The Colonist.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH, 1890.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The Redistribution Bill, which was introduced by the Leader of the Government, yesterday, is the product of much thought and of careful deliberation. It is evident that the object of its framers was to enlarge the representation so as to keep pace with the increase of population, and at the same time to do justice to all parts of the province. Three new seats have been given to the Island and three to the Mainland. Vancouver gets two of the six new seats and Kootenay, one. This seems to be a fair distribution for the Mainland. The importance of the terminal city is recognized, and the division of Kootenay into two districts with a member for each makes it possible for that part of the province whose population is fast increasing, and whose prospects are growing brighter every day, to be adequately represented in the Legislative Assembly. One representative for so large a division of the province was clearly insufficient. He could not possibly be acquainted with the wants of the district if he spent the whole of his time in travelling from one part of it to the other. On the Island, Nanaimo gets one of the new seats, to which all must admit it is justly entitled. Alberni gets another, and the islands of the Gulf get the third.

This division of the seats will, it is most likely, not satisfy some localities that have cherished great expectations, but we think that a large majority on both the Island and the Mainland will be better pleased with the way the representation has been distributed than if the Government had set about cutting and carving the old districts and rearranging them in an attempt which would be certain to be vain to please all sections of the population.

It will be observed that the greater number of the districts are left pretty much as they are at present. The redistribution, therefore, makes very little alteration in their arrangements as to elections and other matters connected with the representation. The creation of constituencies in Vancouver, Nanaimo, Alberni and the Islands has been effected with the least possible amount of change. It cannot be said that anything like gerrymandering has been done.

Of course, there are in every part of the country who think that they could make a wiser and fairer distribution of the seats than has been done; but we venture to say if they were entrusted with the work they would cause a much greater share dissatisfaction than will be created by the Act to amend the Constitution Act.

THE REPORTS.

The report of the select committee on education is a full and complete vindication of the Education Department. When the intelligent reader examines the charges he will be surprised that any opposition could be so small-minded as to treat matters really so trifling and of such little consequence as if they were serious offences. When he considers how the public has during the last year been bored by newspaper articles and letters denouncing the Government as if it had been guilty of acts of outrageous tyranny and oppression he will be wonderstruck to see by this report on what a slender basis of fact rested the charges, so often and so loudly repeated.

An examination of the report shows that the principal accusation, namely, that the Government was making a political machine of the Department of Education, there is not even the shadow of a foundation. It is evident that all the Government had to do to show that this charge was utterly false, that it had not even a single fact to support it, was to demand an investigation. The reports, both majority and minority, show that no attempt—not even the faintest—was made to prove that the Government or any of its officials ever did anything which even the most malignant and the most unscrupulous of its enemies could prove had the remotest tendency towards prostituting the influence of the Department of Education to political purposes. This charge, which was the main one, in fact the only one which the Opposition could point to as a justification for its repeated and very violent attacks on the Minister of Education, is not so much as mentioned in either of the reports. These reports show that the time of the committee was taken up in examining details of school administration which were of no public importance whatever. The truth is shown to be that a discontented and insubordinate teacher, who had refused to comply with the regulations of the Education Department, used the Opposition newspapers and the Opposition members as instruments to wreak his vengeance on the Government which has incurred the censure of the investigating committee for having dealt with his insolence too long and having treated him with too great indulgence. It must be humiliating for the Opposition and its organ to find that they allowed this man to use them as his tools to gratify his personal spite and his morbid passion for notoriety. We mention the name of Mr. Muir with reluctance, as we have long looked upon him rather as an object of pity than as a subject for censure.

This person, who possesses a most unhappy disposition, is, according to the reports, the Government's only accuser. In nearly all the charges he is personally interested. No other witness has appeared before the committee to testify that the Department has treated teachers with injustice, or has attempted to use them in any way for political purposes. The committee has had little else to do than to listen to Mr. Muir's complaints. The result of its enquiries, as regards the cancellation of his certificate, is thus expressed in the report:

"That we can only characterize Mr. Muir's correspondence with the Education Department as showing insubordination and insolence to those in authority. From the evidence adduced and the correspondence presented we consider that earlier cancellation of Mr. Muir's certificate would have been in the best interest of education, and we believe that for a considerable time he was not a fit and proper person to have charge of any public school."

The majority report was signed by four members of the committee, among whom was Mr. Ladner, an opponent of the Government.

Mr. Semlin alone drew up and signed the minority report. His finding in the matter of the cancellation of Mr. Muir's certificate is rather ambiguous. He studiously refrains from giving his own view of Mr. Muir's conduct, and expresses no opinion with respect to the nature of his correspondence with the Education Department. He says, "I consider the cancellation of Mr. Muir's certificate ill-advised." And the reason he gives for coming to this conclusion will appear to the reflecting reader a little curious. "Considering," he continues, "the positions he has held and the commendations bestowed upon him by the superintendent while he (Muir) held the position of high school teacher in Victoria, and more recently by his endorsement by the trustees of the Wellington and English schools."

