

J A N

1891

THE LEGISLATURE.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE OPENING OF THE SIXTH HOUSE.

A Characteristic Meaningless Speech from the Throne—The Visitors in Attendance—Most of the Members Present Ready for the Entertainment.

The first session of the sixth parliament of British Columbia was formally opened this afternoon by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Nelson.

The legislative chamber was filled some time before the opening ceremony by ladies and gentlemen who sat immediately outside the members desks. Beside this the capacity of the gallery was fully taxed, which considering the weather was not to be expected. Among those present on the floor of the chamber were: His Lordship Bishop Hills, Mrs. Nelson, Miss Weston, Mrs. G. L. Milne, Miss Kinsman, Mrs. Carmichael, the Misses Drake, Mrs. J. H. Turner, Mrs. W. Chambers, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Beckwith, Miss and Mrs. Hutcheson, Mrs. Chudley, Miss Hall Mrs. Eberts, Mr. E. W. Matthews, Rev. A. Beaulieu, Mr. Bayne, Rev. Dr. Reed, Mrs. G. L. Milne, Mrs. Seymour, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Earle, Mrs. and Miss Davie, Mrs. A. W. Smith, Mrs. W. Stevenson, Mr. E. Baynes, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Whitaker, Mr. W. C. Haywood, Dr. and Mrs. Wade, Rev. Donald Fraser, His Lordship Sir Matthew Begbie, Chief Justice, Hon. Mr. Justice Walker, Hon. Mr. Justice Drake, United States Consul Myers, Mr. Herbert Stanton, Col. Wolfenden, Mr. and Miss Kingham, Hon. Senator and Mrs. McInnes, Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Miss Heisterman, Mr. F. S. Barnard, M.P., Mr. Bayne, Rev. Dr. Reed, Col. Prior, M.P., Mr. P. E. Irving, Mr. J. H. Brownlee, Mr. H. E. Crossdale.

His Honor, in uniform, was met at the entrance by the Clerk of the House. The Governor was attended by Lieut. Col. Holmes, and two naval officers.

Mr. Eberts moved, that Mr. Higgins be appointed to open the House of this house as one eminently qualified for the position.

Mr. Semlin seconded the motion, and the Premier stated that the government could not but feel gratified at the unanimous choice of the House.

The question was put, and Mr. Higgins in acknowledging the honor, thanked the House therefor, promising a continuance of the conduct which they had considered so impartial.

After the Speaker had addressed his honor, the Premier read the customary declaration of the House and his honor proceeded to open the House with the speech from the throne: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It is with more than ordinary satisfaction that I now proceed to open the first session of the sixth term of the Provincial Legislature.

Although all our expectations may not have been fully realized, yet the past year has been one of general prosperity, and the outlook for the future is increasingly hopeful.

In the principal sources of revenue there has been substantial improvement. Last year's receipts very largely exceeded the estimate, while the receipts during the current fiscal year indicate a still more gratifying result.

The staple industries of the Province show a healthy expansion. The output of our coal mines largely exceeded that of any previous year.

The result of the land surveys authorized last Session has, so far, proved satisfactory, several extensive areas suitable for settlement having been already located. You will be asked to make provision for more extended operations.

The Columbia and Kootenay Railway promises to be ready for traffic with the coming spring, while the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway is being pushed forward with vigor.

In anticipation of legislation upon the subject, my ministers withdrew agricultural lands from private sale. You will be invited to consider what measures will be best calculated to discourage speculation in agricultural lands and ensure their being available for actual settlement at the government price.

A scheme will be submitted to you, having for its object the conversion of the public debt upon terms highly advantageous to the Province.

A commission, comprised of gentlemen possessing extensive practical acquaintance with the subject, has been intrusted with the work of revising the mining laws and preparing such amendments as shall meet the changing needs of this important industry. The result of their labors will be laid before you at an early date, in order that you may enact such legislation as shall be calculated to promote the development of our great mineral wealth.

You will be asked to consider a measure to secure compensation for personal injuries suffered by workmen in certain cases.

Bills will also be introduced for the purpose of amending the Railway Aid Act, the Assessment Act, and the Acts regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors.

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, with confidence that your labors will be conducive to the best interests of the Province, and may the Supreme Ruler direct your efforts.

The speaker took the chair at 3:35 o'clock when

His Lordship Bishop Hills read prayers, and the House passed the usual preliminary resolutions.

The Attorney-General introduced a bill for expediting the decision of constitutional and other Provincial questions.

The usual formal motions for the appointment of standing committees were made, and the House adjourned until Tuesday, when the address in reply to the speech from the throne will be taken up.

NOTICES OF MOTION FOR RETURNS AND OF NEW BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED.

The following notices were given on the first day of the session:

By Hon. Mr. Beaven—To move the following resolution: "That an order of the House be granted for a return showing all sums of money received and applied to the public uses of the Province under the Election Regulations Amendment Act, 1890, stating the date upon which the money was received, the name of person on whose account it was paid to the returning officer, the manner in which it has been applied and all correspondence respecting the same or relating to deposits made with returning officers under the above act."

By Hon. Mr. Beaven—To move the following resolution: "That a respectful address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor requesting copies of all orders-in-council or other documents relating to the application and the appointment of any officers or servants under the Reformatory Act, 1890. Also, copies of all rules and regulations and warrants made or repealed under the authority of the above statute."

By the Attorney-General—To introduce a bill to prevent the spreading of contagious disease among horses and other domestic animals.

By the Attorney-General—To introduce a bill to prohibit the use and carriage of firearms without a license.

By the Attorney-General—To introduce a bill to secure compensation for personal injuries suffered by workmen in certain cases.

By the Attorney-General—To introduce a bill respecting the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors.

By Mr. Brown—To move for a return showing the number of votes polled in each electoral district of the province at the general election in June 1890.

By Mr. Brown—To introduce a bill for the benefit of mechanics and laborers.

THE LEGISLATURE.

THE REPLY TO THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Moved by Mr. Joseph Hunter and Seconded by Mr. D. M. Stoddard—The Maiden Speeches of the new Members—The Beginning of a Long Discussion.

TUESDAY, Jan. 20.

The Speaker took the chair at five minutes past two o'clock.

Prayers by the Rev. A. Beaulieu. After prayers the Premier moved that the House proceed to the orders of the day.

Mr. Hunter moved the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Before proceeding to discharge this duty he would ask to be allowed to look at his surroundings—to carry his mind back some 30 years to the first time when he took his seat in that legislature.

Of those who composed that first legislature some had attained reward in public life; some of them had gone to the undiscovered country, but some of them, ripe with experience, were present to assist at the liberations of this House. One of them is the leader of the House, who had fought many a battle in the interests of representative government. He had seen fit to modify some of his political connections (laugh), and now the speaker was in full accord with him. Referring to the hon. leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, Mr. Hunter saw that he, too, had modified his belief, and it was with regret that he (Mr. Hunter) saw him on the opposite side. He was now entering on the twenty-fifth year of his career, and he was without reward for his staunch loyalty to his cause (hear).

With respect to the other gentlemen, he was sure they were an honor to their country and constituents.

It is stated in the speech from the throne that the expectations of the Government had not been realized. That is hardly to be expected in every case. He believed the estimated revenue of 1890 had fallen short.

With respect to the subject of our coal mines, there is every reason to expect that the coal output for the year 1890 will be 683,292 tons, and comparing that with 1889, he found an increase of 96,538 tons. Our lumbering and fishing industries show the same gratifying increase. There is nothing we require more than an accurate delineation of our lands. He hoped the Government surveys would give it. It was very gratifying that the provincial railways were in such a good state, and he hoped that the extension of railways in this Province would be closely looked to. If there is anything that will help the country and extend its trade and influence, it was the extension of railways. With respect to the withdrawal of agricultural lands, we often hear that British Co-

lumbia is not an agricultural country, but from his own experience there is sufficient agricultural land to make this a great agricultural community, and prevent the importation of agricultural products from the other side. It is a gratifying measure to consolidate the public debt. It is strange that though this is and has been a mining country, we have never yet placed on the statute a satisfactory mining law. He hoped this would be done.

With regard to the assessment act he hoped if any measure was brought in it would have the effect of improving the present state of things. The question of regulating intoxicating liquors was a very broad one. Mr. Hunter closed his remarks with a warm and glowing forecast of the future of this province.

Mr. Stoddard, who seconded the motion referred to the prosperous state of the Province, due mainly to the progressive policy of the Government. He endorsed the previous speaker's reference to the question of stock raising in this Province which offers such inducements in that line. He had much pleasure in seconding the motion.

The debate was being continued when the TIMES went to press.

THE LEGISLATURE.

HON. MR. BEAVEN SPEAKS TO THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

And Shows Up the Unique System of Legislating by Orders-in-Council—Honest John Flatters the Independents, Their Mean Business and Won't be Battered.

Hon. Mr. Beaven was the next to speak to the motion of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. In doing so he complimented the member for Comox on the manner in which he had performed the task allotted to him. The hon. member had been good enough to refer to the time when he first took his seat in that House. He was then the able representative of that well known district Cariboo, a district which would no doubt have returned him again if he had sought its suffrages. Mr. Beaven was somewhat struck, though, by the statement that he (Mr. Beaven) had somewhat modified his political convictions. Of course there is an old saying that we never see ourselves as others see us, but he had to confess that he was not cognizant of any change in his political convictions. He very well remembered that the hon. gentleman now leading the Government at that time represented the city of Nanaimo, and if an opinion were asked of Mr. Beaven he would have to say that the then hon. member for Nanaimo had since very materially changed his views, at any rate judging from the manner in which he criticized the then government. The hon. member of the address had also stated that Mr. Beaven had served this Province for many years without reward. He would join issue there.

Mr. Hunter—I stated without any material reward.

Mr. Beaven—continuing—His services in the Province had been without reward. He looked at the question of reward from a different standpoint. The simple fact that he has been the representative of the city of Victoria since he entered political life was ample reward for him. It showed him that the people placed their confidence in him and his humble efforts did not go unrewarded. There was a matter of congratulation in the fact that they had in their midst two representatives from a city which had grown up in the Province within the last few years. Here is found substantial evidence of the progress our country is making. He welcomed, and he was sure all the hon. members did, the presence in that House of those two gentlemen from Vancouver. In congratulating the seconder of the address, Mr. Beaven wished to differ with some of the sentiments of that gentleman, but trusted that their friendship would be as sincere as before. To his (Mr. Beaven's) mind, and to any unbiased mind, there were many things which the Government had done, and which were not in the best interests of the Province. Reference had been made to the general prosperity of the province. He would ask any unbiased mind what the Government had done to effect that prosperity. This prosperity is attributable not to the Government, but to the better means of communication prevailing on this northern coast, and which have sprung into existence within the last few years. It is notorious that the hon. gentleman who leads the Government has done everything in his small way, with the party at his back, to defeat the efforts to bring about railway communication with the northern coast previous to the building of the C. P. R. The prosperity of this province is due to individual enterprise, to its undeveloped resources, and its salubrious climate. One part of the speech said that "our expectations have not been fully realized." No doubt when the hon. Premier penned these remarks he had in mind the general elections, the result of which evidently had not realized the Government's expectations. A poll of the Province would show the members of the Government in the minority. He was further glad to find that so many gentlemen came into the new legislature with almost the identical views which have been urged by the Opposition during the last three or four years.

He was pleased to see among them the gentlemen who had classed themselves as Independents. For his own part, Mr. Beaven felt that he was always politically independent, his opinion of a member of the legislature was that he should be ready to support any good measure and oppose any bad one. The hon. member for Comox had referred to the Premier's efforts on behalf of responsible government. It was not Mr. Beaven's wish to say anything of that hon. gentleman's early day efforts, but it is evident that in his elder years he has not benefited much by his experience. In the House and on the public platform he has placed the representatives of the people in a most ignominious position. He has asserted that if a member is to do the slightest good for his constituents, he must be a subservient supporter of the Government ("no, no," from the Government benches). The hon. leader of the Government had stated that if some members were so unfortunate as to place themselves in opposition to the Government, so much the worse for themselves and their constituents (hear, hear). Could any more immoral sentiment be expressed with reference to the duty of a representative of the people in this House? Unless he could get into the Government caucus and be allied with the Government a member could get nothing. That was the sense of the Premier's remarks.

The Premier denied this.

Mr. Beaven insisted that the hon. gentleman had made that remark both on the floor of the House and at the general election.

The Premier—Excuse me; I was not here at the general election at all.

Mr. Beaven—At the first meeting in the theatre in the city of Victoria, the first gentleman to address the meeting was the hon. gentleman opposite (the Provincial Secretary). He does not like to have these things said about him. This was the gentleman who referred to the Opposition as a sickly and useless

political corpse. Was that the way to speak of political opponents? The hon. member for Lillooet had stated that the government of the country had been carried on in a statesmanlike manner. Mr. Beaven would have to dissent from that sentiment. For the time that they have been in power they must have had at least \$6,000,000 pass through their hands. What great public work could they point to during that time? At the repeated requests of the Opposition, the Government had seen the necessity of obtaining surveys, but then they only saw them in the dying days of the last session. They were too much absorbed in their own private affairs to take any interest in those of the province. He hoped the House would find when it came to investigate this matter that the money voted for this purpose had been applied properly. As to the sale of crown lands, that had been stopped, but it was like locking the stable door when the horse is gone. This should have been done in a legal, constitutional manner last session. But what did the Government do? The hon. leader of the Government and the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works contended that it was a wrong policy to stop the sale of those lands, stating that it was far better that they should be sold and brought under taxation. The land laws were perfect, it was urged, and did not want amendment. And so the hon. gentlemen went to the country with this cry, where they found the Opposition in touch with public sentiment. Then these sales were discontinued by an order-in-council, a document, in this case at least, not worth the paper it is written on. There was some very singular legislation last session with reference to mining matters in this Province. Referring to the case which Mr. Alexander Davie, the then Attorney-General, fought and won for the Province, brought to Mr. Beaven's mind a great deal of crying wrong which this Government has done in the matter of the railway belt. Although under the "terms of union" the province would only have contributed alternate sections of land; yet this government had granted a solid block of land forty miles wide extending from our eastern boundary to Burrard Inlet. Then arose the question as to the ownership of the precious metals, and the courts decided that the province owned the precious metals and the Dominion the land. Here the Dominion Government owned the land and the Province the precious metals under the surface. The question of settling that difficulty was the cause of the Provincial Secretary taking a jaunt to Ottawa to arrange there something which is embodied in our sessional papers, but which this Legislature was never asked to confirm. When the Mineral Act was reported by the committee, the Attorney-General gave notice of certain clauses which he wished to insert. One was, that the miner, when making his record, should pay \$5 an acre, which the Provincial Government had agreed to do for the surface rights of the land. The miner was to pay \$105 on making his record. It was represented to the country that there was no opposition taken to that measure. When the proposition first came before the House, Mr. Beaven pointed out that from the many mining claims taken out, a large number are never worked, the fact of having to pay \$105 at the time of record, was, to his mind, going to injure the mining interest very materially. Of course the matter became law; but since the House was dissolved, the Provincial Secretary went up to

Revelstoke and was there met by some gentlemen interested in mining, who gave him a very warm reception. He immediately rushed back to the capital and performed that method of his for which he should take out a patent—the matter was repealed. Where was the authority? We have a statute called the Revenue Act, and it contains a clause whereby, in extreme cases, the payment of the tax is remitted. Could the Government correctly call this a tax. This was Dominian and not Provincial revenue. The Government had another way of legislating, and that was by commission. Instead of the Minister of Mines doing his duty, the Government passes another illegal order-in-council, appointing this mining commission, for which there is not a statutory authority. If the Minister of Mines and his assistants were not adequately paid the House would be prepared to see that they were. If they were, why didn't they do their duty in this matter and frame legislation themselves after ascertaining the wants of the miners? Then there is the railway policy which is an ignominious failure. Of the twenty-five or more railways that have been chartered, how many have been built? And the principle of granting to private corporations a percentage of the ore extracted from the lands through which the line runs is pernicious. It has been characterized as a royalty, and is not correct, for a royalty fee goes to the general revenue for the benefit. This goes to a private corporation. It prevents the miners from going into the country, and where population will not go the railways will not be built. With the exception of the E. & N. railway, the Shuswap & Okanagan railway and the New Westminster Southern (as well as the branch of the C.P.R.) not one of the charters granted had been carried out.

Hon. Mr. Robson rose and gave expression to the customary congratulations. As to his change of views referred to by the hon. leader of the opposition, Mr. Robson thought his record in public life for the last quarter a century would completely refute any insinuations made by that gentleman. At the same time he must object to the hon. member attributing to him statements which he (Mr. Robson) had never made. He had never opposed railway communication in the province. On the contrary, he would refer the honorable leader of the Opposition to the convention held in Yale in 1868, and from that day to this he yielded to no man in advocating railway communication. Mr. Robson upheld the contention that the prosperity of the country is due to the progressive policy of the Government, and ventured into comparisons on the subject. Regarding his expectations as to the election result, he maintained that they had been fully realized, but argued that the Opposition had suffered. He only wanted independent men who would give their support to any good measure. It was perfectly true what the hon. gentleman opposite had said in reference to the statement about the Government caucus and that it was all the worse for members who allied themselves against the Government. Caucuses are necessary and always have been for the free and confidential discussion of matters concerning the members and their constituents. The leader of the Opposition claimed that the Government had stolen their policy—that was absurd. The Government's land legislation would have been brought in a year ago had it not been the last session and the country was going to be appealed to, in which case it was thought better to let the matter stand over till the House reassembled. It has been a policy of the Government all through to prevent speculation in agricultural land. What was the condition of things when the present party came into power. Land was to be bought at one dollar an acre with 5 cents per acre assessment on unimproved lands. The price is now \$2.50 an acre, with 8 1/2 cents assessment. Referring to other points in Mr. Beaven's speech the Premier dismissed them with the statement that "carp, carp, carp," was the cry of the Opposition. As to the mining commission there was not a newspaper in the province to which it did not comment itself.

Mr. Foster, speaking on behalf of the Independents, said: Having come here for the purpose of legislating in the interests of the whole country, we do not intend to take part in any unnecessary debate; and with all due deference to those hon. gentlemen who have spoken, we do not believe that any real good can come out of speaking to this address. We wish to proceed to business as quickly as possible.

Mr. Semlin thanked the mover of the address for the kind reference made to himself (Mr. Semlin). The hon. gentleman had spoken of some members having modified their political views. His (Mr. Semlin's) views are the same today as 20 years ago; he votes for legislation in the best interests of the country. His hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, took credit for having raised the price of agricultural lands to \$2.50. He might have gone further and stated that there had been enacted a law preventing the sale of land in lots greater than 640 acres. Had this been observed. Unfortunately there were discretionary powers given to the Chief Commissioner. It was not, though, that the law was defective, but that the administration was bad. Could the Government show a population in British Columbia commensurate with the quantity of land sold. Hardly. The mining commission, Mr. Semlin thought, grew out of some unpleasantness which the hon. leader of the Government had had in the interior, for he (Mr. Semlin) was on the spot shortly

after the Premier and found that the latter gentleman had been very warmly treated. This is one of the cases when the Government turn back on their policy and acknowledge their wrong. Did this entitle them to the confidence of the House. Had the hon. leader of the Government propounded any policy when he rose to speak to this address? No. He simply criticised some of the remarks of the leader of the Opposition. This is a time when, more than all others, the House looks to the Government for a declaration of policy. They had had four years to frame a mining law—was that done. The elections are scarcely over when a mining commission is appointed. It has been pointed out that the Government has not the slightest authority for these appointments. He would like to know on what terms or understanding is this one appointed. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would remember that which sat for the revising of the statutes, and sent in a bill for \$12,000 or \$15,000. Is the present one appointed on a fair and business like basis.

Mr. Grant moved that the debate be adjourned till Wednesday afternoon.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

The bill to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among horses and cattle was read a first time, and set for second reading Wednesday.

COMPENSATION.

The bill to provide for compensation for injuries received by workmen under certain cases passed its first reading, and the second was set for Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker announced that hereafter the House would assemble promptly at 2 p.m., and the adjournment until Wednesday at the usual hour was taken.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Beaven—To move that the committee on standing orders and private bills, and the committee on railways, should see that all private bills, granting franchises or rights, contain sections providing against the employment of Chinese on any work to be undertaken in pursuance of the bill.

By Mr. Beaven—To move that the principle of eight hours constituting a day should be adopted in carrying on Provincial public works. And that a clause should be inserted in all contracts for such to the effect that the hours making up a day's work of the workmen and of laborers to be employed under it shall not be more than eight; and a penalty for the violation of such provision by the contractor or sub-contractor should be included.

By Hon. Mr. Robson—To move to increase the membership of the standing committee on railways from fifteen to eighteen, and the quorum from eight to ten.

By Hon. Mr. Robson—To move to increase the membership of the standing committee on mining from seven to nine, and five as a quorum.

QUESTION.

By Mr. Kellie—To ask the hon. Chief Commissioner: What amount of timber lands have been granted under lease during 1890, and what amount of timber lands are now under notice of application for lumbering purposes.

The House rose at 6 p.m.

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THE LEGISLATURE.

THE GOVERNMENT NARROWLY ESCAPES DEFEAT.

First Exhibition of the Independents' Power—The Premier's Gratitude too Great for Words to Express—The Debate Continued.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 p.m. Prayers by Rev. Arthur Beaulieu. Mr. Grant (Victoria) resumed the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. He referred to the fact that this debate and the occasion of the bringing down of the estimates were the only opportunities offered for discussing thoroughly and generally the affairs of the country, in the interests of the public at large. What presented itself to his mind as most ridiculous, so far as the Government was concerned, was the position taken by the Independents, when through the gentleman deputed to explain their position in this House, it was stated that inasmuch as the Government have no policy, and have laid down nothing direct for the House to deal with the Independents were not in a position to declare their standing. Look at the miserable exhibition that the Government have made of themselves in this House. At the time that the hon. leader of the Government was expected above all other times, to lay down some kind of a policy, he did nothing. The only reason why he did not formulate any policy is well known. It will be found before this session comes to a close that the Government had no policy all along. They get into their caucus room and ask their supporters what they want done. Then they bring down their measures all cut and dry. Is that responsible government? Not at all. But there is a larger element now in this House who are not supporters of the Government than there has been for the last eight years, and Mr. Grant expressed the expectation of seeing now a different class of legislation brought before this House than there has been. It is a singular fact that with one exception only, all the cities of the Province had returned Opposition members. This is in the large voting centres where there is a concentration of people, wealth, commercial energy, and business enterprise. That exception is Victoria where Mr. Turner was returned. That hon. gentleman's personal popularity, and the respect which the people have for him alone saved him from being sent to stay at home. It was not through any love of the Government by the people that he was elected. Of course it is only natural that the Government should have greater support and influence in the rural districts than they have in the city; but here again is the Government again? In fact, it was often known that a community had to vote for its own appropriation by sending a man to support the Government or they get nothing. Mr. Grant hoped at no distant day to see the various districts form themselves into municipalities and assume charge of their own affairs. The plan has been found to work most satisfactorily in the eastern provinces, and why should it not be found to work equally well here. Speaking of the election again, Mr. Grant referred to the Premier's fondness for denying things. The House had an illustration of it yesterday when he said that he did not make a speech in Victoria at the election. It is well known that he did; it is reported in the Colonist of May 16th. The desert said he would never desert New Westminster. He said that he got a telegram on the 15th May last which acquainted him with the fact that if he would consent to stand for Westminster City he would be elected by acclamation. There is something peculiar in that. A few gentlemen guaranteeing a whole constituency, and that by acclamation. But the hon. gentleman replied that he would never desert his old constituency (laughter). If they deserted him it would be another matter. As to the hon. gentleman's remarks on the public platform in Victoria, he was a little hasty in denying the statement of the hon. Leader of the Opposition yesterday. It struck Mr. Grant yesterday that this Government was something like a child learning to walk. It tried to toddle round the room by the aid of some one on each side holding its hands. This is the position of the Government to-day. They know they have one portion of the House to support its feeble steps, and they are waiting and seeking for the Independent members of the House to come and take the other hand so as to give them more confidence in themselves. It is true and right that the members of the Government and private members of the House should come together from time to time and exchange ideas as to public interests. Indeed, this exchange of ideas should be taken further and extended to the prominent members of the community. But that is not the way the thing is done. That is why there has been no hint given by the Premier as to what his policy shall be during the coming session, as the Government have not found out as yet how the Independents will move. The exhibition is, to say the least, humiliating. The Premier said that he was not aware yesterday that anyone had advocated a system of surveys until he and his cabinet took the matter in hand. Mr. Grant had

spoken on this question repeatedly and pointed out the necessity for a proper survey of the country, and a correct demarcation of the railway lands. Mr. Grant closed his remarks with a very graceful compliment to the Speaker whom he honored for the first time this session by the honor of addressing.

Hon. Theo. Davie, Attorney-General, spoke, to the measure. Mr. Davie spoke on the same lines as the hon. Premier, and made the greatest portion of his speech a personal defence of that gentleman. He maintained that the prosperity of the country was in some measure due to the policy of the Government, and compared it with the condition of things prevailing when the hon. Leader of the Opposition went out of power in 1888. Since then the E. & N. Railway has been built, the graving dock at Esquimalt has been finished, and it could not be denied that the railways of the Mainland are in a satisfactory condition. The late Government had maintained a "fight Canada" policy, and the present party had to set to work to restore harmony. Then it was that the door of prosperity had been opened. Mistakes had been made, he acknowledged them, but they were such that had been readily and easily rectified. No one is incapable of making a mistake. As to the question of the Independents the Government expected men who would support good measures; from the Opposition they expected nothing but opposition. There were only five of them however. Mr. Davie spoke in support of the caucus. The hon. leader of the Opposition made some reference to the fact that the hon. Premier had stated that no one should expect favors from the Government unless he was a subservient supporter of the Government, and could be admitted to the Government caucus, which is as secret as a Masonic lodge. The hon. leader of the Government never said anything of the kind either in or out of the House. Mr. Davie here went into a lengthy defence of the Order-in-Council system, in support of which he quoted the same arguments as the Premier. The legality of the repeal of the \$105 clause in the Miners' bill was fully demonstrated by the fact that it has never been contested. There is no question but that the act giving rise to it was a mistake, but it was one not of the whole Government, but of the whole House (no, no). The constitutionality of the law had been pronounced upon by one of the best constitutional lawyers in the country, Hon. Mr. Richards. Mr. Davie pointed to the statute governing the appointment of commissions as confirmation of the legality of the existence of the mining commission.

