

**A P R**

**1894**

Grant. As to private rights, time enough had been given for objections to be brought before the private bills committee.

Dr. Milne said there were objections offered to these two private bills replaced by these public bills when they were before the committee. The members for Cariboo were among the objectors. Such objections could be better heard by the committee than by the government.

Mr. Adams explained that his objection was to the bill being dealt with by the private bills instead of the mining committee.

Mr. Beaven in reference to a remark made by Mr. Smith said the bills could not have been circulated in Cariboo, since they had only been introduced two days ago.

Mr. Smith said he referred to the original private bills.

(Hon. Mr. Davie rose, but Mr. Speaker pointed out that he had already spoken, and the attorney-general sat down.)

Mr. Hunter contended that all private rights had been properly protected. The bill was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Vernon moved the second reading of the official scalers bill. In explanation he said the government had during the past years felt that its royalty on timber was sufficient, and was being allowed the loggers and the mill owners, each of whom would be careful to have exact measurement. Owing to complaints of loggers and representations that the government had not received all its dues it had been determined to appoint official scalers. Provision had been made for six, but probably three would be sufficient for the present. The scalers would not only have charge of measurement but would be able to do general work in connection with the timber rights of the province. An amendment would be introduced in committee to provide that the holders of timber leases should not have to pay a fee in addition to the royalty specified in their leases. It was provided that the act should not come into force until proclaimed, because mill-owners objected to the scale of measurement now in use. An investigation in regard to scales was advisable.

Mr. Semlin pointed out that candidates for the position of scaler could not well be examined until after a scale had been adopted.

In reply to Mr. Grant the chief commissioner said that clause 19 would not cause a higher fee than 5 cents per thousand to be exacted from logger or mill owner when a temporary scaler is employed. The remuneration in such cases, to be fixed by the lieutenant-governor-in-council, would come from the government.

Mr. Brown favored the bill and referred to the fact that the government had delayed its introduction until the election was near at hand. Mr. Booth and Mr. Hunter spoke of the necessity of having practical men appointed scalers.

Mr. Kitchen was glad to see the loggers treated to the small amount of justice granted by this bill, for which they had been asking for a long time. He knew of cases where there had been as large a difference as 60,000 feet in the measurement of one boom of logs. The province had certainly lost thousands of dollars in royalties by the absence of official scalers. He favored the continuance of the scale in use at the present.

Mr. Foster asked a question in regard to the returns ordered by the house concerning the payments from timber lessees and concerning the labor bureau. The chief commissioner promised to look into the matter.

The bill to authorize the sale of certain lands to the Bishop of New Westminster was carried through its final stages.

The school act amendment bill was considered in committee, Mr. Grant in the chair.

Mr. McKenzie wished to have explained the application of the terms "high school" and "collegiate institute." Hon. Col. Baker said any high school affiliated with one of the eastern universities must take the title of collegiate institute. To be able to affiliate a school must necessarily come up to a higher standard than is called for in a high school. An amendment proposed by Dr. Watt was adopted allowing high school boards to affiliate with more than one university.

A long discussion took place on the clause relating to the powers of city trustees and councils to deal with school property by sale, mortgage, etc. The attorney-general and Mr. Beaven wished the clause amended so as to restrict the powers. Messrs. Cotton and Horne pointed out that Vancouver wanted to be able to change a school site. An amendment to enable them to do that was brought in on report.

The committee rose and reported progress.

The house went into committee on the councils of labor conciliation and arbitration bill. In answer to Mr. Keith, Hon. Col. Baker said the bill was a purely voluntary one. There could not be a board of conciliation or arbitration under the bill without the consent of both parties. It had been tried and worked successfully.

Mr. Keith said in many cases only one side would agree to arbitrate. He thought if one party was willing the other should be compelled to do the same. The bill would be inoperative if this was not done. The coal strike in England would not have lasted four months if the second party had not refused or could have been compelled to appoint conciliators.

Dr. Watt considered that there was a great deal of force in what Mr. Keith said.

Mr. Forster thought the council of conciliation should be given more power. The bill was reported complete.

The jurors' bill was finally passed.

On report of the companies bill, Hon. Mr. Davie moved the following amendments, which were adopted: "1. It shall be lawful for the trustees of any company for the above objects, already or hereafter incorporated, but in whose memorandum of association no such clause was inserted, before the issue of any shares, to amend the memorandum of association by inserting the above provision, on the payment of a fee of ten dollars. And after such amendment has been made and registered by the registrar of joint stock companies, the above provision shall apply to such company."

Section 25 of the companies act, 1890, is hereby amended by striking out all the words from the beginning of the tenth line to the end of the section, and substituting for the words so struck out the following:

"filed and published in the same manner as the memorandum of association is required by this act to be filed and published, and when so filed and published the capital stock of the corporation shall be increased or diminished to the amount specified in the certificate, and the registrar of joint stock companies shall amend the certificate of incorporation accordingly, and for such filing and amendment a fee shall be charged."

The bill was finally passed.

The line fences and water course bill passed through its final stages.

The house adjourned at 12:45 until 11 o'clock on Monday.

#### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

A Number of Resolutions Passed at This Morning's Session.

APRIL 2nd.

The Speaker took the chair at 11 a.m. Mr. Horne moved that whereas the citizens of the city of Vancouver are desirous of having a quarantine station established at or near the port of Vancouver; and whereas many ships of large tonnage, carrying passengers and freight from Asiatic and many other foreign ports, are continually arriving at the port of Vancouver; and whereas the Asiatic ports are seldom free from contagious diseases, and passengers therefrom are liable to carry and communicate such diseases; and whereas the nearest quarantine station is some 80 miles distant from the port of Vancouver, and in consequence thereof great inconvenience and expenditure has been incurred by that city during the past six years in protecting the public health from such contagious diseases; and whereas the greater part of this expenditure would not have been borne by that city if a quarantine station were established at or near that port; and whereas owing to the increasing trade of the said port it is liable to such risks continually and the said city will have to expend large sums of money in order to protect the public health, which expenditure should be borne by the Dominion at large; Therefore, be it resolved, that a respectful address be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor, praying him to represent to the Dominion government the urgent necessity which exists for a quarantine station and hospital at or near the port of Vancouver; and that his honor be further respectfully requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Dominion government.

Hon. Mr. Beaven thought it would be far better if the government had built their quarantine station on some island uninhabited. It was a great detriment to a city to have a quarantine station near it. It made it necessary for the city to guard the quarantine station when there are suspects there.

Mr. Cotton did not think the resolution would have any effect as the government had pointed out that it would be absurd to establish two stations on this coast. It would place restrictions on shipping that it would not be desirable to place on it.

Dr. Watt thought it would be well if the resolution was withdrawn. One station well regulated was all that was necessary.

Hon. Mr. Davie said if the resolution was to be unproductive of good it should be either negatived or withdrawn. If useless resolutions were sent to Ottawa it would weaken the strength of useful resolutions sent to the Dominion. If one quarantine station in the eastern part of the Dominion was sufficient surely one was sufficient on the Pacific coast where the population is less. It was far better to have one well regulated station.

Mr. Horne did not intend to withdraw the resolution. He had been asked to move the resolution by men more capable to judge than the members of the house. Vancouver he contended was the proper place for the quarantine station. The C. P. R., he said, were heartily in accord with the resolution, Mr. Abbott having assented to it.

Mr. Hunter wished to know whether it was competent for a member in closing the debate to introduce new matter. No doubt if the superintendent of the C. P. R. said a quarantine station should be built at Vancouver it would have to be done.

The motion was negatived, only three members voted for it.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved, seconded by Mr. Hunter, that whereas attention has been called to the disastrous results caused by ordinary floodwater from the Fraser river flowing through Nicomeen slough, whereby much valuable cultivated land is overflowed and many acres washed away annually; and whereas there is reason to fear that any extraordinary flood might cause the destruction of thousands of acres of land and endanger the safety of the Canadian Pacific track in that vicinity; and whereas it is represented that this danger can be averted by damming up the head of the slough; therefore be it resolved, that the Dominion government be moved to take such action as may be necessary to cause the said dams to be erected at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Davie explained that a lot of meadow land and crops had been destroyed by the freshet which could be prevented by damming the head of the slough.

Mr. Sword was entirely in accord with the resolution. He moved in amendment that the Dominion government be asked to engage an engineer to report on this matter and also the desirability of protecting the banks of Nicomeen Island. It would be a great benefit to the district to shut off the head of Nicomeen slough and if necessary to protect the banks of the island.

Mr. Hunter thought that the Dominion government would engage an engineer without the amendment being inserted.

Mr. Sword's amendment was negatived, and Hon. Mr. Davie moved an amendment to add to the resolution that the Dominion government be moved to take any other necessary steps. The resolution as amended was passed.

Mr. Milne introduced a bill to amend the creditors' trust deeds act, 1890.

Mr. Martin introduced a bill to amend the game act.

Mr. Kellie moved and it was resolved that an humble address be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor praying him to cause to be sent down to this house a return of the names of all employees of the government employed constructing roads, trails, streets, bridges, wharves, or other work in West Kootenay district, from 1st January, 1892, to 31st December, 1896; the amounts paid to each party so employed, and the dates when employed.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved that this house be of opinion that whenever two or more statutes bearing upon the same subject are combined and issued from the printing office prior to the consolidation being legalized by the legislative assembly, that the pamphlet so issued should bear an endorsement indicating that the consolidation had not been legalized, but that the annual volume mentioning it. He moved the resolution, he said, because the publication of the municipal act as printed in pamphlet form did not agree with the amendments passed last session. Anyone picking up the pamphlet would think it was the law of the land.

The debate was adjourned, Hon. Mr. Davie saying that unless the particular inaccuracy was pointed out, the impression would go abroad that the pamphlet was entirely inaccurate.

Mr. Kellie moved that a humble address be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor, praying that he be pleased to cause to be sent down to this house a return of all correspondence between John Sanderson, employed as foreman on the Nakusp & Slocan trail in the year 1892, and the Hon. Mr. Vernon, chief commissioner of lands and works, and Napoleon Fitzhugh, gold commissioner, in regard to the payment of \$75 by the said gold commissioner to one W. Smith for work performed on said trail for the months of August and September in the years aforesaid. It was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Beaven rose to a question of privilege. In the Speaker's ruling on his point of order respecting the Horse-shoe mining bill only one of his objections was recited. He raised three or four objections.

On consideration of the report on the drainage, dyking and irrigation bill Mr. Sword moved to add to section 46 the following: The commissioners shall have power to receive, hold, take and acquire all voluntary grants and donations of land or other property made to them, and to purchase, stipend, take and acquire of or from the crown or any corporation, person or persons, any land or other property, or to mortgage, sell, lease, or otherwise alienate or dispose of such land or other property, or any part thereof, for the purpose of the undertaking and subject to the assent of the lieutenant-governor-in-council.

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

Dr. Milne on consideration of the report on the succession duties bill moved amendments to make section three read as follows: 3. This act shall not apply to any estate the value of which does not exceed \$10,000, nor (2) to property passing under a will, intestacy or otherwise, to or for the use of the father, mother, husband, wife, child, grandchild, daughter-in-law or son-in-law of the deceased, where the aggregate value of the property of the deceased does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars in value.

The debate was adjourned on account of the absence of the finance minister.

Hon. Col. Baker, on consideration of the report of the councils of labor conciliation and arbitration, moved an amendment providing that the councils could consider disputes when there were ten employees. The bill was finally passed.

On consideration of the report on the mineral bill, Mr. Kellie moved the following as a new section: Notwithstanding anything contained in the mineral act, 1891, and amending acts, the time for performing the annual assessment work upon mineral claims for the current year is hereby extended to July 31st, 1895. The amendment was adopted.

Dr. Watt moved an amendment that the tax on mineral claims should not be more than 25 cents nor less than 10 cents. The house rose at 1:15.

#### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Yesterday Afternoon's Session a Very Quiet One.

APRIL 2nd.

AFTER RECESS.

The debate was resumed on Dr. Watt's proposed amendment to the mineral act, providing that the tax on mineral claims should not be more than 25 cents nor less than ten cents an acre. The amendment was withdrawn and the bill was finally passed.

The house went into committee on the school bill, Dr. Milne being absent the members of the opposition asked that the committee rise and report progress as Dr. Milne had several amendments to move. Hon. Col. Baker thought the bill should be reported complete. Mr. Brown moved in amendment that the committee rise and report progress, which amendment was adopted.

On the motion to go into committee of supply, Hon. Mr. Beaven thought the house was entitled to some information respecting the sum of \$4000 placed in the supplementary estimates for the labor enquiry commission. Besides this the house should have a detailed statement of the accounts from July 1st to December 31st, 1893. The revenue act, which he charitably believed the ministers knew nothing about, provided that this should be done. The government had not even presented the abstract of expenditure for the last half of last year. The house knew nothing about the expenditure since July 1st, 1893, although nine months have passed over. In the city of Victoria the accounts were published a week after they were closed. Then where was the money to come from? It had been shown that the treasury was empty, and now the house was asked to vote another \$12,000. The house had a right to know where the money is to come from.

Hon. Mr. Turner contended that the funds of the province were properly dealt with. The half-yearly accounts were ready and would be distributed during the afternoon. It was folly to bring down the accounts in detail, as it would give a wrong impression. Most of the expenditure was made during the first six months, and most of the revenue does not come in until the last half of the fiscal year.

Mr. Brown hoped that part of the vote for special constables would be spent on the northern coast. As to the amounts for the labor commission and the gathering of statistics, the government would be more honest if they placed those amounts in the estimates for election funds. There was \$1500 for non-salaried officers for gathering agricultural statistics. This could be better expended in building trails for the settlers. He commended the vote of \$5000 for school buildings in the city of Nanaimo. The nearness of the general election had induced the government to do justice in this case.

Hon. Col. Baker said the vote of \$4000 for the labor commission was to take evidence from the employers and employees, so that a fair bill may be introduced. He spoke at some length in defense of his labor bill of last year, and read a letter in which it was stated that the workmen of Vancouver were in accord with the government. He refused, however, to give the name of the writer. He accused Mr. Keith of having introduced politics into the question of the labor bureau and induced the labor unions not to give the deputy commissioner any information. A bill was introduced at the beginning of the session which the employees favored and the employers did not, so it was decided to withdraw the bill and appoint a commission.

Mr. Keith thought the Cranbrook estate matter had embittered Col. Baker's mind. That gentleman had been both bitter and untruthful. His speech was full of abuse and nothing else. He had not the slightest doubt that the bill of last year was introduced to catch votes. He supported it because it was a step in the right direction. Col. Baker said he did not wish to draw politics into the question, but he was the only one who had done it. It was absurd to say that he (Mr. Keith) was responsible for the unsuccessful working of the labor bureau bill. The first objection to the bill came from Victoria city. At the meeting held at Nanaimo Mr. Gray, deputy commissioner, made the only political speech. Col. Baker had read a letter in which the writer said he belonged to almost every trades union. That was impossible, as a working man could not be in two or three businesses at once. He would vote for the \$4000, as he thought a commission of enquiry would be useful. For several years he had endeavored to obtain a vote for the school buildings of Nanaimo, without success. Now on the eve of a general election the government was doing bare justice to Nanaimo.

The motion "that I do now leave the chair" was adopted, and the house went into committee, Mr. Martin in the chair, to consider the supplementary estimates.

Mr. Semlin did not think the vote for the labor commission was justified.

Hon. Mr. Beaven thought it was very serious if the deputy commissioner of labor statistics had made political speeches while gathering statistics.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he did not take much stock in the "serious statements."

Mr. Brown—The attorney-general, having placed his hands in the treasury to provide funds to stamp the country with now wishes the province to pay the expenses of his canvasses. He was at a meeting at New Westminster, when the deputy commissioner, very naturally lauded the government and tried to make out that they were the true friends of the workmen.

Mr. Forster did not see the use of voting \$4000 for a commission of enquiry when the evidence taken before the British commission was at the disposal of the government.

The vote was passed by a vote of 12 to 8.

The committee rose and reported progress to the house.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved a resolution of the Quamichan of the object of which was an official map of Quamichan caused the owners of the trouble. All the lines were wrong. The act would not until it was found that no interference with.

Hon. Mr. Beaven pointed map had already been signed commissioner.

The bill was read a second time. The house went into committee on the Keith in the chair, to consider cover & Westminster tram bill was reported complete and was finally passed. Mr. Turner presented a return of the census.

Mr. Rogers moved the second reading of the cattle bill which he said few words. The chairman of the committee had been consulted and agreed. Mr. Semlin said although a member of the committee there were certain provisions he amended.

Mr. Grant presented a petition for the closing of saloons on Sunday getting certain hours for closing.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented praying for the closing of saloons on Sunday.

The house adjourned at 6 o'clock.

#### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION.

Nakusp & Slocan Railway Company's Bill Read a Second Time.

A Long Afternoon and Night Session During Which Bill is Debated.

The Speaker took the chair at 11 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Beaven presented from Robt. T. Williams, resigning of statutes. Received. The resolution reported from committee of supply were adopted.

Dr. Milne's amendments to the session duties bill were taken further consideration of the bill. Dr. Milne said his amendments would make the bill the Ontario act.

Hon. Mr. Turner objected to amendments. The bill was a very one and entirely different from Ontario act.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the amount should be given more consideration of living in British Columbia much higher than in Ontario, when the bread winner is taken from the family the government proposed them pay a heavy tax. The amount in the bill before the house of the amount exempt in Ontario of estates in the province to be worth a large sum out very little could be realized. He would invest somewhere to encourage this bill should be liberal as the Ontario act.

Hon. Mr. Turner contended duty in Ontario is higher than bill.

Mr. Semlin held that the price of the bill was wrong, so any amount of it he would support.

The amendments were lost.

Dr. Milne moved an amendment exempt \$100,000 left to relatives. The amendment was lost and was finally passed.