If Mr. Semlin had considered the cancellation of Mr. Muir's certificate unjustifiable he would have used very different language from this and would have given more cogent reasons for his finding than were to be found in testimonials given by other men who had not under their consideration the testimony regarding Mr. Muir's conduct, which it was his duty to consider. Mr. Semlin's very weak report may be looked upon as one of the concessions which an easy-going, good-natured man considers himself under an obligation to make to the demands of his party, and which when once made he is not by any means proud of, and tries to forget as soon as possible.

We do hope that the Opposition organ will cease thrusting Mr. Muir and his imaginary grievances upon the attention of the public. It must see by this time that there is no political capital to be made by doing that unfortunate person's dirty work for him. The kindest and the most considerate thing it can do for him is to take no further notice of him, and to place out of his reach a means of excitement, which is evidently not conducive to his intellectual well-being.

THE BETTER WAY.

The organ of the Opposition asks if our "come-let-us-reason-together style of argument" can have any effect on the authorities in Ottawa, who with characteristic courtesy and fairness it alludes to as "a venal gang." We find it difficult to understand that any other style of argument is possible than that described by the words, "come, let us reason together." We have always been taught to believe that argument is an appeal to the reason and that it is, after all, much more effective in carrying conviction to the minds of those to whom it is addressed than vituperation or villification or any other form of scolding. The exhortation, "come, let us reason together," the Times must admit, is more worthy of rational beings than some, let us pitch into each other, or come let us abuse each other, or come let us have a jawing match and call each other vile names. Our contemporary ought to know by this time that violent language is very seldom, indeed, forcible language, and that the habitual scold, whether journalistic or domestic, has but little real influence. The scold irritates and annoys but she never convinces even when she happens to be right.

Our contemporary amuses itself by railing at one of the creatures of its imagination, which it denominates "The Tory," and declares that "his mind's eye is forever looking backwards." Not exactly forever. We take the liberty of directing the attention of our contemporary to a Tory who looked forward, and who kept his eye steadily fixed on a bright spot in the future, in spite of the efforts which his contemporaries, who called themselves Liberals, made to divert his attention and to scare him into looking behind and around him. The projector of the Canadian Pacific Railway was a Tory. He looked ahead of him and saw success when those who considered themselves progressive could only see failure. It was his foresight and his courage that gave to Canada its great trans-continental railway which has done more to advance his country and to raise it in the world's estimation than anything (except confederation, which also claims this Tory for its father) that has been done in it since its conquest by Great Britain. The name by which this farsighted and sagacious Tory is known in these days is Sir John A. Macdonald.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

SPEAKING of the resolution in favor of free trade with the United States, of which Mr. Graham of the Ontario Legislature gave notice, the Ottawa Citizen says:

"The Provincial Legislatures should attend to their own business, which is clearly defined. The Parliament of Canada is quite capable of coming to decisions on questions of public policy without provincial interference. If the policy of the Government and the votes given in the House of Commons by the representatives of the people are not in sympathy with popular feeling, there is a proper channel through which a protest can be made—the ballot box. It is therefore a waste of time for the Provincial Legislatures to impertinently express opinions upon questions which they are not called upon to deal with, and Mr. Fraser did well to burk Mr. Graham's buncombe motion on the subject of free trade with the United States."

SAFELY LAUNCHED.

The Steamer Sardonyx Slipped off the Ways Without a Scratch.

The steamer Sardonyx was successfully launched from the Star ways yesterday morning, looking better than she has ever done since arriving in Victoria. It was exactly 6:30 o'clock when she slipped into the water as smoothly as a fish piece of wood. She has been thoroughly overhauled since having hauled out about two months ago, having had her engines taken to pieces and fixed, twelve new plates put in her hull, and been repainted both inside and out. The Sardonyx has done good service for her owners, the C.P.N. company, since she was bought by them, and since her overhauling it is expected she will do better service still. She commenced her regular trips to Skeena River points on Saturday, and will be immediately replaced on the Victoria route. The mill at Kitimaat is not operating as yet, nor is it likely to do so until navigation opens. The farmers have disposed of all their surplus grain, it is being impossible to procure oats from any of them. Stock has wintered well in the valley, there having been no scarcity of food with any of the stockmen. Trade has been rather quiet during the winter months, but there appears to be a revival now which will assume large proportions as soon as construction begins on the S. & O. railway.—Sentinel.

A SEASIDE HOTEL

To be Built Fronting on Oak Bay—Success of the Undertaking Assured.

