TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES.

"Mr. Templeman's fitness for the portfolio he now seeks to fill must be judged by the efforts he made to secure it. If he has not proved equal to his opportunities and responsibilities in the past, we have little guarantee that he will do better in the future." This is the judgment of the Colonist. It is a new thing for a public man in this country to be reproached because of lack of the spirit of selfishness. Politicians are not usually backward in claiming in full measure all they believe to be their due. In the ordinary relations of life the self-sacrificing man is commended for his virtues. In the case under consideration a candidate for Parliamentary honors is censured because his preferment was postponed owing to his disinclination to take advantage of his opportunities. This is doubtless a very reprehensible trait of character. It is a characteristic we seldom see illustrated in public life. There was a case right at home in British Columbia which indicated the possession of qualities of exactly an opposite character. The present Premier of this province was called upon by the Lieut.-Governor to form a government. Mr. McBride was presented with this opportunity not through any special effort on his own part or through any special efforts of his present political colleagues, to defeat the government of that day. That work was accomplished by others, with whom Mr. McBride professed to be in political accord and sympathy. But when the opportunity came for the present Prime Minister to prove his loyalty to the men who brought about his preferment and to the principles of honor, truth and justice which should be the actuating motives in the conduct of all men in high positions, he deliberately turned his back upon his friends and called into his councils another set of advisers. The Premier's excuse was that he thought it expedient to "take advantage of his opportunities and responsibilities" for the purpose of bringing into existence party government in British Columbia. That is, he believed he was justified in betraying his friends in order that a Conservative administration might be set up. Late developments have demonstrated that it was an unfortunate day for Conservatism in British Columbia when Mr. McBride turned traitor and proclaimed himself the party leader. But he took advantage of his opportunities, and he has placed his party under heavy responsibilities. Now he and his savory chief lieutenant think that by thrusting upon the Conservatives of Victoria the responsibility of opposing the Minister of Inland Revenue they will wreak vengeance upon the Times for its comments upon the malodorous disclosures bearing upon provincial maladministration, and at the same time possibly gain a point which may be to their advantage in the pending provincial elections.

A PECULIAR PROPOSITION.

A new commandment hath been given, a new principle hath been laid down, with regard to government. We are told this morning, in effect, that the essential matter that should be kept in mind by all citizens is that it is not the welfare of the country, or of any section of the country, that is of importance in choosing representatives; the chief consideration should be the present condition and the future prospects of a political party. If any choose to ignore that aspect of the situation as it presents itself to-day in Victoria, then they crucify their political principles for sordid purposes, and are no more worthy to associate with such self-sacrificing patriots as—Hon. R. F. Freen, on whose behalf the agitation for opposition to the election of the Minister of Inland Revenue has been started.

We submit it is a mistake to assume that all men are politicians first and business men during the hours they can afford to divorce from the consideration of the momentous affairs of state. It is just the other way around. This is a fact it would be well for professional politicians to take into their serious consideration, as it may prevent them from becoming offensive in their references to the attitude of men of influence who cast their votes as their reason and intelligence prompt, and not at the dictation of the "machine" which has been set up over the bay, and whose motions are directed by delicate but far from pure hands.

British Columbia has been brought into very undesirable prominence through the peculiar relations of the government with the syndicate which magnanimously and unselfishly undertook to secure the terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway on Kaien Island. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer offers the following comment: "On the showing, the public lands in British Columbia are handled in a free and easy manner, which would be prolific of scandals if adopted in some portions of the globe. The grant to a private individual of 10,000 acres of public lands, conditioned that he could secure a railway company to select it as a terminus, seems a peculiar proceeding, in view of the present testimony that the individual in question was acting for an outside speculator and not for the company. The idea of keeping such a transaction quiet for a year savors somewhat of underhand methods."

Wherever the spoils are, there will the speculators be gathered together. The fame of the McBride government must have been spread abroad throughout the entire continent, as we learn that even from far-off New York men of means came to invest in the loosely-held lands of British Columbia. But why should these remarkably fore-sighted individuals have been so anxious to secure the favor of Mr. James Anderson? Who or what endowed Mr. Anderson with the tremendous influence personified capital was so eager to enlist in its service? The case is very mysterious. There is none like it on record in Canada. It reads like a chapter of the history of past times when affairs of state were conducted in secret places and kings enriched their favorites with generous slices of the public domain.

