

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Day Spent Chiefly in Advancing Private Bills a Stage or Two.

The Mining Committee Bring in Recommendations on Placer and Mineral Acts.

TUESDAY, April 12.

The legislature spent most of the day in committee on private bills, a good many railway bills being forwarded a stage or two. For the first time this session there were no prayers at the opening.

After the house opened the mining committee presented reports recommending amendments to the Placer and Mineral Acts.

**WANTS RECONSIDERATION.**  
Dr. Walkem moved that the 21st report of the private bills committee be referred back to reconsider a bill entitled the B. C. Gold Travels Co. The bill had been thrown out because it was considered by the committee that it contained features against the public policy. The promoter had offered to eliminate these objectionable features and on this account he would move for its reconsideration by the committee.

**NEW BILL.**  
Mr. Kellie introduced a bill entitled "The Trunk Act" which was read a first time.

**RETURNS ASKED FOR.**  
Mr. Semlin moved for further correspondence on the protection of the banks at Revelstoke. This was agreed to.

**RETURNS ASKED FOR.**

Mr. Sword moved for a copy of the order in council referred to in the letter of the Hon. G. B. Martin of Dec. 1, 1897, to J. B. McArthur, of Rossland, and also a statement of the understanding arrived at with that gentleman as mentioned in the letter. This correspondence, Mr. Sword said, showed that Sir Charles Ross's company in South West Kootenay could have obtained the power required by taking 10,000 inches of water with 300 feet fall at less cost than the location they actually selected, where they had only 30 feet fall and required 100,000 inches of water. The regulations laid down by the government ignored the question of the head of water. What was wanted was that the charge for water privileges should be proportionate to the power obtainable. Hon. Col. Baker said there seemed to be a wonderful change in the opinions of the gentleman since his last session, judging by Mr. Sword's remarks. Last year the opposition said they wanted the government to charge an adequate fee for the use of water for power purposes; now they seemed to be willing to allow companies to get water free for a time. Mr. Sword, in his remarks, too, had taken into consideration the factor of the head of water; whereas Hon. Col. Baker pointed out that the cost of utilizing a head of water was a very material factor and should be taken into consideration as well.

Mr. Sword said that what he believed in was not so much the question of revenue to be derived as to see that the water was conserved for the utilization of everyone who might need it.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Williams said that he would like some further correspondence brought down on the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway and grant also that plans referred to in the correspondence be brought down, before he moved his resolution on the subject. He would like to see the correspondence in connection with the Currie pre-emption included in the return.

Hon. Mr. Eberts explained that he had endeavored to get the correspondence down as quickly as possible and if anything had been overlooked it was unintentional. The government had not the slightest objection to bring down every particle of the correspondence, but he could not see what object would be served in bringing down that relating to the Currie pre-emption. A dispute as to the ownership of the pre-emption had arisen between the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway and J. J. Currie. This was brought before the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, who had given a decision in favor of Mr. Currie. From this decision an appeal was taken by the railway to a judge of the Supreme court and that was where the matter now stood. The government was ready to lend every assistance to bring down every particle of correspondence, but he did not consider that the Currie pre-emption had anything to do with the case. He hoped Mr. Williams did not mean to suggest that the government were wilfully keeping back any of the correspondence.

Mr. Williams—I did not suggest that.

The resolution was carried.

In answer to a question by Mr. Higgins, the Provincial Secretary stated that the manuscript of the Songhees reserve correspondence had been handed in on March 31.

**RETURNS PRESENTED.**

Hon. Col. Baker presented a return of clerks who were justices of the peace in the province.

**PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.**

The house went into committee of the whole on the Provincial Elections act. Mr. Stoddart in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Eberts moved the following amendment, which he believed would enable the carrying out of the registration of voters as conveniently as possible and to enable those who had sent in their applications on the old forms to have these applications validated:

"Where any application to vote has been sent in to a collector, but such collector has omitted to place the name of the applicant upon the list of claimants of vote by reason of the interrogatories appended thereto not being in the form of section 15, hereby repealed, such application shall not prejudice the applicant, but his name shall be forthwith placed upon the list of claimants, and shall be deemed to have been inserted thereon upon the date upon which his application was received by the collector; and the name of such person shall at the proper time be transferred to the register of voters, if the interrogatories have been answered in accordance with this act or with the provisions of the Provincial Elections Act, hereby repealed."

In order to give the members a chance to see the amendment printed the Attorney General moved that the committee report and progress and ask leave to sit again.

This was agreed to.

**PRIVATE BILLS.**

The report of the Arrowhead & Kootenay Railway bill was adopted.

Or report of the North Star & Arrow

Lake Railway bill, Mr. A word moved amendments to make provisions of the Railway act apply.

IN COMMITTEE.

On the motion to go into committee of the whole on the Revelstoke & Canadian Railway bill, Mr. Sword moved that his security clause be referred to the committee with instructions to consider it. This was carried and the house went into committee of the whole on the bill.

The committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments.

The house went into committee of the whole on the C. F. N. bill, Major Mutter in the chair.

The committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

The house went into committee of the whole on the Downie Creek Railway Co. bill, the usual security clause being referred to the committee for consideration.