Hon. Mr. Beaven continued the on the second reading of the Nakusp & Slocan railway bill. The leader of the government tried to make it appear the cost to the province would be less than by guaranteeing the interest. But the attorney-general based his arguments on wrong principles. He contended that the government could guarantee the bonds up to a mile, or \$25,000, the interest of which would be \$2,000, and that if the government advanced \$17,500 in constructing the road, the interest sinking fund would amount to less than that. The government had authority to guarantee the bonds at per mile, so the attorney-general's argument fell to pieces entirely.

Of last year authorized the government to guarantee the interest on a sufficient to construct and equip road up to \$25,000 per mile. It did not cost \$25,000 per mile to guarantee the interest on the road that did cost. As a matter of fact it would cost more than \$15,200, and some said it would cost more than \$12,000. As the engineer's estimate was an government's estimate was an government's estimate. Yet the government said it would cost \$17,500 per mile and guaranteed interest on per mile. Section 6 of the railway act, respecting the Nakusp & Slocan railway says: "The total amount of interest to be guaranteed by the government of British Columbia upon the line of railway in the case of Nakusp & Slocan Railway Company shall neither exceed interest at 4 per cent per annum upon the cost of \$25,000 nor the cost to the company and Slocan Railway company said railway enterprise, which ever be the smaller amount." If the government had obtained from the company sufficient to carry out the provisions of the estimate was an upon to pay anything, as they could on the bonds for the payment of interest. It is true that the company deposited \$118,400, but the government had placed that in the general fund and used it for paying wages and

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Yesterday Afternoon's Session a Very Quiet One.

APRIL 2nd. AFTER RECESS. The debate was resumed on Dr. Milne's proposed amendment to the act, providing that the tax on mineral claims should not be more than ten cents nor less than ten cents an acre. The amendment was withdrawn and the bill was finally passed.

The house went into committee on the bill, Dr. Milne being absent. The members of the opposition asked the committee rise and report progress as Dr. Milne had several amendments to move. Col. Baker declined to do this and that the bill be reported complete. Mr. Rogers moved in amendment that the committee rise and report progress, which was adopted.

The motion to go into committee of the bill, Dr. Milne being absent, the members of the opposition asked the committee rise and report progress as Dr. Milne had several amendments to move. Col. Baker declined to do this and that the bill be reported complete. Mr. Rogers moved in amendment that the committee rise and report progress, which was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Beaven pointed out that the map had already been signed by the chief commissioner. The bill was read a second time. The house went into committee, Mr. Keith in the chair, to consider the Vancouver & Westminster tramway bill. The bill was reported complete with amendments and was finally passed. Hon. Mr. Turner presented a return respecting the census.

Mr. Rogers moved the second reading of the cattle bill which he explained in a few words. The gentlemen of the province had been consulted and agreed to the bill. Mr. Semlin said although he had been a member of the committee he thought there were certain provisions that should be amended.

Mr. Grant presented a petition against the closing of saloons on Sunday and suggesting certain hours for closing. Hon. Mr. Davie presented a petition praying for the closing of barber shops on Sunday.

The house adjourned at 6 o'clock.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Nakusp & Slooan Railway Company's Bill Read a Second Time After Debate.

A Long Afternoon and Night Session During Which the Bill is Debated.

APRIL 3. The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock. Hon. Mr. Beaven presented a petition from Robert T. Williams, respecting the binding of statutes. Received. The resolution reported from the committee of supply were adopted.

Dr. Milne's amendments to the succession duties bill were taken up on the further consideration of the report on that bill. Dr. Milne said his amendments would make the bill the same as the Ontario act.

Hon. Mr. Turner objected to the amendments. The bill was a very liberal one and entirely different from the Ontario act. Hon. Mr. Beaven said the amendments should be given more consideration. The cost of living in British Columbia is much higher than in Ontario, and just when the bread winner is taken from the family the government proposed to make them pay a heavy tax. The amount exempt in the bill before the house is half of the amount exempt in Ontario. He knew of estates in the province thought to be worth a large sum out of which very little could be realized. People had told him that if the bill was passed they would invest somewhere else. To discourage this the bill should be made as liberal as the Ontario act.

Hon. Mr. Turner contended that the duty in Ontario is higher than in the bill. Mr. Semlin held that the principle of the bill was wrong, so any modification of it he would support.

The amendments were lost. Dr. Milne moved an amendment to exempt \$100,000 from relatives. The amendment was lost and the bill was finally passed.

Hon. Mr. Beaven continued the debate on the second reading of the Nakusp & Slooan railway bill. The leader of the government tried to make it appear that the cost to the province would be less than by guaranteeing the interest only. But the attorney-general based his arguments on wrong principles. He (the attorney-general) held that the government could guarantee the bonds up to \$25,000 a mile, or \$925,000, the interest on which would be \$32,000, and that if the government advanced \$17,500 a mile for constructing the road, the interest and sinking fund would amount to little less than that. The government had no authority to guarantee the bonds at \$25,000 per mile, so the attorney-general's line of argument fell to pieces entirely. The act of last year authorized the government to guarantee the interest on an amount sufficient to construct and equip the railroad up to \$25,000 per mile. But if it did not cost \$25,000 per mile they were to guarantee the interest on the amount that the road did cost. As a matter of C.P.R. engineer said it would not cost of the road at \$17,500 per mile, but the C.P.R. said it would not cost more than \$15,200, and some said it should not cost more than \$12,000. At any rate the engineer's estimate was under the government's estimate. Yet the government said it would cost \$17,500 per mile and they guaranteed interest on \$25,000 per mile. Section 6 of the railway act, respecting the Nakusp & Slooan railway says: "The total amount of interest to be guaranteed by the government of British Columbia upon the whole of the line of railway in the case of the Nakusp & Slooan Railway company, shall neither exceed interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum upon the sum of \$925,000 the cost to the said Nakusp & Slooan Railway company of the said railway enterprise, which ever shall be the smaller amount." If the government had obtained from the company a bond sufficient to carry out the obligations, the province would not be called upon to pay anything, as they could go on the bonds for the payment of the interest. It is true that the company had deposited \$118,400, but the government had placed that in the general revenue and used it for paying wages and travel-

ing expenses. It was also provided in the act of 1893 that the bill should not come into force until proclaimed by the Lieut-Governor-in-council. The act was not proclaimed until August 18th, 1893. This date should be recollected, as the first agreement entered into respecting the Nakusp & Slooan Railway between the chief commissioner and the company was signed on August 9th. This was before the act was in force. He wondered that the attorney-general attempted to do something that he had no legal right to do. Anything done under an act that had not been proclaimed has no legal effect whatever. The act of 1893 authorized an agreement with the C.P.R., or some other company, for the running of the road. Acting under this the Nakusp & Slooan Railway company entered into an agreement with the C.P.R. on August 9th. This was also before the act was in force, so the agreement is not worth the paper it is written on. The act further said that certain things should be done under an order-in-council, but the attorney-general admitted that there was no such order-in-council, so there was no foundation at all for the scheme. And the house was asked to ratify the guaranteeing of both principle and interest on the bonds of the company. It looked as though the interests of the company were of more importance to the government than were the interests of the province. If the province was going to give the company the money to build the road, why could not the province obtain the money and build the road and own it, instead of building it and then handing it over to a number of private individuals? If there was any loss the province would have to stand it, while if there was a profit the members of the private company would pocket it. The government had assumed the authority to make an agreement, why did they not have assumed authority to build the road? They exceeded their authority in every way. If it was in the interest of the province to build the road and the province was putting up the money for the company, why could not the province own it? The members of the executive seemed to be more interested in what the bonds would sell at than the way in which the rights of the province would be guarded. All the agreements had been entered into by the members of the executive without obtaining the assent of the Lieut-Governor to an order-in-council. The agreement by which all rights were assigned to the chief commissioner by the C.P.R. was signed before the bill was proclaimed, and therefore had no effect. The act did not give the minister of finance power to endorse the bonds until they had been sold and the money had been placed in his hands to disburse for the construction of the road. The government did not say that the amount obtained for the bonds, about \$925,000, had been placed in his hands, but that was the only condition under which they could be guaranteed. Section 13 of the act of 1893 says: "Notwithstanding anything in this act contained, the total amount of the said bonds which are or shall be issued by the said companies, at the request and with the consent of the company, may be sold and issued with the authority and consent of the minister of finance on such terms and at such price and at such time as the company, subject to the consent of the minister of finance, approve of; provided always that the purchase money and proceeds of the said bonds shall be paid to and be retained by the government of the province of British Columbia, in the place and stead of the said bonds until the company become entitled to receive the same on the certificate of the chief commissioner of lands and works from time to time, as provided by this act." All the government had the authority to do was to guarantee the interest on the bonds up to \$25,000 per mile, or as much less as the road should cost. It was shown by the engineer's report that the road would not cost that amount, nor anything like it. The act of 1893 also provides that the bonds should be approved by the Lieut-Governor-in-council, but there was nothing to show that they had even been submitted to the Lieut-Governor-in-council. It was all very well for the government to pretend ignorance, but they knew the facts only too well. The whole transaction was illegal. The bill before the house proposed to authorize the government to guarantee bonds of the company which would cost the province about \$39,000 a year. Why should the government guarantee the bonds of a private company to build a railway? The credit of the province was as good as the credit of the company. If they had to guarantee the bonds they should be able to build the railway. If a business firm had \$600,000 with which to build a railway would they give it to some private individual and say, "Here, you build the road, and if there is any profit, you keep it; if there is any loss we will stand it." It must require a lot of cheek for the government to make such a proposition to a deliberative body of men. The province was finding the money to build a road for a private company. The ministers were paid a large salary by the province, he did not know that they were being paid by the company. The whole transaction would not stand one moment's investigation. The attorney-general had had to condemn his own policy of guaranteeing the interest on the bonds of railways to commend the scheme before the house. When the proposition was first placed before the people the government said that it would not cost the province a cent, and the other day he spent several hours condemning the principle and told the legislature that they adopted it and were stupid for doing so.

Hon. Mr. Davie here offered Mr. Beaven a pamphlet containing his (Mr. Davie's) speech on the bill before the house.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said he did not wish to read immoral literature. (Laughter.) He was forced to listen to it sometimes, but he did not wish to place it among his other papers for personal perusal. The people were finding all the money to build the road and at the end of a certain time they were to be given the right to purchase 49 per cent. of the stock, the company holding the controlling interest. It was the essence of presumption to ask men to endorse such a scheme. It was saying to the company, "Here is the money to build the road, but we reserve the right to buy, after a time, 49 per cent. of the stock, leaving you the controlling interest." If a man put his hands in the treasury (but it is empty now) and helped himself and then went through town telling every one that he had looted the treasury, he would not think any loss of him than he did of the government in this transaction. A more barefaced thing had never been done in any part of the world. Another peculiar feature of the matter was that the province had agreed not only to guarantee the bonds for the construction but also for the equipment of the road to the extent of \$25,000 a mile. As a matter of fact the C.P.R. was equipping the road and using old rails at that. Still the government had agreed to pay for those rails the price of new rails delivered at Revelstoke. Perhaps his idea that the government should guard the interests of the province was an antiquated one, and that it was the duty of the government to look after the interests of the N. & S. and C. P. railway companies. No matter how good the members of the company were as citizens, the province would not hand over to them \$947,000, with the understanding that if anything was to be gained they would benefit by it, that the province should take all the risk and that they should derive all the benefit. (Applause.)

Mr. Sword thought the government would have answered the charge that they had exceeded the statute. The people of the province would endorse that statement. The attorney-general said last year that the interests of the province would be closely guarded before the guarantee was given, and that the guarantee would not be given until the road had been completed, although amounts could be advanced during construction. The attorney-general's statements in introducing the present measure were hardly in accord with the facts. Supplies can be taken into the district as easily as they will be when the road is completed. What Kootenay wants is a competing system of railways, so that the miners will be given fair freight rates. In the interest of Kootenay and the province it would be better to let the C.P.R. have the line built between Slooan and Kaslo. He pointed out the difficulty the house had had in securing information respecting the scheme, and even now the papers were not entirely satisfactory. The government had guaranteed the bonds to a larger extent than they had authority to do. A tender was put in at \$20,000 a mile, there were some very extraordinary provisions in the specifications, which were modified in the contract without new tenders being called for. The bonds of the Nakusp & Slooan company should have been in a much better position in the money market. The attorney-general read a report that said the grades and curves on the road would compare with the C. P. R. That would not be saying much, as there were grades and curves on the C. P. R. that were for temporary convenience only. Last year it was understood that the province should assist the enterprise, not supply all the money to build the road. If it was necessary to do this the government should have reformed the company and taken the railway into their own hands. The more the question was looked into the more unsatisfactory it would appear. The province was supplying the funds and the company was to reap the benefit of any profits.

Hon. Mr. Turner contended that it was preposterous to say that the bonds should not be endorsed. If the railway pays well the 40 per cent. of the earnings which is to come to the province would protect the province against any loss. There were private firms that did business in the same way for a small commission. The firms take all the risks and none of the profit. With the scheme before the house there was a profit for the province in the development of the district through which the road runs. The cry when he first entered the house was to develop the province by building railways. Why the leader of the opposition had given a company half the land on the island. That was the most liberal thing he had ever done and he honored him for it. He (Mr. Turner) might say that the leader of the opposition was being paid by opponents of the Nakusp railway. It was just as probable as was the statement that the government were being paid by the company. He contended that the cost of negotiating the bonds was as much included in the cost of construction as was the actual work done on the road. If the government had to pay the bonds they became the bond-holders and would take the line and have to the good the 40 per cent. of the earnings. He did not say that the principle was perfect, but they were "greenhorns" in the business. But nevertheless the government had succeeded in developing the country by railways.

Mr. Brown said there was still nothing from the government except the premier's speech on the introduction of the bill, and that was nearly a month old. The finance minister's speech was a fair specimen of that vague and general statement which the government was so fond of. They disliked nothing so much as to come down to facts and figures. It was ridiculous to contend, as the finance minister had contended, that it was better to borrow all the money a company asked for and give it to them than for the province

to build the line itself. Turning to the speech of Mr. Davie, delivered last month, Mr. Brown said when we cut out from the premier's speech that part which was prophetic, there was not a great deal left. He hoped the prophecies would prove to be more accurate than the history was. Mr. Davie had tried to make it appear that members on the opposition side of the house had heartily supported and approved of the government's railway policy. It suited his (Mr. Davie's) purpose to say that now, just as at other times it suited him to declare that the same members offered a factious opposition to everything the government proposed. The fact was that the feeling of uneasiness on the opposition side had found frequent and strong expression, but their anxiety for the development of the country had caused the expression to take the form of criticism of the government's methods rather than of direct opposition to their proposals—and that criticism had been more than justified by the premier's speech. In the immediate history of this deal, two or three points needed explanation. Look, for instance, at the eager feverishness displayed here, as contrasted with the cold neglect of the Chilliwack railway scheme. He would not estimate the relative importance of the schemes. It was sufficient that the Chilliwack railway scheme was a matter of vast importance to a populous and growing community, which was kept from full prosperity by the absence of the outlet which the proposed railway would give. All the province had been asked for was two per cent. on about a quarter of a million—a mere guarantee of interest to that amount—and it was certain that the road would pay from the start. The people were there and the business was there; there was no speculation about the matter. The house had granted the guarantee last session, but the government had refused to carry it out, and when the premier had spoken of the matter at Chilliwack, he told the people that he had merely put it off in order to do better for them. Now we were left to infer that nothing is to be done. It was strange to say the least of it, that a perfectly safe and sound scheme like the Chilliwack railway—where everything was plain, open and aboveboard—was refused the loan of the provincial credit—for that was all, there was no risk of the loss of a dollar—from the same government which had rushed ahead with such haste to guarantee both principle and interest on a scheme, highly important no doubt, but still speculative to a degree. Coming back to Nakusp-Slooan, take an extract from the premier's speech, "He, Mr. Davie, pressed upon Mr. Van Horne to build the line."

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make good ordinary wear and tear. Reverting to the question he had asked, "Where did the whole affair come in?" he thought the whole affair bore a very suspicious aspect. One day the premier represented himself as the chief agent and negotiator of the whole affair—the next, he answered a lot of important questions about the enterprise in the words, "I do not know, neither did I enquire." Then he had given the house a rose-colored calculation founded upon palpably dishonest data. Couple these things with the evident reluctance to afford information, and the many and emphatic statements of men who had seen the work, and the grounds of suspicion were plain enough. He, Mr. Brown, had a statement which showed that somebody stood to clear a quarter of a million on the line, if it never earned a dollar. Even aside from these suspicious circumstances, it is quite plain that the province would have gained largely, both directly and indirectly, by building the line itself. As for the statements presented, they are ex parte, and so made up of supposition and hearsay, that they are of little value. For instance, the statement as to the men composing the construction company is an affidavit that somebody told somebody that so-and-so formed the company. It was easy to prove anything in such a fashion as that. Mr. Brown then reviewed the acts and utterances of the government in the matter, and said that when these were coupled with the strong statements published in the papers, and the assertion of engineers who knew the line, to the effect that it was not costing within at least \$4000 per mile of the amount guaranteed, one was forced to one of two conclusions: Either the government had managed matters in such a way as to give some individuals a chance to make a large illegitimate profit out of the railway, or else they had been so ignorant and so careless that certain men had made cat-spaws of them for their private advantage. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Vernon said there had been no objection to the act passed last year, and if that bill had been carried out there would be nothing said now. But the government made a better bargain, one that would save money for the province. The government had done as they did at the suggestion of London financiers. The people all over the province and the C. P. R. pressed the government to take steps to have the road constructed. The C. P. R. said if the government had the Nakusp road constructed, they would construct their road from Revelstoke to Arrow Lake, so that the government in acting as they did had the Nakusp road built and were instrumental in having the Revelstoke and Arrow Lake line built. When the line was completed the cost would be brought to the coast and sent around the Horn to Swansca for smelting for less than the cost could be sent to the United States. The matter had been looked into by the government and the C. P. R. before anything was done. The C. P. R. were not in the habit of rushing in and leasing every road that the government wished to build. There was no question about the road being a good one. The opposition must have seen by the correspondence that the road was a first-class one. The only question was, did the road cost too much. The government was not building the road, although they were contributing largely to it. But it must be remembered that the company obtained the charter from the Dominion government at considerable expense. It was not to be expected that the government would, if they could, step in and take the charter away from the company.