Dr. Milne rose to speak to the motion. The Attorney-General had referred to the Opposition as wolves. He would tell that hon. gentleman whether he (Dr. Milne) was a wolf or not (hear, hear). He came there opposed to any bad measure and in favor of any good measure. He reviewed the state of the country, showing the immense strides it had made in the march of progress, but pointed out that this was due to the intelligence, enterprise and commercial ability of the people forming the population, and not to any policy of the Government. At the last general election exception was taken to the land laws of the Province in reference to settlement, and the friends of the Government maintained at that time that they were perfect. But shortly after the election the minds of members of the cabinet were changed on this question. Whether this change was brought about by the results of the election the hon. gentleman opposite will be able to explain. If the withdrawal of agricultural land was good in June why was it not a good thing in May before the elections came off? If it was a good thing after the elections why was it not a good thing before the elections? We shall hope to hear a better explanation of this matter than has already been given. But to those opposed to the Government it can readily be seen the sudden change of front is due to the voice of the electors. A liberal land law for settlement becomes doubly necessary from the fact of the course pursued by our neighbors in the United States. What about our mining laws and mining resources. The prosperity of this industry depends very much on what our legislators make it. In view of recent legislation it cannot be said that much encouragement has been given to miners. The legislation on this question was a great blunder. The royalty clause, the \$105, were regulations that never should have been enacted. The visit of the Premier to Donald and Revelstoke must be still fresh on his mind. He went there congratulating himself that his recent legislation was good, but he was not long in that mining region before he found out his mistake. Judging from the report of the Revelstoke Star, the miners' meeting at which the Premier was present was anything but a pleasant one for the hon. gentleman. Whether the Government repealed this iniquitous law on its demerits or on account of the threats made by those present at the meeting is a question unsolved as yet. However the promptness in which the order-in-council was made was a feat seldom performed by any government. In the speech there is no reference to any amendment to our present school law. The law as it now stands is not acceptable to the people. Its restrictions on teachers makes them anything but independent. The trustees on the other hand are also in many instances mere instruments of the government. This should not be the case. The amendment to the School Act of 1888, giving the Government power to summarily suspend a teacher and the cancellation of certificates without the consent of the trustees, was a most un-

just measure which hangs the head of every teacher of all classes of men should independent; but such is not the Government is not satisfied paying the salaries to these monthly, but they must institute a miss them at will. Instance, even the City of Victoria for nearly the six months. The trustees found the bills that they had contracted some cases the department refuse pay, so that the trustees, rather than become personally responsible, actually handed over the surplus of the schools to the Minister of Education. The special tax of \$8,000 which Victoria pays over above her rateable taxes is a very just enactment. No doubt we should hear from the representatives of other cities of equal unjust treatment. We must have our schools free from political influences (hear, hear). Dr. Milne was in hopes the address was brought down, and should find a clause proposing to amend Section 41 of the Election Regulation Act (clause 41), which provides for depositing of \$200 with the return officer by each candidate. The less learned by the Government paid should be sufficient to induce them to make a change. When the returns are brought down, we will, no doubt, find that the friends of the Government suffered in a pecuniary sense (laughter). Any one can see what an injustice it is to those who perhaps are willing to stand as a representative of the people, and shut out at the polls by this bar, an account of lack of means or perhaps courage enough to deposit the amount required, is at once barred. This is none other than class legislation. The cost of getting into Parliament should be as cheap as possible, so that the poor man will be enabled to take part in the legisla-

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As to the Premier's charge that the Opposition had no policy, Dr. Milne quoted the following platform laid down at the last election:

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"The wonder is that the essential injustice and immorality of such methods do not impress themselves upon the minds of the people in their wider, as well as in their narrower, application. If it is dishonest and degrading for a ward councillor to seek to obtain for those whom he represents more than their fair share of the civic funds, it is surely no less dishonest and degrading for a minister of the Crown, or a member of Parliament, to do the same thing for a constituency. Unquestionably the moment either minister or candidate intimates that a given constituency will stand a better chance of getting an appropriation for some local enterprise—whether deserving or not is immaterial—if the Government candidate is placed at the head of the poll, that moment he admits that the Government is not a strictly honest, impartial administration. It is surely unnecessary to argue the point, or to show that the political complexion of the member elected should not have the slightest effect in determining the Government policy in relation to any proposed expenditure of the public money."

He concluded by submitting the following amendment to the address:

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Mr. McKenzie seconded the amendment in a brief speech, in the course of which he endorsed many of the criticisms made on the Government. They had heard a great deal about the prosperity of the country being due to the policy of the Government—no such thing. To show how little is known of the country, he went to the surveyor-general's office for a map of his district and he was told there was no such map.

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Hon. Mr. Beaven spoke to the amendment at some length, which brought Hon. Mr. Robson to his feet again to state that it could readily be seen that this was a motion to all intents and purposes to defeat the Government. As legislation was already promised in this direction, he appealed to hon. members not to vote for this amendment, but wait till the bill came before the House. Then will be the proper time to discuss the question.

Mr. Cotton (Vancouver) rose—As announced yesterday, said he, we did not intend to speak to the House on this address; but the amendment which has been put this evening by the honorable member for Victoria city forces the Independents to say something about their position. I think it is well-known to every honorable member in this House that the Independents are strongly opposed to what is called the Royalty bill, and as the honorable gentleman the leader of the Government, knows I and many others of the Independent party last year protested as private citizens, against this measure. We felt, and feel now, that such a measure could not be injurious to the mining and in fact all other interests of the Province. I am glad to see that the Government has come round to our opinion and has proposed to rescind the legislation which it carried out last year. Therefore, sir, the position of the Independent party on this royalty question cannot be doubted; but on this amendment we feel it necessary to make a statement before a vote is taken, so that our position in this House and the Province may be understood. We are led to believe that it is the intention of the Government that it is the intention to bring in such legislation as will do away with this royalty; therefore we think that the Government intend to take up the position of the Independent party on this question, and remembering our pledge not to take up dead issues, but giving the Government a fair chance to carry out that legislation which they propose to do, we feel that this amendment is simply put forward as a means to defeat the Government. And, sir, looking round this House the Independents have come to the conviction that through the absence of several members, the Government will be defeated if we vote on this amendment this evening; therefore we desire to put ourselves on record as being strongly in favor of the repeal of this royalty clause, but we cannot in justice to ourselves vote for this amendment. (Sigh of relief and cheers from Government benches.)

Mr. Grant moved that the debate be adjourned till Thursday.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Cotton—For all papers connected with the seizure of the Government Hesperus on or about October 10th, 1889, and the arrest of her officers and crew.

Hon. Mr. Beaven to introduce a bill relating to libel in civil cases.

Mr. Stoddart—For a select committee to prepare and present a bill dealing with the branding of cattle and the registration of brands.

Mr. Kitchen—For a committee to prepare and introduce a bill to amend and consolidate the Municipalities Act of 1889 and amendments.

THE LEGISLATURE.

DEBATE ON THE REPLY TO THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. Grant Exposes the Inconsistency of the Government and the Double Character of the Premier—Mr. Semlin Also Handles the Premier.

THURSDAY, Jan. 22, 1891.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock, prayers being read by Rev. A. Beaulieu.

Mr. Grant resumed the debate on the amendment to the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The subject matter of the proposed amendment, he said, had been pretty well thrashed out. During last session he had, as well as several other gentlemen on this side of the House, strongly protested against this particular clause contained in a bill introduced into the House by the Government. The proposition in the bill calling for a five per cent. royalty on all minerals extracted from the land which had been conveyed to a railway company, is very objectionable and injurious. During the discussion on its passage through the House, the bill was changed in this particular. That instead of five per cent. on the ore so extracted, it was made five per cent. on the amount left after defraying working expenses. The attainment of this change was due to the efforts put forth by the Opposition. In respect to this five per cent. royalty over working expenses, the hon. Provincial secretary would bear out Mr. Grant's statement that he (Mr. Grant) then characterized the measure as a millstone tied to the neck of the oldest industry in this Province (hear, hear). It appears from the speeches of several gentlemen during the last election that the principle contained in this bill was denounced by the Independents as unwise, and certainly not tending to promote the interests of this Province. It is true that reference is made in clause 10 of the Governor's speech proposing to amend the railway act, but it does not say in what particular neither did the hon. Leader of Government think fit to enlighten the House as to how his Government intended to amend the act. In this he did both himself and the Government an injustice in not letting the House know the Government's intentions. Now the question is, will the Government go backwards on the legislation which last session they considered right and just. If the Independents knew the hon. gentleman as Mr. Grant knew him they would see that what he said yesterday was not sufficient to guarantee the repeal of the objectionable clause. From what he was going to say the Premier's remarks on the 15th May last, Independent members could draw their own conclusions as to what they might expect from the Premier. He said, and he can't deny it, that:

"No man," said Mr. Robson, "except he was insane, a mad man or a crank, would hesitate at giving a 5, 10, 15 or 25 per cent. royalty to secure such advantages as these. Indeed it would, in some instances, pay the miners to give as much as 50 per cent. Then, there was another point which, in itself, was sufficient to destroy the last figment of opposition to the Government's policy. The lands would be divided into alternate blocks. Supposing the miner should hesitate at paying the royalty or tax he could go on the adjacent provincial lands. It had been said that probably all the good ledges would be on the railway company's blocks. But, with the blocks running alternatively, as he had said, there was no choice, the only selection that had been made, having been of the first block, the others following in the succession he had described. Thus it might be claimed with equal reason, that the rich ledges would be found in the provincial blocks. It was fair to assume that there were likely to be as many ledges on the provincial as upon the railway blocks. This placed the railway companies in such a position that they could not be hard or oppressive on the miner. They would feel that they must give liberal terms or their lands would remain untouched. They would see that there was a limit to their powers. Indeed, if they found that on their own lands there was not enough margin to enable them to charge the full royalty provided by law, they would come down and exact no more than the miners could pay. He was fully convinced that the government's scheme was the one by which our territory could be opened up without one cent of tax upon the public revenue. Indeed, not only as a consequence of this policy should we have our land opened up, but inducements were offered that would enable the railway companies to borrow the money that they require. In fact, the Government's policy had already had its effect, for so soon as the bill passed the House and was carried to England, then things had happened which showed how great an inducement our legislation offered for the investment of English capital, arrangements for whose investment were already being made. This scheme, he would repeat, would in no way infringe on the revenue of the province of British Columbia, but would so act as to give us hundreds of dollars where we now had but one. (Loud applause.)

In opening up the country and in opening up our mines enormous amounts of money would be spent, and besides kept in the country. Not only should we have the railroads, but we should have such natural development as would multiply our revenue many times.

Compared with this prospect what would we be without railways? Were not, he would ask, the two measures to which he had specially referred sufficient to condemn and show under the miserable, cheese-paring, illiberal policy of the Opposition? The Government had before the country the two measures of which he had spoken, either of which was sufficient to lead the electors triumphantly to support it. Each of us had a duty to himself and his country to discharge at the ballot box. It was for them, one and all, to study matters out and so exercise the sacred right of the franchise as to keep in power those who were not only doing their duty to them, but to their children and children's children after them, in that way causing British Columbia to take her true position as the banner province of the Dominion."

Now to take the hon. gentleman's own standard the Government must be cranks and madmen if they change their views now. How will they reconcile their views of last year with those of the present. Mr. Grant thought the reason for a good deal of the change was brought about by the hon. gentleman's trip to Kootenay. It was very plain that they would hold their seats but a very short time unless they were prepared to deal fairly and honestly by miners and their interests. Mr. Robson made some extraordinary statements at the election and in the House, which he has since denied. That about the necessity of sending none but Government supporters to the House if Government favors were required, was one of those he denied. Mr. Grant felt satisfied, in fact, he knew that if the hon. leader of the Government had taken the House into his confidence, the present amendment would never have been brought forward. The Opposition feel very strong on this point, and have come to the conclusion that they will use their best endeavors to have this clause removed from the statute books. With reference to the 750,000 acres of land for the Kootenay line offered by a former government, and the credit which the present Government takes to itself for getting the same measure of work done for 200,000 acres, Mr. Grant would remind the Government that it was due principally to a meeting in the city hall that the first grant of 1,500,000 acres was brought down to 750,000, and the hon. Attorney General reported favorably upon the bill as chairman of the Private Bills committee. The hon. leader of the Government accused the hon. leader of the Opposition of having supported the latter measure. Mr. Grant, himself supported it, as he always did any comprehensive measure for the interest of the country no matter whence it emanated. The government members would give him credit for the fact that he always gave strong support to any measure having in view the prosperity of the country. But the conditions under which the 750,000 acres were given were not so valuable as those under which the 200,000 are given. There are privileges making the latter grant much more valuable. The company instead of taking up the land in alternate blocks can select in certain quantities land in favorable places throughout the district. This makes all the difference. Reverting again to the royalty from railway lands Mr. Grant understood that the attorney-general himself spoke in favor of that impost yesterday. As that gentleman spoke in favor of it, and as it continues on the statute-to-day Dr. Milne could not be blamed for bringing forward his amendment. It was the object of this amendment to eradicate from the statutes this most objectionable clause which bears so unjustly on the miners. This country owes a great deal to the miners; if they prosper, the whole country really prospers. In the early days when Cariboo was contributing its millions of dollars to this Province, when Kootenay contributed its quota, when Peace River and Cassiar afterwards began to return their wealth, it was found that the ranchers, stock raisers, and the business men of the cities, prospered. In fact the mining industry was the building up of this Province. Therefore we should encourage that industry, for it has enough hardships without having taken from it a portion of the money extracted by hard work out of the ground and given over into the coffers of a railway company. Not that Mr. Grant opposes railways; on the contrary, he is ever ready to give them any reasonable assistance. He could therefore appreciate the position taken by the independents in this respect. They didn't know the Premier as well as he did. That gentleman's ability to twist the Queen's English as he wants it is something remarkable. He will say something to-day and make out it's something altogether different the next. So that unless a specific pledge is given that the clause will be struck out, it is little use expecting that it ever will. The Government see their mistake; but will they acknowledge it like men? But although the hon. Leader of the Government is a remarkably clever man in most things, he is very dull in some. For instance, he knows nothing at all about finances, and will go blundering through them so that a school boy would see where he is wrong. But the Independents will discover his cleverness before the end of the session. Now, can the Independents expect that he will repeat that Royalty clause after his remarks in the Theatre? Will he not rather increase it? Is there anything in the address to show that it would be repealed? He had undertaken to instruct the members that this amendment, if passed, would be the de-

feat of the Government. This was the strong chord in his plea, but Mr. Grant felt sure that the Government would get fair treatment from the Independent members, and that those gentlemen would treat the subjects brought before them fairly and honestly, and without going into that Masonic lodge and formulating a policy for the Government.

Hon. Theo. Davie thought that the motion justified the Opposition. It would be wise to wait for the report of the commission before taking any active steps. Then the Government would deal fairly and honestly with the question. The honorable members could not ask them to go further than that. The rest of Mr. Davie's speech was a warm vindication of the personal character and veracity of the premier. He referred to the action of the Hon. Mr. Beaven withholding the date of a paper yesterday, and called it an instance of the shuffling of the Opposition.

Mr. Beaven replied that he did not want to gratify idle curiosity. It was a very bad trait, especially in young men (laughter).

Mr. Semlin referred to the statement of the honorable leader of the Government which led the House to believe that the doing away of this royalty is in contemplation by an amendment of the Mining act. This royalty, if it is a royalty, is not mentioned in the Mining act at all; it is in the Railway Aid act, and no amendment of the Mining act can affect the Railway act. We heard the leader of the Government say last session that this provision was necessary in the interest of mining, and of the miners themselves, and in speaking to the electors of Yale district, he had said that he knew of English money that had been advanced in the mining interests of this province, simply because this provision was inserted. He said in addressing the electors that no one but an insane man and a crank would vote against this clause. If the Government repeal it now, are they madmen or cranks? The speech says that the Government intends to make certain amendments to the Railway act. If they do it will be against the interests of the miners and in favor of the railways. He (Mr. Semlin) had received some information from men interested in the furtherance of these companies, and he was led to believe that any amendment made would be in favor of the interests of the corporations, and he has yet to hear any pledge from the Government that will satisfy him that they intend to act in the interests of the miners. His own opinion was that the opposite policy could be followed out. But if there is an amendment that will be beneficial, introduced, where is the credit to be attributed? Not to the Government. They would not like to be considered madmen and cranks. (Laughter.) What reason is there to suppose that they intended to deal honestly and fairly with the miners? There is nothing in the speech to lead to that conclusion. If there is any amendment in favor of the miners, Mr. Semlin thought the credit belonged to the Independent party who, through the hon. member for Vancouver, Mr. Cotton, had expressed their strong dissent from the royalty clause. (Hear, hear.) The action of promising legislation yesterday was not sincerity on the part of the Government; it was expediency. Again, in reference to the expenditure of the dry dock fund. There was a distinct pledge that the \$250,000 accruing to the dock was to be applied to the Mainland over and above the ordinary revenue. Has this been fulfilled?

Premier—Yes.

Mr. Semlin—It has been very frequently denied that any such promise was ever made. The honorable gentleman makes very indefinite promises. Mr. Semlin was satisfied that the Independent members would trust his promise about removing the royalty as much as they did his promise about the \$250,000. The Government is just as capable of wriggling out of a hole as a certain serpent he had read of. Under constitutional rule, the party in power is supposed to lay down some line of policy. Where is that of the Government? There is the coal mines regulations, in which the government session after session have denied reform. They should not be altered. Last session after continuous pressure, they brought in what—precisely the amendment that the Opposition had attempted to get through the House in former sessions. It was word for word as though copied.

The Government supporters then gave most pathetic accounts of colliery explosions, where they had said formerly in this house there was not the smallest danger. It was not till just before the election that they seemed to wake up to the danger of having unskilled workmen admitted to the mines. Mr. Semlin also touched on the school question and endorsed Mr. Milne's remarks.

In answer to the Attorney-General's reference to his position on the poll being reversed, Mr. Semlin said he was glad the hon. gentleman had brought this matter up.

Mr. Davie—For placing you at the bottom of the poll.

Mr. Semlin, continuing, said that when he had explained to the House the great extent of the Yale district, its numerous scattered communities, and the great need those communities have of public works, and, taking with all this, the methods of canvassing adopted by the Government, one could not but admire the independence of the Yale electors in returning him. The Government had two of its ministers in his district shaking the money bags of the country in the face of the electors and pleading with the people to return a solid contingent to support the Government,

so that the electors could expect a fair share of the appropriations. When we take these circumstances and others also, it shows the self-denying, independent and loyal spirit of the electors of Yale. When we know the efforts of the Government and the alliance of those efforts by a vast corporation that has a potent influence in that district, and reflect that these united efforts were unable to effect Mr. Semlin's defeat and only succeeded in transposing him from the highest to the lowest place in the electoral returns, he thought that he instead of the Government had to boast of the result. And further he thought he could be just as serviceable to his constituency and to the province in the position he now occupies as in the position he occupied for the last eight years (hear, hear).

Mr. Martin defended the royalty "on the ground that the Government could not give the railways the terms they asked for. The latter contended that if they got the royalty they could proceed with the works. The majority of the representatives of the people voted for this royalty, but he did not see that any harm had been done by it. He believed that the C. P. R. did not collect it at all. Mr. Martin while acknowledging that the railways benefited the Province still in some instances they didn't. For instance people can get grain in from Manitoba cheaper than they can raise it here, so that there at least is one market gone.

Dr. Milne asked leave to withdraw his motion and a vote was taken which resulted in 22 against and 5 for, the Independents voting with the Government again.

Ayes—Messrs. Semlin, Grant, McKenzie, Milne and Beaven—5.

Nays—Messrs. Sward, Kitchen, Cotton, Kellie, Smith, Brown, Foster, Keith, Robson, Davie, Eberts, Stoddart, Booth, Pooley, Turner, Martin, Croft, Hunter, Rogers, Anderson, Fletcher, Horne—22.

On motion of Mr. Grant the address in reply was considered clause by clause and passed.

On motion of Mr. Robson, the address in reply was passed to a select committee, composed of the Provincial Secretary, Attorney-General, President of the Executive, Minister of Finance, and Messrs. Hunter and Stoddart.

Mr. Robson moved that the address be presented to His Honor by such members as are of the Executive Council.

Hon. Mr. Robson moved, seconded by Mr. Davie, that the resolution of this House passed on the 2nd February, 1887, appointing a select committee of fifteen, eight of whom should constitute a quorum, as a standing committee on Railways, be amended by increasing the number of members to serve on such committee to eighteen and the quorum to ten.

Hon. Mr. Beaven objected to the practice of making these select committees so large; it prevented members from attending to the business of the House, and besides it had a pernicious effect.

Hon. Mr. Davie was sorry to see that the hon. Leader of the Opposition could not look at the matter except through the jaundiced eyes of prejudice. The motion was eventually carried.

Hon. Mr. Robson moved, seconded by Mr. Davie, that the resolution of this House which was passed on the 15th February, 1888, appointing seven members as a select standing committee on mining, to whom should be referred all matters relating to mines, be amended by increasing the number of members to serve upon such committee to nine, and the quorum thereof to five.—Carried.

Hon. Mr. Robson moved, seconded by Mr. Davie, that a select committee on standing orders and private bills be increased to seven members.

The following committees were appointed—Private bills and standing order committee—Messrs. Martin, Croft, Eberts, Kellie, Hall, Semlin, and Keith.

Public accounts—Messrs. Martin, Hunter, Hall, Grant, Cotton.

Printing—Anderson, Fletcher, Punch, Milne, McKenzie.

Railways—Messrs. Baker, Anderson, Booth, Smith, Hunter, Rogers, Cotton, Brown, Kitchen, Horne, Foster, Sward, Eberts, Kellie, Stoddart, Nasón, Fletcher, and Punch.

Mines—Messrs. Smith, Kellie, Rogers, Nasón, Stoddart, Keith, Croft, Foster, and Baker.

The honorable the Speaker drew attention to the fact that Mr. Nasón had not yet been sworn in, and so the two committees to which his name is attached were not confirmed.

Mr. Beaven moved, seconded by Mr. Grant, that an order of the House be granted for a return showing all sums of money received and applied to the public uses of the Province under the "Election Regulation Amendment Act, 1890," stating the date upon which the money was received; the name of the person on whose account it was paid to the returning officer; the manner in which it has been applied; and all correspondence respecting the same or relating to deposits made with returning officers under the above Act.—Carried.

Mr. Brown moved that an order of the House be granted for a return showing the number of votes polled in each electoral district of the Province at the general election in June 1890.—Carried.

Mr. Brown asked leave to introduce a bill intitled "An Act for the benefit of Mechanics and Laborers."

Read a first time and ordered to be placed on the orders of the day for the second reading on Wednesday.

Mr. Beaven moved, that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be placed before the House copies of the Order-in-Council or other documents relating to the application or appointment of any officers or servants under the "Reformatory Act, 1890," also copies of all rules and regulations and warrants made or repealed under the authority of the above statute.

In moving this resolution Mr. Beaven's object was to obtain information about that institution which the Government established last year. Carried.

Mr. Beaven moved, that the committee is of opinion that the committee on standing orders and private bills, and the committee on railways, should see that all private bills, granting franchises or rights, contain sections providing against the employment of Chinese on any work to be undertaken in pursuance of the bill.

Mr. Beaven said that this is a question on which both parties in the legislature at one time were all unanimous, and during one term of this parliament all private bills coming before the House had to contain a provision of this character. He did not know, of course, what was the reason of the change of sentiment, but he did know that it is very pronounced. We have been agitating for years in this country to get the Dominion Government to enact such legislation as would prevent the Chinese from flooding this province. We succeeded after a number of years in getting them to pass the Chinese Immigration Act which imposed a tax of \$50 on every Chinaman coming into the Province. Having done that we went off our record by not agreeing to insert the usual clause in the statute which would prevent the employment of Chinese on railways and other public works in this province. This has been used as an argument at Ottawa for the repeal of the \$50 tax. It was represented that a change of sentiment had taken place in this legislation, it was for the advancement of the Province and the Chinese allowed in free of duty. Mr. Beaven was of opinion that it would be very disastrous indeed to this province if it really were the case that Chinese were allowed in free of restrictions. We know the difficulties we have been under for years in this Province from Chinese coming to our coast. We know that when the C. P. R. and other public works were being constructed, whole cargoes of Chinese came over in sailing vessels and flooded this country. Now that we have a fleet of first-class steamers running between here and China so that the facilities are much greater. It would be very disastrous to the working man here to-day if any railways were undertaken and the Chinese allowed to swarm over here. Therefore Mr. Beaven thought it would be wise to pass this resolution and he hoped that honorable gentlemen would agree unanimously with him in this question.

Mr. Cotton, senior member for Vancouver, seconded the resolution.

Mr. Croft raised a point of order and a discussion thereon ensued and closed only when time came for the House to adjourn. The speaker reserved his decision.

THE LEGISLATURE.

A CHARACTERISTICALLY SHIRKING GOVERNMENT.

They Beat Round the Corner in the Chinese Question, and Now they Won't Face the Eight-Hour Labor System for Provincial Work—Other Business.

FRIDAY, JAN. 23.

The Speaker took the chair at two o'clock.

Prayers by the Rev. Mr. Kingham.

The business of the day was commenced by the following resolution proposed by Mr. Beaven that the principle of eight hours constituting a day should be adopted in carrying on Provincial public works. And that a clause should be inserted in all contracts for such to the effect that the hours making up a day's work of the workmen and of laborers to be employed under it shall not be more than eight; and a penalty for the violation of such provision by the contractor or sub-contractor should be included.

This, said the hon. gentleman, is a subject which deserves the serious consideration of the parties on both sides of the House, and he hoped that consideration would be favorable. At present a considerable number of our people are trying to bring about what they term moral reform, and one of the principal planks in their platform is the proper observance of the Sabbath. Now, justice, reason and common sense tell us that if a man has no other time to rest than on the Sabbath, it has the natural tendency of turning that day into a mere holiday, rather than that for which it was set aside. The eight hour movement has the tendency of inducing the proper observance of Sunday. That it is a success in other parts of the world, no one who reads up this subject will fail to admit. It has been found most successful in the Australian colonies. In carrying out all public works of the Province, eight hours should constitute a day's labor. No actual law, that Mr. Beaven could find, exists on this question in the Australian colonies, but public sentiment has grown so much in favor of it as to make it more binding than if it were the law of the land. You can't legislate in advance of public sentiment, but if public sentiment is educated up to the general principles of a reform the people have an opportunity of seeing the good which reforms of this description bring about. It is customary in the Australian colonies to insert in all municipal and government contracts a clause to the effect that a day's labor shall constitute not more than eight hours, this is the only request of the principle made by the state as he, Mr. Beaven, could ascertain. It is a notable fact that articles manufactured in Australia do not cost more than 20 per cent. over the price of the same goods manufactured in England where labor is not nearly so well paid; so that shorter hours and better pay do not increase the cost of living there. If a man works seven days of ten hours in the week is put beside the man who only works six days it will be found that the latter man will do a larger amount of work and of a better kind than the man who works seven days in the week and gets no rest. It stands to reason. So that though this is a selfish way of looking at it, it can't be denied that more and better work is produced. The fact of a man having a reasonable amount of leisure improves his manly. In Australia the working man is generally speaking, thrifty and well off. In most cases he owns his own home. The enlarged social opportunities this leisure gives him are, moreover, greatly to his benefit. Mr. Beaven earnestly hoped that the members on both sides of the House would support this resolution which asked for the working man that measure of rest and refreshment which the body requires. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

Dr. Milne seconded the resolution.

Mr. Foster said he was often asked whether he would vote for a resolution making eight hours a legal day's labor, and he said he was opposed to the interference of the government in private business. But so far as the Government itself is concerned, it would be perfectly right to shorten the hours of labor for their own employes. The effect of this step has been good in every class of trade. Mr. Foster instanced its effect in the north of England, where more real good had been attained than any amount of legislation. And then the efficiency of labor is very materially increased (hear, hear). He thought the Government should be prepared to make a little advance in this respect. (Applause.)

