

Provincial Legislature

Criticism of the Education Bill

On Motion to Adjourn Opposition Provoke Division and Government Wins.

Songhees Reserve in Discussion—Business Juggling Successfully Along.

Monday, March 6, 1905. The House met at 2 o'clock and after prayers by the Rev. Gideon Hicks the following was the order of business:

Mr. Munro presented a petition from Thomas Hall and others opposing the bill to incorporate the Sumas Development Co.

Mr. Brown introduced a bill to amend the Benevolent Act.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald moved that an order of the House be granted for a return of copies of the papers and correspondence relating to an application by Mr. John Elliott, as counsel, for a fiat for a petition of right to try questions relating to the mineral claim, "Pack Train." Carried.

Mr. Brown asked: 1. Did the Columbia & Western Railway Co. comply with the provisions of section 5, chapter 8, statutes of 1896, in respect to the survey of lands granted to them under the provisions of said chapter 8?

Hon. Mr. Green replied: The company made surveys which enabled it to describe the lands granted to it, and had previously selected and designated by metes and bounds; but the position of these boundaries has not yet been marked upon the ground, excepting along the line of railway.

Mr. Murphy asked: Is it the intention of the government to grant estimates for a ferry across the Fraser river at Queeno?

Hon. Mr. Green replied: The matter is under consideration.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald asked: 1. Have Geo. T. Kane, David P. Kane, E. S. Wason and W. J. Saunders been refused land on Kai-ten island in satisfaction of South African war scrip? 2. If so, why?

Hon. Mr. Green replied: 1. Yes. The names E. S. and John "Willington" should be "Millington." 2. Because the land was under reservation, as indicated by Gazette notices, dated 12th October, 1891.

In reply to a question by Mr. Murphy asking for details and amount of expenditure on roads in the Cariboo district, the Minister of Public Works stated that out of the \$10,000 which was appropriated, \$6,399.16 had been expended.

The bill respecting assignments and preferences by insolvent persons passed the third reading.

On consideration of the report on the bill to prevent fraud upon creditors, etc., an amendment was made by the Attorney-General and further consideration of the report was adjourned.

The report on the bill to provide for the registration of companies' mortgages was adopted. The bill stands for third reading today.

The bill for licensing commercial travelers was committed, Mr. Murphy in the chair.

Amendments were made by the Finance Minister, and the bill was reported complete. The principal amendment struck out the section providing for rebate on the licence fee in cases where the business done by a traveler amounts only to so much, and fixed the licence at \$100 unconditionally.

Hon. Mr. Wilson announced a message from His Honor transmitting a bill to amend the unrequited provisions of the Assessment Act.

The message and bill were referred to committee of the whole.

Mr. Oliver took the objection that the bill should not be reported to the House until copies thereof had been distributed. Therefore, as this custom has been approved in previous proceedings of the House, the committee were instructed to wait a quarter of an hour, while the government printing presses were rushed into action, and by 11 o'clock arrived, and the eagle eye of the opposition was focussed upon it in critical scrutiny.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald directed to the bill the following observations: As he understood according to the law, as it now stood, if a person was assessed on his income or his personal property, and was assessed, the roll was closed, and it was ordinary time for revision was passed, the matter was closed, and the assessors were not allowed to go back behind the roll which was settled by the court of revision. It was brought in men were to be treated in an entirely different way, and the assessment which had been made of the minerals under the second clause of the bill, was brought down in order that assessments which had been made three years ago might be revised, and that the bill should be passed something like \$10,000 worth of unrequited production of ore. It was an attempt to place the mining industry on a different basis than that applied to other industries in the province.

The Attorney-General said a company was bound by law to make a full disclosure of their affairs, so that a proper assessment could be made, and he could not see that it was improper to introduce legislation to place the mining industry on a different basis than that applied to other industries in the province.

Mr. Macdonald: Why not put others on the same basis? The Attorney-General said that all mining legislation was class legislation, and that the bill he reported to the House.

Mr. Macdonald said no. The motion passed and the bill was introduced and read a first time.

The bill to aid the municipality of Nelson to permit a new issue of debentures to take the place of debentures unsold in

connection with a certain loan, was committed. Mr. Munro in the chair. The bill was reported complete.

Mr. Hall continued the debate on the School Act. He proposed to deal with the subject from a provincial and not a party point of view. Any meritable measure would have his support, he said, that is if it was based on sound economic principles. But he could discover no underlying strata of economy in the bill. He thought that the roots of the educational system, if it proposed to prune some of the superfluous branches he would be inclined to support it. He thought there was a tendency to over educate. Pupils emerged from the public schools with a confusion of all digested, and which tended to excite distracting ambitions rather than to assist usefulness. Such a system was not calculated, as often supposed, to give particularly to the interests of the children of the poor. Such were compelled by the force of circumstances to withdraw from school before the full extent of the curriculum was encountered, and he believed they did so in many cases without suffering any disadvantage. He believed that a homogeneous admixture of instruction meted out pupils sometimes were permitted to absorb the essential elements. For instance he had had experience with boys who had come from the schools unable to write a fair signature. If he were a teacher he would not have such a boy make an occasional visit to the schools himself to see how they were doing. He asked that another vote be taken on the bill.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald objected, but his objection was overruled by the majority. Another vote was taken upon the Attorney-General's amendment, which carried.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite accordingly withdrew the amendment offered by him.

The Attorney-General proposed an amendment for the purpose of providing that no fee should be charged by such Justice of the Peace or minister of the Gospel.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald thought the section should stand as it was.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite objected to admit the amendment. In the administration of the law was concerned the interests of the workmen.

The question was put and the amendment carried.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite called attention to the fact that the division had not been taken, and that he had asked that another vote be taken.

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Fearful Scenes Witnessed in the Rear of the Russians at Mukden.

No Quarter Asked or Given by Combatants Who Die Fighting.

Bodies of Dead Used as Parapet by Living in Struggle for Positions.

HEADQUARTERS of General Rennenkampf's Army Near Onegun, Mukden, March 6.—The road northward is crowded so far as the eye can reach by a continuous file of two-wheeled Chinese carts full of wounded, the best testimony of the valley with which the army of the east, fighting continuously for a fortnight, has defended every inch of ground over which it has been compelled by superior numbers to retire. Each cart bears from three to five wounded, whose exhaustion is almost too utter for them to feel pain. Scarcely a groan or cry is heard—no more than the rattling of rifle wheels and the thud of the wounded hoofs are audible. Most of the wounded are in the rear of the line, their coats, stiff with congealed blood, hiding their faces and dirty faces distorted with pain, sunk in the expanded nostrils. Here and there is a cart with two wounded men, between whom is a corpse, which, with every jolt, pounds against the helpless living comrades of the man upon whose face death had sealed the distortion of unbearable agony.

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GENERAL NOGOI'S THIRD ARMY FROM PORT ARTHUR HAS ADVANCED FAR ON THE LEFT WING AND SWEEPED ALL BEFORE IT. NOGOI'S MEN ARE REVELLING IN THE FIELD WORK WHICH THEY REGARD AS CHILD'S PLAY AFTER THE SIEGE OF PORT ARTHUR.

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BRITISH STEAMER CARLISLE.

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