The debate was adjourned until 8 o'clock. Mr. Grant presented a petition signed by 700 citizens asking that the clause to close barber shops on Sunday be struck out. The petition was received. The house rose at 6 o'clock.

#### EVENING SESSION.

Hon. Mr. Vernon continued the debate on the Nakusp & Slopac Railway bill, emphasizing the arguments he advanced before recess in support of the measure. The government had proved their assertions by sworn statements made by responsible men. The assertions made by the opposition were mere hearsay. It was true the C.P.R. engineer had said the road could be built for \$15,200 a mile, but it must be remembered that he calculated that it would cost the C.P.R. that. Other companies would not build the road as cheaply as the C.P.R. as the C.P.R. had their own engineers and rolling stock and could transport their own material. The objections of the opposition had resolved into the statement that the government had paid more for the road than they should. But after perusing the correspondence they must believe otherwise. The general opinion was that the government had acted in the best interests of the province and had made a better bargain than provided for in the bill of last year.

Mr. Cotton said the speeches of the chief commissioner were always enjoyed although he could not agree with him. Mr. Vernon had fallen into the same ruse as his colleague, viz., that the opposition had some motive for opposing the bill. It was quite competent for the opposition to disagree with the government. In introducing the bill of last year the premier had promised that if the power was left in the hands of the government to aid the railways, every safeguard would be placed around the scheme and no responsibilities would be assumed by the province. The premier made a trip to Kootenay and decided that the railway was needed immediately. From the way the bill was introduced last year one would have thought that that trip was unnecessary. In July last year the C.P.R. engineer reported on the cost of the road which gave the government an idea of the cost, after which there was a blank of several months. It was not necessary to make insinuations, the people could judge of the scheme on the facts. The C.P.R. engineer had estimated the cost of the road at \$15,200 per mile, which Mr. Abbott said was a liberal estimate, although it should be added for contingencies. It was advanced by Mr. Vernon that the estimate of the C.P.R. engineer as to the cost of the building of a road by the C.P.R. should not be taken as a basis of the cost to other companies. You may be sure that the engineer would make a liberal estimate of the cost of the road, as if it cost his company more than his estimate his position would not be worth much. He had no doubt that the engineer's estimate was a liberal one. Extraordinary provisions were placed in the specifications for the construction of the road, one of which was that there should be a cheque of \$118,000 enclosed. This is a very large amount, so no wonder there were very few tenders and that only one contractor complied with the specifications. If new tenders had been called for under the new conditions which did away with the necessity of depositing the enormous cheque the tenders would have no doubt been very different. If the government had looked after the matter properly they would have seen to it that new tenders were called for under the new conditions which would decrease the amount that the government would have to guarantee. Until the government had shown the house more facts and figures the opposition would continue to hold that the government had not properly protected the province for the amount that they had made the province responsible for. He contended that if the matter had been properly attended to nearly \$200,000 could be saved. The necessity for contractors to deposit \$118,000 had prevented many contractors from tendering. The present contractor had decreased his tender from \$25,000 a mile under the new conditions. The 2 per cent. sinking fund for 25 years would not pay the amount as the premier had said. If the railway was to be all the premier said it would, the province would never get it as the company would pay their interest and have a lot left. There was no provision to bind the C.P.R. to leave the road in proper condition when their lease is up. A couple of streaks of rust on rotten ties may be left. The government was allowing the matter to be carried on in such a way that the road would cost more than it should. New rails could be delivered on the ground for \$32 a ton, while the C.P.R. was charging the government \$40 for second hand rails. This was quite a large item by itself. If the government had found it necessary to change the arrangements provided for in the act of last year they should have changed the details to conform to the new conditions. If it was proposed to subsidize railways as the government had done in this case, the province might just as well own the roads. As far as he could see ten persons had put up \$3,000 apiece as a guarantee fund, which they would have returned to them with what ever profits were derived from the work done with the money provided by the government. After the province had built the road, the company in their magnanimity say the province may have 49 per cent. of the stock if they pay for it. The government had been careful not to explain why they had not treated the Nicola and Chilliwack railways the same as they had treated the Nakusp company. The premier told the people of the interior and Nansimo that the government had a comprehensive railway policy, but it had not made its appearance in the house as yet. If the province finds all the money to build the railways and takes all the risks the province should receive all the gains. If the Nakusp and C.P.R. companies make \$100,000 or more they have a perfect right to it, but the people look to the government to protect them. The government had not acted prudently nor had they made a good bargain for the province. (Applause.)

Mr. Hall spoke in answer to Mr. Cotton and in favor of the bill. Mr. Grant thought the government had done just what they should have done and he did not think the province would lose anything. In fact he thought the government did not do enough in the way of encouraging the building of railways. The road could not have been built at a cheaper rate. Mr. Booth said it was necessary that a railway should be built in the district through which the Nakusp & Slopac railway runs. He commended the government for changing their railway policy and following the plan that they had pursued. He did not think any fault could be found with the government for not proceeding with the Chilliwack road. The fact that the C.P.R. had undertaken to run the road for 60 per cent. of the gross earnings was a guarantee that the province would not be called upon to pay anything. Hon. Mr. Davis wanted to make a second speech, but Hon. Mr. Beaven objected unless every member was given the same opportunity. Mr. Speaker—I will not allow any member to speak twice. Hon. Mr. Davis—You all want to speak twice, ten against one. Mr. Cotton—Why, are you the only member of the government? You have got three members to every opposition member. The bill was read a second time by 19 to 10, Mr. Grant voting with the government. The adjourned debate on Mr. Sward's motion to refer to a select committee, the bill to authorize the granting of a crown grant of the townsite of Three Forks, was taken up. The motion to refer the bill to a select committee was negatived and Mr. Brown continued the debate on the second reading. He did not think it was proper legislation to provide that a crown grant should be issued two months before the regular time. The statute books could be filled with such legislation. The growth of the town could not be seriously impeded by waiting two months for the is-

suance of the crown grant. He would feel uncomfortable if he found that on ex parte statements he had deprived somebody of their rights. Hon. Mr. Vernon explained that the bill had been left on the order paper for over a month to allow any rival claimants to protest against it, which not one had done. There were no public or private rights affected. The bill was read a second time. Hon. Mr. Davis rose to a question of privilege. In the Times on Monday evening there was published an extract from a leading article from the News-Advertiser, which said that in 1892 when the Trin cities railway bill was before the house, the attorney-general argued as the chief reason for refusing to grant a second company a charter, the fact that the company which had already constructed the line had neither asked for nor received any aid from the province. Mr. Davis said that was entirely false. The report on the bill to authorize certain dyking and drainage works in the district of New Westminster was adopted after the bill had been amended. The Hall's mines bill was partly considered in committee and the house adjourned at 11:50.

#### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

##### Another Long But Very Quiet Session Held Yesterday Afternoon and Evening.

##### A Number of Bills Finally Passed and Others Advance a Stage.

APRIL 3.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock. The committee on the Gauvren expedition presented its report, accompanying which was the evidence taken. Report was received. Hon. Mr. Beaven presented an amended petition from Hobb, T. Williams respecting the binding of the statutes. The speaker having ruled the former one out, as their was no prayer.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved that the petition be received and printed. Hon. Mr. Turner said the petition contained statements that should be considered before being printed.

The speaker ruled that the petition should remain on the table for 24 hours. Mr. Rogers moved that whereas by the Dominion tariff a bounty of two dollars per ton of pig iron is allowed; and whereas there is a large quantity of lead ore in the province which might be mined and become a very valuable industry and source of profit; therefore, be it resolved, that the Dominion government be urged to make a similar regulation in the tariff and allow a bounty on pig lead. The resolution was adopted.

The house again went into committee on the Hall mines bill which was reported complete. The consolidated electric railway and light company's bill was passed through committee.

Hon. Mr. Turner presented a message containing the final supplementary estimates. The school act was passed through committee, Dr. Milne not being present to introduce his proposed amendments.

Mr. Brown asked the leader of the government: 1. Have any charges been preferred against the government agent in West Kootenay district of improper conduct? 2. If so, what was the nature of the charges? 3. What steps has the government taken to investigate the matter? Hon. Mr. Davis asked which government agent was referred to. Mr. Brown—Mr. Fitzstubbis. Hon. Mr. Davis—No charges have been preferred.

Mr. Brown asked the leader of the government the following questions—1. Was not the attention of the government called to the lawlessness prevailing in the Northern Archipelago, by responsible men, some six months before the murder of O'Connor and Green? 2. If so, why were no steps taken until after the occurrence of these crimes? Hon. Mr. Davis said there had been information received from time to time regarding the liquor traffic, but further than this there were no complaints of lawlessness.

Several amendments, agreed upon, by the premier and the members for Westminster district, were inserted on consideration of the report of the drainage, dyking and irrigation bill. The bill respecting the official map of Quamichan district was finally passed. In committee of the whole, on the Horsely hydraulic mining company's bill, Hon. Mr. Beaven moved the following as a new section: "And also a covenant that the company, or their agents, will not employ a Chinese or Japanese person in or about or on the property described, or on any part thereof, or on the work in connection therewith, under a sufficient penalty to enforce the observance of the covenants."

Hon. Mr. Davis said he did not think there would be any objection to prevent the company from employing Chinese miners, but the company should be allowed to employ a Chinese cook. Hon. Mr. Beaven said that would leave the clause open to evasion. Little exceptions would open the door to the employment of Chinamen. Dr. Milne said the province was giving the company a great deal and the least they should do would be not to employ Chinamen.

Mr. Rogers favored the clause if it was imposed on all companies alike. Mr. Grant made a long plea for the Chinese.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said he was sorry that the last speaker did not recognize the fact that a great deal of the distress in the province was caused by the employment of Chinese. It was nonsense to say that the clause would drive capitalists out. This was said when the Vancouver water works company's bill was before the house, and it was inserted and did not prevent the company from investing their capital.

Mr. Anderson spoke against the clause. Mr. Brown said the government were very fond of saying they wanted to restrict Chinese labor, but when they were given a chance to do something they got out of it in some way.

Hon. Mr. Davis said that as the company had said they did not wish to employ Chinamen their sincerity should be put to the test. He would therefore vote for the clause.

Mr. Hunter introduced an amendment to include all foreigners. Hon. Mr. Davis said some of the other foreigners were more dangerous competitors of the workmen than were the Chinamen.

Mr. Hunter withdrew his first amendment. The house rose at 6 o'clock.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The bill to authorize certain dyking and drainage works in the district of New Westminster was read a third time and passed.

The house went into committee, Mr. Kitchen in the chair, to consider the bill to provide for official scalars of timber. The bill was reported complete with amendments.

The bill to authorize a crown grant for the townsite of Three Forks was passed through the final stages.

Dr. Milne moved the second reading of the creditors' trust deeds bill. The act of 1890 he said was unworkable and he proposed to alter this. An assignment registered in one district would not hold good in other districts. The bill provided that an assignment registered in one district would hold good all over the province. The act of 1890 does not say when or for how long the notice should be published; his bill provided that it should be published in a newspaper for a month. Then by the bill an assignment would take precedence of all judgments, and provision was made for the calling of a meeting of creditors within ten days from the date of the assignment. A creditor could vote either personally or by proxy and a scale was proposed for the number of votes that creditors should have. By the present act a man to whom \$1 was owed had the same vote as a man to whom \$5,000 was owed. The assignees could be voted remuneration by the creditors. It was not fair to ask the assignees to do the work for nothing. The amendments, he thought, would make the act of 1890 workable.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said there were some provisions in the bill that required careful consideration. There were other provisions that were good. If any involuntary act was passed through the Dominion house it would precede the bill before the house.

The debate was adjourned, the attorney-general being absent. Mr. Martin moved the second reading of the game bill. It was a different bill to the one which was given a six months' hoist. The clause to which objection had been taken had been struck out.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the bill was practically the same as the one that had been given a six months' hoist.

Hon. Mr. Vernon contended that the principal of the former bill was the exportation of deer skins, which feature had been struck out of the present bill. Mr. Speaker said it was for the house to decide.

The bill was read a second time. The house went into committee, Mr. Hall in the chair, to consider the cattle act. Mr. Semlin introduced an amendment which was adopted, providing that it would not be necessary to re-register brands already registered.

The bill was reported complete with amendments. Mr. Rogers moved the second reading of the licenses bill, which he said would explain itself.

Mr. Kitchen said the trouble in the bill was that it did not explain what portion the bill intended to amend. Mr. Sward said there were no simpler provisions in the present act.

Mr. Hunter—The bill provides for additional safeguards in connection with the transfer of licenses. Hon. Mr. Beaven—The trouble is that the bill recognizes the right to transfer licenses.

On the motion to read the bill a second time nine voted for and nine against the bill. The speaker gave his casting vote in favor of the bill. He said he thought he should follow the English practice and allow the bill to go to committee of the whole for further discussion.

Hon. Col. Baker continued the debate on Hon. Mr. Beaven's motion: "That this house is of opinion that whenever two or more statutes bearing upon the same subject are combined and issued from the printing office prior to the consolidation being legalized by the legislative assembly, that the pamphlet so issued should bear an endorsement indicating that the consolidation had not been so legalized, but that the original statutes could be perused in the annual volume mentioning it." Col. Baker moved an amendment to strike out all the words after "subject": In the second line and insert "are legalized by the legislative assembly, the Lieut.-Governor-in-council should be authorized to consolidate the statutes into one act."

Hon. Mr. Beaven contended that that was a matter for the committee of the whole to decide and by provisions of appointment of the committee of the whole the committee of the whole should be empowered to do so. The speaker said that was a matter for the committee of the whole to decide.

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#### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

##### Bills Being Passed Through House Without a Deal of Delay.

##### Does the Government Show Intention in Giving Out Book-Binding.

APRIL 3.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock; prayers by the Rev. Macleod.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved that do resolve itself into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of considering the petition of Robert T. Williams in reference to the binding of the journals and sessional papers of the assembly, and other work of a similar character required by the province; copies of all tenders and contracts such work, received or executed during the last eight years, be placed in a house and referred to a select committee of the house to report thereon. The mover said, turning to the speaker, it would be seen that the mover expressed the opinion that tenders be called for for the binding of statutes, etc. The resolution had no effect. The work had been given to a matter of favoritism. The government had paid \$1 a volume for binding statutes of 1893. This had been done by Mr. Miller. He had shown several practical binders and the estimate he had for it was 40 cents a volume, although the house had paid \$1 for it. If so what about the two hundred bound in paper for which the government paid 75 cents a volume. If the government had 80 cents a volume it would be bound in the statutes the spend it on roads, streets and when work of the kind had to be done it should be put up to public competition, but it was not the way with public funds.

Hon. Col. Baker read a statement of the Queen's printer saying that he had formerly done the binding of the Queen's journals and that he had been using the public money with liberality and extravagance. The petition from Mr. Williams in reference to the government was being money.

Hon. Mr. Turner said he had a message from a workman saying that other binder paid higher wages and had his men shorter hours than Mr. Williams. The statement was entirely untrue as were the statements in Mr. Williams' petition. In 1888, when tenders were called for binding the sessional papers and Mr. Williams' tender was \$3.05 a volume, and Mr. Miller bid \$3.00. Later on when the statute books were bound the price was paid. If the price was paid for the work for the last tenders were called for work for the land registry office a contract was awarded to Mr. Miller because his work was better.

Mr. Brown said the last speaker overlooked the main point in the petition, viz., that the work should be done by contract. There were four binders in the province capable of doing the work, and the question was why work not done by public competition. The chances are that the province is paying too much for the work. The price of the charges was to call for tenders. The statements read by Mr. Turner no doubt inspired by the rival sentiment.

Hon. Mr. Davis thought the matter could be safely left in the hands of the government. As has been shown finance minister, Mr. Williams had done more for binding small books than Miller charged for binding large volumes. At times tenders were called for binding. He thought tenders should be called for, and he had no doubt tenders would be called for this time. The work was not given to Mr. Williams for political purposes, as Mr. Williams was as strong a supporter of the government as Mr. Miller.

Dr. Milne said the government's place before the house the tenders contracts. But they had not called tenders as laid down in the resolution of the house. The attorney-general said Mr. Williams was a government porter. Why it was only a few ago that Mr. Williams was an opposition candidate to the government. Only way he could receive any government work was by being friendly to the government.

Mr. Hunter spoke in opposition to the resolution. Mr. Cotton said the members were sured by the premier early in the session that tenders were called for. This was the reason why the resolution was introduced early in the session. He had thought that Mr. Williams was a terrible person, but the premier had denied Mr. Williams' character. The statement of the premier would place every reliance upon the petition.

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APRIL 3.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock; prayers by the Rev. Macleod.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved that do resolve itself into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of considering the petition of Robert T. Williams in reference to the binding of the journals and sessional papers of the assembly, and other work of a similar character required by the province; copies of all tenders and contracts such work, received or executed during the last eight years, be placed in a house and referred to a select committee of the house to report thereon. The mover said, turning to the speaker, it would be seen that the mover expressed the opinion that tenders be called for for the binding of statutes, etc. The resolution had no effect. The work had been given to a matter of favoritism. The government had paid \$1 a volume for binding statutes of 1893. This had been done by Mr. Miller. He had shown several practical binders and the estimate he had for it was 40 cents a volume, although the house had paid \$1 for it. If so what about the two hundred bound in paper for which the government paid 75 cents a volume. If the government had 80 cents a volume it would be bound in the statutes the spend it on roads, streets and when work of the kind had to be done it should be put up to public competition, but it was not the way with public funds.