Mr. Cotton also spoke in support of the resolution. He, too, was not in favor of a hard and fast binding law fixing the hours of labor generally, but Government employes stand on a different basis. This question should be looked upon from two standpoints. First, as to whether it is good *per se*, and, second, how the taxpayers will take it. For though only slightly, it would increase the expenditure in government contracts. But in the trades and manufactures where shortening the hours of labor has been brought about it has not been found that the increased cost is in proportion to the time shortened. In this question it is only fair that we should look at it from the fact that the difference will not be in proportion either. In this movement the Government should at least keep pace with the times even by passing an act a little in advance of

public sentiment. Public sentiment throughout the world is coming to this movement of the eight hour day, and therefore we may lead in this question, which, if the people, we should find an overwhelming majority in favor of.

Mr. Hall moved in amendment this House is of opinion that the principle of eight hours constituting a day should be referred to a committee of this House with power to call for books, persons and papers and should report to this House.

Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Hall proceeded to speak on question but was brought to task by Mr. Beaven. Mr. Hall had been the amendment by Mr. Davie, and confessed to not having had time to read the resolution as he had not it before him.

Mr. Beaven thought it must be known to the hon. Attorney-General who drafted this resolution, that subject is one which requires no investigation of a committee of the House. He did not wish to be hypercritical, the hon. member for Cassiar, but (Mr. Beaven) had not sat in this House so long without being able to trace the sources of action which takes place. If the hon. Attorney-General has desire to defeat this resolution, did he not rise in his place and state the reasons why it should not be adopted, and not have drawn up an amendment simply to put it in the hands of another hon. member? Is a system of political warfare should not be adopted, and Mr. Beaven had no hesitation in saying that, as it did from a member of the Government, it was with very bad grace. The question is not one which requires the report of a select committee is obvious to all.

Mr. Davie defended his action stating that the hon. member for Cassiar had asked him to draw up an amendment and he did so. There was no harm in that. Mr. Davie did wish to have it thought that he approved the resolution, but he favored the recommendation of its being referred to a select committee for the purpose of obtaining information.

Messrs. Pooley, Smith and Booth supported the amendment.

Mr. Keith spoke to the resolution. It is one of the most momentous questions of the present day. We find that such men as Mr. Gladstone and Mr. B. Laugha, have promised it their earnest consideration will no doubt be the page of a bill through the British Parliament shortening the hours of labor. Mr. Keith thought it unnecessary wait to gather statistics and information on this question (hear, hear, and applause). Compare the statistics of the workmen from the earliest period down to present and it would be found that the hours of labor were shortened. The position became better, and he became a more worthy citizen (applause). Shorter working hours should apply all kinds of labor. It might be British Columbia had no precedent this matter of making labor better, why should we not institute a precedent for ourselves? He agreed with the Attorney-General that there are cases when it is not possible for a man work only eight hours, as in the case of the miners, but then they are working a season. There is no necessity why they should be restricted. In the case of the Government printing which the honorable gentleman had stanced, why not, as Mr. Beaven suggested, divide them into two or three shifts a day. He considered eight hours long enough for any work man to work in a day. (Cheers.)

Mr. Croft supported the amendment.

Mr. Brown offered an amendment the amendment making the clause "nine hours" instead of eight. He recognized the growing tendency in direction of shorter hours of labor.

The hon. the Speaker said it occurred to him that the whole thing was out of order. The hon. the senior member Vancouver City had shown him this statement that the resolution would affect the Government contracts, indirectly, all private contracts. It, according to a ruling by Speaker McConochie with the B. N. A. act as it interfered with trade and commerce (Section 91, sub-section 2.)

Mr. Beaven said there has been very great change taken place with reference to that very subject. Speaker Mars gave his decision could hardly be fairly argued with success that the present resolution out of order.

Messrs. Semlin, Cotton and Davie spoke briefly, and at the suggestion of the hon. the Premier, the Speaker to time to consider.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Kitchen moved that a committee consisting of Messrs. Brown, Horne, Cotton, Beaven, Eberts, Hunter, Sward, Grant, and to move, be appointed prepare and introduce to this House Act to amend and consolidate "Municipal Act, 1889," and the "Municipal Act Amendment Act, 1890." Carried.

Mr. Stoddart moved that a select committee be appointed to prepare a present to this House a Bill dealing with the whole matter of branding cattle and the registration of such brand said committee to consist of the following members, viz: Messrs. Vern Semlin, Martin, Rogers, Smith and mover.—Carried.

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DAY, Jan. 23.

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public sentiment. Public opinion throughout the world is coming round to this movement of the eight hour labor day, and therefore we may safely say that in this question, which, if put to the people, we should find an overwhelming majority in favor of.

Mr. Hall moved in amendment, that this House is of opinion that the principle of eight hours constituting a day's labor should be referred to a select committee of this House with powers to call for books, persons and papers, and should report to this House.

Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Hall proceeded to speak on the question but was brought to task by Mr. Beaven. Mr. Hall had been given the amendment by Mr. Davie, and he confessed to not having had time to read the resolution as he had not it before him.

Mr. Beaven thought it must surely be known to the hon. Attorney-General, who drafted this resolution, that the subject is one which requires no investigation of a committee of the House. He did not wish to be hypercritical of the hon. member for Cassiar, but he (Mr. Beaven) had not sat in this House so long without being able to trace up the sources of action which takes place. If the hon. Attorney-General had a desire to defeat this resolution, why did he not rise in his place and state the reasons why it should not be adopted, and not have drawn up an amendment simply to put it in the hands of another hon. member? This is a system of political warfare that should not be adopted, and Mr. Beaven had no hesitation in saying that coming as it did from a member of the Government, it was with very bad grace. That the question is not one which requires the report of a select committee is very obvious to all.

Mr. Davie defended his action by stating that the hon. member for Cassiar had asked him to draw up an amendment and he did so. There was no harm in that. Mr. Davie did not wish to have it thought that he opposed the resolution, but he favored the recommendation of its being referred to a select committee for the purpose of obtaining information.

Messrs. Pooley, Smith and Booth, supported the amendment.

Mr. Keith spoke to the resolution. It is one of the most momentous questions of the present day. We find that such men as Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bradlaugh, have promised their earnest consideration will no doubt be the passage of a bill through the British Parliament shortening the hours of labor. Mr. Keith thought it unnecessary to wait to gather statistics and information on this question (hear, hear and applause). Compare the state of the workingmen from the earliest period down to the present and it would be found that as the hours of labor were shortened, his position became better, and he became a more worthy citizen (applause). Shorter working hours should apply to all kinds of labor. It might be that British Columbia had no precedent in this matter of making labor better, but why should we not institute a precedent for ourselves? He agreed with the Attorney-General that there are cases when it is not possible for a man to work only eight hours, as in the case of the miners, but then they are only working a season. There is no necessity why they should be restricted. But in the case of the Government printers which the honorable gentleman had instanced, why not, as Mr. Beaven suggested, divide them into two or even three shifts a day. He considered eight hours long enough for any working man to work in a day. (Cheers.)

Mr. Croft supported the amendment. Mr. Brown offered an amendment to the amendment making the clause read "nine hours" instead of eight. He recognized the growing tenancy in the direction of shorter hours of labor.

The hon. the Speaker said it occurred to him that the whole thing was out of order. The hon. the senior member for Vancouver City had shown him this by the statement that the resolution would affect the Government contracts, and indirectly, all private contracts. It, according to a ruling by Speaker Mara, conflicted with the B. N. A. act as it interfered with trade and commerce. (Section 91, sub-section 2.)

Mr. Beaven said there has been a very great change taken place with reference to that very subject since Speaker Mara gave his decision. It could hardly be fairly argued with any success that the present resolution is out of order.

Messrs. Semlin, Cotton and Davie spoke briefly, and at the suggestion of the hon. the Premier, the Speaker took time to consider.

RESOLUTIONS.
Mr. Kitchen moved that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Brown, Horne, Cotton, Beaven, Eberts, Hunter, Sword, Grant, and to mover, be appointed to prepare and introduce to this House an Act to amend and consolidate the "Municipal Act, 1889," and the "Municipal Act Amendment Act, 1890."—Carried.

Mr. Stoddart moved that a select committee be appointed to prepare and present to this House a Bill dealing with the whole matter of branding cattle and the registration of such brands. Said committee to consist of the following members, viz: Messrs. Vernon, Semlin, Martin, Rogers, Smith and the mover.—Carried.

Mr. Kitchen moved that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Brown, Horne, Cotton, Beaven, Eberts, Hunter, Sword, Grant, and to mover, be appointed to prepare and introduce to this House an Act to amend and consolidate the "Municipal Act, 1889," and the "Municipal Act Amendment Act, 1890."—Carried.

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Mr. Stoddart moved that a select committee be appointed to prepare and present to this House a Bill dealing with the whole matter of branding cattle and the registration of such brands. Said committee to consist of the following members, viz: Messrs. Vernon, Semlin, Martin, Rogers, Smith and the mover.—Carried.

Mr. McKenzie to move the following resolution: That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be sent down to this House copies of all correspondence that has taken place between the Government of British Columbia and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company, during the period intervening between the 19th day of December, A. D. 1883, and the 19th day of December, A. D. 1887. Also copies of all correspondence during the same period between the Government of British Columbia and the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

Considerable discussion took place on this motion, and the mover eventually withdrew it, as the Government complained of the large amount of unnecessary work it would entail.

The Premier laid on the table the list of voters in the province up to April 30, 1890.

Mr. McKenzie moved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be sent down to this House a return showing the reserves, including school, naval or military, Indian, and other reserves for public purposes, including in the grant to the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company, and areas thereof. Carried.

Mr. McKenzie moved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be sent down to this House, a copy of the report or reports, of the examiner of public school teachers, respecting the examination of public school teachers held at Victoria in July, 1890, and copies of any or all orders in council relating thereto.

Hon. Mr. Robson hoped that in this return it was not expected to give the names of those teachers who went up for examination and were plucked. Such a proceeding would be unnecessarily cruel and unfair.

Dr. Milne thought the resolution asked for the reports. It was not, he thought, the intention of the mover to have those names published.

Mr. Semlin said that the object of this resolution was very plain. If there has been an injustice done to one there may have been to the whole community of teachers.

Mr. Beaven moved in amendment that the words, "public school teachers" be struck out and the name of "J. N. Muir" be inserted.

This was assented to and the resolution as amended was passed.

QUESTIONS.
Mr. Kellie asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works: What amount of timber lands have been granted under lease during 1890, and what amount of timber lands are now under notice of application for lumbering purposes?

The Premier—The total area of timber land granted under lease during 1890 was 37,760 acres; the area for which applications for leases have been made, but for which leases have not been granted is, approximately, 700,000 acres.

BILLS.
Constitutional and other Provincial Questions Bill.
This measure was placed before the House for second reading, and was spoken to by the mover and Mr. Beaven.

The House went into committee and considered, and reported the bill with amendments which will be considered Monday.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.
This bill was also committed and progress reported the committee asking leave to sit again.

NOTICES OF MOTION.
By Mr. Hunter—To move that whereas, by the terms of union, the management of the Indian reserves of the Province was assumed by the Dominion Government, in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians;

And, whereas, section 119, Esquimalt district, Victoria Harbor, lying within the limits of the City of Victoria, is one of such reserves, and is the residence of the Songhees tribes of Indians, now few in numbers;

And, whereas, the position of said reserve renders it unsuitable for a place of residence for the said tribe and tends to their demoralization, and to prevent the progress and prosperity of the said city, and makes it expedient that the tribe should be removed to some more suitable locality, and the control of the said reserve be resumed by the Provincial Government;

Be it therefore resolved, that a respectful address be presented to the Lieut.-Governor, praying his honor to take such steps as he may deem necessary to accomplish the above object.

By Mr. Hunter—To introduce "An Act for the Protection of certain animals, birds and beasts."
By Mr. Keith—To move for a return of all Orders in Council, correspondence and papers connected with the sending of a militia force to Wellington last summer, and of their maintenance while there.

By Hon. Mr. Davie—To introduce a bill respecting municipalities.
By Hon. Mr. Davie—To introduce a bill to further amend the "Land Registry Act."
By Hon. Mr. Davie—To introduce a bill to amend the "Jurors' Act."
By Hon. Mr. Davie—To introduce a bill to further amend the "Supreme Court Act."
By Hon. Mr. Davie—To introduce a bill to amend "an act to authorize and facilitate the sale of the site of the Royal Hospital with the buildings thereon."
The House rose at 8 p.m. and stands

THE LEGISLATURE.

TWO IMPORTANT RULINGS BY
SPEAKER HIGGINS.

He Declares the Motion by Mr. Beaven on the Eight-Hour Question in Order, but Says That the Instruction to the Committee in Regard to Chinese is not.

MONDAY, JAN. 26.

When the House assembled to-day, and after routine, Mr. Speaker read his opinion on two points reserved from Friday. They were as follows:

The hon. member for Victoria city (Hon. Mr. Beaven) on Friday introduced the following resolution: That the principle of eight hours constituting a day's labor should be adopted in carrying on Provincial public works. And that a clause should be inserted in all contracts for such to the effect that the hours making up a day's work of the workmen and of laborers to be employed under it shall not be more than eight; and a penalty for the violation of such provision by the contractor or sub-contractor should be included.

The point of order as to the resolution was raised by me during the discussion that ensued. I based my objection on the action of Mr. Speaker Mara in 1885, in ruling out of order a bill providing for the regulation of day labor. Mr. Speaker Mara ruled that the bill was an interference with trade and commerce, a class of legislation that is reserved for the Dominion legislature. Neither a copy of the bill, nor of the ruling has been preserved, but I am informed that the bill dealt with all classes of labor, whether employed by the government or by private parties. Such being the case it was clearly out of order.

My impression while listening to the debate on Friday was that the resolution of the hon. member for Victoria city covered the same ground, in effect if not in words, as the bill ruled out in 1885; and that it was also an interference with the prerogative of the crown, inasmuch as the instruction conveyed in the resolution, if accepted by the House, would increase the cost of government and act prejudicially upon contractors for private as well as public works.

But upon reflection I think that the resolution if adopted would not necessarily increase the financial burden of the country; because while it proposes to reduce the hours of labor on public works to eight hours a day, it does not demand that the laborer shall be paid for more than the time he has actually been employed. For instance, if a laborer on Government works is paid at the rate of twenty cents per hour for ten hours' work, there is nothing in the resolution asking the Government to pay a higher rate per hour for eight hours' work. The number of laborers might be increased by the legislation, but the amount paid need not be greater than under the system now in force.

For the same reason private contractors would not be injuriously affected through the adoption of the eight-hour system on Government works, and the resolution is not in interference with trade and commerce.

On these grounds contrary to my first impression, I rule that the resolution is within the powers of the House.

The point of order taken by the honorable member for Cowichan (Mr. Croft) is as to the advisability of the resolution moved by the honorable member for Victoria (Hon. Mr. Beaven) "That this House is of the opinion that the committee on standing orders and private bills, and the committee on railways should see that all private bills granting franchises or rights contained section providing against the employment of Chinese, on any work to be undertaken in pursuance of the bill."

Objection is taken that the resolution asks the House to relegate to a select committee powers that reside exclusively in the House. Our own rules of order being silent on the point (as they are, unfortunately, on many others of equal importance), I have recourse to "May."

Therein I find many instances of special instruction given to the private bills committee with certain bills, but no instance of instructions general in their character, that is that apply to all private bills, beyond those embraced in the standing orders as cited.

The resolution before the house is not mandatory in terms but an expression of opinion such as the resolution conveyed is always a command and if passed by the House must be respected as such by the private bills committee.

An anti-Chinese clause which would operate as advantageously if inserted in some bills might prove ruinous to the scheme if inserted in others. A hard and fast rule, such as that offered by the hon. member for Victoria, to apply to private bills that have complied with the standing orders, cannot, in my opinion, be left to the private bills committee to insert, but must be at the discretion of the House, as each bill comes before it for legislation. I therefore rule that the point is well taken, and that the resolution is not in order.

THE LEGISLATURE.

FURTHER SHIRKING OF THE
EIGHT HOUR QUESTION.

Several of the Government Supporters Air Their Ignorance of Matters in Australia They one and all Oppose Mr. Beaven's Motion for the Reduction.

MONDAY, JAN. 26.

The House reassembled to-day after an adjournment on Friday.

The Speaker took the chair at two o'clock and business was at once proceeded with.

Hon. Mr. Beaven introduced a bill relating to libel in civil cases, which was read a first time and placed on the orders of the day for second reading on Monday next.

Mr. Cotton moved, seconded by Mr. Keith, that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be placed before this House copies of all correspondence, orders-in-council, or other papers, that have passed between any department of the Government and any other department or officials of it, or any other persons, concerning the seizure of the schooner Hesperus or of about October 10th, 1889, and the arrest of the officers and crew of the said vessel.

Mr. Cotton having explained the circumstances of the case, the resolution was carried.

Mr. Keith moved, that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be sent down to this House copies of all Orders in Council correspondence, and papers connected with the sending of a militia force to Wellington last summer, and of their maintenance while there.

In introducing this resolution Mr. Keith said that it is a well known fact that an armed force was sent to Wellington last summer, but for what purpose no one knows. It was for the purpose of gaining this information that the resolution was submitted to the House.

Hon. Mr. Beaven dealt with the legality of the action, but as the Government has promised to procure and submit to the House the information required, the question of debate will again come up.

Mr. Semlin moved, that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor requesting him to cause to be sent down to the House copies of all Orders in Council and correspondence relating to the closing of the Cache Creek boarding school. Carried.

At this juncture the Speaker gave his ruling of the motions given in yesterday's issue.

Mr. Nason took his seat on the floor of the House after having complied with the usual formalities.

QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE.
The hon. the Minister of Finance, Mr. Turner, brought to the notice of the House a question of privilege which he raised in the case of a letter signed J. N. Muir in the TIMES. The hon. gentleman explained that he had never referred to Mr. Muir, and had not yet spoken in the House this session.

Hon. Mr. Davie, attorney-general, rose to a question of privilege regarding a statement in the Vancouver News-Advertiser, that he (Mr. Davie) had entered a defence of the Premier's private character.

The constitutional and other provincial questions act was read a third time.

The animals contagious diseases act was placed before the House, but on the request of Mr. Cotton, consideration was postponed for a week.

WORKMEN PERSONAL INJURIES BILL.
Hon. Mr. Davie, who introduced this measure, explained its working and effect. The House went into committee upon it, and after sitting some time rose and reported progress, the bill complete with amendments. The report will be considered Tuesday.

The Speaker having ruled out of order the motion of Hon. Mr. Beaven with reference to the employment of Chinese on provincial public work, the next motion for the House to consider was that of the eight hour question.

Col. Baker (who had only taken his seat at to-day's opening of the House) spoke to the motion. This amendment, he held, was evidently intended to benefit the working classes in this province. If passed, he contended, it would have the directly opposite effect. This will, in point of fact be a motion for the increase of taxation in this province. Because if we reduce the hours of labor from ten to eight, and pay the same amount of wages, naturally we get less for our money, consequently the Government has to make good the amount of money required out of that appropriated for the carrying out of public works, and where is that money to come from if not from the taxpayers? We cannot contend that the effect of this motion would be confined to public works—we should very soon have another measure introduced making the principle refer to private contracts throughout the Province.

This would be equivalent to a tax on the raw product of the province. Colonel Baker did not wish to say that the time will not arrive when eight hours will constitute a day's work. But this is a question

which affects nations, and the measure instituting it must be an international one. Any nation that brings it forward of itself must be at a disadvantage. This motion, at best, is merely introducing the thin end of the wedge of what is known as socialism; it is making the Government a parental government, to dictate what amount of wages are to be paid and what are not. Here again the time must arrive when the balance between labor and capital must be adjusted; but there again it must be an international question. It must come from the majority of civilization, and any one nation bringing it in will be placed at a disadvantage with the others. On this ground he would vote against the resolution.

Mr. Beaven pointed out that the hon. member who last spoke was very much astray with regard to the matter, judging from the remarks he had favored the House with. He spoke of the proposition before the House as likely to work to the injury of the workingman. Mr. Beaven was afraid that the hon. gentleman could not have understood the resolution, or he would not have spoken as he did. There is no proposition in the resolution to pay the men at the rate of ten hours per day for eight hours' work.

Mr. Croft and Mr. Hall spoke to the resolution from the government standpoint.

Mr. Foster felt perfectly satisfied that the principle is a good one, and spoke of the benefit derived by the working classes from more leisure. He thought the government should take the lead in a step of this kind.

Mr. Keith took the same stand.

Mr. Grant had before now expressed himself in favor of the eight hour question. He knew what a day's work is, and thought that time should be divided into three parts out of the 24 hours. Eight for work, eight for rest and recreation and eight for sleep. He found that this matter has taken tangible shape in the District of Columbia, U.S., where by a majority of over 100 it was decided in favor of eight hours constituting a day's work on all Government works. (Hear, hear.) He did not mean to say that the governments of the Australian colonies had adopted the system, but he knew, from the best authority that the system is in operation there. (Hear, hear.) He felt that eight hours is a proper proportion for a man to work. (Hear, hear.)

On motion of Hon. Mr. Davie the debate was adjourned.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Kellie—To move for a select committee, to consist of Semlin, Brown, Smith, Cotton and the mover, to take into consideration all matters referring to the Kootenay reclamation reserve scheme, with power to ask for papers and all other evidence that may be deemed expedient, and report to the House.

By Mr. Semlin—To move for copies of instructions sent to the commissioners appointed to carry out vote 192 b of last session, together with all correspondence in relation to the question.

QUESTION.

Mr. Smith—To ask the Provincial Secretary—"Is it the intention of the Government during the present session to introduce a bill to extend the boundary of Yale district for all governmental purposes, so as to include that portion of Lillooet district which is now, according to the Constitution Amendment Act, 1890, included in Yale district, for election purposes.

The House rose at a quarter to six o'clock.

THE LEGISLATURE.

THE LABOR QUESTION RELEGATED TO OBSCURITY

In the Mysteriousness of a Select Committee—The Government Shows Sympathy With Workingmen—Not Quite Ready for the Session's Business Yet.

TUESDAY, JAN. 28, 1891.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock and business was at once proceeded with.

Mr. Milne asked leave to introduce a bill intitled "An Act to amend the 'Sunday Observance Act.' (Chap. 108, Con. Stat.)" Read a first time and ordered to be placed on the orders of the day for a second reading on Monday next.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked leave to introduce a bill intitled "An Act to make certain provisions respecting municipalities."

He asked that it be placed on the orders of the day for second reading on Wednesday, but on Mr. Beaven proposing against such railroad legislation, he deferred it till Thursday.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked leave to introduce the following bills: "An Act to further amend the 'Land Registry Act.'"

"An Act to amend the 'Jurors Act.'"

An Act to further amend the "Supreme Court Act," which were read a first time and placed on the order for second reading on Thursday.

Mr. Horne moved: That it is expedient to make the city of Vancouver and a portion of the New Westminster district into a new judicial district, to be known as "Vancouver Judicial District," with headquarters at the city of Vancouver. Said new district to be bounded as follows: Commencing at Point Grey; thence in a south-easterly direction following the coast line to the North Arm of the Fraser River; thence along the north shore of the North Arm to the south-east corner of lot 331, Group 1, New Westminster district; thence due north to the north-west corner of lot 69, Group 1; thence due east to the south-east corner of lot 8, Group 1; thence due south to the south-west corner of lot 5, Group 1; thence due east to the north-east corner of lot 113, Group 1; thence due south to the south-west corner of lot 170, Group 1; thence south-easterly along the southern boundary of lot 170, Group 1, to the Coquitlam River; thence across said river and along its eastern bank to its junction with the Fraser River; thence north-easterly following the right-hand bank of the Fraser River to the mouth of Pitt River; thence following the western bank of the Pitt River and Lake to the extreme northern point of Pitt Lake; thence on a line due north to the northern boundary of New Westminster district; thence westerly along the northern boundary of the said district to the shore of Desolation Sound; thence following the western boundary of the district to the place of commencement.

One of the principal objects in introducing this resolution, said Mr. Horne, is to put the City of Vancouver in such a position that it will be able to have a judge of the supreme and county court and a registrar of the supreme court. Vancouver is the only city in this Province that has not this privilege. This places the city at a very serious disadvantage. If any dishonest creditor wishes to leave the country and cross the international boundary he has, under the present arrangement, ample time to get away before a capias can be got out in New Westminster preventing him.

Mr. Brown remarked that that suburb of New Westminster had grown so rapidly that she had become well able to take care of her own affairs (laughter) and New Westminster is growing so large that she has quite enough to do to attend to hers. He would, however, offer an amendment, and he did so with the knowledge and consent of the original mover. This amendment would not interfere with the main object of the resolution. He proposed that the settlements of Port Moody, New Westminster Junction and Pitt River be allowed to remain in the New Westminster district. The reason of this was the lack of road facilities.

Mr. Davie was not at all sure that even if the House pass this resolution and the Government brings down legislation in conformity with the object which is to be attained it will not necessarily be a failure. The carrying out of this resolution rests not with this Government but with the Dominion Government. Mr. Davie went into the history of the judiciary in this Province to show this.

Mr. Robson and Mr. Cotton spoke in favor of the motion, and Mr. Beaven felt a little disappointed in view of the interval that has elapsed between last session and this had not something to report to the House on this question from the Dominion Government. This is not a new matter by any means, it has been brought up before. It is on record that the judiciary of this Province once claimed that they were not under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislature Assembly, but that impression was soon dispelled.

The resolution as amended was carried.

The Workmen Personal Injuries Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE LABOR QUESTION.

Mr. Davie remarked that the more he heard of this question the more he felt convinced that the proper plan to adopt is that of referring it to a select committee of the House for the purpose of gathering evidence bearing upon it. In any case he would like to see a unanimous vote on this question, as he considered it would be disastrous for the subject of a divided vote were taken upon it. Therefore he would ask the hon. leader of the Opposition to withdraw his resolution and let the matter go to a committee. In that case he could count upon Mr. Davie approaching the consideration of the motion in a thoroughly friendly spirit.

Mr. Joseph Hunter went into the question at some considerable length, arriving finally at the point that he hoped the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Cassiar would be passed.

Mr. Anderson thought it was not right that this resolution should pass. "Two dollars a day for ten hours' work is fair and reasonable pay for a fair and reasonable day's work," where that work is done in the open pure air.

Hon. Mr. Turner, although favoring the reference of the subject to a committee, and while believing that the eight-hour labor day would not suit all businesses, thought that eight hours were quite long enough for an ordinary day's labor.

Dr. Milne said that the arguments brought forward from the other side of the House had diverted into other channels of trade from the original matter, which only referred to Government contracts.

Mr. Robson made a warm speech on the subject which was one of the great troubles of the age. The labor problem has been cracking the brains of the most eminent and level-headed statesmen of the present day, and yet did not see their way clear to legislate upon it. Yet here the hon. Leader of the Opposition rushes in with a resolution by which he proposes to solve the whole problem.

