

FAURE DEAD

The French Republic by a Stroke of the Pen.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee Discussion on Disfranchisement Bill and Making of New Voters Lists.

Legal Profession Opened to New Arrivals—Mortgage Tax Repeal—County Court Judges.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 15.

Consideration of the Provincial Elections Bill in Committee.

To Amend the Succession Duty Act.

Mr. Higgins presented a bill to amend the Succession Duty Act.

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marked on the order paper as "not printed."

Mr. Helmecken—Is that my bill you're talking about? Why that was printed long ago. I move that the report be adopted.

No opposition was offered, and the motion was agreed to.

The house agreed and the bill was thus disposed of.

NEW LEGISLATION.

The following new bills were introduced, read a first time, and each in turn set for second reading at the next sitting of the house:

To amend the Companies Act, 1897—Hon. Mr. Cotton.

A bill to amend the County Court Act—Hon. Mr. Martin.

A bill to amend the Legal Profession Act—Hon. Mr. Martin.

A bill to amend the Land Act—Hon. Mr. Martin.

A bill to amend the Villages Fire Protection Act—Mr. Neill.

PINE CREEK FLUME CO.

During the committee stage of this bill (Mr. Helmecken), Mr. Henderson being chairman, an amendment was introduced by Mr. Deane to this effect—the words being added as a new section:

"No act of this legislature requiring the company in case of efficient means for carrying telegraph, telephone or electric wires underground, to adopt such means and abrogating the right given by this act to continue carrying lines on poles shall be deemed an infringement of the privileges granted by this act."

Some debate arose upon this proposal, in the course of which Mr. Booth suggested that the bill be referred to the direction of opening a door to the government to compel the company to put their wires underground, rather than to permit the company to do so at their own desire.

The section proposed was added and also a provision excluding Chinese and Japanese from all works of the company.

Another amendment, introduced by Mr. Macpherson, was in effect to make the company's works a municipality subject to the consent of the municipality in question.

This was vigorously opposed by Mr. Henderson, and the bill was accordingly dropped.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. Kellie asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works:

"1. What amount was voted last session to construct a wagon road from Revelstoke to canyon of Columbia river?"

"2. Name of gold mine in the canyon of Columbia river?"

"3. Did the government take any steps to ascertain the value of work done after the expiration of the contract?"

"4. If so, when was the examination made, and by whom?"

"5. The amount of value returned per acre?"

Hon. Mr. Neill replied: "1. \$6,000. (2) J. D. Sibbald. (3) Yes. (4) In October, 1898. (5) \$9,385—according to the estimate of Mr. Cumming."

PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS ACT.

Mr. Booth being called to the chair, the house went into committee upon the bill to amend the Provincial Elections Act.

The introductory two paragraphs were passed without comment being excited, and section 3—the cause and foundation of the bill—was then taken up.

On this section Hon. Mr. Martin proposed an amendment, so altering the wording that the exclusion from the franchise shall include members of the civil service in receipt of salaries of \$300 per annum and upwards.

Mr. Neill, replying to the observations of the last speakers on the subject of the military vote, still maintained his position, and declared that it was his intention to keep his bill as it was.

same secret ballot system prevailing here, and if Mr. Macpherson and Mr. Neill had been in England in 1872 or 1873 they would have found among the first in their desire to cast their votes for enfranchisement of the members of the civil service.

Mr. Macpherson claimed that he had been somewhat misrepresented by the members of the South Victoria committee, and had argued that if British Columbia were to adopt the principle of competitive civil service examinations as prevailing in England there would be some ground for the enfranchisement of the civil service.

Mr. Neill maintained that this did not touch the point at all. It could not be controverted that the right of the members of the civil service to vote in England was introduced by the Secret Ballot Act—and from nothing else.

Mr. Baker contended that this was the salient reason for the Secret Ballot Act—to protect the employee in the right to vote as he thought fit.

Mr. Neill, however, pointed out that it was common law of the land.

Mr. Turner thought that it was more than common law—it was established practice in British Columbia, in all classes, and nothing more than fairer to the man employed.

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the North or in Cariboo, and who would have no means of saving their votes.

The intention was very apparent, and was fully emphasized by the three members of the opposition.

Mr. Neill maintained that there was sure to be an injustice for some one, and there had to be some limit for the reception of names. With two returns of names of the list there should be little complaint.

Mr. Macphillis' amendment was negatived, and the committee rose, reporting to the house.

PRIVATE BILL WITHDRAWN.

Hon. Mr. Cotton asked, in view of the explanation of the private bills committee earlier in the day, that the members of the civil service to vote in England was introduced by the Secret Ballot Act—and from nothing else.

Mr. Baker contended that this was the salient reason for the Secret Ballot Act—to protect the employee in the right to vote as he thought fit.

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era are lumber dealers, merchants and contractors carrying on business within the said province of British Columbia;

(2) That your petitioners in the course of business, supply material for the erection of buildings, and otherwise in improving property, and to a large extent are dealing with the persons engaged in the erection of the buildings, and not with the owners; (3) That your petitioners have now no remedy under the Mechanics' Lien Act for the recovery of the price of materials supplied, although the material has been used in increasing the value of the property; (4) That ample protection could be given your petitioners by the passing of an act allowing a lien for material supplied for the erection of buildings, and the introduction of the bill relating to the Atlin & Southern railway; the first reading of the bill; and its reference to the railway committee, be rescinded, and the bill be withdrawn.

It was so ordered.

PRESENTED BY MESSAGE.

Hon. Mr. Cotton presented four messages from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, transmitting the following bills, which Mr. Speaker had determined to present to the house:

To amend the Assessment Act.

To amend the Revenue Tax Act.

To amend the Succession Duty Act.

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Mr. Deane, seeing the trend of opinion in the house, was willing to withdraw the bill, which, however, was not done.

As the government member for Yale was a highly desirable man, Mr. Deane was willing to give a measure in his stead, and he accordingly introduced a bill to amend the Mechanics' Lien Act, which was referred to the committee.

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