Provincial Legislature

House Gets Down to Business and Disposes of Several Bills.

Mr. Curtis' Legislation Meets With Disfavor and Meets Defeat.

Legislative Chamber, May 19, 1902.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Martin called attention to an erroneous report of his remarks on the Trades Union bill in the News-Advertiser, in which it was stated he had referred to certain "inflammatory telegrams" which appeared in the papers during the fishermen's strike. As a matter of fact, he had not mentioned the fishermen's strike, but he had called attention to the fact that such telegrams or articles might be published with impunity under Mr. Curtis' proposed bill. He made the explanation in order that the effect of the report in the News-Advertiser might be minimized as much as possible and to place him in a proper light before his constituents. He had denied the report in a letter to the News-Advertiser, and he took the present opportunity to deny it from his place in the House.

Hon. Mr. Prentice moved that the House proceed with the orders of the day.

Mr. Oliver submitted that the motion was out of order.

Mr. Speaker held the motion in order.

Mr. McBride proceeded to argue on Mr. Oliver's point of order, and it was ruled by Mr. Speaker that the question was not debateable.

Mr. McPhillips also argued that the debate was in order.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said the debate was clearly out of order and asked that the business be proceeded with.

Mr. Martin also protested against Mr. McPhillips continuing while clearly out of order.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Tatlow asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance:

1. Has the Queen Charlotte Island Railway company deposited the $5,000 required by the Queen Charlotte Islands Railway Company Act, 1901?

Hon. Mr. Prentice answered in the negative.

Mr. Curtis asked the Minister of Finance:

1. What was the overdraft of the provincial government on the 17th day of May, 1902? 2. At what bank or banks is such overdraft incurred, and how much of it at each bank? 3. What rate of interest is paid upon such overdraft, and at what intervals is it charged up to the province? 4. By virtue of what authority, act or acts, are the loans constituting the overdraft made? 5. What is the limit in amount beyond which the overdraft cannot legally, by acts now in force, go? 6. By what amounts has the overdraft, including interest thereon, increased in the months of January, February, March and April, 1902, respectively? 7. What is it now estimated that the overdraft, including interest thereon, will on the 30th June, 1902, amount to?

Hon. Mr. Prentice replied as follows:

"1. $1,698,234 on current amount, $106,328 on dyking account.

"2. The Canadian Bank of Commerce.

"3. 4 per cent. per annum, chargeable quarterly.

"4. By the Overdraft Act, 1901, and by order in council.

"5. $198,234 in excess of the amount specified in the Overdraft Act, 1901, which is authorized by an order in council, pending the flotation of a loan, as provided by the Loan Acts, 1891, 1899 and 1901.

"6. January, $69,431; February, $25,361; March, $46,413; April, 60,960.

"7. $1,700,000 on account current; $25,000 on dyking account, provided dependures now authorized are sold."

Mr. McBride asked the government:

1. Is J. N. Greenshields, K. C., still in the service of the government?

2. If so, under what terms?

Hon. Mr. Wells said he would be prepared to answer the questions later in the afternoon.

Mr. McBride pressed his questions and moved the adjournment of the House in order to discuss the question.

Mr. Speaker held that the motion was out of order, as the question was not one of urgent public importance.

Mr. Murphy asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:

1. Are the shares of the Columbia & Western Railway company, to the amount of $75,000, accepted (as per Sessional Papers, 1901, page 627) in lieu of the $75,000 bonds on the railway, as security for the $50,000 bond provided in the Columbia & Western Railway Aid Act, still in the hands of the government? 2. Are these shares worth in the market $50,000? 3. Has the government declared them forfeited?

Hon. Mr. Prentice replied as follows:

"1. Yes. 2. There have been no quotations. 3. No."

PRIVATE BILLS.

The following bills were reported from committee, read a tird time and passed:

Mr. Ellison—To amend the Pacific Northern & Omineca Railway Company's Act.

Mr. Garden—To amend the Vancouver & Westminster Railway Company's Act.

Mr. Hall—To incorporate the Victoria & Seymour Narrows Railway Company.

Mr. Curtis moved that the following new section be inserted in the bill amending the Vancouver & Westminster Railway Company:

"The provincial government shall have the right, after 20 years from the passing of this act, provided the company's railway has not passed under the jurisdiction of the Dominion of Canada, upon giving one year's notice of the intention of the provincial government so to do, to purchase all the company's property, rights and franchises at the fair market value of its corporeal property, together with such bonus (if any) not exceeding 10 per cent. of such market value as the government may agree to pay."

Mr. McPhillips opposed the amendment as not being in the public interest and imposing a policy on a future administration.

Mr. Garden pointed out that the amendment would be perfectly useless, as that road would fall under control of the Dominion government as soon as completed.

Mr. Curtis' amendment was defeated.