Mr. Beaven—You are discussing the population as if we wished to pass a statute, and you are dealing with all classes of labor. This resolution does not refer to that at all. If you will confine yourself to the discussion of the resolution you will find that it only asks the government to adopt the system in all public works.

Mr. Robson admitted the truth of the statement that the resolution proposes to cover only government works, but it must be obvious to all that if the Government establish the eight hour system on public works, other employers of labor will have to do the same thing. It had been said that the laborer will do as much work in a day of eight hours as he will do in ten—he will do nothing of the sort; he will just work with the same deliberation as before. So far as the question of legislating on this subject goes, Mr. Robson would yield to no man in the desire to see the better relations exist between labor and capital than exist at the present time. The great trouble is that the capitalist gets too much and the laborer pockets too little of the products of his labor, and the speaker believed that the only true remedy for this is the establishment of the eight hour day.

If he did not understand the hon. gentleman, and know his principles thoroughly, Mr. Robson would be led to believe that this motion was a piece of pure "bunkum" to catch the vote and sympathy of the workingman. The sympathies of the House for the working classes is not confined to the Opposition benches. But is Mr. Beaven consistent? When he was in power he increased the hours of the government printers from ten till four o'clock to from eight till six. Was that in the interests of the workingman?—while the clerks in the government offices worked only from nine till five. He thought the whole question ill-advised and rash, and hoped the House would have the good sense to vote down the whole question.

The House then divided on Mr. Beaven's resolution and Mr. Hall's amendment. The resolution was rejected on the following division:

Ayes 7—Grant, McKenzie, Cotton, Milne, Beaven, Foster, Keith, Kellie, Horne, Smith, Brown, Baker, Robson, Davie, Vernon, Eberts, Stoddard, Booth, Hall, Nason, Pooley, Turner, Martin, Croft, Hunter, Rogers, Anderson, Fletcher.

Mr. Hall's amendment referring the question to a committee was adopted on the following division:

Ayes 22—Grant, McKenzie, Kitchen, Cotton, Milne, Beaven, Horne, Smith, Foster, Keith, Baker, Stoddard, Booth, Hall, Nason, Turner, Martin, Hunter, Rogers, Anderson, Fletcher.

Nays 9—Semlin, Sword, Kellie, Brown, Robson, Vernon, Eberts, Pooley, Croft.

The following is the committee to whom the subject was referred, in compliance with the provisions of the amendment: Messrs. Hall, Smith, Beaven, Foster and Booth.

Hon. Mr. Turner presented a return showing the sums of money received under the Election Regulation Amendment Act, and setting forth that at the last election eight candidates had forfeited their deposits.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Martin—To move for a return of the correspondence and telegrams between the Attorney-General and J. Lehman, J.P. of Ashcroft, relative to the prosecution and discharge of J. Carey, for alleged embezzlement.

By Mr. Eberts—To introduce a bill to amend the B. C. University Act, 1890.

The Premier asked that parties interested in private bills would not delay in bringing them forward. He also announced that owing to bad weather the contractors had been unable to get everything in readiness for the opening of the New Westminster Southern railway on Friday, therefore the House would not adjourn on Thursday.

The House rose at 5 p.m.

THE LEGISLATURE.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON THE MECHANICS LIEN.

Hon. Theo. Davie Defends His Own Opposing View in Opposition to the Opinions of His Leader—Mr. Brown's Bill Read a Second Time.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 p.m. The Premier submitted the following returns—All papers and correspondence asked for in connection with the examination of J. N. Muir. A statement under section 11 of the Revenue Act.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked leave to introduce a bill intitled "An act to amend an act to authorize and facilitate the sale of the site of the Royal Hospital with the buildings thereon."—Read a first time and placed on the orders of the day for second reading on Tuesday next.

Mr. Hunter moved, seconded by Mr. Rogers, that whereas, by the terms of union, the management of the Indian reserves of the Province was assumed by the Dominion Government, in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians; and whereas, section 119, Esquimalt district, Victoria harbor, lying within the limits of the city of Victoria, is one of such reserves, and is the residence of the Songhees tribe of Indians, now few in numbers;

and whereas, the position of said reserve renders it unsuitable for a place of residence for the said tribe and tends to their demoralization, and to prevent the progress and prosperity of the said city, and makes it expedient that the tribe should be removed to some more suitable locality, and the control of the said reserve be resumed by the Provincial Government;

Be it therefore resolved, that a respectful address be presented to the Lieut.-Governor, praying his honor to take such steps as he may deem necessary to accomplish the above object.

It is quite evident, said the mover, that it is not proper to have an Indian reservation such as we have almost in the heart of a large commercial centre like Victoria. He would very much prefer to see this resolution pass by a unanimous vote of the House. There was a similar resolution introduced last year by Mr. Duck, and the hon. leader of the Opposition introduced an amendment which was ruled out of order.

Hon. Mr. Robson thought that the resolution would commend itself to the House, and there should be no difficulty at all in carrying out the proposition. It is in the interest of the Indians that they should be removed. The fact of its now being within the limits of the city of Victoria greatly simplifies the question. In any case it is an anomalous condition of things that should be abolished. The matter has been discussed with members of the Dominion Government, and particularly with the minister of that particular department but he could not state that any arrangement or statement had been obtained, but he thought the province could now successfully negotiate with the Dominion Government in this respect.

Hon. Mr. Beaven certainly expected some information upon this subject from the hon. the Provincial Secretary, because the resolution introduced is almost word for word with that passed at the last session. The resolution in question being introduced by a supporter of the Government, was in a very mild form. The House does not want these inactive resolutions on the journals of the House; we want some practical action. As to the claim that this land has become very valuable during late years, the only value it has acquired is from its close proximity to the city of Victoria. Had it not been for this it would be worthless. Therefore the city of Victoria should get some benefit from it. This fact should not be lost sight of. At the same time the hon. member did not advocate depriving the Indians of any right which they may possess. If they are removed from their present place they should not be done the slightest wrong; they should be given full compensation and full satisfaction.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. Kellie moved that a select mittee, composed of Messrs. Semlin, Brown, Cotton, Smith and the mover, be appointed to take into consideration all matters referring to the Kootenay reclamation reserve scheme, power to ask for papers and all evidence that may be deemed expedient, and to report to this House. The hon. member asked leave to withdraw, which was granted.

Mr. Semlin moved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor Lieutenant-Governor, asking him to cause to be sent down to this House copies of instructions sent the commissioners appointed to carry out vote of last session, together with all correspondence in relation to the question.

QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS.

Mr. Smith asked the honorable Provincial Secretary—Is it the intention of the Government, during the present session, to introduce an act to extend the boundary of Yale district for all Governmental purposes so as to include that portion of Lillooet district which is now according to the "Constitution Amendment Act, 1890," included in Yale district for election purposes.

The hon. the Premier—Yes.

Mr. Beaven rose to a question of privilege in the matter of the report of the division on the eight hour resolution, by which the mover and order of the amendment to the amendment were made to appear as voters against their own motion.

Second reading Mechanics Lien (No. 4.)

Mr. Brown said his principal reason for introducing this bill was the general complaints which he found he working of the act passed last session. The principal change he

made, and which is really the key of the arch constituting the bill, is he had eliminated what is known as a material man. Otherwise he had lowered the other act as closely as possible in drafting this one. He thought there would be found not unjust in the exclusion of the material man from the operation of the law.

is one who, if he loses on a contract simply loses a part of his season's work, whereas the workingman loses all. He, unlike the material man, is not able to say he requires security his wages, or that he wants so much advance. He has not the same power of hearing of a contractor's appointing failure that the material man has and the consequence is he is not able to secure himself.

In 99 cases out of 100 the material man, contractor and secure himself against total loss. The hon. member had it the best of legal authority that presence of the material man had great deal to do with preventing working of the present lien act. contractor comes to this country, for a work at a much less sum than can rightly be done for, he gets his money from the material man, who, relying on the special protection of the law, allows them to have all the material he wants. The thing fails and there is a loss. The material man secures himself under the lien, while the contractor gets away with probably some thousands of dollars on the price of a contract, and the workingman is left with nothing. For these reasons the material man was excluded.

Again, the whole act was restricted to the jurisdiction of the county court. The measure had been submitted to criticism of representative workmen, and they expressed the opinion that it would be found satisfactory.

Hon. Mr. Davie expressed considerable astonishment at the provisions of this bill, in view of the legislation that was brought into this House and passed in 1888. Hon. members would remember that at that time there was a conflict between two statutes introduced into the House; one being almost a copy of the Lien Act in existence in Oregon, and the other an act which he (the Attorney-General) had the honor of bringing in. A deputation of working men waited upon the hon. member to urge upon members the passage of the Oregon Act, which they said had gone to considerable trouble and expense to procure and make them selves acquainted with. Now there is not the slightest doubt but that if the House at that time had been satisfied that the Oregon Act was suitable provision for meeting the requirements of the laborer, mechanic or material man, that act would have been passed. But when this act came to be criticized, it was at once found that instead of being a protection to the laboring man it placed him in a disastrous position. One of the provisions was that after litigation, all moneys following realization should be withheld for six months. Where is the laboring man who can afford to wait six months for his money? Now the act of 1888 protected the working man so far that it empowered the attaching not only of the building or work of the contractor, but enabled them to follow and attach any fund that might be due the him by the owner. It also applied to past contracts, commenced previous to the enactment of the bill, and the consequence was that several scores of workmen in Vancouver and elsewhere were enabled to secure and recover their money. Mr. Davie did not take credit for framing this act, it was the result of years of experience of a man now dead and there was no doubt that it was a good one. Mr. Davie was satisfied that there was no better lien act in the whole of the North American continent, not excepting even Ontario or anywhere else. Mr. Davie went through the bill, clause by clause, and with the exception of the exclusion of material men from its

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DAY, Jan. 28.
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Mr. Kellie moved that a select committee, composed of Messrs. Semlin, Brown, Cotton, Smith and the mover, be appointed to take into consideration all matters referring to the Kootenay reclamation reserve scheme, with power to ask for papers and all other evidence that may be deemed expedient, and to report to this House. This the hon. member asked leave to withdraw, which was granted.

Mr. Semlin moved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, asking him to cause to be sent down to this House copies of instructions sent to the commissioners appointed to carry out vote 1921 of last session, together with all correspondence in relation to the question—Carried.

QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS.
Mr. Smith asked the honorable the Provincial Secretary—Is it the intention of the Government, during the present session, to introduce an act to extend the jurisdiction of the Kootenay reclamation reserve scheme, so as to include that portion of Lillooet district which is now according to the "Constitution Amendment Act, 1890," included in Yale district for election purposes?

The hon. the Premier—Yes.
Mr. Beaven rose to a question of privilege in view of the matter of the report of the division on the eight hour resolution, by which the mover and second of the amendment to the amend-ment were made to appear as voting against their own motion.

Second reading Mechanics Lien Bill (No. 4).
Mr. Brown said his principal reason for introducing this bill was the very general complaints which he found on his working of the act passed last session. The principal change he had

made, and which is really the keystone of the arch constituting the bill, is that he had eliminated what is known as the material man. Otherwise he had followed the other act as closely as possible in drafting this one. He thought there would be found nothing unjust in the exclusion of the material man from the operation of the law. He is one who, if he loses on a contract, simply loses a part of his season's profits, whereas the workman loses, his all. He, unlike the material man, is not able to say he requires security for his wages, or that he wants so much in advance. He has not the same means of hearing of a contractor's approaching failure that the material man has, and the consequence is he is not able to secure himself. In 60 cases out of 100 the material man is able to forestall the contractor and secure himself against total loss. The hon. member had it on the best of legal authority that the presence of the material man has a great deal to do with preventing the working of the present lien act. A contractor comes to this country, bids for a work at a much less sum than it can rightly be done for, he gets his supplies from the material man, who, relying on the special protection of the lien law, allows them to have all the material he wants. The thing fails and there is a loss. The material man secures himself under the lien, while the contractor gets away with probably some thousands of dollars on the price of the contract, and the workmen and owner are left. For these reasons the material man was excluded. Then again, the whole act was restricted to the jurisdiction of the county court. The measure had been submitted to the criticism of representative working men, and they expressed the opinion that it would be found satisfactory.

Hon. Mr. Davie expressed considerable astonishment at the provisions of this bill, in view of the legislation that was brought into this House and passed in 1888. Hon. members would remember that at that time there was a conflict between two statutes introduced into the House; one being almost a copy of the Lien Act in existence in Oregon, and the other an act which he (the Attorney-General) had the honor of bringing in. A deputation of working men waited upon the House to urge upon members the passage of the Oregon Act, which they said they had gone to considerable trouble and expense to procure and make themselves acquainted with. Now there is not the slightest doubt but that if the House at that time had been satisfied that the Oregon Act was a suitable provision for meeting the requirements of the laborer, mechanic or material man, that act would have been passed. But when this act came to be criticized, it was at once found that instead of being a protection to the laboring man it placed him in a disastrous position. One of the provisions was that after litigation, all moneys following realization should be withheld for six months. Where is the laboring man who can afford to wait six months for his money? Now the act of 1888 protected the working man so far that it empowered the attaching not only of the building or work of the contractor, but enabled them to follow and attach any fund that might be due the him by the owner. It also applied to past contracts, commenced previous to the enactment of the bill, and the consequence was that several scores of workmen in Vancouver and elsewhere were enabled to secure and recover their money. Mr. Davie did not take credit for framing this act, it was the result of years of experience of a man how things and gone, but Mr. Davie was satisfied that there was no better lien act in the whole of the North American continent, not excepting even Ontario or anywhere else. Mr. Davie went through the bill, clause by clause, and with the exception of the exclusion of material men from its

operation, pronounced it an open plagiarism of the one introduced in 1888 by himself. One effect of the bill will be to destroy credit, for by its becoming law, only those men who have got money can undertake contracts. That is legislating in favor of the rich man and against the poor man.

Mr. Cotton did not intend to speak on this question at this stage, but he could not allow the position taken by the Attorney-General to go unquestioned. That gentlemen had greatly distorted the position, of the whole matter. The bill now before the house did not affect the material man more than that it gave the workman first lien for the whole of his wages if the balance left on the contract allowed it; while the present law only gave him preference for one month, and then left him to stand his share of the loss with the material men and others. As regards mechanics having no lien on material which had not been paid for, he asked how could a workman know whether he had any security at all, if any party supplying material could come in and claim that he had not paid. The Attorney-General said the present bill worked like a charm in Victoria; it certainly did not discover. The proposed bill would supply anything, whether the contractor had undertaken the work at a fair price. A class of men who shoddy contractor, and if they had a very good result, they would not destroy credit, it would legislate in favor of the rich man, for the one who was industrious and honest would have no difficulty in getting credit.

Hon. Mr. Pooley also opposed the bill from the Attorney-General's standpoint, and thought with that gentleman, that the material man was being badly treated.

Mr. Booth thought that if the contract is taken at an at honest price, the material man has nothing to fear; the property will be always worth its market value. The great point is that the law must be put in force easily and quickly for the working man, to whom the delay of a day or week makes a great difference.

Messrs. Semlin, Croft and Foster spoke on the question, and the Speaker moved the second reading which was carried by a vote of nineteen to seven.

Yeas—Hunter, Anderson, Fletcher, Robson, Stoddart, Booth, Nason, Baker, Keith, Foster, Brown, Smith, Horne, Beaven, Milne, Semlin, McKenzie, Sword, and Cotton—19.

Nays—Pooley, Martin, Rogers, Croft, Davie, Eberts and Hall—7.

It was then committed, with Mr. Baker in the chair. Progress was reported at 5:45, and the House rose at ten minutes to six.

NOTICES OF MOTION.
By Mr. Smith—To introduce a bill to amend the Game Protection Act of 1890.

By Mr. Kellie—To move for a select committee, to examine the lease made by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works in 1886 with Mr. W. A. Baillie-Grohman and others, relative to the reclamation and colonization of certain lands in Kootenay, and to ascertain whether the conditions of said lease have been fully carried out on the part of the Kootenay Syndicate (limited) and the said W. A. Baillie-Grohman.

THE LEGISLATURE.

YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

The Attorney-General Explains His Position in Regard to the Carey Embezzlement Case—Why Carey Was Discharged—Second Reading of the Jurors' Bill.

THURSDAY, Jan. 29.
The Speaker took the chair at 2 p. m. Hon. Mr. Robson presented the following returns:

Correspondence re the sending of a militia force to Wellington, and their maintenance while there.
Correspondence relating to the closing of Cache Creek boarding school.
Return under section 1 of the Miner's Act relating to the remission of certain taxes.
The nineteenth annual report of the public schools of the province.
All these returns were, on motion, ordered to be printed.

PETITIONS.
Mr. Nason—Praying for the incorporation of the Vernon and Nelson Telephone Company.
Mr. Cotton—To amend the New Westminster and Burrard Inlet Telephone Incorporation Act, 1886.

Mr. Kitchen, on behalf of the British Columbia Dyking & Improvement Co., praying for an act authorizing the constructing and carrying out of the work of dyking and draining the lands now liable to periodical overflow from the Fraser river at high water in townships 16 to 23 inclusive in the district of New Westminster, and also to drain Sumas lake.

Col. Baker—On behalf of the Crow's Nest & Kootenay Lake Railway, praying for power to extend their land.
Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Davie, for a return of all correspondence and telegrams between the Attorney-General and J. Lehman, J.P., of Ashcroft, relative to the prosecution and discharge of one J. Carey, for alleged embezzlement.

In seconding this motion, Mr. Davie felt some little disappointment that the senior member for Vancouver did not before now move for this information. That gentleman had, in his newspaper, made certain statements regarding the matter which he ought to have brought to light at the first opportunity. Mr. Davie thought it much to be regretted that newspapers and gentlemen conducting them should give utterance to statements without trying to ascertain the truth of what they say. He had been accused not more than a month ago by a newspaper of compounding a felony, which in itself is enough to drive him from public life. He did not think it worth while at the time to say anything about the matter, because he understood perfectly well that those who know him would understand the proper amount of credence to give to such statements; and as regards the occasion generally he thought it might very well wait till the House sat. A prosecution for embezzlement was lodged before a magistrate in the district of Yale, and it was alleged that he (the Attorney-General) had stifled the prosecution by instructing the magistrate to dismiss the charge. So far as the magistrate is concerned it was only necessary for Mr. Davie to say that he gave that gentleman no instructions whatever. A considerable sum of money was alleged to have been embezzled from the C. F. R., and the express company it was represented to the Attorney-General's office that restitution had been made and it was asked whether it would be allowable to drop the prosecution. The parties were informed that as the prosecution savored very much of a private character, and both sides were satisfied there would be no objection; so the constable was instructed to this effect. Thereupon the magistrate wrote down enquiring whether it was understood that the letter which had been written to the constable was an instruction to him to dismiss the case. He requested an answer by telegraph. The Attorney-General told him to use his own judgment, but that as Attorney-General, Mr. Davie had no instructions to give him.

Mr. Cotton moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Kellie, to strike out all the words after "that" in the first line and insert: "A respectful address be presented to His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting His Honor to cause to be placed before this House copies of all orders-in-council, telegrams, papers and correspondence, or other information, in the possession of the Government or any of its members or officials, between the Attorney-General, or any official of his or any other department, and Isaac Lehman, J.P., of Ashcroft, or any other official of the Government, or any other person or persons, relative to the prosecution and discharge of one Edward Charles Carey, for alleged embezzlement, or any matters or proceedings connected therewith."

Mr. Cotton made this motion in view of several inaccuracies of name in the original motion. He denied having made any charges against the Attorney-General.

The Attorney-General—But you insinuated and that is much worse.
Mr. Cotton said he had no present intention of going into the matter till the papers were before the House. Within the last couple of weeks he had received correspondence on the subject, and he was very glad to see that the hon. gentleman opposite had taken steps in the matter.

Mr. Beaven said that if the Attorney-General's remarks were to be taken as an indication of the administration of justice in this province, the sooner that plan was changed the better. It seems that an embezzler has only to be found out and make restitution to be forgiven.

Mr. Davie denied this.
The Land Registry Bill (No. 8) was introduced for second reading, and the House went into committee on the bill, with Mr. Semlin in the chair.
After consideration, the committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again on Monday.

JURORS' BILL—SECOND READING.
Mr. Davie explained that the immediate occasion for this act has arisen in the district of New Westminster, where the selectors of jurors for some reason did not meet on the day appointed by the act, nor, in fact, did they meet at all in the year 1890. When they meet it is to draft the list of jurors for the following year, and not for the one in which they are sitting. Thus as the selectors did not sit on the 21st of September 1890, there is no jurors' list for 1891. In this connection Mr. Davie announced that it is in contemplation by the Government to increase the allowance of jurors so as to make it about equal to what they would otherwise earn.
The bill was committed with Mr. Booth in the chair. After consideration, the committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

The House again went into committee on the bill and rose to report it complete with amendments, which will be reported on Tuesday.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.
By Mr. Horne—To ask "Do the Government intend to open a Land Registry office at the city of Vancouver, and, if so, at what date will said office be opened, and ready to transact business?"

By Mr. Kitchen—To ask the Attorney-General if it is the intention of the Government to provide for the payment of the Grand Jurors, and to increase the allowance now paid to Petit and Special Jurors?

NOTICES OF MOTION.
By Mr. Beaven—To move for all Orders-in-Council, correspondence, papers, vouchers and receipts relating to the issue and cancellation of Crown Grant No. 2608, dated 17th June, 1883, and the issue of Crown Grant No. 4097 in lieu thereof.

By Hon. Mr. Beaven—To insert a Chinese restrictive clause in the following bills: To amend the Crow's Nest and Kootenay R. R. Act; to incorporate the B. C. Dyking and Improvement Co.; to incorporate the Vernon & Nelson Telephone Co.; to incorporate the New Westminster and Burrard Telephone Co.

By Hon. Mr. Davie—To introduce a bill respecting the corporation of New Westminster.

By Hon. Mr. Vernon—To introduce a bill respecting land surveyors.

By Hon. Mr. Davie—To introduce a bill to amend the Shuswap Railway Guarantee Act.

By Hon. Mr. Robson—To introduce a bill to amend and consolidate the laws relating to minerals.

By Hon. Mr. Vernon—To introduce a bill to amend the Land Act.

Mr. Horne—To move, that whereas the commercial importance of the city of Vancouver is daily increasing, and there is every reason to believe that during the ensuing season and in the future a much greater number of ships will be passing in and out; and whereas, it is desirable to increase the facilities of the shipping; and it is necessary in the interest of shipping and commerce that certain natural obstructions in the Narrows and in that harbor should be removed, and that certain parts of the entrance thereto should be widened by dredging; and that a fog alarm should be placed at the point known as Prospect Point, and that Burnaby Shoal be removed or a fog alarm placed thereon; 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 widening and the removal of obstacles in the Narrows at the entrance of said harbor, and for the placing of a fog alarm on Prospect Point and at Burnaby shoal in said harbor. And that his honor be further respectfully requested to transmit a copy of the address and this resolution to the Dominion Government.

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The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 1891.

THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Formally Opened Yesterday Afternoon by His Honor, Lieut-Governor Nelson.

The Speech from the Throne a Short but Interesting Document.

Hon. D. W. Higgins Unanimously Elected Speaker—Promise of Interesting Debates.

A quiet, unostentatious and business-like ceremony was the opening of the Sixth Parliament of British Columbia by His Honor, the Lieut-Governor, yesterday afternoon. Not that the attendance, expressing the interest felt by the public in the important event, was less than usual. On the contrary, the visitors were far more numerous than the seats provided for their comfort, and included many representatives of talent and society of the province. Among those conspicuous on the floor of the House were the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Drake, Senator McInnes, Lt.-Col. Prior, M.P., Mr. Thos. Earl, M.P., Mr. F. S. Bernard, M.P., U. S. Consul Levi W. Myers, His Lordship Bishop Hills, Rev. Dr. Reid, Revs. Beanlands, Barber, Hall, Fraser, Macleod and others.

The police were present in all the grandeur of highly polished buttons, but the military and the band were wanting. The Lieutenant-Governor's staff was composed of Col. Holmes, Capt. Parr, R.N., of H.M.S. Melponene, Lt. Davenport, of H. M. S. Melponene, and Capt. Benson of "C" Battery. It was twenty minutes past three when His Honor entered by the main door, and preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms advanced to the dais, at the side of which Mrs. Nelson occupied a seat. There were present in their seats twenty-five of the members, the absentees being almost all now on their way to the Capital.

His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, having taken his seat on the throne, Hon. Mr. Robson, provincial secretary, said: "Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly: I am commanded by His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, to announce that his Honor does not see fit to declare the causes of his summoning you at this time, and will not do so until you have chosen a speaker to preside over your honorable body. His Honor hopes to be enabled to declare, during the afternoon, his reasons for calling you together."

His Honor then retired, and Mr. Eberts, addressing the clerk, proposed to the House for their Speaker, Hon. D. W. Higgins, member representing Esquimalt district. He had ably and honorably performed the important duties of the office last year, and was possessed of the qualities demanded. His judgments given in the heat of debate had won the respect of both Government supporters and Opposition by their never-failing fairness, while his written rulings were lucid, scholarly and impartial.

Mr. C. E. Scullin, in seconding the nomination, said that he could with pleasure endorse all that had been said by the honorable member for Victoria district, in respect to the excellent qualities displayed by Mr. Higgins in the discharge of his duties as speaker of the last parliament. No worthier man could be selected by the House to preside over their deliberations.

Hon. Mr. Robson remarked that after the deserved eulogium of Hon. Mr. Higgins by both mover and seconder of the nomination, he had nothing further to add, except that the Government was gratified that the unanimous choice of the House should have fallen upon one so well qualified to fill the important position of speaker.

The clerk having declared Hon. Mr. Higgins duly elected, he was taken out of his place by the mover and seconder, and escorted to the chair, where, standing on the upper step, he expressed his grateful thanks to the House for the great honor that had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be their speaker. He referred to the kind remarks made by the honorable member for Yale, more particularly.

His Honor, having re-entered the House and taken his seat on the throne, the speaker-elect addressed him as follows:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR: The House of Assembly have elected me as their speaker, though I am but little able to fulfill the important duties thus assigned to me. If, in the performance of those duties, I should many times fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Assembly, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Honor's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Honor the most favorable interpretation."

Hon. Mr. Robson: "Mr. Speaker—I am commanded by His Honor to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Assembly to Her Majesty's person and government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper, and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to His Honor upon all reasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction."

His Honor then opened the session by the following

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

It is with more than ordinary satisfaction that I now proceed to open the first session of the sixth term of the Provincial Legislature.

Although all our expectations may not have been fully realized, yet the past year has been one of general prosperity, and the outlook for the future is increasingly hopeful.

In the principal sources of revenue there has been substantial improvement. Last year's receipts very largely exceeded the estimate, while the receipts during the current fiscal year indicate a still more gratifying result.

The staple industries of the province show a healthy expansion. The output of our coal mines largely exceeded that of any previous year.

The result of the land surveys authorized last session has, so far, proved satisfactory, several extensive areas suitable for settlement having been already located. You will be asked to make provision for more extended operations.