An endeavor is at the present time being made to form a company with a capital stock of $50,000 to build a summer hotel fronting on Oak Bay beach. A considerable amount of the capital has already been taken, and there is little doubt about the scheme being successfully floated. The proposition is to build a hotel after the style of summer hotels in California, which will provide a seaside resort for outsiders and for Victorians as well. The place selected for the hotel has a commanding view of the straits and mountains, the numerous islands of the gulf, and surrounding country. The beach of Oak Bay is nearly a mile in length and is protected by islands opposite, which form a land-locked bay, and at either end. Immediately in front of the hotel site at low tide the beach is uncovered for a long distance from shore, and is a hard sand without a pebble in it, thus making it exceptionally favorable for bathing purposes. Such a resort has long been necessary here, and the wonder is that it has not been established long ago. With the other improvements that would naturally follow the erection of a hotel, Oak Bay beach would become one of the most attractive, as it is now one of the pleasantest places of residence on the Pacific coast.

The early opening of Oak Bay avenue from Fort street to the beach is now assured, and this drive would be continued along the beach, connecting with several branch roads leading to the Cadboro' Bay road. This would make the drive along Belcher street, past Government house, along Oak Bay avenue, and the beach esplanade, to the hotel, one of the most delightful in the world, for it is almost safe to say that nowhere else could such an ever-changing panorama of loveliness and grandeur be found.

THE S. & O. RAILWAY.

Operations to be Pushed Forward as Rapidly as Possible—Bustle and Activity at Sicamous.

Sicamous as a base of operations during the construction of the Shuswap & Okanagan railway promises to be the scene of unusual bustle and activity. Mr. Riley of the firm of Riley & Co., awarded the contract for the building of the road, has returned to Victoria after an inspection of the route over which it is proposed to carry the line. The road will follow as far as practicable the western shore of Mara Lake, continuing to Enderby and through the more open country to Vernon. The line, with the exception of a fraction of a mile or two, will interfere but little with the present wagon road from Sicamous to Vernon. The wagon road, it is understood will remain passable until the work of construction is nearly completed. The engineers are expected early in the coming week, and will be followed within ten or twenty days by large consignments of workmen, when operations will be commenced and pushed forward with rapidity.

Mr. Coryell, C. E., is surveying in the neighborhood of Fire Valley with the object of getting an accurate map of the divide for the line of the Kootenay and Okanagan railway, which is intended to connect with the S. & O. at Vernon, and which, when in operation, will open up a rich section of country between the Columbia river and Okanagan lake.—Kootenay Star.

A DREARY LAND.

The Latest News from the New Caledonia District—A Fur Famine—Minerals—La Grippe's Visit.

Mr. Traile, the agent of the Hudson's Bay Co. in the New Caledonia district, is paying his first visit to Victoria. His territory, which is some 300 miles square, is said to be one of the most desolate in Canada. Furs are about its only products, and this year even they have been unusually scarce. The early season killed off the bears, whose skins were in principal demand, into seclusion before the hunting season had fairly opened, and the fierce forest fires of the fall, Mr. Traile says, also caused the death of thousands of the fur-bearing animals.

To the north of Stuart's Lake, the district headquarters, is the new creek running into the Omineca, upon which rich placer mines were recently reported as having been discovered. A small quantity of the gold from the new claim was brought down by Mr. Traile, but he is disposed to doubt its richness. Like many other mines which the prophets assert will prove inexhaustible treasuries of wealth, he thinks that the new Omineca will prove merely a rich pocket find.

The Indian population of New Caledonia is quieter than usual, a fact due possibly to the recent visit of La Grippe, which thinned out the old and feeble by scores. Almost everyone in the district acknowledged the sovereignty of the epidemic; but it was only among the Indians that there were any deaths. From Stuart's Lake Mr. Traile made a long snow shoe tramp toward the Fraser on his way down; and he intends spending a week or so in the bright sunlight of Victoria before returning to his home, where the snow still lies deep upon the ground.

THE NORTHERN EXTENSION.

Agreement Between the Northern Pacific and Fidalgo Island People.

A railroad meeting was held at the Ranier hotel last evening in connection with the proposed extension of the Northern Pacific road from Seattle to Anacortes. The Fidalgo Island people were represented by James Hamilton Lewis as counsel, and Robt. Benedict and D. A. McKenzie, residents of Anacortes. The Northern Pacific's interests were taken care of by James McNaught, counsel and representative of the Northern Pacific road, in whom, it is understood, is vested full power to come to an understanding with the Fidalgo Island people. The meeting lasted over an hour and resulted in an agreement by the Northern Pacific company to build the road for the people of Fidalgo Island to run north from Seattle to Anacortes, and to construct on the harbor docks and warehouses, and to lay out the necessary terminal grounds. The details of the agreement could not be learned last evening, but it is understood that the land which the company is to receive will be deeded to Mr. McNaught to be held for the benefit of the corporation. A contract is to be ready this morning, embodying the agreement between the representatives, providing one or two disputed questions not settled last evening can be amicably arranged.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Local sports in St. Louis are talking of nothing but the feat of "Big Sir," the heavy-weight negro pugilist, who, on a wager, butted an ox to death. He caught the animal by the horns and butted it between the eyes four times, then drawing back at arm's length he ran his head against the ox, knocking the brute to the ground, the ox dying in five minutes.