* * *

Harmony as to local needs is finely exemplified in the attitude of the Victoria newspapers towards the new Minister of Inland Revenue, the Hon. William Templeman. The Victoria Times, which is owned by Mr. Templeman, naturally does not oppose his appointment and has only agreeable things to say of him. The Colonist, which on ordinary occasions opposes anything and everything advocated by the Times, gracefully says that he will be entitled to and will receive felicitations from the whole people of the province.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

When the editor of the Post-Intelligencer reads the Colonist of the last two days he will better understand what the name Liberal-Conservative, which it applies to its politics, really means. A Liberal-Conservative is manifestly a person who is opposed to the things he is in favor of.

* * *

The following appeared in the columns of the Colonist this morning, and is assumed to have special reference to the administration of provincial affairs generally and to the Kaien Island land transaction in particular: "So far as this province is concerned, there is not a single redeeming feature in the administration of our affairs to recommend it to the consideration of honest electors. It has been a record of repudiated promises, neglect and the operation of 'graft.'"

* * *

Conservatism in the capital of British Columbia has indeed fallen upon evil days if the elements which have been its chief strength are to be called upon to dance to the music of Hon. R. F. Green.

"NOT IF IT COST TEN DOLLARS a bottle would I be without Polson's Nerviline," writes J. A. Ruth, a farmer living near Trenton, Ont. "Nerviline is the best household liniment I know. We use it for stomach troubles, indigestion, headache and summer complaint. I know of nothing better to take in hot water to break up a cold, or to rub on for rheumatism or neuralgia." Every farmer should keep a few bottles of Nerviline handy and have smaller doctor bills. Large bottles 25c at druggists.

TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

Proportional Representation Discussed and a Practical Demonstration Arranged For.

President Coldwell occupied the chair at the meeting of the trades and labor council last night, at which there was a large attendance.

John P. Gropp, representing the Barbers' Union, took his seat as a new delegate.

Secretary Draper wrote an encouraging letter on organization.

A deputation consisting of J. C. Mapleton, A. E. MacEachern and J. Pointer, representing the Victoria Rochdale Co-operative Association, waited on the council and explained the aims and obpects of their association. It is the intention to hold monthly meetings in Labor hall for the purpose of extending the influence and benefits of the organization to the labor class generally. The delegates reported the association in a healthy condition, having between 400 and 500 members.

The civic and legislative committees reported having held a session on the Municipal Clauses Act, now before the legislature, and asked for further time, which was granted.

City Librarian Hands wrote requesting the council to forward a list of books of interest to workingmen, to be selected from in making purchases of new books. The request will be complied with.

The Japanese and Korean Exclusion League of California wrote regarding the exclusion of Japs and Koreans from that state.

The Victoria Board of Trade wrote regarding the action taken by that body in making representation to the Dominion government in reference to aids to navigation and life saving stations on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. The trades and labor council was asked to supplement these representations by endorsing their action, and urging the government to take prompt action.

A. Johnson and R. T. Williams were elected members of the executive committee to fill vacancies.

Secretary Sivertz gave a interesting address on "Proportional Representation." A practical demonstration will be given at next meeting of the council.

Some routine business having been disposed of the council adjourned.

—The sixth annual meeting of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Consumption will be held at Ottawa on March 28th. Dr. C. J. Fagan, secretary of the provincial board of health, will attend, and will act as chairman of a special committee appointed to combat the prejudice that exists as to the presence of sanitariums in selected localities. In the evening a public lecture will be delivered in the lecture hall of the normal school by Dr. Arthur J. Richer, of Montreal, which will be illustrated with stereopticon views showing the stages of consumption and some of the appliances now in use to check and cure the disease.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

(Continued from page 3.)

the system of free schools formerly in vogue should be reverted to.

Mr. Macdonald moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Evans—

"That all the words of the resolution after the first word 'That,' be struck out, and that the following words be substituted therefor:

"In the opinion of this House the interests of education in the province would be better served by reverting to the school laws existing before the passage of the 'Public Schools Act, 1905.'"

Premier McBride said that he proposed to say a few words in defence of the minister of education against the attack made a few days ago by Mr. Oliver. When the act was passed last year it was not pretended that any radical departure was being made from the system in vogue. It was pointed out last year that unless something were done the revenues of the province would be entirely consumed in meeting the school expenditures.

