an enormous amount now, and were a railway to be built it would permit of the carrying of the freight and the consequent development of mines which cannot be worked now. He hoped that something practical would be done in this direction the coming season.

Hon. Mr. Beaven followed, criticising the Government's programme.

Mr. Beaven replied to this interruption that the Leader of the Government was so styled even by his own followers. Continuing he stated that last year the Premier formed a Council of Public Instruction of himself and colleagues—practically himself—for they had other work to attend to. Under that system he took away the power to elect trustees by the people. He had moved an amendment that the cities should elect their school trustees the same time as the mayor and aldermen, but this was defeated. Now the country is alive to the fact that this is the proper way. If there were a vote taken to-day and were the Premier to run against a man of ordinary strength with this issue at stake, the Premier, with all his eloquence and ability would be ignominiously defeated. The school laws at present give the school trustees more power in the way of imposing taxes than the City Council possessed. Then in the other extreme there is a limitation that if the trustees do not do the Council of Instruction send, the Council cannot cut off their heads. Mr. Beaven affirmed that he was sure the Premier would like to cut off his head.

The Premier—No! no!

Mr. Beaven—Yes, I am sure the honorable Premier would like to cut off my head, because he cannot persuade me to do as he wishes (laughter). My political heat, of course, he would like to see it roll into the basket. Continuing he claimed that education was one

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

YESTERDAY'S DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Speeches by the Leaders and Others.—The Premier Slow in Taking the Floor—A General Kick from the Independents—Land Reserve Question.

Mr. Beaven speaking to the address said he must sympathize with the members who had been asked to reply to the address. There was a time when the speech from the throne was considered an important document, but it seemed to have sadly degenerated. The speech was a successful document of words without shadowing anything. After looking over the result of the last session, and the action taken by the Government since then, it was remarkable to see this document, and his honorable friends must accept his sympathy for trying to make interesting that which was decidedly uninteresting. The honorable member for Cassiar had given the Government credit for the building of the Staswap and Okanagan Railway without costing the country anything. He had heard it stated that an enquiry into railway matters conducted under the condition existing in Quebec would lead to disclosures.

The Attorney-General—Why don't you move one?

Mr. Beaven: The session has just commenced and the conditions do not yet exist, but the question would receive consideration. Last session the House was informed that the railway was built without Chinese labor, but he had since found that Chinamen were employed on the work. Another matter with regard to railways required attention. The time of the House had been taken up in granting a great many railway charters, and he thought it would be well to have brought down papers showing the number of charters granted, and the number of railways built as a result of such legislation. The work of a progressive policy with regard to such legislation especially was much needed. He did not think the large grants of land to aid these railways resulted in good and he had hoped to see a progressive policy advocated. Although the C. P. R. had done much for the Province, he did not think the Government should sacrifice the interests of the Province to this one corporation. All the interests of the Province were bound up in making it a feeding ground for the C.P.R.

If there was anything the Government had been noted for it was in the appointing of royal commissions, and he thought that a commission to enquire into the administration of justice, and begin at the Attorney-General's Department, might do service valuable to the Province; and similar steps might be taken in connection with the Provincial Secretary's Department. It seemed that in Quebec and elsewhere whitewashing members had become a duty and a necessity, and the utility of this legislature had been taken away under the present system of government by debauching districts with promises of public works in return for support. He hoped that the members of the House would realize that they had responsible positions and high duties to perform, and was confident they would rise to their duty and see that these committees would not whitewash the actions of the Ministers but investigate carefully and do justice. If such a course was pursued royal commissions would not be needed. A committee to enquire into the Secretary's Department as far as the school system was concerned would come under such head, also that the administration of justice in the Attorney-General's Department.

Calling attention to the school system he declared against the method of appointing trustees and powers invested in them, also against the manner in which monies for educational purposes were raised. The education department could not be other than mismanaged when the Provincial Secretary and Minister of Mines also presumed to be Minister of Education.

The Premier—No! No!

Mr. Beaven replied to this interruption that the Leader of the Government was so styled even by his own followers. Continuing he stated that last year the Premier formed a Council of Public Instruction of himself and colleagues—practically himself—for they had other work to attend to. Under that system he took away the power to elect trustees by the people. He had moved an amendment that the cities should elect their school trustees the same time as the mayor and aldermen, but this was defeated. Now the country is alive to the fact that this is the proper way. If there were a vote taken to-day and were the Premier to run against a man of ordinary strength with this issue at stake, the Premier, with all his eloquence and ability would be ignominiously defeated. The school laws at present give the school trustees more power in the way of imposing taxes than the City Council possessed. Then in the other extreme there is a limitation that if the trustees do not do the Council of Instruction send, the Council cannot cut off their heads. Mr. Beaven affirmed that he was sure the Premier would like to cut off his head.

The Premier—No! no!

Mr. Beaven—Yes, I am sure the honorable Premier would like to cut off my head, because he cannot persuade me to do as he wishes (laughter). My political heat, of course, he would like to see it roll into the basket. Continuing he claimed that education was one

of the most important questions, in fact there was none more important, and he hoped that the legislators will see that it is necessary in the interests of this province that the present system should be changed. He had noticed during recess a large representation from Vancouver waiting on the Premier to try to induce him to change the obnoxious school law, and these electors had such an opinion of the Premier that the only hope they had of moving him was to offer him their support. This was an ignominious state of affairs, when the Premier could be influenced by the promise of the support of a member. These men gauged the character of the Premier in this way, and they were a people who should know his character. He hoped the House would give these weighty matters their careful consideration and legislate for the good of the country.

The vote on the address was about to be taken, when Mr. Kellie rose to speak. The Speaker ruled him out of order, as he had had ample time to speak, and neglected to avail himself of the opportunity.

Mr. Beaven asked that Mr. Kellie be heard, as it was usual for the Premier to reply, and this the members were waiting for.

The Premier said there was nothing to reply to, consequently it was unnecessary for him to speak; but he asked that Mr. Kellie be heard by the House. There being no opposition to this request, the Speaker informed Mr. Kellie that he might proceed.

Mr. Kellie said that this was only his second session in the House he was not thoroughly posted as to the rules; but he thought the laws enacted in the House at one session would at least stand until the next session. He found he was mistaken in this belief, however. He wished to speak with regard to the reserve recently put upon the Slocau lands. He had asked the chief commissioner to withdraw the reserve, and had spoken to the Premier on the same subject, but so far had not succeeded in accomplishing anything. He had come to the House to have the injustice redressed. It was only a few months ago that minerals were found in this part of the district. The prospectors who endured the privations and hardships of their toils through the mountain regions in search of mineral wealth had discovered the object of their search, and in addition to this discovered a considerable area of land suitable for settlement, and in accordance with the land laws then in force, proceeded to take up the land, making application to purchase in the usual way, in some instances going to heavy expense in having the land surveyed and staked, building cabins, etc. The Government, however, refused to grant the request of applicants, the Lieutenant-Governor by order in Council declaring the lands reserved. Last year the people of Kootenay had reason to complain of the action of the Government in granting the four-mile square blocks of land to the Columbia & Kootenay Railway; and he supposed the reserve was put on these lands in the Slocau that they might be handed over to the C.P.R. or some such monopoly. The same thing applied all through Kootenay, and no other place in the province were the people treated in this way. A member of the Dominion Parliament could get all the land he wanted in Revelstoke, and get a deed for it too, while a poor man who had squatted on a farm near the town and improved it for years could only get half an acre to purchase out of the 20 he applied for. The poor man could get no satisfaction while the member of the Dominion Parliament could get all he wanted. The townsites trouble at Revelstoke was another matter requiring to be set aright. Five years ago a gentleman was given a title to the land, but the Dominion Government took back the property and resold it, and now it was not possible to secure a registration of the deeds for these lots thus sold, and he was informed that a minister of the cabinet had an interest in these lands, and was instrumental in prolonging the settlement of the dispute. The prospectors and miners had brought to light the great mineral wealth of Kootenay, enduring the greatest hardships, and at no time being too highly paid for their arduous work and he thought it was a shame for the Government to treat them in this manner after they had done so much to bring the wealth of the country before the world and attract capital to develop these latent riches. He came to the House to have the injustice redressed.