The negro's head is considerably swollen, but he has suffered no serious inconvenience.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, April 15.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Seal Skins Sold.

Messrs. Uhlman & Co. have purchased the entire lot of skins brought from the west coast by the Indian canoes on Saturday at prices slightly higher than last year's. There were 500 skins in the collection, all of good size and quality.

Fell Off a Wagon.

A middle-aged man fell off an empty lumber wagon at the corner of Johnson and Douglas streets yesterday afternoon and received a very ugly cut on the face and head. He was sitting on the connecting beam at the time, and fell under the hind wheels which went over his head, but it did not seem to affect him badly, as he got up and walked away.

Supreme Court.

The case of J. C. Prevost as receiver of the estate of Marks & Routledge, vs. J. J. Routledge, A. H. Owen and others, was heard in the supreme court yesterday before Sir M. B. Begbie, C. J., and a special jury. The case occupied the attention of the court until 1:30 this morning, when the jury were discharged, as they could not agree on several of the points raised.

Coal Find at Ashcroft.

The residents of Ashcroft are elated over the coal find made by Mr. P. Hodnett, about three miles from the town in the Bonaparte valley. The bed is about 42 feet in width on which several seams of coal crop out on the surface, the largest of which is eight in thickness. It is believed that these seams run together as they leave the surface, and with the view of determining this fact a tunnel is being run in from the bank at considerable depth. It is reported that the C.P.R. have made overtures for the purchase of claim, but with what success has not been made public.—Inland Sentinel.

On the Trot.

In the city police court yesterday morning a teamster, who was charged with driving over James Bay bridge at a pace faster than a walk, pleaded that a car was coming behind him, and as his horses were wild, he trotted his horses for the safety of his passengers. Hon. A. N. Richards, P. M., who was on the bench, remarked that the council should do something to meet a case of this kind, as a team is very likely to come to grief when met by a car on the bridge, but in this case the defendant could not prove, nor swear, that the car was behind him, and he would consequently be fined $5.

C.O.O.F., M.U.

Loyal "Waverly" Lodge No. 149 was inaugurated on Saturday 12th, D.D.G.M. Wm. E. Ottaway, of New Westminster, assisted by the officers of "Victoria" Lodge, Ingersoll, Ont., assisted by Dr. Wade, performed the ceremony, there being (28) twenty-eight charter candidates, many of which pronounced the ritual of this great "Home Institution" to be very impressive and sacred, together with the Al. Assurance and Endowment Fund far beyond their most sanguine expectations, the policies taken up in the above lodge aggregate $20,000.

Suicide at Vancouver.

Early Saturday morning at Vancouver a man named Richard Bolton shot himself in the head, and died a few minutes after. He had a quarrel with his wife and tried to shoot her, but she escaped from his grasp and ran into the street and sought for the police. Before the officers arrived, however, Bolton had taken his own life. Some months ago he was ordered to leave Vancouver for ill-treating his wife. He came to Victoria and obtained work, but finally, when he returned to Vancouver and again quarreled with his wife, with the above result.

Borne to the Grave.

The funeral of the late John Boyd took place Sunday afternoon from the residence of R. J. Horton, No. 149 Chatham street. A large number of friends and acquaintances followed the remains to their last resting place in Ross Bay cemetery. Rev. Dr. Reid officiated at the residence, the Masonic services being conducted at the grave by W. Master McKeon. The members of the St. Andrew's and Caledonia and the Knights of Pythias societies attended. The Messrs. Thos. Shotbolt, M. McCahill, J. Trickey, J. Stamford, T. Collins and Dr. Milne acted as pallbearers.

Ministerial Changes.

The transfer committee of the Methodist church met on Tuesday, April 3rd, in the board room at the Wesley buildings, Richmond street, Toronto, and were in session until nearly 11 o'clock in the evening considering the subject of transfer. Among the changes of interest to Victorians are the following: Into the British Columbia conference—Rev. Coverdale Watson, Toronto, to take effect May 21; R. R. Maitland, Niagara, June 11. Rev. J. E. Starr, who has been labouring in Victoria for the past three years, returns to Toronto in June to assume pastoral charge of Elm street church.

Young Men's Christian Association.

The board of directors of the Young Men's Christian Association held their regular monthly meeting last evening at the rooms. Hon. John Robson, the president, presided. Reports were received from the various committees, all showing a healthy condition of the work. Fifty-four new applications for membership were received and accepted. Steps will be taken at once to secure the incorporation of the association. Arrangements are being made to secure the return of Mr. C. E. Bolton, the celebrated lecturer, who was here last year. The number of visits to the reading room last month was 1,260, an average of 80 each day.

Sound Steamers.