The committee rose and reported progress and the house rose for recess.

**AFTER RECESS.**

The house resumed committee on the Downie Creek Railway bill, on which progress was reported.

The Skeena River Railway, Colonization and Exploration Co. bill was next committed, with Mr. Kidd as chairman, with amendments.

The Nanaimo Electric Light and Power company's bill went through the same stage.

**PRIVATE BILLS.**

On the motion of Major Mutter, the Cowichan Lumber Co.'s bill was given its second reading, to which there was no opposition.

Dr. Walkem moved the second reading of the Stickine & Portland Railway company's bill, which was intended, he explained, to permit of the building of a railway from the Portland canal to the Stickine river, the intention being to have the coast terminus at a port within the limits of British Columbia. The company was prepared to proceed with the work immediately, and the necessary capital was already subscribed.

The second reading carried without debate.

The house went into committee on Mr. Kennedy's Liquor Traffic Regulation bill, which was advanced through committee and reported without amendment.

**FIRE PROTECTION.**

Mr. Kellie in moving the second reading of the Fire Escape Act Amendment bill, said it was intended to provide increased means by which persons might escape from buildings in case of fire.

The second reading carried.

The Tramway Company Incorporation bill was next committed with Mr. Fors-

Mr. Macpherson in committee moved that no Japanese or Chinese be allowed employed on any works authorized under this act.

This was agreed to and the committee rose, reporting and asking leave to sit again.

Dr. Walkem was appointed to the municipal committee in place of Mr. Rithet, and Major Mutter was added to the local sanitary committee.

The house then adjourned.

**NOTICES OF MOTION.**

By Mr. Smith—to introduce a bill to amend the Mineral Act.

By Mr. Smith—to introduce a bill to amend the Placer Mining Act.

By Dr. Walkem—Whereas the construction of railways in the province of British Columbia is a matter of the utmost importance to the province, as materially affecting their interests; and whereas occasions arise when applications for charters for railways in British Columbia, independent of any applications for the same to the provincial legislature; and whereas the granting of such charters by the Dominion parliament may frequently conflict with the interests of the people of British Columbia, especially when the railway in question passes the international boundary into the United States; therefore, be it asked to move the Dominion government to oppose the granting of any charters for railways in British Columbia, unless such railway companies have first severally obtained a charter from the provincial legislature.

**NOTICE OF QUESTION.**

Mr. Kellie—to ask the Attorney General if the government intend to bring in a bill granting incorporation to Revelstoke.

By Mr. Braden—to ask what action, if any, has been taken by the government with the Dominion government, to have the question determined of mineral rights under Indian reserves. If any correspondence on the subject has passed between the two governments, what is it?

**WEDNESDAY, April 13.**

The legislature on this day spent the time in moving forward private bills and there was a song about this house, which gave the opposition a chance to get in a snap vote amending the Premier's motion to adjourn.

The house was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Campbell.

Mr. Helmecken moved: "Whereas negotiations were lately depending between the Dominion government, through its special representative, J. A. J. McKenna, Esquire, and the provincial government, touching the removal of the Indians from the Songhees reserve, which were without result; and whereas it is highly desirable that negotiations should be resumed without delay, in order that the question may be definitely settled; be it therefore resolved, that the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to communicate with the Dominion government, requesting that government to instruct its commissioner to proceed in accordance with the terms of the resolution of this house, dated 28th January, 1898."

In moving this Mr. Helmecken said that as he had not yet had time to study the return presented of correspondence on the subject he would ask that the debate be adjourned.

This was agreed to.

**PASSED.**

The following bills were read a third time and passed.

Arrowhead & Kootenay Railway bill; North Star and Arrow Lake Railway bill.

**LAI D OVER.**

On the Canadian Yukon Railway bill coming up for report Mr. Higgins asked that it be laid over for a day, so that he might bring in an amendment to section 15. This section allows the company to construct their railway from some convenient point at or near Douglas Clamuel, or from such point in British Columbia, capable of being made an ocean port as may be designated by the Dominion government, under the provisions of the contract entered into between the said government and William Mackay, Esq., and Donald D. Munro, and by and the said day of January, A.D. 1898, to

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## MR. RATTENBURY EXPLAINS.

To the Editor:—On my return from England I had an article pointed out to me that appeared in your issue of March 30th and which was headed "The Klondike Gold Rush." It was a very interesting article and I am glad to see that it has been published in your issue of March 30th.

It is due to the fact that the company controls some inventions and discoveries which have no equal in the whole realm of medical science.

of which and with the appointing of the directors mentioned I had absolutely nothing to do whatever. From what several stand that the support of the company was calculated to be detrimental to me. I therefore trust that you will do me the justice to give as great publicity as possible to my statement of the facts, and I hope all other provincial papers that have commented on the matter will do the same.

In addition I need only add that I subsequently organized a strong company in London, the whole of the capital of £100,000 being taken up and allotted and paid for, within a period of six days from the time I went to London. The whole management as managing director has been placed in my hands, and I trust to be able to make a great success of the enterprise.

F. M. RATTENBURY.

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