

## ON ROCKS DURING STORM

K OF FRENCH LINER IS CONFIRMED

Hundred Persons Reported to Have Lost Their Lives

Majorca, Feb. 11.—The trans-Atlantic liner Chanzy, sailed from Marseilles last night with a heavy cargo and a number of passengers. It is feared that the liner is lost.

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## LOCAL OPTION LEAGUE'S MOVE

WOULD INTRODUCE SCOTT ACT TO B. C.

Officers Elected at Convention—Resolutions Passed by Body

(From Friday's Daily.)

The first business of the afternoon session yesterday of the Local Option Convention was the election of officers for the ensuing year. This resulted in the following being chosen: President, E. B. Morgan (re-elected); vice-presidents, R. H. Cairns, Dr. E. Hall, J. A. Logan, Jos. Patrick and Mrs. Spafford; financial secretary, W. J. Farris; treasurer, J. Thomson.

A committee on resolutions was appointed consisting of Dr. Lipsett, Revs. W. A. Gifford and A. W. McLeod; and a committee of future policy, R. H. Cairns, A. B. McNeill, Dr. E. Hall, W. J. Farris and Rev. Mr. MacRae (Golden).

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## MANY BILLS CONSIDERED

SEVERAL ARE READY FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Question of Privilege Raised in Regard to Answering Inquiries

Legislative Press Gallery, February 10.

A busy day was put in to-day on government measures, several of which were dealt with in the course of the sitting. Half a dozen bills have practically reached their final stage and their third reading is but a formality which to-morrow will probably see.

The beginning of next week will witness the introduction of some more departmental government measures. As yet, however, the supreme piece of business is not in sight, nor has it been considered in caucus. There is a feeling that it will come down on the closing days of the session and be hurried through.

Question of Privilege.

John Jardine, before business was proceeded with, rose to a question of privilege and began to read from a prepared manuscript. Mr. Jardine has been asking several questions of late dealing with matters of administrative detail in connection with the education department. His point to-day, so far as it could be gathered from his reading up to the point where the Speaker intervened, was that some of the questions he had put on the subject had not been answered and that answers that had been given were misleading and incorrect. Whether or not his statement properly came within the rule governing privilege Mr. Speaker will decide to-morrow.

Mr. Jardine's statement opened with an assertion of a member's right to put questions, so long as these are in proper form, and then referring to questions which had been answered by the minister of education, he stated that 110 teachers had received \$26,000 of this did not appear in the reports of the department. He had got this far when the Speaker stopped him. The Speaker did not see just where the question of privilege came in and asked to Mr. Jardine's statement.

"The member for Esquimalt takes it that he asked questions and has been misinformed in reply," said Mr. Hawthorthwaite.

Mr. Jardine said that it would appear that many of the hon. gentleman's questions were frivolous and not designed, as far as he could see, to serve any useful public purpose. Some of the questions had been answered and he regarded those that remained he was quite certain the department of education was only too ready to answer them. It did appear to him, though, that there were some questions which could be put in no way serve useful purposes. If the member for Esquimalt desired to attack the education department he had an opportunity by way of resolution.

Mr. Jardine disclaimed any intention of attacking the education department or making a personal matter of it. But he had a right to have his questions answered, and answered correctly, he contended.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite remarked that the statement of the member for Esquimalt contained some very serious charges indeed, which required looking into.

Mr. Speaker said he would consider the statement over night and give his decision to-morrow.

Crown Costs.

The attorney-general's bill to prevent the crown from being condemned in costs, no matter how great the fault of officers of his department, was taken up by Mr. Jardine.

H. C. Brewster pointed out that this province was free from a great many traditions and usages of the Old Country, dating back to the dark ages when the King confiscated estates and headed subjects. The tendency of to-day was to give every man and even the crown a fair trial. The attorney-general seemed to think the principle of the bill should be in vogue here because it was in England, but the very opinion he had read to the House yesterday showed that he was not in line in this matter with the best legal thought. In the judgment of the head of the bench in British Columbia, referring to the practice existing here of giving costs for or against the crown, said the court proposed to follow it, "especially as, in our opinion, the practice is reasonable."

J. H. Hawthorthwaite said it was hard enough for those who had to deal with the effects of the law of costs, but they were worse off dealing with the Conservative party and the attorney-general.

The bill was passed through committee, the four opposition members objecting.

Placer Mining.

Premier McBride, in moving the second reading of a bill to amend the Placer Mining Act, said the government had been careful not to introduce amendments to the mining laws unless they were absolutely needed and required for the development of the resources of the province. While questioning the stability of the mining laws there had come to the province a reputation with regard to the industry and any effect that was commendable indeed. The present amendment was only introduced because it was found to be necessary. Where application was made for a lease under the act of 1906, the lessee was required to pay for the land for any term not exceeding twenty years, the free miner to give adequate security for any damage caused by going on land already under timber or coal lease.

From departmental returns, the premier stated, there would appear to be renewed activity in Cariboo, Cassiar, Omineca and further north in the industry. While other mines were progressing satisfactorily it was gratifying to find so much inquiry in regard to placer mining. Only in a small degree had the placer district been as yet prospected.

J. H. Hawthorthwaite said the bill would seem to be correct in principle but he feared it would give large corporations power to take up lands where freemen had staked.

"It would not be competent for the lieutenant-governor-in-council to deal in that way with claims staked by free miners," the premier remarked.

"If it makes the bill more effective," Mr. McBride added.

"Any suggestions from this side are what you wish," said Mr. Hawthorthwaite.

The bill was read a second time, Protection of Children.

Hon. Dr. Young moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Children's Protection Act, explaining that it had been found that the present act was not as workable as it might be. His amendments were introduced with the object of aiding the societies and distributing the cost of maintenance of children on the part of the government. It was proposed to appoint one or more provincial officers to be known as superintendents of neglected and dependent children. The charge to be levied on municipalities was to be the cost of the judge