A Seattle special of last evening says: "As the North Pacific, bound for Victoria, was leaving the harbor this morning the crank broke and disabled her. She was towed back to the wharf. The Olympian, bound south from Victoria, arrived at 1:30 this afternoon, and taking aboard the Pacific's freight and passengers started on her trip. The North Pacific will be ready for service may be to-morrow. The City of Kingston, the Northern Pacific's new boat, which has been on the Whatcom route since her arrival from the Hudson River a month ago, makes her first run on the Victoria route to-morrow. It is understood that she will be kept there."

A Handsome Pleasure Yacht.

The News-Advertiser says that on Saturday afternoon there arrived at the freight shed in Vancouver one of handsomest looking pleasure yachts which has probably ever been brought into British Columbia. It is the property of Mr. G. A. McTavish, of Victoria, who will sail it over to the Capital on Monday. It was built by the Gas Engine and Power Company, of New York, and is known as an auxiliary cruiser. It is modelled after a yacht which Mr. McTavish saw last year during a trip to the East. The engine is driven by naphta, and the dirt created by the ordinary oil is thus avoided. Besides this, the vessel is rigged to sail. The cabin is fitted for two persons, but the boat will carry from 10 to 15.

Spallumcheen District.

Farm work of every description in the Spallumcheen district is very backward owing to the late spring. Farmers are plowing, but little, if any, seeding has been done. The ice still remains firm on Mara Lake, and no preparation is yet being made to get the steamer in shape for the river trade to Skedans. The mill at Enderby has not resumed operations as yet, nor is it likely to do so.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Fifth Parliament—Fourth Session.

FORTY-FIFTH DAY.

Monday, April 14th.

The Speaker took the chair at 2:10 p.m.

S. C. MILLING & TIMBER CO.

Hon. Mr. Davie introduced a bill to incorporate the British Columbia Milling and Timber Co. Read a first time; second reading on Tuesday.

THAT MAIL SUBSIDY.

Mr. Cunningham is a very comprehensive address introduced the following resolution:

Whereas a resolution praying his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to call the attention of the Dominion Government to the omission in the Estimates for the current year of an appropriation for a subsidy for carrying Her Majesty's mails between the City of New Westminster and Victoria, was unanimously adopted by this House on the 18th day of February, 1890; And whereas it appears from the reply telegraphed by His Honor, and a reply thereto that has been received and presented to this House; And whereas it appears from the tenor of said reply that the Dominion Government has not fully understood the nature and extent of the inconvenience and serious commercial loss that must be sustained by the settlers and those engaged in the various industrial enterprises on the Fraser River, between New Westminster and the Gulf of Georgia, by the discontinuance of said mail subsidy service; and whereas, it is the opinion of this House that it is the first duty of the Dominion government to encourage and foster the development of agriculture, lumbering, fishing and mining throughout the province by affording ample mail facilities, irrespective of an apparent temporary loss to the revenue of the post office department:

Be it therefore resolved, that an humble address be presented to his honor the lieut.-governor, praying his honor to further urge upon the Dominion government the pressing necessity of maintaining a tri-weekly mail service between the aforesaid ports.

Hon. Mr. Turner, in seconding the resolution, said that he considered the subject dealt with one of the greatest importance to all parts of the province, as it dealt with provincial trade. The mail service, as the hon. mover had said, had been neglected by the Dominion government, who had made the mistake of reducing instead of increasing the efficiency of the British Columbia postal facilities.

Hon. Mr. Robson remarked that there was no portion of the communication from the Dominion government that was particularly unhappy. The Victoria-New Westminster service was therein pronounced useless and unprofitable. It might not be at present profitable to the department, but it was of the greatest importance to the communities on the Fraser. The whole difficulty in this case arose he was afraid from a piecemeal policy adopted by the Dominion government. The "interests of the department" were the interests of the public, and the postal authorities had no right to shut their eyes to the facts as they had in this matter. He considered it very unfortunate that the people at Ottawa should look at this question in such a narrow and unsatisfactory manner, and he hoped that the passage of this resolution would have the effect of causing them to reconsider their decision and take the action which the resolution recommended.

Mr. Orr thought that the resolution did not go quite far enough. He hoped to see the Dominion government induced to subsidize a line of steamers making weekly trips along the West Coast of the mainland. He cordially endorsed the resolution.

Mr. Ladner spoke of the amount of business that was being done in the section referred to, saying that unless the steamers were subsidized for mail purposes, no consideration would be given postal requirements. He referred to the business in subsidies given to mail steamers going to Alberni and elsewhere and strongly insisted on the necessity of the postal authorities meeting the requirements of the New Westminster district.