Hon. Col. Baker read a statement of the Queen's printer saying that he had formerly done the binding of the Queen's journals and that he had been using the public money with liberality and extravagance. The petition from Mr. Williams in reference to the government was being money.

Hon. Mr. Turner said he had a message from a workman saying that other binder paid higher wages and had his men shorter hours than Mr. Williams. The statement was entirely untrue as were the statements in Mr. Williams' petition. In 1888, when tenders were called for binding the sessional papers and Mr. Williams' tender was \$3.05 a volume, and Mr. Miller bid \$3.00. Later on when the statute books were bound the price was paid. If the price was paid for the work for the last tenders were called for work for the land registry office a contract was awarded to Mr. Miller because his work was better.

Mr. Brown said the last speaker overlooked the main point in the petition, viz., that the work should be done by contract. There were four binders in the province capable of doing the work, and the question was why work not done by public competition. The chances are that the province is paying too much for the work. The price of the charges was to call for tenders. The statements read by Mr. Turner no doubt inspired by the rival sentiment.

Hon. Mr. Davis thought the matter could be safely left in the hands of the government. As has been shown finance minister, Mr. Williams had done more for binding small books than Miller charged for binding large volumes. At times tenders were called for binding. He thought tenders should be called for, and he had no doubt tenders would be called for this time. The work was not given to Mr. Williams for political purposes, as Mr. Williams was as strong a supporter of the government as Mr. Miller.

Dr. Milne said the government's place before the house the tenders contracts. But they had not called tenders as laid down in the resolution of the house. The attorney-general said Mr. Williams was a government porter. Why it was only a few ago that Mr. Williams was an opposition candidate to the government. Only way he could receive any government work was by being friendly to the government.

Mr. Hunter spoke in opposition to the resolution. Mr. Cotton said the members were sured by the premier early in the session that tenders were called for. This was the reason why the resolution was introduced early in the session. He had thought that Mr. Williams was a terrible person, but the premier had denied Mr. Williams' character. The statement of the premier would place every reliance upon the petition.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Bills Being Passed Through the House Without a Great Deal of Delay.

Does the Government Show Favoritism in Giving Out Their Book-Binding.

APRIL 5th.

The Speaker took the chair at two o'clock; prayers by the Rev. P. McF. Macleod.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved that the house do resolve itself into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of considering the petition of Robert T. Williams with reference to the binding of the statutes, journals and sessional papers of the assembly, and other work of a similar character required by the province; and that copies of all tenders and contracts for such work, received or executed during the last eight years, be placed before the house and referred to a committee.

The mover said, referring to the journals, it would be seen that the house had expressed the opinion that tenders should be called for for the binding of the statutes, etc. The resolution had been ignored. The work had been given as a matter of favoritism. The government had paid \$1 a volume for binding the statutes of 1893. This had been paid to M. Miller. He had shown the book to several practical binders and the highest estimate he had for it was 40 cents and the government pays \$1 for it without competition, although the house said tenders should be called for. If that was so what about the two hundred volumes bound in paper for which the government paid 75 cents a volume. If the government had 60 cents a volume to throw away for binding the statutes they should spend it on roads, streets and bridges. When work of this kind had to be done it should be put up to public competition. It might be a way of obtaining political support, but it was not the way to deal with public funds.

Hon. Col. Baker read a statement from the Queen's printer saying that Mr. Williams formerly did the binding but for some reason refused to do any more and the work was given to Mr. Miller, who did it more cheaply than Mr. Williams had been doing it.

Mr. Semlin said he was surprised that a member of the government refused to allow the matter to be investigated in committee of the whole. The house must come to the conclusion that the government had been using the public money with liberality and extravagance for political purposes while the people were calling out for roads, streets and bridges. The petition from Mr. Williams verified the charge that the government was wasting money.

Hon. Mr. Turner said he had a statement from a workman saying that another binder paid higher wages and worked his men shorter hours than Mr. Williams. The statement was entitled to as much credence as were the statements in Mr. Williams' petition. In 1885 and 1886, when tenders were called for for binding the sessional papers and statutes Mr. Williams' tender was \$3.05 for the three volumes, and Mr. Miller bid \$1.50. Later on when the statute books were much larger the late Hon. Mr. Robson increased the price to be paid. Year before last tenders were called for for some work for the land registry office and the contract was awarded to Mr. Miller because his work was better.

Mr. Brown said the last speaker had overlooked the main point in the petition, viz., that the work should be done by contract. There were four binderies in the province capable of doing the work, and the question was why was the work not done by public competition? The chances are that the province is paying too much for the work. The only test of the charges was to call for tenders. The statements read by Mr. Turner were no doubt inspired by the rival establishment.

Hon. Mr. Davie thought the matter could be safely left in the hands of the government. As had been shown by the finance minister, Mr. Williams had charged more for binding small books than Mr. Miller charged for binding larger volumes. At times tenders were called for for binding. He thought tenders should be called for, and he had no doubt that tenders would be called for this year. The work was not given to Mr. Miller for political purposes, as Mr. Williams was as strong a supporter of the government as was Mr. Miller.

Dr. Milne said the government should place before the house the tenders and contracts. But they had not called for tenders as laid down in the resolution of the house. The attorney-general had said Mr. Williams was a government supporter. Why it was only a few years ago that Mr. Williams was an opposition candidate to the government. The only way he could receive any government work was by being friendly to the government.

Mr. Hunter spoke in opposition to the resolution.

Mr. Cotton said the members were assured by the premier early in the session that tenders were called for. This was the reason why the resolution was not introduced early in the session. From what the finance minister had said he had thought that Mr. Williams was a terrible person, but the premier had indicated Mr. Williams' character. After the statement of the premier the house could place every reliance upon the petition.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the last speaker had shown why the resolution had not been introduced early in the session. On the strength of what the premier had told him early in the session he had told people that tenders were called for for the binding. The members were in an unfortunate position if they could not believe what a minister of the crown told them. It was too late to appoint a select committee, so the only way to deal with the matter was to resolve the house into committee of the whole and have the papers brought down. The tenders put in several years ago were no criterion. Mr. Williams' political opinions had nothing to do with the matter. The question was could a sum of money be saved by the province. In 1888 it was said tenders would be called for for binding the consolidated statutes, but it was never done.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he did not remember saying that tenders were called for for the binding.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the statement was made in committee on the estimate. He did not think the premier meant to mislead the house. It was the principal secretary's work to attend to the matter. The resolution was negative on a division of 15 to 9.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented papers respecting the case of Davies vs. McMillan.

Mr. Kitchen asked the premier: (1) Is it the intention of the government to do anything to redeem the premier's promise made at Chilliwack in regard to the Chilliwack railroad? (2) On what grounds did the executive decline to carry out the legislation of last session regarding the Chilliwack railroad?

Hon. Mr. Davie—Oh, that's out of order.

Mr. Speaker reserved his decision.

Hon. Mr. Davie continued the debate on the Creditors' Trust Deeds bill. There were, he said, good points in the bill. When the previous bill was passed there were only two registry offices in the province, so it was not so difficult to register assignments all over the province. The bill before the house remedied it. The clause that provided that an assignment should take precedence of all judgments would meet with objections. There was not much objection to other portions of the bill, although it should be approached with timidity as mistakes could easily creep into such legislation. He would not, however, vote against the bill.

The bill was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented an order-in-council respecting law and order in the northern portion of the province.

The house went into committee on the game bill.

The hon. gentleman from Cowichan district defended the mountain goat. He is, he said, a harmless creature and does not even get "as full as a goat," no matter what the provocation. The member for Lillooet at this point took a hand in the "game" and called down the member from Cowichan. He defended himself against the aspersions that he was a "pot-hunter" but maintained that he would take his chances in a "jack-pot." The leader of the opposition "chipped-in" and so did the member for Comox who was a "hunter" and took a shot at "marlin."

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment which would allow deerkins to be exported. The amendment was lost.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

On consideration of the report on the municipal bill, Mr. Brown moved an amendment to the declaration for voters to agree with the qualifications placed in the bill. It was adopted.

Mr. Kitchen moved an amendment establishing householder qualifications in rural municipalities. Adopted.

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

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved an amendment providing that a by-law to be passed should receive the support of 65 per cent. of those who vote. The amendment was lost.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved the following as a new section: "No by-law for borrowing money, which is not to be repayable within the then current year, or for contracting a debt or otherwise upon the credit of a corporation of a city municipality to meet an expenditure or to incur a liability beyond the municipal revenue for the current year, shall be introduced or passed by the council of the corporation unless in addition to the other requirements in that respect a petition signed by the owners of the land or real property in the limits of the municipality subject to taxation, and representing at least one-half the value of the land or real property on the then last revised assessment roll, has first been presented to the council requesting that a by-law may be introduced and considered by the council, stating definitely its purpose." This, Mr. Beaven contended, was necessary as the house had practically abolished property qualifications.

The amendment was lost.

The house rose at 6 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. Grant moved an amendment to the municipal bill which would provide that the corporation should pay their share of local improvement works. Adopted.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved the following as a new clause: "25. The person to whom a new license to sell by retail has been granted and issued shall not be entitled or allowed to transfer the same to any other person, but if he desires a renewal of the said license in his own name he shall make application for such renewal, personally or by agent, to the board of licensing commissioners sitting in open court, and the said board may grant or refuse a renewal of the same at its discretion." This, Mr. Beaven said, imposed no new regulation on the license holders; it simply made it necessary for the license holder to advertise for a renewal.

Mr. Speaker ruled that the amendment, with the exception of the first two lines, was out of order, as a similar motion had been negatived at the same stage of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Beaven amended the resolution as suggested, and it was negatived.

Mr. Grant moved an amendment providing for a board of commissioners to deal with the sinking funds of Victoria. The proposed clause to deal with this read:

"115. A board of commissioners, consisting of three persons to be appointed as hereinafter mentioned, shall have the control and management of all the sinking funds and interest of the corporation of the city of Victoria, and of all moneys realized from special loans until such time as the same are required for the purpose or purposes for which they were obtained. Such board of commissioners may invest such sinking funds either in acquiring local improvement debentures issued by the said corporation, or on first mortgage of real estate, provided that no advance shall be made on mortgage as aforesaid for an amount greater than one-third of the assessed value of such real estate, and at a rate of interest not greater than seven per cent., or may be deposited in any chartered bank doing business in the said city of Victoria from time to time as may be necessary, but in no case shall any investment of any particular sinking fund or of any unexpended moneys or special loans, be made for a period longer than the periods specified in the by-law or other authority authorizing such loans until the same mature or in case of unexpended moneys beyond a period

of one year; and all interest and accumulations arising from such investments as aforesaid shall be subject to be dealt with in like manner as aforesaid. The corporation of the city of Victoria may appoint, by resolution under the seal of the corporation, one of such commissioners; the Lieutenant-Governor in council may, by order in council, appoint one of such commissioners; and the third of such commissioners shall be appointed by a judge of the supreme court of British Columbia upon application in a summary manner by said corporation. Each of the said commissioners shall hold office during the pleasure of his appointment, and all sinking funds and accumulated interest in connection with special loans of the said corporation shall be vested in the said commissioners, in trust for the purpose for which they were obtained, subject to investment as hereinbefore provided. Such commissioners may be paid such remuneration for their services as may be mutually agreed upon by the council of the said corporation and the Lieutenant-Governor in council, to be paid by the said corporation."

Dr. Milne pointed out that money had been borrowed in England on the understanding that the sinking funds would be placed in a chartered bank. The proposition was a dangerous one.

Hon. Mr. Turner opposed the amendment. He said it would tend to decrease the credit of the city.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said it was needless to state that he was opposed to the proposition. It would be breaking faith with the holders of debentures. The council did not desire the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Davie read the leader of the opposition a lecture for calling Hon. Col. Baker the "hero of Cranbrook," but said, nevertheless, he had to agree with him regarding the question before the house.

The amendment was negatived.

Mr. Grant moved the following as a new clause: "When the corporation of any municipality has a sum of money on hand which has been borrowed for a special purpose by the authority of a loan by-law, and when the council deems it undesirable to expend for such purpose the money borrowed, it shall be lawful for the council to place before the ratepayers a by-law providing for the expenditure of such sum of money for some other purpose; said by-law shall be subject to the provisions of the Municipal act, 1892, and amendments as to the passage of by-laws for creating debts." Adopted.

Mr. Grant moved to strike out clause 47 of the act of 1893, which provides for interest on taxes not paid before December 31st. The amendment was passed.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the following as a new clause: "4. The Lieutenant-Governor in council may, when granting letters patent of incorporation to a district municipality, vary the boundaries of the district as mentioned in the petition, for the purpose of making the same regular and in conformity with the boundaries of neighboring municipalities, or so that no small piece of land may be excluded from any municipality or otherwise, as may be expedient." Adopted.

The report of the bill was adopted as amended.

The cattle act amendment bill was passed.

The house went into committee, Mr. Smith in the chair, to consider the Consolidated Electric Railway & Light company's bill.

Mr. Brown moved the committee rise. This brought about a long discussion, the motion finally being voted down.

Dr. Watt moved an amendment providing that no license shall be issued to a Chinaman. The amendment was adopted and the bill was reported complete.

Mr. Speaker ruled that the question asked by Mr. Kitchen during the afternoon should be altered, which he had done. The questions would now read: 1. Is it the intention of the government to do anything in regard to the Chilliwack railroad? 2. On what grounds did the executive fail to carry out the legislation of last session regarding the Chilliwack railroad?

Hon. Mr. Davie deferred his answer.

Mr. Foster, on a question of privilege, asked when the return respecting the arrears on timber royalties would be printed.

Hon. Mr. Davie contended that such documents should not be printed.

Mr. Brown said it should be printed, as it was rumored around that the government were favoring some persons.

The drainage, dyking and irrigation and the county courts bills were finally passed.

The consideration of the report of the school bill to amend sub-section 10 to read as follows: "To suspend or cancel for immorality the certificate of qualification of any teacher; provided always that such teacher may appeal from any such order to the county court judge of the district, or to a supreme court judge, who shall have power to take evidence and confirm or reverse the decision of the council."

Mr. Semlin said the amendment would prevent the government from cancelling the certificates of teachers because they criticized them politically.

The amendment was lost.

Dr. Milne moved to repeal section 50 and insert the following: "The trustees of any school district shall from time to time select and appoint (from amongst those persons properly qualified) the teacher or teachers in the school district of such trustees, and may remove and dismiss such teacher and teachers upon giving at least thirty days' notice to the teacher or teachers of such intention of removal or dismissal, and the reasons therefor. Nothing in this section shall be taken to confer on any teacher a right to such thirty days' notice, or salary in lieu of notice, where any teacher has been suspended by the trustees for gross misconduct: Provided always that in any case where the trustees have dismissed or suspended any teacher on a charge of gross misconduct, such teacher may appeal to the county court judge of the district, who shall have power to take evidence and confirm or reverse the decision of the trustees; but he shall not order the teacher to be reinstated in the same school without the consent of the trustees."

Dr. Milne said this did away with the provision that the council of public instruction could order the trustees to dismiss a teacher. There also the clause allowed a teacher to appeal to a judge, not to the council. It was absurd to say that a teacher should appeal to the body that had dismissed him.

Hon. Col. Baker said this was another clause to take power out of the hands of the council of public instruction. It was in the interests of the teachers that the council, not the trustees, should dismiss the teachers. It was not what some trustees were.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—We know who the members of the council of public instruction are, and some people say they should be punished. The way to obtain good teachers was to give them some power.

Mr. Semlin said the council absorbed all the power, so it was useless to elect trustees.

Mr. McKenzie considered the proposed amendment a good one. The government dismissed teachers for political causes. Why should not teachers be free? The government could claim no right to meddle with the teachers in the cities.

The amendment was lost.

Dr. Milne moved to strike out the clause providing that a candidate for a teacher's certificate must satisfy the board of public instruction. Men who had the very best university degrees could not satisfy the council, simply because they had done something to offend the government.

The amendment was lost, as was also the following introduced by Dr. Milne: 4. To repeal sub-section 10 of section 60 and substitute: To obey the rules and regulations made by the council of public instruction. 5. To repeal section 61 and substitute: Salaries of public school teachers in rural districts shall be paid monthly from the provincial treasury. 6. To repeal section 64 and substitute: School buildings and school lands in rural districts shall be under the control of the lands and works department; but the people of any district shall not be deprived of the use of the school building for the purposes of education, without the consent of the trustees of the district; and provided no public school reserve shall be alienated without the consent of the trustees of the school district in which such reserve is situate.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

The official scalers of timber bill was passed.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he wished to correct an impression that had evidently gone forth. He had received a letter, in which it was stated that he, Mr. Davie, had said tenders would be called for for the binding. He had not said that.

Mr. Semlin asked the premier when the house would prorogue.

Hon. Mr. Davie—On Saturday or Monday. There are one or two more bills to be brought down.

The Consolidated Electric Railway & Light company's bill was finally passed.

The house adjourned at 12.15.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Select Committee of the House to Investigate Book-Bindery Charges.

Nakusp and Slocan Railway Bill Passes Through Committee of the Whole.

APRIL 6. The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock. Prayers by Rev. P. McF. McLeod.

Hon. Mr. Beaven presented a petition from R. T. Williams denying some of the statements made by the government yesterday regarding the binding of the statutes and asking for an investigation.

Mr. Speaker thought the petition contained improper matter, but he would leave it to the house as to whether it should be received.

Hon. Mr. Turner contended that the petition contained improper and impertinent matters and could not be read by the house. No one with any respect for himself would endorse such a petition.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said he could not bring the matter up in time for an investigation by a special committee, as it was not brought to his notice until a few days ago.

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EVENING SESSION.

In the temporary absence of the Speaker, Mr. Martin took the chair.

The house went into committee, Mr. Grant in the chair, to consider the Nakusp & Slocan railway bill.