The Attorney-General did not intend to trouble the House if the debate had ceased with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, but as he was on his feet he would refer to the statements of that hon. gentleman as well as the last speaker, Mr. Kellie. The Leader of the Opposition said that if a Royal Commission similar to that issued in the east were issued here, a very irregular state of things would be disclosed. Mr. Beaven would like to know whether the hon. gentleman was in a position to make such a statement. If he had the smallest ground to believe there was the slightest ground for such a suspicion the House would have seen on the very first day after the opening of the House, a notice on the board asking for a commission of enquiry or a committee to investigate the matter. The Attorney-General was surprised that an old statesman of more than twenty years' standing, should content himself with making insinuations, for they could be called nothing else. If he thought or knew there was a scandal, which he says he believes exists, let

him expose it in a open way. It is open for him and not only would the Government not offer any opposition, but assist him all in their power (he then it had been said that the Government had sacrificed the interests of the country to the C.P.R., where he showed that the very contrary fact: The House had been that the experience was that the minutes issued by this House were really for the purpose of whitewashing the Government, and that could have been issued to perform the duties of the House.

Mr. Beaven—I don't blame the Government for issuing the commission to enquire into municipal matters, for the magistrates' commission was not referring to these at all. Hon. Mr. Davie—I understand, gentlemen to say that, the moment by issuing royal commissions this way was taking away the legislature. Mr. Davie, he stated that there was no truth in the statements with reference to the magistrates, whose reports he believed always fair and impartial on a fact that came before them. It is true that the Government might take up these questions and bring the magistrates' commissions before the House, but he thought it had proceeded so far as to such an action. But the Attorney-General thought it was far better for the Government to have done as the Attorney-General had done, and to appoint a tribunal of entire impartiality, because it is impossible for the House or the Attorney-General to take up these matters without causing a feeling of partiality. The hon. member for Kootenay had said that the law was not being observed by the Government, in as much as there is reserves placed on land in the country. The hon. member had made representations to the Government with a view to lifting the reserves, but was unsuccessful, thought it was very wrong of the Government to put this reserve on the land.

Mr. Kellie—I asked the Government to allow an application prior to the reserve as to the application to that reserve not being allowed. Mr. Davie continued: The connection with these lands. Some valuable discoveries were in the neighborhood of Slocau, pointing to the high probability, near future, of a valuable mineral springing up at that place, and a valuable townsite being in existence there, a number of persons there, not agricultural settle land speculators. The Attorney-General had it on good authority that there was very little farming land there, and read extracts from a son Miner in support of his statement. He certainly thought, instead of the House should give the Government credit for doing what it was last session they should do. The Government in this case had reserved the C.F.B. or the C. Railway occupying this land.

Mr. Brown was surprised in a manner in which the address treated, and also was surprised at the composition of that document, and also was surprised at the more importance than those by it. The member for Kootenay mentioned the prosperity of the country but in no way Government credit for bringing the prosperity referred to. The progress made throughout the Province during the past few years was a source of gratification to all, and varied resources, and if the laws and other important matters were conceived and carried out more liberal spirit an era of greater prosperity would exist. He expected to have heard an explanation regarding the proposed amendment, but was disappointed. He had heard Mr. Kellie making a complaint against the Land Department and the Honorable Chief Commissioner allowing the Chief Commissioner to reply to the complaint, and that the law had been complied with. He thought the hon. member for Kootenay had the House that a number of constituents had complied with the requirements of the law and yet were unable to get the land. Mr. Kellie practically found the land should be sold in a fair way. He thought the difficulty could be overcome by charging a fair price for the land by placing a proper tax upon it. Those men who had done so much in ascertaining the wealth of the country should be considered, and he believed a great hardship had done them. There was a proposition several bills passed last year, the School Act being among the number. Last session he and several in the minority had tried to have the bill amended, but to no purpose. He thought it required amendment in Victoria was not the city where the act was considered particularly with regard to the election of trustees. They had a school board in Westminster. It was an accident (laughter). He thought the act would be amended so that the trustees would be elected at the time as the aldermen. He was surprised that in the speech from the throne nothing had been said regarding a redistribution of the seats in the House. He remembered that he had seen the honorable Leader of the Government inform the House a



of the most important questions, in fact there was no more important, and he hoped that the legislators will see that it is necessary in the interests of this province that the present system should be changed. He had noticed during recess a large representation from Vancouver waiting on the Premier to try to induce him to change the obnoxious school law, and these electors had such an opinion of the Premier that they only hope they had of moving him to offer him their support. This was an ignominious state of affairs, when the Premier could be influenced by the promise of the support of a member. These men gauged the character of the Premier in this way, and they were a people who should know his character. He hoped the House would give these weighty matters their careful consideration and legislate for the good of the country.

The vote on the address was about to be taken, when Mr. Kellie rose to speak. The Speaker called him out of order, as he had had ample time to speak, and he begged to avail himself of the opportunity.

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There being no opposition to this request, the Speaker informed Mr. Kellie that he might proceed.

Mr. Kellie said as this was only his second session in the House he was not thoroughly posted as to the rules; but he thought the laws enacted in the House at this session would at least stand until the next session. He found he was mistaken in this belief, however. He wished to speak with regard to the reserve recently put upon the Slocan lands. He had asked the chief commissioner to withdraw the reserve, and had spoken to the Premier on the same subject, but so far had not succeeded in accomplishing anything. He had come to the House to have the injustice redressed. It was only a few months ago that minerals were found in this part of the district. The prospectors who endured the privations and hardships of their toils through the mountain regions in search of mineral wealth had discovered the object of their search, and in addition to this discovered a considerable area of land suitable for settlement, and in accordance with the land laws then in force, proceeded to take up the land, making application to purchase in the usual way, in some instances going to hear expenses in having the land surveyed and staked, building cabins, etc. The Government however, refused to grant the request of applicants, the Lieut.-Governor by order in Council declaring the lands reserved. Last year the people of Kootenay had reason to complain of the action of the Government in granting the four-mile square blocks of land to the Columbia & Kootenay Railway; and he supposed the reserve was put on these lands in the Slocan that they might be handed over to the C.P.R. or some such monopoly. The same thing applied all through Kootenay, and in other places in the province were the people treated in this way. A member of the Dominion Parliament could get all the land he wanted in Revelstoke, and get a deed for it too, while a poor man who had squatted on a farm near the town and improved it for years could only get half an acre to purchase out of it if he applied for. The poor man could get no satisfaction while the member of the Dominion Parliament could get all he wanted. The townsites trouble at Revelstoke was another matter requiring to be set right. Five years ago a gentleman was given a title to the land, but the Dominion Government took back the property and resold it, and now it was not possible to secure a registration of the deeds for these lots thus sold, and he was informed that a minister of the cabinet had an interest in these lands, and was instrumental in prolonging the settlement of the dispute. The prospectors and miners had brought to light the great mineral wealth of Kootenay, enduring the greatest hardships, and at no time being too highly paid for their arduous work and he thought it was a shame for the Government to treat them in this manner after they had done so much to bring the wealth of the country before the world and attract capital to develop these latent riches. He came to the House to have the injustice redressed.