Hon. Mr. Beaven deplored the provincial government for treating the subject so carelessly and procrastinatingly. Much time and correspondence on the subject which had been laid before the House. The provincial government had really made no representations; they had been absolutely silent, and had merely forwarded the bald proposition that had passed the House, without the aid of the admirable arguments which had been advanced in favor of retaining the mail subsidy. If this were the manner in which this government dealt with the interests of the province, no wonder the Dominion authorities treated British Columbia as they were in the habit of doing, when it was well enough to pass resolutions, but without arguments and reasons how could it be expected the Dominion authorities would change their policy.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that a well worded resolution was of little value, unless more effect than a long, windy and wordy correspondence or discussion. Nothing was to be gained by wordy resolutions, unless the Dominion government in friendly terms.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said he had no idea of treating the Dominion government in other than the most courteous terms.

Hon. Mr. Davie, continuing, said that members might rest assured that the Government had received no clearer way in which matters like this. Indeed, it never had been the practice here or elsewhere to repudiate the debate in preference to a sensible and forcible resolution. Indeed, when Mr. Beaven's friends were in power they did not hesitate to further provincial interests, as, for instance, in connection with the Chinese question. This had been the statement of Sir John Macdonald when, in response to the representations of the present government, action was taken, and he was not in the habit of stating officially or otherwise what was not the truth.

Mr. Grant said that mail facilities had great weight in inducing settlement on the carrying out of enterprises; and in connection with this province there were localities the Dominion authorities had been criminally neglectful in this respect.

Mr. Cunningham said the necessity of making a forcible representation to the Dominion authorities.

The resolution was adopted.

PETITION.

Col. Baker presented a petition in reference to the Railway Aid Act.

LAND ACT.

A bill to amend the Land Act (Hon. Mr. Vernon) was introduced, and passed its first reading.

MECHANICS' LIEN ACT.

Mr. Cunningham introduced a bill to amend the Mechanic's Lien Act. Read a first time; second reading Tuesday.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Hon. Mr. Turner moved that "Whereas the report of the Public Accounts Committee finds that very large sums of revenue is paid by the public into the Lands and Works Department, in addition to large sums paid out of the treasury to that department, as cash advances, and that similar advances of smaller magnitude are made by the treasury to the attorney-general, provincial secretary, and other officers; and whereas such finding may mean either that advances are made to the attorney-general, provincial secretary, and other officers personally for their own use, or that the advances are to the departments for necessary departmental purposes, which would be an improper departure from accustomed and honest practice, or may mean that the proper accounting for the course of business has been adhered to; and whereas the said report also refers to cash advances made to the late superintendent of Police, Mr. R. E. Roycraft, but is silent as to the purposes for which such advances were made, and the circumstances attendant thereon; and it is also stated in the said report that although Mr. Roycraft is known to have held $56 of the June collections in his hands on the 30th June, 1889, the public accounts and balance sheet of the province at that date, as laid before the Legislature, do not show that sum, by which statement it may be inferred, either that the defalcation charged was known at the time of the preparation of the public accounts and balance sheet, and was purposely omitted therefrom, or that the defalcation has only recently been discovered; And whereas the report also finds that an audit of the books of the lands and works department has not taken place for years, but goes on to say, 'your committee are informed that the lands and works department pay revenue into the Treasury once every week, and sometimes more frequently;' And whereas the last mentioned finding and statement, in the absence of information—especially (i) whether audits are necessary in the department of lands and works, and have ever been accomplished in the past; (2) whether proper checks are kept upon the revenue passing through that department; (3) whether the revenue collected and advances made are duly accounted for to the Treasury—leave it doubtful whether public moneys are regularly and honestly dealt with, or whether fraud or peculation are being practised; And whereas it is highly important that the report of the public accounts committee should fully state all facts necessary to a proper understanding of all matters alluded to, and that what is meant to be reported by the committee should be stated without ambiguity, nothing being left to inference, or intendment:

Be it therefore resolved that the report of the public accounts committee be referred back to them for explanation and detail."

Hon. Mr. Turner said he did not propose to cast any reflection upon the public accounts committee, but the fact was that it was difficult to come to a conclusion as to what was really to be understood by that report. Indeed, he knew that by different parties widely different conclusions had been arrived at. In connection with the reference to advances to the chief of police Roycraft, the inference was that it had been usual to make advances to that officer, when the fact was that he had frequently to travel in the discharge of important duty, and he had much occasion to use the practice to make him advances. It had been found of the utmost importance to such officers as the police officer, and he was therefore obliged to go to the treasury for an advance of $100, the policy being not to allow officers to be in arrear of collections. Advances had frequently been made to him. On this one, however, he did not go to his announced destination, but took the steamer for Victoria, and had not since come back, though he believed he had been desirous of doing so. Moreover, the accounts did not show that Mr. Roycraft had in his possession some $56 of public money, and therefore had not previously asked for the return of that sum. In connection with that matter, however, there was a mistake of some $20 odd, which would be well for the public accounts to correct. As to the further sum by which he was said to be deficient, Mr. Roycraft had taken care to collect so as $350 from the Royal Navy Department, but for his being sent to Granite Creek he did not think he would have thought of running away. If Roycraft had been covered a larger sum than Mr. Roycraft was in the habit of controlling in any public, he would have expected the bond he had taken for his Granite Creek expedition, there would only be a loss of some $50. Mr. Roycraft was a deservedly respected, and would have been trusted by almost any citizen of Victoria. Mr. Turner further explained the working of the treasury system and the method of marking the vouchers and advancements be came necessary. He had himself remarked before the Public Accounts committee that he did not think the method of the lands and works department was as satisfactory as it might be. He had been informed that the system had been changed when the leader of the opposition was in power.