THIRD READINGS.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite's bill respecting compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. McPhillips' bill to amend the Bills of Sales Act was also read a third time and passed.

TRADES UNIONS.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite resumed the debate on the second reading of Mr. Curtis' bill Respecting Actions against Trades Unions and Kindred Associations. He said the bill was one of the most important measures, from a labor point of view, and the House should use the utmost care in considering its provisions. The principle of the bill was contained in clause 2, which was so strongly urged upon the favorable considerable of the House by Mr. Curtis, and just as warmly opposed by Mr. Martin. It was argued that labor had no right to special legislation, but he pointed out that capital had obtained such legislation, and it was only fair that the workingman's rights should be properly safeguarded. He did not think the general provisions of the bill objectionable, but exception might be taken to clause 2. He suggested that a compromise might be arrived at with profit, and urged that course upon the mover of the bill and its opponents.

Mr. Neill said he would support the bill if clause 2 be struck out.

Mr. Murphy agreed with Mr. Neill.

Mr. McPhillips declared that he could not support the bill. He believed in following British legislation. A bill had recently been introduced in the Imperial Commons, but, as far as he knew, it had gone no further. He thought it would be time enough to consider such legislation when the British House had passed upon it. He read an article from the London Times criticizing the proposed law, showing that it was regarded as a dangerous example of attempted class legislation. He did not believe the trades unions were actuated by improper motives, but were merely anxious to secure every possible privilege for their members; but they, like all other individuals or combinations, were liable to err, and it would be a mistake, without the most serious consideration, to place a weapon in their hands which might be very improperly used. He warned the House against being too hasty in adopting legislation which might seriously affect the investment of capital in the province. There was no crying demand for such a law and it would be quite safe to await the action of the British House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. Eberts declared himself decidedly opposed to the bill. Mr. Curtis had undertaken to review the history of legislation affecting trades unions, but had not gone far enough. He (Mr. Eberts) then made a masterly exposition of the question, quoting statutes, opinions of judges and public men, reports of select committees of parliament and recent English decisions, all going to show that the proposed bill was incompatible with British ideas of justice.

The real object of the bill was to protect a foreign labor organization, an importation from the United States, the Western Federation of Miners, which had done so much mischief at Rossland. Mr. Curtis was acting in the interest of that body, which had no legal standing in Canada, being registered at Denver, Colorado. He did not mean to say Mr. Curtis was retained by the Federation, but the provisions of section 5 relieving those people of liability in an action now before the courts appeared to him very significant. The bill was the worst ever presented to a legislature. It would be most disastrous to the workingmen and destructive of the best interests of labor. It would permit foreign combinations to procure the commission of crime and outrage in the province while they would have their funds so protected that the victims of their wrongdoing would have no redress against them.

Mr. Curtis interrupted continually in defence of his bill

Hon. Mr. Eberts declared he would not be a party to such outrageous legislation. He cited the Northport outrages, which were a shame and disgrace to any civilized country, as a sample of what might occur under such a law. He agreed with Mr. McPhillips that it would be time enough to legislate in the direction of the bill when the labor conditions of the country demanded it; meantime they might profitably await the course of Imperial legislation. He would consider the House and the province disgraced if the bill were made law.

Mr. Helmcken moved the adjournment of the debate.

ASIATIC LABOR.

Mr. Helmcken moved the second reading of a bill relating to the employment on works carried on under franchises granted by private acts, which was agreed to.

The bill provides that no workman shall be employed on works undertaken under authority of any charter granted by the legislature unless he can read the act in a language of Europe. The penalty against the employer is a fine not exceeding $25 nor under $10 for each workman employed in contravention of the act.

SUPREME COURT.

Mr. McPhillips' bill to amend the Supreme Court Act was read a second time.

CATTLE RUNNING AT LARGE.

Mr. McPhillips moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Animals Act. The bill provides that no cattle shall be allowed to run at large upon any unfenced laud, street or road, within three miles of the limits of any city municipality having a population of 10,000 or more. He explained that the bill would only apply to the city of Victoria.

Messrs. Neill and Martin opposed the bill on the ground that it would create a hardship to milkmen and others living in the suburbs. Residents of cities had their redress under the law by having stray cattle impounded. Mr. Martin moved that the bill be read this day six months.

Mr. McPhillips again urged the second reading. He held that the matter was one of importance to residents of Victoria, and he asked the consideration of the House.

Mr. Hayward also opposed the bill. He saw no reason why suburban residents should not have to fence their lands as well as those living further out in the country.

Mr. Oliver opposed the bill on similar grounds.

Hon. Mr. Eberts said the bill was very necessary in Victoria. It was notorious that cattle were continually allowed to run at large to the inconvenience and damage of residents of the suburbs. The bill was so worded as only to apply to Victoria, and it would work no hardship to anyone, but would put an end to much annoyance and damage to property.