The Attorney-General did not intend to trouble the House if the debate had ceased with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, but as he was on his feet he would refer to the statements of that hon. gentleman as well as the last speaker, Mr. Kellie. The Leader of the Opposition said that if a Royal Commission similar to that issued in the east were issued here, a very irregular state of things would be disclosed. Mr. Davie would like to know whether the hon. gentleman was in a position to make such a statement. If he had the smallest ground to believe there was the slightest ground for such a suspicion the House would have seen on the very first day after the opening of the House, a notice on the board asking for a commission of enquiry or a committee to investigate the matter. The Attorney-General was surprised that an old statesman of more than twenty years' standing, should content himself with making insinuations, for they could be called nothing else. If he thought of a scandal, here was a scandal which he believed existed, let

him expose it in a many open way. It is open for him to do so, and not only would the Government not offer any opposition, but would assist him all in their power (hear, hear). Then it had been said that the Government had sacrificed the interests of the country to the C.P.R., whereas it could be shown that the very contrary is the fact. The House had been told, too, that the experience was that the commissions issued by this House were generally for the purpose of whitewashing the Government, and that commissions had been issued to perform the functions of the House.

Mr. Beaven—I don't blame the Government for issuing the commission to enquire into municipal matters, nor I think, for the magistrates' commission, I was not referring to these at all.

Hon. Mr. Davie—I understood the hon. gentleman to say that the Government by issuing royal commissions in this way was taking away the ability of the Legislature. Mr. Davie, proceeding, stated that there was no truth in the statements with reference to the commissions, whose reports he believed were always fair and impartial on any subject that came before them. In the matter of the magistrates, it is perfectly true that the Government might have taken up these questions and have dealt with them to the extent of even cancelling the magistrates' commission if matters had proceeded so far as to warrant such an action. But the Attorney-General thought it was far better for the Government to have done as they did, because it is impossible for the Government, or the Attorney-General, to take up these matters without causing suggestions of partiality. The hon. member for Kootenay had said that the land reserve was not being observed by the Government, in as much as there have been reserves placed on land in the Slocan country. The hon. member had said he made representations to the Government with a view to lifting this reserve, but was unsuccessful. He thought it was very wrong of the Government to put this reserve on this country.

Mr. Kellie—I asked the Government to allow an application prior to that that I haven't objected so much to the reserve as to the applications prior to that reserve not being allowed.

Mr. Davie continued: The facts in connection with these lands are—Some valuable discoveries were made in the neighborhood of Slocan Lake, pointing to the high probability, in the near future, of a valuable mining camp springing up at that place, and a valuable townsite being in existence. Knowing this, a number of persons went in there, not agricultural settlers, but land speculators. The Attorney-General had it on good authority that there were very little farming land around there, and read extracts from the Nelson Miner in support of his statement. He certainly thought, instead of blaming the House for doing what it was said last session they should do. The act of reserving the C.P.R. or the C. & K. L. Railway occupying this land.

Mr. Brown was surprised at the manner in which the address was treated, and also was surprised at the composition of that document. Out of the address were matters of more importance than those touched by it. The mover and seconder in their speeches mentioned the prosperity of the country but in no way gave the Government credit for bringing about the prosperity referred to. The prosperity made throughout the Province during the past few years must be a source of gratification to all, but British Columbia was a land of great and varied resources, and if the land laws and other important matters had been conceived and carried out in a more liberal spirit an era of much greater prosperity would exist. He had expected to have heard some explanation regarding the proposed legislation, but was disappointed. Then he had heard Mr. Kellie making a complaint against the Land Department and the Honorable the Attorney-General in reply to the complaint, concluded that the law had been complied with, yet the hon. member for Kootenay informed the House that a number of his constituents had complied with the requirements of the law and yet were unable to get the land. Mr. Kellie was right, and meant that these men who specifically found the land should have a chance to acquire it, when they did so in a fair way. He thought the difficulty could be overcome by charging a fair price for the land and by placing a proper tax upon it afterwards. Those men who had done so much in ascertaining the wealth of the country should be considered, and he believed a great hardship had been done them. There was a promise to amend several bills passed last session, the School Act being among the number. Last session he had several others in the minority had tried to have the bill amended, but to no purpose. He thought it required amendment very much, and Victoria was not the only city where the act was condemned, particularly with regard to the non-election of trustees. They had a fair school board in Westminster, but it was so identical (laughter). He hoped the act would be amended so that the trustees would be elected at the same time as the aldermen. He was greatly surprised that in the speech from the throne nothing had been said regarding a redistribution of the seats of the House.

He remembered that two years ago the honorable Leader of the Government informed the House and the electors that he would go in for a redistribution after the census had been taken. It might be brought in yet, but it also might have been mentioned in the speech. It was a matter which should have attention, as he did not think the House was a proper representation, and needed a radical amendment. He remembered well when the leader of the Government used to speak in this way, declaring that the people should be governed by the people, and he was surprised that a redistribution bill had not been brought in, when it was considered that 70 or 80 per cent. of the people of the Province were in favor of redistribution. It must be made by every man in the Government that this House does not represent British Columbia, more than 50 per cent. of the people of the Province were disfranchised. It seemed to him that it was the duty of the House to introduce a redistribution bill and then go to the country. They were being assiduously against the Government, and he was bound to say there was a feeling that the affairs of the Province are not administered for the people, but for a few. He had no doubt the Government was not as bad as painted, but he was confident the people knew they had not a voice in the affairs of the country, and he rose to make a demand for redistribution, and he hoped steps would be taken to put the affairs of the Province on a better footing.

Mr. Keith too thought the speech was remarkable for its omissions, and it would appear that the attention of the House was to be taken up in improving the legislation of the last session. He agreed with the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Westminster when they said the School Act had in the cities given general dissatisfaction to the Government, and that the school laws would be improved, but they had no guarantee that they would not be put further in the mud. He also approved of Mr. Kellie's action in contending for the rights of his constituents in Kootenay. He had been in the cities that the Government would introduce a bill making 8 hours a working day, but this he found wanting. Then there was no sign of a redistribution bill, which they had been told they would have.

The Premier—So you will, (laughter.) Mr. Keith, proceed in your remarks, and the members of the Government might laugh, for they were in power owing to their miserable representation, but when they had a redistribution they would be compelled to step out of power. (Applause.) He would have liked to have seen something telling that the Government was required with regard to the K. & N. Railway would be taxed. It was wonderful that the Government would give away a million and a half acres of land and exempt it from taxes until it was sold to some private individual. It was a burning shame. The sending of the militia to Nanaimo had not been required until yet, and when asked if the Government had any correspondence on the question, he was informed that there had been none. Yet in the face of this, the member for Nanaimo in the Dominion House had produced correspondence which had passed between the Attorney-General and the House was in a fit condition for an investigation.

The Premier—Mr. Speaker, can the hon. member for Nanaimo make such an assertion, that this House is not in a fit condition for an investigation of the Hon. Mr. Speaker did the honorable member for Nanaimo make such an assertion.

Mr. Keith, in answer to this question, stated that he had said he thought the House was in a fit condition for an investigation. He was not saying that legislation was required with regard to mining, such legislation to prevent a case from working in the mines.