The bill of last year was not forced immediately upon the people. It was allowed to stand on the statute books inoperative for one year. He objected to the attitude taken by members of the legislature in connection with this act. An unpatriotic stand had been taken by members of the opposition in misrepresenting the situation and had tried to make the people of the province and of Eastern Canada believe that the act of last session had destroyed the free school system. The leader of the opposition had not been so much to blame in this respect. The member for Delta had made misleading statements.

Mr. Oliver wanted the Premier to be fair enough to state what had been said which was misleading.

The Premier said that the member for Delta had at Ladners, at Langley and in Alberni described the act as destroying the free schools and free education.

Mr. Oliver denied the correctness of this statement.

The Premier contended that the decentralization of the school system which had been found to work so well in other provinces warranted something of the kind being done in British Columbia even if the financial situation had not demanded it. The opposition asked for decentralization in other things yet opposed it in school matters. Throughout the province he had found that the people gladly welcomes this act which gave them a share in the management of the schools. There would not have been a voice against the act if Mr. Oliver had not kept up his agitation against the act.

The Premier referred to a meeting which Mr. Oliver attended and attacked the bill. The Premier described the meeting as having been called by Mr. Oliver.

Mr. Oliver said that he never called the public meeting.

The Premier said the meeting was called anyway.

Mr. Oliver pointed out that the meeting had been called by a political supporter of the Premier, E. M. Witcher.

The Premier continued to ascribe to Mr. Oliver the leadership in connection with the agitation but the member for Delta proved in each case that he had taken no active part in calling the meeting, but had been invited to attend.

The Premier held that Delta was the richest section of the province. There were many farmers in Delta who did not object to the burden put upon them. Only recently a deputation was down interviewing the government and said that they did not object to the tax.

Mr. Oliver wanted the Premier to tell the whole truth and inform the House that these men sought to obtain the right to sell land set apart for school purposes in view of the taxation put upon them.

The Premier at first attempted to avoid owning up to this, but finally admitted that the deputation used the increased taxation as a reason for wanting to sell the lands. (Laughter.)

The Premier contended that for taxes there had been collected from Delta $7,676, while $23,932 had been spent on the schools. There was also spent $27,000 on public works. If this condition of things had continued a receiver would have to have been appointed for the province.

T. W. Paterson pointed out that the natural resources of the province gave to the treasury $892,000. From the Chinese head tax, $225,000 was received. The expenditure on schools only amounted to $233,000. Did the Premier pretend to say that because persons formed themselves into a municipality that they were not entitled to a share of the taxes raised from the natural resources and the Chinese tax.

Chas. W. Munro said he was sorry he had been unavoidably absent when the Minister of Education spoke to the bill. He could almost say that he was sorry that he had not been detained from house while the Premier's speech was delievered. The people of the province did not care what money was got and what expended on Delta. It was to have been expected that the Premier would have attempted to have replied in some way to the arguments of Mr. Oliver in his criticism of the bill.

Mr. Munro pointed out that the conditions were so dissimilar between Ontario and British Columbia that no comparisons could be drawn. To apply the rule in force in Ontario in school matters discriminated against the smaller and poorer school districts.

Mr. Munro said that the figures given by the minister had shown that four districts had refused to elect trustees and 85 districts had not voted anything in addition to the government grant. These schools refused to comply to the act and the effect was not in the benefit of the educational system in the province.

Mr. Munro referred to the amending act as an evidence after the act had been in force only forty days that the measure of last year was most deficient. The amendment was an improvement just in so far as it undid the principle of the act of last year and went back to the old system. He could not see how the rural school trustee itinerary would work out. These trustees were asked to do the work without any remuneration. This was most unfair on the part of members who were drawing good salaries.

The amendment to the bill proposed to equalize the schools in a municipality, but it did not affect any advantage to the poor municipality. What kind of position would the municipality of Dewdney be in under this bill.

Mr. Munro said that the government, driven to the last ditch, would represent this bill as a revenue one. The government did not take such a radical step to make a saving such as was now shown in connection with schools. The government intended later to make a cut in the appropriations to schools. This was not done this year because an election was in view. A reduction would follow, however, later.

J. N. Evans thought that if there was any department of government which should not be interfered with it was the school system. He thought teachers' salaries should be uniform. The fact that so many schools in the districts had refused to vote any sum supplementary to the government grant should in itself condemn the act. He thought that something should be done to allow of the paying of the expenses of trustees attending the meeting of the board. Many had kept away from the annual meetings of the school districts, thus condemning the measure. He had advised them to carry out the law as it existed ,as it was the law of the land. Conservatives and Liberals had condemned it.