Hon. Mr. Beaven denied this.

Hon. Mr. Turner continued that in any event he had been so informed.

Mr. Martin seconded the motion, and said that the leader of the opposition, who pretended to be a teacher, was to blame for having thrown dust in the eyes of the members of the committee, thus procuring the preparation of an incorrect report, as the one in question really was.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said the report was unanimously agreed to by the five members of the committee, Messrs. Duck, Christian, Manson, Martin, Grant and himself. It had not been shown that anything in the report was incorrect. It was an unheard-of thing to refer back a report which had not been shown to be incorrect. The report had been adopted by the five members of the committee, all of whom were present. It was neither a minority nor a majority report. Had it been a minority report, it might have been made much stronger than it was. He quoted from the report at length, and contended that its statements were quite correct. The figures were taken from Mr. Roycraft's account. He had pointed out to the assistant treasurer when before the public accounts committee that there was a discrepancy of something like 15c. between the figures submitted to the committee and those which appeared in the public accounts. The ministers had been informed that the figures in the public accounts were incorrect. He further contended that the ministers were themselves grave security, but now not one of them did so. There was a marked change from what had been the case in the past under the Civil Officers' Security Act. That was a feature worthy of consideration. Members could satisfy themselves as to the correctness of his statements. He strongly objected to the sublet which had been displayed in connection with the preparation and submission of the report.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 18 to 5, the opposition being Messrs. Semlin, Ladner, Beaven and Grant.

In reply to Mr. Orr, Hon. Mr. Davie said it was not the intention of the government to make Vancouver city a separate judicial district, nor to appoint a Supreme Court registrar with the same powers as a master in chancery in all interlocutory matters in the Supreme and County Courts. The same powers were to be given to County Court judges as to Supreme Court judges in interlocutory matters. The appointment of a deputy sheriff of New Westminster and Vancouver did not require legislation, but would receive the attention of the government.

Mr. Semlin called attention to the discrepancy previously asked for in regard to the corporation of Kamloops and to A. Irvine and brought down in an incomplete form.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said that in connection with the correspondence he had laid on certain private correspondence which he would not bring down, but would communicate to the members, if he would call at his office.

Mr. Semlin said that this rule should be made universal. He had received that recently private correspondence had been brought before a committee. The correspondence he asked for was not marked private, and had been addressed to the leader of the opposition.

Hon. Mr. Beaven strongly denounced the withholding of any departmental correspondence from the House, whether of a public or a private character.

Hon. Mr. Davie took exception to the contention of the leader of the opposition. A public letter was one thing and a private letter another, even though addressed to a cabinet officer. To demand that the one was a public duty, to give up the other (unless for some public reason,) would be a gross breach of confidence.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said it was impossible to make a general rule on the subject. Sometimes public letters were marked private and discretion had to be exercised.

On motion the House resolved into Committee on Municipalities Bill, No. 2, and an amendment was introduced to compel city municipalities to make provision for the destitute and indigent poor found within them.

In connection with a reported statement that sick and destitute poor were found upon the streets of Victoria, Hon. Mr. Beaven denied that such was the case, and that he questioned if there was a city on the continent where such liberality was displayed to the sick and poor.

The committee rose and reported the resolution.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. Cunningham presented the report of the committee on education which, on motion, was ordered to be received and printed.

The Speaker ruled that the document presented in the session by a member for Kootenay was not, strictly speaking, a petition; moreover, it was not properly signed. Scarcely any portion of it was in order. He therefore ruled it out of order, as well as a petition presented by the member for New Westminster district.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Hon. Mr. Turner submitted a message from his honor enclosing the supplementary estimates for year ending 30th June, 1889, and 30th June, 1890.

THE POOR AND DESTITUTE.

On the motion for the House to adopt the report of the committee of the whole on the resolution based upon the message of his honor with respect to provision for the poor and destitute.

Hon. Mr. Beaven objected that this House must either accept or reject the message as it stood, but the members had restricted the operation of the recommendations to city municipalities, while the message covered all municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that the exception should be taken advisedly to the four city municipalities of the province. In his own city all the suffering humanity were cared for, but if all the poor of the district had to be taken care of by the city it would be most oppressive.

Mr. Ladner thought if people in distress had to be supported in the province at large should bear the expense.