Mr. Kitchen asked for an explanation of why the government guaranteed \$17,500 per mile of the railway.

Hon. Mr. Vernon thought it had been fully explained on the second reading and by the schedules.

Mr. Kitchen said he wished to know how the government could guarantee \$17,500 per mile in face of the fact that the contractor had to tender on the road before the line was surveyed or any specifications or plans had been prepared.

Hon. Mr. Davie said it was evident that the hon. member would not consider the information laid before the house. He had intended to repeat the facts he had laid before the house when moving the second reading of the bill, but his colleagues had conspired that useless.

He, however, would briefly repeat what he had said. This he did. If the government, he said, had undertaken to build the road they would not have \$118,400 to draw on, this being the amount found by the company in contemplation of the Dominion subsidy.

Mr. Brown said he did not intend to prolong the discussion as the government had evidently made up their minds to rush the bill through in its present form and would steadfastly refuse to give any information, simply repeating their old arguments.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the government had not attempted to answer the arguments against the bill. He took exception to the remark of the attorney-general that all members had admitted the urgency of the road.

He did not know that it was urgent. The whole scheme was very simple. The attorney-general had done all the work for the company and the province had provided all the money for the construction of the road.

A contract was let to a construction company, said by some to be the same as the railway company. The measure was indefensible. If the people supplied the money to build the road they should own it.

He did not say the government would have been justified in doing that without the sanction of the legislature. No one could propose the documents without seeing that the whole scheme was surrounded with suspicion.

He had heard the attorney-general say that if it were not for circumstantial evidence very few jurymen would be hanged. The circumstantial evidence in this case caused the suspicion.

The province, according to the papers, paid all the expenses in connection with the scheme and the attorney-general took a principal part in advancing it.

Hon. Mr. Vernon repeated the speech he delivered on the second reading of the bill.

Mr. Forster said he never believed that it was necessary to rush the line through as it had been done. The only urgency seemed to be to get in ahead of the Kootenay-Slocan railway company and kill that enterprise.

If the members of the government were not interested in the scheme some of their friends were. There must have been some reason for the withdrawal of the lowest tender.

The statement of the attorney-general printed in the Colonist showed that there was something wrong and made it appear that the attorney-general was a member of the company.

The attorney-general had been working for the company, not for the province. It was not in the power of the attorney-general to push a company aside as he had done in this case.

He believed the scheme was not "straight." Hon. Mr. Davie said there was a way to find out whether the members of the government were interested in the company.

The opposition could have moved for a select committee to examine into it. Fraud could not be hidden. He contended that his action showed that he at least was not a member of the company.

He read a statement by Mr. Mohun in which it was contended that if the rails were cheaper more would be needed for ballasting.

Mr. Brown—What is the use of appointing a select committee with a majority of government members upon it? The letter written by Mr. Mohun was extraordinary. He said it ran cost \$8 less a ton the cost of the railway would be increased.

Mr. Mohun had not been engaged in railway construction for some years, and he was the man whom the government chose to look after the road. What Mr. Forster meant was that the attorney-general had no authority to act as agent for the company in the arrangement between the two companies, and the fact that the attorney-general did this made it appear that he was interested in the company.

Mr. Kitchen said the new rails brought out for the road which were to cost \$31 a ton had been used on the C. P. R., and older and lighter ones put down on the Nakusp road.

Mr. Duchesney knew his business too well not to make a liberal estimate of the cost of the road, and would allow for everything.

Hon. Mr. Turner contended that the \$40 a ton included rails and fastenings. Hon. Mr. Beaven said it was idle to talk about a committee of enquiry. Even the house had the greatest difficulty in obtaining the information that they had.

The agreement was entered into in August, 1893, and the government could not give the house the information when it met in January. The public accounts committee could not get the agreement. That was enough to excite suspicion. It would do just as much good to try the attorney-general before himself as to refer this matter to a committee on which there would be a majority of government supporters.

Mr. Sword moved an amendment providing that the interest should not be guaranteed at a rate greater than was necessary to realize par.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. Sword moved another amendment providing that no more bonds should be issued than sufficient to raise \$17,500 per mile.

The amendment was lost. The bill was reported complete without amendments.

The Hall Mines Company bill was read a third time and passed. The house adjourned at 11:50 until 7:30 Saturday evening.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Proceedings at Saturday Night's Sitting—New Bills Introduced.

APRIL 7.

The Speaker took the chair at 7:30 p.m.

The supply bill was passed through the various stages.

The report on the Nakusp & Slocan railway bill was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the Jubilee Hospital bill. The bill, he said, had been carefully drawn and aimed at the better management of the hospital.

The city of Victoria had agreed to assist the hospital and if this was done the city should be represented on the board of managers. The bill also aimed at a decrease in the number of managers.

The bill before the house was the result of combined efforts. Hon. Mr. Beaven did not see any reason why an alderman should be prevented from being a director.

The bill was read a second time and referred to committee of the whole. Dr. Watt in the chair. Hon. Mr. Beaven moved to strike out the provision that members of the city council could not be appointed on the board.

The amendment was lost and the bill was reported complete and passed.

Hon. Mr. Turner presented a message enclosing a bill to levy, assess and collect taxes on the property of railway companies. The bill was referred to committee, reported to the house and read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Davie, by consent, moved the second reading of the bill. It was introduced, he said, on account of the judgment of the supreme court stating that railway property could not be assessed.

There was some difficulty in assessing railway property which would be obviated by the bill which proposed to assess the companies at \$3000 a mile. He did not believe in taxing railway companies too heavily.

The bill was read a second time. The house went into committee, Mr. Croft in the chair, to consider the realtors' trust deeds bill.

Hon. Mr. Davie had an amendment inserted providing that an assignment should not have priority over a registered judgment.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Davie rose to make an explanation. He said since answering a question asked by Mr. Brown a few days ago he had learned that there were complaints against Captain Fitzstubs, government agent in West Kootenay.

The papers in the matter were laid before the house.

Mr. Grant moved on the third reading of the bill to amend the municipal act, 1892, and amending act, to discharge the order and recommit the bill for the purpose of striking out section 34.

The clause provided that in rural municipalities should decide if an inquest was necessary. The clause was inserted on account of the complaints about the coroner in the city of Victoria.

It was a dangerous section to insert. The present law was the proper one. It had worked long and well.

Mr. Brown said he supported the clause because deaths occurred in rural municipalities, the coroner goes there and finds that his visit was an unnecessary one, the municipality being put to a heavy expense.

Hon. Mr. Beaven did not consider the clause a dangerous one. The cities had paid medical health officers who knew just as well as the coroner whether an inquest was necessary or not.

The argument of Mr. Brown answered for the rural municipalities. Several unnecessary inquests had been held in Victoria, although he did not say that the coroner did not act conscientiously.

Dr. Milne thought the clause as it stood was a good one. The health officer was just as responsible as the coroner. The death of every Chinaman or Indian who died without having been attended by a medical man had to be enquired into at the city's expense because there was no one to give a certificate of death.

The same rule applied to rural municipalities but the expense was greater, as the coroner had to travel some distance. He had no desire to take away any power from the coroner.

Hon. Mr. Davie contended that the reasons given were not sound. The motion was adopted and the committee was instructed to consider other amendments proposed by Hon. Mr. Davie.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented a message enclosing a bill to amend the Kootenay-Slocan railway subsidy act. The bill was reported to the house and read a first time.

Mr. Grant introduced a bill to amend the bills of sale act.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented a message enclosing a bill to amend the railway act, 1893. The bill was reported to the house and read a first time.

On consideration of the freeness bill, Hon. Mr. Davie had inserted the only clause in the bill introduced early in the session, that was not in the present bill.

This was done so that there should not be two bills of the same kind on the statutes. The bill was passed.

Mr. Kitchen asked the premier: 1. Is it the intention of the government to do anything in regard to the Chilliwack railway? 2. On what grounds did the executive fail to carry out the legislation of last session regarding the Chilliwack railway?

Hon. Mr. Davie—1—Yes. 2—The question carries an assumption with which I cannot agree.

Dr. Watt asked the attorney-general if it implied in questions 7 and 8 of the interrogatories to be answered by claimants for enrolment as provincial voters, that an elector who has duly established his right to registration as a voter, and been so registered in any district of the province, may have his name registered at once on the register of voters of any other district to which he may remove, provided he shall have resided in the latter district for two months immediately prior to his application for such registration?

Hon. Mr. Davie—Voters may so have their names entered on the register without having their names posted for the usual period.

The house adjourned at 11:40.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Royal Commission to Enquire into Charges Made Against the Government.

Davie & Co. Refuse to Allow a Full Investigation into the Nakusp Scheme.

APRIL 9. The speaker took the chair at 10 o'clock. Prayers by Rev. D. Robson.

Mr. Forster moved: Whereas it is desirable to encourage the industry of shipbuilding in British Columbia; and whereas the building of large ships would be of great benefit to the province; and whereas there is abundance of good timber and other material eminently adapted to the prosecution of such industry; therefore be it resolved that in the opinion of this house it is desirable that the government should take into consideration the advisability of encouraging a similar industry in this province.

There was some discussion as to whether the resolution was in order, the speaker stating that he thought it was out of order, as it suggested that the government should offer a bonus.

Dr. Milne was in favor of the resolution, and he would like to know that the government had done since the passage of a similar resolution two years ago.

The resolution was voted down.

Mr. Brown asked the attorney-general if the act of the Imperial house, known as the "colonial probates act, 1892," an act to justify the government in bringing into force, with respect to the United Kingdom, the act, chap. 19, of the statutes of 1889, which provides for the recognition in this province of proba and letters of administration granted in the United Kingdom, and does the government intend to bring the act into force?

Hon. Mr. Davie—I think the Imperial statute is sufficient. It is the intent of the government to enforce it.

The Cariboo Hydraulic Mining company's bill was passed, Mr. Adams withdrawing his amendment to strike out anti-Chinese clause.

Hon. Mr. Davie rose to a question of privilege. When the house was in committee on the Nakusp & Slocan railway bill Mr. Foster made some remarks fairly reported in the "Times" as follows: "If the members of the government were not interested in the scheme some of their friends were. There must have been some reason for the withdrawal of the lowest tender. The statement of the attorney-general printed in the Colonist showed that there was something wrong and made it appear that the attorney-general was a member of the company."

The attorney-general was a member of the company, not for the province. It was not in the power of the attorney-general to push a company aside as he had done in this case.

Mr. Forster said he had certainly some of what was reported in the "Times" and he would not take back anything that he had said, but there were things reported that he had not said. He did say that the lack of precaution taken by the government was sufficient to cause suspicion.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the suspension of the standing rules to allow him to introduce the following resolution: Whereas, acting under the advice of executive council, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to give a provincial guarantee of interest in the Nakusp & Slocan railway company; and whereas it has been stated by the honorable member for Nanaimo, in his place in the house of assembly, in reference to the said guarantee, that it appeared that the honorable member of the government was a member of the company, and had been working for the company and not for the province; and it has also been stated in the said house of assembly by honorable members, although not charged, that the members of the executive council were actuated by motives in advising His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to give a guarantee of interest in favor of the said Nakusp & Slocan railway company; therefore be it resolved that an honorable address be sent to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor praying him to appoint a royal commission to inquire whether the honorable member was a member of the company, whether in advising the guarantee he worked for the province, and whether he was influenced by any kind of corrupt motives; His Honor's minister to advise tendered by them to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in relation to the Nakusp & Slocan railway.

Mr. Forster—That resolution should be printed before being discussed. It is a statement in it credited to me. I did not make it.

Hon. Mr. Davie—The resolution be printed before I move it. I have taken the "Times" report, because I do not think there would be any objection to it. The purity of the motion of the government was the importance to the province. The resolution would not be allowed to pass without the fullest inquiry.

Mr. Kitchen—It should be printed before the rules are suspended. The matter was deferred until the next sitting.

Mr. Kitchen rose to a question of privilege. He would like to know whether Mr. Mohun, read in the house by the attorney-general, was read, as the premier had promised.

Hon. Mr. Davie—I did not read it. It would be printed.

Mr. Kitchen—You used it as a statement, and the house was entitled to it.

Hon. Mr. Davie—You cannot get the corruption business in that

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Royal Commission to Enquire into Charges Made Against the Government.

Davie & Co. Refuse to Allow a Full Investigation into the Nakusp Scheme.

APRIL 9.

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

Mr. Horne moved: Whereas it is desirable to encourage the industry of ship-building in British Columbia; and whereas as the building of large ships would be of great benefit to the province; and whereas there is an abundance of good timber and other material eminently adapted to the prosecution of such industry; therefore be it resolved that in the opinion of this house it is desirable that the government should take into consideration the advisability of encouraging as far as may be possible the prosecution of the ship-building industry in this province.

There was some discussion as to whether the resolution was in order, the speaker stating that he thought it was out of order, as it suggested that the government should offer a bonus.

Dr. Miles was in favor of the resolution, and he would like to know what the government had done since the passage of a similar resolution two years ago. The resolution was voted down.

Mr. Brown asked the attorney-general: Is the act of the Imperial House, known as the "Colonial Probates Act, 1892," sufficient to justify the government in bringing into force, with respect to the United Kingdom, the act, chap. 19, of the statutes of 1889, which provides for the recognition in this province of probates and letters of administration granted in the United Kingdom, and does the government intend to bring the act into force?

Hon. Mr. Davie—I think the Imperial statute is sufficient. It is the intention of the government to enforce it.

The Cariboo Hydraulic Mining company's bill was passed, Mr. Adams withdrawing his amendment to strike out the anti-Chinese clause.

Hon. Mr. Davie rose to a question of privilege. When the house was in committee on the Nakusp & Slokan railway bill Mr. Forster made some remarks, fairly reported in the Times as follows: "If the members of the government were not interested in the scheme of their friends were. There must have been some reason for the withdrawal of the lowest tender. The statement of the attorney-general printed in the Colonist showed that there was something wrong, and made it appear that the attorney-general was a member of the company. The attorney-general had been working for the company, not for the province. It was not in the power of the attorney-general to push a company aside, as had been done in this case. He believed the scheme was not straight."

Mr. Forster said he had certainly said some of what was reported in the Times, and he would not take anything that he had said, but there were some things reported that he had not said. He did say that the lack of precautions taken by the government was sufficient to cause suspicion.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the suspension of the standing rules to allow him to introduce the following resolution: Whereas, acting under the advice of the executive council, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to give a provincial guarantee of interest in favor of the Nakusp & Slokan railway company; and whereas it has been stated by the honorable member for Nanaimo district, in his place in the house of assembly, in reference to the said guarantee, that it appeared that the honorable leader of the government was a member of the company, and had been working for the company and not for the province, and it has also been insinuated in the said house of assembly by other honorable members, although not directly charged, that the members of the executive council were actuated by corrupt motives in advising His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to give a guarantee of interest in favor of the said Nakusp & Slokan railway company; therefore be it resolved, that a humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor praying him to appoint a royal commission to inquire whether the honorable premier was a member of the said company, whether in advising the said guarantee he worked for the company and not for the province, and whether corrupt motives of any kind existed with or influenced His Honor's ministers in the advice tendered by them to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in relation to the Nakusp & Slokan railway company.

Mr. Forster—That resolution should be printed before being discussed. There are statements in it credited to me that I did not make.

Hon. Mr. Davie—The resolution will be printed before I move it. He had taken the Times report, because he did not think there would be any objection to it. The purity of the members of the government was of the highest importance to the province. The imputation could not be allowed to go forth without the fullest inquiry.

Mr. Kitchen—It should be printed before the rules are suspended.

The matter was deferred until the motion could be printed.

Mr. Kitchen rose to a question of privilege. He would like to know when the letter from Mr. Mohun, read in the house by the attorney-general, was to be printed, as the premier had promised.

Hon. Mr. Davie—I did not promise that it would be printed.

Mr. Kitchen—You used it as an argument, and the house was entitled to have it printed.

Hon. Mr. Davie—You cannot get out of the corruption business in that way.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—Don't you be afraid. We do not wish to get out of that. The letter is an important one, and should be printed and placed before the house.

Hon. Mr. Davie—I am surprised that hon. gentlemen will not sink other matters until the motion is disposed of.

Mr. Forster—The letter has an important bearing on the question, and should be printed before the discussion on the motion is continued. I want the letter for my side of the case.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—The attorney-general is trying to draw a red herring across the track.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the coal mines regulation bill, which, he thought, would tend to increase safety in the mines. He had stated when there was a proposal before the house to exclude Chinamen from the mines that it would be better to introduce a more general bill. There were many men born in China who had as much sense of comprehension as any one else. The bill empowered the inspector to provide for the protection of miners. If the bill referred only to Chinamen it would be declared ultra vires.

Mr. Keith was surprised that the attorney-general, who pretended to be so anxious for the miners' safety, took so long to introduce the bill. It was brought forward, like the last one, just on the eve of a general election. He objected to a bill being brought in on the plea of protecting the miners, the only object of which was to repeal the bill of 1890. The present bill would work about as well as the bill of 1890, viz., not at all. The bill could not be workable, as one clause provided that the inspector could take some action when petitioned by a certain number of miners. What would become of miners who petitioned against the employment of Chinamen? Why would they simply lose their positions?

Hon. Mr. Beaven pointed out that the bill proposed to repeal the bill preventing the employment of Chinamen in mines. The act became famous as being passed just before the general election, although his effort had been made many times before to pass a similar measure. Just after the election it was found that the bill was unworkable. He objected to this underhand way of repealing an important statute.

Hon. Mr. Davie said the act of 1890 was unworkable, but he would have no objection to striking out the clause repealing that act, as he was perfectly satisfied that it was unconstitutional.

Mr. Forster said if the attorney-general agreed to strike out the clause he would have no objection to the bill.

Hon. Mr. Beaven also withdrew his objections on the attorney-general's assurance.

The bill was read a second time and referred to committee, where the clause repealing the act of 1890 was struck out.