On motion of Jas. Murphy the debate was adjourned.

County Court Act.

Hon. Chas. Wilson, on the second reading of the bill to amend the County Court act, said the amendments were very simple.

The bill passed its second reading.

Land Surveyors' Act.

The bill to amend the B. C. Land Surveyors' act, 1905, passed its second reading.

Third Reading.

The bill relating to the Union Steamship Company of B. C., passed its third reading.

Granby Company.

The House went into committee on the bill to amend the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company Act, with L. W. Shatford in the chair.

The bill was reported complete without amendment.

The Telephone Bill.

Premier McBride asked that Price Ellison allow the bill relating to Telephone Companies to stand over. At the present time the Government of Manitoba was investigating the question of taking over the telephones of that province. The Federal Government also had in consideration government ownership of telephones. If the finances of the province were such as to permit of the telephones being taken over he was not so sure it would not be a wise thing to do. He did not, however, think that this could be done. He asked Mr. Ellison to withdraw the bill for this session.

Mr. Ellison said "Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of withdrawing the bill at present. I am perfectly willing to allow it to stand over."

The House then adjourned until to-morrow.

Notice of Motion.

Mr. Oliver to move, upon consideration of the report on the bill entitled "An Act respecting the Use and Manufacture, within British Columbia, of timber cut on lands of the crown," to strike out section 5 and insert the following in lieu thereof:

"5. Nothing in this act contained shall be construed to prevent the export to any other province of Canada of pile and crib timber, railway ties, mining props, telegraph or telephone poles, fence posts or other fence timber, cordwood or other fire wood, subject to such regulations as to inspection as the Lieutenant-Governor in council may prescribe."

QUESTIONS.

J. Murphy, on Thursday next will ask the provincial secretary:

1. Has an order-in-council been passed allowing beaver to be killed north of Blackwater stream, Cariboo district, for the next two years?

2. If so, what is the object of such an order-in-council?

Mr. Macdonald, on Thursday next, will ask the chief commissioner of lands and works:

1. What amount each month was spent on roads and bridges in Enderby district in 1904 and 1905?

2. What amount each month was expended in Mara district for same purpose during same period?

3. The name or names of the foreman or foremen in each district?

Victoria, Feb. 21, 1906.

The legislature put in an easy afternoon to-day, rising before four o'clock. It was private members day. The School act amendment passed its second reading after the defeat of the motion of J. A. Macdonald to revert to the former system of school law. This amendment was as follows:

"That all the words of the resolution after the first word, 'That,' be struck out, and that the following words be substituted therefor:

"In the opinion of this House, the interests of education in the province would be better served by reverting to the school laws existing before the passage of the 'Public Schools act, 1905.'"

The government supporters, including the socialists and W. Davidson lined up unitedly against the amendment.

Several new bills were introduced. The chief commissioner introduced a bill to provide for the appointment of official scalers in the province. The attorney-general brought in a bill to provide for the cancellation of the assessment roll for 1906 in the district of North Vancouver, because of serious errors and omissions in it and to permit of the council having a new roll prepared under a new assessor.

Stuart Henderson introduced a bill which allows of compensation being allowed to a person who under the impression that he is making improvements upon his own property finds out later that the work has been done on some other person's property.

Prayers were read by Rev. J. H. S. Sweet.

Private Bills.

Dr. Young presented the sixteenth report from the private bills committee, recommending that the time limited for the presentation of reports be extended until the 2nd of March (inclusive).

The report was received.

The standing rules and orders were suspended and the report adopted.

Dr. Young presented the seventeenth report from the private bills commitee, reporting that the preamble of the bill to amend the "Vancouver Incorporation act, 1900," had been proved, and the bill ordered to be reported with amendments.

The report was received.

New Bills.

The following bills were introduced, read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow:

By Hon. Chas. Wilson, a bill to amend the Provincial Elections Act.

By Hon. R. F. Green, a bill respecting the Measurement of Timber.

By Hon. Mr. Wilson, a bill to Cancel the Assessment Roll for the District of North Vancouver for 1906, and to authorise a new assessment roll to be prepared.

By S. Henderson, a bill for the Protection of Persons Improving Land under a Mistake of Title.

Questions.