The second reading was defeated on a vote of 13 to 15.

YOUTHS PROTECTION ACT.

Mr. McPhillips moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Youths' Protection Act. He explained that the proposed amendment provided that no liquor should be sold to any person under the age of 18 years, and no tobacco to persons under the age of 16. In Ontario the age was placed at 21 years. He hoped the bill would have the unanimous support of the House.

Mr. Martin supported the bill. He would go further, however, and make it unlawful for any person to smoke on the street or in public places.

Mr. Helmcken was warmly in favor of the bill. He dwelt on the importance of dissuading boys from contracting bad habits and paid a tribute to the J. B. A. A. as an example of sober, well behaved young men. He would like to see the manufacture of cigarettes prohibited in Canada. He considered the bill very much in the interests of the public.

Mr. Oliver also supported the bill.

The second reading then passed.

STAVE LAKE POWER.

Messrs. Gifford and Garden called attention to the fact that portions of the correspondence regarding the Stave Lake Power company was not included in the return brought down.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

Just before the House adjourned at 6 o'clock, Hon. Mr. Wells answered Mr. McBride's questions:

1. Is J. N. Greenshields, K. C., still in the service of the government?

2. If so, under what terms?

As follows:

"1. Yes, but only in respect to any negotiations between the Dominion and Provincial governments.

"2. If by 'terms' is meant payment for his services, there is no agreement for any further payment in addition to $2,000 already paid for past and future services."

Hon. Mr. Prior presented a return under section 143 of the Mineral Act. Also a return of the amendment to the regulations approved under the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act Amendment Act, 1901, on the 9th day of January, 1902.

NIGHT SITTING.

The House resolved into committee of the whole to consider Mr. Helmeken's bill relating to the employment on works carried on under franchises granted by private acts, Mr. Stables in the chair. The bill was reported complete without amendment.

The third reading of the bill was moved, but Mr. Curtis objected, and it was deferred till the next sitting of the House.

Mr. McPhillips' bill to amend the Supreme Court Act was taken up in committee, and reported complete with amendments, Mr. Tatlow in the chair. One of the amendments provides that plaintiffs may be ordered to give security for costs in certain cases.

Mr. McPhillips' bill to amend the Youths' Protection Act was submitted to the committee of the whole, Mr. Hall in the chair, and was reported complete with amendments.

PROTECTION OF GAME.

Mr. Hayward moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Game Protection Act. The bill provides that persons shall not shoot over enclosed private property without having obtained permission of the owner, failing which they shall be liable to a fine of not more than $5, nor less than $3. The Provincial Farmer's Institute were unanimous in asking for this amendment.

Hon. Mr. Eberts explained that under the existing act farmers were obliged, before they could prevent trespass, to post up on every 40 acres of their land a printed notice or warning. This was rather onerous on the farmer, and he thought the least a man could do was to ask permission to shoot. Very often these trespassers (they were not sportsmen) were very insolent and abusive when warned off private lands, and any amendment which would serve to deter trespassing would be welcome to the farmers.

Mr. Neill favored the amendment, but did not consider the penalty sufficiently severe.

The second reading passed.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN ACT.

Mr. Curtis moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Public Works Loan Act. He explained that his bill was to protect workmen. In many cases contractors and subcontractors secured the money for their contracts and failed to pay their workmen.

Hon. Mr. Wells said the bill was out of order, as it interfered with the policy of the government. The government had introduced a bill dealing with the question.

Mr. Speaker reserved his decision.

PROVINCIAL ELECTORS.

Mr. Curtis moved the second reading of an act to amend the Provincial Election Act. The bill provides that an elector shall be disqualified from voting by ceasing to reside in the district for one month immediately prior to polling day, and gives the collector of votes power to strike the names of such persons off the list. It also provides that at general elections nominations shall take place on the same day throughout the province.

Hon. Mr. Eberts pointed out that there were two courts of revision every year, and there was every opportunity for having the names of persons improperly on the list struck off. The amendment would debar any person from voting who had been absent on business for a month or part of a month prior to election. The other provisions of the bill were also covered by existing law.

The second reading was defeated on a vote of 18 to 8.

MUNICIPAL ELECTORS.

Mr. Curtis moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Municipal Elections Act. The bill provides that any male or female, being a British subject and 21 years of age, who has paid all taxes due on or before December 1, shall be entitled to vote for mayor and alderman. It also provides for the compilation of the voters' list, removing names from list, and the declaration of a vote whose vote may be challenged.

Mr. Oliver moved the six months' hoist, as the bill was practically covered by the bill prepared by the Municipal committee.

With permission of the House, Mr. Curtis withdrew his bill.

TRANSPORTATION.