Mr. Keith said the government had once attempted to enforce the act of 1890. The house only had the attorney-general's assurance that the act was unconstitutional.

Mr. Keith moved and it was resolved to strike out clause 4, which reads: "The inspector shall on written complaint of any persons employed in any mine against any person or persons as a source of danger, take the steps provided by said section 69 and subsequent sections, and any persons so complaining shall be entitled to be heard upon any arbitration ensuing upon the complaint, and shall be considered parties to the arbitration." The bill was reported complete, read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the railway aid bill. The object was to assist two railways in a better manner than was proposed by the bill of last year. He had already explained that a guarantee of interest only meant a sacrifice of money, as interest guaranteed bonds were subject to a large discount. He thought a great many men on both sides of the house were in favor of the scheme. It was not proposed to take the entire responsibility, allowing the company to contribute something. It must be admitted that heretofore the province had taken almost the entire responsibility. The government now proposed to make a change. In regard to the Chilliwack road the government's obligation would only be about \$6,000 a year, and about \$15,000 for the Nicola railway. Both would do much to develop the province. The delay in respect to the Nicola road was on account of the C. P. R. not being prepared to lease the road, but he had been given to understand that they would be prepared to lease it this year. The government could not guarantee the bonds until the C. P. R. were prepared to lease the road. He contended that the house unanimously passed the bills to guarantee interest on the bonds of other railway companies.

Hon. Mr. Beaven held that the bills were not passed unanimously.

Hon. Mr. Davie said the house should admit that they had made a mistake, but they were then new to railway construction. He did not say that the present policy would be followed out in the future.

Hon. Mr. Beaven thought the proposition was objectionable, but as there had been such a long discussion over the Nakusp & Slokan he did not think it was necessary to go into the question again. The act referring to the Chilliwack railway was much the same as the Victoria & Sidney proposition, and the Nicola valley scheme was much the same as the original Nakusp & Slokan railway scheme. It was not a good policy for the province to supply a private company with the money to build a railway. He had always been opposed to the government's railway policy, if it could be called a policy. The Shuswap & Okanagan railway bill had not passed unanimously, as he had opposed it. He had pointed out that interest guaranteed bonds would have to be sold at a discount, as the bondholders would look out for the principal as well as the interest. It had turned out just as he said it would. It should be mentioned in the journals when a bill passed on division.

He took exception to the attorney-general's statements that the railway aid bills had passed unanimously. He had not supported the government's railway aid policy, and he did not propose to support this bill. It was very much the same as the Nakusp bill, although not so objectionable in several features.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said it was true that the leader of the opposition had mildly opposed the railway aid act, but Mr. Bole was the only member who opposed the Shuswap & Okanagan railway bill. Every country gave large subsidies, and sometimes bonuses, to railway companies. He moved the adjournment of the debate, which was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Davie here rose to move the suspension of the rules to allow him to introduce his motion for the appointment of a royal commission, it having been printed.

It was here noticed that the official stenographer of the supreme court occupied the law clerk's chair. Mr. Kitchen asked the speaker if it was proper for a reporter to have a seat on the floor of the house.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Oh! you dislike to have some words taken down.

Mr. Kitchen—I do not mind having what I say reported, but I am well acquainted with the attorney-general's tactics in the reporting line.

Mr. Brown thought the members of the house should be given time to consider the resolution. The government had taken some time to prepare it, and also had had time to consider it.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he had no desire to crowd the resolution on the members of the house, but he wished to finish up the business of the house before the day was over. Everything else should be put aside to investigate charges of corruption made against the government. Members making charges of the kind should be prepared to substantiate them by submitting a motion for an investigation.

Mr. Forster—The resolution proposes to investigate charges that were never made. He had never charged that the attorney-general was a member of the company. Let us have an investigation into the whole scheme from first to last. The attorney-general will have all the investigation that he wants.

Several Voices—And Three Forks as well.

Hon. Mr. Davie—It is the charges of corruption that we want an inquiry into.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—The resolution starts off with: "Whereas, under the advice of the executive council, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to give a provincial guarantee of interest in favor of the Nakusp & Slokan railway company." It is not the guarantee of interest, but the guarantee of both principal and interest that we have been talking about. The attorney-general, with his legal knowledge, had drawn up the resolution, and if any one opposed it he would say they were trying to shirk an investigation. The resolution only referred to the guarantee of interest, while the house had been discussing a guarantee of principal and interest.

Mr. Forster had not said that the attorney-general was a member of the company. The house should be given some time to consider the resolution. If a royal commission was to be appointed a few other things might be examined into, among them the Three Forks scheme.

Mr. Grant said the rules should be suspended. The hon. member for Nanaimo district had said some very pertinent things that he believed about the Nakusp & Slokan railway scheme.

Mr. Semlin—The attorney-general knew what he wished to be considered when he drew up the resolution. He was not ignorant of how a resolution should be drawn up. The resolution referred only to a guarantee of interest, while the discussion had been on a guarantee of both interest and principal.

Mr. Swold—Should the resolution be passed the commission would look to the resolution and see that it referred to the guarantee of interest, whereas the government had guaranteed both principal and interest.

Hon. Mr. Davie—I do not wish to push the resolution immediately, but I wish the way cleared so that I can introduce it. He would amend the resolution to refer to both principal and interest. So far the government had only guaranteed interest, which the house was bound to guarantee the members should decide to guarantee both principal and interest. The offense of the government, if any, had been in guaranteeing interest on \$25,000 per mile and abusing the powers conferred on them by the act of 1893. If Mr. Forster wished to withdraw the statement that he (Mr. Davie) was a member of the company, all right.

Mr. Forster—I did not say that.

Hon. Mr. Davie—He did say it. The Times were perfectly right. The royal commission would investigate the charges of corrupt motives.

The standing rules were suspended on the understanding that the resolution should not be introduced until after recess.

Hon. Mr. Vernon continued the debate on the railway aid bill. The government could only guarantee \$7,000 per mile, and as they were to receive \$1,600 of the Dominion subsidy the province's obligation would only be \$5,400 per mile. Upon the whole, he thought the measure was a reasonable one.

Mr. Brown said \$14,000 per mile might be a liberal allowance for one railway and not enough for the other. The other day the government had said it had cost \$22,000 a mile to build a railway in a dense country, so it was quite a climb down to refuse anything more than \$14,000 per mile. The opposition always hesitated to oppose anything that would develop the country. They were not in the house to oppose everything the government did; they were there to represent their constituents. When the Shuswap & Okanagan railway bill was before the house the member for Vancouver said the government proposed to guarantee more than the road would cost. The proposition before the house should be divided. A member might be opposed to the Nicola scheme and in favor of the other, or vice versa. He was strongly of the opinion that if the people built the road the people should own it. But the government was opposed to any such proposition. He was well aware that the building of the Nicola valley railway was of great importance to a large number of people, but he did not know how many people there were. As far as he had been able to gather, the proposition was a special one. In Chilliwack it was different; the settlement being a large and growing one and badly in need of a railway. The river was not always available, being frozen over in the winter. So it was unfair to yoke the two schemes together, as members could not express their real sentiments when it came to a vote. The bill should have been brought down earlier in the session.

Hon. Col. Baker said it looked as though the last speaker wanted aid for a railway for his own district and not for a railway in another district. The question was should or should not the government assist railways.

Mr. Semlin said it was very unfair to leave the bill until the last day of the session. They might just as well have brought it in early in the session, when it could have been thoroughly discussed. Last year the government said the province could not afford to give a cash bonus to railways, but shortly afterwards they reversed their policy and guaranteed the principal and interest on the Nakusp & Slokan railway. Now on the last day of the session they again changed their policy. The government were prepared to change their policy whenever political influence was brought to bear. He was prepared to say that none of the three policies was a good one. The Shuswap & Okanagan railway scheme was an experiment, and they were still experimenting. The Dominion government had a fixed policy, but they had a large revenue, while this province had a small one. The government's policy would decrease, not increase, settlement. He did not oppose the railway scheme formerly, because he gave the government credit for doing the best they could for the country. If it was proper to guarantee interest only, why was not that followed out? If the proposition to guarantee everything was correct, why was not that carried out? Why not treat all alike? It gave the government an opportunity to favor government supporters. He would like to see the Nicola valley road continued, but no doubt the promoters of the scheme had seen that the government were doing more for the Nakusp & Slokan, and they thought, "Why should we put up our money when the government are putting it up for the Nakusp road?"

Hon. Mr. Turner spoke at some length in support of the government's railway policy, contending that it was better to guarantee the interest and principal than the interest only. The government were informed that the Chilliwack railway could be commenced immediately, and would be soon placed on a paying basis. In respect to the Nicola valley railway, the C. P. R. company would want full reports from that country before they would lease the line. The government did not say that the lines would not cost more than \$14,000 a mile; they only proposed not to guarantee more than half of that amount.

Mr. Martin said he would support the bill, although he would have liked to have seen it brought in in different form. When it was said that the Shuswap & Okanagan railway did not pay it was not taken into consideration that the province was receiving a large amount from taxes on land that would not otherwise have been taken up. The Nicola and Chilliwack railways were quite different. The latter would improve the lands in municipalities, while the Nicola road would open up coal and other mines. More men would be employed in the Nicola coal mines than would ever go into Chilliwack for agricultural purposes.

The house rose at 6 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

Hon. Mr. Beaven rose to a question of privilege. He noticed a stranger reporting on the floor of the house. If he was to be given the special privilege of using the floor of the house each member should have a copy of what he reported. If he was there simply as a press reporter there was a press gallery that he could use. If each member received a copy of the report there would be no objection to the reporter being on the floor.

Hon. Mr. Davie—There will be no objection.

Mr. Booth continued the debate on the railway aid bill. The province, he said, was guaranteed that it would not lose anything by the schemes. It was not right to say that the taxation of the province would be added to. If it was not he gave it up. The legislature was pledged to help the roads he would say allow the legislation proposed to stand over until next session, so that the people could pass on it. The roads were just local ones and could stand over, the people in the districts having done without them for years. If the proposed system would have the roads built he would say it was the best.

Mr. Hunter was heartily sick of the whole business. The house had spent a month discussing the general railway policy of the government and the members were no nearer to agreeing. The members were to-day using the same arguments that they used a month ago. He had not said a great deal, in fact nothing about the schemes, and listening to the other members had become deafened of his own ignorance. The contractor for the Shuswap & Okanagan had paid more than the amount supported by the province. He would support the bills, but the government was hardly up to the times. Neither of the railways could be built for \$14,000 a mile. A road similar to the Chilliwack had cost \$23,615.72 a mile. How could the people of Chilliwack or the company build the Chilliwack road for \$14,000 a mile? The same was the case with the Nicola railway. He had some into the latter scheme minutely and it was absurd to say that the road could

be built. A member might be opposed to the Nicola scheme and in favor of the other, or vice versa. He was strongly of the opinion that if the people built the road the people should own it. But the government was opposed to any such proposition. He was well aware that the building of the Nicola valley railway was of great importance to a large number of people, but he did not know how many people there were. As far as he had been able to gather, the proposition was a special one. In Chilliwack it was different; the settlement being a large and growing one and badly in need of a railway. The river was not always available, being frozen over in the winter. So it was unfair to yoke the two schemes together, as members could not express their real sentiments when it came to a vote. The bill should have been brought down earlier in the session.

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The house rose at 6 o'clock.

be built for \$14,000 a mile. He would like to see the bill withdrawn and the guarantee increased to say \$17,500, the amount guaranteed for the Nakusp & Slocan railway. The province was hardly keeping faith with the companies. He would, however, support the bill.

Mr. Kitchen considered the bill a retrograde step. It was not as good for the company as the one embodied in the bill of last year. He had had occasion to enquire into the cost of the Chilliwack railway and was given to understand that the road could be built for less than \$14,000 a mile. Of course to do that it would have to be seen that no construction company should come in and make a big profit. He had always argued that in public works it was better for the government to float their own bonds, obtain the money and put it into the public work. If they did this it would save much of the discount on the bonds. The settlers would be to blame if they had to pay the interest and at the end of the government in that scheme. If he was not sure that the Chilliwack road would pay in a short time he would oppose it, although that would mean political death for him.

Mr. Cotton criticised the government for leaving the bill until the end of the session. There were many things in the bill that had not been brought up before. The government practically admitted that the promises of the premier respecting the railway policy had not been fulfilled. The government has not shown why they did not carry out the legislation of last session and at the end of the present session brought in an entirely different measure. In supporting the present bill they could not be said to be supporting the government's railway policy as they had practically been pledged to aid the two roads mentioned in the bill. In aiding the two railways they had guaranteed themselves to have the best advantage. If the suggestion of the last speaker was carried out and some arrangement made between the government and the municipality of Chilliwack some \$30,000 would be saved in discount to the company. It would be breaking faith with the contractors if any arrangement for the building of the roads. Before anything was done the government should find out that the companies were railway companies and not mere brokers. In the Nakusp scheme the province had some hold on the bonds, but in the present bill they were given no hold on the bonds further arrangements would have to be made, as the charter of the Chilliwack company had expired and the Nicola company's charter would expire this month. The government should frame a proper railway policy and not deal with one company in one way and in an entirely different way with another company.

Mr. Sword thought the government would be acting more fairly if instead of dealing with an intermediate company for whom they obtained the money, they should obtain it and build the road for themselves. He moved in amendment to the motion to read the bill a second time, proposing to strike out all the words after "bill 89" and insert: "That the government withdraw bill 89 and ask the house in lieu thereof to give them authority to receive from the Chilliwack railway company an assignment of their charter and claim to the Dominion subsidy of \$200,000 per mile on condition of recouping them for their expenditure, and also, on being satisfied that the line will be a paying investment, authority to build the line as a provincial work and to make arrangements with the C. P. R. to lease it."

Mr. Speaker ruled the amendment out of order, as it would increase the burden of taxation and proposed to change the government's whole railway policy. Dr. Milne said that the attorney-general had said that the Nakusp & Slocan railway bill was only experimental and that no others would be introduced until this had been tried. But now on the last day of the session no less than three new schemes were introduced containing different policies. Last session the attorney-general said the province could not afford to bonus railways, but not two months after he and his government undertook to guarantee the interest and principal on the bonds of a railway company. He read the speech made by the attorney-general last year, in which he said the province could not bonus railways. The government had no railway policy; they just brought down a bill when a deputation waited on them. The larger the deputation the more the government gave them. In the Dominion and the other provinces there was a fixed policy and all companies were treated alike, but here there is a new policy for every day. The speech of the attorney-general last year condemned the policy the government was now pursuing. Mr. March had said he could have obtained more for the Nicola railway if he had brought a deputation down to wait on the government. Every year the government brought down important bills at the end of the session.

Mr. Grant did not think that the government was liberal enough in its railway policy. The government should do everything to encourage railway schemes. The province needed cheaper and better transportation facilities.

The bill was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved his amended resolution respecting the royal commission. It was: Whereas, acting under the advice of the executive council, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to give a provincial guarantee of interest upon the bonds of the Nakusp & Slocan railway company to the extent of 4 per cent. per annum on \$25,000 per mile for twenty-five years, and by the like advice has, in the agreement for the guarantee of interest, reserved the right to substitute bonds guaranteeing principal at the rate of \$17,500 per

mile, together with interest at a rate per annum sufficient to enable the company to realize par, but in no case to exceed 4 per cent. per annum; and whereas by message from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice of the executive council, a bill has been introduced for the purpose of guaranteeing principal and interest in manner mentioned in said agreement; and whereas it has been stated by the hon. member for Nanaimo district, in his place in the house of assembly, in reference to the said guarantee, that it appeared that the hon. leader of the government was a member of the company, and had been working for the company and not for the province, and it has also been insinuated in the said house of assembly by other hon. members, although not directly charged, that the members of the executive council were actuated by corrupt motives in advising His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in relation to the matters aforesaid; therefore be it resolved that a humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to appoint a royal commission to inquire whether the honorable the premier was a member of the said company, whether in advising the said guarantee he worked for the company and not for the province, and whether corrupt motives of any kind existed with or influenced His Honor's ministers in the advice tendered by them to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in relation to the Nakusp & Slocan railway company.

This, Mr. Davie said, should meet the objections of hon. members opposite. The only guarantee given by the government was a guarantee of interest. In giving that they reserved to themselves the right to guarantee the principal also, at a lower rate per mile. The system adopted, that of guaranteeing both principal and interest, was a benefit to the province. It would cost less to guarantee principal and interest at the rate of \$17,500 per mile for twenty-five years than it would cost to guarantee interest alone on \$25,000 a mile for twenty-five years. The discussion of the bill was, however, out of order. The hon. member decided on it, and the people would give their decision at the polls. For a month past opposition members had been harping at corrupt motives on the part of the government. On Friday night the member for Nanaimo district, more bold than the other members, came out in a manly way. He did not say that all the members had cast these insinuations. He read many of the statements made during the discussion of the Nakusp & Slocan scheme. No one denied that friends of the government—and the opposition, for that matter—were interested in the scheme. The royal commission would be to abate suspicion and beyond political influence. The resolution aimed at the point. There had been charges of corruption against the government, and they should be met as the government was a shade of suspicion on the part of the province and the people of the province would not be safe. It was the duty of the opposition to follow up their insinuations with an application for the appointment of a commission. If there were any questions to be inquired into, answer them at once. This was the government's inquiry.

Mr. Forster had expected something warmer from the leader of the government. He had no objections to the resolution, except where it stated that he had said that the attorney-general was a member of the company. If that had been said that would not say it. That was one of the things that he could not prove. The attorney-general carried on the negotiations with the C. P. R. and what he said on Friday was that the attorney-general had no authority from the government to do it, so he must have had authority from the company. He had said it was singular that the attorney-general should negotiate for the construction of the road when a company had the charter. The attorney-general must have had some connection with the company. He did not say that he was a member of the company, because he could not prove it. If the premier was a member of the company, there would not be any way of finding it out. The resolution contained nothing. It instructed the commission to find out if the attorney-general was a member of the company, but gave them no authority. What was wanted was an inquiry into the whole scheme. (Applause.) There was much more in the scheme that should be examined into. They wanted to know why the government jumped at and guessed at \$17,500 being the amount that the road would cost per mile. It showed that the government were guessing at the cost of the railway when Mr. Mohun in his letter said the grading would cost more if the rails cost less. The action of the government gave rise to a strong suspicion of the motives of the ministers.