The Government had promised to press a bill, but when the estimates were passed they forgot all about it. The Government had also promised to bring in a redistribution bill, and that they would improve the coal mining law, but they had not kept their promises and were not to be relied upon.

The Attorney-General said Mr. Keith may have had no intention of misrepresenting, but he had done so, nevertheless. He had asked if there was any correspondence re the sending of the Local militia to Nanaimo between the Local and Dominion Governments, and had been answered that there had been none. Mr. Mackenzie had asked if there were any expenses incurred by the Government in sending the militia to Nanaimo, and was answered in the negative.

Dr. Milne said he had no wish to prolong the debate, but he must say that he would like to hear the Premier give some explanation with regard to the policy of the Government. In the address occasion was taken to refer to the loss to the country caused by the non-election of Hon. John A. Macdonald. He felt sure that that gentleman during his long career as leader of the Dominion Parliament had never neglected to thank the mover and seconder of the address, and he thought the Premier on this occasion had neglected a duty in not thanking the mover and seconder of the address for their efforts. He presumed the Premier could give no promise because there had been no caucus meeting. He believed that the Municipal Act should be improved. The Government should have some legal mind to draft an act of this kind, and were responsible for bringing in a proper act. The progress made in the cities as referred to was not traceable to the good legislation of the Government, but to the enterprise of the citizens. The Wellington coal mines would have had a greater output had the coal mining act not been repealed. Wellington coal at the

present time was boycotted in San Francisco because it was mined by Chinese. The increase of the output of the mines instead of being 50 per cent. would be 400 per cent. had the law stood as it was or as it should. He fully concurred in the hope expressed in the clause of the address touching upon the Behring Sea question. This was one of great moment to our citizens, and last year a great hardship was felt by our vessel owners, when the law prohibiting fishing in Behring Sea was brought upon them without warning. They had fitted out and many had left for the fishing grounds fully equipped for the season and had been denied the sea's riches. This loss taken together with the falling in price of the fish had made the industry very unsatisfactory and unprofitable for those engaged in the industry. Many had left for the fishing grounds this season having equipped at great expense, and this vexed question still remained unsettled. It was hoped that an early settlement might be obtained in order that the industry will not prove a great loss to many in the Province. There seemed to be a great deal of delay in the settlement of this matter, and if this is due to the inaction of the home government it would be a disgrace to the British flag, and it was of the utmost importance that a speedy settlement should be obtained. The Public School Act was a disgrace to the Government. Yet they said they would amend the bill, probably that they might acquire more power than they have at present. It seemed to him the old Scotch adage remained true in their case, and if they were only given a chance to make their own laws, they would hang themselves. The last act of decapitating Mr. McLeod was a great hardship as he was thereby deprived of making a living in the Province at his profession. He asked how would the Attorney-General feel if the benches were to decapitate him and deprive him of following the legal profession, or treat in the same way any other professional man who had spent the best part of his life in preparing for his duties, and that doing so, without any charge, or gross misconduct. Such charges could not be laid against Mr. McLeod. It was only because he was opposed to the methods of the Government that he was treated so shamefully. He hoped the Government would set the matter right, or go on acquiring power until they hanged themselves.

The Premier then took the floor. He said in the first place he wished to compliment the members of the House who had moved and seconded the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It was the duty of the Leader of the Opposition to have done so, but he overlooked the duty of the speaker in that address. He had a grasp of the questions at issue in this province, which was not noticeable in the speeches of the members of the Opposition. The members of the Opposition had said of the speech "there is nothing in it," and used a lot of other stereotyped expressions in expressing their disapproval of it. One would think from the Leader of the Opposition that the document known as the speech from the throne were elucidations of wonderful problems, when he was at the head of office, but he had a sample that delivered in 1881, which proved then to have been anything but an able elucidation of the work to be undertaken by the legislature.

Here several of the clauses of the speech were read.

Cries of read it all were heard, but the Premier did not comply with the request.

Continuing Mr. Robson said this address only contained one clause dealing with a vital question, and yet these gentlemen of the Opposition had the audacity to call the speech from the throne a document of seventeen sections, all of burning import both to the Province and the country at large. It had been praised by most of the papers throughout the Province, even by the News-Advertiser of Vancouver, which was edited by the honorable member of the House. (Applause.) Regarding the School Act an honorable member had spoken regarding the decapitation of Mr. McLeod, and thought it would be a strange proceeding to depose a barrister, but such a proceeding was not infrequent; though happily it did not often in British Columbia. It was just that a teacher should be deprived of his certificate for wrong doing.

Mr. Grant—Some people are prejudiced.

Mr. Robson—I am glad to see you in your place.

Mr. Grant—I didn't have to go to Cariboo to get in.

The Premier said as the hon. member knew Hon. John did not have to go out of his own constituency to be elected, he should cast no reflections. He was told that he had no chance of election; but without any personal canvass whatever he was returned at the head of the poll. With regard to the redistribution he was surprised that the hon. member for Westminster made the remark he did, when he declared that the Premier had said that as soon as the census was taken a redistribution bill should be brought down. He never said so.

Mr. Brown—Yes, you did.

The Premier then read an extract from the Columbian, stating that, on the completion of the census taking, the Government was pledged to bring down a redistribution bill, according to population. In my address I said that should the census show a preponderance of population necessitating such a

step a bill would be brought down. If the census did not justify a redistribution it should not be done. He was not surprised to hear anything from that paper, but he was surprised that the member made the remark he did. He must have known it was untrue.

Mr. Brown—The remarks were true. He then read an extract to prove his statement.

The Premier declared that he never made an unconditional promise, but also put in the previous year the honorable member the redistribution bill would be submitted. Now there is room for difference of opinion as to the expediency of such a measure.

Mr. Brown—You want to eat your own words.

The Premier declared that Mr. Brown's extract bore out the truth of his statement, and it was he who should eat his words.

With regard to the Kootenay reserve he said that his friend from Kootenay was liable to get excited and run away with an idea with his eyes. The honorable member the Attorney-General, made an excellent explanation of the question. It was in the best interests of the country that the Government should prevent speculators from grabbing such lands. In one moment we are told that there is no agricultural land while in another they say there is a considerable area of such land. If it is agricultural land the Government has done its duty, and if it is mineral land the Government did right to frustrate the designs of this land grabbing scheme got up in Nelson, for it was a well known fact that there was always trouble in working mines on ground owned by private individuals. The Government was charged with not letting the law take its course; but it was just as competent for the Government to prevent this land from alienation as to allow it to be taken. The honorable member asked him to do something wrong when he wanted the reserve raised. This could only be done after given due notice in the Gazette. Bonafide settlers would get their rights. Mr. Kellie had complained that reserves were not placed upon lands in other portions of the Province, but here he was wrong, as a notice would appear in the next issue of the Gazette which will put on Vancouver Island and other adjacent islands a reserve of 1,000,000, many times larger than that in Kootenay. He could not see how the honorable gentleman could change his views on the subject so completely from last session. He should thank the Government for rescuing the land from grabbers. It was not grabbed from the poor miners to be handed over to the grinding monopoly, the C.P.R. It was taken and such unjust impositions should be made by newspapers and even members of the House. It would not be profitable to enter into a discussion of the school act or the other measures suggested. He thought the taunts of the Opposition were idle, inconsistent, improper and unpracticable and it was unnecessary to further enlighten the House on the subjects touched.