P. Williams asked the chief commissioner of lands and works the following questions:

1. Is there any road leading to the public wharf at Ladysmith?

2. If not, since when, and for what reason, has the road been closed?

Hon. R. F. Green replied as follows:

"1. Not at present. A road was built from the top of the bench, connecting there with one built by the Dominion government to the wharf, to the level crossing over the track of the E. & N. Railway Company, on the line of Buller street extended.

"2. Obstructed about October 20th, 1905, by the Wellington Colliery Company on the grounds that a level crossing was a danger to the public, and that the government had no right to build a highway through its property."

Granby Bill Adopted.

The report of the bill to amend the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company was adopted.

Transfer of Land.

On report the attorney-general introduced some further amendments to the bill relating to the transfer of land and to provide for the registration of titles to land. Among them was the following:

No registrar shall be compelled to attend out of his office as a witness for examination under any subpoena, order or summons issued from any court of this province, whether such subpoena, order or summons be directed to him personally or in his official capacity, but any registrar may be examined under a commission or otherwise at his office.

On motion of the attorney-general the adoption of the report was further adjourned.

Public Schools Bill.

On the adjourned debate on the second reading of the bill to amend the Public Schools Act, J. Murphy said that he had been impressed with the statement of the Premier that Delta got $20,000 more from the treasury than was paid in and by the statement of T. W. Paterson that each municipality was entitled to its share of the national resources.

In looking through the public accounts he found that the district of Cariboo contributed $17,000 more to the treasury than was received by the district. When it was taken into account that the mines for the greater part were not paying and that the residents were like the minerals of the district and did not reproduce themselves the result was that the district had no mining, no children and no schools. He thought that the residents had come to be looked upon as a part of the natural resources of the province to be exploited in the interests of the other parts of British Columbia.

Up to 1895 the province had a school system of which it was proud. To-day the province had none. To the credit of former governments the school system was maintained in its integrity. The principle of the school system has been paternalism. Each child was given an education. In consequence there was less illiteracy than anywhere else. This bill introduced by the present government has been to decentralize and demoralize the school system of the province.

Before election the School act was never discussed. Nearly every other act was promised to be amended but no warning was given of this. The Premier said it required courage to introduce this act, but the courage was akin to that of the man who broke a window and rushed into a building and stole diamonds. The result of this school act had been the shifting of the burdens from the rich and the placing of it on the poor. As an example he showed that the rich cattle ranches with hundreds of head of cattle paid nothing for the support of schools. He gave an instance of one farm at Ashcroft paying $75 to the support of schools while the adjoining farm paid nothing. The farm would under the old system have paid their pro rata. The school laws required reforms, but he did not propose to demoralize the school system as this act did. Rich municipalities might be made to share in the support of the schools. In Ashcroft the residents thought the act so unworkable that they decided to raise the money by subscription to carry on the school work. In other places it was proposed to do away with the schools and employ a private teacher. He thought the minister should add another amendment and declare all the province in unorganized districts one school district.

H. Tanner favored going back to the old act and raise the money either by increasing the poll tax or by a levy of one mill on the dollar to meet the increased expenditure for schools.

The present act was not a success as shown by the fact that 35 per cent. of the schools did not vote anything for the support of schools. The trustees still remain as a board of inquisition under the amending act. He gave an instance of one of the difficulties connected with the working of the act. A school near Victoria had to close because the funds were not available and the trustees did not care to advance the money.

The salaries had been reduced in the schools and varied from $40 to $70. The result was that poorer sections of the province had only poorer teachers. The system of electing a school board for the whole municipality tended to detract from the boards the local interest which was felt in one school district. He could see no reason for persisting in the present system.

The amendment of J. A. Macdonald was defeated on the following division:

Yeas—Messrs. Drury, King, Brown, McNiven, Murphy, Tanner, Oliver, J. A. Macdonald, Henderson, Munro, Paterson, Wells, Hall, Cameron—14.

Nays—Messrs. Davidson, Hawthornthwaite, Williams, Tatlow, McBride, Wilson, Cotton, Clifford, Bowser, Fraser, Ross, A. McDonald, Green, Fulton, Taylor, Wright, Young, Gifford, Macgowan, Shatford, Manson—21.

The bill then passed its second reading.

County Court.

The House went into committee on the bill to amend the County Court Act with Dr. King in the chair.

The bill was reported complete.

B. C. Land Surveyors.

The bill to amend the B. C. Land Surveyors Act, 1905, was committed, with W. R. Ross in the chair.

J. A. Macdonald said that he had some representations to make on behalf of those interested but these had not yet arrived.