Hon. Mr. Davie—You say that you did not say that I was a member of the company. Was there anything else you did not say?

Mr. Forster—I did not say you were working for the company, but I did say you apparently had authority from the company, and if that was the case you were working for the company.

Mr. Brown—When Mr. Forster made the statements he was speaking of the suspicious circumstances that surrounded the case. The resolution would make it appear that it was the action of the government in guaranteeing the interest that was under suspicion. The speech made by Mr. Forster was far from being fully reported in the Times. If it had it would have filled a column, whereas there was a very short paragraph. The report was just the impression gleaned by the reporter from the remarks of the speaker. It was not right to hold the speaker responsible for the impressions of the reporter. The attorney-general was now about ready to swear to what Mr. Forster said on Friday, but on Friday the attorney-general did not know what Mr. Forster said. He got up just after Mr. Forster had been speaking on Friday and misrepresented him. He

(Mr. Brown) drew attention to it at the time. The attorney-general knows all about it now, but on Friday he knew nothing. Mr. Forster had said the circumstances were enough to raise a suspicion in a man's mind. The circumstances justified him in saying that. He for one would not shirk responsibility for what he said, but would repeat it. When a member was told by a responsible contractor that he would be glad to build the road for \$12,000 a mile it was ridiculous to suppose that a member would not draw attention to it in the house. If the government had brought the bill and all the papers down early in the session and had used proper diligence they could have defied any insinuations made. It would have closed the mouths of the opposition and made them admit that there were no grounds for the insinuations. The actions of the government made it necessary to repeat the statements made on the outside of the house. The resolution did not aim at the point. It aimed at something that did not exist. It aimed at a charge that the attorney-general was a member of the company, which statement was never made. The attorney-general had written the proposition for not moving for a select committee. A gentleman had urged him to do it. Why did he not do it? Because he had had experience with select committees. They were worse whitewashers than the house. A man who made a statement against the government before a select committee was a marked man for the future, and the committee came forward and whitewashed the government, and that was the end of it. No reasonable man could say that the government did not have it in their power to place the matter beyond suspicion.

Hon. Mr. Davie rose to a point of order. The object of the motion was to disown the action of the government, not their policy. It could be assumed that their policy was entirely wrong.

Mr. Brown—It is not to be supposed that a member must shape his arguments to please the attorney-general. The opposition could not move for a commission, as it involved an expenditure.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Yes, you can. Mr. Brown said he was saying when interrupted by the attorney-general that the circumstances of the case and the statement of the attorney-general that he had arranged with Mr. Van Horne, the C. P. R., and with the Nakusp & Slocan railway company, would lead to the impression that he was boss of it all.

Hon. Mr. Davie—So I was. Mr. Brown—Then a few days afterwards he said he knew nothing about the company. One day he was sole manager of the whole show and a few days afterwards he knew nothing about it. Coupling all the circumstances with the fact that responsible men said the road could be built for \$5,000 less than the amount the government was guaranteeing justified the opposition in demanding more particulars; justified them in saying that if a man was charged with a crime and the circumstantial evidence was as strong against him as were the circumstances against the government, that man would be convicted. He failed to see that the opposition had done anything but their simple duty. He opposed a limited, one-sided commission, but would vote for the appointment of a commission to probe to the bottom of the whole scheme.

Hon. Col. Baker "patted Mr. Forster on the back" for the manly and open charges of corruption that he had made against the government. The other charges were mere insinuations. He told a little story, and then likened the resolution for a commission to a bomb thrown among the opposition ranks. He understood Mr. Forster's opposition had done nothing but their simple duty. He opposed a limited, one-sided commission, but would vote for the appointment of a commission to probe to the bottom of the whole scheme.

Mr. Brown—Why not include all the insinuations, as they were called, in the resolution? The hon. gentlemen are mistaken if they think we wish to shirk an investigation.

Hon. Col. Baker—The separate charges should be tried by themselves. Corrupt motives had been charged against the government, and that should be charged by itself.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—It is a queer proposition that a charge should say upon what charge he should be tried. One of the principal differences between a royal commission and a select committee was that the former could take evidence on oath and that the commissions should be free from any political influence, while there was a question whether a committee could administer the oath. If he (Mr. Beaven) had moved for a royal commission the first thing the attorney-general would have done would be to rise to a point of order. He had a motion for a royal commission, and he would see if he would accept it. He objected to the commission being given limited power. The opposition had worked at the government until they had to move for a royal commission. Now he would suggest an addition to the resolution that would make the commission of some use. The attorney-general's resolution limited the power of the commission. Words had been put in Mr. Forster's mouth that he had never used. As they were going to have a royal commission it might as well require into the Three Forks townsites scheme. He moved the following amendment:

"To strike out all subsequent to the 'whereas' in the third paragraph and insert 'It has been stated by the hon. member for Nanaimo district in his place in the assembly in reference to the said guarantee, that it appeared that the hon. leader of the government acted in the matter as if he were an agent of the company, as the legislature had never given him authority to negotiate on behalf of the company in respect to the construction of the railway, and had been working more in the interests of the company than the province, and it has also

been insinuated in the assembly by other hon. members, although not directly charged, that the members of the executive council were actuated by corrupt motives in advising His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to give a guarantee of principal and interest in favor of the said Nakusp and Slocan railway company, and had exceeded the power granted to them by the railway aid act of 1893;

"And whereas a piece of land in the district of Kootenay has been taken up as a pre-emption claim and the house has been asked to pass a bill authorizing the issue of a crown grant to Charles Hugonin and E. C. Carpenter to this land, which is now known as the site of the town of Three Forks, and is the Eastern terminus of the Nakusp and Slocan railway, and the crown grant of this land will, therefore, issue before the usual time as provided for in the land act;

"Therefore, be it resolved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to appoint a royal commission to enquire whether the Hon. the Premier did so act, and whether in advising the said guarantee the premier worked more in the interest of the company than the province, and also to inquire into all the circumstances connected with any guarantee given or promised on account of or in connection with the Nakusp & Slocan railway, and whether corrupt motives of any kind existed with or influenced any of His Honor's ministers in the advice tendered by them to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in relation to the Nakusp & Slocan railway company, and whether the members of the executive council exceeded the authority granted to them by the railway aid act, 1893, and whether any of His Honor's ministers have or had any interest, direct or indirect in the Nakusp & Slocan railway company or in any of the contracts of the company, or in the construction company, either in material or supplies, or in any way whatsoever, and that the commissioners be also empowered to investigate, ascertain and report what persons have been or are either directly or indirectly interested in the land known as the townsite of Three Forks, or in any of the proceeds of the land known as lot 210, group 1, Kootenay district, or who may have a promise of any interest from the present or persons to whom the grant is to be issued, or from any person or persons to whom they may have promised or agreed to transfer their right of any part or interest thereof or therein."

He had given the attorney-general the benefit of his own words, but had amplified them. The amendment would extend the power of the commission, and he thought it would be wise on the part of the government to accept it, as they pretended to be burning with anxiety for an investigation. The proposition was lengthy but simple. (Applause.) Mr. Booth, so he said, was amused with the ingenuity with which the amendment had been drawn. The opposition did not make any charges, they just wanted to find out if there was any charges. He would accept neither the amendment nor the original resolution. The government were entirely too sensitive.

Mr. Forster said the amendment just added a few things to the resolution. The preamble had been drawn up by the premier. The opposition did not want to make a force of the commission, as did the government. He said again that he suspected that there was something wrong and if the government refused to accept the amendment he would be more suspicious than ever. If the road cost \$12,000 a mile, there must have been some reason for guaranteeing \$17,500 per mile. The difference went into somebody's pockets. It generally went to the construction companies. They could not find out whether ministers were members of the construction company, but the commission might if the amendment was accepted. They wanted to know if the road cost \$17,500 per mile and if not where the balance went to and whether the road was built to boom the townsite of Three Forks.

Mr. Kellie thought the amendment should be printed.

Mr. Speaker called for a division and the ayes were being counted when the premier seeing that the amendment was going to pass, called on the Speaker to ring in the members. This was done and the vote was taken, the amendment being defeated on the following division:

Ayes—Messrs. Beaven, Brown, Cotton, Forster, Kitchen, McKensie, Kellie, Semlin, Milne, Stoddart, Sword.—10.

Noes—Messrs. Anderson, Adams, Baker, Booth, Davie, Fletcher, Horne, Hunter, Hall, Punch, Smith, Turner, Vernon, Watt, Rogers.—15.

Mr. Kellie said he did not understand the amendment and refusing to vote he was counted with the ayes.

Mr. Kitchen objected to the Speaker following the course he had. As a general rule a member who came in after a division had been called for, was not allowed to vote. Now after a division had been called for and it was seen that the amendment was to be carried, the Speaker rang in the members. It was a farce on legislation.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—It was certainly not right. When it was seen that there was a majority in favor of the amendment the members were called in.

Mr. Speaker—The bell had not been rung when the first division was called. The premier had called on him to ring the bell.

Hon. Mr. Vernon moved the following addition to the resolution: "And whether any of his honor's ministers have, or had, any interest, directly or indirectly, in the Nakusp & Slocan railway company, or in any of the contracts of the company or in the construction company, either in furnishing material, or supplies, or in any way whatsoever."

Dr. Watt contended that Mr. Forster did say what was credited to him by the premier.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—The resolution does not contain one-half of what it should. Mr. Semlin wished to know how the commission would be formed. The attorney-general would defend himself, who would take the other side? would be pleased to see an investigation but as far as he could see it would one-sided. The attorney-general would look after his side.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Why, certainly. Mr. Semlin—who will look after the other side?

Hon. Mr. Davie—That is none of business.

Mr. Semlin—It will be a nice investigation. They do not want any investigation at all. They are just trying to thrust in the eyes of the public. They should be some one to take the other side of the case. The provincial secretary had said that the opposition members were afraid of an investigation. They should be afraid of an investigation. They had not let the contract, nor had anything to do with the scheme. The government could have moved for a commission months ago. More serious charges against the scheme had been published in Kootenay before the session ended. One writer had said that some one had made \$200,000 out of the scheme.

Mr. Cotton—The idea of a royal commission being which only one side would be presented. It is a humbug and farce.

Mr. Stoddart wished to explain his voting for the amendment proposed by the leader of the opposition. He had done so because he believed the sworn statements laid before the house contained the truth but not all the truth. (Hear, hear!) Neither all the names of the members of the construction company nor all the names of the directors of the company were given in those papers. (Hear, hear!) That was his object in voting for the amendment. There should be a full and free investigation into the whole scheme. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Booth said the resolution should have come from the opposition. The government was entirely too sensitive. Mr. Kitchen—if the amendment proposed by the leader of the opposition had passed the opposition side of the house would have been presented to the commission, but nobody was going to appear before a commission that would be a farce. The government had everything including the treasury, at hand.

Mr. Rogers thought the government had acted too hastily. The motion should have come from the opposition.

Mr. Smith contended that there was charge in the resolution to investigate the government would not be doing wrong if they dropped the whole subject. Mr. Kellie said people had time again told him that the government had acted corruptly in the matter of the Nakusp and Slocan railway and there should be the fullest investigation.

Hon. Mr. Davie rose to close the debate. He contended that the opposition tried to make a screaming farce of a commission. They suggested that the government should appoint men to both sides and defend them. The thing was too absurd to be thought of. There were precedents for the course of practice it should be followed in this case. A government of which the leader of the opposition was a member, had 20 years ago formulated the charges on which it should be heard respecting the charges on which it should be heard. The late Mr. Robson, who was leader of the opposition at the time, conducted the case for the opposition.

Mr. Stoddart said he was complimented on his independent stand he had taken. He stated that there were more members of the construction company and more directors than stated in the sworn statements. If that was the case it could be shown before the royal commission. Hon. Mr. Vernon's amendment covered that. The members of the government were interested directly or indirectly in the company there would be corruption. If the information was laid before the house the did not know who the members of the construction company were. The time was too much employed to pry other people's business. The opposition amendment was proposed only to investigate. It was the duty of the legislature to decide whether the government exceeded their authority. Every day they had what was that to the



Hon. Mr. Beaven—The resolution does not contain one-half of what it should. Mr. Semlin wished to know how the commission would be formed. The attorney-general would defend himself, but who would take the other side? He would be pleased to see an investigation, but as far as he could see it would be one-sided. The attorney-general would look after his side.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Why, certainly.

Mr. Semlin—Who will look after the other side?

Hon. Mr. Davie—That is none of our business.

Mr. Semlin—It will be a nice investigation. They do not want any investigation at all. They are just trying to throw dust in the eyes of the public. There should be some one to take the other side of the case. The provincial secretary had said that the opposition members were afraid of an investigation. Why should they be afraid of an investigation? They had not let the contract, nor had anything to do with the scheme. The government could have moved for a commission months ago. More serious charges against the scheme had been published in Kootenay before the session opened. One writer had said that someone had made \$200,000 out of the scheme.

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Hon. Mr. Davie rose to close the debate. He contended that the opposition tried to make a screaming farce of the commission. They suggested that the government should appoint men to both prosecute and defend them. The thing was too absurd to be thought of. There were precedents for the course of practice that should be followed in this case. A government of which the leader of the opposition was a member, had 29 years ago, formulated the charges on which it should be heard respecting the Texada Island scandal. The late Mr. Robson, who was leader of the opposition at the time, conducted the case for the opposition. He suggested that the Hon. Mr. Beaven should do the same in this case. Mr. Stoddart was to be complimented on his independent stand he had taken. He had stated that there were more members of the construction company and more directors than stated in the sworn statements. If that was the case it could be shown before the royal commission. Hon. Mr. Vernon's amendment covered that. If the members of the government were interested directly or indirectly in the company there would be corruption. Until the information was laid before the house he did not know who the members of the construction company were. His time was too much employed to pry into other people's business. The opposition amendment was proposed only to burk the investigation. It was the duty of the legislature to decide whether the government exceeded their authority. Even if they had what was that to the grave

charges of corruption. Then the opposition wanted the commission to find out who had had a promise of an interest or had an interest in the townsite of Three Forks. Why anybody might have or had an interest offered to them. It would have been the principal mistake of his life if he had not taken the course he had.

Mr. Brown on a question of privilege showed that the premier had left out a very important part in reading from an official document referring to the Texada Island scandal. A man who was capable of perpetrating a fraud on this house was capable of anything.

The resolution as amended was passed, Messrs. Booth and Rogers being the only ones to vote against it. The resolution as passed read: Whereas, acting under the advice of the executive council, his honor the lieutenant-governor has been pleased to give a provincial guarantee of interest upon the bonds of the Nakusp and Slocan railway company to the extent of 4 per cent. per annum on \$25,000 per mile for 25 years, and by the like advice has, in the agreement of the guarantee for interest, reserved the right to substitute bonds guaranteeing principal at the rate of \$17,500 per mile, together with interest at a rate per annum sufficient to enable the company to realize par, but in no case to exceed 4 per cent. per annum; and whereas, by message from his honor the lieutenant-governor, with the advice aforesaid, a bill has been introduced for the purpose of guaranteeing principal and interest in manner mentioned in said agreement; and whereas, it has been stated by the hon. member for Nanaimo district, in his place in the house of assembly, that it appeared that the hon. leader of the government had been working for the company and not for the province, and it has also been insinuated in the said house of assembly by other hon. members, although not directly charged, that the members of the executive council were actuated by corrupt motives in advising his honor the lieutenant-governor in relation to the matters aforesaid; therefore, he it resolved, that an humble address be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor, praying him to appoint a royal commission to enquire whether the honorable the premier in advising the said guarantee worked for the company and not for the province, and whether corrupt motives of any kind existed with or influenced his honor's ministers in the advice tendered by them to his honor the lieutenant-governor in relation to the Nakusp and Slocan railway company, and whether any of his honor's ministers have, or had, any interest, directly or indirectly, in Nakusp & Slocan railway company, or in any of the contracts of the company, either in furnishing material, or supplies, or in any way whatsoever."

After considering one clause of the railway assessment act the house adjourned at 12:30.

### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

#### The Last Business Day of the Fourth Session of the Fifth Parliament.

#### Government and Opposition Members Shake Hands While Preparing for War.

APRIL 10.

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

Mr. Semlin asked if it was the intention of the government to establish a polling place at St. Elmo.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said that he had not thought of it but it would be necessary to establish a number of new polling places in all the districts. The matter would be considered.

Mr. Grant moved that whereas by the report of a committee adopted along with a minority report on the 27th of April, 1888, it was respectfully recommended to the government to take into their earnest consideration the advisability of issuing a crown grant of the land comprised in pre-emption 1,003 to Mr. Greer, or take such other steps as may be proper to secure Mr. Greer's title to the land; be it therefore resolved, that this house sees no reason to differ from the conclusions expressed in the majority report above cited. The mover read the report of the select committee some years ago. He recited the case at some length and said the government should see that justice be done Mr. Greer, who had been greatly inconvenienced and had spent the best portion of his life defending his rights.

Hon. Mr. Vernon could not support the resolution. As far as he could see Mr. Greer had no claim to the land. The court had decided on the case since the report was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Beaven pointed out that the resolution did not recite the case as it had occurred. He explained how this case did occur. The house did not adopt the whole report. They adopted certain paragraphs of it along with the minority report. Mr. Greer squatted on the land knowing that it was under reservation. He tried to obtain the Indian title, failing in which he fell back on Samuel Preston's pre-emption claim. But Preston had abandoned it and it was therefore not saleable. Greer went in to obtain the lands with his eyes open. No doubt Mr. Greer, seeing that other people obtained lands that they were not entitled to, thought there was no reason why he should not do the same. He moved an amendment to strike out all the words after whereas and insert "on the 27th of April, 1888, the legislature adopted the report on the claim of Samuel Greer to certain lands in the vicinity of English Bay, which suggests that the matter be dealt with by a petition of right in the supreme court and whereas that course was adopted by the government, therefore be it resolved that this house declines to consider the question any further."