On motion of Mr. Seaman the debate was then adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Turner presented the public accounts for the past year.

The Speaker suggested that in future the legislature should adhere to the rules governing private bills, and henceforth members would be required to be on time with such.

Mr. Beaven pointed out that an injustice might be done by adhering too strictly to the rules, as there were times when legislation would be impeded were the rules strictly enforced.

The Speaker said allowance would be made for such. The ruling would apply to men who were behind in their work.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the first reading of an act to amend the "Constitution Act." He also presented the report of the Belyea commission.

The House adjourned about 6 o'clock.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

By Hon. Mr. Davie—To introduce a bill to authorize the use of the Provincial coat of arms.

QUESTION.

Hon. Mr. Beaven to ask the Provincial Secretary "Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation this session recognizing eight hours as a day's labor in carrying out Provincial public works or in a broader sense?"

**J A N**

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WITH ALL DUE HONOR.

Brilliant Display at the Opening of the Provincial Legislature.

Speech from the Throne, and the Prospective Business it Outlined.

The second session of the fifth parliament of British Columbia was duly inaugurated at 3.30 o'clock, yesterday afternoon, by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in the presence of a distinguished assembly of representative British Columbians, who filled not only the floor of the House, but both side and end galleries. Outside, a cheerless, misty rain descended gently, darkening the white helmets of the guard of honor from "C" Battery, and turning to mud the newly-laid gravel on the drive.

The military, in full winter uniform, took their position on the lawn between the treasury building and the legislative hall, 53 rank and file, not including the five bands of 21 musicians, who made the opening of the House the occasion of their first appearance. His Honor arrived shortly after 3 o'clock, accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. Herbert Stanton, and attended by the following staff: Lieut.-Col. Holmes, D.A.G.; Capt. Benson, B.C.A.; Capt. Palmer, R.C.A.; Capt. Wood, R.N.; Capt. Jones, District Staff; Lieut. Martin, R.N., and Lieut. Kingenorth, R.N. After a brief call at the treasury building, the Lieutenant-Governor passed the saluting soldiers, and the squad of provincial and city police on guard, at the main entrance to the House, and proceeded to the throne, the band playing one bar of the National anthem.

The progress to the dais was through the crowd of visitors, which was never larger in the history of the province. The Senate, the Commons, the Bench, the Bar, the Clergy, and, last but not least, the fair sex—each was well represented; nor was the Mock Parliament lacking members present.

The invitation list was a long one, and the great majority of those asked to take seats on the floor of the House graced the occasion with their presence. Of those who were bidden the following are the best known: J. A. Mara, M.P.; D. W. Gordon, M.P.; G. E. Corbould, M.P.; F. S. Barnard, M.P.; Lieut.-Colonel Prior, M.P.; Thos. Earle, M.P.; Sir M. G. Begbie, C.J.; Hon. Justice McCreight, Hon. Justice Crease, Hon. Justice Walkem, Hon. Justice Drake, D. Oppenheimer, the Mayor and Aldermen of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo, Major Peters, Capt. Ogilvie, officers H. G. Daphne, J. H. Innes, T. S. Dobbin, H. C. Becton, Senator McInnes, Wm. Wilson, W. T. Marvin, W. C. Ward, Robert Ward, Robert Irving, James Angus, R. P. Rithet, J. H. Todd, S. Leiser, Capt. John Irving, Gus Leiser, B. Gordon, H. Saunders, Charles Hayward, Thos. McConnan, George Gillespie, Gavin H. Burns, J. C. Prantice, A. L. Belye, J. H. Worlock, J. L. Taimur, Charles Kent, P. Leech, Wm. Lynn, McE. Smith, C. Booth, Col. Wolfenden, E. C. Reddie, D. P. S. W. S. Gore, T. S. Gens, James Hennessey, Miss R. Dunsmuir, E. W. Pearce, E. G. Matthews, Tom. Keane, Dr. S. D. Pope, D. Wilson, J. Fannin, A. R. Milne, Capt. Shears, A. C. Tilton, A. B. Gray, M. T. Johnston, H. S. Mason, C. A. Holland, H. V. Golpin, P. R. Brown, H. Carmichael, W. P. Hayward, W. S. Chambers, B. H. T. Drake, H. D. Heucklen, J. W. Taylor, H. B. W. Aikman, F. G. Walker, G. C. Pemberton, A. S. Dumbleton, Lindley Crease, W. H. Langley, Hon. J. S. Helmcken, Dr. J. D. Helmcken, J. S. Yates, Geo. Jay, A. P. Lutton, A. J. Langley, N. P. Snowden, D. R. Harris, R. S. Byrn, W. R. Clarke, George Byrnes, Joshua Davies, H. E. Heisterman, Jos. Lawren, E. L. Erb, Francis Bourchier, C. J. Leggett, H. Coombe, J. C. Prevost, Sheriff McMullan, F. Hussey, E. Crow Baker, R. B. McMicking, Dr. T. J. Jones, F. H. Marshall, Dr. McNaughton Jones, Dr. Powell, Dr. Duncan, Capt. Curwin, F. C. Davidge, Capt. McCallum, M. Dalby, F. J. Claxton, Wm. Wilson, D. Spencer, H. Young, H. K. Prior, Sir Joseph Trutch, John Trutch, A. Keast, Jno. Steavenson, J. H. McLaughlin, Major Nicholles, Hon. J. O'Reilly, A. Begg, G. M. Sproat, P. D. Lubbe, Dr. Davie, Capt. P. G. Clarke, U. S. Consul Myers, F. B. Gregory, L. Goodacre, N. Shakespear, T. A. Cavins, E. H. Fletcher, A. J. W. Bridgman, F. C. Gamble, Wm. Fisher, Jr., E. Haynes Reed, Dr. Richardson, W. H. Ellis, A. G. Sargison, Dr. Pearson, Wm. Templeman, Henry Lawson, W. J. Gallagher, J. C. McLagan, J. M. O'Brien, Geo. Kennedy, James Vail, H. McCutcheon, Geo. Norris, D. M. Carley, A. C. Flumerfelt, J. Salloway, H. M. Dumbleton, C. P. Colley, C. Haughton, A. J. O'Reilly, M. J. Mettly, Captain Gaudin, G. Morkill, M. Bovill, S. P. Taok, W. H. Branson, Ljor Dupont, Hon. A. N. Richards, Forest Angus, J. J. Austin, Wm. Ward, Jr., Cecil Ward, J. Oliver, Capt. Devereux, J. D. Pemberton, Fred. Pemberton, Arthur Smith, C. E. Redfern, J. T. Fell, Hy. Moss, Thos. Shotbolt, the Revs. Townsend, Bishop Lemmens, Bishop Hills, Archdeacon Scriven, Dr. Smith, Jenns, Watson, White, Macleod, Cridge, Lipscombe, Gardner, Paddon, Schofield, Barber, Brown, McRae, Dobbs and Ardrey, Messrs. John Russell, Wm. Gospel, Jas. Hutchison, Capt. Gerrard, Thos. Nicholson, John Doran, Thos. McInnes, W. Bullen, W. Monteith, R. Erskine, S. Dueti, S. P. Mills, J. H. Robertson, F. G. Richards, Jr., C. E. Renouf, E. V. Bodwell, P. A. Irving, Miss Barber, Mrs. Baymur.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE. Having taken his seat on the throne, His Honor addressed the House as follows: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly: I am glad to meet you all once more for

the purpose of devising measures for the public good, and making provision for the public service.