The Columbia and Kootenay railway promises to be ready for traffic with the coming spring, while the Shuswap and Okanagan railway is being pushed forward with vigor.

In anticipation of the legislation upon the subject, my ministers withdrew agricultural lands from private sale. You will be invited to consider what measures will be best calculated to discourage speculation in agricultural lands and ensure their being available for actual settlement at the government price.

A scheme will be submitted to you, having for its object the conversion of the public debt upon terms highly advantageous to the province.

A commission, comprised of gentlemen possessing extensive practical acquaintance with the subject, has been intrusted with the work of revising the mining laws and preparing such amendments as shall meet the changing needs of this important industry. The result of their labors will be laid before you at an early date, in order that you may enact such legislation as shall be calculated to promote the development of our great mineral wealth.

You will be asked to consider a measure to secure compensation for personal injuries suffered by workmen in certain cases.

Bills will also be introduced for the purpose of amending the Railway Aid Act, the Assessment Act, and the Acts regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors.

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, with confidence that your labors will be conducive to the best interests of the province, and may the Supreme Ruler direct your efforts.

FORMALITIES.

His Honor then retired, and the Speaker having taken the chair, prayers were read by His Lordship, the Bishop of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker reported that, to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy of His Honor's speech.

Ordered, That the votes and proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he appoint the printing thereof, and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Ordered, That the select standing committees of this House, for the present session, be appointed for the following purposes:

1. On Standing Orders and Private Bills;
 2. On Public Accounts;
 3. On Printing;
 4. On Railways;
 5. On Mining;
- which said committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as shall be referred to them by the House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for papers, persons, and records.

BRIbery AND CORRUPTION.

Resolved—That if it shall appear that any person has been elected or returned a member of this House, or endeavored so to be, by bribery or other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices.

SUPREME COURT REFERENCE ACT.

The Hon. Attorney-General introduced a bill for expediting all decisions of constitutional and other provincial questions. Read a first time; second reading, Tuesday.

TO BE CONSIDERED.

On the motion of Hon. Mr. Robson the speech from the throne was set for consideration on Tuesday next, to which day the House adjourned at 4 p.m.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Hon. Mr. Beaven—To move the following resolution: "That an order of the House be granted for a return showing all sums of money received and applied to the public uses of the province under the Election Regulations Amendment Act, 1890, stating the date upon which the money was received, the name of the person on whose account it was paid to the returning officer, the manner in which it has been applied, and all correspondence respecting the same or relating to deposits made with returning officers under the above act."

By Hon. Mr. Beaven—To move the following resolution: "That a respectful address be presented to the Lieut-Governor requesting copies of all Orders-in-Council or other documents relating to the application and appointment of any officers or servants under the Reformatory Act, 1890. Also, copies of all rules and regulations and warrants made or repealed under the authority of the above statute."

By the Attorney-General—To introduce a bill to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among horses and other domestic animals.

By the Attorney-General—To introduce a bill to prohibit the use and carriage of firearms without a license.

By the Attorney-General—To introduce a bill to secure compensation for personal injuries suffered by workmen in certain cases.

By the Attorney-General—To introduce a bill respecting the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors.

By Mr. Brown—To move for a return showing the number of votes polled in each electoral district of the province at the general election in June 1890.

By Mr. Brown—To introduce a bill for the benefit of mechanics and laborers.

THE HOUSE.

The following diagram will show the position on the floor of the House taken by the members of the Sixth Parliament.

SPEAKER.

CLERK. LAW CLERK. CHAPLAIN.

SEMIN, GRANT, McKENZIE, SWORD, KITCHEN, PUNCH, COTTON, KELLIE, MILNE, BEAVER, HORNE, SMITH, BROWN, FOSTER, KEITH, BAKER, TURNER, MARTIN, CROFT, EBERTS, VERNON, HUNTER, STODDART, BOOTH, ROGERS, HALL, NASON, FLETCHER, ANDERSON, ROGERS, HUNTER, BOOTH, STODDART, ROSS, PRESS.

The members present at the opening were: Hon. Mr. Robson, Hon. Mr. Turner, Hon. Mr. Davis, Hon. Mr. Pooley, Hon. Mr. Higgins, Mr. Martin, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Hall, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Sword, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Brown, Mr. Semlin, Mr. Milne, Hon. Mr. Beaven, Mr. Kitchen, Mr. Kellie, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Eberts, Mr. Stoddart, Mr. Booth, Mr. Horne, Mr. Keith, and Mr. Foster.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Sixth Parliament.

SECOND DAY.

VICTORIA, Jan. 20, 1891.

Promptly at 2 o'clock a speaker took the chair, and after prayers by the Rev. Arthur Beanlands, the House proceeded to the consideration of the orders of the day.

THE REPLY TO THE SPEECH.

Mr. Hunter, in moving the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and the consideration of the speech, asked the House to accompany him back in their minds for a period of twenty years, when he first took his seat as a member of the legislative assembly. The House of that day was undivided in its fealty to the people and the responsible government of the people. Of those composing that assembly, some now were filling responsible positions, some had gone to that undiscovered country, while a few, he was pleased to see, were still to be his associates in the present parliament. Among the latter was the leader of the Government to-day. Long before responsible government was the possession of the people of British Columbia, that gentleman had fought long and hard for this inalienable right, of which he was still the champion. It was true that he had modified his views somewhat since then, and he (the hon. member for Comox) could now give him his cordial support. (Applause.) Another of the members of that parliament of twenty years ago, who had occupied a seat next to him, was the now leader of Her Majesty's right loyal opposition. That gentleman, too, had modified his opinion. That hon. gentleman had now been in 21 years' continuous, unrewarded service, and one could not but admire his unwavering loyalty to his party and his position. He was sorry not to have the benefit of the experience and argumentative abilities of the hon. member for Yale on his side of the House, but felt, in a measure, compensated by the presence of the representative of the stormy islands of the Gulf. He was sure all the members of the present legislature would prove an honor to their country and their constituents. Turning to the consideration of the speech itself, he expressed the greatest pleasure with the satisfactory condition of the revenue of the province. The estimated revenue for 1890 had fallen short of the actual by nearly \$100,000. The prosperity of the principal industries of British Columbia was equally pleasant to contemplate. In 1874 the net output of the coal mines

was 1,000 tons. There was now every reason to believe that the output for 1890 would total 985,292 tons. From 1889 to 1890 there had been an increase of 96,538 tons. The fisheries of the province were thriving, and kindred industries were in an equally healthy condition. In regard to land surveys, nothing was required more than accurate information regarding public lands, and an accurate map of the province. When the early topographers were making maps of British Columbia, and came across a section of whose characteristics they were unformed, they throw in a range of mountains; and, if this single range did not look well, artistically, another range was added to complete the effect. All the purely provincial railways were prospering, and their interests should be closely watched, as there was nothing like railway construction to develop any country. Look at the country to the South, with its thousands of miles of road, employing 800,000 men, and representing a capital of \$9,000,000,000. What has made the United States the mighty nation it is to-day? Its railways. It was often heard that British Columbia was not an agricultural country. True, there was much waste land within its borders, but the large areas of rich land in the central plateau of the province, and along the rivers, were sufficient to provide a food supply for a great population. It was gratifying to learn that the scattered public debt of the province could be consolidated into a compact whole with advantage to the province. It would be much better for all concerned, and would tend to promote mutual confidence. Although British Columbia was a mining country, and had been regarded as such for thirty years past, the mining laws were not yet satisfactory. A practical commission had now gone through these mining laws, and the result would be an act on the statute book which would protect the rights of the individual miner and the capitalist. The workmen would be sure to feel highly flattered to know that a measure for their benefit would be introduced by the government. He hoped that the day was not far distant when something more would be done for the laboring men and the disastrous conflicts between labor and capital would be at an end. Amendments to the railway act were necessary, so were amendments to the Assessment Act. It was to be hoped that in the latter measure provision would be made to compel those who have no idea of improving their land, so to do, or to make them feel the consequences of their indolence. The members of the sixth parliament were gathered as the representatives of a great territory, and, before the expiration of the present decade, on which we were just entering, this country of ours would take its place among the greatest in the world. British Columbia had a magnificent future, and in framing the country's great future, the members of the present legislature would play an important, and, he believed, an honorable part. (Applause.)

Mr. Stoddart, in rising to second the reply to the speech, acknowledged the compliment that had been paid to the district represented by him in calling upon him to perform this duty. Looking at the record of the Government for the past four years, he said, one could not but be impressed with the fact that the Government's policy had been one calculated to advance all the interests of the province. The province was still in its infancy, and required a decidedly progressive policy. Our main dependence in developing the resources of the province, must for years be foreign capital, and every encouragement in the power of the Government should be given outside investors. He was glad to see the construction of railways substantially encouraged, and hoped, before long, to see the first stock returned for the Cariboo railway. Stock-raising, in the interior of the province, was becoming a great industry, and other industries, as great, were growing up in other parts of the province. He was very hopeful of British Columbia's future; it had all the materials for making a mighty country. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Beaven congratulated the honorable members for Comox and Lil-loet upon the able manner upon which they had submitted their side of the case to the House. The hon. member for Comox had been good enough to refer to the condition of the House when he (Mr. Hunter) first took his seat. He had been kind enough to compliment him (Hon. Mr. Beaven) upon his long service, but he had referred to that service as unrewarded. While it was not rewarded, particularly, he found his reward in the estimation of the citizens of Victoria. He denied that he had at all modified his opinions since he sat and voted with the hon. member for Comox. He was glad to see the two representatives of Vancouver present; that a city of the size of their constituency should have grown up within the past few years was substantial evidence of the progress of the country. He charged the leader of the government with violating the principles of responsible government in a "grossly immoral manner," and asserted that the prosperity of the country was due in no way to the efforts of the Government. The prosperity of the province was principally the result of better means of communication, and this was due to individual effort. He was glad to see the Independents, and was one himself. He would support all good and oppose all bad measures. Unless men came to the House prepared to follow wherever the provincial secretary led, that hon. gentleman had said that they might as well stay at home, they could not gain admittance to

the Government caucus. It was not responsible government. The recent withdrawal from sale of certain public lands was practically locking the stable door after the steed had been stolen. He believed that the sale of those lands had not been legally stopped and would not stand test, if any one wanted to force the Government to sell. The House, in allowing the Government to act in this manner, was guilty of compounding a felony—a penitentiary offence. The work of the Mining commission, he believed, should have been done by the Government themselves. They were paid to do this work, and not to have the premier summon a little parliament of his own choosing to make the people's laws. He accused the Government of continual blundering in mining legislation, and of being responsible for the land in the railway belt not being in alternate blocks. The railway policy of the Government was a failure, and it was his opinion that a general act should be passed, under which all railway companies might incorporate.

Hon. Mr. Robson thought the House was to be congratulated on the possession of so much new material of excellent quality, as was evident from the addresses of the mover and seconder of the reply to the speech. The hon. member for Comox had evidently meant to be facetious in referring to himself as the only stable one of those of the parliament of 1871 now occupying seats in the House. His record for the past twenty-five years was before the public, and it would refute the insinuations of the honorable leader of the Opposition. He would have had little to say in regard to the statement made by that hon. gentleman had he not put words into his (the premier's) mouth. He had been rather stunned by the broad statements of the leader of the Opposition, that he (the premier) had done his best to prevent railways coming into British Columbia. History, from the time of the convention at Yale in 1868, until now, would show that no man had been a more earnest or persistent advocate than he, that union with the Eastern provinces without railway communication, was merely a union on paper. The railway was the only practical method of confederation, and he had always strongly supported the building of the C.P.R. and every other road that would be calculated to benefit British Columbia. The hon. gentleman admitted that the province was in a prosperous condition, but he says it is in spite of the government. This was easily said, and if it pleased the leader of the opposition, it could hurt no one. The people, generally, would admit that the prosperity of the province and the progressive policy of the Government went together. When the Government took office, the country was in a state of stagnation. Was it not due to the ineffectual efforts of the leader of the Opposition? Was it not due to the illiberal policy of the Government of which he was leader? It was a remarkable circumstance that the era of prosperity, progress and public confidence dawned very shortly after the stick-in-the-mud party went out and the present party came in. He was perfectly well satisfied with the result of the general election; could the leader of the Opposition say as much? Last session that hon. gentleman and his following numbered eight. Now how many were there? In regard to the independents, on the hustings their universal declaration was that they had no connection with the opposition and were prepared to support all good measures introduced by the government. Could more be asked of them? He denied that he wanted government supporters to be his servile tools. He wanted hon. gentlemen who would support all good and oppose all bad measures, and could give their reasons for the stand they took. He had said, it was true, that it was an advantage to have a member who would have the right to attend government caucuses. So it was, as that member was more in the confidence of the government, and could obtain the ear of the government more readily. The hon. leader of the opposition talked as though the caucus was peculiar to this government and country. This was not the fact. In every country in the civilized world where responsible government was maintained, the caucus played an important part. The member for Cassiar last year had said that as long as the government continued to take the representatives of the people into its confidence and formed its policy to meet the needs of the country, there would be no getting them out of power. This was the very essence of responsible government—to administer affairs in accordance with the best wishes of the people, with the greatest advantage to the country. How could the government obtain a knowledge of the wishes of the people if it did not consult with the people's representatives? Did the opposition want the five members of the cabinet to sit in their offices and formulate a policy without consulting the people's representatives? A greater compliment could not have been paid to the Government than had been by the member for Cassiar last year. If the Government continued to act with the people as they were, there would be no possibility of the people ever turning them out of power. Why should there be, as long as the Government carried on the business of the country with satisfaction and advantage to the people? He never could see that the Opposition had any policy except a policy to try and get into power. He never had known of the Opposition trying to have surveys made of the public lands,

although the leader of the Opposition claimed that he had first suggested action in this direction. He had never said that the land laws were perfect, nor thought that they were. The leader of the Opposition wanted it to appear that the action in regard to amending the land laws was taken from the policy of the Opposition. He had been amused at the remarks of the leader of the Opposition upon this subject, after the action of the Government had been endorsed by the press all over the province. The question of making the needed reforms in the land laws had been purposely adjourned until this session, after the general election, in order that it might be dealt with by a House fresh from the people and more thoroughly representing them. The hon. leader of the Opposition had found fault with the manner in which the public lands were withdrawn from the market, and he gave as his opinion that if a person tried, he could still compel them to sell. Did the hon. gentleman know that a trial had been made in court, and it had been decided that the Land Act was merely an enabling act, and the chief commissioner could at any time refuse to sell? To take the method advised, by making larger reservations, would be to shut the door on the actual settler as well as the speculator. The government's whole land policy was alleged to be stolen from the opposition. When this government came in the leader of the opposition was chief commissioner of lands and works. Then any speculator who wished could come in and buy all the agricultural land he liked at \$1 per acre. As soon as the government of to-day came in the price was raised from \$1 to \$2.50 per acre, and the wild land, too, was raised from 5 to 8 cents per acre. If this government had stolen the land policy of the opposition it would still be selling agricultural land at \$1 an acre. The leader of the Opposition had pronounced it a penitentiary offence to sell land at \$2.50 per acre; would it then be a capital crime to sell at \$1?

The leader of the Government proceeded to contradict the "chestnut" stories brought forward by the leader of the Opposition. He hailed with satisfaction the advent of so much new blood in the House, and predicted that this would be the best parliament in the history of British Columbia. (Cheers.)

Mr. Foster said that he had been asked to speak on behalf of the members who had entered the House pledged to remain Independent. Those members intended to take no part in unnecessary debates, and he did not believe that the present was the time to speak. When any measure came before the House the Independents would be prepared to give it careful consideration and honest vote.

Mr. Semlin recalled a number of reminiscences of twenty years ago. He always supported what he believed to be the greatest good to the greatest number. He referred to the land question, the manner in which the policy of the government was formed and the appointment of the mining commission. He, too, welcomed the appearance of the so-called independents in the House.

The debate was here adjourned on motion of Mr. Grant.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

The bill to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among horses and cattle was read a first time, and set for second reading Wednesday.

COMPENSATION.

The bill to provide for compensation for injuries received by workmen under certain cases passed its first reading, and the second was set for Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker announced that hereafter the House would assemble promptly at 2 p.m., and the adjournment until Wednesday at the usual hour was taken.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Beaven—To move that the committee on standing orders and private bills, and the committee on railways, should see that all private bills, granting franchises or rights, contain sections providing against the employment of Chinese on any work to be undertaken in pursuance of the bill.

By Mr. Beaven—To move that the principle of eight hours constituting a day should be adopted in carrying on Provincial public works. And that a clause should be inserted in all contracts for such to the effect that the hours making up a day's work of the workmen and of laborers to be employed under it shall not be more than eight; and a penalty for the violation of such provision by the contractor or sub-contractor should be included.

By Hon. Mr. Robson—To move to increase the membership of the standing committee on railways from fifteen to eighteen, and the quorum from eight to ten.

By Hon. Mr. Robson—To move to increase the membership of the standing committee on mining from seven to nine, with five as a quorum.

QUESTION.

By Mr. Kellie—To ask the hon. Chief Commissioner: What amount of timber lands have been granted under lease during 1890, and what amount of timber lands are now under notice of application for lumbering purposes.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Sixth Parliament.

THIRD DAY.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 1891.

After prayers by the Rev. A. Beaulieu.

Mr. Grant resumed the debate on the address, characterizing the position of the independents towards the government, as defined by one of them, yesterday, as ridiculous. They were, according to their own election speeches and declarations, determined to give the government a fair hearing. But after the government policy had been exposed, they, through one of their members, declared, that they had nothing to say. The government, he (Mr. Grant) contended, had no policy. Their attitude was a travesty upon responsible government, their policy being one of expediency. The acts of the government had been before the country; and when they went out as candidates they found that they had not more than 38 per cent. of the electorate. The premier could not claim the Independents as his supporters. As he (Mr. Grant) understood it, the Independents did not propose to discuss dead issues, but when live ones come out there would, he anticipated, be such important discussions as the House had not seen before. Except Hon. J. H. Turner, not a member of the government had been elected in one of the four cities of the province. Generally speaking, the rural districts were the most consistent supporters of a government, because of what was expected from it towards the maintenance and support of streets, bridges and wharves. He trusted that the government—this or any other—would be relieved of such works as properly belonged to the municipalities. He charged the government with having, during the late electoral canvass, thrown out threats and promises by which to induce the election of their supporters. But all this the premier had denied yesterday. He reiterated his charge of lack of a ministerial policy. Referring to what had been said as to the surveys of government land which were going on, he declared it to be a shame that this had not been done years ago. The country should have been generally surveyed so that people should not have been compelled to go in haphazard. He concluded by paying a high compliment to the speaker for the manner in which he had presided last session, and was convinced that such would be the experience of the future.

Hon. Mr. Davie complimented the mover and seconder on the ability displayed by them, and congratulated the House on their presence. He appreciated the desire that discussion should proceed without asperity; a departure from which principle he feared that many of the former members, himself included, must plead guilty to. He would also compliment the Independent party on the good sense exhibited by them, as expressed by Mr. Forster, in refraining from taking up time in opposing when no occasion for opposition existed, but of reserving themselves for measures as they arise. He was sorry he could not similarly compliment the leader of the Opposition, who in a two-hour speech had taken up time in raking up old issues, which had been discussed at numerous years gone by; in repeating stale charges which have long since been exploded, and in misquoting what members of the Government had said in the former House, and at the hustings. Referring to the general prosperity, the Government indulged in no such foolish boast as that it was referable entirely to their policy—although if the reverse of prosperity were the state of the country, their opponents would not be slow in placing the blame at the Government's door. He was disposed to agree with the leader of the Opposition, that the prosperity was largely due to facility of railway communication; but since then had those facilities commenced—had since 1883, when the party from which this government had descended came into power, displacing that of the leader of the Opposition—who had adopted a tight Canada policy—which delayed railway construction on the mainland, prevented the commencement of the island railway, and caused the dry dock at Esquimalt to nearly bankrupt the country. The present party coming into power restored peace with the Dominion, placed railway matters on the mainland on a firm footing, secured the island railway and retrieved the dry dock; and from the accomplishment of these events, the dawn of prosperity had commenced. Mr. Davie controverted the statement that, according to the actual number of votes last election, the government had a minority. This was a mere statement to cover the utter rout of the opposition, which had occurred, not only at the last general election, but at the two general elections which preceded it. He referred to the serious reasoning of Mr. Semlin, by which he tried to make out that the opposition which, out of a House of 33, now comprised a party of five, was stronger than the opposition of the last House, which, in a House of 27, started with an opposition of eight. This brought him to the attitude of what is called the Independents. In the true, and only proper sense, each and every gentleman who supports the government is an independent. No better definition of an independent could be given than "a member who comes to the House with no prejudice against the government, but one who, while, perhaps, not agreeing with everything they've done, is prepared to accord them fair play."

"That is, as I understand it, the platform of the Independents, and at the same time it is all that we expect or ask of any of our supporters." From our opponents we expect no fair play. To use the language of one of them: They oppose the government "in season, and out of season, and at all times." There are five and only five of such men, and the country requires no more. An amusing phase of the Independent question is—that it is stated that the Government have appropriated the views of the Independents—stolen their thunder, in fact. But Mr. Beaven says that the views advocated by the Independents are identical with what the Opposition have all along urged. In other words, that it is not the Government which has stolen the policy of the Independents, but the Independents which have plundered the Opposition. (Laughter.) This charge of appropriating other people's views leads to what Mr. Beaven calls the "gross immorality" of Mr. Robson in holding a caucus. As already stated, all government supporters are true independents, and being the choice of the people their views are ascertained by hearing them on public platforms, reading their addresses, sometimes (as was the case with Mr. Anderson, of Saanich,) reading well penned contributions to the public press, and also by discussing matters in caucus, as it is termed, and in respect of the latter plan the leader of the opposition holds up his hands in pious horror, and so do some of his followers, as if they never been to a caucus. Why, it is common knowledge that, when the leader of the opposition was in the government, no measure of any importance was ever introduced that was not thoroughly canvassed. When that gentleman came into power in 1878, the caucus selected, at least, one member of his cabinet, and every subject of reform was shaped there. Have his party of five had no caucus this session? Nay, more, have they not endeavored, but in vain, to get the independents to come to their caucus? What's the use of resorting to such transparent cant? Mr. Davie then referred to the way in which the opposition speakers had tried to misrepresent Mr. Robson in his utterances. The conclusive proof that he had not made such absurd utterances as attributed to him was that his audiences were satisfied with his expressions, and had returned him ahead of the poll. As to the Order-in-Council withdrawing the lands, in spite of which the leader of the opposition had assured the House that the government could be compelled to part with the land, a conclusive answer was that no one had attempted it, although fortunes might be made could such an attempt be successful. It would weaken the government support in this House, could the opposition succeed in proving the legal position they assumed. If the opposition believed that the retention of office by the government was a public calamity, was there none among them (and some were wealthy) public-spirited enough to spend a few dollars to bring the government into court, and prove what they say. Their failure to do so, condemns what they say. Then as to the \$105 tax—the order in council remitting that was likewise "not worth the paper it is written on."—Yet no one had attacked it, although large interests might be served in doing so, and the best constitutional lawyer in the Province, a gentleman who came of a family of eminent lawyers—one of whose brothers had been the first Chief Justice of Canada, and the other almost equally renowned has declared its constitutionality to be beyond question. There was no doubt that the \$105 tax was a mistake—not merely of this government, but of the whole House. It was idle for the leader of the Opposition to say, that he protested against it and forecast its result. His memory is just as much at fault here as is his knowledge of constitutional law. The leader of the Opposition always takes care when he makes a point to have it on record in the journals of the House—but nothing of the kind is on record here—nor yet even a word of protest in newspapers friendly to him. There is just this difference between the Government and their opponents. The Government admit that they make some mistakes, (who does not) but they manage to repair them if they do; whereas the leader of the Opposition would have you to believe that he never committed a blunder in his life, whereas his whole political career, and in office was a system of blunders. Mr. Davie then dealt with the assurance of the leader of the Opposition that the former government had given away alternate blocks on the railway belt. Such a grave accusation would be news to most of the members, and it would appear astounding that so damaging an accusation had never been made before. Mr. Beaven had mentioned the same point some three years ago, but it had been conclusively shown at the time that to give away had no alternative sections to give away. Mr. Davie then quoted the terms of Union, showing that the British Columbia government was bound to contribute a similar extent of land to that appropriated by the Dominion in the Northwest, not, however, exceeding twenty miles on each side along the entire length of the railway. The Dominion government had appropriated 25,000,000 acres, and the entire quantity of land for twenty miles on each side of the railway amounting only to some 13,000,000 acres; it all had to be given. Mr. Davie then defended the action of the government in appointing the railway commission, which was abundantly justified under the Public Inquiries Act; the Railway Aid Act, which would

be dealt with later on in the session, when a measure dealing with it would be submitted. He also combatted the notion that the Government should, at this stage, unfold any other measure than outlined in the governor's speech, and that he (Mr. Davie) had characterized the consolidation of the statutes as so absurd and ridiculous, that the Government had refused to pay for it. What he had said was that the work had many errors, but not of such a character as to condemn the entire work—and so far from refusing to pay, the Government had already paid what they considered a liberal and just remuneration. After dwelling upon other minor topics, and the necessity of the Government framing its legislation in keeping with the expansion of the country, Mr. Davie resumed his seat amid loud applause.

Dr. Milne denied that he was a welf. He should support all good measures, matter where they came from. He spoke of the prosperity of the province, and said that the trade of Victoria had increased fifty per cent., and but for recent unfortunate matters that of Nanaimo would have been more than doubled. He made similar observations with regard to other cities, whose expansion was due to the enterprise of its people alone, and not to the Government. He claimed that the mining royalty tax was detrimental to that interest, and strongly advocated further surveys of the Government lands and their being placed at the disposal of settlers without delay. He asked for better land laws, and a liberal policy which would settle the farmers on the lands at the least possible expense. He denounced the royal regulations as retrograde. In France all land royalties had been swept away, while in Ontario in 1869 they had been abolished. Those royalties were to the crown, but the royalties here were payable to the railways—the worst kind of royalty possible. He contended that the premier at Donald and Revelstoke had not been received with his mining policy, with the enthusiasm that the Government had claimed. He (Mr. Milne) was opposed to the school policy of the Government. Under it the trustees were mere figureheads, while, at any moment, the Provincial Secretary could dismiss a teacher. Teachers should not be subjected to political influence. In the city of Victoria the schools were almost locked up, the Government having refused to pay the bills of the trustees. It was very humiliating both for the trustees and the people to be placed at the mercy of the Minister of Education. The trustees ought to have at their disposal the money with which to cover their expenses. Such had been the case till the time of Dr. Ryerson, in Ontario, but that had all been changed, and now Ontario had the best educational system in the Dominion. He objected to the present election law as leading to class legislation, the deposit of \$200 placing legislation in the hands of those who had a full purse, instead of in the hands of those who, though quite able to represent a constituency, were prevented from doing so by this iniquitous law. Last election a miner had desired to come forward as a candidate, and had offered to deposit gold nuggets, but was not allowed to do so. He (Dr. Milne) wanted to have elections made as cheap as possible, so that all who desired to reach the goal might do so. He summarized the policy of the opposition as laid down by him at the meeting in the theatre in Victoria, and was pleased to see that the Independents had adopted it, while that of the premier was "support my government and you shall have all you want." He contended that the premier had, during the elections, gone round the country to buy up the electors, citing as his declarations comments made upon his remarks in the Weekly News-Advertiser of June 11. While not agreeing with the government, he hoped to be able to agree and vote with them if they introduced proper measures. He claimed to be an independent as any member in the House, and should vote as his conscience and his principles dictated. He moved in amendment: That we consider that Your Honor's ministers acted in a manner highly prejudicial to this province by advising Your Honor to submit to the legislature a proposition to grant to a railway corporation the right to exact and collect a percentage on the gold and silver extracted from ores found upon lands granted by the Crown to the company, in aid of the railway.