The committee therefore rose and asked leave to sit again.

Supreme Court Rules.

On the second reading of the bill to give legislative sanction to the Supreme Court Rules, Hon. C. Wilson said that the revision of the rule shad said that the revision of the rules had been prepared by a commission presided over by the Chief Justice. It was thought advisable to give these rules legislative sanction in order to avoid any chance that they should be taken exception to later.

There were some rules which he thought should be struck out. One of these was that juries should not give a general verdict. This the attorney-general thought should be a subject of legislation to be debated.

Another rule altered the one that the costs should follow the cause by adding the proviso except in such cases as the judge should for good reason rule otherwise. This new rule he thought should be struck out as it had not been shown that the former rule had worked adversely and the rule contained language which was open to debate in court.

The attorney-general said that the intention was not to distribute copies of the rules unless asked for.

J. A. Macdonald thought this was a most unusual proceeding to ask a bill to be passed upon without copies being distributed. If it would relieve the finance minister of a large expenditure which might be intended to reduce taxation he would not press for the distribution of the rules. He thought it was a pity that the Supreme Court Act had not been received at the same time by the commission so that the rules and the act might be brought into conformity. He thought it was not yet too late to do this. There was no great necessity for the new rules and the matter might be left over for another year so as to revise the statute with the rules.

The attorney-general said that he could not accept the proposal. He did not think that the leader of the opposition was in earnest in making such a suggestion.

The leader of the opposition in explanation said that only a few hours ago in speaking of this to a legal gentleman on the opposite of the House that person had entirely agreed with him that the revision should take place of the Supreme Court Act. He would not mention who that gentleman was. (Laughter.)

Hours of Labor.

On reading the bill regulating the hours of labor in certain industries, W. J. Bowser, who moved the adjournment, was not present. The debate was adjourned on motion of J. H. Hawthornthwaite.

Placer Mining.

The order for the second reading of the bill to amend the Placer Mining Act was discharged. Dr. Young, who introduced the bill, said that he found that it was not within his right as a private member to introduce such a bill. He therefore proposed to withdraw the amendment to be introduced in the regular way.

The House then adjourned.

Notices of Motion.

By Dr. King on Friday next:

That an order of the House be granted for a return of all petitions from residents of Fernie, Cranbrook and Columbia districts regarding aid to Kootenay Central Railway.

Hon. Mr. Wilson to move, upon further consideration of the report on bill No. 25 intituled "An Act relating to the Transfer of Land, and to provide for the Registration of Titles to Land," the following amendments:

To amend section 38 by inserting after the word "record," in line nine of (1) thereof, the words "together with the proper fees therefor," and by inserting after the word "papers," in line five of (3) thereof, the words "together with the said fees," and by striking out the words "upon receipt of the said fees," in lines four and five of (4), and inserting in lieu thereof the words "having received said fees."

Strike out section 36 and insert in lieu thereof:

"36. Applications for registration may be made by any person, or by his counsel or solicitor, or if duly authorized so to do in writing by his agent residing in the province, and the declaration of any one that he is the duly authorized agent of the person on whose behalf an application is made shall be prima facie evidence of his authority."

To amend sub-section (4) of section 94 by striking out the word "judge" in the last line, and substituting therefor the words "registrar or examiner of titles."

Questions.

Mr. Brown on Friday next will ask the chief commissioner of lands and works:

1. What quantity of land given by the province to the Columbia & Western Railway Company under its Subsidy Act has been alienated by the Columbia & Western Railway Company?

2. Has the land so alienated been taxed by the province of British Columbia?

3. If so, how long has said land been taxed?

4. If the land so alienated has not been taxed, why not?

Mr. Hawthornthwaite on Monday next will ask the minister of mines:

1. How many accidents have occurred in the mines operated by the Western Fuel Company, Nanaimo, since October last?

2. Are the "man holes" in the slope at Protection mine in good order?

3. How many accidents have occurred on this "slope" during the past three months?

4. Are any men working in these mines "double shifts," or sixteen hours in twenty-four?

Mr. Brown on Friday next will ask the chief commissioner:

1. What blocks of land were selected by the Columbia & Western Railway Company on September 14th, 1904?

2. What authority had the company for making such selections?

3. What instructions have been given to government agents in respect to the lands so selected?

4. Have any applications for purchase or pre-emption or lease of any portion of the lands so selected been made?

5. If so, have any such applications been granted?

6. Have any such applications been refused, and if so, for what reason?

7. Has any person so applying been referred to the Columbia & Western Railway Company as the proper parties to whom such application should be made?