"Since we last met, death has deprived Canada of her greatest statesman, Sir John Macdonald, whose distinguished services had been given to his Queen and country for so many years, and who was so largely instrumental in binding together the scattered possessions of Her Majesty in North America, into one united Dominion, washed by two great oceans.

"And now the great nation, of which it is our pride to form a part, has been plunged in grief, by the sudden and untimely death of H. R. H. the Duke of Clarence, presumptive heir to the throne. I am sure your hearty sympathy goes out to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, to the bereaved parents, and to other members of the Royal Family, in the loss they, and the nation, have sustained.

"Turning to matters of local concern, I congratulate you upon the past year of solid prosperity, and the encouraging outlook for the future.

"The public revenue has far exceeded your expectations, with the prospect of a still more satisfactory increase during the year upon which we have entered.

"The principal industries are, for the most part, in a thriving condition, especially that of coal mining, the output having reached considerably over a million tons, or about 50 per cent. more than that of the previous year.

"The recent discovery of rich and extensive quartz ledges in the Kootenay District is attracting the attention of capitalists, and cannot fail to bring about a period of great activity in that promising district, while from the large hydraulic mining enterprises now being undertaken in Cariboo may reasonably be anticipated a revival of the mining activity of old days in that important gold-field.

"The Kootenay and Columbia railway has been completed and is in operation for some time, and promises to become an important factor in opening up that part of the country.

"It is gratifying to be able to announce the practical completion of the Shuswap and Okanagan railway, and to feel assured that this important work has been accomplished without the probability of entailing any financial charge upon the public revenue.

"Surveys have been vigorously prosecuted in different parts of the province during the past season, and much valuable information has been obtained. You will be asked to make liberal provision for continuing this important work.

"Acting under the authority of legislation of last session, one of my ministers proceeded to London, and was successful in floating a three per cent. Inscribed Stock loan upon terms highly favorable to the province, and which it is believed will enable the public debt to be consolidated on a most advantageous basis. The papers connected with these transactions will be laid before you.

"Last session amendments were made to the land law, with a view to discouraging speculation public lands suitable for agricultural purposes. You will be invited to consider further amendments in that direction; as it is deemed important that agricultural lands should be preserved for actual settlers.

"Measures for the following purposes will also be submitted for your consideration:—

"A Bill dealing with various matters of Municipal reform.

"A Bill in relation to the Magistrate's session, suggested by its actual working.

"A Bill dealing with Mining Partnerships.

"A Bill to amend the Public School Act.

Certain proposals for the establishment of settlements of Crofters at various points along the seaboard, with a view to the development of our deep-sea fisheries, will be submitted for your consideration.

"Although long delayed, there is reason to anticipate an early settlement of the vexed question of our rights in the Behring Sea, and we can only hope that the terms may be such as will permit of our important sealing industry being prosecuted without further obstruction.

"The public accounts will be laid before you, and the estimates of revenue and expenditure will be presented at an early stage of the session.

"I now leave you to your deliberations, praying that the Supreme Ruler may guide you to such conclusions as may be most conducive to the public weal."

BUSINESS COMMENCED. His Honor having retired, Mr. Speaker took the chair and the House was opened in the usual form, with prayers by the Lord Bishop of Columbia.

The preliminary routine motions were then presented and disposed of, and the Attorney-General introduced the first measure of the session—a bill to amend the Companies' Act of 1890. The bill is a very short one, being framed simply for the purpose of correcting a clerical error of section 49 of the act to be amended. It passed its first reading and was set for the second on Monday, to which day the House stands adjourned.

The usual list of "notices" were filed promptly on the adjournment of the House. All are to be dealt with at the next sitting. The Chief Commissioner announces his intention of introducing a bill to amend the Land Act, and the Attorney-General gives notice of bills to amend the Constitution Act, the Magistrates' Act and the Municipalities' Act.

Mr. Anderson has a long resolution on the paper, dealing with Samuel Greer and his celebrated claim. It reads as follows: "That a Select committee be appointed, to consist of Messrs. Stoddard, Fletcher, Keith, Grant and the mover, to enquire into the circumstances connected with certain lands claimed by Samuel Greer on English Bay, and the adverse claims of Angus and Smith in Crown grants numbered 91 and 98 in New Westminster district, in the province of British Columbia, and by whom surveyed, if any one, and what price (if any) per acre was paid to the Government of the aforesaid province for

the same; and what steps the Government have taken with respect to the report of a Select committee submitted to the House and appointed April 14, 1883; and also as to another report of a Select committee of the House, dated March 14, 1890, and to further enquire into a certain petition of right between the Government of the aforesaid province and Samuel Greer, with power to call for persons, papers and documents, and to examine witnesses and report to the House."

Hon. Mr. Beaven has also a short resolution on the list, asking for a printed copy of an act of the parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, passed during the 40th and 41st years of Her Majesty's reign, chapter 59.

The only question listed is by the leader of the Opposition, and is addressed to the Minister of Finance. It reads: "Upon what date or dates, to what amount and at what rate of interest have the Government issued and sold inscribed or registered British Columbia stock; upon what date or dates is the principal repayable?"

"What amount of the loan of £700,000, authorized by the 'British Columbia Loan Act, 1891,' has been placed upon the English market and at what rate of interest; what offers have been received and what accepted?"

"How much of the money obtained under the 'Loan Act of 1891' has been applied to redeeming the debentures issued under the authority of the British Columbia Loan Acts of 1877 and 1887?"

"What sum (if any) has been set apart out of the consolidated revenue fund of the province to pay interest on stock issued under the 'British Columbia Loan Act, 1891'?"

"At what date and in what amount (if any) has money been appropriated for the creation and maintenance of a sinking fund for payment of stock issued under the 'British Columbia Loan Act, 1891' and what provision has been made for the investment of the same?"

"What sum of money in Dominion currency has the stock issued under the 'British Columbia Loan Act, of 1891, netted the province, at Victoria, after deducting exchange, discount, commission, accrued interest, stamp duty and charges of all descriptions, and on what date was the money received by the Government?"

Mr. Hall (Cassiar) in moving the formal reply to the speech from the throne, referred in eloquent terms to the great loss which the country as a whole had sustained in the death of the late Premier of the Dominion, Sir John A. Macdonald, whose far-seeing wisdom, without a doubt, had done a great deal for each and every part of the Dominion, by binding them together with a band of steel—the Canadian Pacific railway.

The death of the Duke of Arceano and Avondale, heir presumptive to the throne of Great Britain, was also deplored, and the honorable member passed to the consideration of the paragraphs of his honor's speech referring particularly to the province of British Columbia. The people of the province had to thank the enlightened policy of the Local Government for much of the progress and prosperity of the country, to-day. The exports from the province, constantly increasing, told in language impossible of contradiction, how the country was growing in wealth, population and commercial importance.

The House might congratulate itself, not only on the general prosperity of the country, but on the possession of a Government capable of directing the affairs of the country in such a manner as to produce a great measure of that prosperity. The revenue of the province, as well as its commerce, was substantially increased, and, no doubt, would continue to grow. The policy of the Government was such that the country had nothing to fear in the future. Referring to the great Kootenay country, the member for Cassiar congratulated the province on its extensive and promising development, the result, in no small part, of railway construction. Out of the many railways projected and taken in hand during recent months, the Columbia and Kootenay had been in operation for some time, doing good service. The Shuswap and Okanagan, too, was practically finished and without any charge upon the Government. Still another matter of congratulation among the mountains of B.C. are many valleys of great promise, whose vast areas of good land would amply provide for the people of the province. The success of the Finance Minister in floating the loan in London, as referred to in the speech, was a matter of satisfaction, as also was the promise of amendments to existing legislation, in relation to the land laws, looking to the greater benefit of actual settlers.