Hon. Mr. Robson moved to amend the resolution so as to compel each municipality support its own poor. It was the intention of the Government to have the municipalities added, out of the resources of the province. He had never suggested that Victoria had neglected to do its duty to its poor; he had pointed out that its people were the most generous and charitable of communities. The municipal authorities had, however, neglected to make any special provision. He was quite sure this resolution would commend itself to the good heartedness of the whole of British Columbia.

A point of order having been raised,

The Speaker ruled that it was competent for this House to modify a message from his honour, but not to increase the contemplated expenditure. He also said that the premier's amendment must come up on the second reading.

The resolution as reported by the committee having been adopted,

On the motion for a second reading,

Hon. Mr. Robson's amendment was adopted.

Mr. Duck denied that the city of Victoria sought to shirk its obligation towards the poor, the sick, and the destitute. He was pleased to see that the Government were prepared to grant for this purpose a sum equal to 25 per cent. of the sums expended for this purpose by the municipalities.

On the motion of Mr. Davie, the word "indigent" was struck out of the resolution.

The resolution having been finally adopted, the Municipalities bill was called up and the resolution added to it as clause 13.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved to strike out the clause and to insert one to empower the government to aid the municipalities in the relief of destitution to the extent of 25 per cent. of their outlay. This, he said, was all the amendment that the Municipal Act required in this particular.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that the leader of the opposition was prepared to empower the governor and the government to aid the sick and the destitute, but not to impose any obligation on the municipal authorities to provide for that class. There ought to be a law imposing a duty in this regard on the municipalities. It was at present with them a mere matter of discretion and the charitable feelings of the councillors.

Mr. Cunningham thought it was a mistake to confine the legislation to providing for the relief of the poor in cities. They were more easily taken care of in the country.

Mr. Ladner—"And employed picking berries."

Mr. Grant thought this city at least had always acted in a fair and generous spirit towards those who needed assistance. He hoped, however, some day not distant, to see a good home established for old men and women.

Mr. Beaven's amendment was lost, and section 73, as amended, was then added to the Municipalities Act.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the following clause: "It shall be lawful for any municipality in the Province, whether incorporated under the general Act or under any special Act, to enforce, levy, and collect from every person who carries on the occupation of a stevedore, or who takes contracts for load or unload ships, within the municipality, any sum not exceeding $30 for every six months."

Mr. Grant thought it inadvisable to enforce this tax.

The section was read a second time.

On a proposal by Mr. Ladner to authorize certain municipalities to appoint police magistrates at $500 per annum,

Hon. Mr. Davie protested against taking out of the hands of the government the administration of justice, and also against paying magistrates the beggarly pittance of $500 per annum.

The Speaker ruled the proposal out of order, and said that it had not been sufficiently protected by a message from the Lieutenant-Governor.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved the adoption of the report of the committee of the House on the Mud Flats Amendment Bill, as follows:

The House went into committee, Mr. Robson in the chair, on the Lieutenant-Governor's message with the following amendments to the Act in aid of certain railways." The following are the proposed amendments:

1. That the said bill shall grant to the Okanagan Valley Railway company the land subsidy of twenty thousand acres per mile for the entire length of the said railway.

2. That the provisions in the said bill relative to the grant of a royalty on minerals shall apply to the Okanagan and Kootenay Railway company, and to the Canadian Western Central Railway company.

3. That authority be given by the said bill to the Lieutenant-governor in council to grant to the Canadian Western Central Railway company blocks of public landmost exceeding twenty thousand acres per mile upon the completion of each section of twenty miles of railway constructed.

The resolutions having been adopted, Hon. Mr. Davie moved that they be added to Act No. 69, the Act in question.

Mr. Ladner opposed the royalty clause. Having secured the royalty, the railway company would be inclined to stop when they reached the mines, which would be all the distance they would want to go.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said the more railroads there were the better for the country. The C. P. R., the one road the country had, had done an immense amount of good, and what was wanted was to get more roads. Last year 20,000 acres of land per mile had been given to one road, but the greater part of it had been found unavailable for sale. The fact that the Canada Western had not succeeded in finding capital showed the comparative uselessness of the land with the exception of the mineral rights there were in the lands. Experience had shown that something further than the 20,000 acres would be given to build the railway. Without railways the land was utterly useless, and the fact that the bill had passed the second reading showed that the members and the people recognized the necessity of doing something more. The proposal to impose royalty not in any way affect the revenues of the province.

Mr. Ladner said he desired to see the country gridironed with railways. He supposed next session that the lands which had been granted were a regular Garden of Eden, but it now appeared that a mistake had been made.

Mr. Grant hoped to see all our lands approached by railways, but he was satisfied that it was a mistake to place the mining industry in the manner proposed to do. He strongly protested against saddling the mining industry in the manner proposed. To impose such a royalty as was proposed was a most serious mistake.

Hon. Mr. Robson thought the proposal a most reasonable one, and he was no more than was enacted on coal. The question was, should we encourage our quartz mines or not?