Mr. Curtis moved the second reading of a bill respecting Railway and Steamship Transportation in Certain Cases. The bill was intended to compel railway and steamship companies to give free transportation to every member of the legislative assembly; and in case of its dissolution, for three months thereafter to every person who was a member of it at the time of its dissolution; to every judge of the Supreme court and County courts of the province; to the surveyor and inspector of revenue, and to the assessor of taxes for the province. Railway companies to furnish lists annually to the Provincial Secretary of all persons to whom free transportation is issued. Any company failing to issue such transportation or to make such returns shall be liable to a fine of $500 in each case.

Mr. Curtis argued that by making it compulsory on railway companies to issue transportation to the persons named would remove any suspicion of members of the legislature, judges or tax collectors being under an obligation to the companies.

The bill was thrown out on a vote of 19 to 15.

The House adjourned at 11 p.m. till 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Legislative Chamber, May 20, 1902.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:30 p. m.

Rev. Alexander Fraser offered prayer.

Mr. McBride asked if any arrangement had been made to represent the province at the Fisheries conference to be held at Ottawa?

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir said that owing to the House being in session arrangements had been made.

Mr. McBride moved that the House do now adjourn, in order to discuss the question of why no representative of the province had been appointed to attend the Fisheries conference at Ottawa. He argued that the question was one of urgent public importance. A great deal of uncertainty existed as to the jurisdiction of the province with regard to the fisheries, and it was very important that the province should have been represented at the conference. He claimed that the government were remiss in their duty in not securing proper representation at the conference. He continued with a general arraignment of the government, repeating the same charges which he has made frequently during the session.

Hon. Col. Prior called attention to the irrelevancy of these remarks, and Mr. Speaker requested Mr. McBride to confine himself to his resolution.

Mr. McBride went on to argue that the province would suffer great loss through not having a representative at the conference, why had not Mr. Babcock been sent?

Hon. Mr. Eberts replied. He said Mr. McBride had jumped in the dark, he had not possessed himself of the facts before advancing his charges. The government had presented the case of the provincial fisheries very forcibly and completely in February, 1901, and they had been complimented on the completeness of their brief on behalf of the province. An arrangement had been made last year by which the Dominion should continue to collect fisheries revenue and pay British Columbia her proportion. This year the government proposed passing a bill which would empower the province to administer the fisheries unless last year's arrangements were extended. Regarding the conference, the government had had no notice of it in time to arrange for representation under existing circumstances, as the persistent obstruction of the opposition rendered it impossible for him (Mr. Eberts) to whose charge the fisheries department was entrusted, to leave his place in the House. If the province was unrepresented at the conference it was due wholly to the conduct of the opposition. The invitation to send a delegate or delegates to Ottawa had only reached them on May 10, and it was impossible in the 10 days intervening to even act upon the suggestion to engage and instruct counsel to represent the province. He read the correspondence which had passed between Hon. James Sutherland, minister of marine and fisheries, and the Hon. the Premier, in support of his contention, pointing out that the attention of the Dominion government had been drawn to the fact that there was an arrangement existing between the governments under which a conference was to be held between Sir Wilfrid Laurier and representatives of the British Columbia government immediately after the return of Sir Wilfrid from the coronation. He further pointed out that the case of British Columbia was entirely different from that of the other provinces, and that her interests were being perfectly safe-guarded, yet the honorable the leader of the opposition was willing to place himself on record as being willing to leave the representation of the legal aspects of the case in the hands of Mr. Babcock, fisheries inspector, an expert on salmon, but certainly not competent to undertake the argument of such important subjects. Would it be right to trust the discussion of foreshore rights and the relations of the province with the Dominion in fisheries matters in the hands of a layman? and yet Mr. McBride argued that Mr. Babcock should be at Ottawa representing the province.

Mr. Murphy had no complaint to make of the Ottawa delegation of last year, but he argued that that work had not been followed up. He claimed that the delay in the work of the session was due to the action of the government, and not to the opposition. He claimed that the government had acted discourteously to the Ottawa government in not accepting their invitation.

Mr. McPhillips followed. He claimed that the government might have sent a lawyer to represent the province who, in company with Mr. Babcock, might have supported the case of British Columbia.

Mr. Martin pointed out that it was not the practice for the House to divide on a question of this kind, and Mr. McBride (following the practice) withdrew his motion.

ALIEN LABOR.

Mr. Helmcken's bill relating to the employment on works carried on under franchises granted by private acts, was amended by adding the following as a new section:

"The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may appoint the chief of provincial police and any provincial police constable, or other persons, as officers, to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act."

GAME PROTECTION.

The House proceeded to discuss Mr. Hayward's bill to amend the Game Protection Act in committee of the whole, Mr. Munro in the chair. The following amendment, moved by Mr. Neill, was adopted:

"Nothing in this act shall be construed as prohibiting any resident farmer, or employee of such farmer, resident on the farm, and authorized by him, from killing at any time deer that is found pasturing within the cultivated fields of said farmer."