No one could for a moment doubt the magnitude of British Columbia's deep-sea fishing industry. The wealth of these fisheries was practically unlimited, but individual attempts to develop them could not but prove abortive. Not only were fishermen needed, but capital to sustain their toilers of the sea until the returns of their industry could come in. And these returns were sure. The fallop of British Columbia was making its way into the chief markets of the United States and Canada, and was being received with favor—and still the day was not the beginning. The day was near at hand when British Columbia fish would be known and welcomed in all the great markets of the world. There was no doubt that the Crofter scheme would do good, nor was there any doubt that the House would give that scheme its support. With other honorable members, he was grateful for the assurance that the public accounts and estimates would be submitted at an early date. He believed in an intelligent expenditure of public money; it would not do to be too niggardly. The British Columbians of to-day had a rich legacy to leave to their children, who, it was only fair, should bear a certain amount of responsibility for the public improvements which they were to enjoy. It was one, wished to see in the present day and generation, some measure of the owing development of the great wealth of which British Columbia was, beyond a doubt, possessed. (Applause)

The second part of the reply was Mr. Rogers (Cariboo). He confirmed his remarks to the development of his own particular district. Some industries there were of great importance to all British Columbia. The district in the early days was one of the chief contributors to the revenue of the country. It was the fame of Golden Cariboo that started the inrush of Golden Cariboo, and brought the resources of the province to the notice of the world. The gravels mining industry, at present engaging the district, though involving an immense amount of money, was but a drop in the bucket.

Another prominent industry, the working of famous old Williams' creek, by a company with a new scientific process, was also engaging attention. Williams' creek, taken from the sands of yet to come. Slough creek also was known to be rich in gold, but its channel was so intricate, and the creek itself so deep, that old prospectors had despaired of turning it

DEBATING THE ADDRESS.

Nearly Four Hours Speaking in the Provincial Legislature Yesterday.

The Slocan Reserve Discussed—Something About Royal Commissions.

The first working day of the session, yesterday, was devoted to the discussion of the speech from the throne. Prior to the opening of the debate, three petitions were handed in, two by Mr. Kellie and one by Mr. Eberts. The former asked for bills to incorporate the Nelson Water Works and Electric Light Co.'s; the latter for legislation to enable the Esquimalt Water Works Co. to extend their works by "extracting" water from Goldstream. All three were received.

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The second part of the reply was Mr. Rogers (Cariboo). He confirmed his remarks to the development of his own particular district. Some industries there were of great importance to all British Columbia. The district in the early days was one of the chief contributors to the revenue of the country. It was the fame of Golden Cariboo that started the inrush of Golden Cariboo, and brought the resources of the province to the notice of the world. The gravels mining industry, at present engaging the district, though involving an immense amount of money, was but a drop in the bucket.

Another prominent industry, the working of famous old Williams' creek, by a company with a new scientific process, was also engaging attention. Williams' creek, taken from the sands of yet to come. Slough creek also was known to be rich in gold, but its channel was so intricate, and the creek itself so deep, that old prospectors had despaired of turning it

to profit. A company, recent would soon have machinery on to locate the channel, and would doubtless rich stream. Cariboo, although a little in the back coming forward grandly. The Government and the country present time, was amply demonstrated the creditable terms upon which a loan had been placed by the Finance and Railways, the developing any country, were British Columbia. Railways were needed for Cariboo; the expense, something like \$100 per mile on freight, made the development of the mineral resources of Cariboo, if, indeed, possible. He (Mr. R.) to see a railway that would benefit well under way before the expenditure was at an end. (Applause)

Hon. Mr. Beaven said that from the Throne, read at the opening of the session, was popularly supposed to be a synopsis of the legislative program for the country, by the members of the Government. He (Mr. R.) had been asked by the Government, if he would formal speeches in what was known as the "reply" speech. They were to be on their efforts, for without them anyone, he (Hon. Mr. Beaven), characterized the speech as "language anything else." As a consequence, the speech was eminent in full of generalities, showing anything of interest in a more unsatisfactory document well be devised. The speech was in marked contrast to that which contained scarcely a chapter beginning to end. Truly the Mr. Cassiar and Cariboo were deserving sympathy of both houses, and their endeavors to make marks interesting. One subject referred to by the former, the Shuswap and Okanagan railway, the Government had given its construction without cost to the province. "If," said the honorable member, "we had a good in such as have recently been held, we would have interesting developments regard to that railway."

The Attorney-General— "Who moves for our then?"

Hon. Mr. Beaven explained that yet very early in the session, and hardly have taken the action suggested to. One thing that was satisfactory about the construction of the railway, the S. & O., was its class employed. Last year at the House employed that the labor was engaged; it was so very to learn was not the fact. Last year he pointed a matter of congratulation in doing so, spoke upon information he then believed to be authentic matters were not referred to in fact, it was more notable for reasons than for its contents. Another upon railways, before going on to just. The time of the House, largely occupied in chartering railroads, a return of the number of charters the acreage of land devoted to construction, the different ways granted, and the time allowed completion, would have been very in such a return would show how chartered railways had proved to be the greatest of our present needs. There was lack of policy. The country stood out in strong contrast to British Columbia; what was wanted in our province was a progressive Government a progressive policy—notably, in construction of railways. He (Mr. R.) had hoped to see a progressive policy in such as all who have the interest of the country at heart would support was not absolutely necessary, as the present. The interest of the province in the interest of the continent of America. Not that to disparage the Canadian road hamper it; but the whole interest province were not bound up in the British Columbia as a feeding ground the C.P.R. Royal Commissions had the past few months, been the order day, but in this matter there had grave oversight. If ever there time in the history of British Columbia when a commission to enquire into administration of justice was in order the present. Such an investigation clear up many things, and would be a good thing for the province. In the Provincial Secretary department, too, a Royal Commission not be out of order, nor Royal Commissions were becoming in fact. The duties of the Legislature were being handed to Royal Commissions and the utility of the legislature was being weakened. A large number of the members of the legislature thought it a duty when they got upon a committee of enquiry to whitewash members of the Government. The uses of the legislature were being through the debauchery of the legislature by the expenditure of public money support in the House. A Royal Commission should only exist under very exceptional circumstances. He hoped members of the House would rise to a sense of their and the importance of the committed House. The duties of special commissions were not simply to whitewash and to transactions of the Government, but investigate and do justice.

The speaker continued: "It is based, and said to me during the past that the only portion of the province which there was any dissatisfaction of school act was in Victoria. There representatives here to-day from all the provinces, and I venture to say there will be no difficulty in contradiction such a statement. But as far as the Victoria is concerned, I think that who is acquainted with the way the is working must have come to the conclusion that the system is one which is not applicable to the city of Victoria, not applicable anywhere in the province."



our Hours Speaking in the Provincial Legislature Yesterday.

an Reserve Discussed—Some-thing About Royal Com-missions.

working day of the session, yes-terday was devoted to the discussion of the address from the throne. Prior to the debate, three petitions were presented by Mr. Kellie and one by Mr. Beaven.

The former asked for bills to amend the Nelson Water Works and the Esquimalt Water Works and their works by "extracting" Goldstream. All three were referred to the committee on the throne.