Hon. Mr. Davie differed from the chief commissioner of lands and works and the leader of the opposition. The resolution adopting the report was passed with one dissenting voice. The amendment assumed that there was but one report, whereas there were two reports. The land had been sold and the government could not deal with it, but the matter should be considered by either the government or the legislature. The sale of the land by certain Indians to Mr. Greer was recognized by an officer of the Indian department. It was not known then that the terms of the railway would be there. It was charged that Mr. Greer had forged the names of the document and Mr. Greer was tried for forgery and honorably acquitted. Mr. Greer was entitled to as much consideration as the Granville townsite squatters. What should be done if the resolution is passed is a matter for future consideration.

Mr. Kitchen supported the amendment and opposed the resolution. Mr. McTier and another referred to and Mr. Preston had no rights that Greer could obtain. Greer had a claim in Chilliwack at the same time he was supposed to have a claim at English Bay, so he could not get there, even if there was not a reservation on the land.

Hon. Mr. Beaven's amendment was negatived on the following division: Aye—Stoddart, Hunter, Baker, Turner, Vernon, Semlin, Beaven, Sword, Kitchen, Forster, Keith, Cotton—12. Nays—Grant, McKenzie, Kellie, Horne, Smith, Davie, Martin, Croft, Booth, Hall, Anderson, Fletcher and Adams—13.

The original motion was lost on the following division: Aye—Messrs. Grant, McKenzie, Horne, Smith, Davie, Martin, Booth, West, Hall, Anderson, Fletcher, Adams and Pundt—13. Nays—Messrs. Stoddart, Hunter, Baker, Turner, Vernon, Semlin, Beaven, Sword, Kitchen, Forster, Keith, Cotton, Croft, Rogers, Brown and Kellie—16.

On the third reading of the Nakusp & Slocan railway bill, Mr. Sword asked if the government intended to have Mr. Mohun's letter printed.

Mr. Davie said it would be printed and he supplemented it with an affidavit of D. McGillivray.

The bill was read a third time on division and passed.

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

Hon. Mr. Baker presented a message transmitting an amendment to strike out section 8 of the mineral act. This is a section inserted on motion of Mr. Kellie, which he afterwards wished to have withdrawn. The bill passed through from the first to the final stage.

The house went into committee on the railway aid bill.

Mr. Hunter said the roads could not be built for \$14,000 a mile and if the bill was passed in its present form the roads would not be built. He moved an amendment to allow the government to guarantee \$8,000 per mile instead of \$7,000 a mile as proposed.

Mr. Smith did not see any more reason why the province should build railways than why they should fence a farmer's property. He understood that the companies did not ask for any more than \$7,000 a mile and there was no reason why the house should increase it to \$8,000 per mile.

Hon. Mr. Davie was grieved that Mr. Hunter had not told the house that the mountain railway could not be built for \$17,500 per mile when the government were being attacked on the Nakusp scheme. He understood that the Chilliwack road could be built for \$14,000 per mile. It was not proposed that the province and municipalities should pay the whole cost of the roads and hand them over to the companies.

The chairman ruled the amendment out of order as it proposed to increase the burden of taxation.

Mr. Hunter said it was through a matter of delicacy that he did not speak on the Nakusp & Slocan railway, as he had put in a tender for the construction of that road.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said it was true that the road might cost \$16,000 per mile but the government thought they were going as far as they could in the bill.

Mr. Kitchen did not think the government were treating the companies or the people in the district fairly. Last year they legislated so the road could be built and the companies and the municipalities were proposed to carry out their share of the agreement. The present bill would not be as much in the aid of the construction of the roads as was the act of last year.

Hon. Mr. Davie called Mr. Kitchen a weak and insignificant member and then went into the general dyking and railway policy and the municipal politics of Mr. Kitchen. He read a letter written by Mr. Kitchen which he contended showed that the government did right in not carrying out the legislation of last session. He moved to add to section 2 the words "and insert thereon at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum."

The amendment was adopted.

There was a general discussion of the railway policy of the government, including the Nakusp scheme.

Mr. Kitchen thought that the whole amount of the Dominion subsidy should go for the construction of the roads. It seemed to be a scheme to get temporary revenue for the province. The companies paid the Dominion subsidy to the government and it was for revenue.

The bill was reported complete.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved the second reading of the Kaslo, Slocan railway subsidy bill. Last year a bill was passed giving the company a grant of land, but it was found that the amount of the land could not be obtained along the line. What could be obtained was of very little value, rising very steeply from Kootenay Lake. Owing to this cause and the general financial depression the company had been unable to build the road. The company had offered one-half of the quantity of land granted elsewhere. It was not a rival road to the Nakusp road as many mines could only be reached by the Kaslo road and others could only be reached by the Nakusp road.

The bill was read a second time. The house rose at 6 o'clock.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The railway assessment bill was finally passed as was also the railway aid bill. The Kaslo-Slocan railway subsidy bill was considered in committee. Mr. Stoddart in the chair. Mr. Horne moved an amendment to strike out the nature of the country "Where, owing to the overlapping of the sections, it shall be found impracticable or practically useless for the purposes of the company to locate alternate sections of land, as provided in the Kaslo and Slocan railway subsidy act, 1892, it shall be lawful for the lieutenant-governor other lands in the district of West Kootenay, whether along the line of railway or not, such lands to be selected in blocks of not less than one mile square, but so that such other land shall not exceed in area one-half of the lands which otherwise the lieutenant-governor might have granted to the company, and not exceeding in the whole sixty thousand acres." The amendment was passed.

Mr. Kellie moved as a new section as follows: "The lands which may be granted to the company under section 3 of this act shall be open for purchase from the company by any person or persons upon similar terms to those provided for the acquisition of crown lands by the land act amendment act, 1891, save that the company may sell such lands at prices less than those provided in such act, either for cash or upon credit, the rate of interest not exceeding 6 per centum per annum. All the proceeds of such sales may be held and retained by the company for their own use." Adopted.

The bill was reported complete, read a third time and passed.

In the creditors' trust deeds bill the word "assignee" wherever it appeared was changed to "trustee," and other technical changes were made. The bill was read a third time and passed.

On consideration of the game protection bill to insert the following as section 3: "No person or corporation, or railway, steamship, or express company, shall at any time export, or cause to be exported, or carried out of the province, any of the birds mentioned in this act, or any elk, moose, wapiti or any portion thereof; provided that it shall be lawful for any person having a license under the provisions of this act to export, or cause to be exported or carried out of the province, the heads, horns and skins of such animals."

ed in the assembly by others, although not directly to the members of the ex-... were actuated by corrupt... His Honor the Lieut-... give a guarantee of principal... in favor of the said Nakusp... way company, and had ex-... ver granted to them by the... of 1895;... as a piece of land in the... ony has been taken up as... claim and the house has... pass a bill authorizing the... wn grant to Charles Hugon-... Carpenter to this land... known as the site of the... Forks, and is the Eastern... the Nakusp and Slocan rail-... crown grant of this land... issue before the usual... led for in the land act;... be it resolved that a res-... be presented to His Hon-... Governor, praying him to... al commission to enquire... ou, the Premier did so act... in advising the said guaran-... worked more in the in-... company than the province... quire into all the circum-... with any guarantee... ised on account of or in... h the Nakusp & Slocan... whether corrupt motives of... ed with or influenced any... s ministers in the advice... en to His Honor the... e in relation to the Nakusp... ay company, and whether... of the executive exceed-... anted to them by the rail-... 893, and whether any of... nisters have or had any... or indirect in the Nakusp... ay company or in any of... of the company, or in the... mpany, either in material... n any way whatsoever... mmissioners be also em-... gistrate, ascertain and re-... have been or are either... ctly interested in the land... owsite of Three Forks, the... ceeds of the land... 0, group 1, Kootenay dis-... y have a promise of, any... e prison, or persons to... is to be issued, or from... rsons to whom they may... e agreed to transfer their... rt or interest thereof or... the attorney-general the... n words, but had ampli-... amendment would ex-... of the commission, and he... he wise on the part of... to accept it, as they pro-... ping with anxiety for an... the proposition was... e. (Applause.)... e said, was amused with... h which the amendment... The opposition did not... s, they just wanted to... s any charges. He... her the amendment nor... tute. The government... sensitive... id the amendment just... ds to the resolution... been drawn up by the... tion did not want to... the commission, as did... He said again that he... there was something... government refused to... ent he would be more... ver. If the road only... there must have been... guaranteeing \$17,500 pe-... some went into some-... generally went to the... nies. They could not... nisters were members... company, but the com-... amendment was ac-... to know if the road... and if not, when... and whether the road... to the townsite of Three... ight the amendment... ed for a division and... counted when the... the amendment was... on the Speaker to... ers. This was done... taken, the amendment... the following division:... eaven, Brown, Cotton,... McKenzie, Kellie, Sen-... t, Sword.—10... nderson, Adams, Ba-... Fletcher, Horne, Hun-... Smith, Turner, Vernon... he did not understand... d refusing to vote he... e to the Speaker... e he had. As a gov-... who came in after... called for, was not... Now after a division... and it was seen that... as to be carried, the... members. It was a... —It was certainly not... seen that there was... of the amendment... called in... the bell had not been... division was called... ated on him to ring... moved the following... tion: "And whether... nisters have, or had... y or indirectly, in the... railway company, or... ts of the company... n company, either in... or supplies, or in any... led that Mr. Forster... ed to him by the... and Col. Baker's...

mentioned in section 23 of this act as shall have been legally killed by such license holder.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said he had been led to vote for the clause prohibiting the exportation of deer skins on the understanding that it would protect the deer. But it had not done that; on the other hand it had diverted a large volume of trade from the province. He considered a clause prohibiting the exportation of deer skins *extra vires*.

The amendment was lost. Mr. Grant moved the following as a new clause: "It shall be lawful during the open season and for thirty days after the commencement of each and every closed season, to export deer skins, but after the expiration of such thirty days, and until such open season shall have again commenced, it shall not be lawful for any person to have in his possession deer skins, unless such deer skins are for the purpose of being tanned in the province. Any person contravening this clause shall be liable, on conviction in a summary manner before a justice of the peace, in accordance with the provisions of the summary convictions act, 1886, to a fine of \$1 for each and every such skin found in his possession, and costs, to be levied by distress, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding, as to both fine and imprisonment, thirty days. In this connection the close season shall mean the time in each year during which deer shall not be hunted, taken, killed, shot at, wounded or injured, and the open season shall mean the rest of the year."

The amendment was lost. Mr. Grant then moved the following as a new clause: "Notwithstanding anything in the provisions of this act contained, it shall be lawful to export deer skins from the ports of this province, provided that the said skins were on hand for export prior to the passage of this act, and provided the same are exported within thirty days from the passing of this act."

The amendment was negatived and the bill was passed.

Mr. Booth, on a question of privilege, said the committee appointed to investigate the "bindery charges" had held their session but had not had time to draw up their report. He therefore presented the evidence taken by the committee.

Mr. Semlin called the attention of the government to the resolution passed by the house several sessions ago expressing the opinion that tenders should be called for in bidding. He was satisfied that fully 60 per cent. could be saved to the province if tenders were called for.

Mr. Booth said he could not endorse the remarks of Mr. Semlin. The complainant had refused to give evidence before the committee.

The evidence was received and will be printed in the sessional papers.

On consideration of the report on the municipal bill Mr. Grant moved to strike out clause 31, the one referring to Sunday closing of all business places.

Mr. Forster said the attorney-general had introduced the clause and he should take the responsibility of striking it out and not try to have it struck out in an underhand way.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he had not changed his mind on the subject, as no thought it would work well. He was prepared to shoulder the responsibility.

The clause was struck out.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved to strike out section 24 which reads as follows: "Notwithstanding anything contained in the coroner's act to the contrary, in case a human being dies or is found dead within the limits of a municipality, the health officer in cities, or the reeve in township or district municipalities, may enquire into the circumstances, and if, in his opinion, an inquest is unnecessary, no inquest shall be held unless the resident ratepayers in the municipality request the health officer or the reeve, in the case may be, in writing to have an inquest held by a coroner."

Mr. Sword moved an amendment that that portion referring to district municipalities should be allowed to stand.

Dr. Milne said the clause should remain as it was. It was absurd to say that a reeve could give a certificate of death and a health officer could not.

Mr. Sword withdrew his amendment.

The motion to strike the clause out was carried.

Mr. Grant moved an amendment respecting petitions for liquor licenses in the town of Kaslo. The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Grant moved that the following be inserted as a new section: "The provisions of section 4 of the liquor license regulation act, 1891, shall not apply to municipalities in respect to selling of liquor by retail; provided that in all places where liquor is or may be sold by retail no sale or other disposal of the said liquor shall take place therein, or in the premises thereof, or out of or from the same, to any person or persons whomsoever, from the hour of six of the clock on Sunday morning until the hour of one of the clock on Sunday afternoon, and from six of the clock on Sunday evening until the hour of nine of the clock on Sunday evening. (1) Any infraction of this section shall be punishable for a first offence by a fine of not less than \$20, or more than \$50, and for a second offence by a fine of not less than \$30, nor more than \$100, to be recoverable in either case, with costs, upon summary conviction."

The amendment was lost, Messrs. Grant, Fletcher and Martin alone voting for it.

The bill was reported complete with amendments and passed.

Mr. Grant moved the second reading of the bill of sale bill, the object of which was to carry out the intention of the act.

The bill was read a second time and referred to committee of the whole. The bill was reported complete and passed.

Mr. Adams moved, whereas the present passenger and freight rates of railways very seriously discriminate against those settled in the interior of the province, the proportionate rates being very much in favor of districts near the coast; therefore he resolved, that a humble address be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor, to urge on the Dominion government the necessity of taking steps to so regulate the rates on passengers and freight on railways that there may be an equality in such rates. *Adopted.*

Hon. Mr. Turner moved the following resolution, which was adopted:

"Whereas by a convention between the United States and Great Britain, dated 18th April, 1892, it was, amongst other things, provided: That if the result of the arbitration be to affirm the right of British sealers to take seals in Behring Sea within the bounds claimed by the United States under its purchase from Russia, then compensation shall be made by the United States to Great Britain (for the use of her subjects) for abstaining from the exercise of the right, during the pendency of the arbitration, upon the basis of such a regulated or limited catch or catches as, in the opinion of the arbitrators, might have been taken without undue diminution of the seal herds, such amount to be promptly paid; and whereas the result of the arbitration was to affirm such legal rights as pertaining to British subjects; and whereas no such compensation has been awarded; be it resolved that this house ventures to express the hope that the royal assent will not be given to the bill now before the Imperial parliament for giving legal effect to the Behring Sea arbitration unless the following claims be previously acknowledged and placed in course for settlement by the government of the United States, namely: 1. That British Columbia sealers be compensated in respect to vessels that have been seized. 2. That British Columbia sealers be compensated for illegal exclusion from Behring Sea during the years 1891, 1892 and 1893; and that a copy of this resolution be telegraphed at once to the secretary of state for Canada, with a request that he telegraph it to the Imperial government."

Hon. Mr. Davie, in announcing that the house would be prorogued at three o'clock to-day, said he might be allowed to say for himself and colleagues that they were glad to be relieved from the laborious work of the session, yet all must feel regret at dissolving the associations of the last four years. Yet the best of friends must part. One cannot but think of the uncertainties of the future, and, leaving aside the election, there was no saying who would be spared to meet again. It was his hearty hope that the candidates for re-election would be liberally dealt with, and all he could say was "let the best men win."

Mr. Rogers, in a few well chosen

words, proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker for the impartial manner in which he had presided over the legislature.

Mr. Hall added a few complimentary words to those expressed by Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Brown was heartily in accord with the sentiments of the last two speakers. He had some lively fights but he hoped that been some lively fights but he hoped that what had been said would be taken politically, that the campaign would be carried on quietly and that no malice would be borne.

Hon. Mr. Davie strongly approved of the expressions of opinion in regard to the Speaker. Of all the Speakers none had ever discharged his duties more acceptably. Although chosen from the government ranks he had never shown any bias and many of his decisions on constitutional questions would have done credit to a judge of the supreme court. In the Speaker they had a gentleman who was an honor and credit to the province.

Dr. Milne had great pleasure in endorsing what had been said about the Speaker.

The members rose while passing the vote of thanks and afterwards sang "God Save the Queen."

Mr. Speaker Higgins said he would like to return thanks for the courtesy and kindness that had been shown him by members of the house. No Speaker had been treated better than he had. He thanked the members for the vote of thanks and however undeserved he would never forget the kind expression of opinion. He would always look back with pleasure on the house that closed in 1894. He hoped that every member would be present at the roll call next session.

The house adjourned at 11:30 bringing to a close the business of the fourth session of the fifth parliament of British Columbia.

#### PARLIAMENT PROROGUED.

##### Closing of the Last Session of the Fifth Parliament of B. C.

The last session of the fifth parliament of British Columbia was formally prorogued at 3 o'clock this afternoon by Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney. There were a large number of ladies and gentlemen on the floor of the house, including the judges and officers of the supreme court, the clergy of different denominations and the families of the members. A guard of honor from the B. C. B. G. A. was commanded by Captain Smallfield and Lieutenants Williams and Munro. The guard of honor was accompanied by the battery band. A firing party under command of Lieut. Blanchard fired a big gun salute on the harbor front.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock and after prayers by Rev. E. Robson the Lieutenant-Governor entered the house and took the chair. He was accompanied by Major Peters, Major Muirhead, Major Irving and Captain A. W. Jones.