Mr. Oliver proposed a new section prohibiting Sunday shooting on enclosed land without permission of the owner, under pain of a $50 penalty. The amendment was also adopted.

Hon. Mr. Eberts pointed out that shooting on Sunday was already prohibited on the Mainland.

Mr. Helmcken said he would like to see the law definitely stated with regard to Indians. A case had occurred at Cowichan where an Indian was brought before the court and convicted, but not fined, for having a deer in his possession out of season. He had understood that Indians were given a right to kill game at all seasons for their own use, and he would like to see a clause inserted providing that the act did not apply to Indians. He moved an amendment to that effect.

The amendment was lost.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

TRADES' UNIONS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. Curtis' Trades Union bill was further adjourned by permission of the House.

RAILWAY ASSESSMENTS.

Mr. Speaker ruled Mr. Curtis' bill to amend the Railway Assessment Act out of order.

CANADIAN NORTHERN.

A message was received from the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting a bill to provide for the construction of a railway from Victoria to Yellowhead Pass.

It was decided to consider the bill tomorrow.

COAST-KOOTENAY.

Another message was received transmitting a bill for the construction of the Coast-Kootenay Railway, the consideration of which was fixed for tomorrow.

OUT OF ORDER.

Mr. Curtis' bill to amend the British Columbia Public Works Loan Act was ruled out of order.

LEGAL PROFESSION.

Mr. Martin moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Legal Professions' Act. The bill provides that clerks who have served in law offices for ten years may be admitted to practise, after passing the necessary examinations, after three instead of five years study.

The second reading passed.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. Oliver's bill to amend the Municipal Elections Act was read a second time.

WORKMEN AND EMPLOYEES.

Mr. Curtis moved the second reading of a bill respecting deception in procuring workmen or employees. The bill provides that it shall be unlawful for any person, society, association, or organization of any kind doing business in this province to induce a workman to change from one place to another or to bring a workman into this province, to work through, or by means of deceptive representations, false advertising or false pretences concerning the kind and character of the work to be done, or as to the existing or non-existence of a strike or other trouble pending between employer and employees, at the time of, or immediately prior to, such engagement. Failure to state in any advertisement, proposal or contract, shall be deemed as false advertisement and misrepresentation.

Mr. Oliver objected to the portion of the bill which practically prohibited an employer whose employees struck or left his employment from employing others.

Hon. Mr. Eberts considered the bill useless. A workman might read an advertisement in the State of Minnesota misstating terms of employment at Rossland and on his arrival at that place he would be in a position to take an action against some one in Minnesota. He might be put to great expense, but would stand a small chance for redress. The bill, in his opinion, was not worth the paper it was written on. Mr. Curtis might hope to make a certain amount of political capital out of it, but the workman would gain nothing whatever.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite thought the bill a very necessary one, especially the provision relating to advertisements inducing workmen coming from a distance only to find that a strike was in progress. In such cases advertisers should be compelled to state that a strike was on.

Mr. Martin thought the bill went too far in compelling employers to advertise that there was a strike on. The workman could make enquiries for himself, but if the person employing him deliberately misled and misrepresented facts he should be punished. The principle of the bill was sound, and he would support it.

The second reading was adopted.

PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. Martin moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Provincial Elections Act. The object of the bill was to regulate the appointment and duties of collectors of votes and to provide a form of oath for persons applying to have their names placed on the voters' list. In the past the names of many persons who had no right to vote were retained on the lists from year to year. The bill made it necessary that persons should make application to have their names added and provided every facility for their so doing—by making it competent for almost every public official in the province to receive their applications.

After some discussion the second reading was concurred in.

THE MEDICAL ACT.

Mr. Gilmour introduced a bill to amend the Medical Act, which was read a first time.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

NIGHT SITTING.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 8:30 p. m.

Mr. E. C. Smith enquired of the Hon. the Attorney-General if he had any information regarding the crowded condition of the jail at Nelson?

Also if he had any notice of a constable at Morrissey having stopped a party of miners who were going there to organize a branch of the Western Federation of Miners.

Hon. Mr. Eberts replied that neither matter had been brought to his attention. He would enquire into them.

Mr. Helmcken's bill respecting employment on works carried on under franchises, granted by private acts, was read a third time and passed.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. Oliver's bill to amend the Municipal Elections Act, drafted by the Municipal committee, was considered in committee of the whole, Mr. Neill in the chair.

Mr. Helmcken objected to its being made necessary for householders to apply annually to have their names placed on the list; he also saw no good reason why property holders in two or more wards should be restricted to one vote.

Mr. Houston argued that the one man one vote principle was the right one. He believed in residents only having the right to vote. The idea of the bill was to make the municipal the same as the provincial franchise.