Mr. Mackenzie said that Nanaimo had nothing to thank the government for. He referred to the Wellington strike and the action of the government in sending troops there. He complained that he had been unable to obtain maps of the province which showed how badly the surveys had been made. He spoke against the supersession of acts of parliament by orders-in-council, and, with respect to education, brought up the case of Mr. J. N. Muir.

Hon. Mr. Beaven produced what he claimed to be, an extract from the Vancouver World, of Mr. Robson's speech (He read from the Times).

Hon. Mr. Robson asked the member to give the date of that paper.

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1891.

be dealt with later on in the session, when a measure dealing with it would be submitted. He also combated the notion that the Government should, at this stage, unfold any other measures than outlined in the governor's speech, and corrected Mr. Semlin's statement that he (Mr. Davie) had characterized the consolidation of the statutes as so absurd and ridiculous, that the Government had refused to pay for it. What he had said was that the work had many errors, but not of such a character as to condemn the entire work—and so far from refusing to pay, the Government had already paid what they considered a liberal and just remuneration. After dwelling upon other minor topics, and the necessity of the Government framing its legislation in keeping with the expansion of the country, Mr. Davie resumed his seat amid loud applause.

Dr. Milne denied that he was a wolf. He should support all good measures, matter where they came from. He spoke of the prosperity of the province, and said that the trade of Victoria had increased fifty per cent., and but for recent unfortunate matters that of Nanaimo would have been more than doubled. He made similar observations with regard to the other cities, whose expansion was due to the enterprise of its people alone, and not to the Government. He claimed that the mining royalty tax was detrimental to that interest, and strongly advocated further surveys of the Government lands and their being placed at the disposal of settlers without delay. He asked for better land laws, and a liberal policy which would settle the farmers on the lands at the least possible expense. He denounced the royalty regulations as retrograde. In France all land royalties had been swept away, while in Ontario in 1869 they had been abolished. Those royalties were to the crown, but the royalties here were payable to the railways—the worst kind of royalty possible. He contended that the premier at Donald and Revelstoke had not been received with his mining policy with the enthusiasm that the Government had claimed. He (Mr. Milne) was opposed to the school policy of the Government. Under it the trustees were mere figureheads, while, at any moment, the Provincial Secretary could dismiss a teacher. Teachers should not be subjected to political influence. In the city of Victoria the schools were almost locked up, the Government having refused to pay the bills of the trustees. It was very humiliating both for the trustees and the people to be placed at the mercy of the Minister of Education. The trustees ought to have at their disposal the money with which to cover their expenses. Such had been the case till the time of Dr. Ryerson, in Ontario, but that had all been changed, and now Ontario had the best educational system in the Dominion. He objected to the present election law as leading to class legislation, the deposit of \$200 placing legislation in the hands of those who had a full purse, instead of in the hands of those who, though quite able to represent a constituency, were prevented from doing so by this iniquitous law. Last election a miner had desired to come forward as a candidate, and had offered to deposit gold nuggets, but was not allowed to do so. He (Dr. Milne) wanted to have elections made as cheap as possible, so that all who desired to reach the goal might do so. He summarized the policy of the opposition as laid down by him at the meeting in the theatre in Victoria, and was pleased to see that the Independents had adopted it, while that of the premier was "support my government and you shall have all you want." He contended that the premier had, during the elections, gone round the country to buy up the electors, citing as his declarations comments made upon his remarks in the Weekly News-Advertiser of June 11. While not agreeing with the government, he hoped to be able to agree and vote with them if they introduced proper measures. He claimed to be an independent as any member in the House, and should vote as his conscience and his principles dictated. He moved in amendment: That we consider that Your Honor's ministers acted in a manner highly prejudicial to this province by advising Your Honor to submit to the legislature a proposition to grant to a railway corporation the right to exact and collect a percentage on the gold and silver extracted from ores found upon lands granted by the Crown to the company, in aid of the railway.

Mr. Mackenzie said that Nanaimo had nothing to thank the government for. He referred to the Wellington strike and the action of the government in sending troops there. He complained that he had been unable to obtain maps of the province which showed how badly the surveys had been made. He spoke against the suppression of acts of parliament by orders-in-council, and, with respect to education, brought up the case of Mr. J. N. Muir.

Hon. Mr. Beaven produced, what he claimed to be, an extract from the Vancouver World, of Mr. Robson's speech (He read from the Times).

Hon. Mr. Robson asked the member to give the date of that paper.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said it was June 2. (After some remarks from the ministerial side, he admitted that he had not by him the copy of the World, but was reading from the Times. It was shown that the paper he should have quoted from was that of May 21.) He continued—The premier had said that a government caucus was as confidential as a Masonic lodge, and had pointed out the advantages which government supporters had. He took up the railway lands question, reciting the Walkem act, contending that the Smythe act, under which the lands were given, was a very different thing to the provisions of the terms of union. Except the fur interest, mining was the parent industry of the province, and it was much to be regretted that it was not improving as it should. This was greatly attributable to the legislation of the province. One of the acts which had done more than any thing else to paralyze that industry in the Kootenay district was the royalty law. Miners were successful almost up to the boundary line, but here,—one of the richest districts on the Pacific Coast,—there was nothing being done. He denounced the government's land policy. That Augean stable—the Land and Works Department—wanted cleaning out. What between the lands reserved for individuals and companies it was difficult to find land enough for a poor man to erect his cabin upon. In his time a man was not allowed to take up land until it had been properly surveyed, while the actual settler had the preference over any other applicant, although he had surveyed and staked off the land he asked for. Now when the Government had loaded themselves up with property, they raised the price and now had locked it up entirely. He referred to a large number of topics and twitted the Premier on being disappointed in the results of the elections in Westminster and Vancouver. He concluded by again declaring that the government policy had paralyzed the miner's interest.

Hon. Mr. Robson explained to members the meaning and effect of the amendment. He reminded them that in the speech from the Throne, a bill had been promised to amend the Railway Aid act. When that bill came before the House, then would be their opportunity to deal with the subject. To pass the amendment would not remove the Royalty. The opportunity would be offered them, when the bill came down, which would be in a very short time. He had thought, and said before the elections that the Government would be sustained at the polls. It had been nobly sustained, yet the Opposition had endeavored to make out that he had been a false prophet. The leader of the Opposition had censured the Government for contributing so large a sum as 200,000 acres of land to the Kootenay & Columbia Railway, yet the government to which he had belonged had appropriated 750,000 acres to a company following the same route. He had, it was true, voted for the first grant, but he had believed, and he still believed, that he had voted in the interests of the province. It was absurd for the gentleman to make so much out of this reserve. He did not charge the leader of the opposition with insincerity, but he gave him credit for being sincere when he made that proposal. But his present course showed his inconsistency. He had asked the House to believe that the six-mile blocks being reserved for the railway would shut out the miners; but they did not shut them out. The lands were just as free to the miners to go on, yet he asked the House to believe that intending settlers could not, on account of that grant, get a foothold. Mr. Robson emphasized the fact that the grant of the Beaven government was nearly four times as great as that of the present government, yet among those who voted for it were Messrs. Beaven, McLeese, Semlin, Armstrong and Grant. When the transfer of lands under the act now complained of was made, the mines were as free to miners as ever they were. The leader of the Opposition had said that he had no hesitation in attributing the present condition of the mining industry to the policy of the Government. Any gentleman who would make a statement like that was capable of making any statement. He contended that every scheme of mining enterprise was eagerly taken up and aided by his Government, and with the best information, and under the best light, which it was possible for them to obtain. If they had not, in every case, been successful, they were not to be blamed, while the Opposition had never formulated any scheme. He spoke of the manner in which the Government had aided the mining industry by the establishment of reduction works, etc. Objection had been taken to the appointment of a mining commission which had been done under the law and with the object of getting all light and information that were possible. It was in the mining interest. It was ridiculous to contend that the granting of the land reserves would interfere with the miners, and was sorry that the Opposition should deem it incumbent on them to create erroneous impressions. He would not now refer to the remarks of the gentleman who occupied the first seat on the Opposition benches, but should deal with them at a future time. He thought it best again to observe that the only object of the amendment was to defeat the Government, and that without removing the royalty clause with which it was the intention to deal when the matter came up.

Mr. Cotton said the Independents had not intended to speak on the address, as had been previously announced, but the motion before the House rendered it necessary for them to do so. The Independents had felt last year, when the law was passed, that the royalty clause was wrong, and so they still felt. However, it was necessary to say that while the opinions of the Independents were unchanged, inasmuch as the intention of the government had been expressed to do away with the royalty and do what the Independents held to be proper; while, moreover, they were pledged not to go back on dead issues, but to carry out legislation which they held to be the best for the country, they felt that the amendment simply meant the defeat of the government, and had therefore come to the conclusion that, in the absence of certain members, in justice to themselves, and to their constituents, they could not under the circumstances vote for the amendment.

On motion of Mr. Grant, the debate was adjourned, and the House adjourned.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Cotton—For all papers connected with the seizure of the schooner Hesperus on or about October 10th, 1889, and the arrest of her officers and crew.

Hon. Mr. Beaven to introduce a bill relating to libel in civil cases.

Mr. Stoddart—For a select committee to prepare and present a bill dealing with the branding of cattle and the registration of brands.

Mr. Kitchen—For a committee to prepare and introduce a bill to amend and consolidate the Municipalities Act of 1889 and amendments.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Sixth Parliament.

FOURTH DAY.

THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 1891.

After prayers by the Rev. A. Beaulieu.

MR. GRANT

resumed the adjourned debate on Dr. Milne's amendment to the address. He said the subject matter of the amendment had been pretty well thrashed out last session. The premier had, yesterday, stated that the Act was to be amended, but he had failed to state in what particular; and he did himself and his Government an injustice by not stating that the objectionable clause was to be eliminated from the bill when so amended. It was because the Premier had not taken the House into his confidence that the amendment was before the House. He contended that the Government had had no intention of amending the law, but had finally come to the conclusion that the demands of the Opposition, in this particular, must be acceded to. Referring to the grant of land to the Kootenay and Columbia railway, he contended that, today, the 200,000 acre grant were worth more than the 750,000 acres granted years ago. He spoke of the influence which mining had exercised upon the prosperity of the province, and, for that reason, he felt that every one should encourage that industry. He believed in the encouragement of railways, but did not think that the cost should be added upon the miners. He believed the Independents intended to deal fairly with the Government, but they would not assist them by entering their Masonic lodge and formulating their policy for them.

HON. MR. DAVIE

referred to the ninth paragraph of the address, as follows: "That we remark with pleasure that a commission, composed of gentlemen possessing extensive practical acquaintance with the subject, has been intrusted with the work of revising the mining laws and preparing such amendments as shall meet the needs of this important industry. And we accept with satisfaction the assurance that the result of their labors will be laid before us at an early date, in order that we may enact such legislation as may be calculated to promote the development of our great mineral wealth." He said it was not to be supposed that the Government would stultify themselves and the commission by not taking action upon their recommendations. He contended that it was the duty of the Government to wait for the report of the Commission before they brought down their legislation, with respect to mining. It would be entirely out of place for them to do anything until they had all possible information before them. No matter what might have been said by hon. gentlemen on the other side, he assured the members that "good a master of the English" as he might be, the Premier never gave the House to understand one thing and did another. Had that been his character he would never have been retained in parliament and in office. His language meant what it expressed. He spoke of the infinite amount of shuffling that was continually on the other side, in contradistinction to the straightforwardness which had always been the character of the premier.

MR. SEMLIN

said this royalty was not mentioned in the Mining act, with which, if the commission dealt alone, he did not see how they would take up the Railway Aid act, an altogether different affair. He had yet, he said, to hear any pledge from the Government that they intended to relieve the miners from this imposition; and, even should there be an amendment to the act, that was only developed in the floor of the House, yesterday afternoon, when the senior member for Vancouver expressed the views of his friends and himself on the subject. He declared the policy of the Government to be one of expediency, and denied that it had done for the province all that it claimed. Although they were ready to take credit for what had been done by Governments of which they were a continuance, they endeavored to cast upon those predecessors responsibilities to which they themselves ought to be held. The Government had no stability, except that of holding on to power, and for this object were prepared to assume any attitude. They retained position by the exercise of patronage alone. He reviewed their course in regard to a variety of matters, and claimed that while the Government had been accustomed to condemn the reforms proposed by the Opposition, they subsequently took them bodily and adopted them as their own. The Opposition had, in this case, acted in a constitutional manner by proposing the motion of censure now before the House, rather than, as had been suggested, put their hands in their pockets and taken the matter to the courts, which was not incumbent on them. The members of the House were above the courts; they passed the acts, and it was for them to deal with them. He censured the Government for having called the House together on the fifteenth of January and then adjourning it to the 19th. It was they who had wasted the time of the House, and yet they sought to cast blame on the Opposition on this account. Had they given proper notice to their friends of the meeting of the House there would have been no excuse for the absence of the minister of lands and works and the members for Kootenay and Cassiar. The Government were, in fact, kept in their positions to-day by the generosity and magnanimity of the Independents who declined to take advantage of the absence of friends of the Government. He charged that the fact of his not having been placed at the head of the poll for Yale, at the last election, was due to the money bags and canvassing of the Government; the fact of his having been elected at all having been due to the patriotism of his electors.

MR. MARTIN

denied that any harm had been done to the miners by the passage of the Railway Aid act which had last year been passed, on the demand of the people the most interested. He spoke of the tribute that had been paid to the influence exercised by Cariboo on the prosperity of the province, yet the third member for Victoria city (Dr. Milne) complained that it was over represented in this House. Much

of the credit for the prosperity of the province had been given to the Canadian Pacific Railway—and he did not wish to detract from what that road was entitled to—but, it had in no way benefited the farmers whom he represented, inasmuch as it had been able to ship grain to that district cheaper than it could be raised there, while it had closed all the grist mills along the line. The railway had assisted Kamloops and the other cities of the province, but it had been the reverse with his own constituency. Referring to the charge which had been made that the Government had controlled the election in Cariboo by the use of their money bags, he said the result was due to the strong feeling of the electors in favor of the government, and that the junior member had only secured election by reason of his own personal popularity. He considered that the Government had, throughout, taken an honest and straightforward course, and one which would be in the interest of the province.

DR. MILNE

asked permission to withdraw his amendment, the object which he contemplated having, he said, been served.

HON. MR. TURNER

said it had not been until the third day of the discussion that the Opposition had introduced their amendment. They had labored hard and had not even then produced a mouse, but a mouse trap. They had endeavored to catch an animal that was able to swallow their own trap. Their object was to catch the Independent members who were independent supporters of the Government. Members should very carefully consider whether they would allow the Opposition to withdraw their amendment. The position of the Opposition placed them, he would add, in a very ridiculous position, as their action to-day testified.

The motion to withdraw the amendment was defeated, only five being in favor of it. The following was the division.

DIVISION LIST.
Ayes—Messrs. Semlin, Grant, McKenzie, Milne and Beaven—5.
Nays—Messrs. Sward, Kitchen, Cotton, Kellie, Smith, Brown, Foster, Keith, Robson, D. vie, Eberts, Stoddart, Booth, Pooley, Turner, Martin, Croft, Hunter, Rogers, Anderson, Fletcher, Horne—22.

The amendment being put, was lost by a vote of 22 to 5, and the address having been put clause by clause was adopted unanimously.
The resolutions were, on motion, referred to a select committee consisting of the Provincial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the President of the Council, Minister of Finance, and Messrs. Hunter and Stoddart, who, having reported, the address was ordered to be presented to His Honor by such members as were members of the Executive Council.

HON. MR. ROBSON
moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Davie, that the resolution of this House passed on the 2nd February, 1887, appointing a select committee of 15, eight of whom should constitute a quorum, as a standing committee on railways, be amended by increasing the number of members to serve on such committee to 18, and the quorum to 10. He pointed out the advantage and saving of the time of the House that would in this way be effected, and pointed out that the practice had been successfully followed at Ottawa.

HON. MR. BEAVEN
objected that it was a pernicious system to appoint such a large number of members on standing committees.

HON. MR. DAVIE
regretted that the leader of the Opposition could not look at anything except with the jaundiced eyes of his prejudices against the Government. This House was a new one, and many of its members had expressed their intention of not taking old prejudices into consideration. He explained the convenience there was in considering matters in their detail in a committee room. It was, he said, much more easy in that way to obtain information. It was the practice at Ottawa, and prevented delays upon the time of the members. The government was determined, if possible, to do away with that woeful waste of time, which was so manifest, last session, when it took three months to do business that should have been disposed of in less than two months.

MR. SEMLIN
denied that there would be any saving of time, and objected that there was great danger in placing the power of the House in the hands of a large committee.

HON. MR. ROBSON
said that the business of last session was dragged out because a small Opposition protracted the debates by their idle prattle, and if they continued to resurrect such corpses it was certain that the session would last three months. The ripe experience of the Dominion House of Commons had led them to have a Railway committee containing more than half the members of the House, which, having made their report, the members in their discussions had the advantage of the experience and investigations of the committee. The experience of twenty-five years of the Dominion House had shown that it was impossible to deal with the railway business of the House in any other way. Moreover, taking into account the increase of the present House, the proportion of the committee to the membership would be no greater than it had been. It was before the committee that the merits of matters were brought which could not be accomplished in any other way.
The motion was adopted.

COMMITTEES.
On motion of Hon. Mr. Robson, seconded by Hon. Mr. Davie, the following resolutions were also adopted:
"That the resolution of this House which was passed on the 15th February, 1888, appointing seven members as a Select Standing Committee on Mining, to whom should be referred all matters relating to mines, be amended by increasing the number of members to serve upon such committee to nine, and the quorum thereof to five; and that the Select Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills be increased to seven members."

Some discussion took place as to the relative proportions of the Government and Opposition members on the Standing Committees, Hon. Mr. Robson suggesting it would be a fair proportion, for instance on the Committee on Standing Orders, for the Government to have five members to two of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. Beaven replied that in that event it would, perhaps, be as well for the Government to make all the nominations. After some talk, the leaders of the Government and Opposition respectively made their choice of committee men, the Opposition selections being mainly from the Independents, upon whom the Government also made considerable requisitions. The following were the selections made:
Railways—Messrs. Baker, Anderson, Booth, Smith, Hunter, Rogers, Cotton, Brown, Kitchen, Horne, Forster, Sward, Eberts, Stoddart, Nason, Fletcher, and Panch.
Mines—Messrs. Smith, Kellie, Rogers, Nason, Stoddart, Keith, Croft, Foster and Baker.

It was pointed out that Mr. Nason was not yet a member of the House and could not yet be appointed on any committee, and on this account the nominations to the Railway and Mines committees were not confirmed. The other committees nominated and approved by the House were as follows:

Public Accounts—Messrs. Martin, Hunter, Hall, Grant, Cotton.
Printing—Messrs. Anderson, Fletcher, Panch, Milne, McKenzie.
Private Bills—Messrs. Martin, Croft, Eberts, Kellie, Hall, Semlin, Keith.

HON. MR. BEAVEN
moved, seconded by Mr. Semlin: "That an order of the House be granted for a return showing all sums of money received and applied to the public uses of the province under the 'Election Regulation Amendment act, 1890; stating the date upon which the money was received; the name of the person on whose account it was paid to the returning officer; the manner in which it has been applied; and all correspondence respecting the same or relating to deposits made with returning officers under the above act.' He complained of the \$200 deposit which was required of candidates, and said that it was in order to have the subject ventilated that he moved this motion.
The resolution was adopted.

MR. BROWN
moved for a return, showing the number of votes polled in each electoral district of the province, at the general election in June, 1890. He said that he desired to have this information in view of the revision of the voters' list.
After some discussion the motion was adopted.

HON. MR. BEAVEN
said he desired to obtain some information as to the working of the reformatory system, and therefore moved for copies of all orders in council or other documents relating to the application or appointment of any officers or servants under the "Reformatory Act, 1890;" also copies of all rules and regulations and warrants made or repealed under the authority of the above statute.

THE CHINESE QUESTION.
Hon. Mr. Beaven also moved "That this House is of opinion that the committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, and the Committee on Railways should see that all private bills granting franchises or rights contain sections providing against the employment of Chinese on any work to be undertaken in pursuance of the bill." He said, that this was a question, which at one time, all the members of the House agreed to, and all measures had to contain clauses of this character. This legislature had succeeded in inducing the Dominion Government to place a \$50 tax on Chinese coming into the country, but had failed to provide by legislation that Chinese should not be allowed to work on undertakings which were under charter from this Legislature. They had led the Ottawa Government even to contemplate the abolition of the \$50 tax on the Chinese entering the country. It would be most disastrous to have, with the greater facilities now offered, the country flooded with Chinese, and, therefore, it was necessary in the general interest to show that the Provincial Legislature was in earnest in its opposition to the employment of Chinese labor. It was, he was sure, the wish of the people of the country that such a resolution should be passed, and he hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

Mr. Cotton having seconded the motion,
MR. CROFT,
on a point of order, raised the point that the resolution did not agree with the rules and orders of the House. The proper place to insert such a clause would be by the House when the bill was referred to it, and not by the committee on standing orders.
After remarks by Hon. Mr. Beaven,

MR. EBERTS
said the resolution should not be adopted without special consideration. The Standing Orders and Private Bills committee had the duty to see that all the rules and orders had been complied with in connection with each bill. The committee had to go through the bill carefully in order to protect private interests, but could not put in such stipulations as this. It was, however, competent for any member to introduce such a clause after the bill had been reported.
Mr. Smith asked if this was intended as an instruction to all committees.

HON. MR. DAVIE
said the question arose here as to what extent, by passing resolutions of this kind, the House could restrict its committees. In some cases it might be possible to construct works without Chinese assistance, and in others they could not be undertaken. The proposition appeared to relieve committees of their discretionary functions, and would compel them to exercise a hard and fast judgment.

HON. MR. POOLEY.
submitted that the resolution was out of order, inasmuch as it gave to committees powers which the House could not delegate, as it only possessed them when sitting as a whole.
After a reply from Mr. Beaven
The Speaker said he would like to see a precedent for the resolution. The action of the House in 1886 was not parallel to this.

THE SPEAKER
reserved his ruling. The point, he said, was certainly a very knotty one, and he would not decide it off-hand.
The House adjourned at 5:40.

NOTICES OF MOTION.
G. L. Milne, Monday, 26—To amend the act respecting the Observance of Sunday.

Hon. Mr. Robson, Monday—Bill intitled the Public School Act of 1891.

Mr. Horne—Resolution—That it is expedient to make the City of Vancouver and a portion of New Westminister District into a new Judicial District, to be known as "Vancouver-Judicial District," with head-quarters at the city of Vancouver. Said new district to be bounded as follows:—Commencing at Point Grey; thence in a south-easterly direction following the coast line to the North Arm of the Fraser River; thence along the north shore of the North Arm to the south-east corner of lot 331, group 1, New Westminister District; thence due north to the north-west corner of lot 69, group 1; thence due east to the north-east corner of lot 8, group 1; thence due south to the southwest corner of lot 5, group 1; thence due east to the northeast corner of lot 113, group 1; thence due south to the southwest corner of lot 170, group 1; thence southeast to the southern boundary of lot 170, group 1, to the Coquitlam River; thence across said river along its eastern bank to its junction with the Fraser river; thence northeasterly following the right hand bank of the Fraser river to the mouth of Pitt river; thence following the western bank of Pitt river and lake to the extreme northern point of Pitt Lake; thence on a line due north to the northern boundary of New Westminister district; thence westerly along the northern boundary of the said district to the shore of Desolation Sound; thence following the western boundary of the district to the place of commencement.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.
First Session of the Sixth Parliament.
FIFTH DAY.
MONDAY, Jan. 26, 1891.

The speaker took the chair at 2 p.m.

LIBEL ACT.
On motion of Hon. Mr. Beaven, a bill relating to libel in civil cases was read a first time; second reading on Monday next.

THE HESPERUS' SEIZURE.
MR. COTTON moved that a respectful address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting copies of all correspondence, Orders-in-Council, or other papers, that have passed between any department of the Government and any other person, concerning the seizure of the schooner Hesperus, on or about Oct. 10, 1889, and the arrest of the owners and the crew of the said vessel.

The hon. senior member for Vancouver explained that the Hesperus, with a crew of four men and a cargo of general stores, had sailed from Vancouver on a coasting cruise. She was seized by the police of Nanaimo on a charge of selling liquor to Indians. Three of the crew were acquitted, by the police magistrate; one was fined upon Indian testimony. This one conviction was appealed, and the decision of the police magistrate overruled. The owners of the Hesperus had lost their all by the transaction, and it was something that should be acquired into.

The resolution was passed, without discussion.

MILITIA AT WELLINGTON.
MR. KEITH moved that a respectful address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting copies of all orders in council, correspondence, and papers connected with the sending of a militia force to Wellington last summer, and of their maintenance while there. It was, he said, a well known fact that an armed force had been sent to Wellington last summer, for a purpose unknown. The circumstance required explanation, and it was to secure this explanation that the resolution was introduced.

The motion was put to the House, and would have been carried without discussion had not
Hon. Mr. Beaven claimed that an explanation from the Government of this whole matter was due at once.

Hon. Mr. Robson explained that the proper time for explanation would be when the correspondence referred to was laid before the House.
The resolution was adopted.

A RETURN.
Hon. Mr. DAVIE presented the return asked for in reference to appointments made under the Provincial Reformatory Act.

CACHE CREEK SCHOOL.
MR. SEMLIN and MR. MCKENZIE moved, that a respectful address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor requesting copies of all orders in council and correspondence relating to the closing of the Cache Creek boarding school. Adopted.

MR. SPEAKER'S RULINGS.

HON. MR. SPEAKER announced that he was now ready with his rulings on the two questions, the consideration of which he had asked time for. The rulings he proceeded to read as follows:—

"The hon. member for Victoria City (Hon. Mr. Beaven) on Friday introduced the following resolution: That the principle of eight hours constituting a day should be adopted in carrying on Provincial public works. And that a clause should be inserted in all contracts for such to the effect that the hours making up a day's work of the workmen and laborers to be employed under it shall not be more than eight; and a penalty for the violation of such provision by the contractor should be included.

"The point of order as to the resolution was raised by me during the discussion that ensued. I based my objection on the action of Mr. Speaker Mars in 1885, in ruling out of order a bill providing for the regulation of day labor. Mr. Speaker Mars ruled that the bill was an interference with trade and commerce, a class of legislation that is reserved for the Dominion legislature. Neither a copy of the bill, nor of the ruling has been preserved, but I am informed that the bill dealt with all classes of labor, whether employed by the Government or by private parties. Such being the case it was clearly out of order.