—Capt. W. E. Holmes, formerly of the waterboat Florence in Esquimalt, is seriously ill in Dawson. A letter written to his brother, Charles Holmes, of this city, and dated the 5th instant, reports that the captain had a stroke of paralysis and that his physicians despaired of his recovery. Capt. Holmes is well known in this city. He commanded the Florence from the time she was built for navy purposes until after she had been sold for use on the Alberni canal, not having resigned his position until the summer after the steamer had seen service on the west coast. In recent years he has been captain on the Yukon steamer La Valle Young, which is operated between Dawson and the Tanana country during navigation months.

SUTTON'S SEEDS
Have Arrived at
BRACKMAN-KER MILLING COMPANY
125 Government St., Victoria.

WEEKLY WEAT

Victoria Mete
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recorded was 11 hou
total rainfall, 1.09 in
perature, 55.2 on 17th;

Vancouver—Total
highest temperature,
32 on 14th.

New Westminster—
highest temperature,
36 on 14th.

Kamloops—No rain
temperature, 52 on 19t

Barkerville—A trac
temperature, 40 on 18t

Port Simpson—Rain
temperature, 46 on 19
36 on 14th, 15th, 16th a

Atlin—Snow, .80 inc
ture, 24 on 18th and 2
on 14th.

Dawson—Snow, 4.60
perature, 10 on 18th;
14th.

The following is t
weather for January.

Precipitation

Victoria, V. I.	.....
Vancouver	.....
New Westminster	.....
Nanaimo	.....
Kamloops	.....
Rossland	.....
Nelson	.....
Vernon	.....
Alberni, V. I.	.....
Cowichan, V. I.	.....
Thetis Island	.....
Steveston	.....
Chilliwack	.....
Quesnel	.....
Barkerville	.....
Chilcotin	.....
Massett, Q. C. I.	.....
Port Simpson	.....
Alberni, Somas River	.....
Coquitlam	.....
Naas Harbor	.....
Hartley Bay	.....
Rivers Inlet	.....
Beaver Lake	.....
Goldstream	.....
Sooke Lake	.....

At Victoria the tot
sunshine registered
minutes, and the mea
month was 0.14; high
on 25th; lowest, 26.2
The total number of
the electrical anemog
the direction as foll
northeast, 359; east,
south, 246; southwes
northwes., 280.

At Vancouver—Hig
lowest, 25.2 on 10th; h

At New Westminst
23rd; lowest, 24.8 on 20

At Nanaimo—Highes
est, 22.0 on 20th; mea
shine, 40 hours 18 min

At Kamloops—Hig
lowest, 0.9 on 21st; me

At Rossland—Highes
26th; lowest, 8.8 on 7th

At Nelson—Highest,
est, 6.0 on 19th; mean,

At Alberni—Highest
est, 20.9 on 20th; mea

At Cowichan—High
lowest, 21.1 on 20th.

At Thetis Island—H
lowest, 25.0 on 10th; m

At Steveston—Highe
est, 26.0 on 9th and 20t

At Chilliwack—High
lowest, 26.5 on 20th.

At Quesnel—Highest
est, 23.0 below zero on

At Barkerville—Hig
lowest, 20.0 below ze
20.06.

At Chilcotin—Highes
est, 27.0 below zero on

At Port Simpson—H
lowest, 7.9 on 21st; me

At Vernon—Highest,
est, 5.0 on 19th.

At the close of the
places reported snow

Quesnel	.....
Barkerville	.....
Chilcotin	.....

VANCOUVER DE

Private Bills Commit
sentations on Pro
ments to C

(From Wednesd

Deputations are
Vancouver and Nor
connection with mea
the private bills com
islature. Three bills
One is proposed am
Vancouver Incorporat
is on the bill to c
Vancouver Act, and
reference to propose
False Creek Foreshor

Before the private
this morning the am
city charter were go
licitor McEvoy, of th
and H. Robertson, of
ed for the city of V
Bodwell, K. C., repre
Electric Company, a
K. C., acted for the
Company and other c
two latter counsel vi
to a proposal made
sessor be allowed to
formation on all detai
of a corporation or pe

It was pointed out
and Mr. Eberts that
privilege was too m
The section stood ove

Several are down fr
connection with the
posals.