Mr. Curtis pointed out that there was self and pass a law making it unlawful to attempt to float mining propositions without giving investors full and complete details of all the drawbacks connected with them. The promotor, however, was not obliged to tell all he knew about the property, and he had a perfect right to put his scheme in the most favorable light possible. Why should an employer of labor be compelled to spend money in advertising the labor no provision in the bill permitting owners of real estate, who were not householders, to vote.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite made the same objection.

Mr. Green supported the bill as it stood, but would like to see a provision extending the right to vote to married women owning property.

After considerable discussion, the committee rose and reported progress, with a recommendation that the bill be recommitted to the Municipal committee.

Messrs. McInnes, Oliver and Houston declined to occupy further time with the bill. Urging that the committee of the whole was competent to make all necessary amendments.

DECEIVING WORKMEN.

Mr. Curtis' bill respecting deception in procuring workmen or employees, was referred to the committee of the whole, Mr. Mounce in the chair.

Mr. Oliver moved to strike out the provision making it unlawful for employers to advertise for workmen to replace men on strike, or who had abandoned their employment without stating in such advertisement that a strike was on, or that some other trouble which might exist between him and his men.

This amendment was very freely discussed. Mr. Martin suggested that Mr. Curtis might apply the principle to mining conditions existing at his place of business? It was sufficient that he should be deterred from deliberately practising deceit.

Mr. Rogers moved that the committee rise.

Mr. Neill moved that the committee rise and report progress with leave to sit again.

The amendment was carried.

The House adjourned at 11:45 p.m., till 2 p.m. today.

THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

Information Bureau Will Be Kept Open In Evenings.

The regular weekly meeting of the executive committee of the Tourist association was held last night in the association rooms, No. 34 Fort street. Several matters of importance were discussed, among them the advisability of keeping the bureau open in the evenings for the convenience of strangers and citizens desiring information.

Mr. Cuthbert reported having made good progress in Los Angeles and San Francisco, meeting with much encouragement in both cities. At Los Angeles he was well received by the press, the Herald devoting a column to explaining his mission and commending the objects of the Tourist association to its readers. The article was illustrated with an excellent half-tone portrait of Mr. Cuthbert. He is now en route for Portland, whence he will visit Tacoma and Seattle, arriving home on May 21.

It was decided to issue second editions of the booklet and folder, the demand for copies on hand being so great as to indicate a scarcity in the near future.

The members hurried through the business and adjourned early in order to attend the complimentary concert given in aid of the association by the Fifth Regiment band, proceeding in a body to the Drill hall.

NANAIMO BOARD OF TRADE.

Officers for the Year Elected at Meeting.

Nanaimo, May 20.—(Special)—At a meeting of the Board of Trade this evening officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, W. T. Hedde; vice-president, J. H. Cocking; secretary, Geo. L. Schetky; treasurer, E. E. Taylor; council, E. E. Stevenson, J. E. T. Powers, J. H. Good, Geo. Williams, Ralph Smith, M. P., E. M. Yarwood, W. F. Norris, C. H. Barker, F. L. Terrill, Chas. Trowford. The announcement was made at the meeting that rates on the E. & N. railway from Victoria upon freight from outside points would be only 15 cents per hundred, instead of 28 cents.

FROM HALIFAX.

Victoria Trooper in Fourth Contingent, Writes of Experience.

The following letter has been received by Albert McNeachan from Trooper H. Nobbs, who left here as one of the recruits in the Fourth Contingent. It is dated Halifax, May 9:

"I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I arrived safely here Monday at 8 p. m., after a good trip on the train. We had good accommodations, tourist cars and dining cars, like first class hotels. We had a good send-off at Vancouver, where the band marched us to the station and played us off. Victoria was the worst send-off we got. At Winnipeg we took on 180 men. There was a big crowd and there the band played us off. We are having an easy time here yet. We have good food and sleep on loose boards, with one blanket under us and two over us. After we get our uniforms and horses we will have more to do. We can go to town every night after 6, if we want to. The 3rd and part of the fourth regiment sailed for South Africa yesterday on the troopship Austrian. They got a great send-off. The band marched them to the boat and played them off. Col. Williams is in command of the third. The remainder of the 4th and 5th regiments will sail, I think, about the 15th, but we wont go till after that. We were inspected the day before yesterday by General O'Grady-Haley, and he praised us up splendidly, and said we were the best body of men that came from the West, and he knew that we would do our duty. The Victorias are all together yet, all but Ware. He is corporal and in another troop. Royds is sergeant of our troop and MacKenzie corporal. Roach is well. Col MacDonell will be our commanding officer.

"TROOPER ARTHUR RICHARD NOBBS.

BILLINGS WAS THE ONE AT FAULT.