My impression while listening to the debate on Friday was that the resolution of the hon. member for Victoria city covered the same ground in effect, if not in words, as the bill ruled out in 1885; and that it was also an interference with the prerogative of the crown, inasmuch as the instruction conveyed in the resolution, if accepted by the House, would increase the cost of government and act prejudicially upon contractors for private as well as public works.

But upon reflection I think that the resolution if adopted would not necessarily increase the financial burden of the country; because while it proposes to reduce the hours of labor on public works to eight hours a day, it does not demand that the laborer shall be paid for more than the time he has actually been employed. For instance, if a laborer on Government works is paid at the rate of twenty cents per hour for ten hours work, there it nothing in the resolution asking the Government to pay a higher rate per hour for eight hours' work. The number of laborers might be increased by the innovation, but the amount paid need not be greater than under the system now in force.

For the same reason private contractors would not be injuriously affected through the eight-hour system on Government works, and the resolution is not an interference with trade and commerce.

On these grounds, contrary to my first impression, I rule that the resolution is within the powers of the House.

The point of order taken by the hon. member for Cowichan (Mr. Croft) is as to the admissibility of the resolution moved by the honorable member for Victoria, (Hon. Mr. Beaven), "That this House is of opinion that the committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, and the Committee on Railways should see that all private bills granting franchises or rights contain a section providing against the employment of Chinese on any work to be undertaken in pursuance of the bill."

Objection is taken that the resolution asks the House to relegate to a select committee powers that reside exclusively with the House. Our own rules of order being silent on the point (as they are, unfortunately, on many others of equal importance), I have recourse to "May." Therein I find many instances of special instruction given to the private bills committee with certain bills, but no instance of instructions general in their character, that is that apply to all private bills, beyond those embraced in the standing orders.

The resolution before the House is not mandatory in terms, but an expression of opinion such as the resolution conveys is always a command, and if passed by the House must be respected as such by the private bills committee.

An anti-Chinese clause which would operate advantageously if inserted in some bills might prove ruinous to the scheme if inserted in others. A hard and fast rule, such as that offered by the hon. member for Victoria, to apply to private bills that have complied with the standing orders, cannot, in my opinion, be left to the private bills committee to insert, but must be at the discretion of the House, as each bill comes before it for legislation. I therefore rule that the point is well taken, and that the resolution is not in order.

The rulings were ordered to be entered on the journals of the House.

ENTER MR. NASON.
A telegram from the returning officer at Barkerville was read, showing Mr. Nason to have been elected to fill the seat of the late Mr. Joseph Mason.

The House, in committee of the whole, recommended that Mr. Nason be allowed to take his seat, and this report being adopted, he was introduced to Mr. Speaker, and escorted to his seat by his colleagues, Hon. Mr. Robson and Mr. Rogers.

PRIVILEGE.

HON. MR. TURNER, for the first time in his life, rose to a question of privilege. He complained of misstatements contained in a letter entitled "The Hon. J. H. Turner," and signed J. N. Muir, which appeared in the Evening Times of Saturday. Mr. Muir accused him of attacking him when he (Muir) had no chance to reply. The fact was that he (Mr. Turner) had not opened his mouth, except to vote for Mr. Beaven's amendment. If all Mr. Muir's grievances were as groundless as this, they were not worthy of much consideration.

HON. MR. DAVIE had also to complain of untrue statements contained in the News-Advertiser of January 22nd. He was said to have defended the Premier's private character. This was untrue; Mr. Robson was quite competent to look after his own character.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robson, the standing committees on railways and on mining were fixed as previously announced.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS.
The House went into committee, Mr. Smith in the chair, upon the bill to prevent contagious diseases among animals. The committee rose reporting progress; to sit again on Monday next.

SUPREME COURT REFERENCE ACT
was read a third time and passed.

INJURIES TO WORKMEN.

HON. MR. DAVIE, after explaining the principles of the bill to secure compensation for workmen under certain circumstances, moved its second reading. The bill was read a second time and committed, with Mr. Martin as chairman. The bill was reported complete with amendments; report to be considered on Tuesday.

EIGHT HOURS A DAY.

On the debate upon Mr. Beaven's resolution being resumed,
COL. BAKER contended that the enactment of such a law as that proposed would be detrimental to the interests of the workman. The passage of such a resolution as that offered meant, practically, an increase of taxation, of which the laboring men would have to pay their part. If the Government paid the same for eight hours' work as for ten, they would not receive the same value for the money, and up the taxes would have to go. From Government work the principle would spread to private interests, and the effect at the present time would be most disastrous to the interests of the laborer. A reduction of the hours of labor would, to be successful, have to be an international arrangement. If this resolution was passed it would be introducing the thin edge of the wedge of socialism. The adjustment of the differences between labor and capital would have to be solved soon, but the solution, too, would have to be something for all nations to deal with. For one to attempt the work of reducing the hours of labor would prove disastrous to that nation's commerce. He should certainly vote against the resolution.

HON. MR. BEAVEN spoke at length support of the original motion, and MR. CROFT replied, denying the conclusions drawn by the leader of the Opposition in regard to the success of the eight-hour system in Australia, and also denying that more work could be done eight than in ten hours.

MR. HALL spoke briefly in favor of the reference of the question to a select committee for investigation. He believed that this was the proper course pursue, although the eight hours a day cry was a popular fad.

MR. FORSTER endorsed the original motion, and reviewed his reasons for doing so.

MR. BOOTH thought ten hours was fair day's work, and supported Mr. H. amendment.

MR. KEITH said that nine hours was the recognized standard in England and Scotland. Public sentiment, he thought, had led in this line in the past, but there was no reason why the Legislature of British Columbia should not do so in the present case.

MR. GRANT considered eight hours fair day's work. It had been fixed as a standard for government work in the District of Columbia, by the United States of America. The principle of eight hours was sufficient of a man's time for him to devote to manual labor, the real question to consider.

The debate was adjourned, on motion of Hon. Mr. Davie.
The House rose at 5:45 p.m.

NOTICES OF MOTION.
By Mr. Kellie—To move for a select committee, to consist of Semlin, Booth, Smith, Cotton and the mover, to take into consideration all matters referred to the Kootenay reclamation re- scheme, with power to ask for papers and all other evidence that may be expedient, and report to the House.

By MR. SEMLIN—To move for a select committee, to consist of Semlin, Booth, Smith, Cotton and the mover, to take into consideration all matters referred to the Kootenay reclamation re- scheme, with power to ask for papers and all other evidence that may be expedient, and report to the House.
By MR. SEMLIN—To move for a select committee, to carry out, vote 192 b of session, together with all correspondence in relation to the question.

QUESTIONS.
MR. SMITH, to ask the Provincial Secretary—"Is it the intention of the Government during the present session to introduce a bill to extend the boundaries of Yale district for all government purposes, so as to include that portion of the Yale district which is now, according to the Constitution Amendment, 1890, included in Yale district, for taxation purposes."

RULINGS.

announced that he... The rulings he... for Victoria City... resolution: That... Speaker Mars in... order a bill pro... of day labor... and commerce... Neither a... of the ruling has... am informed that... classes of labor... the Government or... being the case... der... listening to the... that the resolution... for Victoria city... and in effect, if not... ruled out in 1885... an interference with... the crown, inasmuch... eved in the resolu... e House, would in... government and act... ractors for private... s... on I think that the... d would not neces... financial burden of... while it proposes... of labor on public... a day, it does not... laborer shall be paid... time he has actually... instance, if a laborer... ks is paid at the... per hour for ten... nothing in the reso... government to pay a... ur for eight hours... of laborers might be... novation, but the... not be greater than... w in force... on private contract... injuriously affect... ur system on Gov... the resolution is not... trade and commerce... contrary to my first... at the resolution is... the House... taken by the hon... n (Mr. Croft) is as... to the resolution moved... member for Vic... (Beaven). "That... nition that the com... Orders and Private... mitted on Railways... rivate bills granting... tains a section pro... ployment of Chinese... undertaken in pur... that the resolution... delegate to a select... reside exclusively... ur own rules of or... the point (as they... on many others of... I have recourse to... find many instances... given to the private... certain bills, but no... ions general in their... apply to all private... embraced in the... ore the House is not... but an expression of... resolution conveys in... and if passed by the... ed as such by the... clause which would... usly if inserted in... prove ruinous to the... in others. A hard... that offered by the... toria, to apply to... have complied with... ara, cannot, in my... the private bills com... must be at the dis... e, as each bill comes... ion. I therefore rule... ll taken, and that the... order. I therefore... ordered to be entered... the House... MR. NASON... the returning officer... read, showing Mr... elected to fill the seat... ph Mason... mmittee of the whole... Mr. Nason be allowe... nd, this report being... introduced to Mr... ed to his seat by his... Mr. Robson and Mr.

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The debate was adjourned, on motion of Hon. Mr. Davie.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Kellie—to move for a select committee, to consist of Semlin, Brown, Smith, Cotton and the mover, to take into consideration all matters referring to the Kootenay reclamation reserve schemes, with power to ask for papers and all other evidence that may be deemed expedient, and report to the House.

By Mr. Semlin—to move for copies of instructions sent to the commissioners appointed to carry out vote 192 b of last session, together with all correspondence in relation to the question.

QUESTION.

MR. SMITH, to ask the Provincial Secretary—Is it the intention of the Government during the present session to introduce a bill to extend the boundary of Yale district for all governmental purposes, so as to include that portion of Lillooet district which is now, according to the Constitution Amendment Act, 1890, included in Yale district, for election purposes.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Sixth Parliament.

SIXTH DAY.

TUESDAY, JAN. 27, 1891.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock.

NEW BILLS.

DR. MILNE introduced a bill to amend the Sunday Observances Act, Second reading Monday.

HON. MR. DAVIE introduced a bill to make certain provisions respecting municipalities; also bills to further amend the Land Registry Act; to amend the Jurors Act, and to further amend the Supreme Court Act.

VANCOUVER JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

MR. HORNE moved, seconded by Mr. Cotton, "that it is expedient to make the City of Vancouver and a portion of the New Westminster District into a new Judicial District, to be known as 'Vancouver Judicial District,' with headquarters at the city of Vancouver. Said new district to be bounded as follows:—Commencing at Point Grey; thence in a south-easterly direction following the coast line to the North Arm of the Fraser River; thence along the north shore of the North Arm to the south-east corner of lot 351, group 1, New Westminster District; thence due north to the north-west corner of lot 69, group 1; thence due east to the north-east corner of lot 8, group 1; thence due south to the southwest corner of lot 5, group 1; thence due east to the northeast corner of lot 113, group 1; thence due south to the southwest corner of lot 170, group 1; thence southeasterly along the southern boundary of lot 170, group 1, to the Coquitlam river; thence across said river along its eastern bank to its junction with the Fraser river; thence northeasterly following the right hand bank of the Fraser river to the mouth of Pitt river; thence following the western bank of Pitt river and lake to the extreme northern point of Pitt lake; thence on a line due north to the northern boundary of New Westminster district; thence westerly along the northern boundary of the said district to the shore of Desolation Sound; thence following the western boundary of the district to the place of commencement."

While the resolution was being read a number of maps showing the district were distributed. The mover explained the advantages of and the necessity for making the proposed judicial district, with all necessary facilities, Vancouver being the only city in the province which was not a judicial district, all the legal business of Vancouver had to be transacted at New Westminster, a circumstance which was productive of great expense, delay and trouble. The Vancouver press, he noted, viewed this proposition with great favor, Vancouver being the largest and most populous city of the Mainland—and growing at that. He complained of the ease with which debtors could get out of the way of their creditors because of the difficulty in securing *capias* against them. He trusted that the members of the House would see their way to pass the resolution, and, later on, he hoped, the Government would bring in a bill to constitute the judicial district asked for.

MR. BROWN rose to move an amendment which he said he did with the consent of the mover. His amendment did not in any way interfere with the principle. The effect of his amendment was to exclude from the proposed judicial district the settlements of Port Moody, New Westminster junction and Pitt River, whose inhabitants believed it would be inconvenient for them to be included, there being no existing road which could bring them as close to Vancouver as to New Westminster. He should be glad had it been possible for the new judicial district to be made larger, but it was impossible to contend against natural conditions.

MR. HORNE said he would, with the consent of the seconder of the motion, agree with the amendment.

HON. MR. DAVIE would not discuss the respective merits of the resolution and amendment. But he was not so sure that, if the resolution were passed, the object desired would be obtained, as the matter rested entirely with the Dominion Government. The object was to have another Supreme Court judge established in the district of Westminster, with his residence at Vancouver. Before 1879 there were no judicial districts. The Supreme Court bench consisted of three judges, whose number had been increased since 1871, when the bench consisted of the chief justice only. The judges of the County Courts were, at that time, of unprofessional men. On this account there was considerable dissatisfaction and a movement made to place only professional men on the bench. In 1879, the Judicial Act of this Province divided the province into the Victoria district, which comprised about the whole of Vancouver Island, together with the Queen Charlotte Islands. There were by it also constituted the districts of New Westminster, Clinton and Cariboo, the parts of the province not being included in these districts being directed to transact their business at Victoria. At the time of the passing of the Act the three Supreme Court judges resided at Victoria and took periodical circuits. After the passage of the bill in 1879, the Government appointed two additional Supreme Court judges—McCraith and Robertson, the latter, on his death, being succeeded by Justice Walkem. Nominally, Justice Gray was appointed to Westminster,

Justice McCraith to Cariboo, and Robertson, subsequently Walkem, to Kamloops. Judge Gray took the position that he accepted the judgeship without limit as to residence. The matter was brought before the Supreme Court, which affirmed that the bill could not limit the residence of judges appointed under the old Act. So the matter continued, until an arrangement was effected by Sir Alexander Campbell who relieved Judge McCraith from living in Cariboo, and he had since resided in New Westminster. Justice Walkem's residence was at Kamloops, but having more to do in Victoria than in his district he was compelled to locate here nearest to his work. The other three judges resided here. The New Westminster district had therefore only one resident judge, and very properly complained. He would not say

that the resolution would have the effect desired, as the decision lay with the Dominion government. To show how little provincial legislation was considered binding, there need only be instanced the cases of Judges Gray and McCraith. The former's position was never combated, and as to Cariboo, the local law was a dead letter. He was afraid that all would simply come down to a matter of arrangement with the Dominion government. He thought that more would be effected by a resolution in favor of a strong report to the Dominion government as to the residence of another judge in the District of New Westminster. It was only a few days ago that the Government received a communication on the subject, saying that correspondence was going on, but it was impossible to say what would be done. He could assure the House that the governments, both of the Dominion and of the Province were not blind to the necessities of the case. There was a great amount of judicial work at Vancouver, New Westminster and the outlying districts, but not as much as on Vancouver Island and in Victoria. It, however, amounted to about 75 per cent. of it. There was, he must say, more necessity for a new judge in New Westminster than for four in Victoria. That, however, was a question for the Dominion to deal with. If it were thought that the passage of the resolution would do any good the Government would not oppose it. The resolution would have no opposition from the Government. Each member of it would vote as he pleased individually. Personally, he agreed fully with the principle of another judge.

HON. MR. ROBSON hoped the resolution would pass in its amended form. The members were possibly aware that there was a great necessity for the accommodation asked for. Vancouver was growing very fast, and it was but natural and right that it should ask for accommodations of this kind. He hoped the resolution would pass so as to strengthen the hands of the Government in the matter. A large community like the one in question was entitled to a judge, it being a great grievance that its people should be compelled to send to New Westminster to have their judicial business attended to, and that their defaulting debtors should be allowed such facilities for leaving the country before a process could issue against them. As far as possible, judicial facilities should be extended to that important section of country. He thought the present an opportune time to approach the Dominion Government on the subject, backed as the claim would be by a resolution of the House.

MR. COTTON said it was not necessary for him to say anything in support of the resolution which, he trusted, would be carried as amended.

HON. MR. BEAVEN said that, last session, and previously, this matter had been brought up and he was disappointed that the Attorney-General had not been able to say that he had, since then, laid the matter before the Dominion Government. He favored the adoption of the resolution, suggesting that a notice of motion be given for the production of all papers and correspondence had with the Dominion Government on the subject. The resolution as amended by Mr. Brown was then adopted.

HON. MR. DAVIE'S Bill to secure compensation for permanent injuries suffered by workmen in certain cases was reported as amended, read a third time and passed.

THE EIGHT-HOURS' QUESTION.

On the resumption of the adjourned debate on Mr. Beaven's motion relative to eight hours a day's labor on Government work.

HON. MR. DAVIE remarked that there was a great deal more information to be obtained on this subject, and he therefore favored the proposition of the member for Cassiar to refer the subject to a committee to report. He spoke of the matter being in, as yet, a very unsettled and unsatisfactory condition. There were a number of questions which he should like to put to the leader of the Opposition, were the subject referred to a committee. Among them was, whether or not the leader of the Opposition when in office had reduced the hours of labor of the clerks and increased those of the working men employed by Government by as much as three hours. There was other interesting evidence which the member might probably be able to give.

HON. MR. BEAVEN said he could not answer that question from memory. If he had none, as alleged, years ago, that was no reason why he should do so now.

HON. MR. DAVIE continued, that the best thing they could do would be for the leader of the Opposition to withdraw his motion, and let there be a fair and full inquiry into the subject. On an important motion like this, there ought not to be a divided vote. He wished to have the subject approached from the point of view of the public interest. He was not hostile to the workmen, but he would not commit himself to what he knew nothing about.

MR. HUNTER said he had carefully listened to the speech of the leader of the Opposition, and found that he had failed to fortify himself with facts as he usually did. He contended that it was impossible to cram ten hours' work into eight hours without violating every law of nature. It was not really a question of cramming ten hours' labor into eight hours; but it was to improve the conditions of the workman generally, which, with an increase of wages, were the only things that would benefit him. As for the leader of the Opposition, from his experience of him, were he obliged to earn his living by manual labor he certainly should give him a very wide berth. He referred to the contention of the member for Nanaimo that every benefit which had been gained by the workmen had been gained by legislation. The member for Nanaimo had said that Mr. Bradlaugh and Mr. Gladstone were giving the eight hours question the most serious consideration, but it was not long since Mr. Gladstone had, in a discussion with Mr. Hyndman, vigorously opposed eight hour legislation. Some time ago, in a Trades Union congress, representing over a million and a-half members, an attempt had been made in England to censure Mr. Broadhurst for his opposition to the eight hours system, but that gentleman had been sustained by 460 votes

to 95. The member for New Westminster had said that members on the other side of the House were governing themselves by questions of expediency, while those on his side were governed by principle. This he emphatically denied. He, however, distinctly believed that eight hours was sufficient for any man to work, but he did not believe his condition could be improved by legislation. Would it be fair to a miner who worked below the ground under unfavorable conditions to force him to work the same number of hours as those who worked above ground? This showed the value of the nostrums of those who desired to legislate in favor of an eight-hour system. It would be unjust to labor to legislate in this way, for the workman had a perfect right to regulate his own affairs. He should vote in favor of the motion of the member for Cassiar, and hoped that the result would be to secure a valuable amount of information.

MR. SWAN was in favor of the principle of eight hours, but he did not think it right that the Government should be bound to restrict the hours of labor on public works, since men working on Government roads were not worked harder than, if as hard as, others. He should vote against that part of the proposal, as it was well known that few men on Government works made more than forty-eight hours per week.

MR. ANDERSON had come to the conclusion that, in the interest of the workman, it was not proper that the resolution should pass. In the mine, or in the factory, eight hours were sufficient, but with outside and farmers' work it was different, and he should vote against the resolution.

HON. J. H. TURNER regarded this as one of the most interesting debates he had ever heard in this House. He agreed with the member for Comox. The members of this House were, however, in favor of reduced hours of labor and of increased remuneration. In Australia, the eight hours system was applied to some descriptions of labor, but not to all. In the United States very great attention had been paid to this matter, so as to get all the information possible. So it was here, it should be ascertained whether the eight hours labor system was likely to benefit or injure the workman. He read an extract from Bradstreet's to show that the principal effect on labor of the eight hours system would eventually be to throw the loss upon the workmen themselves. He also cited numerous authorities to show that the time could not be made up which would be lost by the substitution of eight hours for ten hours. If a man worked honestly for ten hours it would be impossible for him to do in eight hours what he was able to do in ten. The present fight on the labor question reminded him of a fight that went on in London, over thirty-five years ago, in which he was interested. Then it was not a question of eight and ten hours, but it was one of fourteen and fifteen. The employes, of whom he was one, worked hard and steadily, and, instead of obtaining legislation, they induced the employers to join them, and obtained what they asked for and secured in addition the Saturday half-holiday. He was convinced that, had they applied for legislation, they would have failed. It was impossible to have a hard and fast law which would be applied to all classes of labor.

DR. MILNE said that ten hours' work a day, contrasted with eight hours, reduced the workman physically. He cited the experience of the District of Columbia, U. S., and said that everything appeared to favor the eight hours system.

HON. MR. ROBSON remarked upon the peculiar interest of this debate. He protested against the idea that it was only the Opposition side of the House who favored the reduction of the hours of labor. Indeed, he held that the most cogent arguments in favor of a reduction of the hours of labor had come from the Ministerial side. While, however, the greatest minds of the age were hesitating as to the manner in which to deal with this difficult matter, the leader of the Opposition came in with his ill-digested resolution to settle it all at once. He endorsed the remarks of the member for Comox, and was proceeding to discuss the principle of eight hours' labor when,

HON. MR. BRAVEN raised the point that the resolution did not affirm the principle as a law, but was only a recommendation that eight hours should be the limit of Government works.

HON. MR. ROBSON claimed that the debate had been a general one and went on to say that though the resolution really applied to Government works, it was only the thin end of the wedge for the introduction of legislation on the general subject. Moreover, were the rule for Government works, it would be unjust to other people who would be compelled to fall in with it. It was all nonsense to pretend that the laboring men would put in as much work and energy in eight hours as in ten, but even were it possible, the economic question arose, would he do so? So far as the Government were concerned the question was not one with which they had to deal. As a Government they were bound to carry out the wishes of the people. But the matter was not sufficiently before the public, nor had their opinions been sufficiently expressed to enable the administration to act in the matter. He yielded to no one in his desire to see better relations between capital and labor. There was a lack of balance between them, as this member for Comox had pointed out, the fact being that laborers were entitled to a larger share of the products of labor and capital less than at present. Were it not for what he knew of the leader of the Opposition, he should be inclined to think that his resolution was a mere piece of buncombe. When the leader of the Opposition came into power the hours of the printers in the Government office were from 10 to 4, and he, by Act of Parliament, fixed them at from 8 to 6, while he made the hours of the clerks and deputies in the comfortable offices from 9 to 5 only. Was he acting in the true interests of the workingman when he kept the printers from 8 to 6, and only kept the clerks from 9 to 5? Had he been acting in the interest of the workingman he would rather have reduced the hours of the printers who worked under by no means the most healthful conditions.

The next question at issue was how shall we place the relations of capital and labor on a satisfactory basis? Was it not, he asked, humiliating to witness what had taken place—an important resolution such as had been submitted and so ably discussed—with its mover confessing that he did not know what legislation had taken place on the matter. In fact he had come in with his mind all a blank, and yet had asked members who were in the dark to pass a resolution which might complicate business and other relations that, at a time like the present, should be left perfectly free. The resolution was altogether ill-considered, and, moreover, was calculated to injure the interests of the workingmen. He was inclined to believe that the majority of the House favored the reduction of the hours of labor to nine hours, but the question was how to apply the principle to all vocations? For some classes nine hours might be too short, and for others too long. He regarded the proposal as a step in the dark—a rash and ill-considered step. He thought the House would do well to vote down the amendment to the amendment, to vote down the amendment, and to vote down the original resolution also.

The members having been called in the House divided, the amendment to the amendment being rejected by a vote of 24 to 7, the following being the division: Ayes 7—Grant, McKenzie, Cotton, Milne, Beaven, Forster, Keith.

Nays 24—Semlin, Sword, Kitchen, Kellie, Horne, Smith, Brown, Baker, Robson, Davis, Vernon, Eberts, Stoddart, Booth, Hall, Nason, Pooley, Turner, Martin, Croft, Hunter, Rogers, Anderson, Fletcher.

Mr. Hall's amendment being put to vote was adopted on the following division: Ayes 22—Grant, McKenzie, Kitchen, Cotton, Milne, Beaven, Horne, Smith, Forster, Keith, Baker, Davis, Stoddart, Booth, Hall, Nason, Turner, Martin, Hunter, Rogers, Anderson, Fletcher.

Nays 9—Semlin, Sword, Kellie, Brown, Robson, Vernon, Eberts, Pooley, Croft.

The following is the committee to whom the subject was referred, in compliance with the provisions of the amendment: Messrs. Hall, Smith, Beaven, Forster and Booth.

HON. MR. TURNER presented a return showing the sums of money received under the Election Regulation Amendment Act, and setting forth that at the last election eight candidates had forfeited their deposits.

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.

HON. MR. ROBSON announced that, so far, not a single petition had been presented asking for a private bill, and stating that the House would not drag out its session to suit applicants. He stated, with reference to the inauguration of the New Westminster Southern railway, that a telegram from the secretary had been received, informing him that, owing to bad weather, and an accident the work had been delayed and the contractor had, therefore, been unable to complete it as expected. The House, therefore, would meet as usual on Friday next.

HON. MR. DAVIE stated that owing to the meeting of the session next Friday, he and another member of the House would be unable to be present, both of them being engaged in the principal trial.

The House adjourned at 5 o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By MR. MARTIN—To move for a return of the correspondence and telegrams between the Attorney-General and J. Lehman, J. P., of Ashcroft, relative to the prosecution and discharge of J. Carey, for alleged embezzlement.

By MR. EBERTS—To introduce a bill to amend the B. C. University Act, 1890.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Sixth Parliament.

SEVENTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 28.

The speaker took the chair at 2 p.m.

RETURNS.

HON. MR. ROBSON presented the return of reports, etc., asked for in connection with the examination of J. N. Muir in July, 1890.

Also a statement of the bonds deposited in the Provincial Secretary's office under the Civil Service Act.

Also a statement under section 11 of the Revenue Act.

ROYAL HOSPITAL.

HON. MR. DAVIE introduced a bill to amend an Act to authorize and facilitate the sale of the site of the Royal Hospital, with the buildings thereon.

Read a first time; second reading on Tuesday.

THE INDIAN RESERVE.

Mr. Hunter moved that whereas by the Terms of Union the management of the Indian Reserves of the province was assumed by the Dominion Government in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians;

And whereas, section 119, Esquimalt District, Victoria harbor, lying within the limits of the City of Victoria, is one of such reserves, and is the residence of the Songhees tribe of Indians, now few in number;

And whereas, the position of the said reserve renders it unsuitable as a place of residence for said tribe of Indians, and tends to their demoralization, and to prevent the progress and prosperity of said city, and makes it expedient that the tribe should be removed to some suitable locality, and the control of the said reserve be resumed by the Provincial Government;

Be it therefore resolved, That a respectful Address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to take whatever steps he may deem necessary to accomplish the above object.