Mr. Beaven said that the Speech from the Throne, read at the opening of the session, was popularly and generally regarded as a synopsis of the legislation thought necessary for the country by His Honor's advisers—the Government. No doubt the honorable members for Cassiar and Cariboo were well pleased by the Government to have the formal speeches in introducing what was known as the "reply to the speech."

They were to be congratulated on their efforts, for, without being harsh on anyone, he (Hon. Mr. Beaven) could not but characterize the speech as "language without anything else." As a combination of words, the speech was eminently successful. It was full of generalities, but as foreshadowing anything of interest to the province, a more unsatisfactory document could not well be devised.

The Attorney-General—"Why don't you move for me, then?" Hon. Mr. Beaven explained that it was yet very early in the session, and he could hardly have taken the action suggested had he desired to do so. One thing that was satisfactory about the construction of this railway, the S. & O., was the class of labor employed. Last year the House was informed that Chinese labor was not being employed; it was so sorry to learn that this was not the fact.

Continuing, the speaker berated the Government for compelling certain cities to provide a portion of the funds for the maintenance of the schools. He said the power of the councils of these cities to raise funds was limited, and they could not, beyond a certain sum, raise what funds they wanted. Then, in return for this privilege of paying part of the cost of maintenance, the city councils were given the power of appointing certain trustees, and, if these trustees did not do what the council wanted them to do, they (the city councils) had in their hands the power to cut off their (the trustees') heads.

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We have had for a number of years the school trustees elected by the people at the polls. We have had the Government of the day supply all the funds. And this is where the Government has now made its great mistake, and the House, too, if I may say so, in selecting certain portions of the province and compelling them to pay a certain proportion of the cost of maintenance irrespective of the sum they pay into the provincial revenue. Then we have the power of appointing one-half the trustees taken away from the people and vested in the so-called Minister of Education. Although we have no such a provincial officer as the Minister of Education, we find that we have the Provincial Secretary usurping that title.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—Well, if he has not he has already the titles of Premier, Provincial Secretary and Minister of Mines, and these ought to be enough for any one man without usurping any more, that do not belong to him. It was pointed out some time ago that the policy of the government was to centralize all the power in themselves and the education department, as much as possible, in trying to get control of the schools. And by the system of legislation adopted last year he (the Premier) further centralized power over the schools by constituting what is called a Council of Public Instruction, supposed to consist of himself and the members of the government, but which practically consists of himself. Thus we see wherein he has been exercising power. Last year, when this bill was being considered, I moved an amendment to provide for the election of the trustees by the people, at the time of municipal elections, but the House, or the Government, saw fit to vote this amendment down. By forcing the present school act upon the Government, I am sure you will believe that we were wrong, but, although their school act has now been so in operation, the leader of the Government has not succeeded in making me change my mind, and although public opinion, at that time, was lethargic and I did not so now. Public opinion is very much alive to the importance of having trustees elected at the same time as the school trustees. I venture to say that, in a city of Victoria, these could not be found one single man who would think otherwise, and if the Premier, himself, were to run in an election on the platform of having the Government appoint the trustees, and the most inferior man in the city would run against him on the popular platform of election of the trustees by the popular vote—I say, if the Premier, himself, would run with such a platform, with all his ability, with all his eloquence and with all his knowledge of the conduct of public affairs, he could not be returned. (Laughter.) It has been my duty lately to be in quite a large number of places in the province, and in all of them I have made careful enquiries in this matter. He said, wherever I have gone, I have found that the unanimous sentiment was in favor of having the trustees elected.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—No, no. Hon. Mr. Beaven: Of course, I mean politically (laughter). He seems to understand only one means of successful legislation, and that is school teacher has views of his own, and will not do what the Government wants him to, his head drops into the basket, and reasoning from analogy, I presume he would, if he had a chance, do just the same with me.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—No; I didn't say that. Hon. Mr. Beaven—Yes you did. Hon. Mr. Beaven—No, I did not say that at all. I said I did not blame the Government for issuing Royal Commissions to enquire into municipal matters.

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ferred to more particularly was the reserve placed by the Government on certain lands surrounding Slokan lake. He had twice seen the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works on the matter, and had twice seen the Premier, but could make no impression upon either of them. The circumstances were well known. Certain discoveries had been made, and certain parties found that there were Government lands which they thought they could acquire under the regular laws of the province. They tried to get the lands under the laws and in a proper way, and spent some considerable amount of money in so doing, but their work, it had seemed, was useless, for the Government stepped in and placed a reserve upon the lands. He wanted to know if it was right for the Government to step in this way. He understood the plea that the (the Government) advanced was that these lands were agricultural lands. That was a most fallacious argument, for if it was right to reserve agricultural land in an action of the province, it would be equally right to reserve other land in other parts of the province. In the speech from the throne, reference had been made to the fact that the railway, the Columbia & Kootenay railway, had been much in developing the country. That was a wrong idea, for the railway had been only running six months. As a matter of fact, the true developers of the country were the miners—these very same men whom the Government now sought to rob of their rights. Another matter he wanted to bring before the attention of the Government was the way in which lands in the 20-mile belt were being administered by the Dominion Government. It was impossible in that belt to acquire lands either by pre-emption or purchase, and a number of desirable people who had come in and had wished to settle upon that land, had been compelled to go across the border to the State of Washington, so that they could get land to live on. He thought it was a funny thing that people born and bred in the country were unable to acquire land that was open for settlement. But one peculiar feature of this was that one member of the Dominion Parliament could go in and get all the Government land he wanted, and could get the deeds for it, while a man, a poor, common settler, at Revelstoke, had been years on his land, and a couple of years ago, in answer to repeated enquiries, was told that he could only buy half an acre of it. He proposed bringing this matter up a little later on. Another matter to which he wished to refer was to the troubles of the townsite of Revelstoke. An agent named Farwell had had a sale of some town lots there, a few years ago, and up to the present time those who had bought lots and who had paid over their money and had made improvements, were unable to get their deeds. He was given to understand that the reason for this was that a member of the provincial cabinet was interested in the Revelstoke townsite, and would not allow the deeds to be granted. He did not, however, know this for a fact, and trusted the Government would take advantage of the first opportunity to deny it (amuse).

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was in the interests of the country that the Government should have done so. Instead of being blamed for their action in this matter the Government should have received the greatest commendation from the very people who were now objecting. He read from the Nelson Miner of the 20th January, to show that the land was not agricultural land, not even the 100th part of one per cent. being fit for agricultural purposes, and by comparison with a statement made in the same paper (The Miner) showed that on the 19th December, 1891, it (The Miner) had stated that the whole of the land was good and arable. There were altogether 9,362 acres applied for, and by placing this under reserve until the spring, the Government was certainly doing what was its manifest duty to prevent speculation, whether the land was good for agricultural purposes or good only for mining. As for the statement that the C.P.R. would get this land, the very act of the Government, in placing a reserve on it, was the act that would keep the C.P.R. from getting it, for it was distinctly provided in the railway grant act that no lands placed under reserve could be taken by the railway. As to the distinction that a member of the cabinet of the province was interested in the townsite of Revelstoke, if the Hon. gentleman from West Kootay actually thought that such was the case, he should move for a committee or a Royal Commission to make an enquiry.

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session regarded as perfect, should need amendment; but he for one would not complain. The hon. leader of the Opposition had said that he was told there was only complaint in Victoria. That was not the case, as there was also complaint in Westminister, an atrocious piece of legislation. The project so far as the present school board is concerned, there was no complaint. They had a good school board, but that was an accident, (laughter), and an accident that should be prevented.

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