"Your honor," said the attorney for the defence, "I wish to move by this question that the witness is a man of quarrelsome disposition, hard to get along with, and on bad terms with his neighbors. Now, sir," he continued, turning again to the witness, "I'd like to know whose farm is next to yours?"

"Well, answered the witness, "there's the Billings farm, and the——"

"Stop right there. One at a time. Are you on friendly terms with Mr. Billings?"

"I can't say I am."

"Are you even on speaking terms with him?"

"No, sir."

"Whose fault is it?"

"It's his fault, I reckon."

"O yes; it's his fault, you reckon! How long has it been since you have spoken to him?"

"About 14 years, as near as I can remember."

"Now, sir, I want you to tell this jury why you have not spoken to Mr. Billings for 14 years."

"Gentlemen," said the witness, turning to the jury, "the reason why I haven't spoken to Mr. Billings for 14 years is because that's about the length of time he's been dead."—Chicago Tribune.

GATHERED IN LODGE ROOMS

The Grand Lodge of the Masonic Order of British Columbia meets in this city next month. The event has been looked forward to with interest for some time, and though coming near the time of the coronation festivities, there will be a large gathering present to meet the Grand Master.

* * *

The Knights of Pythias convention in Vancouver was a very interesting one, and several matters which will be brought before the Supreme Lodge of Knights, which meets in San Francisco in August next, were warmly debated. The Victoria lodges were represented by Brothers Nathan, Pferdner and Gold, and all are loud in their appreciation of the warm welcome accorded by the members of the order in Vancouver. The freedom of the city was accorded them, and the mayor of Vancouver read an address of welcome to the visitors, whilst the British Columbia Electric Railway Company granted all the visitors the privilege of riding free during the convention. The Knights of Pythias have decided to celebrate their anniversary Decoration Day on the 15th of next month. The Island lodges will assemble in a body. At the last meetings of the K. of P. lodges all the arrangements were made, and committees struck off who will have their reception and management in hand. It is expected that two bands will be engaged to render the music going to and returning from the cemetery.

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Pride of the Island Lodge, Sons of England, at their last meeting had a very large gathering of members present. After the routine business had been completed, the election of a delegate to the Grand Lodge took place. The members selected Past Master Arthur Lee as their representative. Since his initiation as a member of the order Bro. Lee has always taken the keenest interest in the work of his lodge. Always at the members' service, he has earned for himself the highest esteem, and the honor conferred is fully deserved. As a member and officer of the order he has earned the confidence shown, and the lodge congratulates itself on being so worthily represented.

* * *

Victoria Lodge, Daughters of St. George, received a delegation from Milton Lodge last evening in connection with the proposed juvenile order. The Daughters of St. George have arranged to give a ball on the evening of the 23rd, and it promises to be a success. Tickets can be had of any of the members.

* * *

The A. O. U. W. lodges of the city have had a very busy time this week. The Degree of Honor were entertained by the members of the Western Star Lodge, and a very pleasant time was spent. A first-class programme was arranged, which included singing, recitations and speeches, a dance concluding one of the pleasantest socials of the season. The Degree of Honor intend giving a social on the 29th, and members of the male orders are cordially invited to be present.

* * *

The social and dance given by the Companions of the Forest on Thursday evening was largely attended and a great success. Over 60 couples participated, and great credit is due the energetic committee who had the arrangements in hand.

* * *

The Sons of St. George met on Monday last, a large number of members being present. Three candidates were initiated, the degree team performing their work in perfect manner, the new degree work instituted by the Supreme Lodge being very beautiful. No. 2 degree team will perform the next initiations. After the business of the evening had been concluded, a smoking concert was indulged in, Brother Sherman accompanying on the piano. A deputation from the lodge waited on the Victoria lodge last evening.

* * *

The Ladies of the Maccabees are settling down to work with more determination than ever to make the order the largest and best conducted fraternal society in the city, and it is needless to say that when an organization of women set themselves to a task with the determination to succeed, they are not likely to fail. The better accomodation afforded by the room they now occupy will allow the drill and floor work of the order to be carried out in full, and it may be said that for beauty and effect the work of the Maccabees is second to that of no other fraternal society in existence. The Supreme Hive continues the rapid growth which has characterized it since its organization. During the month of March the net gain of its membership was well on for 1,000, which goes to prove the favorable decision of women regarding the question of life protection, and the popularity of the order of the Ladies of the Maccabees as a reliable insurance society. The Hive in Victoria meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in room No, 2, A. O. U. W. Hall.

* * *

Court Northern Light, A. O. F., at their meeting on Wednesday evening initiated one candidate and received application for membership. The new by-laws of the court are ready, and members are requested to be present at the next meeting to receive copies. At the same meeting a tug-of-war team will be chosen to defend the cup, now in possession of the court, at the re-union to be held on June 27. At the close of the meeting a whist social was held by the Red Party, at which members and lady friends took part. The first prize for ladies was won by Mrs. Speed, the second by Mrs. Wagg; the first prize for gentlemen was won by Bro. Bourgeois, the second by Bro. Tuggle. At the next meeting the social event will be a lecture on "The Brain," by Bro. Dr. Gibbs, to be followed by a lecture on "Phrenology and Hypnotism," by Bros. Goward and Bolden.