It was very improper and inconvenient, he said, to have an Indian reserve in the centre almost of a great and growing commercial city like Victoria. The present situation of the reserve was not good for the Indians. He, himself, had witnessed scenes of revelry and drunkenness that were most revolting. The sooner the Government took the most active steps possible toward the removal of the Indians, the better for them and for the city.

HON. MR. ROBSON said that the words of the resolution would, no doubt, commend themselves to every member of the House. There was no question that the present location of the reserve was injurious, both to the Indians and to the city. The Government had been in correspondence with the Dominion authorities, and particularly the head of the department of Indian Affairs, upon this question during the past year, and the passage of this resolution would, no doubt, greatly strengthen their hands. The extension of the city limits made the case much stronger; the present condition of things could not be tolerated any longer.

HON. MR. BRAVEN contended that the city had made the reserve valuable, and the city should be rewarded as soon as possible, by receiving the reserve. Of course nothing should be done to deprive the Indians of their present home, without fully compensating them.

MR. HUNTER said that nothing could be done without buying the consent of the Indians, under the B. N. A. Act. The resolution was unanimously adopted, without further debate.

VOTE 192 a.

MR. SEMLIN moved that a respectful address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor, asking for copies of instructions sent the Commissioners appointed to carry out Vote 192b of last session, together with all correspondence in relation to the question adopted.

QUESTION.

MR. SMITH asked the provincial secretary is it the intention of the Government, during the present session, to introduce an act to extend the boundary of Yale district for all Government purposes so as to include that portion of Lillooet district which is now, according to the Constitution Amendment Act, 1890, included in Yale district for election purposes?

HON. MR. ROBSON—Yes.

PRIVILEGE.

HON. MR. BRAVEN called attention to an error, which he was sure was unintentional, in THE COLONIST'S report of Tuesday's proceedings. It was stated that the amendment to the amendment offered to his (Mr. Beaven's) eight hour resolution, was rejected by 24 to 7. In the division list the mover and seconder of this amendment were quoted as voting against their own motion. The fact was that the amendment to the amendment was not put; the amendment to the original resolution being presented first to the House.

HON. MR. ROBSON thought that every thing was in a tangle on this matter on Tuesday; he, himself, would have been glad to have voted for the nine hours' motion.

MECHANICS' LIEN ACT.

MR. BROWN, in moving the second reading of the Mechanics' and Laborers' Act, explained his reasons for taking this question in hand. While the Lien Act of last year was a very good one in many respects, it was, in several ways, unworkable. In his bill he had eliminated the material men, who supplied lumber, hard ware, etc., to the contractor. The bill also provided that it should apply only to workmen temporarily employed. This was fair, as a manufacturer or regular employer of labor, had his establishment and his commercial reputation as a guarantee to his men that their wage would be paid. The material men could protect themselves in many ways that were not open to the wage earners, and their presence was injurious to the successful operation of the act as applied to the laborers. The protection now given material men under the Lien act was, he claimed, the cause of much reckless building and many illegitimate business transactions. He had endeavored to simplify the act as much as possible, and had limited the jurisdiction under it to the County court. As far as he had been

able, he had submitted the draft of the bill to representative working men, and, as it now stood, it was thoroughly approved by them. Every care had been taken to make the bill a good, sound, well balanced measure, and he hoped it would pass the House with as little change as possible.

HON. MR. DAVIE referred to the circumstances connected with the passage of the Lien Act of 1888. The Oregon Lien Act was then proposed by the advocates of the laboring men, but was shown to be not a proper measure of protection to the laboring man, who was compelled by it to wait six months for his money. The workman was, by the Oregon Act, placed in the same position as the material man or sub-contractor, and that bill did not allow him to come upon the reserve fund in connection with the contract—it only provided for the lien holder following the building or work actual for his money. This was remedied under the Lien Act of 1888, and the workmen were much benefited thereby. As an instance, immediately after the passage of the '88 bill, the workmen employed under the contractor for laying streets in Vancouver, immediately got their pay. The bill of 1888 was carefully considered throughout, and was as good a lien act as existed in North America to-day; if not better than any other. The laborers' advocates could not at the time be made to see that the Lien Act of 1888 was better for them than the Oregon Act. While the Oregon Act went too strongly in favor of the material men, the measure introduced by the hon. member for Westminster City went to the opposite extreme and left out the material men altogether. This was or had been remarked by the introducer the keystone of the bill which otherwise was a reproduction, almost entirely, of the Lien Act of 1888. The bill before the House proposed to cut off all proceedings in pending cases and to destroy existing liens. This would be most disastrous to present lienholders. Under the bill, the second reading of which had just been moved, not only the material men were given no protection, but it subjected his unpaid for material to seizure by the workmen to whom wages were due by the contractor—and under the term "Laborer" was included the architect and time-keeper, and the mental as well as the manual laborer. The provision for following a reserve fund for wages due, was herein omitted. (The Attorney-General proceeded to compare the contents of the bill before the House with the bill of 1888, showing that except the cutting out of material men, the act was a mere plagiarism on the one of 1888.) The bill introduced by the hon. member for New Westminster City specified that when the erection of any new building was decided upon, particulars thereof were required to be filed with the registrar of titles. There was no objection to this. He (Hon. Mr. Davie) contended that the present act was working well, and cases under it were being successfully carried on every day. In the last section of the new bill it was proposed to repeal several useful amendments.

If all that was wanted was to protect the working men, no Lien Act was necessary at all. All that was needed was to compel the contractor to produce his receipted pay roll every week, or every month, if every week was thought too often. The material man had as good a right to express an opinion on this question as the working man, under whose wing was included the architect, and, to use the language of the bill, "the men al laborer." What did the material men say? The present bill would destroy credit; and prevent anybody but a rich man undertaking contracts at all. The country had for twelve years been trying to get a good lien act, protecting the material men as well as the working men, and he did not think the House was prepared at present to abandon that principle.

MR. COTTON, while not prepared to say that the present act was unworkable, thought it was too cumbersome and expensive, and therefore gave the material men a great advantage over the workers. He endorsed the plan to have particulars of every contract filed with the registrar of titles, as a security against contracts being taken below their value. The bill would drive out of business a large number of shoddy contractors, and he thoroughly endorsed the measure.

HON. MR. POOLEY said that the bill now in operation was working well. Contractors were required to produce their pay rolls before temporary instalments were made, and thus all were protected. The present act covered every requirement, if it was put in operation. Material men were certainly entitled to a measure of protection. By the bill now under consideration the laboring man could seize material upon which he had expended no labor in improvement, which was certainly unfair. The old act was entirely fair. After giving the workmen the right to claim 30 days' pay, the material men should have a right to secure payment for their goods. Workmen should see that their pay was handed them at least once a month. The old act had been thoroughly tested during the past year, and he did not know of a single case where a wage earner was defrauded of his hire. He was opposed to the principle of this bill, as he considered the material men deserving of some protection.

MR. BOOTH thought that if a contract was taken at a fair price, the material men were amply protected by the building, which was the value of the material, plus the labor. A lien law should be one of the simplest on the statute book; one provision had been omitted, which would have been valuable, and that was the one enabling a judge to raise the price of a contract, when it was shown that the same had been taken too low, as a result of collusion between the owner and contractor. He was inclined to support the second reading of the bill.

MR. SEMLIN referred to the statement made by a late member for New Westminster City, that mechanics were leaving British Columbia, as they could not get justice under the laws of this country. He favored giving the bill before the House a fair trial.

MR. CROFT referred to the injustice which it was proposed to inflict on the material men by the measure before the House. He declined to support the bill in its present shape.

MR. FORSTER wanted the shoddy contractor kept out of the country. Very few genuine contractors did business on credit, and if the bill would keep the shoddy contractor out of the land, it would be doing good work.

On the vote being called, the decision was recorded as follows:

Yeas—Hunter, Anderson, Fletcher, Robson, Stoddart, Booth, Nason, Baker, Keith, Forster, Brown, Smith, Horne, Beaven, Milne, Semlin, McKenzie, Sword, Cotton, and Kellie—20.

Nays—Pooley, Martin, Rogers, Croft, Davis, Eberts, and Hall—7.

The bill was committed with Colonel Baker in the chair. The committee rose reporting progress; to sit again on Thursday.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By MR. SMITH—To introduce a bill to amend the Game Protection Act of 1890.

By MR. KELLIE—To move for a Select committee, to examine the lease made by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works in 1886 with Mr. W. A. Baillie-Grohman and others, relative to the reclamation and colonization of certain lands in Kootenay and to ascertain whether the conditions of said lease have been fully carried out on the part of the Kootenay Syndicate (limited) and the said W. A. Baillie-Grohman.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Sixth Parliament.

EIGHTH DAY.

Thursday 29th, 1891.

The Speaker took the chair at 10 o'clock.

HON. MR. ROBSON presented the following:

RETURNS.

Relating to the remission of the tax \$105, imposed by section No. 1 of Mineral Act.

Orders in Council, etc., relating to closing of the Cache Creek Board school.

Correspondence, &c., relating to sending of the Militia to Wellington.

The annual report of the public school of the province.

PETITIONS.

MR. COTTON presented the petition of the New Westminster and Burrard Telephone Company, asking for amendments to their act of incorporation.

MR. NASON—Of John C. Armistead and others, asking for a bill to incorporate the Vernon and Nelson Telephone Company.

COL. BAKER—Of the Crow's Nest Kootenay Lake Railway, asking amendments to their act of incorporation.

MR. KITCHEN—Of Donald McGillivray and others, asking the House to pass an act to incorporate the British Columbia Dredging and Improvement Co., to drain and drain certain lands in the New Westminster District, and also to drain Sula Lake.

ALLEGED INTERFERENCE WITH JUSTICE.

MR. MARTIN moved for an order of precedence and telegrams between the Attorney-General and J. Lehman, Esq., J. P. of Ashcroft, relative to the prosecution and discharge of one J. Carey, for alleged embezzlement.

HON. MR. DAVIE said there would be no opposition to the motion. On the contrary he had only been too glad, when the member mentioned the matter, him to urge on him the propriety of course. He had, he must say, been urged that the senior member for Vancouver but not at the first opportunity, as the House had sat, brought up this matter which he, in his paper, had professed to know all about. He naturally expected that he would have vindicated what he had written about at the bar of this House. It was, he said, to be regretted that the proprietors of newspapers sometimes published wild charges, and then dropped them, thus leaving the ties attacked no opportunity of defence. One paper had charged him (Mr. Davie) in connection with this case, with compounding a felony, but he had no content to wait for the meeting of the House, rather than to answer with the question. In connection with the present case, he had charged with stifling a charge against Carey of embezzlement from the Canada Pacific Railway and the Express Company, and with instructing the magistrate to interfere and prevent the case going further. No instruction whatever had been given to the magistrate, who, in reply to a communication sent to the Attorney-General, had been informed by the Attorney-General having no order to give him. The case was subsequently dismissed by the magistrate, as he (Mr. Davie) was informed. In charges of embezzlement or obtaining money under false pretences, it was not unusual to the prosecution to be dropped, when a situation had been made, and the case having charge of the case, had been formed that there would be no objection to this course.

MR. COTTON moved, in amending the motion, to strike out, to strike out the words after "that" in the first and insert—"a respectful address presented to His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting His Honor to be placed before this House copies of all orders-in-council, telegrams, petitions and correspondence, or other information, in the possession of the Government or any of its members or officials, between the Attorney-General, or any official his or any other department, and J. Lehman, Esq., J. P., of Ashcroft, or other person or persons, relative to prosecution and discharge of one J. Carey, for alleged embezzlement or any matters or proceedings connected therewith."

The hon. senior member for Vancouver denied that he had made any charge against the Attorney-General.

HON. MR. DAVIE—But you insist which is much worse.

MR. COTTON said he did not now propose to enter upon the matter, except to say that he had personally and received communications on the subject and when the papers came down a be able to discuss it.

HON. MR. BRAVEN wished to have matter ventilated, as it appeared a defaulter had only, when found out, return the money to secure his discharge.

The resolution as amended by Mr. Cotton was adopted.

HON. MR. DAVIE moved to discuss the order for the second reading of Municipalities Bill.—Carried.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Sixth Parliament.

EIGHTH DAY.

Thursday 29th, 1891.

The Speaker took the chair at two o'clock.

HON. MR. ROBSON presented the following

PETITIONS.

Relating to the remission of the tax of \$105, imposed by section No. 1 of the Mineral Act.

Orders in Council, etc., relating to the closing of the Cache Creek Boarding school.

Correspondence, &c., relating to the sending of the Militia to Wellington, also The annual report of the public schools of the province.

PETITIONS.

MR. COTTON presented the petition of the New Westminster and Burrard Inlet Telephone Company, asking for amendments to their act of incorporation.

MR. NASON—Of John C. Armstrong and others, asking for a bill to incorporate the Vernon and Nelson Telephone Company.

MR. BAKER—Of the Crow's Nest & Kootenay Lake Railway, asking for amendments to their act of incorporation.

MR. KITCHEN—Of Donald McGillivray and others, asking the House to pass an act to incorporate the British Columbia Dyking and Improvement Co., to dyke and drain certain lands in the New Westminster District, and also to drain Sumas Lake.

ALLEGED INTERFERENCE WITH JUSTICE.

MR. MARTIN moved for all correspondence and telegrams between the Attorney-General and J. Lehman, Esq., J. P. of Ashcroft, relative to the prosecution and discharge of one J. Carey, for alleged embezzlement.

HON. MR. DAVIE said there would be no opposition to the motion. On the contrary he had only been too glad, when the member mentioned the matter to him to urge on him the propriety of that course. He had, he must say, been surprised that the senior member for Vancouver but not at the first opportunity, after the House had sat, brought up this matter which he, in his paper, had professed to know all about. He naturally expected that he would have vindicated what he had written about at the bar of this House. It was, he said, to be regretted that the proprietors of newspapers sometimes published wild charges and then dropped them, thus leaving the parties attacked no opportunity of defence.

One paper, had charged him (Mr. Davie), in connection with this case, with compounding a felony, but he had been content to wait for the meeting of the House, rather than deal with the question. In connection with the present case, he had been charged with stifling a charge against one Carey of embezzlement from the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Express Company, and with instructing the magistrate to interfere and prevent the case going further. No instruction whatever had been given to the magistrate, who, in reply to a communication sent to the Attorney-General, had been informed by telegram that he must use his own judgment, the Attorney-General having no orders to give him. The case was subsequently dismissed by the magistrate, as he (Mr. Davie) was informed. In charges of embezzlement or obtaining money under false pretences, it was not unusual to allow the prosecution to be dropped, when satisfaction had been made, and the constable having charge of the case, had been informed that there would be no objection to this course.

MR. COTTON moved, in amendment, seconded by Mr. Kellie, to strike out all the words after "that" in the first line, and insert—"a respectful address be presented to His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting His Honor to cause to be placed before this House copies of all orders-in-council, telegrams, papers and correspondence, or other information, in the possession of the Government or any of its members or officials, between the Attorney-General, or any official of his or any other department, and Isaac Lehman, Esq., J. P., of Ashcroft, or any other person or persons, relative to the prosecution and discharge of one Edward Charles Carey, for alleged embezzlement, or any matters or proceedings connected therewith."

The hon. senior member for Vancouver denied that he had made any charges against the Attorney-General.

HON. MR. DAVIE—But you insinuated, which is much worse.

MR. COTTON said he did not now propose to enter upon the matter, except to say that he had personally and recently received communications on the subject, and when the papers came down should be able to discuss it.

HON. MR. BEAVEN wished to have the matter ventilated, as it appeared that a defaulter had only, when found out, to return the money to secure his discharge. The resolution as amended by Mr. Cotton was adopted.

HON. MR. DAVIE moved to discharge the order for the second reading of the Municipalities Bill.—Carried.

LAND REGISTRY BILL.

HON. MR. DAVIE moved the second reading of the Land Registry Bill. Its object was, he said, to prevent the owners of property from being harassed by vexatious proceedings. In the past it had been possible to register a charge against property, during whose pendency it was impossible for the owner to sell, no matter how advantageous the market and the terms offered. The Bill provided for the removal of the charges on such security as might seem to be satisfactory in making the order, the judge being empowered to take into consideration the probability of the success of such person on the action to be brought.

The bill was read a second time and referred to committee (Mr. Semlin in the chair), when amendments were made, on the motion of the Attorney-General, to confine the mode of cancellation and to do away with the necessity of having charges or transfers made with the use of the seal. It was also specially provided in another amendment, offered by the Attorney-General, that where land had been granted, or devised to two or more persons, other than executors or trustees, in fee simple, or for any less estate, it shall be considered that such persons

took or take as tenants in common, and not as joint tenants, unless an intention sufficiently appears that they are to take as joint tenants.

Several minor amendments were discussed, after which the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

THE JURORS' ACT.

HON. MR. DAVIE moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Jurors' act, which he explained in the meantime for particular reasons specially applied to New Westminster in certain details. In explaining the bill he stated that the fees to jurors in civil cases were governed by rules of court, and these, it was intended, to have increased by special jurors. In regard to criminal cases the Jurors' act applied to them and the Government would move to place on the same footing as jurors in civil cases. The case of grand jurors would also be considered, but he did not think it would be deemed necessary to increase their fees, as it was under contemplation to abolish grand juries altogether. He (Mr. Davie) had, he might say, been one of the first to speak of the abolition of such jurors, and he now noticed that the Dominion Government had the subject under consideration.

The bill having been read a second time, was committed, Mr. Booth in the chair.

The committee having dealt with the bill at some length, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

MECHANICS' LIEN BILL.

The House again went into committee on the Mechanics' Lien Bill, Col. Baker in the chair. The bill having passed through committee, was reported.

After some discussion as to whether or not the House should adjourn, in view of the fact that it was impossible for the New Westminster Southern railway to be opened, to which the members had been invited, the House adjourned until Monday.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

By MR. HORNE—To ask "Do the Government intend to open a Land Registry office at the city of Vancouver, and, if so, at what date will said office be opened, and ready to transact business?"

By MR. KITCHEN—To ask the Attorney-General if it is the intention of the Government to provide for the payment of the Grand Jurors, and to increase the allowance now paid to Petit and Special Jurors?

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By MR. BEAVEN—To move for all orders in Council, correspondence, papers, vouchers and receipts relating to the issue and cancellation of Crown Grant No. 2606, dated 17th June, 1883, and the issue of Crown Grant No. 4097 in lieu thereof.

By HON. MR. BEAVEN—To insert a Chinese restrictive clause in the following bills. To amend the Crow's Nest and Kootenay R. R. Act; to incorporate the B. C. Dyking and Improvement Co.; to incorporate the Vernon & Nelson Telephone Co.; to incorporate the New Westminster and Burrard Telephone Co.

By HON. MR. DAVIE—To introduce a bill respecting the corporation of New Westminster.

By HON. MR. VERNON—To introduce a bill respecting land surveyors.

By HON. MR. DAVIE—To introduce a bill to amend the Shuswap Railway Guarantee Act.

By HON. MR. ROBSON—To introduce a bill to amend and consolidate the laws relating to minerals.

By HON. MR. VERNON—To introduce a bill to amend the Land Act.

MR. HORNE—To move, That whereas the commercial importance of the City of Vancouver is daily increasing, and there is every reason to believe that during the ensuing season and in the future a much greater number of ships will be passing in and out; and whereas, it is desirable to increase the facilities of the shipping; and it is necessary in the interests of shipping and commerce that certain natural obstructions in the Narrows and in that harbor should be removed, and that certain parts of the entrance thereto it should be widened by dredging, and that a fog alarm should be placed at the point known as Prospect Point, and that Burraby Shoal be removed or a fog alarm

placed thereon; 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 widening and the removal of obstacles in the Narrows at the entrance of said harbor, and for the placing of a fog alarm on Prospect Point and at Burraby Shoal in said harbor. And that His Honor be further respectfully requested to transmit a copy of the address and this resolution to the Dominion Government.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Sixth Parliament.

NINTH DAY.

MONDAY, Feb. 2.

The speaker took the chair at 2 p.m. After routine, the following

PETITIONS.

were presented:

MR. COTTON—From the Corporation of Vancouver to amend the Act of Incorporation.

MR. COTTON—From Henry Abbott and others, to incorporate the Vancouver and Lulu Island Railway Co.

MR. COTTON—From H. V. Edmonds and others, for a bill to incorporate the Liverpool and Canoe Pass Railway company.

MR. COTTON—From John Hendry and others to incorporate the Vancouver, Northern and Alaska Railway and Navigation Co.

MR. MARTIN—From F. C. Innes and others to incorporate the Vernon and Okanagan Railway.

MR. MARTIN—From the Okanagan Land and Development company, Limited, for a private bill.

MR. COTTON—From the Corporation of Vancouver, opposing the bill to amend the Vancouver Water-works Act.

MR. KITCHEN—From R. H. Alexander and others, for a bill to incorporate the Burrard Inlet and Fraser Valley Railroad Co.

MR. KITCHEN—From the Westminster and Vancouver Tramway company and the New Westminster Street Railway, for an act to amalgamate them as the Westminster and Vancouver Tramway Co.

THE NEWCASTLE TOWNSHIP.

HON. MR. ROBSON presented a return, showing that in the grant made to the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway, there had been included that part, or section 1, Nanaimo district, known as the Newcastle Township Reserve, containing 724 acres, less the area of the various lots which had previously been alienated.

THE KOOTENAY SYNDICATE.

MR. KELLIE moved that a select committee be appointed, consisting of Messrs. Baker, Booth, Kellie, Hunter and Brown, to examine the lease made by the chief commissioner of lands and works, in 1886, with Mr. W. A. Baillie-Grohman and others, relative to the reclamation and colonization of certain lands in Kootenay, and to ascertain whether the condition of said lease has been fully carried out on the part of the Kootenay syndicate, limited, and the said W. A. Baillie-Grohman. Such committee to have power to send for papers, etc., and to report to this house.

HON. MR. DAVIE introduced a bill respecting the corporation of New Westminster.

HON. MR. ROBSON introduced a bill entitled an act relating to gold and other minerals excepting coal.

LIBEL.

HON. MR. BEAVEN, in moving the second reading of his libel bill, began by speaking of the respective applications of the Dominion and Provincial laws and authority, with respect to libel. The existing law of libel was, in his opinion, most defective. Under it the presumption was that a libel was, in every case, malicious. Taking the case of newspapers, and the way in which they were got out, and the information obtained, it was a wrong presumption so to say that every libel was malicious. Again, it was only right and just when there had been a libel committed that the newspaper proprietor should be allowed the opportunity of making an ample apology for an inadvertent libel. The principles of ethics should be made to apply to newspapers as well as to individuals, and the publication of an apology given as wide a circulation as the original libel should prevent all possibility of a prosecution. Then the law ought to provide that the publication of reports of public meetings should be privileged, while a fair report of proceedings in a court of justice should render it impossible to enter a prosecution. Newspapers were obliged to gather news, or they would be behind in the race, and should be protected in carrying on their legitimate business. It ought, too, to be rendered impossible to drag a newspaper proprietor to a town, other than the one in which his paper was published, to undergo his trial, and, moreover, the newspaper man should have a right to demand security for costs, so as to prevent him being frivolously and vexatiously prosecuted on charges which would not stand investigation. Since this bill had been introduced he (Mr. Beaven) had noticed a bill which was before the State Legislature of Washington that went still further than this bill. It provided that where a charge was not proved the person so making accusation rendered himself liable in damages. The public demanded news, the telegrams came in to the editor's office, the other

news arrived through various channels, and if the proprietor delayed to make minute examinations into every detail the information would be published somewhere in advance of him. The presumption of the libel law, to-day, was that in every instance the offence was malicious. He desired to change the presumption and to place matters entirely on the other side.

HON. MR. DAVIE said he noticed that this bill had been, in a measure, taken from the libel law of Ontario, and had the member rested there, the bill would have been what was desired. He admitted that it was only just to allow a newspaper proprietor to plead that the libel was not malicious, and was an honest mistake. But this was already the law in this country, being, moreover, covered by what was known as Fox's act. So much of a mischievous nature was contained in this bill that if it were defeated, as he hoped it would be, he should be in a position to bring in a new measure to follow closely the lines laid down by the law of Ontario. He contended that unless, in many cases, malice were inferred it would be impossible to convict an offender, whether against life or property. The same principles applied in connection with libel. By a man's character he was able to live, and therefore the law considered the offence a more heinous one than even taking away a man's purse. A newspaper got hold of a piece of information from the enemy of an individual. The editor published it and under the presumption of malice the party aggrieved could either punish the offender civilly or criminally. But, were there no presumption of malice, what possibility could there be of redress? The publishers, however, could prove, under Fox's Act, that there had been neither malice nor negligence, in the same way as the individual charged with taking a life or stealing a watch, could defend himself. The second clause of this Act fell with the first, but the third was positively ludicrous—to compel the plaintiff to request a retraction or correction, when, as every one was aware, in making such correction it frequently happened that the publisher took the opportunity of perpetrating a greater wrong. The existing law of the province gave ample opportunity to the publisher to apologize, retract or correct. Again, as to making reports of public meetings privileged, it not infrequently happened that irresponsible persons were put up to make scandalous statements in order, if possible, that they might find their way into the press. The Attorney-General warmly objected to the clause to make the reports of proceedings in the courts of justice privileged, inasmuch as, if published, they were calculated to prejudice cases when the matters were not really subject for public discussion, upon which it would not be right to comment. Proceedings before the courts, especially in Chambers, ought to be carefully safeguarded, or mischief might ensue. There was no justice, he went on to say, in providing that a libel suit should take place in a city or town where the paper had the power to prejudice the public mind adversely to the party aggrieved, nevertheless, there was no provision in the present Bill made for a change of venue. He regarded this Bill as most mischievous; if it passed, not even life would be safe, the public would be so calumniated, and it would be an evil day, indeed, for British Columbia, were this Bill to become law.

MR. BOOTH suggested that this bill be withdrawn and the Ontario Act substituted.

MR. COTTON strongly deprecated the placing of a newspaper on the same footing as taking a man's life or property. Supposing a newspaper published a fair report of a public meeting, duly called and advertised, and something had been said against an individual to which that party took exception. He at once took out action and the newspaper was at once served with legal proceedings, and considerable expenses incurred. Surely ample time should be given for a paper to make explanations or apologies. He objected to the removal of the place of trial from the place of publication, remarking that he and other publishers in the case had been put to great expense and inconvenience by having trials removed to a distance. He wished the law to be fair and just to both sides, and strongly deprecated anything approaching a muzzling of the press. He had come here to vote for this measure of the leader of the Opposition, but in view of the promises of the Attorney-General to bring down a measure he should vote against this bill.

HON. MR. POOLEY would not support a bill which would tend to make the press irresponsible. Were this bill passed any proprietor of a newspaper could publish any libel on the ground that it had been spoken at a public meeting. But were such statements published in the press they could be turned up at any time and to the prejudice of an individual. He characterized the present bill as tending to prevent a poor man from defending his good name, if he had not the power to put up the costs. It was impossible to say whether or not a charge was frivolous until it had been heard. Had we not a stringent libel law we should soon see, as was the case in certain parts of the United States, life not infrequently taken in satisfaction for a libel.

HON. MR. BEAVEN—And the English libel law prevails there.