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Arrangements are being perfected for the service commemorating the anniversary of the institution of the Canadian Order of Woodmen of the World, to be held on Sunday afternoon, June 8, at the Victoria Theatre. The Rev. E. S. Rowe has consented to deliver a sermon, and Mr. Gideon Hicks to arrange the choral service. The full programme of exercises is not yet complete. A collection is to be taken up, the gross receipts of which is to be handed to the Jubilee Hospital, to assist in establishing a children's ward. The public will be invited, and the members of the Victoria Camp will attend.

* * *

Court Vancouver, A. O. F., met last evening at K. of P. Hall. The drawing which was passed at the last previous meeting was commenced. The drawing is a new scheme, with which every member should become thoroughly acquainted.

Capt. D. Gilmour, Seattle, pilot for the Japanese liners, is at the Victoria.

THE CELEBRATION.

Big Crowds Expected From the Surrounding Cities—The Decorations.

Chief Watson, of the Fire department, who has this year undertaken the task of decorating the streets and civic buildings for the Victoria Day celebration, had a big gang of men at work yesterday, and by tomorrow evening the city will have donned her gayest attire, as business men will add to the brilliancy of the city by elaborate decorations. Strings of flags have been strung along either side of the business streets and hundreds of electric globes will make a brilliant archway by night. The City hall is being draped, and here, too, electric globes will be used to brighten the effect after dark.

It is expected that the attendance from outside cities will be larger than for several years. The steamship and railway companies, as well as the committee, have generously advertised the celebration, and all look for good returns. Besides the two Sound steamers, it is likely that other special steamers will run between here and the cities across the Straits, while the C. P. R. will offer the Mainlanders every inducement to come down.

The trap-shooting under the auspices of the Victoria and Capital Gun clubs, will be held at Beacon Hill on Saturday, commencing at 11 a.m. sharp, and not on Friday, as erroneously stated.

DINNER AND CONCERT.

Petty Officers of the Grafton Spend a Jolly Evening.

An enjoyable dinner and smoking concert took place at the Coach and Horses on Thursday evening by the chief and first-class petty officers of H. M. S. Grafton. The chair was occupied by J. W. May, ship's corporal, who was supported by Sergt.-Major Churchard, R. M. L. I., in the vice-chair. After dinner the chairman gave the toast of the evening, "Our King and Queen," after which several short speeches were made, also a vote of thanks was passed to the host and hostess, coupled with the name of Mr. Smith (late proprietor), for the most able way in which the catering was carried out. Songs were rendered during the evening by the following: Ship's Corporal May, "Tit-Bits"; Leading Stoker Holmes, "Chairman of the Friendly Lead"; Chief Torpedo Armorer Rozzel, "May I Dance With You?" Petty Officer Templeton, "Old Joe, the Jockey"; Chief Torpedo Instructor McGill, "The Bugler;" Petty Officer Vincombe, "The Light Brigade," who responded to a song with "Where Did You Lose Your Arm?" Leading Stoker Warrines, "Light in the Window"; Petty Officer Logan Smith, "The Dustman"; Petty Officer Cocks, "Welcome to the New Year"; Gunnery Instructor Pegan, "I Love Old Ireland Still"; Petty Officer Elliott; Gunnery Instructor Field, "You Love Us for Our Rhino"; Leading Stoker Todd, "A Glass of Stout and Mild."

The guests of the evening were Mr. Cleaver Gunner, R.N.; Mr. Walker Parsenterk, R. N.; Petty Officer Cuthbertson, from the navy yard.

Mr. Smith presided at the piano and played accompaniments. The whole of the numbers were loudly applauded and several enthusiastically encored.

CHINA MUTUAL FLEET SOLD

A Big Organization Formed to Carry On Trade With the Orient.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Seattle, Wash., May 20.—News was received here today of the sale of the China-Mutual fleet of steamers, consisting of the Hyson, Yang Tse, Ching Wo, Kaisow, Kintuck, Moyune, Ning Chow, Oanfa, Oolong, Paklin, Teenkai and Ping Suey to Alfred Holt, of Liverpool, the consideration being $2,600,000. A consolidation of all the steamers operated by the Northern Pacific Steamship company, the Great Northern and the Boston Steamship company will be made, it is stated, and be all operated as one fleet with headquarters at Seattle, the Northern Pacific railway still loading its steamers at Tacoma, however.

The schedule will be as follows: South China line, steamships Victoria, Tacoma, Olympia, Tremont